

## WALLACE HIGH SCHOOL PTN MEETING

4 September 2023 at 7PM  
Wallace High School Staff Room

Attendees:	
Karen Dunn, Chair	Kate Buchanan, Uniform Bank
Tor McKay, Uniform Bank	Scott Pennock, Headteacher
Jaki Robinson, Head Castleview/Strategic Leader Ochil House	Kym Anderson, Principal Teacher Ochil House
Danny Snedden, DHT S3 and S4	Jay Brownlee
Emma Torrance	Mercy Nwanyanwu?
Andrina Davidson	Florence Paterson
Shubhanna Hussain	Karin Schiller
Susie Macaskill	Alice Chan
Apologies:	
Alison Notman, Treasurer	Fiona Atkinson, Ochil House Rep
Julie Christie, Depute Head	Victoria McCusker
Nicola Watt	Louise Boyle
Kathryn Anderson	Emily McLaughlin

Agenda Items:
<b>1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies</b>
<b>2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Minutes will be reviewed at next mtg on 15 November 2023 due to late circulation.</li></ul>
<b>3. Matters Arising/Chairperson's Report:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Fundraising:</b> The chair explained that we will raise funds through our tuck shops at various school events like the Christmas Concert, school shows, etc, along with selling raffle tickets for gift baskets. The 50/50 Club will be relaunched, too. A letter will go out to all parents and carers regarding parent council membership and the 50/50 Club. <b>AC: Chair to give the school a letter to distribute to Wallace families.</b></li><li><b>Social Media:</b> The PTN will continue to use X (formerly known as Twitter), FB, email and the School App for communication.</li><li><b>Stirling Council Parent Council Network Mtg:</b> Chair explained that Stirling Council runs network meetings a few times a year and she attends them.</li><li><b>Disabled Parking Bays:</b> We ask parents, carers, pupils and visitors to understand and respect the purpose of these bays and not use them if their children, etc are not disabled. <b>AC: S Pennock and Karen to contact FES about signage.</b></li><li><b>Dog Fouling:</b> This continues to be a problem so the group discussed trying to share the message - to ask visitors to the grounds to be respectful and collect their dog waste so our pupils can use the grounds positively. <b>AC: Chair to look at communicating through social media and local community groups.</b></li></ul>
<b>4. Treasurer's Report:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Funds as of 31 August 2023: £1908.01;</li><li>Expenditure before closing bank balance: £316.67 (Tuck supplies, janitors' gifts, Sumup charges);</li><li>Asked S Pennock to inform the group if and when funds are needed for school.</li></ul>

## 5. Uniform Bank:

- Kate informed the group that the Uniform Bank team has 10 volunteers helping to support the aims of sustainability and equity. The items are free but donations are welcome.
- Positive feedback was shared about the Uniform Bank being more like a shopping experience with the recycled paper bags, the signage and the displays.
- Kate asked the group for a volunteer to run the Uniform Bank as she is stepping down after 6 years. Karin volunteered to fill the role. The chair thanked Kate for her dedicated effort and hard work and for starting an outreach programme. The group will invite Kate to another meeting or an evening to celebrate her efforts and say a formal thank you. **AC: Chair to organise.**
- **Reminder:** If anyone would like to make any donations they can be dropped off at our **new collection bin located at 40 Woodside Rd, Stirling, FK8 1PS**, the school office or the donation box in the school lobby. Please place washed items in a carrier bag - all gently used uniform items, school sportswear and shoes in clean condition are welcome. Please email the Uniform Bank team at [whs.uniformbank@gmail.com](mailto:whs.uniformbank@gmail.com) or the PTN at [wallacehighptn@gmail.com](mailto:wallacehighptn@gmail.com) for any uniform needs.

## 6. Ochil House Report:

- Jaki explained that the pupils are off to a great start this year and there has been a lovely showing of school uniforms. The staff and pupils were happy to welcome their one S1 pupil who was excited to join the Wallace High School community. They are also pleased to watch the last year's S6 group head off to their positive destinations. The teachers will work with this year's S6 pupils and parents and carers to be well-informed about their future positive destinations.
- Jaki also shared that Fiona Atkinson, our Ochil House parent rep, will step down from her post. Jaki thanked Fiona for all of her hard work, dedication and perseverance with the Ochil House Ground Project. The chair offered thanks on behalf of the PTN. Jaki also thanked Shabhana for her help and support, too. Jaki and Kym will see if there might be a parent/carer who might be interested in the role of OH parent rep. **AC: The Chair will arrange a formal thank you celebration with Fiona.**
- Jaki informed the group that there are several parent information events planned for such as: a meeting with the Children with Disabilities Team regarding guardianship; a meeting with the Active Stirling Sportability co-ordinator, Fiona Donald, regarding out of school opportunities; and a meeting with Shubhanna from the Coalition of Carers around parental rights. We have further meetings planned this session but will consult with parents to ensure that the topics are relevant to current needs.
- Jaki reported that Fiona Donald, Active Stirling Sportability co-ordinator, who has been engaged to offer varied health and well-being opportunities and fun activities to OH pupils will continue her work. Brian Smith, musical therapist, will offer musical experiences for the pupils. They are continuing to carry out the recommendations within the School Improvement Plan.
- Kym spoke about the Ochil House Garden/Grounds Project and informed the group that the planning is ongoing. There will be consultations with pupils, parents and carers about how the whole school community can use the space and look at what can motivate, stimulate and visually inspire. There are 5 classes within Ochil House and each of those have very different needs to be met. There are barriers to overcome which involve planning, funding and working with FES but there will be support from external agency, PALS. It will take time and Kym stressed that it is important that an overall plan is implemented rather than installing in bits and pieces. Despite this, everyone is pleased that the wheelchair accessible swing is successfully installed and happily being used.

## 7. Headteacher's Report

- **Staffing Update:** S Pennock reminded the group that Miss Harris retired last June and introduced her replacement, Danny Snedden, as the new Depute Head Teacher (DHT) of S3 and S4. Mr Snedden said he was pleased to join our school and is looking forward to the new school year. Miss Christie replaced Mr Cordiner as DHT of S1 and S2. Mrs Laura Sinclair (Art Faculty), Partnerships and Flexible Curriculum Lead, steps up to a new PT role in another school and Mrs MacVicar has been appointed as Acting Principal Teacher of Partnerships. Permanent Principal Teacher of School of Sport and HWB, will be interviewed on Friday.
- **THANKS:** S Pennock thanked the parents and carers for a positive start to the new school year and for all of the helpful support and feedback. He also thanked the wider pupils, with special mention to our new S1 year group, for wearing school uniform and demonstrating school values.
- **SQA Results/Comparative Analysis:** Mr Pennock reported some very strong initial attainment figures with the number of pupils achieving 5 Level 5 awards in S4 at 47.5% (up 7.5% on our last pre-Covid figure) and sustaining last year's strong 47% figure. Our initial Higher figures of 60% achieving 1 Higher, 43.5% 3 Highers and 275 5 Highers present our strongest Higher figures on record. Wider attainment and a full analysis will be available following publication of national Insight data in September.
- **New Exam Diet/Supported Study:** The 2024 exam diet starts on Monday 22 April and finishes on Thursday 30 May. Results Day will be Tuesday 6 August. The new exam diet has been published and can be viewed on this link [https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files\\_ccc/nq-2024-exam-timetable.pdf](https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/nq-2024-exam-timetable.pdf). Some supported study has begun in school and other sessions will start soon. A schedule of supported study will be shared post October break (9th October & 16th October). There is a variety of information for parents, carers and pupils to access via the website (also links through the School App) which include the Curriculum Guide for Parents and Carers, School Improvement Plan 2023-24, Standards and Quality Report 2022, School Calendar, WHS Digital(Pupil & Parent/Carer Hubs for online support), Course Choice Booklets, etc.

## 8. AOB:

- **Item for next mtg:** Mr Pennock will explain the Hayward Review which is the report, authored by Professor Louise Hayward, which sets out a number of key recommendations for the Scottish Government on the qualifications system in Scotland and how it can best support learners in schools and colleges.
- The group introduced themselves to each other and the chair thanked everyone for coming. The chair also thanked Kate and Fiona for all of their contributions to the PTN and the Wallace High community. The PTN will invite them back to celebrate their contributions and to say goodbye.
- If there are any issues or concerns parents/carers should contact the school as the staff are always willing to help. The PTN are also available to offer support. **It is important to note that there are only 2 phone lines into the school office so please email the school if the phone is not answered at [wallacehs@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:wallacehs@stirling.gov.uk).** Someone will reply/respond to the email.

**Date of Next Meeting**  
**Wednesday, 15 November 2023, 7-8pm**  
**Wallace High School Staff Room**