

## Tynecastle Parent Council Meeting 23 February 2016

**Attendance:** Sue McKendrick-Chair, Hazel Kinnear-Head Teacher, Morag Thomas, Gail Fairgrieve, Caroline Astor, Jane-Anne Dodds, Ali Grieve and Beatrice Bryant (Minutes).

**Apologies:** Karen Robertson

| Item   | Discussion key points  | Action by |
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| <b>1. Introduction, apologies and approval of minutes</b>                | Sue made introductions and noted apologies.<br><br>Minutes of 11.01.16 meeting approved.   |           |
| <b>2. Update on South West Edinburgh: Grant a Grand for young people</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 grants of £1000 to be awarded from the Neighbourhood Partnership fund. Voting concludes this week with results to be announced on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February.</li> <li>• PC have made 2 bids: bikes &amp; music festival, and have collaborated with Active schools on girls sports.</li> <li>• The Student Council has made a joint bid with Gorgie Farm.</li> <li>• THS will be represented at the announcement of the results - Samantha Wallace is organising musicians (1-3pm at Carrickvale Community Centre)</li> </ul>  |           |
| <b>3. HeadTeacher's Report</b>   | <p><b>Head Teacher's Report to Parent Council - February 2016</b></p> <p><b>Staffing</b></p> <p>We were delighted to welcome Craig McDonald from Oban High School to our Maths department. Craig joined us on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.</p> <p>We are interviewing to make our temporary English post permanent and long leet interviews take place next Tuesday.</p> <p>The Curriculum Leader Social Subjects post closes on Friday and we look forward to a lot of interest in this post.</p> <p><b>Attainment &amp; Achievement</b></p> <p>Having completed prelims and about to receive their reports, our Senior Phase students are very much focusing on achieving their potential. As well as Mentoring for selected students we have also revamped our website on Supported Study. This is being followed up with input to PSE from the Senior Team in school.</p> <p>We held a well-attended S2 Parents' Information evening as well as Parents' Evening and have our new Senior Phase Parents' Evening next Monday.</p> <p>We were delighted that one of our students was highly commended for the Creative Writing prize and received £50 of book vouchers.</p> <p>On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February Tynecastle students involved in <a href="#">Debate Mate</a> took part in the first round of the Urban Debate League</p> |           |

held at Leith Academy. This involved all of the Edinburgh Debate Mate schools competing against each other to gain some valuable experience and to start accumulating points for the national Debate Mate scoreboard.

Tynecastle entered three teams and also had three supporters who helped teams prepare. Each team took part in two debates and the motions ('This House would allow school pupils to vote on what you learn in school' and 'This House would ban the advertising of things that are bad for your health') certainly generated some heated discussion!

All three Tynecastle teams performed fantastically and won five out of six debates. Feedback from the judges was very encouraging and we look forward to the next round of debates on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March being held here at Tynecastle High School.

This year's Holocaust Memorial Day, 27th January 2016, was on the theme of 'Don't Stand By'. As a school we have marked the occasion in a series of special assemblies led by Miss Howie. Lucie Meechan and Elliot Buist were chosen earlier in the year to take part in the 'Lessons From Auschwitz' programme. The students created a video using images from their trip and discussed the impact the experience had on them and the importance of the theme 'Don't Stand By'. Their video is being shown to students and is available to watch on the school website.

Poetry By Heart - Congratulations to James Gibson who came second in this competition, building on his success from Burns Night perhaps.

We are delighted that a number of our S5 and S6 English students are today taking part in the second National Theatre workshop on [The James Plays](#) - three plays about James I, II and III of Scotland by Rona Munro and directed by Laurie Sansom.

The James Debate Project uses themes from the plays to discuss and explore various issues and help students build their debating skills. Students will be debating the motion " *We learn from history that we do not learn from history*" and three students will be lucky enough to see all three James plays and take part in a further workshop in February.

Our Sporting Achievements Awards will take place on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March and promises to be an entertaining evening with celebrities lined up to perform.

### **Health & Wellbeing**

We were really grateful to Sarah Haywood from Place2be and our partners for their work during Mental Health Week. This included interactive sessions for students, the launch of our

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|   | <p>Community Desk and lots of useful information on our website.</p> <p>Tomorrow, we are delighted to be the only secondary school invited to St Catherine's Primary School where The Duchess of Cambridge, Royal Patron of Place2be, will see some of the charity's work to improve the emotional wellbeing of pupils, parents and families and school staff. Jacquie Ramsay, Depute Head Teacher, will join the Duchess and other schools for a discussion about the mental health challenges of school communities and the benefits of having a partnership with Place2be.</p> <p><b>Piping &amp; Drumming</b></p> <p>A meeting was held for parents of students currently involved in the Piping and Drumming initiative across our cluster. We are looking at how we can further develop the piping and drumming provision as well as looking into the possibility of establishing our own pipe band.</p> <p><b>Education Scotland Visit</b></p> <p>This took place on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February. We were one of 47 secondary schools selected across the country as part of Education Scotland's sampling of progress schools are making with Curriculum for Excellence. This was a really positive experience with an opportunity for a variety of staff to take part as well as show casing our use of ICT to enhance learning.</p> |            |
| <p><b>4. Feedback on Burns Supper</b></p>           | <p><b>Burns Supper - Friday 29 January 2016 6.45pm to 11pm</b></p> <p>The Burns Supper was great fun and there were some fantastic contributions from staff and student speakers, student performers and student helpers. Many thanks to all the students and staff who contributed to the evening.</p> <p>Attendance was down on last year resulting in a loss of approx. £100 (TBC) and it was felt that the reduced numbers may have been due to the cost of the tickets (although they were the same price as last year) and clashes with other events that were taking place that evening including Ceilidhs at Craiglockhart and Dalry Primary Schools.</p> <p>Further thought is to be given to making the evening more affordable for families in future years (perhaps by reducing the amount of money spent on catering or bring and share with buffet food available) and freeing up more time for dancing.</p>   | <p>All</p> |
| <p><b>5. Raffle license update</b></p>              | <p>Sue has renewed the raffle license (cost £20)</p>   |            |
| <p><b>6. Treasurers Report and Funding Bids</b></p> | <p>The balance in the account as of 23<sup>rd</sup> February is £2,261.48.</p> <p>The following funding requests were received and approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £350 for the purchase and installation of lockable notice boards for each student changing room</li> <li>• £180 for a student project involving Dialogue Semi-</li> </ul>  |            |

|   | Conductors.   |       |
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| <b>7. Constitution Changes</b>                    | <p>The existing Parent Council Constitution has been under review as we have been advised that our ability to fundraise may be enhanced if we were to become a charity, for example by being able to claim back Gift Aid. There may also be some grants that we can only apply for if we are a charity.</p> <p>There have been previous discussions about the wording of the Constitution and Sue tabled a summary of the existing position with some queries regarding the benefits or either retaining or changing specific elements.</p> <p>It was agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• we wish to do nothing that would discourage any parents from attending meetings or being involved in the Parent Council.</li> <li>• We should move the AGM to September (from May at present) as this will allow the accounting year to better relate to the academic year and holding the AGM in September may encourage new S1 parents to be involved.</li> <li>• We need to check the wording on dissolution relating to any outstanding debts</li> </ul> <p>Sue is to summarise the changes discussed and circulate with a request for comments within two weeks.</p> | Sue   |
| <b>8. AOB</b>                                     | <p>The recent emergency evacuation of the school following a hoax call was discussed. It was suggested that a brief note explaining the morning's events could have been prepared to be sent home with each student that evening. Hazel advised that the school was commended for the way in which the situation was handled. Hazel also explained that because the whole school was evacuated, text messaging to parents was organised and carried out by the Council from Waverley Court. It was noted that it is vital that parents provide the school with their contact details (particularly mobile numbers and email addresses) and ensure that the school are informed as soon as possible of any changes to this information.</p> <p>Hazel to organise a 4 pm meeting with arts, performance staff to discuss festival ideas. Members of parent council and student council will also be invited to attend</p>   | Hazel |
| <b>Future PC Meeting Dates for diary 7-8:30pm</b> | <p>Monday 25 April<br/>Tuesday 31 May</p>   |       |