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Gleniffer High School Parent Council AGM

Subject: Parent Council Meeting (First Short Meeting of Session 2025-26)

Date: 6th October 2025 immediately following AGM.

Minutes taken by: Susan Gray

Venue: Gleniffer High School

Date Issued: October 2025

Present:

PRESENT		APOLOGIES	
Julie Connell (JC)	Chairperson	Suzanne Baxter (SB)	Parent Member
Susan Gray (SG)	Secretary	Jenni Harrison (JH)	Parent Member
Lisa Watt (LW)	Parent Member	Victoria Hepburn (VH)	Parent Member
Nicola West (NW)	Parent Member	Elaine Lappin (EL)	Parent Member
Julie McCulloch (JM)	Parent Member	Catriona Summers (CS)	Parent Member
Yvonne Wilson (YW)	Parent Member		
Dr Chinyendu J Okoronkwo (CO)	Parent Member		
Lyndsay McLaughlin (LM)	Parent Member		
Archie Speirs (AS)	Parent Member		
Katrina Gelston (KG)	Parent Member		
Fin O'Sullivan (FO)	Parent Member		
		ABSENT	
Lisa Chalmers (HT)	Head Teacher		
Student Leaders			
Zaynah Ibrahim			
Jack Ferguson			
Emma Gelston			
Peter Cosh			
Amelia McDonald			

1 Welcome & Apologies

JC opened the meeting and welcomed all.

2. Minutes

Not applicable – Minutes of last PC Meeting in June 2025 were approved during the preceding AGM.

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3. Headteacher's Report

Staffing

LC advised the School as a number of new staff at the start of term:

Ms Young English (NQT)

Miss Turner Chemistry

Mrs O'Neill Physics

Miss Adams History

Miss Jamieson Art & Design

Mr Stewart joined the HFT department last week on a permanent basis. LC has tried to recruit a maths specialist on a temporary and permanent basis but has had no success. This is a priority as a member of staff is going on maternity leave in January and therefore they will be one full-time member of staff short. LC is investigating different potential solutions and will keep the PC informed.

LC is carrying out interviews for Art and History over the next few weeks to cover maternity leave and recently appointed two Additional Support Needs Assistants who will join the Support for Learning department soon.

SQA Assessment

Over 200 appeals were submitted to SQA for the 2025 exam diet. Only 10 were upheld, none were downgraded.

The School is in the middle of the first assessment block which has been very well planned by Mrs Martin. Pupils have been well supported in the lead-up to the assessments, including study skills workshops and targeted revision in classes. This model has seen minimal disruption to learning, while ensuring learning can continue across all subject areas. The next assessment block will be at the start of December and should flag pupils who are not where they should be progress wise.

The next tracking report for Senior Phase students will be uploaded at the start of November following the deadline for staff on 31st October and quality assurance processes. Tracking reports will contain effort, behaviour and homework ratings as well as information on Target Grade and Working Grade. All pupils have already agreed an aspirational target grade which is what they are working towards as a final result. Normal targets are negotiated between each tracking period to allow for achievable progress.

Supported study has now started with a significant budget commitment to ensure this can run throughout the session. Some learners are being specifically targeted for this intervention. There is also free, online supported study through e-sgoil for which senior phase pupils can register. This is all being shared by staff directly with pupils with screens in social area sharing relevant information and it being highlighted on the School's social media channels.

New S1

LC advised the new S1 pupils have settled really well into secondary life. Staff are commenting on the lovely manners, behaviour and attitude to work they are seeing across classes. Long may it continue!

Satchel One Merits

The first monitoring period comes to an end this Friday with all pupils aiming to be at 100% for their merits. Pupils who have lost merits can win these back by chatting with their teacher and demonstrating a consistent improvement in the specific area of Ready, Respectful or Safe.

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LC explained that S1-3 pupils must have a minimum of 90 out of 100 merits to be considered for an activities day event. All pupils must have the full 100 merits to be on track for Gold Day.

LC advising that, disappointingly, there are S5 & S6 pupils losing merits for behaviour. This is something LC and the management team are reviewing: as these young people are now (for the most part) here by choice, it is concerning if part of that experience is causing disruption to teaching and learning.

Pupil toilet consultation

LC is in the process of consulting pupils on access to toilets. All young people with a medical condition or other need for a toilet pass are able to access toilets at any point throughout the day. A large number of young people are however using toilets to avoid learning: asking to be out of class every period, 5/6 pupils asking out each lesson, missed learning time, wandering around the school, hanging about the toilets and so on.

LC has made a proposal to all pupils that they will lock the main toilets during class time. They would be opened 5 minutes before and after each bell and a member of staff would be there to supervise, ensuring all pupils feel comfortable going to the toilet. Any pupils with a toilet pass would be able to access the toilet as normal in the toilets in departments. This will reduce disruption to classes while ensuring pupils have access all throughout the day. 189 pupils responded to the Consultation: 78% say they feel safe using the toilets. Those who responded negatively gave the following reasons:

- People hanging around
- 'I have constant paranoia about people knocking the door down or a hidden camera.'
- Too many people hanging around.
- Other people being intimidating.
- I often see students try to open the door with a coin at the lock when someone is in.

68% of the young people agreed with the fixed opening proposal. 100% of staff agree with the fixed opening proposal.

LC will now pilot this between October and Christmas, ensuring toilet pass lists are up to date and department toilets are accessible for young people. Staff will be advised to use discretion for emergency requests and meeting the hygiene needs of pupils. LC and staff will work with Amey staff, SLT and pastoral to monitor the toilets, creating a space where pupils feel safe and comfortable using our new upgraded facilities.

Campus Police Officer

PC Muir is now in post and splits his time between Gleniffer High and St Andrews High. He is engaging in PSE programmes and has been a welcome addition to school life.

4. AOCB

The Student Leaders introduced themselves to the Parent Council who congratulated them on their appointments. The Student Leaders expressed the importance of the School's values and provided an overview of their plans for the year including the S6 Prom.

5. Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 3rd November 2025 at 7pm. LC plans for the PC to have an update on Work Experience for pupils and an update on attainment.

Future meeting dates are:

8th December 2025

12th January 2026

9th February 2026

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9th March 2026
27th April 2026
1st June 2026

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