



Head Teacher Update

Monday 20th February 2023

Dear Parent / Carer,

There have been lots of things going on in school over the past two weeks; even if one of these was a short week for half-term!

Attainment / SQA

- The post-prelim process for S4-S6 is in full swing and pupils should have had learning conversations with their teachers. Where there are concerns, discussions should take place with pupils and parents with either the principal teacher or the house team about alternative options, such as dropping a level, units only or 2-year highs. If any parent has a question or concern, please do not hesitate to get in touch on 0300 300 1331.
- Music SQA pupils have been off timetable for a masterclass day and are currently mid-way through their SQA practical exams.
- The next internal SQA assessments will be PE performance; N5 on Friday 24th and Higher on Friday 3rd March.
- The S2 parents' evening took place on Thursday 9th February and turnout was 66%. Our final parents' evening of the year is for S1 and this will take place on 9th March.
- S1-3 Homework club takes place on Tuesdays from 4pm and all are welcome. Pupils should speak to Ms Cola or Miss Semple for more details.
- Mrs Davidson has put together a raising attainment booster session programme to take us up to the Easter break (and we will be providing Easter school). Please note that all of this is dependent on staff volunteering to give up their time as these sessions are typically delivered at the end of the day / online in the evening.

Trips out of school

- A group of keen readers were taken out by Ms Zych and Ms Swain, our librarian, to Waterstones to buy a range of new books that the pupils selected.
- The Music Department have been very busy; in addition to all their SQA prep work, they took a group of pupils out to Celtic connections

Awards / achievements

- Miss McGinley and Miss McCormack took a group of seniors to Holyrood to collect their Vision Schools award for excellence in Holocaust Education from a group of MSPs and dignitaries, and a great day out was had by all.
- Congratulations to Erin M in S1 who was shortlisted to the final four (from 60) for the Janet Coats memorial prize. This is a poetry competition and is hotly contested each year in Renfrewshire.
- Our S6 Young Enterprise group WON the trade fayre at Braehead – an event for all YE groups in Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire and Inverclyde. This is a brilliant

result, and we couldn't be prouder of them! (This is the group that have being selling their products at parents' evenings.)

- Please check our twitter feed now and again, not least to see how well our sports teams are doing. Some impressive results recently, especially for the football teams.

Events in school

- Week beginning 6th February was mental health week in school. There were a lot of great inserts and sessions for pupils, including outside speakers, therapets and pupils leading learning.
- Similarly, we also had a S5 vs S6 charity football game last Friday afternoon, in aid of Men's Mental Health. This was an idea from the pupils - well done!

Coming up...

1. We have started the recruitment process for the two advertised depute head teacher posts. JHS staff, our authority link Julie Colquhoun and chair of the parent council Jean McFarlane will all be involved, along with a panel of pupils.
2. Parent council is on Monday evening (20th) and all are welcome. It starts at 6.30pm, in the staffroom.
3. We have an author visit on 21st February, Graeme Armstrong, author of The Young Team, will be coming in to speak to a small number of seniors.
4. On Wednesday 22nd February we have a theatre group coming in to perform a play in French for S1 and our invited guests, P7.
5. Friday 24th is Purple Friday. More information will come out to pupils and parents soon – the main point is that it's NOT a non-uniform, but pupils are encourage to add something purple or rainbow coloured to their uniform.
6. Professional associations have told the government that it is their intention, within the secondary sector, to strike on 28th February and 1st March.

With best wishes to you and your family,

Lynne Hollywood

Lynne Hollywood,

Head Teacher

If you need to contact us, please call 0300 300 1331 and ask to speak to your child's pastoral teacher:

	PASTORAL PT	DEPUTE HEAD TEACHER
ARRAN	Mr Rainey	Mrs O'Malley
IONA	Miss Docherty	Ms Cole
MULL	Miss McFadden (acting)	Mrs Davidson (acting)
SKYE	Mr Kennedy	Ms Price (acting)