



Head Teacher Update

Monday 6th February 2023

Dear Parent / Carer,

Here is an update for the last two weeks in Johnstone High:

1. Staff News

Last week we said goodbye to Miss Hamilton in English, who has taken on a post in Glasgow, within the special sector. Miss Hamilton has had a tremendous impact in JHS and in particular, the advanced higher which she has lead on for a couple of years. We will feel her loss, but wish her well. However, we are pleased to welcome Miss McCarthy to a permanent post within the Maths department. Miss McCarthy joined us last week.

2. On Tuesday 24th January we had S3 parents evening, the first that parents of S3 have had during the high school years due to covid. We enjoyed having parents back into school, and we look forward to welcoming the parents and carers of S2 on Thursday 9th February, 4.30pm – 7pm.

3. The UCAS (university) deadline was 25th January and I am delighted to say that all of our seniors had their applications in 2 WEEKS EARLY! The offers are coming in thick and fast and the seniors are chuffed 😊

4. Sports news:

- well done to the senior boys football team for their trip to Dunoon; they won 2-0
- the senior boys football team also beat Gryffe 4-1 in the league this week
- the under 15s were beaten by Castlehead 2-1
- but bounced back well to beat Notre Dame 1-4 in the St Mirren Cup
- the U13 team drew 1-1 with Clydeview

5. Attainment update

We are currently in the process of online standardised assessments for S1-3, and S3 have recently completed their suite of GL assessments.

S2 tracking has gone out and senior reports are in the process of being written and will be out with parents and carers soon.

Most importantly, we are in the middle of the 'post-prelim process' and staff are working with pupils to make sure they have the best chance of passing courses / units. When we are concerned, parents will be contacted about the best future course of action which may include dropping a level, e.g. from National 5 to National 4, or taking the Higher course over 2 years.

6. Options update

Mock options assemblies took place on Tuesday 24th January and Ms Price is in the middle of inputting lots of options info into the matrix in order to see which courses are able to run, and where they would be best placed on the

options columns for each year group. We also have a number of senior pupils who are 'SCQF ambassadors' and they have produced a very slick and informative video on SCQF within our school – this will be presented to pupils in PSE to help them with their options. These videos can also be accessed via our website on the dedicated SCQF page.

7. Trips and Visits

- On Thursday 26th January, we had a group of S3/4 out to the college for a taster experience for all Renfrewshire High schools. The supervising staff told me the pupils were brilliant in their engagement and behaviour.
- The Music dept had a trip out to Celtic Connections on Monday, and enjoyed a very inspiring and uplifting session in the Royal Concert Hall. I was particularly heartened to hear of some young people who have never engaged with this sort of experience having a brilliant time.
- We have a small trip out on Monday 6th February to Waterstones, with Ms Swain, our school librarian and Ms Zych. They are taking 8 library helpers to purchase new stock, which is a brilliant example of pupil voice in action.
- On Thursday 9th February, Miss McGinley and Miss McCormack are taking a small group of seniors to Holyrood to collect our Vision Scotland Award, for our excellent work in Holocaust education.

8. Related to this final point, above, to mark Holocaust Memorial day, on Thursday 26th January we had a very moving holocaust presentation for all pupils, created by Miss McGinley and former pupil, Lucy Jeffrey.

9. Week beginning 30th January was Languages week, and our Modern Languages team set a number of whole school challenges and games to get staff and pupils engaged in some languages activity.

10. This week we have had a new telephony system fitted (this is part of a roll out to all Renfrewshire schools) and there have been some 'teething issues'. Thanks to all parents and carers for your patience as these glitches have been addressed.

11. Mrs O'Malley and the support team have started their visits to the associated primary schools to start collating information on our new S1. Yes, the process starts in January for the August intake!

12. The first read through of this year's school show, Grease, was on Friday 3rd Feb.

Here is what is coming up:

1. Monday 6th is HPV jags in the dance studio, mainly for junior pupils. Parents have already been lettered by the NHS with consent forms.

2. On Monday 6th February I am interviewing for a new, permanent teacher in the English department.
3. Assemblies will be taking place this week on the topic of FRIENDSHIP, one of our school values:
 - a. Tuesday p1 - IONA
 - b. Wed p1 - ARRAN
 - c. Thurs p1- SKYE
 - d. Fri p1 – MULL
4. This week is health week and we will have a number of special events, as well as inserts taking place during class time on all aspects of physical and mental health. Of particular note is the visit of former footballer, Andy McLaren on Monday to speak to seniors, and a visit from a Thera pet on Thursday to work with small groups of junior pupils.
5. Thursday 9th is also S2 parents' evening, in person, from 4.30pm – 7pm. We now use an electronic booking form, rather than the pupils manually collecting appointments for you on paper. Please remember to allow yourself 'travel' time in between appointments as some are in the canteen, some in the hall, and some in classrooms.
6. Friday 10th of February is a non-uniform day for school charities. £1 suggested donation.
7. MONDAY 13th – WED 15th IS A HOLIDAY WEEKEND 😊
Pupils return to school on Thursday 16th February.
8. Music SQA practical exams start on Friday 17th February – Thursday 23rd February.
9. The next parent council meeting takes place on the evening of 20th February.
10. 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.
11. On Wednesday 22nd February, we have a theatre group coming in to perform a play in French for S1 and our invited guests, P7.

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)