

# James Gillespie's High School Parent Council



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**Tuesday 5 September 2023**

## **Note of meeting**

This meeting was held using Microsoft Teams. Questions from parents and carers were invited prior to the meeting and could also be added during the meeting using a moderated chat.

The following are notes of the presenter names and main points covered, as well as any relevant links, to accompany the video of the meeting held on Teams, which is available to view at: <https://youtu.be/r1-a1Fr-Fk8>

### **Presenters:**

Neil McCallum – DM (HT), Nigel Cotter – NC (DHT) and Sarah Scott – SS (PC Chair)

### **Moderators:**

Hilary Snaith – HS; Kate Pinault – KP

### **1. Welcome and introduction (0:00:00 – 00:02:41)**

SS welcomed everyone and outlined the format of the meeting. Formal minutes were not recorded for the previous online meeting (21 March 2023) as a video record is available at: <https://youtu.be/ITZhu7j4HzM>

Live captioning in English, Polish, Ukrainian, Urdu, Italian and Chinese (Simplified and Traditional) was available.

### **2. Parent Council report – Sarah Scott (00:02:41 – 00:10:08)**

SS outlined the role and organisation of the Parent Council. PC meetings would again be alternating online and in person for the coming year, with the AGM on 11 October, held in the school.

She reported on Council work on renewing the policy on excursions abroad, and its commitment to set up a working group to look at rising rolls at the school.

Volunteers to help with providing refreshments at school events were asked to put their names forward to the Parent Council email: [jghscouncilcomms@gmail.com](mailto:jghscouncilcomms@gmail.com).

SS gave a summary report on PC finances. A full report is available on the Parent Council website and the annual report and accounts for 2022/23 will be available for the AGM. The bids for the Small Sums Fund had been received and decisions would be reported to the school and on the PC website.

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Parents can contribute to Parent Council fundraising via EasyFundraising and ParentPay. Further information is available at: <https://jghsparentcouncil.org/fundraising/>

### **3. SQA Results, Tracking Attainment and Reporting – Nigel Cotter (00:10:08 – 00:59:33)**

NC gave a presentation on the SQA results at the school, and on tracking attainment and reporting, and answered questions connected with it.

The presentation is available at: <https://jghsparentcouncil.org/2023/09/07/recording-of-pc-meeting-5-september-now-available/>

### **4. Head Teacher's report and update – Neil McCallum (00:59:33 – 01:26:40)**

NM gave updates on staff recruitment, prelims and study support, school communications, the Christmas concert, Active Schools, the policy on excursions abroad, the school dress code, school photos, rising rolls, the start of the new school year, the Homework Working Group, the Communications Working Group, school Wi-Fi, school toilets, support for mental health, S6 study spaces, F1 in schools team, visit from a Croatian delegation, Gaelic education award and the School Improvement Plan.

### **5. Questions and answers (01:26:40 – 01:45:28)**

NM answered questions on RAAC (concrete), policy on disruptive behaviour, vaping, popular misogyny, Active Schools, school lunches, informing parents on the Scottish education system and homework policy.

### **6. Thanks (01:45:28– 01:46:28)**

SS thanked NC for his presentation and NM for his update and for answering parents' questions. Further information on the work of the Parent Council can be found at <https://jghsparentcouncil.org/> and parents are encouraged to consider joining the PC for 2023/24.

### **7. Date of next Parent Council meeting**

The next meeting is the Parent Council AGM to be held in person at the school on 11 October 2023.