

1. Welcome/apologies:

Apologies; Emma Martin; Jude Carter

Attending; Nicola Fraser (Chair) NF; Ross McNaughton (Secretary) RM; Ishbel Dale (Co-chair) ID; Kirsteen Jones (Co-chair) KJ

Catriona Cunningham (CC) and two parent attendees

John Donnelly Head Teacher (JD)

Angus and Martha - Head boy & head girl

2. Minutes from last meeting on 29.04.2025 – exhibited and approved

3. Mobile phone – school implementation of policy

We heard a student perspective from Angus & Martha. They confirmed that things are generally better in classroom. They pointed out some quirks in implementation i.e. mobiles cannot be used in the canteen can be used outside which is just the other side of the wall. They also described missing listening to music in certain classes where this can be helpful, for example in engineering. Their understanding was that older students, for example, in s6 are struggling with new policy more than younger students, for example, s1, who are used to it the policy from primary. They agree that it is clearly better for interaction though but note that it is harder to contact fellow prefects.

JD was asked if he had heard anything from a parent perspective? If a student has three demerits for phone use, then the mobile phone is forbidden from being brought in by the student for the week. As regards compliance/non-compliance with this school rule - if the student is still bringing the phone to school after 3 demerits, then JD would expect some parental support at that point

CC has heard there is inconsistency amongst teachers. JD confirms he expects full compliance & consistency

Feedback from another parent to say that there are more conversations between student during lunch, but that class time is more boisterous.

JD provides staff feedback (shown on separate slides). Points out the advantages i.e. socialising, behaviour. But harder for certain teaching and for research purposes. £250k has been spent by the school on devices, but despite this, is not one device to one student. Not many requests for exemption from the policy (only 3 across the school). Question as to whether there is there enough technology to maintain the teaching. JD's observation though is that classes are more calm.

4. School Improvement Planning –

JD discussed parent engagement, with CHS PC support (shown on separate slides). The school will submit to the local authority with how much progress has been made in last year and how much will be made in the coming year.

JD says that when an opportunity for parental engagement was arranged, no parents came into speak to the team. Could this be viewed as a positive thing, in that parents have no concerns? Or is the view that more engagement with parents is required. However, do parents want more engagement? Possibly not.

JD says there are not many stage 1 (i.e. response from headteacher or SMT) or stage 2 complaints from parents, which is a good thing from amongst other things a time management view. The complaints are usually not upheld either.

Environment, learning and successes - SHINE pupil mental health survey – improving students' mental health was a focus.

NF asks what are challenges for s3 and s4 boys and put this to Martha as her brother is in s4. She says he appears happy and has friends. Angus says he knows s3 and s4 boys, but doesn't know them in school.

JD continues to implement "five at form" discussion at CHS. He points out that to be effective though, this does required being upfront with the representatives and bringing the conversation to the fore.

Further improvement goals:- improve feedback/reporting – and as a result of the visible learning survey, to raise attainment in the s4 year group

JD discussed session 2025/2026 priorities which were shown on a separate slide. He discussed the importance of creating a sense of belonging (the Glasgow method, which refers to various initiatives that were used to ensure residents feel valued & connected to their communities). Points out that CHS is 50 years old this year. The Crest was given to school and JD wants to bring it to life.

NF -question to JD emailed from a parent asking about percent of pupils receiving private tuition and how it affects results . JD has no idea and would not seek to record this data.

"90% of lessons should be good or better" – this relates to lessons visited by teaching staff.

5. Parent Council email address -RM to contact Laura to have new email address added to website.

6. ASN representative for CHS – ASN Parent Network

NF do any parents want to be rep.

JD will send out email asking anyone willing to contact the PC

JD says there is no school wide forum, how does parent feed it back and to whom?

7. SQA exam results overview

JD discussed from separate slides.

2025 not to be compared with 2020 or 2021 as these were standalone covid years, but can be compared with 2019, 2023 and 2024. Big improvements since 2019.

S6 leavers – expects them to be below virtual comparator and expects a drop in the newspaper table

CC – points out that there is such a low percentage of S5 students having 5 highers at the end of S5. (20%). Is this a systemic thing? Of not pushing them enough? JD says it does not necessarily tie in with nurturing. For example, some schools might be “hot-housing” students to get through 5 highers in S5, may not be good for stress.

Question from parent – regarding the careers advisor being in only in the morning on SQA results day. Why no afternoon session or other session? JD points out that SQA results are given during school holidays, so staff are not contractually obliged to come in. Kirsten from SDS offered to come into the school, but this reflected her availability. CC says that there is lots of good info from SDS online. NF – maybe there is a need to signpost this info? JD acknowledges that career advisor info did go out a bit late.

8. Fundraising

Angus confirms that prefects are going to put on a version “the Chase” at lunchtime to raise funds, and also the Masked Singer. Martha says prefects are talking to Mrs Petrie and she will be focussing on a shoebox appeal and Children in Need. The prefects to find a way to promote the event and encourage participation.

Financial support from PC would be helpful – they will email with a request

For fundraising from students – it will go up on ParentPay, but the prefects acknowledge that they will try to space it out so that parents are not overwhelmed.

9. Prom dress and suit hire – discussion

ID discussed a rental system at another school, where users pay £20 for the duration of the rent. It operates by way of a donation system. JD says it is a feature at other schools and might be popular for cost of living and environmental reason. Martha thinks there would be people interested, but maybe not everyone. The question is, who would administer this?

Action - Angus & Martha will discuss with peers and let us know.

10. Head Teacher Report – shown on a separate slide. A new chemistry teacher is needed, following Mr McKenzie’s resignation, but post-holidays is a difficult time to recruit. Discussed dates for the diary.

Standards & Quality report – this is a statutory report that JD has to produce every year and he would welcome feedback from stakeholders.

11. AOB

Angus & Martha discussed “The Bridge” which they proposed to set up as a group for neurodiverse s1s new to CHS. They also thought that, as a result of the new phone policy, it might be good for S6s to lead more clubs as young people might now need more things to do at lunchtime.

NF suggested Les Mills and could there be an interest in a yoga/pilates class for young people, to tie in with wellbeing and mental health? JD will investigate.

Crieff High School Parent Council
Minutes of the meeting 02 September 2025

12.Date of next meeting
28th October 2025.