

Tynecastle Parent & Carer Council Meeting 10th June 2024

Present: Alison Bell (Chair), Gillian Radford (PCC Secretary), Shelagh Stewart (PCC Treasurer), Hazel Kinnear, George Mackenzie (School Librarian), Gert Rijdsdijk (Edinburgh Council), Jayshree Gosai

Apologies – Gareth Oakley

Agenda

Library

Presentation from George Mackenzie about Scottish Book Trust Reading Schools, Gold Award – Tynecastle High is only high school in Edinburgh to achieve this. Lots of work and evidence was required – work within the school, national events, raising profile of reading, partnerships with community and rewarding reading pleasure.

George flagged in particular bibliotherapy ambassadors; developing staff; access to high quality books; and community connections visit to Fountainbridge Library. (Presentation attached to these minutes).

PCC recorded thanks for the good work and congratulations to the library on winning this award.

Funding requests

Funding request from library for a new trolley - £285 – agreed.

Improvements around the school

Presentation from Gert Rijdsdijk, Edinburgh Council about the Dalry Living Well Locally project which aims to improve Dalry and its town centre to make it greener, healthier and more thriving. Been doing consultation to understand what would make it a better, greener space. Full implementation of the whole project is likely to take 2 years but interim projects are being done as soon as possible – for example the widened pavements and new colourful play zones outside Dalry Primary.

Gert shared specifics of proposals for improvements to the area around Tynecastle High School. The intention is to make the open area around the school greener and more pleasant, and make it safer and easier for young people to walk and cycle to and from school by:

- Making a more attractive square in front of the school with more trees and seating. Increased greenspace will improve drainage in the area, and the square may be suitable for a local market;

- Widened pavements and reduced road width near the school entrance and a safer pedestrian crossing on the road outside the school (McLeod Street near Gorgie Road);
- They plan to move the pedestrian crossing so that it comes before the westbound bus stop (this was a suggestion from young people themselves to ensure they can cross safely to get the bus)
- The eastbound bus stop will be moved to a location where there is more space;
- They plan to install protected cycle lanes on Gorgie Road and Dalry Road
- Changes to the 5-way junction at bottom of Ardmillan Terrace (Gorgie Road/ Murieston Terrace/ Dalry Road/ Henderson Terrace/ Ardmillan Terrace:
 - Pedestrian crossings at each arm of the junction
 - Including pedestrian crossing at Murieston Terrace for the first time;
 - 'All green' phase for pedestrians and cyclists
 - Protected cycle lanes on Gorgie Road and Dalry Road to and from the junction;
 - More space at the bus stops, for people waiting and for people passing by;
 - One-way 'out' at Murieston Crescent to make crossing safer and this residential area less congested;

Action: Gert to summarise key suggestions around Tynecastle which will be shared with parent body.

Urgent action: all parents and carers are encouraged to respond to the consultation - <https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/dalry-living-well-locally> - **note deadline is Wednesday 26 June 2024**

Action: The Parent Council will canvass views from the parent forum with a view to making a response to the consultation on the proposals specifically affecting the school and access to it, behalf of the families at the school (please email with views: TynecastlePC@gmail.com no later than 25 June)

Head Teacher Update

Staffing – 4 probation teachers plus new teachers in English. One gap in staffing in Computing.

D of E group out.

Brilliant Club – S3 students who might be interested in uni, mentored by Uni students – have graduated.

Pipe Band – won awards 1st and 3rd place. Congratulations!

Participatory budgeting steering group celebration

People Know How – 8 young people selected to join consultation on development of the space at the old school

School uniforms – consultation completed – infographic circulated.

Meaningful May – usual programme of activities of pupils sitting less than 4 National quals.

Exam diet went well with students complemented on behaviour

Enhanced transition taken place – largest group ever had. Also P7s coming up through the year. P7 parents evening was held.

Apple distinguished school in process of re-applying.

School play, prom, culture day and 3 day visit all coming up.

Action: Shelagh to link in with Culture Day lead

Careers survey for parents - can still be completed – link to be re-circulated (**Action:** Andrew Bryce)

Action Shelagh – to post careers questionnaire on THS Former Pupils facebook page.