

BRAES HIGH SCHOOL

Parent Council Minute – 6.10.25

Present : J Ormsby, J Tawn, N McDonald, M Taylor, K MacKinnon, I Vosser, D Ironside, H Cameron, I Livingstone, D Yeates

Apologies : J Sneddon, Cllr Hannah, M Lang, K Baird

Previous minute/Matters Arising

The previous minute was agreed. I Livingstone updated on discussions with Mrs Ormsby about communications, specifically in relation to the recent Maths/English information evening.

Pupil Voice Group

The Pupil Voice Group (PVG) updated the Parent Council on their work in developing welcome packs for incoming S1 pupils, their input into the mobile phone policy, contributions to the design of new sports facilities and how they led workshops at the Family Fun Day. The pupils also reported on their recent leading role at the Child Poverty Action Group conference and work in promoting Period Dignity in our school.

The group were commended on their actions with the Pupil Council donating £500 to the PVG to support their planned activities this session. This will be matched by the school.

Dr Taylor asked about the impact of the mobile phone policy. The pupils advised that the effect had been positive and noted the differences in expectations between year groups that will be phased out.

Attainment

D Ironside and I Vosser updated on the recently issued Scottish Government Insight data. Among the points covered in the ensuing discussion were :

- strong performance in Literacy and Numeracy
- high levels of overall attainment in S4-6
- increasingly equitable outcomes for young people
- how the data is informing curriculum planning, particularly at Level 7

Proposed Curriculum Change

H Cameron, D Yeates and I Livingstone advised on the findings of the recent consultation on the S3/4 curricular structure. The main findings from the consultation observed :

- **Overwhelming positivity** about the proposed change from pupils and parents/carers.
- Notable concern over **reduced time in English and Mathematics** in S3.
- A desire to protect and **promote the study of Modern Languages**.
- The need to **support pupils well** in making choices for S3/4.

I Livingstone confirmed that :

- The proposed change to view S3/4 as a two-year pathway **will proceed as planned**
- Mathematics will **retain an allocation of 5 periods in S3**, with 4 periods in S4
- English will reduce to 4 periods in S3, and **increase to 5 periods in S4**

- **Core RME in S3 and S4** will be delivered via a planned calendar of **immersion activities** across the session. Pupils in S3/4 will attend these sessions when scheduled rather than their timetabled classes. The details of these activities will be planned and shared when complete.
- There are **no other changes** at present to S1/2 and S5/6.
- This will begin from **next session (2026/27)**. The first cohort to begin the new two-year pathway will be the **current S2**.
- The current S3 will continue into S4 **as originally planned** for that year group, ie. (7 columns of 4 periods each, 1 period of PSE, 1 period of RME and 2 periods of PSE).

Correspondence

K MacKinnon updated on :

- the agenda for an online meeting of the Falkirk Parent Council Chairs Group Council Chairperson, taking place on 7th October, inviting any Parent Council members to attend.
- the information received and circulated regarding the current consultation on Enhanced Provision in primary schools.
- the recent email from Falkirk Youth Voice regarding a forthcoming survey on clothing grant access.
- The Connect Parents' Charter Survey