



Douglas Academy Parent Council

Tuesday 3rd March 2026 7:00pm

Minutes of the AGM

1. Welcome & Apologies: i. Parent Council – Apologies from Michelle and Michael Claire is Vice Chair. Penny attended as a guest. ii. Councillors - No responses iii. Thanks to Caroline for her contribution over the years.- Caroline has stepped down and there is a vacancy in the PC	
2. Minute of last meeting Agreed by Parent Council	
3. PC Forum Update • The PC Forum Update was presented by Vice Chair Claire. • Education Committee did not take place and will happen in May due to elections. This slowed down the next stages with the curriculum review cycle. • Kevin Kelly provided updates on the curriculum cycle • waiting for updates from Education Scotland • The focus is on the disconnect between primary and senior phase • The OECD report in 2021 highlighted the same disconnect • The reform of the curriculum will last until 2032 and will carry forward with the child The next item on the agenda was the requirement for PVG approvals - Louise A'Hara There were two rounds of updates in July 2025 and then Dec. 16 parents need to have individual PVG - those who are in a regulated role as part of school activities PVG clearance should be included in the constitution for parent groups (see model from Connect) A few participants raised related to costs and immediate needing clearance for parents to engage in events. We received reassurance that there are mechanisms to enable events to still take place while PVG applications are being processed.	Claire

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Next meeting will be in May 19th: focus will be on the completed literacy framework and dyslexia guidance. Lavinia is happy to attend the next meeting unless someone else wants to step up.	
4. PTA update Michelle was unfortunately unavailable but the PC were made aware that the PTA Bank Account is still not opened. Due to this the PTA can't raise any funds. A few S1 parents have shown an interest to join the PTA. PTA adds to the ethos of the school and it would be good to have a PT That is represented well.	
5. Head teachers update Mr Healy delivered a presentation to the PC. The information included- MH mentioned staffing requirements for Physics, English, and History/Modern Studies. Also for PRTS in Maths, Art, History, English. Some interviews have already been conducted. Prelims- Prelims showed strong results, and pupils were a credit to the school. Interventions – Master classes, supported study, Easter school being planned Cultures – Chinese New Year was celebrated in the school with Lion dance as well as CNY themed lunch menu. Everyone loved the celebration. VR Headsets – The VR Headset company came in with 6 VR Headsets. Teachers tried them and they were swimming with the sharks. MH is hopeful of using them for lessons and also as an introduction to the school as to where to pick up , where is the Darista, nurse's office etc. These could be used to provide lessons for special needs. The conference room has been proposed to be used as a digital experience and learning room the headsets could be placed. The teachers to could book a slot for lessons there and also the images that could be displayed on the Promethean boards. Laptops- Laptops being used well in the school. Traitors – Traitors came back to school this year and was played and very well received by both the teachers and students. Monthly Newsletter on Thinglink – Monthly newsletter was introduced. The jury is still out on its user friendliness. Some want a PDF version. SWAY tells number of clicks but is good on computer and not on a phone. Sending a PDF attached with SWAT can be looked into. The plus point of the newsletter is it is monthly unlike SWAY.	MH

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Future Leader Forum March – Pupil Voice, They have been asked to do the this. Pupil improvement plan coming out nicely.

Head Teacher Drop Ins – Head Teacher drop in sessions have been introduced from 3:00 – 5:00 PM. The demand will decide how many times in a week will this be slotted for. 6 People have already shown interest in this.

Spring concerts 25th March – Upcoming concert

S2 Trading Event- S2 Business Study students organised a trading event in school for practical business experience.

S1 Wishes- Everyone in S1 received a good wishes CNY card.

Qualification Scotland

Wed 22nd April will be Study Leave, first day of exams.

Working Time Agreement

Currently working on next session's calendar that will include dates for Parent's Eve etc.

Family Learning Events

Number of events, being offered to parents. First time a program has run like this. Parent voice helped support delivery of this.

Jan 21 **Supporting your child with career planning** - Wednesday, 21st January 2026, 5.30 pm -6.30 pm – Fill in form This session will focus on Career Planning and making informed Subject Option Choices. Learn how to have productive conversations about your child's skills and interests. Understand the link between subjects and future careers and navigate the options process to support their aspirations. SDS Assembly hall, performance space & Room 1 (G138), CR4

Feb 4 **Satchel and Teams Learn** how to use Satchel One and Microsoft Teams, the essential digital platforms at Douglas Academy. We'll show you how to navigate both systems to monitor your child's homework, deadlines, and assignments, and how to better communicate with the school to support their learning. MT or AMcV Computing Rooms 1 & 2 (F087 & F079),

TBC **Social Media Get advice from community police** on keeping young people safe online. Understand the Legal Landscape and how to ensure safety and privacy. Police Rooms 1 & 2 (G138 & G137),

Feb 25 **Understanding your teenager's brain** Learn about adolescent brain development and discover practical strategies to support your teen through this critical stage. Deepen your understanding and strengthen your connection with your child. Ed Psych Rooms 1 & 2 (G138 & G137),

March 4 **Anxiety Management** This session will focus on helping families to understand the root causes of anxiety in young people. Led by an experienced

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mental health practitioner, you will explore practical strategies to manage anxiety and foster positive mental health. You will leave with useful tools to support your child at home, tips for prioritising your own Anchor Rooms 1 & 2 (G138 & G137) Uniform, Timekeeping and Attendance Back to Basics, setting standards. Review and update April/May for juniors. Attendance biggest barrier to attainment. Most students sitting at 80% Uniform – ready to learn, identification Timekeeping – is it Registration? Late texts. Not improved timekeeping, but has allowed better communication. In-Set Day we did a task to look at the school values of CARE – Explore this with staff and pupils. This will then mean that any policy updates will be centered around our values of care – compassion, ambition, resilience, effort. HMI was filled in by parents at Christmas time. Looking forward for students and teachers response safter Easter break.	
6. Parent council correspondence, standing and raised items <i>(If items not covered in HT report)</i> 1 Vegetarian School Meals – Parents have raise the issue of lack of a special vegetarian meal menu in the school lunch and at CNY. Answer: The CNY catering was a last minute one and the canteen staff was most helpful and could not be asked to stretch it even more. School Veg lunch is not enough in quantity and as other students also ask for it this leaves vegetarian students with no meal options. MH mentioned the students who are dependent on only veg school meals can ask the lovely Julia form the canteen to keep a food tray aside for them. She is very helpful. Alternatively, the pupil can also speak to the office. Students should speak to year head. Speak to canteen for a grab bag if you know you will late coming in to lunch or have alunch time club. A need to increase the quantity of veg lunch has been recognised. But main school menu is a EDC planning part. PC member Liz tried contacting the EDC for vegetarian lunch options but no response from EDC. 2 Mobile Phone – Claire can get more numbers but the new P7 is coming in with less smartphones. This will change things. Will affect planning of learning on mobile phones in class. Need for teacher education revisited for consistency on mobile phone usage policy in lessons throughout the school. Acting depute has analysed form, box- tick being analysed. Mobile phone policy needs to go for staff point of view. Working on Kid version, staff version, parents version – working on what the EDC policy has to be on planned learning. EDC will review policy in 2027	Chair

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8. AOCB 1 new member required. Michelle may leave on June 9th so then there will be 2 vacancies on PC People who have come along have shown interest – Penny and Vicki. Plan to contact them to join. The places can be opened up to parents and advertised 2 weeks ahead. Any parent can attend the AGM but cannot vote. In future the meetings could be promoted to parents and may even be in monthly newsletter.	All
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