



MEETING OF PARENT COUNCIL
on
Tuesday 23rd October 2018
at 6.15 pm

AGENDA

Members of the Parent Council must draw any conflict of interest to the attention of the Chair when it is relevant to matters under discussion or when they are in any doubt that it might be relevant.

1. Welcome, introductions and Apologies
2. Minutes of Meeting on 28th August 2018
3. Matters Arising & Action Points from the previous meeting.
4. Head Teacher's Report
 - a. BGE Reporting
5. Staff Members' Report
6. Chairperson's Report
7. Pupil Leadership Team report
8. ELC Councillor update
9. Sports Department report
10. Any Other Business
11. Date of Next Meeting: 4th December 2018

John Wrinn
Chair of the Parent Council
parentcouncil@knox.elcschool.org.uk

All meetings will be held in the School Library unless otherwise specified.

DRAFT/

Knox Academy

Parent Council

<http://knoxparents.org.uk>



MINUTES OF KNOX ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

DATE: 28 AUGUST 2018 in the School Library

Present: John Wrinn, Chair
Andy McBain, Vice Chair
Kim White, Vice Chair
Nicola Cunningham, Parent PC Member
Caroline McKinnel, Parent PC Member
Katrina Booth, Parent PC Member
Phillip Ross, Parent PC Member
Kay Boylan, Parent PC Member
Hana Elder, Leadership Team
Sam Thomson, Leadership Team
Dylan Brotherston, Leadership Team
Connor Moore, Leadership Team
Harry Davies, Leadership Team

In Attendance: Ms Sue Cook, Head Teacher
Calum Blair, PT Numeracy and Technology
Hannah McBride, Staff Member
Steve Wands, Active Schools
Allison Cosgrove, Clerk

Parent attendees:

Lesley Prentice, Janet Imrie, Mhari Brotherston, Colin Henderson, Polly Cooke, Edward Maycock, Lisa Anning, Chris Carruthers.

Attending: Cllrs Shamin Akhtar, Brian Small and Tom Trotter, Elected Members

Attached documents circulated in advance of the meeting:

- Agenda
- Minutes of Meeting of 30 May 2018
- Head Teacher's Report
- Chairperson's Report
- Staff Member Report
- Sports Department Report
- Councillors' Update

1. Welcome and Apologies

John Wrinn welcomed all to the meeting, especially the new Head Teacher, Sue Cook. Those present introduced themselves.

Apologies were noted from Cllr John McMillan, Caroline Taylor, Jacquie McKinnon, Janette Fairgrieve, Anne Hunter, and Elaine Towler.

2. Minutes of Meeting of 30 May:

These were proposed as a true record by Kim White, seconded by Katrina Booth.

3. Matters arising and Action Points from the Minutes not covered in the Agenda:

Bursary Scheme – Steve Wands advised that this was ongoing, with the involvement of the Area Partnership. A new group to lead the project had been set up, coordinated by the schools Business Manager (Bev Skirrow). It was noted that Bev is taking up a post within ELC, however Knox is currently recruiting for her replacements. A handover period will be arranged.

Area Partnership – Phillip Ross and Andy McBain were attending the Area Partnership of behalf of the School.

Rolling Mondays – Ms Cook advised that the implications for rolling Mondays after a Monday holiday were huge in terms of staffing and the impact on pupils was small. It had been tried in Edinburgh schools, but not retained. It was felt that staff are generally able to manage completing the curriculum to overcome the reduction in Mondays.

4. Councillors' Update

It was agreed to move this item forward on the agenda as Cllr Akhtar had another event during the evening. She gave an update on the draft Education (Scotland) Bill; the annual scrutiny of the Education Service carried out by Audit Scotland, where a very positive report had been received; Haddington 700 celebrations where she thanked the School for its input; planning development at Letham Mains where there could be potential for partnership working; the Area Partnership; news on the Community Hospital; and international exchange visits.

Cllr Akhtar also drew parents' attention to the East Lothian Association of Parent Councils regular meetings, chaired by Colin Henderson, reminding the Parent Council that they can ask for items to be on the agenda. The date of the next meeting was **Wednesday 26 September** at Brunton Hall, Musselburgh.

5. Head Teacher's Report

Ms Cook began by updating members on staffing issues in the School at the start of term. The long leet interviews for the Depute Head Teacher would take place the following day. There were a further five posts where recruitment was ongoing.

She went on to discuss exam results, pointing out that there were good results in S4, a slight dip in S5 (although 22 pupils had obtained 5 Highers at band A) and an improving trend in S6. More data would be available in September.

She would continue to work on raising attainment, noting performance by Faculty would inform the Faculty Improvement Plans, as well as tracking, monitoring and intervention. On the School Improvement Plan, Teacher Learning Communities were in place to lead on a number of areas, as well as School Improvement Groups. Proposals would be shared with staff and parents.

The Chair asked about the following items:

Staffing in Music Department – New staff in the Department were “finding their feet” and there was a new leader of the Music Faculty. Funding from the central budget was available for any student who wanted to apply for help with tuition costs, with a style letter on the website.

Relevance of D grading in exams – This was changed by the SQA with D being a 40-49 score, rather than 45-49. A D grade counted as an award.

Improvement in last year’s S4 (this year’s S5) – Only initial results were available, but more data would be available soon, and would be discussed with the Faculty Heads.

On a further question as to what the School was doing to improve results for these pupils, Mrs Cook emphasised that individual achievements were more important than across the cohort, explaining that this area was targeted as the attainment gap by the Scottish Government.

Increasing staff involvement – All staff should be aware of the success criteria through the teacher learning process.

School Improvement Plan – The Chair explained the Parent Council’s previous involvement with the Plan, and asked what else parents could do. Ms Cook invited members to attend a Restorative Practice seminar on 28 September, from 12.45. A further session would be held at a later date, to help to engage parents in school learning.

6. Staff Members’ Report

Staff present reported on the following matters:

Maths Treasure Hunt – work was ongoing with Community Education for this event.

Volunteers Fair – Volunteers were being sought to run stalls

Aubigny Twinning Association - the Chair asked if there was any opportunity for the School to become more involved in twinning activities. Hannah McBride advised that twinning events were normally advertised to 4, 5 and 6th year and the School normally participates in the annual Ceilidh. She commented that it would be good to have more involvement.

Careers evening – There would be a meeting to work on the Careers Evening on 5 September, with a date for the in January 2019.

Activities Week – Hannah McBride noted that the Activities Week would be structured differently next year, with a residential stay only being offered to 3rd year pupils. The 2nd year pupils would stay in school and take part in activities there, while 1st year would be on day trips. Activities will be restricted to Wednesday-Friday.

On a question on a choice for the residential stay, there would be a choice of price and destination as well as timing. Letters to parents would go out after the September weekend, and the letter would be available to the Parent Council. She advised that the School wanted to ensure that every pupil who wanted to go on a residential trip could go, although they may not get their first choice of venue.

Calum Blair then reported on the work of the Department, highlighting the recent exam results, which showed a strong correlation with the predictions for pupils via tracking reports. An October assessment would be carried out to focus efforts on the year ahead and support pupils.

Once the Insight report into exam results was published, the Department would be able to look at figures achieved by the virtual comparator schools, and an overview of senior pupils’ achievements would be produced. He emphasised that National 5 in Numeracy was a key achievement, and wanted to see that no pupil was left behind.

On National 5 in computing, Calum noted that there was an increase of over 20% in A-C passes, with a slight decrease in A-B. there had been quite a variable standard over the last 4 years, and a more consistent standard was being sought.

On Maths passes, there were a good number of increases in pass rates. Calum referred to co-operative learning where more staff were being trained. He noted that lessons were more focused on practice and strategy.

Calum stated that his vision for the Faculty was “Learning and learning better”; the need to be ambitious in terms of results and to work with the staff on the Faculty Improvement Plan which was on the agenda for every monthly meeting. He explained that he was looking at best practice in other schools using different types of learning and teaching; examining the curriculum and seeing it was relevant; and pupil profiling to track progress. He would send round the presentation he had intended to use at this meeting.

Cllr Small commended the use of the word “aspiration” in the presentation and enquired about appeals after exam results. Calum advised that the appeal process had changed and they were infrequent these days.

Questions were also asked about the tracking process and how parents were involved. Calum was keen to communicate with P7 parents as he felt it was important to engage at an early stage. This included asking parents about the type of support their child needed.

The issue of mixed ability classes was raised, with some parents expressing concern. Calum explained the reasons behind this, and that evaluation was being done on a weekly basis, advising that extra numeracy support would be available. Noted that high achievement needed to be encouraged, and that parents of high achieving children should get in touch with the Department if they were concerned that their child was not being challenged.

The Chair reminded everyone that it was incumbent on staff to “get it right for every child” and Mrs Cook observed that two of the schools with the highest attainment had mixed ability classes.

7. Chair’s Report

The Chair spoke to his report, thanking all parents who assisted in teacher recruitment. Five more parents had come forward to help.

There was information on the HMIE report, with a further follow-up visit planned for the end of 2019, and updates on the Area Partnership, the PTA, the Enhanced Curriculum, the re-introduction of Trampolining and a number of ongoing consultations. There was some discussion as to whether all the consultations from ELC that the PC were invited to contribute to were relevant, and Kim White clarified that there was no need to reply unless the consultation was relevant to the Parent Council.

On the structure of future PC meetings, he suggested that the number be reduced to 6 per session instead of the present 8. Members agreed to this. The revised meeting schedule was as follows:

23 October, focusing on Meadowpark
4 December, Expressive Arts
15 January 2019, Science/HWB
19 March, Social Subjects/Communication and Literacy
14 May, SIP

It was Noted that another member of staff was needed for the PTA.

8. Pupil Leadership Team

Sam Thomson and Hana Elder advised that they had been working with last year’s Team on Haddington 700, and their contribution was noted by Cllr Akhtar. Committee chairs for this year have been appointed and five key policies had been agreed. Their next tasks were to appoint the S6 prefects and to ensure that the committees meet the deadlines in the Legacy Folder. They also hope to make progress towards selecting their charity partners for the year and holding their first “Head Pupils’ Surgeries”.

9. Sports Report

Steve Wands spoke to his report, asking for assistance with a Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme this weekend. Kim White was able to provide information on an East Lothian resource. He advised that 106 pupils had attended the Rugby Camp, and highlighted the progress of the School of Hockey.

An Inter School 'Tough Mudder' event was proposed on 25 September, and he requested financial assistance of £250 for this event from the PTA. Members agreed to this request and Steve would complete an application form.

Other aspects of his report detailed very positive exam results, successful Bicycle Maintenance and Cycle Proficiency, and good numbers taking part in sports in the School.

10. Other Issues

Cllr Small reported that he was involved in work to encourage pupils to visit Oxford and Cambridge with a view to studying there. Representatives from both Universities attended North Berwick High the previous year and he asked if Knox would be happy to host them. The Chair suggested that they could attend the Careers Fair on 10 January 2019.

Calum Blair also asked for suggestions for others who might be invited to attend.

11. Dates of Future Meeting

October 23rd , December 4, January 15, March 19, May 14.

Action Points for Future Meetings:

Bursary Scheme Update	SW	23 October
Insight information on exam results	SC	23 October
Careers Evening Update	CB	23 October

Parent Council
Head Teacher's report
23rd October 2018

STAFFING

New staff (started):

Gill Pereira – Faculty Head Expressive Arts – started on 3rd September

Richard Watson – Technologies

Peter Luke – Business Manager

William MacKay – Mathematics

Trish McLeod – Biology

Lisa Braid - HE Auxiliary

Alicia Coyle – Maths

Still to start:

Jenny Wright – Support for Learning – 22/10/28

Alicia Coyle – Maths – 22/10/18

Andy Johnstone– Physics – 22/10/18

David Russell – DHT – 5/11/18

Andrea Campbell – June 1st in time for the new timetable

Angus Clark – Geography - TBA

Staff who have left:

Angela Leggatt – from Technologies – to Leith Academy

Callum Reynolds – Physics – to permanent post at Ross High School

Bev Skirrow – Business Manager – to HQ

Eric Easton – Biology – to Dunbar

Manus McGeechan – English – retiring

We wish them all the best in their new roles or for their retirement

Recruitment Active for:

- Teacher of English (0.88 FTE)
- Teacher of Biology (1FTE) temporary covering maternity leave; 0.4FTE (temporary until 1st June)

Review of activities at the school between August and October:

Faculty Reviews of HWB, Science and Expressive Arts (this week) – papers to be written up as a result and give us themes to follow up on as part of our School Improvement Plan

Volunteering Fayre for S4/5/6

Fire Up Scotland – SECC Hydro – S5/6 Inspirational Speakers

Extra-curricular Fayre – S1/2

S4/5/6 Senior Phase Evening

UCAS Information Evening

P7 Information Evening

S6 Dalguise Trip

Haddington 700 – many pupils, staff, parents involved in various activities

European Day of Languages (26th September)

Rugby/Hockey/Football matches across ELC

Opportunity to Shine – S1/2 National Theatre Programme – Traverse and possibly London

Young Sports Ambassadors – two from Knox Academy – promote sport at school and extra-curricular and involve some outside agencies for specialised training

Duke of Edinburgh – three groups involved in this – two bronze groups and one silver (Haddington Hikers) (two of the groups run by parent supporters)

Maths Week – visit from Professor McBride and Escape Room Edinburgh

Knox Academy Green Team – Viridor Award for their eco-initiative – now through to National nominations

Enterprising Hub – awarded £1000 from Sir Tom Hunter to further their initiative. They have named themselves the 'Community Kettle' (brew ideas and like a cuppa), to support pupils' enterprising ideas (they upcycled old desks and sold them on for profit). Pupils will present their ideas to the Community Kettle (like the Dragons Den) and they will support worthwhile ventures. Very enterprising.

Knox Academy held the screening of RESILIENCE film – ACES for East Lothian Council

Haddington Business Community Partnership – Knox Academy pupils designing the logo (also given life membership for engagement in this project)

Pupil Leadership Team – two pupils attended the Haddington Community Council – Knox Academy praised for their involvement in Haddington 700 and various other community events.

S1/2 – Expressive Arts – links with National Theatre and performance at Traverse and possibly on to London. 40 pupils involved in this.

Eight pupils attending Pupil Leadership Courses – linked to sports and some accredited

P4 Rugby Festival – S2 boys and S5/6 boys helped run this for the primaries

European Week of Languages – activities for all year groups

Rugby/Hockey – lots of matches both during the week and at weekends

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

There are Teacher Learning Communities leading on:

The Growth Mindset; Cooperative Learning; Feedback; Questioning; Improving Literacy; Improving Numeracy; Class Relationships and Effective Assessments

There are School Improvement Groups for:

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

- Take Ten Tuesdays introduced for staff each week as a sharing good practice session for 10 mins each Tuesday after school for ten weeks covering various tips for effective L&T
- Continuing to implement and review Show My Homework App – 75% engagement – lots of parents monitoring this too – pupils like it
- A termly Learning and Teaching Bulletin introduced, the first one went out to staff in Sept. This has ideas to try and research and reading to get involved in.
- Some staff have applied to do the Teacher Leadership Qualification with SCEL
- TLC are developing well with a huge number of collaborative professional enquiries underway, under 8 themes
- TLC training taken place with partnerships developed with Kelso High School

Raising Attainment and Achievement

- BGE Reporting review (with parents/pupils/staff)
- Learning Intentions and Success Criteria review and sessions linked to Career Standards/skills agenda – session on this and 2 members of staff involved in looking at quality of LIs and SCs
- Pupil Learning team to look at how to recognise and reward achievement across the school for sport/non-sport
- Family Learning programme to run again for S1 parents in November – 4 Thursdays and P7 parents also invited
- SC has invited Cluster HTs to Knox Academy to shadow S1s to look at progress in learning

GIRFEC

September – Respect for self, others and environment

- NT Connections Assembly (GP)
- Sustainability Assembly incl Viridor Award (SI/JL)
- Sustainability Reg input (SI)
- Consideration of monthly themes (LB/VL/All)
- LGBT + Group, meet and consider name (LA/SG-J)
- Plan pupil focus groups (IW/SG-J)
- Consultation on inclusion statement

October – Rights

- Re-launch of RRSA Assembly (VL/Pupils)
- LGBTQ Rights Assembly
- Launch of Inclusion Statement (PSE/PSP etc)
- Creation of Knox Rights Charter (LM/VL)

Curriculum

- looking at senior pathways within departments/faculties as well as gathering information on possible electives for senior phase pupils
- looking to survey pupils on their experience with course choices this session (range of subjects in column/what they would like to see/feelings about double periods/split teacher classes etc).

Ethos Group

The following areas were discussed;

- **School Identity** – Pupils feel welcome and safe
- **House System** – What does it mean to the pupils? What does it mean to the staff (staff identity)? Inter-house events & points system.
- **Community** – How does the school represent itself?
- **Inclusion** – pupil confidence, pupil engagement & staff buy in!

Long term aims – Build a legacy that becomes tradition (programmes will be set into calendar year by year, big events are sustainable through self-funding/community backing)

Ethos is sustainable and integral at Knox.

The group then split into 2 subgroups to discuss various aspects of Ethos that could impact the school community in a positive way.

Areas of discussion;

- **Uniform** – change of policy (consultation across all partnerships eg staff, pupils, parents, community). Perhaps house identity could be built into what pupils wear. (Discussion about having a ‘shop’ that pupils could buy house colours items eg hat, scarf, badge, etc)
- **Assemblies** – House assemblies led by pupil house captains with guidance and head of house to ‘gee’ up sense of belonging with house system and school as a whole (growth mindset – positivity ‘can do’ attitude).

- **Positive behaviour promotion/recognition of achievements** – looking at points system. Removal of 'demerit' can only award merit where deserved. Pupils achieve awards for reaching merit milestones (bronze, silver, gold, platinum, etc).

Work Positive

The Work Positive group has got to grips with the social networking aspects and have set up sub groups to look at different aspects of building social opportunities and a sense of health and wellbeing.

Parent Council

Staff members report

October 2018

Aubigny

Two senior pupils attended the 'Lessons from Auschwitz' program this year. The pupils have visited Auschwitz-Birkenau in Poland on a one day visit - a long day and very tiring, but a very profound experience for them both. The students will be working together on ways to share their experience within the school and with the wider community.

Science

On November 12 the Science Faculty are running a forensic science event. We did this last year for S3 and hope to do it every year for every S3. The students get to dress up as SOCO's and find out what is involved being a forensic scientist from someone who used to do it.

Young Enterprise

We have a team of 9 girls in S6 who are competing in the competition this year. They held a very successful Quiz night on 11 October and raised around £340 so they can register (£100) and start buying and making products. Their product idea is Tote bags which they will buy and then decorate in a range of designs. They have had some great input from their business advisor, Caroline Kirk, who meets with them weekly.

Knox Academy Parent Council
Chairperson's report for meeting of 23rd October 2018

1. Haddington and Lammermuir Area Partnership (HAL AP)

Update to be provided at the meeting.

2. P7 evening.

The Parent Council and PTA were represented at the recent P7 information evening.

3. PTA

The PTA provides support at school events, and is actively involved in fundraising. All funds raised are then available to be allocated to various school projects. A significant contribution has just been made to the stage lighting project.

The PTA are always on the lookout for new members. If you're interested please speak to any member of the Parent Council, or check us out on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/knoxacademysupportgroup?fref=ts>

4. Knox Hockey

See Separate paper.

5. Teacher Recruitment.

Parents continue to play a valuable role in teacher recruitment.

Please let me know, or email the Parent Council - parentcouncil@knox.elcschool.org.uk if you are available and keen to take part in this very interesting and valuable process.

6. Careers evening.

This is scheduled for Thursday January 10th, and will be split into two halves, with S1-S3 attending between 6-7pm and S4-S6 pupils attending between 7-8pm. Once again there will be a mix of organisations and parent talking about their career. This is organised in collaboration with the Pupils, Parent Council and DYW.

7. Dates of future meetings.

23 rd October (revised date)	Meadowpark
4 th December	Expressive Arts
15 th January 2019	Science/HWB
19 th March (Revised date)	Social Subjects/ Communication and Literacy
14 th May (Revised date)	SIP

John Wrinn 18th October 2018.

Haddington Hockey

Suzanne joined Haddington Junior Hockey Club (HJHC) about 3 years ago. At the time we had approx 50 players aged 10-18. Since Suzanne has taken over as Head Coach, our numbers have increased to approx 216.

When Suzanne took over we had 3 separate clubs in Haddington: Knox Academy hockey, Haddington Ladies and HJHC. Suzanne took it upon herself to talk to all 3 clubs with a vision to have an umbrella group, Haddington Hockey. This wasn't an easy process as folk were set in their ways and very resistant to change. However Suzanne ploughed on, selling the new Haddington Club as a way for the ladies to increase their numbers and a way to access grants for new kit etc.

Over the last few years this has slowly come together. We now have one website for Haddington Hockey. On this website there is a link for all 3 sections.

At present there is no training or a team for boys once they reach 16. Suzanne is in the process of setting up a boy's team for boys over the age of 16. Training should be up and running after the October holidays this year. Suzanne is also setting up a back to hockey men's team. The back to hockey for ladies has been very successful. From this we have set up a Ladies Development Team. Players from the age of 14 and upwards can join. We have Knox players playing for the team. The development team have now joined an Edinburgh hockey league.

Suzanne set up a summer camp for primary and junior high school pupils. 20 senior Knox Academy pupils helped out with coaching over the 5 days. This has been very successful over the last 2 years. Children from the camp have gone on to join the junior section.

Knox Academy Hockey now has fitness sessions once a week for S1-S6 pupils. The session takes place at 7.30 am until 8 am in the gym at Knox. This session is open to all girls who are participating in sport at Knox. A few pupils are now using fitness for their physical section of their Duke of Edinburgh award.

Suzanne has now got on board 3 adults coaches to help. A number of senior Knox hockey players help with coaching. Some use the coaching for their volunteering section of D of E. Suzanne would like to see in the future a hockey Development Officer in Knox, similar to the School of Rugby Development Officer.

- Unfortunately, Suzanne is stepping down from her role in Knox hockey due to business and Club commitments. We are looking for help from Knox to fill this position. Steve Wands and 3 parents, Katrina Booth (senior hockey), Mary McGavigan (S2) and Sarah Higgins (S1), are struggling to keep Knox hockey going. We have fixtures lined up during the season. However, we are really struggling to get a team out due to lack of numbers. We are at risk of not being able to field Knox hockey teams which seems shocking considering the size of our school. The girls need encouragement from the school to participate. It would be good to have a balance instead of being very rugby biased.

Parent Council Meeting - 23rd October 2018

Pupil Leadership Team Report

Pupil Council

Before the October break we held the first meeting of the 2018/19 Pupil Council. This year, we have somewhat altered the way in which the Pupil Council operates in order to ensure that it serves a specific and important purpose within Knox. We hope that the Council will now be utilised as a way to bring together the various pupil groups within the school, with the specific aim of examining ways to enhance the Knox community and school life outside of the classroom. For our first meeting we invited representatives from the Knox eco-committee, Pupil Learning Team, Duke of Edinburgh Team and Sports Council as well as others from across all houses and year groups within the school. We heard reports regarding the new Knox charity partners, upcoming house events and the recent work of the PLT before finishing with an opportunity for reps to raise any questions/suggestions about other aspects of their school experience. We plan on passing this feedback on to the SMT upon our return on the 22nd and have begun to take action based on the suggestions given. For future meetings we aim to have a similar structure and we will continue to discuss topics such as the house point system and the community within Knox Academy. We were really pleased with the first meeting of the PC and hope that this group will be an effective way of engaging with the wider pupil body going forward.

Prefects

After an application process at the beginning of September, the prefects for this year have been selected and prefect duties began on the 27th September. Since their introduction this term, prefects are assisting every break and lunch, completing duties such as controlling the food court queues and monitoring the social area. One member of the Pupil Leadership Team checks on the duties of the prefects every day to ensure there are no issues. We are hoping to receive training for prefects and introduce the 'Prefect Protocol' so our prefects know how to act in certain situations when conducting their duties as we find this can be challenging. The prefect team has already had a very positive impact on our school ethos and we all look forward to strengthening as a team moving forward.

Knox Charity Partnerships

The Charities Committee has reached out to a number of local charities and has agreed on the three organisation which are going to be Knox's charity partners for this year, they are:

- The East Lothian Foodbank (paired with Traprain)
- Muirfield Riding Therapy (paired with Garleton)
- Dementia Friendly (paired with Lammerlaw)

We are very excited about supporting the work of these brilliant local organisations and the S6 House Captains have already begun planning a number of fundraising events to take place throughout the year. During the w/c 8th October, the Charities Committee arranged the first charitable events of the term - a food collection for the East Lothian Foodbank and a

fundraising dress-down day as part of the The Rights Respecting Schools Award. Pupils and staff were very supportive of the events and both charities were grateful for all donations received.

Respect Assemblies

This term we are assisting Miss Cook in promoting Knox's key values of Ambition, Respect and Community throughout the school. In November the Pupil Leadership Team will be delivering assemblies to all year groups surrounding the core value of respect.

Poppy Scotland

The S6 PoppyScotland team have distributed poppies and collection tins to the majority of shops and community centres within Haddington. The team have also run a series of assemblies to inform pupils about the upcoming remembrance events. Additionally, a display is being planned and the front of the school has been decorated with large poppies. We are hoping to work with other groups within the community e.g the local Scout and Guide groups to increase our chances of reaching our £5000 goal.

Knox Academy Parent Council

Councillor's Report

Parental Engagement Strategy

Bev Skirrow will be taking over from Val McIntyre as the Principal Officer with responsibility for Parental Engagement. One of the first things that Bev will be focusing on is the evaluation of the Parental Engagement Strategy for which she is organising a working group.

East Lothian Association of Parent Council

A note of the last meeting has been circulated to all Parent Councils and provides a very useful update of the wide range of changes that are taking place both locally and nationally. It is important that parents and carers are kept up to date on the national changes that are being proposed such as the Regional Improvement Collaborative.

A reminder that the date of the next East Lothian Association of Parent Councils is Wednesday 21st November at 7pm at Brunton Theatre.

Instrumental Music Service

Information has been sent to parents and carers of the introduction of the charge as well as the list of concessions and bursary scheme. The range of concessions include:

- Free tuition to families who are eligible for Free School Meals/Clothing Grants;
- A bursary scheme for families on a low income but not eligible for Free School Meals/Clothing Grants;
- free tuition for students using their tutored instrument in instrumental music instruction towards an SQA qualification in S4/S5;
- free tuition for pupils who are Looked After Children within East Lothian Council's Social Care system;
- a discount for families where there is more than one child being tutored.

A link to the East Lothian Education Trust has been included for which applications for assistance can be made. The deadline for applications is 15th November 2018.

https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210557/schools_and_learning/12333/east_lothian_educational_trust/1.

Haddington Problem Solving Partnership

There have been a few newspaper articles covering some of the anti-social behaviour issues that have been taking place on Haddington High Street. A problem solving partnership was established involving East Lothian Council, Police, Councillors and Local Traders. A co-ordinated effort by all partners has resulted in significant improvement.

Special Needs Playscheme, STAR Club

The Special Needs Play Scheme has started to run their STAR Club from Knox Academy Meadowpark. Having recently attended one of their sessions it was great to see the number so young people from the school volunteering with the project.

Fearless Campaign

I had the opportunity to attend the launch of the Fearless Campaign which was co-ordinated between East Lothian Council and Local Police. Thank you to staff from Knox Academy and pupils for participating.

STAR Awards

I wanted to highlight the East Lothian Council STAR awards which are open to all our schools and staff teams. Anyone can make a nomination for a current individual or team working in East Lothian Council or its partner organisation. The deadline for nominations is 26th October 2018. See link attached for further details and how to nominate.

https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210620/media_centre/12392/star_awards_2018/2