

# Douglas Academy Parent Council Session 2017/2018

## Minute of Meeting 18th September 2018

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### Attendance

N Miller (Chair), B Smedley (Head Teacher), L Cameron, T Christie, C Macallum, Caryn McDade, S Allan , S Gibson, S Taylor, J Campbell, Cllr Goodall, K Gray, M Graham , M Ruksk,E Moir,M Bahumik,ML Graham

Apologies: H Volp, A M Young,C Peffers, Cllr McGinnigle, Cllr Gibbons.

### Minutes of Previous Meeting

These were agreed to be correct.

### Matters Arising

#### **1. AGM Business.**

As is AGM position of Chair and Clerk voted on, NM offered post to all and after short discussion NM voted in for one final year.

Formal thanks given to Susan Ballantyne who has left PC for all her hard work during the previous years.

#### **2. PC Forum/Engagement strategy.**

NM provided update on his and BS attendance at recent Parent Forum meeting. Parent Forum meeting dominated by discussion on both EDC and Scottish Govt papers on Parental Engagement. Discussion ensued on size, intended audience and way forward for Douglas Academy to create a bespoke plan targeted to specific needs of our school.

**Action:** BS to cut down plan to 3 meaningful targeted areas of engagement then represent to PC.

#### **3. School Uniform Policy**

Discussion had on new blazers and agreement largely been accepted and compliance in wearing them very high. Issues had arisen with company supplying Blazers and many complaints made regarding both delivery times and companies lack of contact with

school parents their customers. BS aware of issues and promised to look for either alternatives or assurances from company that there will be no repeat next year.

#### **4. PEF Money**

Details of relatively small PEF money spend will be highlighted in school improvement plan.

PC agreed money spend on raising attainment should continue as per last year however any and all flexibility should be given to SMT at school to alter.

#### **5. School Improvement Plan**

S.I.P. discussed and BS intends to publish on website for upcoming year 2018/19.

#### **6. School Transport**

NM introduced aspect of young people being left at bus stops due to inability of Allander coaches to uplift in sufficient numbers causing them to be late for school after 40 minute walk.

NM contacted company and EDC transport and established EDC responsible only for free uplifts which number around 21. This year some other 51 bus passes have been purchased leaving potentially only 3 spaces for uplifts for others. EDC states it has no responsibility for these people in terms of travel and bus company unable /unwilling to send out further buses just to potentially pick up 5/6 people. In short no solution, either buy a bus pass at £2 per day or take risk of not getting a lift on bus.

#### **7. School App**

Update from BS on school app and nearly 400 signed up so far using the app so great success. Developments will continue to improve engagement with parents and ease the information flow to all in general.

#### **8. PTA Report**

##### **PTA Report Session 2017-2018**

This session has been an interesting one from the point of view of the PTA. We have tried new things and also experienced changes brought about by the school which has and will impact on our role in the future.

We started last session by organising the 50th Anniversary Ceilidh, which was to take place in November, and a Christmas Market for early December. The Ceilidh preparations were well in hand and had been well publicised in the area but due to the tragic

incident that occurred in the same week we felt it right to postpone to the spring. Fortunately, we were not liable for extra costs apart from the licence for this.

The Christmas Market was a great success, bringing in a wider range of people than usual and making £620 in profit. This is something we have decided to repeat this year, on 1st of December, perhaps with entertainment from the school.

In February, we were able to put on the Anniversary Ceilidh. I think it is safe to say that everyone who came thoroughly enjoyed themselves but the turnout for what should have been a great celebration of the school's history and achievement was disappointing. We have touched on the school's contribution to PTA events in the past and I believe this is still an issue to be worked on and improved. This was never intended to be a fundraising event, and, in the end, we made a loss of £180.

Later in the spring we had our ever-popular Quiz Night held at St Joseph's church hall, just as hotly contended as ever and raising £500.

As usual, we had a presence at the Parents Nights, throughout the year, and hosted the Prom reception, and sold ties at the new S1 evening. This has traditionally been the one occasion to meet all the parents coming into the school, but I see that that will change now that all uniform is available online. Bang goes one of my lines at the S1 night when I neatly round up our support of all children throughout their school years! No longer welcoming them into S1 and dispatching them in S6. It will be up to us to develop a new role to the incoming parents.

We also, in partnership with Milngavie In Bloom, had a 'Big Litter Pick' just before the school shut for the holidays. Those people who came, including about 10 students, 1 member of staff, PTA members, and Milngavie In Bloom, collected 25 bags of rubbish from the area around the school. It would be nice if this success could continue throughout the year with the students being encouraged to put their litter in the bins. The PTA will happily support any initiative in this, e.g. buying more litter bins or pick-up sticks.

## **9.HT Report**

### **Head Teachers Report- Parent Council AGM 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, it is with great pleasure that I deliver the Head Teacher's report for session 2017 – 18.

Session 2017 – 2018 has been another very successful session for Douglas Academy, and in terms of academic achievement the best in our school's history. Our staff have continued to deliver high quality learning and teaching experiences and our young people have continued to thrive, performing outstandingly well across a wide range of measures. We are extremely proud of what our Senior Phase pupils achieved in their SQA exams this year; at national 5 level 79% of young people achieved 5 or more passes, an increase of 5% from last year and 88% achieved 3 or more passes, an increase of 3% last year. But what is more remarkable is our Higher passes with 52% of our young people achieving 5

or more passes, an increase of 20%, 74% achieving 3 or more passes, an increase of 15% and 87% achieving 1 or more passes, an increase of 10%. We are delighted to say that these results are the best in East Dunbartonshire and are also amongst the best in Scotland. The key is now to make this type of performance the norm at Douglas Academy and we will continue to work harder than ever to ensure we achieve this.

#### **S4 SCQF Level 4- National 4**

School	1+	3+	5+	Rank
Bearsden	99.05	98.58	97.63	1
Bishopbriggs	98.57	94.76	82.38	7
Bocclair	100.73	99.27	91.24	3
<b>Douglas</b>	100.60	98.81	89.88	<b>4</b>
Kirkintilloch	97.87	94.68	75.53	8
Lenzie	99.48	99.48	85.34	5
St Ninian's	101.59	99.21	84.92	6
Turnbull	100	97.22	93.52	2

#### **S4 SCQF Level 5- National 5**

School	1+	3+	5+	Rank
Bearsden	96.68	91.47	82.94	1
Bishopbriggs	95.71	82.38	67.14	5
Bocclair	96.35	86.13	69.34	3
<b>Douglas*</b>	<b>94.64</b>	<b>88.10</b>	<b>79.17</b>	<b>2</b>
Kirkintilloch	79.79	63.83	47.87	8
Lenzie	94.76	80.63	68.06	4
St Ninian's	96.03	77.78	63.49	6
Turnbull	94.44	85.19	60.19	7

#### **S5 SCQF Level 6 - Higher**

School	1+	3+	5+	Rank
Bearsden	84.13	66.35	39.90	3
Bishopbriggs	86.30	74.89	45.66	2
Bocclair	81.29	74.19	31.61	5
<b>Douglas*</b>	<b>86.79</b>	<b>73.58</b>	<b>52.20</b>	<b>1</b>
Kirkintilloch	59.80	32.35	10.78	8
Lenzie	76.84	60.53	39.47	4
St Ninian's	65.44	44.12	16.91	7
Turnbull	77.31	57.14	26.05	6

### SCQF Level 7- Advanced Higher

School	1+	3+	Rank
Bearsden	43.56	8.42	2
Bishopbriggs	46.41	4.31	1
Bocclair	35.51	2.17	5
<b>Douglas</b>	<b>36.11</b>	<b>7.78</b>	<b>3</b>
Kirkintilloch	28.32	0.00	6
Lenzie	35.90	8.97	4
St Ninian's	25.93	1.48	7
Turnbull	22.52	0.90	8

Insight was updated today, 18<sup>th</sup> September so we are currently analysing whole school results in relation to the four National Measures. These measures are outlined below:

- Improving attainment in literacy and numeracy (Percentage of leavers attaining literacy and numeracy at SCQF levels 4 and 5)
- Increasing post-school participation (Percentage of school leavers in a positive destination)
- Improving attainment for all (Average total tariff points)
- Tackling disadvantage by improving the attainment of lower attainers relative to higher attainers (Attainment versus Deprivation)

***Insight is a major online benchmarking tool designed to help bring about improvements for learners in the senior phase (S4 to S6). It is a professional tool for secondary schools and local authorities to identify areas of success and where improvements can be made.***

I mentioned at the beginning of the evening that there have been so many highlights this session, and I would love to tell you about every single individual achievement, however, that would take a considerable length of time so I will select just a few...

### Music

As ever, we had many musical highlights. Many of our students continue to make up the membership of various national ensembles such as: National Youth Orchestra of Scotland; National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain; National Youth Choir of Scotland; National Youth Jazz orchestra of Scotland; and many students are also playing in the West of Scotland School Symphony Orchestra and Band. We had our usual school concerts throughout the year including our Variety Concert, Christmas Concert, Annual Recital, Spring Concert and Leavers' Concert. In addition, our young musicians performed a concert at the Aberdeen International Youth Festival and in the final gala performance of the Festival in front of 2000 people; they performed for 50th anniversary meeting of the European Society for Paediatric Nephrology at Glasgow Science Centre; they performed for the Annual Conference of the Scottish Centre for Conflict Resolution also in Glasgow Science Centre; our String Quartet performed the premiere of former pupil Tom Harrold's piece Elegy with the Edinburgh String Quartet in the City Halls in Glasgow. As always we had many successful performances, first places and trophies at the Glasgow Music Festival. Our Chamber Choir continues to hold the Anne Wiseman Trophy for the best overall Youth Choir (between the Senior Choir and Chamber Choir this has been held by Douglas Academy for around the past 15 years). Finally, Kerr McQuillan in S2 won first place in the North American Solo Drumming Championships. Kerr qualified for the event following success at the World Solo Drumming Championships held at Glasgow Caledonian in October 2017.

### **Debating**

Last session proved to be busy and successful for Douglas Academy's Debating and Public Speaking Society. Douglas Academy teams were entered into competitions run by The English Speaking Union; the Oxford Union; Glasgow University; Edinburgh University and the Glasgow Bar. Notable achievements include: Raj Bhaumik and Eoghan Connolly qualifying for the finals weekend of the International Competition for Young Debaters in the Oxford Union in April. We were the only state school in Scotland to do so; Arun Smith and Matthew McIlree being narrowly defeated in the Scottish Final of the English Speaking Union's Senior Mace Competition in the Faculty of Advocates. Douglas Academy was, again, the only state school in Scotland to reach the final; Tom Milling and Kiron Dutton winning the Craigmount Juniors Debating Competition. The first state school in Scotland to do so. Maeve Connolly won the Best S3 Speaker at this competition and 5 Douglas Academy pupils were placed in the top 10 speakers out of 80 participants; Eoghan Connolly and Tom Milling were runners-up in the Novice Category of the Edinburgh University debating competition. 8 of our Senior pupils were selected to represent the UK at the 87th International session of the European Youth Parliament in Vilnius, Lithuania, in July this year. The group qualified from the Scotland West round and then progressed from the National Forum in Liverpool having competed against some of the most prestigious schools in the UK.

The team joined students from 40 Council of Europe countries to debate issues affecting Europe. This is the third time that a team from Douglas Academy have been selected for this honour. In Public Speaking Meera Kaiser was runner up in the Senior section of the Rotary Club of Glasgow Competition; and Colin Hood was the regional winner in the Glasgow & East Dunbartonshire 'Poetry by Heart' competition and went on to be runner-up in the National Final.

Debating happens weekly with all year groups and our successes against many of the top schools across the UK are simply amazing.

## **Charity and Community Work**

At Douglas, we realise the importance of supporting charities in and beyond our local community. Our Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) is run through our Social Subjects department and is a fantastic opportunity for all S2 pupils to provide support to a chosen local charity. I had the pleasure of judging the group presentations in June and this resulted in £3000 being donated to East Dunbartonshire Visually Impaired People's Forum.

Our S5/6 Skills for Learning, Life and Work group ran our very successful MacMillan Coffee morning, our Vintage Tea Afternoon for Oakburn Day Care Centre and Carers' Link and our Homeless Christmas Box Appeal resulted in donations to Bellgrove Homeless Hostel and Glasgow City Mission. Our S4 Hospitality Group ran our 'Lunch box drop' which involved pupils delivering lunch to the elderly residents of Milngavie. We continue to support East Dunbartonshire Council's Foodbank with several collections taking place throughout the year and, for the first time this year, we ran a Burns Supper for the elderly residents from Oakburn, Abbotsford and Contact the Elderly. We also continue to strengthen our Intergenerational Project, working in collaboration with the residents of Abbotsford Care Home. 11 pupils were trained by Alzheimer's Scotland as 'Dementia Friends' and regularly visited the residents of the care home. Many departments became involved, including Music, Modern Languages and English, and residents enjoyed visiting our school for various events.

We continue to support the Valley Centre School in Liberia through the Mary's Meals charity; our Mark Scott Leadership pupils redecorated the living room of the local women's refuge and donated £340 to East Dunbartonshire Women's Aid; £170 was donated to Down's Syndrome Scotland after our 'Lots of Socks Day'; our 'Wear it Purple Day' raised £934 for Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity Schiehallion Appeal; and this list goes on...As well as our important charity work we also realise the importance of our pupils engaging in community work. Our Computing department continue to provide support to the local community to access the digital world through the Silver Surfers group in Milngavie library. Calum Davidson, Amelie Webb, Chloe Beardsley, Veanna Lee and Morven Sinclair were awarded the 'Saltire Summit Award' for making an exceptional contribution to volunteering and 3 of our pupils achieved the Diana Award. The Diana Award is awarded to courageous, caring, compassionate young people who help transform the lives of others. Our Diana Award winners were Rebecca Greehan, Amy Bryan and Jonathan Douglas. In addition, we had 26 pupils achieve an SQA Access 3 award for Community Involvement; 77 pupils in S1-6 achieved Saltire awards, all of our S2 pupils completed the Saltire Challenge as part of the Glasgow Children's Hospital Initiative, 7 pupils achieved their Level 5 SQA Leadership Award; 80 S3 pupils participated in our Stock Market Challenge which is an IDL project between Maths and Business and 90 of our Senior Pupils participated in our Business Dynamics Conference.

## **Other Notable Achievements**

Other fantastic achievements include our very own school company 'Wood n Stock' winning the Best Trade Stand Award and overall Best Company Award at East Dunbartonshire's Young Enterprise Awards. 'Wood n Stock' also represented us at the Young Enterprise Scottish Final at Hampden Park against 16 other Businesses from across the country; 3 of our S5 pupils, Douglas Scott, Sandy Godber and Nicholas Cameron won the West of Scotland Physics Education Group's annual competition

beating teams from Larbert HS, Bishopbriggs Academy and Dunblane HS; Isla Martin was one of only 26 pupils from across Scotland to participate in debates in the European Parliament in Strasbourg as part of the Euroscola programme; Jonathan Douglas reached the final of the Big Bang UK Young Scientists and Engineers Fair. This a premier UK event for STEM students and it attracted over 80,000 visitors during the four day event; Sophie Gartshore was selected as a winner of the Pushkin Prizes in Scotland and St Petersburg 2018 creative writing competition. Each year, hundreds of pupils across Scotland submit their creative folios to a panel of judges from which ten pupils are selected, making this a very tough competition. Sophie is to be congratulated on her success for securing first place and winning this prestigious award. We also had our fabulous school show production of Wizard of Oz which was a sell out success. 50+ pupils from S2-S6 took to the stage to perform with a large number of other pupils volunteering backstage.

### **RRSA**

One of our most prestigious achievements at Douglas Academy is our Rights Respecting School team successfully securing the Unicef UK Gold Award. Rights Respecting School is an initiative which exists to help promote the rights of children both within our school and globally. It is run in Douglas Academy by a large and committed team of pupils who make a very valuable contribution to the school community. My sincere thanks and congratulations go to Mrs Hoyle, staff and pupils involved in RRSA who have done an outstanding job. We are only one of a small number of secondary schools in Scotland to achieve this award and the first in East Dunbartonshire! The UNICEF representatives highlighted particular strengths which encapsulate our positive school ethos perfectly:

- Very confident and articulate pupils who are clearly proud to represent their school.
- Links are made clearly between children's rights and whole school improvement
- Strong desire to ensure all pupils are supported to achieve, using data to help inform practice and targeting intervention when required
- Pupil voice is respected and encouraged, with involvement woven through all aspects of school life.

The last point is particularly important as our new Student Councils and Parliaments were launched last year. Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child states 'Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously' and we believe our new approaches to student voice allows this to happen on a regular basis. This has been very successful so far with our young people having already developed and influenced school policies that have improved our school and we look forward to them providing more important contributions this session.

### **Sport**

We had many sporting achievements across the year including our S1 boys football team who won the East Dunbartonshire Cup Final; our Senior hockey boys won the Aspire Scottish Cup final; Andrew Wilson in S3 has won various tennis tournaments over the last year. Andrew very recently played 24 tennis matches in England within a two week period winning 18 of them; this culminated in Andrew reaching 4 finals, winning 3 of them; In Athletics our pupils won 14 Gold, 11 Silver, 11 Bronze medals



at the Dunbartonshire county sports. We have also had numerous pupils who represented Scotland at various sports; Cara Beattie (Girls Hockey), Andrew McConnell ( Boys Hockey), Sam Cunningham (Karate), Olivia King (Girls Football) and Elliot Anderson (Boys Football).

### **Excursions**

Finally, on top of all these superb wider achievement experiences, our staff continue to go above and beyond and offer many trips and excursions both at home and abroad.

341 excursions across all year groups were organised last session including the annual S2 Ski Trip to Alpe d'Huez; our French Exchange to Fougères in Brittany; our Watersports Trip to Ardeche; as well as our London Trip, Paris Trip, Italy Trip and Iceland Trip.

But as you know none of these achievements could have happened without the fullest engagement of our young people, the commitment of all staff and of course the full support of our parents and carers. We value the role that parents and carers play in working in partnership with our school to ensure we maximise the potential of every single young person at Douglas Academy.

Our Parent Council has continued to offer strong support to us and I would like to thank Neil Miller, Chair of the Parent Council, and all other members of our Parent Council for all their help and support this year. I would also like to thank all members of the PTA for their efforts and support they provided to our school this session.

**AOCB: None**

**Date of Next Meeting :**

TBC DEC 2018