

Falkirk High School Parent Council Minutes
Monday 20th May 2025 at 7pm
Meeting held at FHS

Agenda item	Detail	Action
(1) Welcome and Apologies for Absence	Attendees: Christine Dougall, Leona Hepburn (Staff Rep), Stuart Kelly (Headteacher), Clare McLaughlin (Depute Headteacher), Cathryn Miller, Fiona Shearer (Co Chair), Iain Sinclair (Councillor), Lily Stroud (Staff Rep) Apologies: Lorna Binnie, Erika Cooper (Co Vice Chair), Karen Findlay, Ruth McCall (Treasurer), Sarah Patrick, Rachel, Cailinn Rosie. Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and introduced themselves. Fiona Shearer explained they were looking for a parent volunteer to Co-Chair the PC alongside herself.	
(2) Minutes of Previous Meeting 18.3.25 and Matters Arising	- The minutes from the previous meeting of 18th March 2025 were approved. - Following a proposal from the JLT, a Pupil Dashboard is now up and running and acts as a one-stop shop for information useful for pupils, including canteen menus and a timetable for all the School Clubs. - A presentation on AI and how it can support pupils and parents is now on the school website. - A pre-order system is in operation for school lunches and the queues are improving.	
(3) Headteacher's 7 Minute Briefing	During the briefing the following points were highlighted: - FHS School Radio, led by the pupils, is coming soon and opportunities will be available for pupils to present, produce and script the content. - A team of S2 boys (the "Keeper Sweepers") have taken on the responsibility of keeping the newly re-laid astroturf in great condition and have made an excellent start to this. - Senior pupils will have new opportunities to work towards a qualification in Customer Service in partnership with Tesco in Camelon. - The Wellbeing Hub is the place for pupils to go for group sessions, drop-ins and one-to-one sessions which support pupils with FHS' 5 factors of health – sleep, eating, physical activity, relationships and mental wellbeing. Pupils can self-refer or be referred via House Teams following wellbeing check-ins. - Upcoming dates were discussed. - The school has relaunched their Framework for L&T, sharing with staff and pupils what great learning looks like and helping the school continually improve pupils' learning experiences and engagement. - The next key focus for the school will be Ready To Learn, building on recent initiatives to support focus, reduce distractions and create settings for calm and respectful learning, including the "phones in the box" policy and positive behaviour training for staff.	
(4) Evaluating for Excellence	Clare McLaughlin gave an update on the school's Evaluating for Excellence programme including proposals for the 2025/26 academic year. - The Validated Self-Evaluation programme, which has been running since before Covid, will become annual rather than once every 2 years and those who haven't yet participated will have the opportunity to do so. - Learning Walks will be more targeted. - There are now several consultation routes open to pupils, staff and parents	

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	In the past, feedback received has resulted in the Big Breakfast initiative.	
(5) School Improvement Planning	Stuart Kelly shared some of the highlights of the Improvement Plan, which would be shared with parents in the near future. “Stepping Out” - a number of S4 leavers whose positive destination hadn’t worked out were able to be supported in an out-of-school environment for an additional 6 to 8 weeks, making a real difference to these young people. - The school’s active travel officer Julie Cunningham had been a big success and will be continuing her activities - and adding new ones, including a mini forest and scooter and skate-boarding activities - in the 2025/26 session. - Pupils requested more structured revision instead of Wider Achievement sessions from Easter onwards and the school met this request. - An audit had been completed for ASN provision. - Teachers now have access to the Adaptive Teaching toolkit containing tips and links to useful resources for professional learning. - There have been virtually no issues with implementing the “phones in the box” policy and this will continue to be the expectation for new S1s starting this year and in future years. - Parents requested more clarity in the BGE reports (S1-S3) and this has been addressed.	
(6) Summer Fayre	Fiona Shearer outlined the plans in place for the Summer Fair taking place on 7 June and led a discussion covering catering, payment options, food for sale on the day, props required and set-up arrangements. A number of excellent prizes have been handed in from parents and donated by local businesses.	
(7) AOB	- A request was made for a parent who might be able to give up a short amount of time, possibly just once a year, during the day on a Monday or a Friday. This voluntary role is Parent Representative on the committee which considers appeals to grant-placing requests to schools other than FHS. - A short discussion took place about the school’s policy on shorts on hot days. - Several parents said they knew of pupils who are avoiding using the large toilets at lunch and break because they are uncomfortable with activities taking place such as vaping. They are also concerned that these pupils are avoiding drinking during the school day so that they don’t have to use the facilities. Stuart Kelly said the following actions were being taken and would continue to be a priority: - Faculty toilets are available at other times of the day - At lunch and break, a single cubicle toilet around the corner from the serving hatch is open - Staff carry out monitoring visits to the large toilets, any vapes found are confiscated and discussions are had with parents - PC Meason is involved and can bring in Trading Standards if shops are known to be supplying the vapes (the minimum age is 18). Iain Sinclair confirmed that single use disposable vapes are being banned across Scotland and the UK from 1 June.	

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(8) Date of Next Meeting	22 nd of September 2025	