



LINLITHGOW ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

Annual Report: Academic Year 2019-2020

1. Parent Council membership

The Parent Council for the academic year 2019 – 2020 was made up as follows:

Parent Members (continuing):

Laurie Boles (Chair until 29 January 2020) (stood down 29 January 2020)
Helen White (Chair from 29 January 2020)
Douglas Maxwell (Vice Chair)
May Geddes
Campbell Ford
Alison Sharp
Pinelopi Louvrou
Dorte Al-Gailani

Parent Members (joined 2019/20)

Dermot Murray
Jeremy Fuller
Iain Woodhouse
Ann Marie Penman

Head Teacher and Advisor to Parent Council:

Karen Jarvis

Staff Members:

Rhona White

Pupil Members:

Alice Ferguson
Jessica McKee

Clerk:

Karine McNair

A copy of the Parent Council Constitution is available on the Linlithgow Academy website.

2. Summary of the year

I started my time as Chair of the parent council part way through the year on 29 January due to the resignation of the previous chair who also stepped down at the same time.

The Parent Council has discussed many issues throughout the year including:

- A revised constitution
- Health and Wellbeing provision
- Accommodation and Capacity Issues
- Employability
- Website Updates
- Fundraising
- School App
- Fire Alarms
- Parent Information Evenings
- Attainment for 2019

The Parent Council has continued to enjoy an open and positive dialogue with Mrs Jarvis and the school over the past year, offering what we hope has been constructive support.

The Parent Council would like to note its thanks to Rhona White who attended the meetings as a teacher representative. We also want to thank the Pupil Council representatives, Alice Ferguson and Jessica McKee for their valuable contributions over the course of the year. Parent Council provides a forum for Parents and Carers, Staff and our Young People to work together and share successes, concerns and ideas.

May Geddes is standing down from Parent Council this year and I want to thank her for her valuable input and extensive contribution to the Parent Council over the years.

3. Detailed Areas

Health & Wellbeing

I would like to thank May Geddes and Ann Marie Penman as members of the Parent Council and Kath Beard, Richard Payne and Fiona Kenney as members of the Parent Forum for being part of this sub-group and starting to discuss ways in which we can help and encourage the school in this vital area. Several meetings were held along with meetings with the Senior Management Team to discuss this area to try and help the school be the best it can be at providing the best environment for all children on the role of Linlithgow Academy.

Accommodation & Capacity

Much of our time as a parent council this year was taken up with discussing the accommodation within the school and capacity issues that were current and predicted for the future. Meetings were arranged between West Lothian representatives and members of the parent council at various levels and times throughout the school year as we tried to highlight our concerns.

Employability

Dermot Murray headed up this sub group which discussed various issues including ways in which to work more closely with local businesses

Constitution

It was decided during the year that the current constitution was no longer fit for purpose. A revised constitution has been drafted and circulated to all the parent forum and will be voted on at the AGM. My thanks to Karine McNair, Douglas Maxwell, Jeremy Fuller and Iain Woodhouse for their time spent on this.

Coronavirus response

Most of our meetings for the latter half of the year revolved around providing support to the school in helping with their response to the closure of the school following the lockdown because of Covid-19. This involved providing input on the various challenges that the school was facing during this time and also providing feedback to the senior management team about the provision of the ongoing education of our children and the pastoral support that they needed.

4. Formal meetings

The Parent Forum consists of all parents/guardians of children at Linlithgow Academy who automatically become members on the entry of their child to the school.

The Parent Council is the committee representing the Parent Forum in the school and, where necessary, to West Lothian Council or other bodies.

There were 5 regular Parent Council meetings held during the academic year. Recurring items included the Head teacher's report and regular reports on behalf of the staff and the Pupil Council. Parent Council meeting agendas and minutes are made available to view on the school's website.

All parents/carers are very welcome to attend the Parent Council meetings to observe the proceedings though it is helpful if you can notify the Chair in advance if you intend to attend.

Dates of future meetings are given below and on the school website.

4. Other items

External meetings – a number of wider parental involvement bodies exist that Parent Council members are invited to. These include West Lothian Parent Forum (WLPF), the National Parent Forum of Scotland and Connect. The Chair or other members of the Parent Council have attended these meetings where possible and have found the sharing of best practice hugely valuable.

5. Proposed Parent Council Meetings for Academic Year 2020-21

- Tuesday 27 October
- Monday 7 December
- Thursday 28 January
- Thursday 11 March
- Wednesday 5 May
- Tuesday 8 June

All meetings will be held at 7.00pm. For the time being these will be online unless notified otherwise.

All parents/carers are very welcome to come along to these meetings.