



James Gillespie's  
High School  
Parent Council

27<sup>th</sup> May 2026

# James Gillespie's High School Parent Council



James Gillespie's High School

The  
Malala

**Meeting**  
**Wednesday 27th May 2026**  
**7- 9 pm**



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A vibrant tropical beach scene. In the foreground, clear turquoise water reflects the sky. A white sandy beach is lined with large, smooth, grey boulders. Lush greenery, including palm trees and other tropical plants, grows behind the rocks. The sky is a deep blue with scattered white clouds. The word 'WELCOME!' is superimposed in large, dark blue, serif capital letters across the lower half of the image.

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)

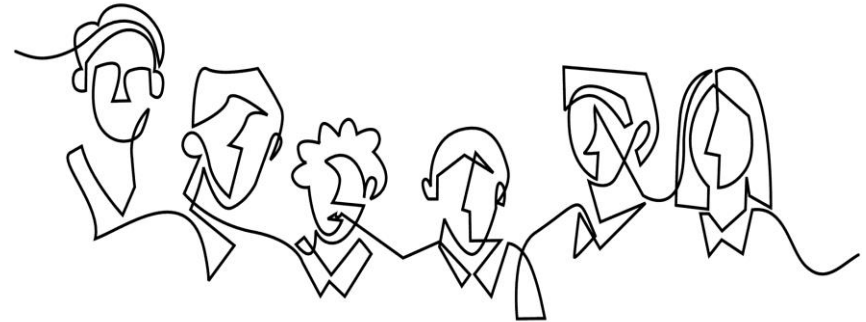




# Parent Council

## 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 & Contacts:

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

- Website:  
[www.jghsparentcouncil.org](http://www.jghsparentcouncil.org)
- Email:  
[jghscouncilcomms@gmail.com](mailto:jghscouncilcomms@gmail.com)





# Get involved!

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

**Propose yourself for an Office Bearers' role at the next AGM (Annual General Meeting) in October 2026.**





# Parent Council Report

**Tiziana Basciani**





# Agenda:

1. Chair Introduction
  - Welcome and brief Parent Council update
- Next Steps
  - Including information on the Annual General Meeting (AGM)
  - Parent Council Office Bearers' elections in October
- Treasurer Report
  - Brief financial update
2. Presentation - Modern Languages  
Mr. O'Connor (CL)
3. Rising Rolls Subgroup Update
  - Brief overview and next steps
4. Head Teacher Report - Mr. Neil McCallum
5. Q&A
6. Chair Closing





## JGHS PARENT COUNCIL 2025/26 HIGHLIGHTS

### MEETINGS:

- 5 Parent Council meetings + AGM
- 2 informal meetings (April 2026)

### PRESENTATIONS & SCHOOL UPDATES:

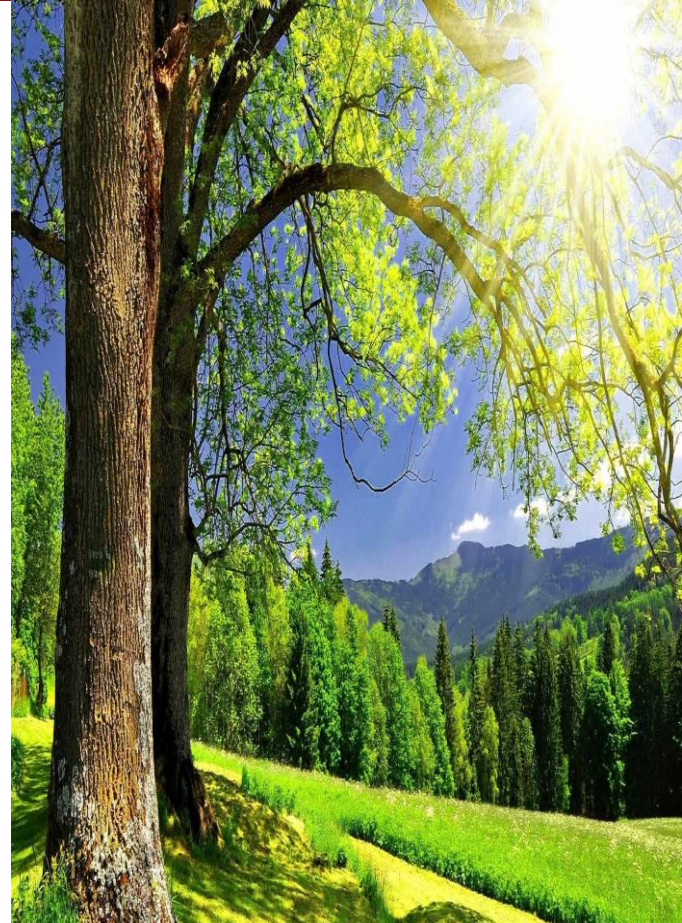
- Active Schools - Ms Lorraine Burn
- SQA Results - Mr Cotter (DHT)
- Performing Arts - Ms Stygal (CL)
- Pupil Support & Wellbeing - Mr Porter (DHT), Ms Kerr (PSL), Mr Cockcroft (CL Support for Learning), Ms Parkes (CL Wellbeing Hub)
- Communications & Digital - Mr McCallum (HT)
- Design & Technology - Mr Corson & Mr Kelly
- Modern Languages - Mr O'Connor
- Trust updates - Mr Bruce Crawford (Chair)

### WORKING GROUPS & REPRESENTATION:

- CCwP, GME, Citywide Mainstream Schools Meetings
- Swire Chinese Language Foundation 10th Anniversary Event
- Community Iftar (JGHS, Ramadan)
- Wider Achievement Awards (planned) & Donald McDonald Awards (planned)
- P7 transition (planned)
- Rising Rolls Subgroup: 3 meetings, Pupil Survey, letter to Councillors & MPs

### ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATIONS:

- Mobile Phones Policy (SLWG engagement)
- HMIE inspection engagement
- Book Drive (S1-S2) - English Reading Circles (with the James Gillespie's Trust)
- Toilet & Changing Facilities consultation (City of Edinburgh Council)
  - Internal parent toilet survey to support responses
- Rising Rolls Working Group - first meeting (21 May, City of Edinburgh Council - Strategic Asset Management / Education Estates Team)
- Support & refreshments at school events





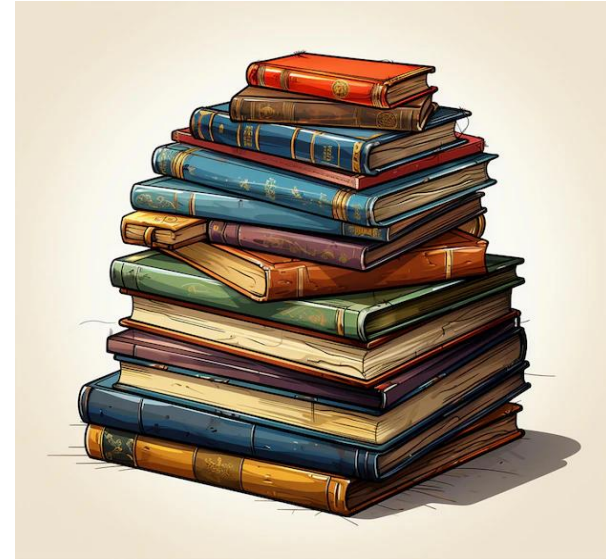
## English Reading Circles - S1 & S2

**The PC has worked with the JGHS Trust to raise funds for pre-owned book sets for S1–S2 English Reading Circles. Purchasing books through the Trust has allowed Gift Aid to be claimed on donations, increasing their value.**

**The target of 160 books (32 titles in sets of 5 pre-owned copies) has now been reached and fundraising officially closed in February.**

**Many thanks to all who contributed.**

**As donations exceeded the original target, the PC is in contact with the English Department to extend the book list. This work is ongoing.**





## Issues raised in 2025-26

- Teaching Provision & Staffing Shortages
- Equity in Certificated Courses
- Capacity & Rising Rolls: Overcrowding & Facilities Pressure
- Student Wellbeing, Safety & Inclusion
- S6 Study Spaces & Senior Pupil Provision
- Communications & Digital
- Online Safeguarding & Device Use
- Toilets & Facilities Provision





# WORKING GROUP (CoE) - 1st Meeting, 21 May 2026 -

## School Roll Projections & Capacity\* (\* Capacity will be discussed during the second meeting in June 2026)

### Context 2026

- Introductory Council-led meeting (slide presentation)
- Focus on James Gillespie's HS and Boroughmuir HS
- Part of ongoing long-term planning work (beyond 2035)

### Headline Trends

- Primary rolls declining; secondary rolls increasing since ~2015
- Driven by timing of birth cohorts and population movement





## Key Drivers

- “Waves” in pupil numbers (birth rates + migration patterns)
- Housing development & increasing city-centre living
- Parental choice & strong school reputation
- GME attracting pupils from a city-wide catchment
- Shift from denominational to non-denominational sector
- Rising non-catchment pupils (approx. 11% at Boroughmuir)

## Projections & Next Steps

- Based on birth data, school rolls, housing and catchment trends
- Reduced reliability over longer-term forecasts; 2025 showed variances
- Ongoing capacity pressure, particularly at Boroughmuir
- Next meeting (June): focus on capacity scenarios



**Demand is shaped by both demographic “waves” and increasing school choice, not just catchment size.**



# Treasurer Report

## - Finances and Small Sums – by Kirstin Leighton

- Bank Account opening balance: **£ 4263**
- Parent Pay balance as at 1<sup>st</sup> May: **£ 5068**

Ongoing plans to collaborate with JGHS' Trust to spend funds but delays due to personal circumstances.

Anyone interested in getting involved or have ideas for spending please message Parent Council.

So far this year only one application for funds, a large trophy/display cabinet for £965.

Hoping to receive more before the end of the school year.



Financial Report





# UPDATE ON RISING ROLLS AT JGHS





# Head Teacher's Report

**Neil McCallum**





James Gillespie's  
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Parent Council

27<sup>th</sup> May 2026

A close-up photograph of numerous pink azalea flowers in full bloom, with green leaves interspersed. The background is softly blurred, creating a bokeh effect of light and pink tones.

**Q&A**



# What's next?

- Six PC meetings scheduled for 2026-2027\*  
(\* ) meeting dates detailed in the following slide
- AGM (Annual General Meeting)  
- Election of new Office Bearers' roles.

## Ongoing issues:

- Capacity and rising rolls discussions
- Studying spaces for S6
- Toilets
- Bullying policy discussions





## Parent Council Meetings – Dates 2026-2027

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>1st September</b>	<b>7- 8.30 pm</b>	<b>(online)</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>7th October AGM</b>	<b>7- 9 pm</b>	<b>(in-person)</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>24th November</b>	<b>7- 8.30 pm</b>	<b>(online)</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>27th January</b>	<b>7- 9 pm</b>	<b>(in-person)</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>23rd March</b>	<b>7- 8.30 pm</b>	<b>(online)</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>2nd June</b>	<b>7- 9 pm</b>	<b>(in-person)</b>



# **Next meeting of the Parent Council**

**Tuesday 1st September 2026  
7- 8.30 pm (online)**





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