

BJHS Parent Council

Update

December 2022

Latest News

At our latest meeting (held on the on the 24th November) we discussed:

- **End of Year Raffle / Sunday Teas / Concert**

We agreed that the Sunday Teas at the hall was to be the 11th December where the raffle would be combined with the School Concert Night. There would be hampers for prizes, as opposed to lots of individual prizes.

- **School Improvement Plan Update**

We discussed the 3 priorities for this year and Head Teacher provided an update as to the progress so far. This is similar to updates provided in whole school newsletters.

- **North Isles Residential Trip**

We discussed the Parent Council wishing to re-instate the P6 and P7 residential trip - previously to Edinburgh. It may cost somewhere in the region of £700 per pupil which we did not feel parents should be asked to fund. We are writing to local businesses to see if they could help us fund this - Mid Yell Parent Council are asking local companies as well.

- **Breakfast Club**

We discussed the possibility of a Breakfast Club whereby pupils who had not had breakfast, could have access breakfast in school in the morning. Head Teacher said he would survey parents to gauge interest/support/need and contact the bus operators also.

- **Early Years Entrance**

Some parents had asked why Early Years parents could not walk through the main school to access EY, as was the case pre-Covid. The Head Teacher explained the security aspect where in the past, adults would be walking through the school at various times of the day without supervision. This leads to possible Child Protection concerns as school staff have no visibility of who is in school throughout the day - therefore are unable to prevent them accessing other areas of the school. The change to the entrance brought in during Covid worked well for parents and reduced this Child Protection concern and it was agreed that this arrangement would remain in place.

Matthew Cox (Chairperson)





Why have a Parent Council?

The Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 established two parent bodies for each state school in Scotland:

- The Parent Forum is simply all those with parental responsibility for current pupils at the school.
- The Parent Council represents the Parent Forum and is tasked by the Act to carry out functions which previously were carried out by the School Board and the PTA, as well as other functions.

The Parent Council is a group of parents selected by all parents in the school to represent their views. It may also include co-opted members who may not have any parental involvement with the School but whose views would assist the Parent Council's functioning. Parent Councils have an important role to play in school improvement by ensuring that the parental perspective is represented and taken into account.

The Parent Council helps to create an environment where all parents know that their views matter, and where they feel confident and comfortable putting them forward. They work on behalf of all parents to discuss educational matters that are of importance to all. They do not get involved in individual matters relating to children or staff in the school.

The Parent Council offers a great opportunity to find out what's happening in our school, and more broadly across our local council that might impact education provision. At the meeting the Head Teacher presents a short report on school activities, issues and any relevant data, and is available for questions. All parents and carers are encouraged to attend these meetings.

The Parent Council meets approximately five times per year and prior to each meeting the team share a brief agenda with a meeting reminder via email.

How to contact us

You are welcome to speak to any of the Parent Council members (listed below) or directly to the Chairperson, Matthew Cox (matthew.cox@srt.org.uk).

- Matthew Cox (Chairperson)
- Victoria Mouat
- Karen Gray
- Erika Brown
- Murray Brown
- Linda Thomson
- Lauren Spence
- Kevin Priest
- Valia Thomason
- Jane Macaulay (co-opted community member)
- Lisa Johnson (school staff member)

