

Parent e-update

Falkirk Area Parent Forum – Tuesday 19th March 2019, St Mungo’s High School (6.45 – 8.30pm)

The next meeting of the Falkirk Area Parent Forum will take place in **St Mungo’s High School** on **Tuesday 19th March (6.45 – 8.30pm)**. There will be a presentation from an Education Team Manager at Children’s Services on the Senior Phase of the curriculum.

Also, secondary parents in attendance will be asked to elect a new secondary parent representative on the Council’s Education Executive. This is ahead of the next meeting of the Education Executive on Tuesday 26th March. If you are a parent of a secondary school pupil and you are interested in becoming the representative, please can you contact myself by email prior to the meeting noting your interest and providing a brief statement as to why you would like to be the representative.

Parent’s Budget Reference Group

Thank you to all parents who have noted an interest in being part of the proposed budget reference group. The date of the first meeting has still to be decided and there should be an update on this at some point next week.

In the meantime, the budget decisions taken by Falkirk Council at the meeting of the Full Council on Wednesday 27th February can be accessed here: <http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/council-democracy/budgets-spending-performance/budget/>

Internet Trend Awareness – “MOMO Challenge”

Please can parents read the attached letter from David Mackay, Head of Education. Please also refer to the information he has provided below:

Good Morning

You may have seen information in the media recently about the “MOMO Challenge”, an Internet trend in which a frightening image of a woman with a distorted face and bulging eyes is shared via social media apps, such as WhatsApp.

This trend generally targets children and asks them to carry out “challenges”. Children have reported being threatened if they do not comply, which can obviously cause great distress. There is also growing evidence that this is run by hackers who are looking for information.

Please find attached a copy of letter that I have provided for all of our early learning and childcare centres, primary, secondary and specialist schools to share with parents as required. This may help to alleviate any concerns as this trend becomes more widely known.

I hope this is helpful to you.

Best regards

David Mackay, Head of Education

Parent Council accounts

The deadline is fast approaching for Parent Councils to submit their 2017/18 financial accounts in order to receive the administration payment for this year. As a reminder the deadline is **Friday 29th March 2019** (as the Council offices will be closed on 31st March – end of the financial year). If you Parent Council has not submitted their accounts by this date, then they will not receive an administration payment from the Council for 2018/19.

There are a number of Parent Councils who have submitted accounts but have not yet received the payment. I will contact each of those Parent Councils separately as it may be that there are additional information required before the payment is released. If your Parent Council is in this position, please do not panic – I will be in touch early next week to try and resolve the situation before the deadline passes.

Research Request – PhD Project

The chair of one of our Parent Councils is currently undertaking research for her PhD. The research involves the following:

“Does your child have a long term medical condition? Then researchers at Glasgow Caledonian University would like to hear from you. They are looking to interview parents about their experiences of looking after a child with ongoing health needs. If you could spare an hour of your time please email Kirsty at Kirsty.wiseman@gcu.ac.uk or for more information please visit www.gcu.ac.uk/childhealth”

If you have spare time and would like to help Kirsty out then please get in touch with her.