



Tynecastle High School Parents & Carers Council

Minutes of Tynecastle High School Parents & Carers Council meeting held at Tynecastle High School on Thursday 16 June 2025 at 18:30

Attendees in-person: Alison Bell (Chair), Hazel Kinnear (Head Teacher), Andy Bryce (Depute Head Teacher), Marianne van-de-l'Isle, Arun Gopinath, Neeta Racch (S1 parent), Mandy (S2 parent)

Attendees on-line: Jennifer Chave, Shelagh Stewart,

Apologies: Mairi McDermott (Depute Head Teacher), Sabina Pringle, Hisham Abdel-Magid, Jane Brough

1. Welcome	The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and asked all attendees introduce themselves. Apologies were noted.
2. Minutes and action log	<p>The previous meeting minutes of 15th May 2025 were approved, subject to a minor amendment.</p> <p>Completed actions from previous meeting were noted on the updated PCC action log for 2024-25</p> <p>Update on outstanding actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed video camera unit for meetings is not suitable. Sam will source alternative cost-effective model compatible with Windows 11. • Future Fridays now scheduled for first 3 weeks of each month starting in September. Planning meeting for work experience placements to be arranged. • Barista training. Jane Devine, Four Square keen to be involved and can offer support and training for young people. It was noted that use of old Police Box to develop as coffee unit is not possible.
3. Matters arising not on agenda	<p>a) Timetabling- Senior Phase</p> <p>Deputy Heads meeting to finalise alignment of senior phase (S4-S6) timetable. Currently Tues/Thurs PM are the designated travel periods, however all high school timetables will align in 25/26 academic year enabling 'sharing' of classes. There is also better alignment with the Edinburgh college timetable. Most students can access 5 from 6 periods of course and timetables aligned to allow for travel time and breaks.</p> <p>Following 1:1 meetings with students there is now 95% timetable completion (after issues with the system at start of</p>

	<p>week) and 93% allocated their first-choice courses (before reserve subjects). It was noted that a software system has been in use at THS since 22/23 academic year and traditional timetabling of subjects in columns for allocation is no longer applied.</p> <p>A query was raised around confusion for some S3-S4 students on subject choices and the routes for further study and work. THS provides careers advice and information evenings for parents and pupils to support this. Information sharing starts in S1 with Skills for Learning and continues through PSE classes and use of MyWorldofWork.co.uk and Planitplus.net websites . There is also 1:1 work with staff i.e. careers advisor and DYW coordinator.</p>
<p>4. Updates a. THS PCC Chair b. THS Head Teacher</p>	<p>Alison Bell had delivered the PCC update under matters arising and had no further items for discussion.</p> <p>Hazel Kinnear advised that the THS staff had been busy with the SQA exams since the last meeting. Current focus is on the THS improvement planning work and supporting the transition of P7 pupils to THS. The recent P7 parental engagement visit was well attended. There are 156 pupils in the S1 intake for the 25/26 academic year.</p> <p>School activities this month include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit from Rhona Lloyd, Scotland Women’s rugby player (former pupil), meeting the girls rugby team • Pipe band playing at SSPDT Tradfest at The Mound and RSPBA Lothians competition at George Watsons College • BGE pupils music concert showcasing talent across wide range of instruments and genres • S5/S6 induction programme (visits to college and university) • Final year S6 pupils prom and pre-prom family event at Hearts F.C. hospitality suite. • Three-day orientation at THS for P7 pupils • DoE silver expeditions • End of year assemblies for all pupils <p>Staffing changes for the next year were highlighted with some teachers and PSA’s leaving and new starts plus four new probationary teachers joining from August. Of note the THS business manager, Eileen Cochrane leaves at the end of term and will be replaced by Tess Joyce for the new academic year.</p> <p>Andy Bryce, Deputy Head gave an update on the recent SQA exams at the school. The exam schedule took place over 5 weeks in April/May. There were 2000 exams taken with a 99.2%</p>

	library, atrium. Any pupil concerns should be raised with Hazel Kinnear or Andy Bryce.
10. Date of next meetings	It has been proposed to move the date of the AGM to follow on from the new S1 parents' welcome event on Wednesday 27 th August. This was agreed by the PCC. Next meeting AGM, Wednesday 27th August 2025, 7:00 pm
The meeting ended at 20:10	