

With Christmas beckoning and the holidays upon us, may I take this opportunity to wish you and your team a peaceful and happy festive season. I would also like to thank you for your continued support this year and wish you a positive and successful start to 2023!

You will be pleased to hear that our new Executive Director, Patrick McGlinchey, is settling into his role and is very much looking forward to getting the opportunity to meet with you in the coming months, either in person or online, if he hasn't done so already!

Patrick would be interested in hearing from you if you would like Connect to do a short presentation at one of your upcoming local authority Parent Council Chair Forums? Please do get in touch if you would like to take us up on this offer.

In the meantime, we are delighted to share our jam-packed schedule of Information Sessions for **January – April 2023!**

**Please forward these details on to your Parent Councils and schools**, as well as to local authority staff who may find it useful. Remember, booking is essential. I will be in touch again in early January, with a reminder to book these sessions.

### Information Sessions January 2023 – April 2023

<p>Constitutions &amp; AGMs 17 Jan 2023, 8-9pm</p> <p>Places are free, booking is essential at <a href="https://bit.ly/3twobu617Jan">https://bit.ly/3twobu617Jan</a></p>	<p>Find out what a constitution is, why your PC/PTA needs one and how to change it, if necessary, at an AGM/EGM</p>
<p>Role of Chair, Treasurer &amp; Secretary 24 Jan 2023, 8-9pm</p> <p>Places are free, booking is essential at <a href="https://bit.ly/3UNKMP224Jan">https://bit.ly/3UNKMP224Jan</a></p>	<p>Find out more about the main roles of Parent Council and PTA/PSA office bearers and how to work together effectively. Connect will share ideas on how to deal with difficult situations and there will be an opportunity to ask questions.</p>
<p>Parent Councils Now 07 Feb 2023, 8-9pm</p> <p>Places are free, booking is essential at <a href="https://bit.ly/3ggTbv007Feb">https://bit.ly/3ggTbv007Feb</a></p>	<p>Suitable for both new and more experienced Parent Council members, this session is a whistle-stop tour of the role and responsibilities of PCs. The session will give you lots of ideas for running an effective PC and will remind you to build in fun along the way!</p>
<p>Money Matters for Parent Groups and Treasurers 28 Feb 2023, 8-9pm</p> <p>Places are free, booking is essential at <a href="https://bit.ly/3TAtrYp28Feb">https://bit.ly/3TAtrYp28Feb</a></p>	<p>Find out how to look after your parent group funds, report to meetings/AGM and comply with Connect membership-linked insurance. The session is not just for new and more experienced Treasurers - all PC/PTA members share responsibility for PC/PTA funds and are welcome to attend.</p>
<p>Welcoming New Families 07 Mar 2023, 8-9pm</p> <p>Places are free, booking is essential at</p>	<p>Top tips for making sure families have the information they need when their child starts a new school, so they feel part of the school</p>

<a href="https://bit.ly/3TLtSyR07Mar">https://bit.ly/3TLtSyR07Mar</a>	community, feel supported and know where to get help if they need it.
Organising Social & Fundraising Events 14 Mar 2023, 8-9pm  Places are free, booking is essential at <a href="https://bit.ly/3OhNdXC14Mar">https://bit.ly/3OhNdXC14Mar</a>	Thinking about how to bring the school community together and how to offer enjoyable events? Join us to share ideas for running traditional and new school events to build a sense of community and to offer fun for families
A Problem Shared: Handling Challenging Situations 28 Mar 2023, 8-9pm  Places are free, booking is essential at <a href="https://bit.ly/3GfCwCS28Mar">https://bit.ly/3GfCwCS28Mar</a>	Not sure how to deal with some of the issues and challenges your parent group might face? Join this interactive session to share your experiences and gain new ideas and strategies to managing difficult situations - with some suggestions and tips from Connect!

We are also able to share with you our next **Working with your Parent Council, for Headteachers and SMT's Thursday 2 March 2023, 4.30-6.00pm. Please share widely with you schools and staff**

<b>Working with Parent Councils – For Headteachers and SMTs</b> 02 March 2023, 4.30-6.00pm Places are free, booking is essential at <a href="https://bit.ly/3TBnB8V02Mar">https://bit.ly/3TBnB8V02Mar</a>	Learn about the positive and effective ways a Parent Council can help engage with families and the community to support learning and the life of the school.
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### We need your HELP!

Our insurer, Zurich, now <b>requires</b> the Key Contact for your parent groups to be up to date. Anyone contacting Zurich for advice will have to be able to name the Key Contact! Please can we ask you to circulate this link to ensure Parent Councils make this important update	<a href="https://www.tfaforms.com/4920973">https://www.tfaforms.com/4920973</a>
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We are also happy to share with you the link to our termly newsletter, backchat

[https://connect.scot/download\\_file/view/1382/1493](https://connect.scot/download_file/view/1382/1493)

We would be delighted if you could share this edition with your Parents/Carers, as a useful catch up on our AGM, and our Annual Lecture on Children's Rights by Dr Colin Morrison of the Children's Parliament, an overview of our recent surveys on families' experiences during the Autumn school term and a link to our jamboard used to collate parental response on how Scottish education should be, collated during our recent online event for parents and carers on the National Discussion, with Professor Alma Harris.

Connect is the only independent national membership organisation and charity for parents and carers with children in Scottish education. Each year, thousands of parents and carers contact us for services, advice, and information. Led by volunteer directors, we're here to help parents, to support our Members and to gather parents' views and experiences to inform local and national policy as well as our own services. Our mission is to encourage high quality family engagement in children's learning and school lives in ways that work for families.

Lots of helpful resources for Connect Members at: [www.connect.scot](http://www.connect.scot) including our termly magazine [Backchat](#)

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Enquiries to [info@connect.scot](mailto:info@connect.scot)

Membership Pack [Connect Membership Pack 2022/2023](#)

If you have any questions or would like to discuss, please get in touch.

With seasonal best wishes,

Kind regards,

Marion

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Membership Officer, Connect  
07943 991174

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