



**Girvan Academy**  
**Parent Council Meeting 16 January 2023**  
**Head Teacher Update**



### **1. Staffing**

We currently fully staffed and have allocated additional funding to increase our School Assistant staffing and a Youth Worker to work with targeted pupils.

### **2. School Refurbishment**

Computing & Business Department – the work in the old library is on track to be completed by Easter. The second phase to refurbish the fourth room is due to take place during the summer holidays.

On-going maintenance work – ongoing work on the roof, lighting, flooring, ceiling tiles to improve the quality of the existing rooms. Further window replacement is in discussion.

### **3. Parents' Evenings**

So far this session we have had three in-school Parents' Evenings and the feedback has been very positive. The remaining S3 and S2 Parents' Evenings are on 7<sup>th</sup> February and 7<sup>th</sup> March respectively.

The attendance for each year group was S1 - 69%, S4 - 49%, S5/6 - 41%.

### **4. Christmas Events**

A range of events took place including a Christmas concert, junior & senior parties, karaoke event, staff cooking event and pupils from the Girvan Academy Pipe Band performed at the sheltered housing around Girvan. The concert and parties were well attended and there was an excellent atmosphere at all the events.

### **5. Whole School Positive Behaviour Rewards & Parent Council Funding**

Tied in to the Christmas parties was our positive behaviour reward scheme to encourage good attendance, behaviour and latecoming, as well as limit mobile phone misuse. This proved to have a positive effect on a number of pupils where we saw an improvement in these areas.

Other reward days will be introduced throughout the session. such as an Inflatables Day, Spring Fling, Tough Mudder etc. Is this an area that the Parent Council would like to support from either their own fundraising or from grant money received?

### **6. Supporting Families Initiative**

A range of initiatives to support families with the cost of the school day have been established.

These include:

- Breakfast Station
- Preparation Stations
- Personal Hygiene Packs
- School Uniform

- Support for families with Christmas presents

## **7. Cyber First Girls Competition**

A team of S2 girls calling themselves Runtime Terror have qualified for the Scottish final of the CyberFirst Girls Competition 2022. This will take place in Edinburgh on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February.

This is the fourth year in a row a team from Girvan Academy has qualified for the national final. Last year we won the national final

**Well done to Gareth Rae on winning not one but two awards at Scottish Cyber Awards at the end of November. Gareth won the Cyber Educator Award and then followed this up by winning the overall Champion of Champions Award.**

## **8. ParentPay**

SAC is introducing ParentPay this week to replace the I-Pay system, which was used for school lunch payments. In Girvan Academy it is scheduled to go live on Wednesday. Existing balances have been transferred to the new system. ParentPay is a cashless system in school, although parents will also have the option to pay cash into top up accounts using the Pay Point network at local convenience shops. Letters were issued to parents last week to allow the creation of an account and access school lunch payments. Your feedback over the coming weeks would be much appreciated.

ParentPay will also be used for future trips, as any information letters to parents will include a unique barcode which will allow payments to be made online or by using the Pay Point shops. More information will be shared on this as it is received.

## **9. Pupil Reports**

Each year group has two interim reports and one full written report, in addition to Parents' Evenings and other parental information evenings.

What are your views on the information you receive and are there any improvements or changes you would like to see?

Mark Anderson  
Head Teacher  
16<sup>th</sup> January 2023