

Tynecastle Parent Council Meeting 27 October 2015

Attendance: Sue McKendrick-Chair, Hazel Kinnear-Head Teacher, Morag Thomas, Gail Fairgrieve, Caroline Astor, Jane-Anne Dodds, Jenni Robertson Digital Learning Coordinator, Beatrice Bryant, -Minutes and Andy Enwood Curriculum Leader for Performance (Items 1-2)

Apologies: Charlotte Wilson, Anne Ambler, Karen Robertson, Suzanne Cummings, Nicola Hall

Item	Discussion key points	Action by
<p>1. Approval of minutes</p>	<p>Minutes approved.</p>	
<p>2. Guest speaker: Andy Enwood</p>	<p>Andy explained that he is CL for Performance at Tynecastle High School (THS) and is enjoying working with staff and students in PE, music and drama. New to the school, he is looking out for any areas where there may be opportunities for improvements to be made.</p> <p>Andy explained the position regarding the £300 grant that was awarded by the Parent Council (PC) to the dance group for hoodies. Following a delay in expenditure and due to the increased number of dancers, the grant has now been used to purchase dance T-shirts instead of hoodies. It was noted that explaining dance technique is easier when students are dancing in T-shirts than hoodies and the T-shirts are slighter cheaper than the hoodies allowing one to be purchased for each member of the group, promoting a sense of group identity.</p> <p>Andy reported that new strips have just been ordered for the girl's football team following the award of a grant by the PC.</p> <p>Thanks were offered to the Parent Council for the support through funding awards to these clubs and also for the spare PE kit which the department has purchased to be available for students to borrow if they have forgotten to bring their own kit to school.</p> <p>An explanation was provided for the £180 grant which has been requested for a new sound system. The department normally has two sound systems in operation and this request is to pay for the replacement of one which is no longer working. It was agreed at the meeting to fund this request.</p> <p>Andy also said that he hopes to submit a funding request to install notice boards in all of the changing rooms (four male and four female) to provide for the display of posters promoting physical and emotional wellbeing. Details of advice services, helplines, information sources etc would be available. The funding request was encouraged and Andy will prepare details and obtain quotes for submission to the PC.</p>	<p>Andy</p>

	<p>A question was raised about after school Drama clubs and Andy advised that these aren't available at the moment but could be if there is demand from students. Drama is offered at National 4 and National 5 levels within the school and is available as a lunchtime club run by Mr Laydon.</p> <p>Other Clubs Basketball - The girls and boys basketball teams have been very successful, THS won a national cup last year. Football - There are boys football teams in almost every year group and girls football is developing with a team with players across the years.</p> <p>There has been a very high take up by S1 students of the fitness suite. To use the equipment, it is necessary to complete induction training and the gym is open to students at lunchtime and after school until 6pm. Fitness breakfast clubs may also be considered. Andy explained that he is keen to encourage use of all the facilities available within the department.</p>	
<p>3. Course choices - Timetabling</p>	<p>Concerns have been raised previously about the process of course selection timetabling during the summer term 2015. The problems primarily concerned students moving into S5 and S6. The school advised that 75% of students were able to take their first choice subjects but this figure may reflect the higher satisfaction rate achieved among S4 students.</p> <p>Hazel confirmed that she has reviewed feedback on the process and was able to advise that last year it was decided to try to make the process more student centred allowing the students a free choice of subjects they wanted to select and then to incorporate this into timetables using the 'Options' software package as in previous years. However, in previous years the initial subject selection had been controlled through a column system first. Parent and student feedback suggested that the re-coursing process in 2015 was very complicated with selections taking a long time to resolve, during which students were already involved in inductions for the next academic year. Hazel explained that normally the re-coursing of S4/5/6 students would be targeted earlier in the year during the period of exam leave and there would be time for a further round of adjustment based on the courses that could be offered within the school (dependent on levels of student demand for individual subjects) and possibly again following the release of results in August when some students might wish to adjust their subject choices. THS works with other high schools through a consortia arrangement to offer subjects that may not be available at pupils own schools (travel to other schools is limited to Tuesday and Thursday afternoons).</p> <p>It was acknowledged that the re-coursing process is complex and experienced staff need to be available to assist students at this</p>	

	<p>time. SFP staff were mostly responsible for the coursing process and next year time will be built in to involve those staff in the re-coursing stage too.</p> <p>Hazel advised that this academic year measures have already been put in place to address the issues that were experienced last year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-constructed columns of subject choices will be put in place. • Progression pathways will be established earlier on. • Prelims will be run earlier in the second term to assist pupils with subject selection 	
4. Treasurer's Report	<p>Recent payments into the account include £73.64 from Easyfundraising and £214.27 from the 'Could it be Take That' social event. Payments from the account have been made with respect to the funding awards made to various clubs at the school.</p> <p>The balance in the account is £2016.01</p> <p>Note: funding for sound system (£180) and Tynie FM license (approx. £150) still to be made</p> <p>Auditing of Accounts</p> <p>The Parent Council Accounts are ready to be audited. The information was handed over to the auditor following the meeting.</p> <p>Signatories for Accounts</p> <p>Angela Bell is to stand down as a signatory and Hazel Kinnear, Sue McKendrick and Beatrice Bryant will become new signatories.</p>	Caroline, Hazel, Sue, Beatrice
5. School Funding Bids Process	<p>Hazel has contacted Ros Sutherland at Edinburgh Council and asked what assistance may be available to the school with regard to identifying funding sources and preparing applications for grants. Ros is already working with the Polar Academy team at the school. Hazel to report when a response is received.</p>	Hazel
6. HeadTeacher's Report	<p>Hazel reported the following highlights of the past few weeks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polar Academy went for their first trek during the October break • The Science trip to Florida took place during the October break • Students working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Gold awards have taken part in a 4 day expedition/trek on Mull • The third year Personal Development Award group led by Yvonne McGregor raised over £300 for Macmillan Cancer by holding a coffee morning • There was very positive feedback following the recent successful and well attended P6 and P7 open evening • S2 students have been involved in a road safety play • Hazel has been visiting the cluster primary schools to meet P6 and P7 pupils • There has been a successful visit to the school by Chinese teachers, who are keen to establish links and possibly an exchange programme • Raising Teens with Confidence - first course session took 	

place this week

Hazel is keen to develop the relationship between the school and Ann Budge, Managing Director of Hearts Football Club. The club is keen to work with the local community including the school and is involved in lots of local fundraising activities. The club has provided the school with a number of free tickets for matches and these are being used to reward students with good attendance records.

Ann Budge is an inspirational leadership role model, especially for girls, and it is hoped that links can be developed allowing the school to benefit from this, exploring career options and raising pupil expectations.

The S3 iPad launch is complete (many thanks to Jenni and the team for organising and managing this process so successfully). A survey was carried out last June to find out more about how the students are getting on with their iPads. Feedback from the students suggested that they find spelling easier, their work is neater, they appreciate the easy access they have to information and overall feel that learning is made easier and better because of the technology. Jenni is keen to establish closer links with parents regarding this technology. Since the launch of this technology in the school several years ago, iPad use is now much more integrated into lessons across the subjects. It was noted that around ten high schools in Edinburgh have 1:1 iPad programmes. Council policy is that at the end of S6, the iPads must be securely wiped. The end of this academic year will see THS experience this process for the first time with the departure of the current S6 students.

Staffing issues

Art: Ms Welch will be back from maternity leave on a job share basis at the end of November

English: New appointment made, PVG awaited before starting

Library: Elaine Forest is returning three days a week

Maths CL: Interviews taking place this week

Modern Languages: Angela Davies is coming in as Acting CL

Drama: Ms McPhee has returned following illness

PE: Interviews this week

Science: Advertisements are out for posts in Biology and Physics

Music: New appointment made, PVG awaited before starting

Improvement Groups

Improvement groups are running across the school.

- Increasing parental engagement
- Home study
- Mentoring
- Growth Mindset

A questionnaire has been drafted to be circulated at the S1 and senior student consultation evenings. The purpose of this is to look at the way the school is communicating and to capture parent

	views. Calendar on school website to be updated asap. The ceramic poppies purchased last year (from the Tower of London) are to be put on display in the school for Remembrance week.	Jenni Hazel
7. Funding Requests	It was agreed to fund the £180 requested by PE for the Sound system as noted above. It was also agreed to fund the license for Tynie FM - approx. £150	
8. Burns Supper	Friday 29 January 2016. Hazel to consider staff and pupils to be invited to take part in specific roles at the Burns Supper, eg Master of Ceremonies, toasts, piper, etc. Also the music department is usually involved with performances of music and dance. Louise Taylor has offered to help with the bar.	Hazel
9. AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPTC offers training sessions to Parent Councils. A school can volunteer to host an event and invite other schools to participate. Sue to circulate a list of the available courses for consideration. It was agreed the Parent Council will run a tuck shop at the Panto. 	Sue
Future Parent Council Meetings: Tuesday 17 November 2015 Monday 11 January 2016 Tuesday 23 February 2016 Monday 25 April 2016 Tuesday 31 May 2016		
Other Key Dates: Panto performances: 15 December (evening) and 16 December (matinee and evening) 29 January 2016 - Burns Supper 11 June 2016 - School Fair 12.00 - 3.00pm		