



Douglas Academy Parent Council
AGM Tuesday 26th November 2024 7pm

1. A warm welcome to all members. Apologies given from a number of members. Welcome to Claire who has joined Parent Council (PC).
2. Minutes from June meeting approved
3. DHT Mr Sinclair sent his apologies, Mr Healy will update PC on Anti-racist education (see point 7)
4. PC Forum update - Michael fed back. He shared examples from other Schools of PC having a table at parents nights and curricular evenings to raise awareness of the PC to all parents. This is something for us to consider. The PC Forum meetings twice a year, the next meeting in March 2025.
5. PC representation on EDC groups. Nil to report.
6. PTA update – Michelle met with Mr Healy and two other parents who expressed interest in the being involved with PTA. The aim for this year being primarily to raise awareness. Michelle is currently working towards accessing the current bank account to allow a new account to be opened. This in turn will allow the Your School Lottery to be approved and other activities.
7. Head Teachers update in brief -
 - a. SQA attainment was excellent. Two visits from EDC who were happy.
 - b. Family learning, Fiona Davidson DTH has written to Parents regarding skills and opportunities our Parents may have to aid our young people in Career Education.
 - c. All years have had their Parent's evening other than S2 (either in person or on-line). Interim reports will be issued shortly.
 - d. Mr Healy would like to see a stronger Pupil voice at DA, he is exploring ways to involve young people across the year groups. Pupil Council includes pupils from every year. They have been given a small budget and asked to make a pupil improvement plan.
 - e. Equally safe at School. Mr Healy shared 791 pupils took part in the survey exploring whether they feel safe and if not where they do not feel safe.
 - f. Mr Healy fed back on behalf of Mr Sinclair regarding the anti-racist educational group, pupils are writing a policy for what happens if someone is racially abused. They are keen to survey pupils and parents and explore education.
 - g. There are currently a large number of school excursions, both day trips and longer trips (e.g. ski trip). There was discussion about the cost of some of the trips. Mr

Healy mentioned the possibility of having a whole school calendar including future trips over a prolonged period (assuming there would continue to be an element of flexibility) to allow parents and children to plan trips over their whole time at secondary school.

- h. There was a discussion about awards evening and how at DA we celebrate the success of pupils. This area will be explored further. The thought being not to remove awards but to build on the current process, taking pupils views into consideration.
 - i. Community, there have been emails about litter from locals. The plan is to have pupils volunteer to litter pick, 20 litter pickers have been purchased.
 - j. Mobile phones, Mr Healy reported no major issues, if a young person is seen with mobile phone in class they will be asked to put it away. The main issue Mr Healy mentioned in relation to smart phones was in use of snapchat, tiktok however appeared to be mostly out with school hours (see pt 9 for further on mobile phones in Schools)
 - k. Health and safety audit, passed.
 - l. Prelims start for S4 ahead of Christmas, while S5-6 after Christmas. Option choice night well attended for S3/4. Mr Healy shared growing option choices at DA.
8. School lunch queue issues. There are two queues with staff manning both. Baguette station open again which does help reduce the queue for hot food. No change at present.
9. Mobile phones in Schools, Claire shared some of the evidence to support a phone free School, looking at evidence of effect on academic, mental health and social aspects of young people. There was an appreciation of the evidence. Recognition the Scottish Government's newest guidance gives support to HT who wish to bring in phone ban. As per Mr Healy's report it was not felt to be something he felt the School needed to deal with at present.
10. AOCB, all included above, no further points.