



James Gillespie's
High School
Parent Council

James Gillespie's High School Parent Council

Tuesday 25 March 2025
7 – 8.30 pm





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Parent Council

Parent Council Meeting
25 March 2025



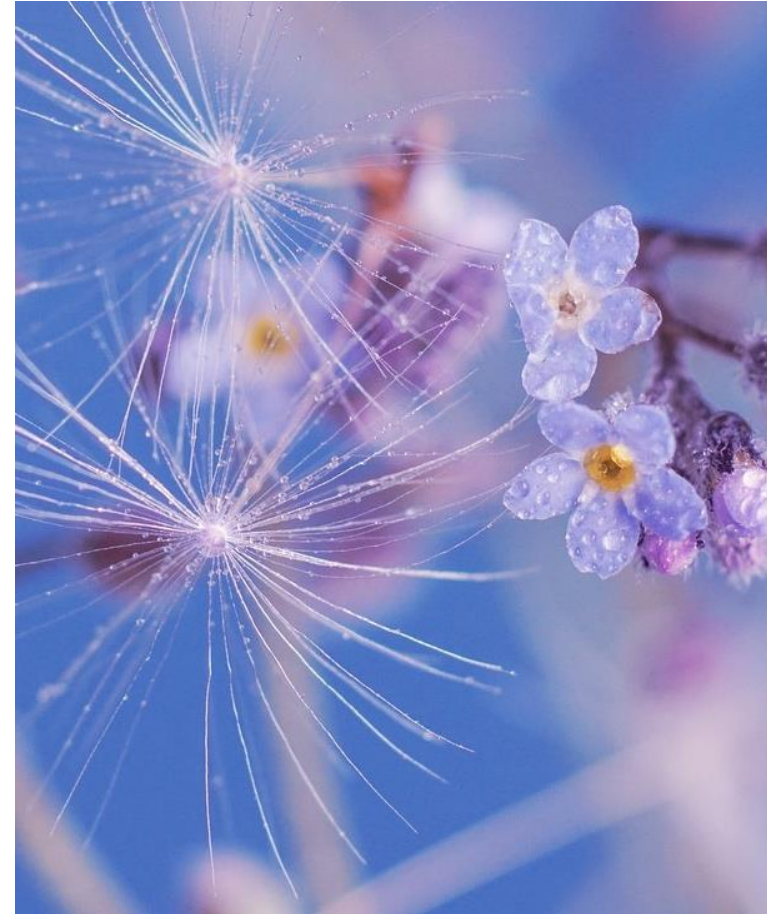
Welcome

<http://www.jghsparentcouncil.org>



Agenda

- Health and Wellbeing
- Comment from Tracy Urquhart, Senior Manager Quality Improvement Officer, CEC
- Update from the JGHS Parent Council
- Update from JGHS Trust
- Headteacher's report
- Q&A





Health and Wellbeing and Inclusion X at JGHS

Mr Porter DHT, and team



Report from the Parent Council

Hilary Snaith, co-chair



Parent Council Office Bearers 2024-25

- Co-Chair – Tiziana Basciani
- Co-Chair – Hilary Snaith
- Vice-Chair – Liz Hilton
- Vice-Chair – Sam Ross
- Secretary – Padraic Kinsella
- Treasurer – Kirstin Leighton
- Refreshments – Julita Burgess
- Comms Officer – Kate Pinault





Information about PC meetings

Meeting minutes and recordings of online meetings are available on our website:

<http://www.jghsparentcouncil.org>

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JGHS Parent Council finances

- Received 2024/25 CEC allocation but 2023-24 allocation will not be paid
- 2024 SSF applications closed and are being considered – **£5401** requested, **£3759** available
- Refreshments – fundraising at School events
- Closing balance: **£2419.54**; ParentPay balance: **£2004.24**





Co-scheduling of Highers in 2025 exam diet

- SQA Higher English and Higher Psychology were both on 7 May 2025
- PC contacted range of decision makers about the clash
- SQA released revised timetable on 3 February with Higher Psychology on 25 April, Higher English on 7 May
- Changes resulted in 47% drop in co-scheduled exams



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba



Capacity and rolls



- Parent Council wrote to CEC Councillors in December 2024 noting significant negative impacts on pupils – both in specific subjects, and in overall school experience – particularly for those with additional support needs.
- PC requested that CEC considers suitability of the school estate and determining school capacity.
- However, report for the Education, Children and Families committee meeting on 25 March 2025, stated that suitability “cannot form part of an objective and consistent capacity assessment”.



Capacity and rolls



- It is proposed that the main annexe building at JGPS is repurposed for JGHS
- However, will still have considerable pressure on study, social and dining space
- Roll at JGHS will exceed capacity in 2025/26 and will remain above capacity until 2030

Capacity	Roll	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31	31/32
1855	1765	1865	1906	1910	1910	1895	1819	1782



Capacity and rolls



- PC sent a further written deputation to the Education, Children and Families committee for consideration at the meeting today calling for committee to press for the suitability of the teaching estate to be considered when determining pupil capacity at JGHS
- At meeting (thanks to Kirstin for attending 😊):
 - CEC keen to emphasise the importance of consistency with the approach to capacity
 - Questions were asked about the suitability of spaces and why this wasn't covered in the report – further info to follow



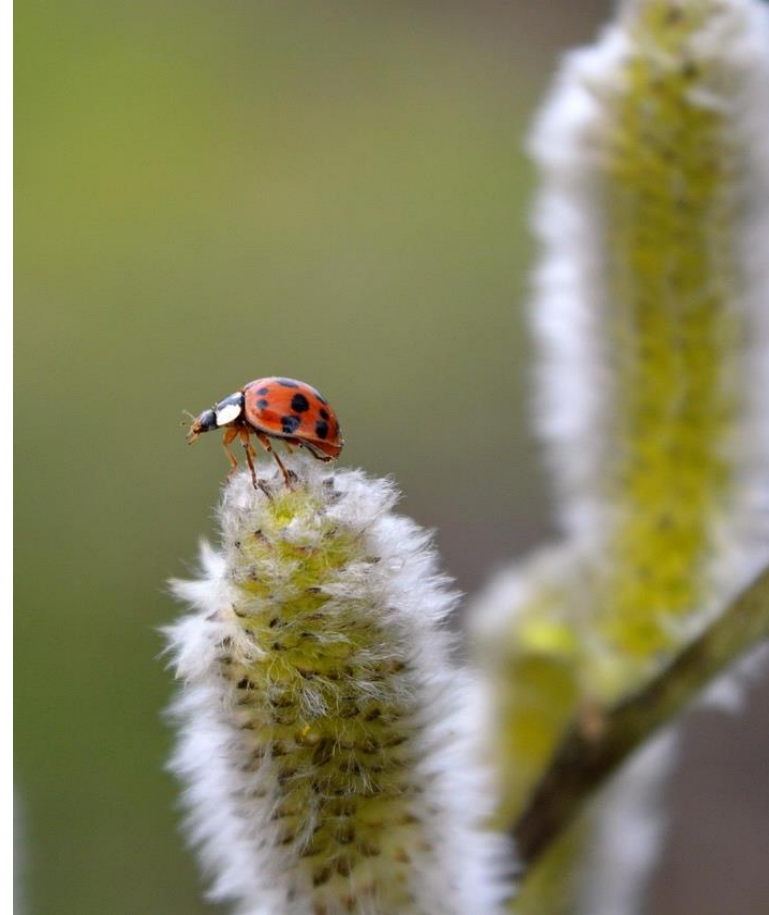
Other recent issues

- Many thanks to School leadership for their engagement and responses
- Engaged with parents and carers over inspection due to be held in February 2025 and provided feedback to school
- Communication with parents – continuing to highlight this with School
- Opt-in for pupils in surveys





- New attainment reports – general dissatisfaction in many schools discussed at CCwP
- PC engaging with English CLs to organise fundraising to provide books for reading circles
- Supporting Skills Development Scotland officer to share information via PC website
- Connect travel survey – deadline to respond 10 April 2025





Next meeting of the Parent Council

Wednesday 4 June

- In JGHS
- Agenda TBC





More information

- More detail about Parent Council activities are on our website:
<http://www.jghsparentcouncil.org>
- Contact us by email:
jghscouncilcomms@gmail.com





Headteacher's report and discussion

Neil McCallum



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