

Graeme High Parent Council

**Annual Meeting Thursday 27th
November at 7pm**

We would like to hear from you

There is an open invitation to all parents to attend meetings and participate in any way.

**Would you like to hear from the
Headteacher what HMIe said about
Graeme High?**

If so, come along to our meeting.

What's happened during the first year of the Graeme High Parent Council?

In October 2007, we

- got to grips with our Constitution
- circulated the Constitution to all members of the Parent Forum for agreement

In November 2007, we had our first Parent Council meeting and elected the office bearers.

- Chairperson : Alan Harris
- Vice Chairperson : Kate Connochie
- Treasurer : Liz Rankine
- Clerk : Laureen Thompson
- Agreed the name of our Parent Council - Graeme High Parent Council.
- Co-opted members from the school, staff & pupils
- Decided on the minimum number of meetings we would have each year.

We have held regular meetings on different days of the week to accommodate people working shifts or those who may have other commitments.

What did we talk about at the meetings?

- **High on the agenda was the appointment of a new Headteacher.** The Parent Council were heavily involved in the selection process and the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Treasurer took part in the final interview selection panel in January 2008 and were pleased to appoint Lesley Carroll as our new Headteacher.
- **We sought your views.** Together with the new headteacher, we prepared a parent questionnaire that was sent out to parents and carers asking for your views on things that the school does well and where it might improve. We were delighted with the level of response and have attached a copy of evaluation.
- **Fundraising.** Fundraising - we are presently in the process of submitting a bid for a Lottery Grant to complete the Eco Garden in the school courtyard. We are anxious to enlist the support of any parents who currently work for an employer who supports matching schemes, anyone who would like to help - please email graemehighschool@falkirk.gov.uk.
- **Graeme High HMIe inspection.** We were delighted to be involved in the Graeme High HMIe inspection earlier this month, and we had an opportunity to speak to the inspectors with a parents' perspective of the school.

We have also discussed the school's

- **SQA Results**
- **Aims**
- **Performance review**
- **Mobile phone policy**
- **Website**
- **School Improvement plan**

The Parent Council were sad at the recent resignation of **Mr Alan Harris** as Chairperson due to his work commitments, and the new Chairperson elected is **Mrs Kate Connochie** previous Vice Chairperson, new Vice Chairperson is **Mrs Juls Russell** and the Treasurer remains as **Mrs Liz Rankine**.

Apart from our own meetings, members of the Parent Council attended seminars, meetings and social events on behalf of the school. Altogether a busy and rewarding year which has given us the chance to get to know people from across the whole school.

What happens next? That's up to you! Why not come along and join us.

Graeme High School – Self-evaluation



Summary of Parental Questionnaire Responses – June 2008

What parents thought the school did well:

Around a third of parents responded to the questionnaire. They were very positive about almost all aspects of the work of the school. In particular they thought:

- Staff made them feel welcome and encouraged their children to work to the best of their ability.
- Parents' Evenings were informative and the school provided helpful information on their children's progress.
- They were content with the part they were asked to play in their children's education.

Around a quarter felt that they would like:

- Staff to know their children as individuals.
- To have a clearer understanding of the school's priorities for improving their children's education.
- To be kept informed about the work of the Parent Council.

A majority of parents indicated that they had not visited the school's website and made some useful suggestions for items that would be helpful to include on the website.

Most parents stated that they had regular access to email but around a quarter indicated that they were not willing to receive information by email.

What well will do next:

- Improve communication with parents early in S1 – letter to parents detailing contacts including House Head, form teacher and pastoral PT. Explain how we get to know pupils. **K Duncan to action.**
- Develop a parent prompts support booklet linked to homework. Include in improvement plan. **R Mackintosh and commission to action.**
- Discuss with Parent Council how to further inform parents of the work of the Council. Since the questionnaire was completed, all parents have received the Parent Council newsletter. **LCarroll and Parent Council to action.**

Action from Parent Council:

- Establish and populate section on school website. **L Carroll to arrange via website commission holder** in consultation with K Connochie.
- Parent Council standing section in all school newsletters. **Action by K Connochie.**
- Minutes to be more parent friendly and appear on website. **Action by Clerk to the Council and website commission holder.**
- Parent Call prior to each Council meeting. **Action by school office.**

Kate Connochie
Parent Council Chair

Lesley A Carroll
Headteacher