



Chair's Report: Trinity Academy Parent Council AGM October 2024

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Introduction

As we approach the end of the second year in my tenure as Chair of the Trinity Parent and Carer Council, it gives me great pleasure to once again celebrate the successes we have achieved and reflect on the areas where we need to focus going forward.

Fundraising

I am once again humbled but the work undertaken by members of our Parent and Carer Council and the greater Parent Forum in fundraising activities for the Academy.

Fundraising continued this past year via the usual events and methods:

- Running Bars alongside School events
- Christmas Wreath Making
- Bangholm Café

These core activities continue to generate income both for individual faculties but also contribute to the general PC fund. A summary of events and the amounts raised and contributed to the requesting departments is shown below:

Event	Money Raised	Beneficiary
Bangholm Café	£ 1,314.34	PE Department General Funds
Barcelona Quiz Night Bar	£ 600.00	Barcelona Tour PE Department
Battle of the Bands bar	£ 93.00	General PC Funds
Christmas Concert bar	£ 350.00	General PC Funds
Dance Show Bar	£ 646.00	Barcelona Tour PE Department
Drama Club performances bars	£ 53.00	Drama Department for EdFringe Trips
Pride Event bar	£ 90.00	LGBTQ+ Group
S6 Ceilidh Bar	£ 21.00	S6 events
Sister Act bars	£ 600.00	Drama Department London Trip
SPOTY bar	£ 283.00	Barcelona Tour PE Department
Spring Concert bar	£ 268.00	General PC Funds
Taskmaster bar	£ 223.00	Comic Relief
Total Raised	£ 4,541.34	

From our stated main goals last year (Barcelona and Paris fundraising) we can see the direct effects of all the hard work by the PCC and Parent Forum.

I am also pleased to confirm that we have agreed to fund the Modern Languages trip to Paris in 2025 with a donation of £2100 which will allow a range of benefits for those taking part and help address many of the additional costs of a foreign school trip. This donation will be released to the department as they start to generate costs from the planning.

As ever, there have been many people involved in these events but again my particular thanks goes to Anna Turtle and Helen Davey for the time and effort invested in making these events a success.

To all the other parents and carers who have helped at these events, a sincere thank you on behalf of TAPCC.

My annual reminder that fundraising is one of the core elements of our formal Constitution and that we are fulfilling this objective incredibly well:

“To develop and engage in activities which support the education and welfare of the pupils, including appropriate fund-raising”.

50:50 Club

Last year, Colin Duncan took over the responsibilities of running the 50:50 club and Colin has made significant progress with getting the 50:50 ready for some much needed reinvigoration.

The change of signatories for the Club has now been completed and Colin is looking at migrating the account over to an online service to hopefully enable simpler methods of paying out to winners.

All winners' cheques from the last year have been distributed to the lucky winners

- To summarise how the 50:50 works, for each £1 ticket purchased in total, 50% of funds raised are given to a prize draw winner and the rest goes to the general 50:50 fund
- Numbers currently sit at 178 £1 tickets bought by 41 players. Each month a number is selected at random (from 1- 178) this then wins the ticket holder £89 and the TAPCC receives the other £89.
- The 50:50 club generated £1048.50 last year (Sept - Aug) and paid out £1108.50 to the winners. There is also a small fee paid to the Gambling Commission for the license required to provide this feature.
- The 50:50 account currently has a balance of £5108.93 in surplus. This is to be transferred to the main TAPCC account for distribution to the Academy.

A key area for development for the club is to undertake more promotion of the monthly draw and to improve the process of joining and encouraging new players.

New Appointment in the Senior Leadership Team

I was happy to serve as part of the interview panel for Kath Stewart's replacement. Kath Stewart has now retired from Trinity after giving 34 years of service to the pupils of Trinity Academy. I would like to formally thank Kath for her phenomenal contribution to the lives of our children over the years.

The interview process was enlightening and was heavily focused on ensuring that the replacement was capable of understanding the challenges for children with additional support needs.

The successful candidate, Mrs Dee Scott, joins the school in November and we look forward to her become part of the senior leadership team.

Communication

One significant change this year with regards to communication is that we are now able to send information to Parents and Carers directly from the Academy mailer system.

This has significant benefits with the main improvement being our ability to reach every parent in the Parent Forum who has provided an email address to the school. My thanks to Judith Mackinlay for her work with the school on this issue.

Judith has also provided an updated and refreshed S1 Welcome Guide for this year's S1 cohort.

My thanks again to Fiona Campbell for her continuing work in managing our other communications channels, namely:

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/TrinityAcademyParentCouncil>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/TrinityAcadPC>
- Website: <https://www.trinityparentcouncil.org.uk/>

Accounts and Finances

Morag Burnett has continued in her role as Treasurer and has been busier than perhaps expected in assisting with all the financial elements of events and fundraising for the council. Having recently had in my hands one of Morag's shuttle envelopes (used to send cheques out and return receipts) there are so many moving parts and Morag manages this flawlessly.

As required by the local authority we have again had the accounts externally audited and our thanks once again go to Bence Solymar for his assistance.

The audited accounts form part of the general AGM agenda and can be discussed there as required.

Membership and Activity

After the AGM last year, I was pleased to welcome Judith Mackinlay as Vice Chair and Judith has made significant contribution to the progress made by TAPCC this year.

Judith spearheaded a discussion group for parents and carers of children with additional support needs. The group was deemed successful, and we will look to build on this in the year ahead.

The formal TAPCC roles are now as follows:

Chair: Paul K Jeffrey

Vice-Chair: Judith Mackinlay

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Morag Burnett

Communications: Fiona Campbell

I can confirm that there is currently no need for an assigned Secretary position.

The issue of membership is a complex one. We have successfully held four PC Meetings this year with each of them being hybrid between Teams and In-person at the school. Attendance has been good overall with no single meeting falling below the minimum level of attendees.

Taking a wider view of involvement with TAPCC, there has been an amazing number of parents and carers taking part in fundraising or assisting with other TAPCC activities, but we always look for more people to get involved. We are the representatives of the parents and carers for over 1000 children

and we are here to help with issues the parent forum wants to escalate with the Academy. More involvement means more ideas.

The Year Ahead

The year ahead promises to be full of challenges for pupils, parents, and carers and we must look to assist where we can.

The New Build

We have seen the construction of the learning village on the site of the staff car park. This now provides over 40 learning and teacher spaces which will be moving to the village. The old swimming pool has been demolished and a temporary dining facility erected in its place so the build is truly under way.

On behalf of TAPCC I wish Nick Burge and his team all the very best for the next term and beyond as things start to take shape.

Rebrand of TAPC

In our meeting in May of this year it was proposed and accepted that the Trinity Academy Parent Council should recognise the role others provide in the care of our young people.

The resolution was passed unanimously and we are now the Trinity Academy Parent and Carer Council.

This simple change leads us onto a main task for the year ahead which is to refresh all messaging and communications channels. A small working group is to be created here to work on messaging and improvement.

Support for carers of ASN Pupils

The success of Judith's trial meetings for supporting carers with children with additional support needs and feedback from a range of sources point to the need to provide multiple areas of support to these carers.

Additional work will be undertaken to agree what shape this can take and how it might be achieved. I expect we will have some assistance and support from Dee Scott when she has bedded into her role and I look forward to advancing the ASN agenda.

Closing

In closing, I look forward to the year ahead and to working to support parents and carers and the school community.

Paul K Jeffrey, Chair, Trinity Academy Parent and Carer Council trinityparentcouncil@googlemail.com

Addendum: Info on Parent Council Membership

Looking ahead - would you be part of the Parent Council?

The Parent Council loses a few members each year as children move on from Trinity Academy, so we always need some people who are willing to attend our meetings (~6 a year) and comment as and when required about issues affecting the Parent Forum.

(Our meetings are open to the whole Parent Forum, but we need some parents willing to formally be part of Parent Council in the event of any decision making).

If you would be interested in being part of the Parent Council in the next year, please email trinityparentcouncil@googlemail.com and note what year group your child is in. Many thanks

Parent Forum (everyone) / Parent Council (voluntary role representing the Parent Forum)

- The parents and carers of pupils in attendance at Trinity Academy constitute the **Parent Forum** of the school.
- The **Parent Council** is a body to represent the **Parent Forum** and carry out the functions as set out in the Parent Council constitution and in the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006.
- The objectives of the Parent Council are:
 - To work in partnership with the school to create a welcoming school which is inclusive for all parents.
 - To promote partnership between the school, its pupils, all its parents and wider community.
 - To report to all parents.
 - To develop and engage in activities which support the education and welfare of the pupils, including appropriate fund-raising.
 - To identify and represent the views of parents on the education provided by the school and other matters affecting the education and welfare of pupils.
- The **Parent Council** members will be selected for a period of one year after which they may put themselves forward for re-selection if they wish. Any parents of a child at the school can volunteer to be a member of the **Parent Council** by submitting a note of interest to the Chair of the Parent Council. Any parent can nominate a parent for the **Parent Council** providing their nominee has given his/her agreement.