

**DUNBAR GRAMMAR SCHOOL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON
TUESDAY 27th AUGUST 2019**

Present:

Joanne Bloomfield (Chair)	Dee Davison (Parent Member)
Morag Readman (Treasurer)	Alicia Lancaster (Depute Head Girl)
Naomi Barnes (Parent Member)	Emma Welsh (Depute Head Girl)
Nigel Bird (Parent Member)	Elaine Fell (Teacher)
Donald Davidson (Parent Member)	Morag Sutherland (Teacher)

Attending:

Claire Slowther (Headteacher), Ed Offer (Depute Headteacher), Judy Miller (Clerk).

1. Welcome and Apologies

Joanne Bloomfield welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Michelle Mallen (DGSA), Anne-Marie Gibson, John Patterson, Verity Sinclair and Donna Tsang.

2. Additional Agenda Items

- Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

3. Minutes of 11th June 2019

The minutes of the June meeting were agreed. They were proposed by Naomi Barnes and seconded by Joanne Bloomfield.

4. Headteacher's Report

The Headteacher's Report had been sent out prior to the meeting and can be found in Appendix 1 of these minutes.

Staff

Recent staff changes were detailed in the Headteacher's Report. It was confirmed that the new Physics teacher would start on 16th September and that the DHT post would be advertised soon. 8 NQTs had been appointed and 3 of last year's NQTs had accepted permanent posts at the school this year.

East Linton Buses

Claire Slowther confirmed that the bus times for the 253 had been adjusted to be earlier and now seemed to be arriving on time.

Use of 'Show My Homework' and 'Google Classroom'

It was noted that 'Show My Homework' was now up and running and would be used for S1 – S3. Details would be given out in the S1 mailout and passwords would be issued soon. S4 – S6 students would use 'Google Classroom'.

Exam Results

A detailed report would be given next month, however, initial analysis showed that:-

- 92% of students had achieved a minimum of 5 qualifications, an increase over last year. 51% of S4 students had achieved 5 or more Nat 5s (A to C grades). 24 students had achieved 6 or more A passes.
- Higher results had dipped slightly this year, but only by a few percent.
- The number of students achieving 5 Highers had increased from 20% to 24%, with 9 students achieving 5 A grades. The number of students achieving 3 Advanced Highers had increased from 5 to 11.

School Curriculum

Feedback suggests that the senior phase curriculum was working well. It was confirmed that the Advanced Higher subjects would be put into columns next year.

Richard Maxton was monitoring the S1 – S3 curriculum to see if any changes were needed. This would include a parental consultation and a presentation to the group at a future meeting.

School Trips

A working group was currently analysing the recent survey to establish criteria for school trips. The Modern Languages Department had proposed an exchange type experience in Germany for students at the end of S1. Students would stay in a youth hostel, attend a German school and meet local families. The cost of this non-compulsory trip was estimated at £380.

5. Attendance and Exclusion Statistics

This item would be carried over as it was too early in the term for data.

6. Chair's Items

Parental Engagement Survey

This item would be carried over to the September meeting, after the ELAPCM meeting.

Topics for Future Meetings

Joanne Bloomfield referred to the AGM which preceded this meeting when it had been agreed that future meetings would focus on a key topic each month with guest speakers and student presentations where applicable. The meetings would be advertised on the Friday e-mail and social media such as Dunbar on-line. Members were asked to suggest key topics at the next meeting.

Action: All

7. Treasurer's Report

£1740 was available for funding requests. The result of the August 200 Club draw was number 95.

8. Funding Requests

Seasons for Growth

Ed Offer outlined this project, which supports young people suffering loss and bereavement. The request for £375 to purchase journals, manuals and sundry resources was approved in full.

Agreed: £375 for the Seasons for Growth project.

Mock Trial Project

Elaine Fell outlined this project, which provides students with employability skills for the legal profession in an international competition. A discussion followed regarding alternative funding sources for this project; Ed Offer would liaise with Angela Hepburn, Richard Maxton and Andrea Lancaster. It was suggested that this year's participants should seek out funding and hold fundraising events for next year's group. This would be a requirement of participation in the project.

It was therefore agreed that the Mock Trial project would be funded this year with the proviso that this year's group would seek out funding for next year's group and that this would be a requirement of participation in the project.

Agreed: £743 for the Mock Trial Project with the above proviso.

9. Teacher's Report

Elaine Fell reported that there had been a significant change in staff this year, which together with the increase in school role to over 1000, created new options for teaching, learning and extra-curricular activities.

Morag Sutherland reported that Nigel Kuhn's recent visit had been a huge success. All senior art students had taken part; the photos and videos would be posted on the website soon. The showcase event, films and talks were excellent and very well attended.

10. Dunbar and East Linton Area Partnership

The report was carried over to the next meeting. Claire Slowther reported that the Ridge had recently received funding for a trained Cognitive Behaviour Therapy counsellor to be based at the school and work with youngsters.

11. Student Council Report

Claire Slowther reported that a great senior student team was now in place, made up of Head Girl, Head Boy and 4 Deputes.

Alicia Lancaster and Emma Welsh, Deputes, reported that the organisation of the Leaver's event, yearbook, show and prom had begun. Many students had signed up to help, wanting to get involved in their final year. The Prefect system had also been organised.

12. DGSA Report

This report would be carried over. The change of date for the Prosecco tea to Saturday 21st September was noted.

13. AOCB

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

The information evening and application process had gone well. The calibre of applicants had been extraordinarily high, and 21 students had been chosen using a system based on potential and readiness. The remaining students' names were put into a draw for the waiting list.

Gillian Williams would organise a further information evening highlighting other opportunities to take part in the DoE award scheme such as community groups and the possibility of setting up a parent-led group. It was agreed to add the DoE award scheme as a topic for a future meeting. Claire Slowther would ask Gillian Williams to put out an appeal for parents, carers and staff who would be interested in training.

Developing the Young Workforce

Dee Davison and Elaine Fell suggested that a bank of willing parents and carers could be established to help with Developing the Young Workforce.

Debating Matters

Donald Davidson updated the group on Debating Matters, which is currently going through a rebranding process to become a charity. It was agreed that a debating club would be a useful addition to the extra-curricular events. Ed Offer would gauge staff interest and report back, Donald Davidson would send information to Elaine Fell.

Action: EO/DD

Common School Day

Elaine Fell reported that staff had found the shorter breaks and lunchtime a challenge but were coping. It was noted that student behaviour had improved with the shorter lunchbreaks and clubs were managing well.

Advanced Higher Classes

Recoursing had gone very well, Advanced Higher classes were now stable. Elaine Fell reported that some AH classes had increased in size but reduced in teaching periods compared to last year which had proved quite challenging. Claire Slowther confirmed that all changes were in line with other schools in East Lothian.

Rugby Posts

Claire Slowther confirmed that the rugby posts would not be put back up due to the size and usage of the pitch. Ed Offer would check if telescopic posts were to be installed

instead and enquire whether the unused telescopic posts at Hallhill could be used by the school.

Action: EO

200 Club

Morag Readman confirmed that the 200 Club form and cost of participation would be revised soon.

14. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 24th September in the Conference Room next to the school office; 7pm to 9pm.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

JM 03/09/19



DUNBAR GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Dunbar Grammar is a caring community where you can RISE to be your best

INCLUSION

SUPPORT

EFFORT



HEADTEACHER'S REPORT

27 August 2019

Staffing

- The following new members of staff have started with us:
 - Kenny Beaton, Teacher of PE
 - Gillian Carnie, Teacher of PE
 - Valerie Chapman, Teacher of Music
 - Marie Devillers, Teacher of Biology
 - Giuliana Di Rollo, Teacher of Modern Languages
 - Katharine Duguid, Teacher of Modern Languages
 - Emily Kirkness, Teacher of Chemistry
 - Aimee Macdonald, Teacher of Biology
 - Calum Mackie, Teacher of English
 - Natalie McGhee, Teacher of English
 - Morag McEwen, Teacher of Geography
 - Emma Reid, Teacher of History
 - David Robertson, Teacher of Maths
 - David Ross, Teacher of Drama
 - Danielle Smith, Teacher of Computing
 - Morag Sutherland, Teacher of Art
 - Amanda Young, Teacher of Business
- We have identified a preferred candidate for the position of full time Teacher of Physics.
- We are in the process of recruiting for a Depute Head Teacher. Interviews will be soon.
- Mr Darren Martin has joined the Pupil Support Faculty from 14 August. He has taken over the following classes, as their Guidance Teacher: 1C7, 1C8, 2C6, 2C7, 3C7 and 5C5.

Budget

The budget position will be updated following the census day in September.

Initial SQA Results

Please see Appendix 1

DRAFT

The Head Boy/Girl Team this year is:

- Head Boy: Thomas Leitch
- Head Girl: Georgie Cross
- Depute Head Team: Ben Totten, Niamh Goldie, Alicia Lancaster and Emma Welsh

Events

Two additional in-service days have been granted for session 2019/20 as part of the Scottish Negotiating Committee for Teachers' pay negotiations. The dates for these are: Tuesday 22 October 2019 and Tuesday 7 January 2020. Pupils will not attend school on these dates.

Nigel Kuhn Events	Mon 19 – Fri 23 Aug
Battlefields Eve	Tues 27 Aug
World Challenge Eve	Tues 27 Aug
Awards' Eve	Wed 11 Sep
DGSA Prosecco Afternoon Tea	Sat 21 Sep



DUNBAR GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Dunbar Grammar is a caring community where you can RISE to be your best

INCLUSION

SUPPORT

EFFORT



S4 Results

- In 2018, the initial percentage of our S4 cohort who achieved 5 qualifications at SCQF Level 5 (National 5) was 44% A to C passes and 54% A to D passes.
- The 2019 results have increased to **51% of our S4 roll with 5 or more Level 5 A to C passes and 58% A to D.**
- In 2018, 79% of the S4 cohort achieved 5 qualifications, meaning that 32 students achieved fewer than 5 qualifications at any level.
- In 2019, 92% of the cohort achieved 5 qualifications, meaning that the number of students with fewer than 5 was reduced to 13. 99% of the cohort achieved at least 3 qualifications.
- We have **24 S4 students** who have achieved **6 or more A passes**

% S4 Roll gaining 3 or more awards at SCQF Level 3 in S4									
Establishment	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	+/- on 2018	3 Yr Ave	Net change (5yr)	5Yr Trend ¹
Dunbar Grammar School	97.0%	96.1%	96.1%	90.8%	98.8%	8.0%	95.2%	1.8%	0.46%
East Lothian	87.2%	90.6%	84.5%	83.5%	88.8%	5.3%	85.6%	1.7%	0.41%
% S4 Roll gaining 5 or more awards at SCQF Level 4 in S4									
Establishment	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	+/- on 2018	3 Yr Ave	Net change (5yr)	5Yr Trend ¹
Dunbar Grammar School	83.6%	82.2%	76.5%	65.1%	83.3%	18.2%	75.0%	-0.3%	-0.08%
East Lothian	66.4%	69.3%	62.1%	54.4%	60.1%	5.8%	58.9%	-6.3%	-1.57%
% S4 Roll gaining 5 or more awards at SCQF Level 5 in S4									
Establishment	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	+/- on 2018	3 Yr Ave	Net change (5yr)	5Yr Trend ¹
Dunbar Grammar School	49.7%	60.5%	51.0%	44.1%	51.2%	7.1%	48.8%	1.5%	0.37%
East Lothian Council	35.2%	39.2%	38.2%	30.5%	38.4%	8.0%	35.7%	3.3%	0.81%

S5 Results

- Our S5 Breadth and Depth data is summarised below. This is based on the S4 cohort of 152. Please note that Level 6 is a Higher qualification.

	2018 Results	2019 predictions	2019 results
1 or more at level 6	69%	60%	57% (62% A to D)
3 or more at level 6	43%	41%	40% (48% A to D)
5 or more at label 6	20%	24%	24% (27% A to D)

- 9 students achieved 5 A passes at Higher

S6 Results

- In 2018, 5 students achieved 3 AH passes. In 2019 this number has increased to 11