



James Gillespie's
High School
Parent Council

28th January 2026

James Gillespie's High School Parent Council



Meeting
Wednesday 28th January 2026
7-9 pm



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A scenic winter landscape featuring snow-covered mountains in the background, a calm lake in the middle ground, and snow-laden trees in the foreground. The sky is a pale, hazy blue.

WELCOME



What we do

- We create a connection between Parents & Carers and the School:
 - Providing feedback to the School
 - Coordinating with other PCs
 - Making representations to the City Council, and other bodies
 - Fundraising for School projects
- 6 meetings a year
(3 online and 3 in-person)

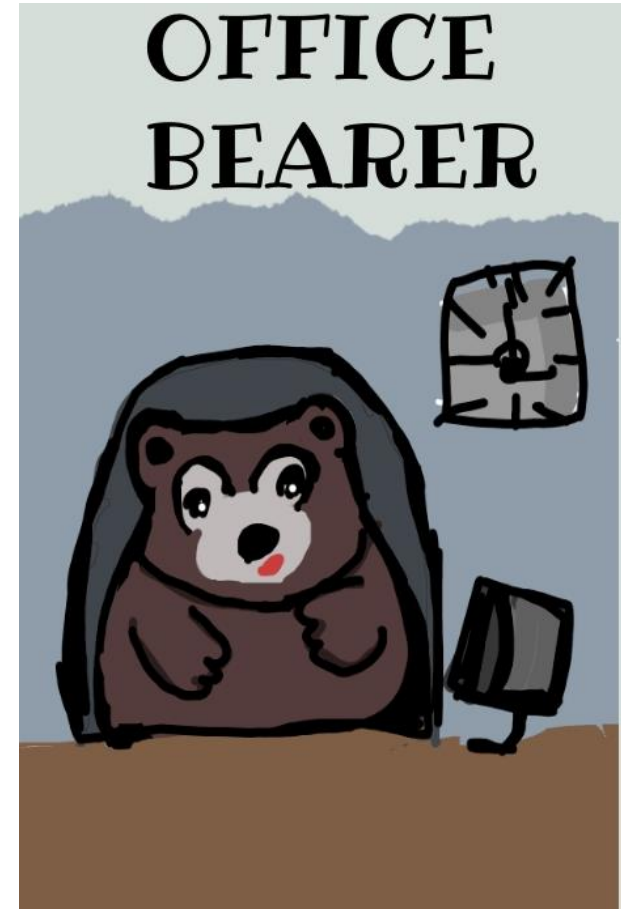




Parent Council

Office Bearers, 2025-2026

- Co-Chair & Comms – Tiziana Basciani
- Co-Chair – Liz Hilton
- Vice-Chair – Sam Ross
- Treasurer – Kirstin Leighton
- Secretary – Padraic Kinsella
- Website – Hilary Snaith
- Refreshments – Julita Burgess
- Comms Officer – Kate Pinault (Online Meetings Producer)

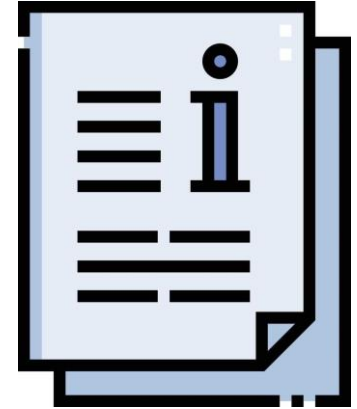




Information about PC meetings

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

<http://www.jghsparentcouncil.org>





Get involved!

- Let us know about the issues that are important to you.
- Come to our meetings.
- Join the Parent Council.





Parent Council Report

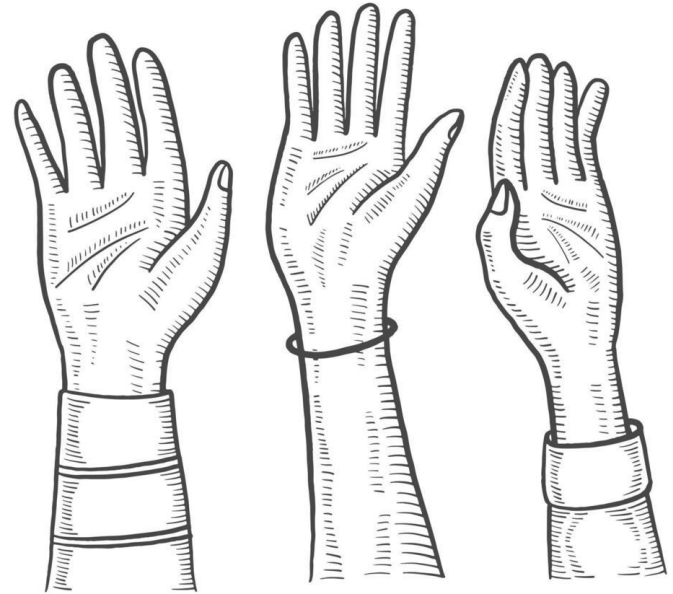
Tiziana Basciani





Issues raised in 2025-26

- Pupil Support (including Senior Phase)
- Equity in Certificated Courses
- Study Spaces (S6)
- Communications & Digital
- Safeguarding & Device Use
- Capacity & Rising Rolls





Updates

- Consultative Committee with Parents (CCpW), 10th Dec 2025; two members joined. *
- Edinburgh Gaelic Collaborative Forum (GME), 10th Dec 2025: two members joined. *
- Rising Rolls Subgroup: 10th December 2025 and 22nd January 2026 *
 - * Reports available on the PC website.
- Opening of: Communications Subgroup & S6 Studying Spaces Subgroup
- Refreshments
- Book Drive - English Reading Circles, S1 & S2
- Continued engagement with the HT:
 - Communications
 - Capacity and Rising Rolls
 - Study Spaces





English Reading Circles - S1 & S2

The Parent Council is working with the JGHS Trust to raise funds for pre-owned book sets for S1–S2 English reading circles. Purchasing books through the Trust allows us to claim Gift Aid on donations, increasing their value.

So far, 150 books in sets of 5 have already been purchased and 110 delivered. Our aim is to build a collection of 160 books in total, covering 32 titles, to support reading activities in class. Any further contributions will help us continue expanding this resource and encourage a love of reading among pupils.

Donations can be made online*, and there is also the option to “sponsor” a book. Donated books can include a short personal inscription.

* **Trust's JustGiving page:**

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/jghsbookdrive2025>





Rising Rolls' Subgroup: summary of the Background*

* Full text by A.Picken soon available on the PC website

Understanding School Planning Capacity

- Each secondary school has a theoretical building capacity, the maximum number of students it can accommodate.
- Not all classrooms can be fully used all the time due to timetabling, curriculum needs, and other constraints.
- **Two methodologies have been used by the Council:**
 1. **Notional Capacity methodology**, that was the historical, traditional way of classroom allocation. The frequency of use of school buildings for this methodology is around **60–65%**.
 2. **New methodology (2024)** reflecting flexible learning spaces and updated usage assumption. The new methodology adopted across Edinburgh's schools expects about **70%** of the available classroom space to be used when establishing each school's capacity.





Rising Rolls' Subgroup



Rising rolls - new information – (*)

- Edinburgh Council works out schools' planning capacities using a methodology that assumes a 'frequency of use' of spaces of **70%** once timetabling etc taken into account
- The cross-campus JGHS 'frequency of use' rate of its teaching spaces is **74%**
- New information breaks that down to show the frequency of use rate of spaces in Darroch is **59%** and the main building is **90%** (with many spaces, like the science labs, at full capacity)
- The JGHS **74%** rate is an average of the two figures above, but the vast majority of pupils are taught at the main building



Agenda – Parent Council Meeting (28 January 2026)

- Chair Introduction & Parent Council Update (Brief)
 - Welcome and apologies
 - Brief overview of recent Parent Council activity
- PC Treasurer Report
 - Brief financial update
- Pupil Support – Strategic Overview (All Years, focus on Senior Phase S4–S6)

Mr Ian Porter	Depute Head Teacher (DHT)
Ms Elisa Kerr	Pupil Support Leader (PSL)
Mr Rob Cockcroft	Curriculum Leader Support for Learning (CL)
Ms Anna Parkes	Curriculum Leader Wellbeing Hub

 - Overview of pupil support structures across all year groups, access to study spaces
 - Specific focus on support for SQA years (S4–S6)
- Communications & Digital Updates – Mr Neil McCallum (HT)
 - Short input on school communications (newsletter, website, app)
 - Improvements already achieved and next steps
 - Focus on clarity, consistency, and parent engagement
 - High-level summary; no operational details
- Trust Update
 - Short update on Trust-related initiatives involving the Parent Council
- Head Teacher Report – Mr Neil McCallum (HT)
- Q&A / Open Discussion
- Chair Closing
 - Next steps and dates





Treasurer Report

- Finances and Small Sums -

- Bank Account opening balance: **£ 2,762**
- **Edinburgh Council payment: £ 1,501**
- Bank Account closing balance: **£ 4,263**
- Parent Pay balance as at 5/1: **£ 5,101**



Finance Report

Working with JG's Trust to allocate funds.



Pupil Support – Strategic Overview (All Years, focus on Senior Phase S4–S6)

- Mr Ian Porter Depute Head Teacher (DHT)
 - Ms Elisa Kerr Pupil Support Leader (PSL)
 - Mr Rob Cockcroft Curriculum Leader Support for Learning (CL)
 - Ms Anna Parkes Curriculum Leader Wellbeing Hub
-
- Overview of pupil support structures across all year groups, access to study spaces
 - Specific focus on support for SQA years (S4–S6)





Communications & Digital Updates - Mr Neil McCallum (HT)

- Short input on school communications (newsletter, website, app)
- Improvements already achieved and next steps
- Focus on clarity, consistency, and parent engagement
- High-level summary; no operational details





James Gillespie's Trust - Update - Bruce Crawford (Chair)

- Short update on Trust-related initiatives involving the Parent Council



Head Teacher's Report

Neil McCallum





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28th January 2026

A serene winter landscape featuring a calm, snow-lined lake. The foreground is dominated by soft, white snow mounds. In the middle ground, a dense forest of evergreen trees stands on the opposite shore, their branches heavily laden with snow. The sky is a clear, pale blue, with a bright sun positioned in the upper center, creating a starburst effect and casting a soft glow over the scene.

Q&A



Next steps

- Capacity and rising rolls discussions
- Book Drive
- Studying spaces for S6
- Issues raised
- Other possible projects
- Toilets
- Bulling policy to be improved
- More





Next meeting of the Parent Council

Tuesday 24th March 2026
online, 7/8.30 pm





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