



Tynecastle High School Parents & Carers Council

Minutes of Tynecastle High School Parents & Carers Council AGM meeting held at Tynecastle High School on Tuesday 10 March 2026 at 18:30	
<p>Attendees in-person: Alison Bell (Chair), Hazel Kinnear (Head Teacher), Mhairi McDermott (Depute Head Teacher), Marianne van-de-l'Isle (Secretary), Attendees on-line: Esther Kuperij (Parent), Seona Skulina (Parent)</p> <p>Apologies: Jennifer Chave, Hisham Abdel-Magid, Shelagh Stewart</p>	
<p>1. Welcome</p>	<p>The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and asked all attendees introduce themselves. Apologies were noted.</p>
<p>2. Presentations/ Topics for Discussion</p>	<p>Mathematics Provision</p> <p>Mr Ben Pilfold attended to discuss upcoming changes to mathematics provision within the school.</p> <p>Applications for Mathematics, SQA National 5 course will start at THS from this summer. The current S3 cohort have started some of the course teaching since November. The first students will sit the examination in the Spring 2027 exam diet. Other schools in Edinburgh have been offering the course, some since its introduction 10 years ago. The department is also preparing to offer the Application to Mathematics, SQA Higher course in 2027/28.</p> <p>It offers an alternative qualification for those learners that may not achieve as highly with Mathematics, National 5. While attainment at A grade for Mathematics has continued to improve at THS, the course doesn't suit all students. Application for Mathematics is also suited to ESL learners as there are less literacy requirements in the course.</p> <p>The course will be accessible to all students in the senior phase from S4-S6. It is an accredited SQA qualification and accepted by colleges and universities for further education entrance requirements (although it may not be accepted for specific STEM courses). Students will continue to be assessed at all points in their learning and there will be the option to switch from Mathematics to Application of Mathematics as suits the individual student.</p>

The introduction of the new course should not impact on classes or teaching staff as the overall pupil numbers for the academic year is the same.

In addition to the Application of Mathematics courses the department will also start offering the short, assessment based, course 'Personal Finance' at National 4 level for the 2026/27 academic year.

Moving Forward for Parents

Ms Iffah Hossain attended from the Access to Industry charity to discuss the initiative on 'Moving Forward for Parents' which offers 1:1 support to parents and carers. The initiative supports the Scottish Government 'No One Left Behind' policy. It has been running for over a year and Ms Hossain is the keyworker for the Tynecastle area (cluster 1).

The service is able to offer support for access to services e.g. housing, social services, further education, employment, translation services, sports/gym facilities. Financial support is available via the 'parental transition fund' to help with access to laptops, childcare and college courses. It is a trauma informed service for vulnerable families and provides help and support with understanding and access to services.

Referral can be made by any parent or carer with a child/ children within the Tynecastle cluster, spanning from nursery to S6 school years. Contact can be via phone, email, MS Teams or in person at home, or outreach contact can be offered at any location e.g. local café. Generally support is offered for a year, building relationships, but this can be shorter or longer, depending on circumstances.

The referral process requires a telephone number, parental consent and completion of a registration form and GDPR consent form. Parents can self-refer or be referred via other agencies

Flyers about the service were left for school reception and electronic copies will be circulated to parents & carers.

Hazel will put Ms Hossain in contact with Grace Burns, Deputy Head Teacher and Yvonne McGregor, Pupil Support Officer to discuss the service and identify THS families that may benefit from the supports available.

Action: Hazel to introduce Iffah to THS staff to arrange a meeting

	Action: PCC to circulate service information once received from Iffah
3. Minutes and action log	<p>The previous minutes of 13th January 2026 were approved.</p> <p>Completed actions from previous meeting were noted on the updated PCC action log for 2025-26</p> <p>Update on outstanding actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working group to discuss catering provision is in progress with further meetings being arranged • Hazel will speak to Mr Enwood about sport teams communications with parents
4. Matters arising from parent forum	There were no new matters raised at the meeting.
5. Updates a. THS PCC Chair	<p>Alison Bell noted that the main activities for the PCC since the last meeting had been the Burns event on 23rd January. Feedback on the event went to all parents in the February Sway communication. Over £400 profit was made and the 'dry' bar and sparkling fruit punch was a big hit.</p> <p>THS PCC has responded to the Edinburgh Council consultation on gender based toilet provision within schools. The proposals do not impact THS but it was noted that this is not the case for all schools and other PCC's have raised concerns about the proposals and the way in which they were communicated.</p> <p>The current mobile phones in schools consultation was circulated to all parents to provide individual responses rather than a collated view. Pupil focus groups for Senior and BGE years will be held on Thurs 12th March.</p> <p>A detailed response to the letter submitted about the catering provision at the school has been received from Edinburgh Council. Meetings have take place between the school, council and catering contractor in Feb and March, with some progress being made. The next meeting is on 1st April at 9-10am and pupil representatives will be sought for this. Alison Bell and Esther Kuperij volunteered to attend on behalf of the parent body</p> <p>Action: Hazel to send catering meeting minutes to Alison and Esther before the April meeting</p>
b. THS PCC Treasurer	All five funding applications from THS departments were approved at the previous PCC meeting and funds have been transferred to cover the agreed purchases.

<p>c. THS Head Teacher</p>	<p>The current bank balance is £3576.68. Funds are available to cover any further applications this year. Shelagh has reached out to the Highland Dancers to offer a donation to their fundraising for the world competitions.</p> <p>Northern British Distillery have agreed to a £1000 donation to cover the costs of the annual school prize giving awards. This must be paid directly to THS and they require a headed letter with the relevant details in order to make the payment. PCC have forwarded this request to Tess Joyce, Business Manager to take forward.</p> <p>Action: Hazel to speak to Tess to ensure donation is received.</p> <p>Hazel Kinnear gave an update on activities since the last PCC meeting.</p> <p>Staffing: Mrs Myer has started in the new Sfl literacy post, two new PSAs have been appointed, Mrs Holt has returned to her Computing post (part-time), Mr Graham has been appointed to Maths department. There are interviews on Thursday (and ongoing) for staffing vacancies next term.</p> <p>Parent events included: S2 parents evening.</p> <p>Pupil events included: Senior phase prelim and practical exams, Burns events, Dance showcase, Holocaust remembrance events, Superpower Agency podcasts (available on Spotify), Class Act at Traverse Theatre.</p> <p>THS is moving more toward progression awards with less reliance on formal examinations. Staff are meeting soon to discuss the impact this will have on the Prelim exam format for 2027. The supported study timetable for the Easter break is being developed and will be issued before the end of term.</p> <p>Ms McDermott led the recent review of the Design faculty with student questionnaires, staff self-assessment and shadowing of classes for the Dalry PS Head Teacher. Ms Kinnear attended an external assessment review at St Thomas Aquinas HS, external visits help to generate new ideas to bring back to THS (or identify those that may not work as well).</p> <p>The annual Parent/Carer survey will be issued to all parents in the last 2 weeks before the Easter break. The survey is based on standard HIME questions. All parents and carers are encouraged to respond. A £25 voucher will be offered as a prize draw to encourage participation. Feedback from the survey will be used for the annual improvement planning parent focus group to be held before the next PC meeting on 14th May 2026.</p>
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8. Fundraising Events 2026/27	It was agreed that the PCC would continue to run the S1/S2 Halloween Disco and the Burns Ceilidh as fundraising events in the next academic year 2026/27.
9. AOCB	<p>a. Proposed future agenda items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement Planning at THS (May meeting) <p>b. Edinburgh PCC summary paper (Jan-Mar 2026) A summary update of current Edinburgh wide PCC activity was shared at the meeting. Current topics of discussion include schools and PCC communications with parents, gender based toilet provision in school,</p> <p>Other AOB items raised were:</p> <p>Parent Council Office Bearers Alison Bell, Chair and Marianne van-de-l'Isle, Secretary will be stepping down from the Parent Council at the annual AGM in August. Handover documents are being prepared to enable smooth transfer to a new committee. Parent volunteers will be sought to take over from the new academic year.</p> <p>Action: Communications to go out to parents to seek volunteers for PCC in 2026/27</p> <p>PCC webpage Marianne had a meeting with Tess Joyce, Business Manager before the February break. It was helpful to understand the role and how we can link in from the PCC. Tess has agreed to update the current PCC webpage with recent paperwork and remove old information. The new IT post holder will be working on the THS website revamp in advance of the new academic year when the whole THS school rebranding will be launched. Feedback from PCC members is being sought on the look and content of the PCC webpage for next year.</p>
10. Date of next meetings	Next meeting Thursday 14th May 2026, 6:30 pm
The meeting ended at 19:45	