

# Minute of Harris Academy Parent Voice Meeting



Date 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025, 7pm

## Attendance:

B. Millar (HT), E. Hallyburton (Clerk), M. Mcleod (Chair), C. Webster, F. Macpherson, , K. Gillespie, M. Crichton, B. Adeola, L. Hay, L. Melrose, K. Zwart, I. Ishaq

## Apologies:

C. Campbell, S. Grant, Cllr Campbell, Cllr El Nakla, M. Stewart, K. Marr

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| 1 | <p><b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b></p> <p>For the foreseeable future, Harris Parent Council meetings will be less formal so will not be proposed or seconded.</p>  |           |
| 2 | <p><b>Chair's Update</b></p> <p><u>Xplore Bus Company</u><br/>M. Mcleod contacted Xplore in support of the school and to highlight some of the issues the school has been having.</p> <p><u>Christmas Events</u><br/>These all went well.</p>   |           |
| 6 | <p><b>Head Teacher/SLT Update</b></p> <p><u>Toilet Incident</u><br/>A young person found a mobile phone in one of the clear toilet roll holders. The device was recording. A young person has now been charged with 'Attempted Voyeurism' and is no longer part of the school community. This Police investigation is ongoing. Young people continue to be supported through this by Guidance staff. Social media has negatively stirred everything up with inaccurate and misleading information which has unfortunately led to certain young people being victimised and targeted. The school has remained diligent throughout with all parent concerns being dealt with as quickly as possible by B. Millar and M. Stewart. The school is working with the Pupil Voice. The feedback has been positive. They have requested all clear plastic toilet roll holders are now covered and checked regularly by Tayside Contract cleaners and</p> |           |

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|  | <p>teaching staff. From now on, when young people need to use the loos, they must leave their phones in the classroom.</p> <p><u>32 Period Week</u><br/>Registration, first thing is returning. One period of class is being removed from each year group to make this happen. Monday, Tuesday, school will end at 3.50pm and Wednesday – Friday, school will end at 3pm. K. Macdonald is currently mapping this out. This is a massive task but morning registration, when it works well, is beneficial to all year groups.</p> <p><u>Attendance</u><br/>As it stands this is 1.4% lower than the national average. A School and Family Development Worker has been employed to support the school’s attendance drive. It was highlighted that this must be inclusive as there is a group of young people who cannot attend school regularly due to acute health issues. Every young person should have their own goal and target.</p> <p><u>Duke of Edinburgh</u><br/>The school has asked for parent volunteers to help with Duke of Edinburgh.</p> <p><u>School Buses</u><br/>The issue with school buses at the end of the day is ongoing. On a nightly basis some young people are not getting on their bus due to capacity. B. Millar is in regular contact with Explore Dundee. Their contract is up for renewal very soon.</p> <p><u>Staffing</u><br/>Ongoing.</p> <p><u>Prelim Dates</u><br/>17<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Study leave will run at the same time.</p> <p><u>Heart Start</u><br/>Sessions will be offered to S6 pupils (max of 20 pupils at a time) on the following dates: Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 09:30-11:00, Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 13:15-14:45, Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April 14:00-15:30.</p> |  |  |
|  | <p><b>School Captains’ Update</b><br/><u>Winter PJ Party</u> – a success.</p> <p><u>Hallowe’en Hop and Winter Ceilidh</u> – went well.</p> <p><u>Battle of the year groups</u> – looking into this.</p> <p><u>Community Larder</u> – ongoing.</p> <p><u>Charity Sportathon</u> – 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 2025</p>   |  |  |

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|  | <p><u>Iftar</u><br/>I. Ishaq is leading the planning of an Iftar (name of the meal eaten by Muslims at sunset to break their fast, during Ramadan,) for the school on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March This will be open to all year groups and faiths.</p> <p><u>S6 Alton Towers trip</u> – 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> March.</p>  |  |  |
|  | <p><b>Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)</b><br/>This is an international assessment conducted by the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) that evaluates educational systems by measuring 15 – 16-year-old students’ performance in reading, maths and science. PISA aims to assess how well students can apply their knowledge and skills to real-life challenges, providing insights into the effectiveness of education systems across different countries. Harris Academy is one of 121 schools and colleges selected to take part in September 2025.</p> |  |  |
|  | <p><b><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></b><br/>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2025 @ 7pm</p>   |  |  |