

# Ellon Academy School Parent Council Meeting – 13<sup>th</sup> Sept 2023

## Attendees:

In person:

Angela Stott (Chair), Ruth Leuchars (Treasurer), Pauline Buchan (Rector) Melanie Wilson (DHT),

Zoom:

Donna Bain (parent), Suruchi Jain (parent), Wendy Jones (parent), Kim Finlayson (Committee member), Sarah McPherson (parent), Nick Topping (Committee member), Gordon Burgess (parent), Emma Dawson (parent), Sarah Warne (Committee Member) & Moira Geddes (parent).

## Minutes from last meeting:

### Agenda for meeting:

#### 1. Treasurer report.

### Update

Unfortunately, my application for Internet banking has still to be activated despite being chased up in June and again mid-August. Items were to be re-processed, and no reason given for lack of progress. Ruth to raise a new complaint to escalate further.

The balance for the account is **£4479.24** according to the last statement to 30<sup>th</sup> June.

Transactions since our last meeting in Meeting in March include £75.00 compensation from the bank following a new complaint submitted June about processing internet banking forms. No other transactions have been undertaken since then.

### Grants

I have researched opportunities to apply for grants for the school through the ACVO website (Aberdeen's 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector Interface) and there are opportunities for the following:

Tesco: Stronger Starts supports schools, registered charities and not-for-profit organisations to apply for extra financial help they might need to provide healthy food and activities that boost young people's mental and physical wellbeing. Grants of up to £1500 are available with closing date of 31/1/24

Henry Smith Charity: The purpose of the Holiday Grants programme is to provide access to recreational trips or holidays for groups of children who experience disadvantage or who have disabilities.

Grants for £500 - £2750. Applications close 31/01/2024

BBC Children In Need grants: Available for Family funds / Core Costs up to £15,00 / Project Costs up to £120,000

Shell - £1000 Education STEM/ Health & Welfare / Safety grant. Applications close 30/1/24

### School Spending Plans

Ruth asked for an update to see if there are any bids from the school for the funding with possibility for applying for grants / matched funding.

PB advised that the music department has expressed an interest in purchasing new music stands (24 on two trolleys) for the school which they have priced at £1600. This will upgrade existing complicated stands allowing for quicker set up of music groups for practice sessions and events and bring equipment up to standards with the rest of Aberdeenshire.

**Action: PB to reach out to Heads of Departments for further ideas and report back at the end of term.**

Note: As previously discussed in former meeting could the school involve pupils with their ideas for improvements or resources.

## **2. Rector update.**

### **New Staff/Staff Changes:**

Principal Teacher Numeracy Mrs C Gatehouse

English Teacher Mr M Kirk

Computing Teacher Mr A Bunton (new courses for Ellon Academy)

Science/Biology Probationer Teacher Miss I Dunstan-Smith

French/Spanish Probationer Teacher Miss L Lefebvre

History Teacher Mr E McKay .

Modern Studies Teacher Mr E Bruce

ASL Teacher Miss I Low

ASL Teacher Miss E Stewart

Mrs F Grassick – Admin Support Officer

Mrs C Pettit – CSN Admin

After October break – Mrs R Seifert, Technical Teacher

### **Budgets:**

Investing in increased ICT provision– Laptops for pupils and Clever Touch Projectors

Resources for Reading School Accreditation

Re-configuring English Open Learning Area to form a classroom.

Removed partition wall and new tables/seating in the canteen which will increase seating capacity by 60.

Fitness Suite equipment has been replaced.

School adaptations to be made for visually impaired learner.

Refurbishment of accessible toilet – fully functional with changing plinth

Continued Professional Learning Budget cut by 50%

**Other:**

SLT remits – revised versions on website

New Calendar 23.24 on website

Senior Phase Tracking Report 1

Whole School Improvement Plan 23/24 on website

Faculty Attainment Reviews Sept/Oct

Extra-curricular booklet on website

In-service days (Thurs 16th and Fri 17th Nov) planning

Making Thinking Visible – Learning Routines

Family Learning Evening – Thurs 21.9.23 (6pm – 7.30pm)

- Request for parent helpers

Internet Safety Assemblies this week (newsletter)

House Assemblies w/b 25/9/23

Barista Course SQA Accredited

MUA Course SQA Accredited

Higher Leadership Units – Exec Team

Activities Days 23/24

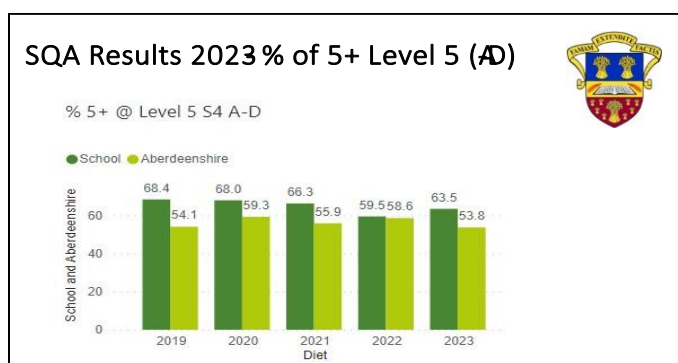
- Planning has already started for Activities Days 23/24:
- Home and away trips and activities will be offered to all S1/2/3 learners next May with a range of choices and price ranges.

School Achievements since June 2023:

- Reading School Gold Accreditation
- Fairtrade Achiever Award
- Anne Frank Award

**3. Attainment Review**

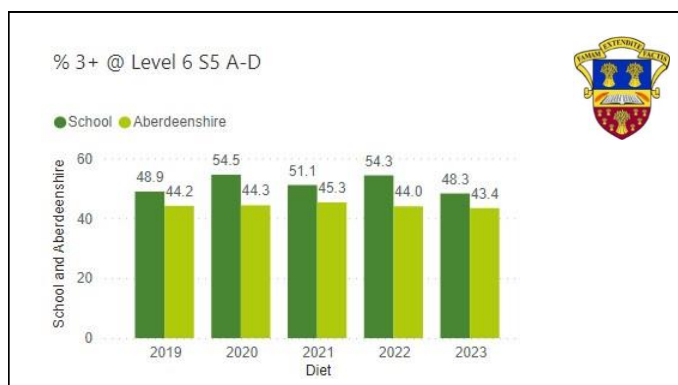
S4 Cohort 22/23 – 64% achieving 5 or more Level 5/National 5 passes (above Aberdeenshire average)



### S4 Attainment Over Time

| Year              | Cohort    | 5+ Level 3    | 5+ Level 4    | 5+ Level 5    | 1+ Level 6   |
|-------------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| <b>2023 (233)</b> | <b>S4</b> | <b>82.00%</b> | <b>80.00%</b> | <b>64.00%</b> | <b>0.00%</b> |
| 2022              | S4        | 73.66%        | 73.66%        | 60.00%        | 0.98%        |
| 2021              | S4        | 87.50%        | 87.50%        | 65.38%        | 2.40%        |
| 2020              | S4        | 88%           | 87.10%        | 68.44%        | 1.78%        |
| 2019              | S4        | 89.84%        | 89.30%        | 68.45%        | 9.63%        |
| 2018              | S4        | 93.55%        | 90.86%        | 67.74%        | 9.14%        |
| 2017              | S4        |               |               | 50.90%        |              |

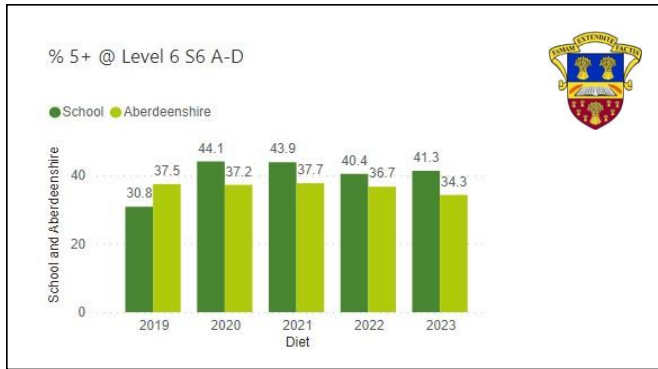
S5 Cohort 22/23 – 48% achieving 3 or more Level 6/Higher passes (above Aberdeenshire average)



### S5 Attainment Over Time

| Year              | Cohort    | 3+ Level 6 | 5+ Level 6 |  |  |
|-------------------|-----------|------------|------------|--|--|
| <b>2023 (171)</b> | <b>S5</b> | <b>58%</b> | <b>31%</b> |  |  |
| 2022              | S5        | 53.77%     | 27.83%     |  |  |
| 2021              | S5        | 53.33%     | 20.44%     |  |  |
| 2020              | S5        | 58.15%     | 34.57%     |  |  |
| 2019              | S5        | 49.46%     | 29.89%     |  |  |
| 2018              | S5        | 36.79%     | 18.40%     |  |  |
| 2017              |           | 48.40%     |            |  |  |

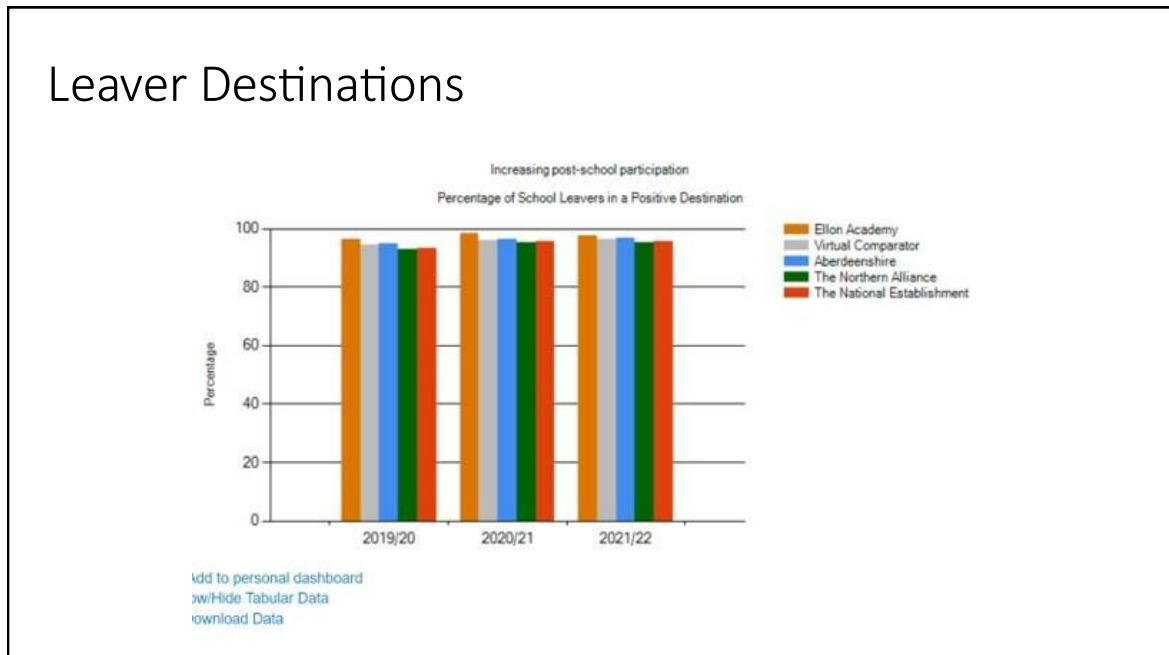
S6 Cohort 22/23 – 41% achieving 5 or more Level 6/Higher passes (above Aberdeenshire average)



### S6 Attainment Over Time

| Year              | Cohort    | 1+ Level 7 | 3+ Level 7    | 5+ Level 6    |
|-------------------|-----------|------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>2023 (108)</b> | <b>S6</b> | <b>65%</b> | <b>13.00%</b> | <b>71.00%</b> |
| 2022              | S6        | 32.00%     | 7.56%         | 40.89%        |
| 2021              | S6        | 32.97%     | 8.11%         | 40.54%        |
| 2020              | S6        | 34.07%     | 4.95%         | 30.77%        |
| 2019              | S6        | 16.51%     | 16.51%        | 26.89%        |
| 2018              | S6        | 31.44%     | 5.67%         | 36.00%        |
| 2017              | S6        | 22.00%     |               |               |

Leaver Destinations 22/23 – 98% of Ellon Academy leavers went to a sustained and positive destination. Above (Aberdeenshire, National, Northern Alliance and Virtual Comparator).



#### 4. Facebook Group

- Reminder to parents/carers that this is available as a means to communicate with PC.

**5. Car Park**

Drop-off point is a concern.

Action: reminders to be sent to parents/carers. This has been done.

**6. Comfort Cabinet, blazer bank & preloved uniform.**

Susan McGill looking into support staff availability to work on this.

Nick Topping suggested it could be a leadership opportunity for S6s.

Action: Revisit at next meeting.

**7. AGM & Committee members**

Next meeting is the AGM and a number of new committee members will be needed as some will be moving on as their children leave school.

**8. Water fountains**

AS raised that some concerns had been raised that many water fountains were not working.

Action: PB to look into and feedback at next meeting.

**9. Date of next meeting**

Poll on FB group to try and identify a time and day suitable for as many people as possible.