



Strathaven Academy Parent Council meeting

6.30pm, 23rd September 2025

In Attendance: Kathryn Cain (stand-in Chair), Waheeda Huq (Head Teacher), Anna Humphries (Depute Head Teacher), Matt Brown (Depute Head Teacher). Christine Hall, Emma Cameron, Tomas Safarik, Gemma McGrattan

Apologies: Jo Tunney, Joanne Motion, Catriona Webber, Lyndsay Rae, Kirstin Kinniburgh, Amanda Minns, Julie LeBlanc Smith

1. Welcome and apologies

2. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

- i. **Uniform:** Ms Huq reported excellent uniform compliance since the start of term and proposed maintaining the current approach, with a review at a later date. A discussion followed regarding some pupils' concerns that survey results hadn't been shared and their views hadn't been acknowledged. Ms Huq agreed to raise this with Paula Hamilton, however, highlighted that the survey results were shared at assemblies.
- ii. **S6 Social Area:** Ms Huq confirmed the Academy building is at full capacity, with no scope for additional space. S6 pupils can use the library area and room GO31, both equipped with an IT trolley. They may also socialise in the street during the school day and study from home if arranged through Mrs Humphries, who has communicated these arrangements and challenges to pupils. S6 have responded positively. Mrs Humphries and Ms Huq are exploring a team-building day.

3. SQA Update: Mr Brown presented the 2024/25 SQA results. S4 saw an increase in pupils achieving National 5s, and S5 showed a rise in Higher passes, bringing results back in line with 2019. This was considered the first "normal" year post-COVID, with S4 and S5 pupils less impacted. S6 results appeared less positive on paper, but Ms Huq explained this reflects a broader range of options now available. Many S6 pupils have secured university places based on their Highers and are choosing to study alternative subjects not captured in SQA assessments, rather than pursuing Advanced Highers.

Mr Brown outlined the introduction of a new Early Warning System (EWS) to identify and support pupils who are struggling, applicable across all year groups. While not a new concept, the EWS will be a more structured and collaborative process: faculty heads will escalate concerns to year heads, who will have oversight across subjects to coordinate support and avoid multiple communications to parents from different departments.

4. **Mobile Phone Policy update:** Mrs Humphries reported that the new policy is working well and has been positively received by both staff and pupils. Only one incident required escalation to senior leadership; overall, pupil compliance has been strong.
5. **PE facilities / use of Strathaven Park pitch:** Ms Huq noted that SLC charge £100 per day for pitch use, making it financially unviable. Some pupils have written to SLC but received no response. Kathryn agreed to explore how the parent council might support efforts to find a solution.
6. **Duke of Edinburgh Award Programme Update:** Kathryn raised concerns that some pupils who completed their DofE in S3 have not received confirmation of their award status or guidance on next steps. Parents paid £25 via ParentPay in February but are unclear what this covered, and pupils appear not to have received their award. Ms Huq will investigate.
7. **AOB and date of next meeting:** No AOB was raised. The next meeting will take place on 25 November. All meetings this academic year will be held in person, with a Teams link available for those unable to attend. In the event of severe weather, meetings may shift to virtual only.