

Knox Academy Parent Council

Annual General Meeting

Chairperson's report for the year to March 2019.

The objectives of the Parent Council are:

- *To enable parents and school staff to work together to ensure the best possible educational experience and outcome for the pupils of Knox Academy.*
- *To promote the involvement and responsibility of parents in the education of their children.*
- *To identify and represent the views of parents on all matters affecting the education and welfare of the pupils.*
- *To develop and engage in activities which promote the education and wellbeing of the pupils.*
- *To provide school staff the opportunity to consult with parents on school policies and decisions.*
- *To enable parents to participate in the appointment of school senior management.*

The objectives of the Parent Council are a useful checkpoint as we review the past year. I believe it's fair to say that by and large we have met those objectives, however the pace of change is relentless so we can't afford to rest on our laurels.

Main points of the year

HMIE report

HMIE inspectors revisited Knox in May 2018, and although this visit did not result in a formal inspection report, the feedback to Mrs Rodger was generally positive. HMIE will revisit Knox in August or September 2019.

Transparency

I hope we've made the Parent Council more transparent and accessible by providing all reports on the website in advance of meetings. Hopefully this is better informing parents. I'm still keen to ensure we can reach as wide a parent body as possible.

New Head Teacher

Thanks to Lauren Rodger as Interim Head Teacher, with good progress being made under her leadership of the School. It was great to welcome Sue Cook as our new Head Teacher in August 2018. The new Senior Management Team, along with the staff, are making good progress with developing and implementing the School Improvement Plan.

Parent Council support.

The Parent Council have supported Knox in a number of areas over the last twelve months, including:

- Another successful Careers event- thanks to parent supporters and the local and national businesses who supported the event.
- Good coordinated work between PC and school to get grant support from HALAP. Thanks to Andy and Phil for their enthusiasm.
- Knox PTA continue to work hard initiating and leading the fundraising side of the Parent Council, much of it behind the scenes. Creating great social events such as Burns Supper and the school Christmas dance as well as fundraising. The PTA financial year runs from 1st Sept. In the last year the PTA raised £4500, spent c. £1900 on school equipment and had c. £7000 in the bank at the end of the year.
- PC and parents are involved in many aspects of school life, interview panels for HT and DHT and for other senior posts, Classroom observations for teaching posts, focus groups for school improvement planning, support to many sports, to name but a few.

Haddington & Lammermuir Area Partnership (HLAP).

- Knox Academy parent council have been proactive with HLAP over the last 5 years and this has continued in 2018/19 as Knox Academy/Meadow Park have secured £43,195 in 3 funding applications from HLAP.
 - Knox Pupil Support £25,195,
 - Meadow Park Art therapy £13,200, and
 - Knox Academy Duke of Edinburgh £4800.

The latter is to enable the school to purchase 12 full sets of walking and camping equipment which will enable the school to further support DofE in future years.

- Knox Academy are also gaining from the £10,700 award to the Bridge Centre motor cycle project. Knox Academy is significant partner with this project for S2-S3 pupils who have gained confidence and benefit from being part of the project.
- The annual budget within HLAP for education is £100,000 and this budget has also been retained and approved for 2019/20.

Election to the Parent Council

Parents can stand as parent members of the PC. However, you don't need to be a parent member to take an active role.

Thanks to outgoing members, specifically Kim White, Kay Boylan and Janette Fairgrieve. They have all been strong and active supporters of Knox and of the Parent Council. A big thank you and we wish them well on the next chapter of their lives.

Our constitution permits 12 parent members of the Parent Council, although we've exceeded that in this current year.

And remember any immediate concerns you have about your child should be raised in the first instance with their guidance teacher, please don't save them up for the next parent council meeting!

Looking ahead

One of the Parent Council's objectives is to represent the views of the parent body. I feel this is an area where we may not be as representative as we could be. Therefore, I'd like the Parent Council to try to reach out and be accessible to as wide a parent body as possible.

Finally, and borrowing heavily from JFK's inaugural address, ***"And so, my fellow Knox parents: ask not only what Knox can do for your children, but also ask what you can do for Knox"***.

John Wrinn 15th March 2019.