

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN
2017

**JOHNSTONE
HIGH SCHOOL**

DETERMINATION·HONESTY·RESPECT
FRIENDSHIP·TRUST·RESPONSIBILITY

★

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GET IN TOUCH

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November 2017

Mrs Hollywood tells us
what's new in the
autumn session

I am delighted to welcome you to the first Johnstone High School newsletter of session 2017/18. We aim to produce an entertaining and informative school newsletter once per term. In our bid to be eco-friendly and reduce postage costs these newsletters are sent electronically to parents via the text messaging system, through our website, twitter feeds and our new school app which I would encourage all members of our school community to download from the app store.

A number of new staff have joined our team – either as newly qualified staff, temporary teachers, or permanent members of our team and many of them will be introduced to you in this newsletter. We also welcomed over 200 pupils into our new S1 and I am very pleased that our school role is now placing at around 960. This growth reflects not only the new build housing developments in the local area, but also the trust that Johnstone, Kilbarchan, Howwood and Lochwinnoch (and indeed, some Elderslie, Paisley and Linwood) parents are showing in us by making the choice to send their child to Johnstone High School. Rest assured this is a privilege and responsibility that we take to heart and we aim to make our school a happy, safe and inclusive environment for all of our young people with high quality learning and teaching in every classroom.

We started the school session with two staff in-service days. This allows staff to get prepared for the term ahead and to focus collegiate activity on our two school priorities of health and wellbeing and learning and teaching. We also analysed school and department SQA results and focused on some key pupil successes, including the 10 S5 pupils

who achieved straight A awards. The new pupil session also began with assemblies where I outlined my expectations of them for the year ahead – attendance, effort, conduct, uniform – and we discussed the new house group structure to make sure all members of the school community know who their key adults are:

GROUP	S5/6
DHT	Mr Munro
PT	Miss Wilkie
HOUSE	Arran
DHT	Mrs Sturgeon
PT	Mr Rainey
HOUSE	Iona
DHT	Mr Miller
PT	Mrs Dornan
HOUSE	Mull
DHT	Mr Menzies
PT	Ms Wilson
HOUSE	Skye
DHT	Mrs O'Malley
PT	Mr Brown

I'm sure that most JHS parents know that we encourage parents getting in touch with the school, and the Pastoral Support PT should be your first point of contact.

The beginning of the term also saw a very successful programme of senior befriending of the new S1 and my thanks to Miss Wilkie for her lead role in this. Tempest photography have been in to take our S1 and S3 photographs and the pupils looked wonderful in their new uniforms although some weren't so sure about the 'heidie' being on hand

to help straighten ties and make sure shirts and jumpers were neat and tidy! The S1 were also very keen customers during our first 'fresher's fayre' event at the beginning of term. Organised by Miss Keenan, this was a very successful signing up opportunity that involved staff (and senior pupils) setting up stalls



to promote the wide range of extra-curricular activities that are available this session. We have a wide range of clubs and trips for all tastes and years, a good example is the S2 who returned from Ardentinnny just after September weekend are tasked with 'selling' this experience to the S1 as Mr Fenwick has already made the booking for 2018!

The seniors have also had a productive start of session. We have new pupil leaders in S4 (ambassadors) who have the task of the annual 'head teacher's challenge; S5 (house captains) who lead on charity work; and our S6 badge

holders. My congratulations to head girl, Lily Fowler, head boy, Irwin Gray and the deputies David Lowat and Jenna Fraser. The badge holders were selected by application form and two panel interviews and the maturity, poise and commitment to our school values was outstanding. Well done to all in S4-6 who applied for a leadership role; we are proud of you all.

Miss Wilkie, and Mrs Chambers (who is covering, short term, for Mr Munro) have been supporting the seniors through a range of events this term. A large coach load of seniors were taken to the SECC for the annual UCAS (university application) event and we held a very successful Senior School Information Evening on 27th September with presentations on Scholar, study skills, UCAS, plagiarism and the Maths digital library. Mrs Haggerty led a staff team to train a large number of our seniors to be 'mentors in violence prevention', a Renfrewshire Council / Education Scotland programme to tackle bullying. Finally, the seniors are busying themselves with service to the school community activities such as volunteering, sports leader-

Firstly, we are one of the first schools in Renfrewshire, along with Paisley Grammar, to take part in the hugely successful Columba 1400 pupil leadership programme. Columba 1400 is a registered charity that has worked with young people over many years to support them to tap into the leadership skills that they possess and use this for the good of their school and the wider community. C1400 staff will be working with S3 pupils and a volunteer group of staff this session and a lucky 15 pupils, after a careful selection process, will go with 5 JHS staff to a 6 day residential experience in Skye in March 2018. When they come back they will then help take forward 'values based pupil leadership' in Johnstone High School. Columba 1400 also delivered the 'head teacher leadership academy' that I took part in June 17 and I am delighted that some of our children and staff will get this first class opportunity. My thanks to Renfrewshire Council who are financially supporting us with this project, which will be free to pupils.

Secondly, we have contacted the 'youth philanthropy initiative' (YPI) to get

nities and will give a significant injection of funds to a charity that supports Johnstone people. I am sure you will agree this is our school values of friendship and responsibility in action.

On a related note, coinciding with the YPI final our charities week will take place in March and all four house charities (lead by House captains and currently being voted on through PSE classes) will be undertaking fundraising activity. We will also have four non-uniform days this session dedicated to fundraising for our charities, and the first one is scheduled for 12th October 2017 for the Renfrewshire Foodbank. All high schools in Renfrewshire support this worthy cause and pupils donate a food item on that day. (All of these important dates are on the calendar poster that was sent home in the data pack at the start of term.)

I very much hope you enjoy this edition of the JHS newsletter, but please remember you can keep up to date with school life through our website, app and most importantly our Twitter feed, which we update regularly. Through these you will see the big events, school news up-



ship, charity work and S6 committees to organise prom, discos, the yearbook and hoodies. I am delighted that the seniors give so much back, however we emphasise that their number one priority is their studies and to that end we have been and will continue to maintain a position of 4 subjects in S6 unless the pupil has a full programme of advanced higher study. Research shows that 'busy' pupils are far more likely to be successful in S6 and beyond. My thanks to parents for their ongoing support with this.

Having covered S1 and the seniors, I am pleased to let parents know of the busy year we have planned for S3.

involved in their very worthwhile project. They also focus on S3 and through PSE classes support the pupils to form small groups to research local (in our case, Johnstone/Renfrewshire) charities, making contact and perhaps even visiting the organisation. The small teams of around 6 pupils will then select a charity and compete for this to be the 'selected' one for their PSE class. In March we will hold a grand final with the top teams presenting to their year group and a panel of judges. The overall winning team will secure £3000 from YPI to gift to their charity. This programme will support our young people to be more aware of the social issues in their own commu-

dates, and also the everyday classroom experiences of our young people. And if you are need any more convincing, you can even see the Sloss in action! (Spoiler alert for the Maths article later in this newsletter!)

Best Wishes
Mrs Hollywood

PUPIL BEHAVIOUR IN THE SCHOOL AND LOCAL COMMUNITY

A RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL

Mrs Hollywood

The vast majority of Johnstone High School pupils demonstrate our school values both at school and in their local community. I know that I can rely on most of our students to work hard and behave in class, to treat their community with respect, to be good citizens who think of and help others. My thanks to each of these pupils for doing what we ask of them – and these are the pupils who take part in our termly good behaviour reward events.

However, there are occasions when young people make poor choices which then results in poor behaviour in classrooms, lack of respect to other pupils or staff, or indeed, is 'anti-social' in the local community. In school, we deal with matters of indiscipline in accordance with our positive behaviour management policy and in keeping with Renfrewshire Council guidance. We work hard to support young people to make good choices and take responsibility. It is important they learn the life skill of 'making things better' when a relationship with a fellow pupil or member of staff has been damaged by their actions and restorative approaches underpin our work.

In order to keep our school community a calm and orderly place for learning to happen, I am asking for parental support in the following ways. Please speak with your child to remind them about:

1. Appropriate use of mobile phones: only in class if these are supporting learning and the teacher has agreed this. Too many of our students are 'glued' to devices and headphones throughout the school day (I'm sure parents will recognise this too!)

2. Respect towards staff in classes and corridors: doing as staff ask and being in the right place at the right time

3. Going to the toilet at the appropriate time: too many of our pupils are asking to the toilet straight after the morning bell, interval and lunchtime. As I have communicated with you prior to the holidays, the toilets will now be closed at these times and only children with a toilet pass will be able to access toilets at these times (if your child requires a toilet pass please contact their PT Pastoral)

Finally, I am deeply concerned by complaints I am receiving from local neighbours. A very small number of our pupils are leaving the campus at lunchtime and are dropping litter or engaging in anti-social behaviour around the Auchengreoch area (back path) or the local shops. I have contacted the Council's community safety team who are now maintaining more of a presence in the local area during school time. Again, this is a plea for parental support in tackling this. As a school we are working with the Council catering team to make school lunches more appealing, and the Parent Council who have secured funding to make the playground a nicer environment to eat/relax – both are measures designed to help keep our pupils in the building and discourage them from going to the shops for an unhealthy lunch.

A portrait of a young woman with long, straight brown hair, wearing a dark school blazer over a white collared shirt and a dark blue tie. She has a small lip piercing and is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a plain, light grey color.

Careers Challenging Gender Stereotypes

Emma McDonald
Career Plan:
Car Mechanic

Emma is one of our S4 pupils, she is a practically minded student and enjoys subjects such as woodwork. For Emma's work experience she went to East Fulton Garage and enjoyed it so much she hopes to move on to full time employment there when

she leaves school. If Emma doesn't secure an opportunity here she will work with the school careers adviser to look at the most suitable option for her including modern apprenticeships and further education courses at a local college.

Careers Challenging Gender Stereotypes

Paul Gilmour
Career Plan:
Theatre Make
up artist

Paul is one of our S6 pupils, he enjoys artistic and creative subjects such as art and photography. When Paul leaves school next summer he hopes to go on to study make up artistry at West College Scotland. Long term his plan is to work his way up to working in a theatre make up department creating stage make up and special effects.

The School Careers Adviser is in school 5 days a week to help and support pupils with all aspects of career planning. Alternatively log on to www.myworldofwork.co.uk



It is widely accepted that pupils who attend school consistently are better placed to perform well in their learning. For this reason, we encourage our pupils to attend school every day. As we head in to the winter season, however, it is likely that some pupils will feel unwell through catching a cold, etc. Attending school regularly helps prepare your child for the workplace and with this in mind we are asking all pupils to take a 'work' approach to their school attendance. Ultimately this means asking the question "Would I take the day off if this was paid work?". Of course, when

a child is too unwell to attend school it is vital that they seek medical advice and take time to recuperate, however, many school days, which are lost to common colds, sore heads etc. could possibly be avoided with a 'work' approach.

We register pupils every period and will text you in the morning if your child is absent without reason. If your child's attendance changes throughout the day, we will text you at the end of the school day. It is essential, for this reason, that mobile contact numbers are updated as and when they change.

Spotlight on Attendance

Joanne Sturgeon
Depute Head Teacher

If your child's attendance falls below 100% we will assess their needs and put supports in place as required. The supports include the following:

If you have any concerns about your child's attendance please contact their Pastoral Care Teacher.

Attendance	Actions
Two absences (regardless of length) in 6 months	Pupil meeting with Pastoral Support and phone call home
97%	Pupil meeting with Pastoral Support and phone call home
95%	Pupil meeting with DHT and letter home
92%	Letter home and parental meeting with Pastoral Support
90%	Letter home and parental meeting with DHT
85%	Phone call home, letter home and referral to Extended Support Team
80%	Parental meeting with Pastoral Support and DHT and initiate Integrated Assessment
75%	Referral to Scottish Children's Reporter Association

Arran House
Mr Daniel Rainey
daniel.rainey@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Iona House
Mrs Emma Dornan
emma.dornan@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Mull House
Ms Claire Wilson
claire.wilson@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Skye House
Mr James Brown
james.brown@renfrewshire.gov.uk

All S5 & S6
Ms Eileen Wilkie
eileen.wilkie@renfrewshire.gov.uk

If your child is absent from school it is essential that you provide them with a note on their return to explain the absence. An email from a parent's email address will also be sufficient.

New Staff

Biographies



Colette Gribben

I started as an English teacher in Johnstone High at the start of term and so far, I am thoroughly enjoying my time in the school. It has been a pleasure getting to know and work with the lovely young people of Johnstone High and I was immediately impressed with the eagerness to learn and creativity displayed by the pupils in each of my classes.

Before moving to Johnstone High, I worked as an English teacher in Kilwinning Academy and although I enjoyed my time there, I am excited to see what

new challenges Johnstone High will bring.

I have a keen interest in creative writing and this is something I will strive to encourage in all young people. There is already a creative writing club hosted in my classroom that has been well attended since the beginning of term and I look forward to reading the wonderful work created by these pupils.

I have been welcomed to the school by all staff and pupils and look forward to being part of the Johnstone High community.



Joyce Haining

Having previously taught Primary 7 at Lochwinnoch Primary for many years I am delighted to join the teaching staff at Johnstone High in my new role as Transition Teacher. The vast majority of my ten years teaching experience have been at transitional points in a child's school career and I have a clear understanding of how vital these times are.

Within this role I will be working closely with 1st year pupils primarily within the English and Maths departments in order to bridge the gap between Primary and Secondary Education. My aim is to

ensure a smooth transition and support children as they make the move to High School and the inherent changes that it brings.

My work with the current first years will continue until the turn of the year, after which I will be spending time at the local Primary Schools and the current Primary 7s preparing them for their transition to Secondary Education. This is an exciting new project and one I am delighted to be a part of.



Ellen Pellegrom

My name is Miss Pellegrom, and I am the newest member of the Music department at Johnstone High School. I have been made to feel thoroughly welcome by all members of staff and pupils since my position started in August. Since my arrival, I have learnt that Johnstone has a vibrant and busy music department, and whole-school community.

I started to play the fiddle and piano from a very young age and became increasingly passionate about music and in particular, traditional music. I still thoroughly enjoy performing music, and perform with function bands on a regular basis in my spare time. My enthusiasm for this area in music, has led me to start folk groups in my previous

schools, and now here in Johnstone. It is lovely to see so many talented pupils, getting involved with the extra-curricular groups that our music department has to offer.

I trained as a music teacher, at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, and graduated with a Bachelor of Education in Music, with honours. Throughout my four years of teacher training, I had multiple placements in schools in Glasgow and its surrounding areas. I got the opportunity to learn from different teachers and different departments in schools such as, St Paul's High School, Barrhead High School, Hermitage Academy and Braidhurst High School. My student years were invaluable in aiding the development of my own professional skills and abilities. During my NQT year. This year, in Johnstone, I'm enjoying the same opportunity to get to know everyone here. We've had a great first term, and I'm really looking forward to see what the rest of the year has in store.



Iain Scholefield

I am Mr Scholefield and I have recently joined the Design and Technology department. Previously I had been working at Garnock Community Campus. I have greatly enjoyed my time so far at Johnstone High and settled in well to a very busy and enthusiastic department.

I like to be involved with a wide range of extra-curricular and whole school activities, allowing me to work with both staff and pupils in a different environments. This year I will be helping with the Duke of Edinburgh award which I love as it involves a whole host of different skills

and activities.

Outside of school I play field hockey at a high level for Paisley team, Kelburne Hockey Club. Previously I have represented Scotland 128 times which included competing in two Commonwealth Games in Delhi 2010 and Glasgow 2014. I look forward to sharing the experiences I have had within my sport to all pupils at Johnstone.

It has been an exciting start to my time at Johnstone High School and I hope for this to continue in the future.

New Staff

NQT Biographies



Corey Brookes

Before coming to Johnstone High School at the start of this school year, I was in placements in two other schools as part of my teacher training. My first placement was in Clydebank High School and my second placement was in Saint Peter the Apostle High School in West Dunbartonshire. Previous to that I spent 4 years studying Electronic and Software Engineering at the University of Glasgow.

Computing Science is a brilliant subject that I love teaching. As we live in the technological age it is vital that our chil-

dren have the knowledge and skills to not only cope with but create the technology of the future. In particular coding is my passion, being able to start from nothing then creating a solution that solves a real world problem is amazing and shows the value and power of technology.

I also enjoy being involved in the wider life of the school. I'm running a lunch-time club for S1 to explore an exciting new piece of technology called the MicroBit. Also I'm involved with Duke of Edinburgh Award and I'm really looking forward to helping out with this worthwhile award. I hope to participate in as many school events as possible over the year so that I can build positive relationships with pupils, staff, parents and carers.



Taylor McSkimming

Before joining Johnstone High School in August, I spent time in two other schools as part of my teacher training. My first placement was in Lochend Community High School and my second placement was in Holyrood Secondary School – both in Glasgow. Before completing my teacher training qualification, I spent 4 years at the University of the West of Scotland studying my degree in Politics and Social Policy.

Modern Studies is a really interesting subject which I love teaching. The areas which I enjoy most are World Powers

and Democracy in Scotland. These areas allow you to identify similarities and differences between Scotland and other world powers. I'm very pleased to be working in Johnstone High School this year and I'm excited for the year ahead. I hope to pass on my passion for Modern Studies to my classes and provide them with skills for life, learning and work.

As well as teaching, I like to be involved in the wider life of the school. This year I'm involved with Duke of Edinburgh Award and I'm really looking forward to this new experience. I hope to participate in as many school events as possible over the year. This will allow me to continue to build positive relationships with pupils, staff, parents and carers.



Jodie McGarry

I joined Johnstone High School this August as a teacher of Psychology. Having recently graduated from Glasgow Caledonian University with an honours degree in Psychology, I completed my teacher training over the past year at the Strathclyde University. During my teacher training, I had teacher placements in two schools – Notre Dame High School and Hutcheson's Grammar School – both in Glasgow.

Psychology is a real passion of mine but my main areas of psychological

interest are in Mental Health Psychology, Social Psychology, and Research. Outside of education, for the past year I have worked as a Voluntary Research Assistant at Glasgow Caledonian University, working on research project for the rehabilitation of stroke survivors. Alongside teaching this year, I am currently completing a Master's in Education at Strathclyde University with focuses on Educational Support and Educational Research.

I am really looking forward to the year ahead at Johnstone High – I hope that over the next year the Higher Psychology pupils will develop a strong understanding of the subject whilst also developing some essential skills for their future education and careers!



Katheryn Walker

I studied at the University of Edinburgh for four years and graduated with a BEd honours degree in Physical Education. During my time at University I completed four teaching placements ranging from Primary to Secondary Schools within Glasgow City Council and Renfrewshire Council. In addition to this, I worked part time as a Kids Coach in the David Lloyd Renfrew and as Dance Assistant with Dance UK. I enjoyed my time at University and I am now looking forward to working in the teaching profession full time.

Dance, is my area of expertise and I am happy to be teaching the National 5 Dance course this year and I am keen to integrate Dance more into the Broad General Education Curriculum with

styles ranging from Hip Hop to Cheer-leading! I have also set up a Dance club on a Thursday after school for S1-S3 pupils of any ability and or experience, as well as helping choreograph some of the routines in the school show; High School Musical.

My favourite part about PE is my role in helping pupil's confidence grow and helping them take ownership of their own leaning through practical based tasks. I also love seeing pupils develop new skills and successfully working in groups and teams cooperatively and competitively.

I am really looking forward to my year ahead at Johnstone High School and getting involved in as many School events as possible; such as the Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions. I am particularly looking forward to building positive relationships with both pupils and staff as well as parents and careers.



Sarah Semple

I studied at Strathclyde University for four years, receiving an Honours Degree in Geography. I then took a year out to work and to travel, particularly around the USA and Europe. During this time I also spent some time volunteering in both mainstream and special needs schools. I then went back to Strathclyde to continue my studies in a PDGE Secondary course. I hope to go back to university in the future to continue on with a Master's in Education. I have spent time volunteering and on Placement within three local Authorities (Glasgow, East Renfrewshire and

Renfrewshire).

Geography has always been a passion of mine, and was one of my favourite subjects when I myself went to high school. It has been a huge part of my life in terms of career choice, down to where I plan my holidays. I hope that my love for my subjects brushes off on some of my pupils.

Favourite part about Geography is being outdoors. I enjoy seeing pupils take an interest in my subject and seeing them look at things from a geographical perspective.

I am looking forward to my time at Johnstone High, and hope to build positive relationships and a love for geography within my pupils, whilst taking part in as much as I can.

Ardentinny 2017

Mr Fenwick

With special thanks to Western Ferries for generously providing free ferry crossings for the Group.



After the September weekend, S2 pupils made their way to the Cowal Peninsula to visit Ardentinn Outdoor Centre. Though it was a gloomy morning the ferry journey, (which once again was provided free of charge by Western Ferries so a big thanks for that) was enlivened by the sight of Submarine coming up the Clyde! Soon we had arrived at the centre and pupils were busy in their dorms making beds and unpacking. Not only that the sun had come out. That evening the pupils were out on a night hike in forests behind the centre. The next two days saw pupils doing a number of different activities. These are some of the pupil's views on their experiences.

Tate, Jamie, Matthew and Ben enjoyed the Rock Hop, as it was fun and fast paced.

Amy, Roma, Emily and Leah enjoyed the ride in the Speedboat.

Charlotte, Jennifer, Amber and Sophie also enjoyed Rock Hop because it was challenging.

Noah, Josh, Cameron and Oliver liked the Gorge walk as it involved climbing and swimming.

At the end of the trip, it was great to hear teachers from the Primary school who also stayed at the centre comment on how the S2s from Johnstone High had provided great role models to their P7s and had been very friendly towards them – well done. In addition, a big thanks to Ms Arthur and the staff at Ardentinn. If you are in S1 this year, I hope to see you next September in Ardentinn.

Diary Dates

13/11/2017
S5/6 Tracking Report Issued

23/11/2017
Parent Council Meeting at 7p.m.

20/11/2017
S2 Tracking Report Issued

21/11/2017
S5/6 Parents' Evening

30/11/2017
St Andrew's Day School Holiday

5/12/2017
S3 Parents' Evening

1-8/12/2017
Music Practical Exams

12&13/12/2017
School Show

19/12/2017
Non Uniform Day

21/12/2017
School Closes for Xmas holiday
at 2:30

04/01/2018
School re-opens after Xmas
holidays

With the start of the new school year, there are two lots of updates for the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Firstly, the final expeditions for our Bronze 16-17 Award have taken place and we are pleased to have all 22 pupils pass their qualifying expeditions! Pupils put their learning to use and with a few sore backs (and tears), dancing and teamwork, all of the hard work payed off with a successful expedition season!

Staff are continuing to regularly check EDofE for the uploads of evidence on the physical, skill and volunteering to make sure everyone is on track to complete their award. Once the evidence has been uploaded for the 16-17 group we will organise an evening for parents to celebrate the pupil's achievement and be part of the presentation of the award certificates and badges.

Secondly, as one Bronze group ends, the award has been opened for the new third year pupils at Johnstone. We have now welcomed more than 40 pupils to the Bronze Award for school session 2017-2018! At double the amount of participants than last year, we are very excited to support even more pupils in developing many new skills and gaining excellent experiences through a variety of activities and work.

Duke of Edinburgh



Bronze Award

We have started training in our weekly meetings and are getting familiar with EDofE as pupils begin their activities for their skill, physical and volunteering. With evidence already uploaded by pupils, we are making a very positive start! We will be working in a rotation over the next 6 months to gain map skills, learn more about camp craft and build on the key skills of teamwork and communication.

In the coming weeks there is also an information evening planned for parents to get more information on the Bronze Award and what to expect over the following months as their support throughout is greatly appreciated.

SPOTLIGHT ON MATHS

Maths is not a correct answer, it is not 20 correct answers, maths is the beautiful solution to a problem. When you are doing maths, at home or in school, remember to take a selfie!



What an exciting start we have had to the year with lots happening in the Maths Department.

The first ever Scottish Maths Week was this September. In class we completed relays, went outside to complete Maths about our building and the surrounding area, some pupils also completed the national Maths Wi' Nae Borders competition and danced the Slosh to a song called "We Use Maths Everyday". We do use Maths everyday and this was the key theme running through Maths Week – pupils were asked to consider the Maths they use in other subjects (the part of Maths used in other subjects is called Numeracy) and

we also used information from parents to discuss the Maths used in the different jobs in our community. Primary 7 pupils came to join our celebration and we had a parents lesson too. We also won the Regional Heat of the Enterprising Maths Competition – our team will compete in the National Final in November!

In order to improve non-calculator number skills we have introduced the Numeracy Ninja programme in S1 and S2. Pupils complete a short exercise twice per week and gain a "belt" based on their score. Pupils have been enjoying it and are making progress, these skills are the building blocks to many other

areas of Maths (think training before the big match).

Last term pupils asked us to vary their learning experience and to offer more praise and support. We have been building activities into our new courses and have introduced Pupil of the Month for each class.

Message from the Maths Department.

Maths class is about learning .

Maths is about creativity and making sense.

Maths is about connections and communicating.

Mistakes are valuable.

Depth is more important than speed.

Questions are important.

In Maths, everyone can improve.

Show all my working.

Explained my answer.

Lots of Maths vocabulary and notation.

Find multiple solutions.

I persevere with problems.

Eliminate all careless errors.



address issues. You only get better at Maths by doing Maths – if you do more work on the areas of difficulty you will see improvements happen. Remember the class teacher and the Maths Digital Library are there to help.

Assessment is an important part of learning and we use class tests to find out what pupils are succeeding in and areas they need to work on. To include parents in this discussion pupils will bring home an evaluation sheet after an assessment. This information is provided in order to support study and

At the beginning of September, Johnstone High School held its first Freshers' Fair. The busy event took place at lunchtime in the assembly hall and was open to all S1-S6 pupils. The event offered an obvious opportunity for pupils to sign up to a wide range of lunchtime/after school clubs, committees and trips.

The Fair was a big success and had many pupils talking

Freshers' Fair

about all the fantastic opportunities on offer here at Johnstone High School. The impact has seen an uptake in extra-curricular numbers with many pupils signing up to take part in more than one club.



On the 29th September Johnstone High School Choir took part in the bid send off event for Paisley 2021. This event took place because Paisley has applied to be the 2021 City of Culture. At this ceremony the final bid was waved off as it made its journey to London to be considered for this title. First we got off of the bus and walked round to the Paisley 2021 bid office. We were given a flag, badges and refreshments. About half an hour later, we walked over to the Cenotaph and practised the song many times until it was perfect. We performed a traditional Scottish song, Wild Mountain Thyme. There were over 60 pupils from Johnstone High involved and it was such a successful day for everyone as so many people showed up. We got the chance to be on television, which was amazing. The choir built up as so many other choirs and theatre groups joined us. There was over



Paisley 2021 Bid Send Off Ceremony

200 singers there. It all began to happen at 10 am when the crowd appeared to get bigger. The choir sang with a local folk singer, Carol Luaala. It was such a

great experience to sing in front of all those people, and to actually be involved in the Paisley City of Culture bid. Jean Cameron is the project leader for Paisley 2021. She spoke to the choir before we performed and thanked us for taking part. We were all dressed very smartly in school uniform and everyone behaved really well – so much so that many photographers asked to take our photo. We had a great morning and are already looking forward to our next performance.

Written by Amy Crawford and Naomi Jamieson S2

Mull House Update

Mr Menzies Takes up his new role as Substantive Depute HeadTeacher for Mull House

As we have changed our management structure this session it is with great pleasure that I have the responsibility of becoming the Depute Head teacher for Mull house.

This session has started like a whirlwind for Mull house with teaching and learning and the health and wellbeing being our key focus for the session ahead. Ms Wilson (PT Pastoral for Mull house) and I are working closely in order to fully get to know all our pupils and support them in their school life. S1 pupils have been settling in well and getting to know the running of the school, their new teachers and a whole host of new subjects. S2 pupils are in full swing and flourishing within the BGE curriculum, while our S3 pupils have been focussing on the newer elements of their courses. With the level of work increasing and the challenge and pace of learning on the up, 4th year have made a good start to this session.

Early in September we appointed our Head of House and Depute

Head of House. After a fierce interview process the successful candidates were:

**Head of House:
Cate Bone**

**Depute Head of House:
Nicola Caulfield**

Congratulations to both girls who I am sure will represent Mull house admirably.

A large part of our school is to promote and celebrate the achievements of our young people. Many of them are heavily involved in the extra-curricular provision, but there are a large number who are involved out with school. I would ask that if any Mull pupil has been successful on the sporting field, on the stage or any other activity that they let Mr Menzies or Ms Wilson know in order that these successes can get the recognition they deserve.

UCAS Applications

Applications are well underway and this year we have 72 students applying to university. Two of our students have applied to Cambridge and Oxford University and three students have applied for vet medicine/medicine. We wish that all of those who apply are successful in their desired courses.



BEFRIENDERS

This year we trained 56 sixth year students to be Befrienders. For the first two weeks of term they were very busy ensuring that the new S1 intake had a smooth transition into high school by meeting up with them every day and taking them to their classes. The Befrienders maintain a link with the first years throughout the year by helping out in classes, assisting with the Paired Reading programme and

running clubs, and each Befriender looks after a small group of pupils. The aim is to build a link between the S1 pupils and the staff and hopefully the first years feel they have someone they can go to in the first instance if they are worried about anything.



PARENT COUNCIL UPDATE

If you would like to get involved with future fundraising events or get in touch with the Parent Council, please email

johnstonehighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk

The Parent Council held their first meeting of the 2017/18 session on the 11th of September. We are delighted to have 3 new parent members join us and their recruitment continues to ensure that all seven associated primary schools are represented on the Council. The meeting provided Mr Miller (DHT) with an opportunity to present on the school's 2016/17 SQA results. These continue to be very encouraging, with considerable improvements highlighted in target areas.

The Parent Council Funding Sub Group is tasked with driving forward a school grounds improvement plan. The sub group meet on a regular basis and have responsibility for submitting applications for funding and organising Parent Council fundraising events to support this plan.

The key priorities of the school grounds improvement project, based on a pupil survey conducted last year, are as follows:

Redesign the area at the front entrance of the school to incorporate additional outside seating and a more green and welcoming environment.

To create a multipurpose outside court area for pupils to use at break and lunchtime.

To create a garden area for growing fruit and vegetables which would be utilised by pupils from home economics and the science departments.

I am thrilled to announce that funding applications submitted to LAC (Local Area Committee), Glasgow Flightpath and Awards For All Scotland this summer were all successful. In total, we have raised a fantastic £18,000 in grant awards and an additional £1,000 from our own Parent Council fundraising events during the 2016/17 session. These monies will part fund our school ground improvement project.

So, we are well on our way to improving facilities for all the pupils of Johnstone High.

The ethos of the Parent Council's school ground improvement project is centred on the Health and Wellbeing of our pupils and very much supported by our school.

Many thanks to the following organisations for supporting our Parent Council school ground improvement project: LAC Award £6,500, Glasgow Flightpath Award £1500 and Awards For All Scotland Award (National Lottery Funded) £10,000.

If you would like to get involved with future fundraising events or get in touch with the Parent Council, please email johnstonehighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Look out for news of our next fundraising event, details to follow shortly.

The next Parent Council meeting is on Monday 13th November at 7pm. All parents are most welcome to come along.

Reminder - Parent Council minutes and Head Teacher's report are posted in the parent section of the school website and my School App.

Diane Spence
Chair, Parent Council

Pupil Biography

Lily Fowler

After almost six years at Johnstone High School, I have developed many important skills which have prepared me well for life after school. Through taking part in the many extracurricular activities that the school has to offer, I have built lasting relationships

with both staff and pupils, increased my confidence and gained an understanding of what it means to work productively in a team. As Head Girl I hope to share my positive experience at Johnstone High School with other young people and show them the importance

of believing in themselves. I have many ideas of how to continue to make our school even better this year including fundraising and activities for everyone to be involved in.

Pupil Biography

Irwin Gray

Over the last 5 years at Johnstone High I have improved my knowledge and developed my learning. I've been included in many opportunities Johnstone high has had to offer from the Duke of Edinburgh award to the Saltire award. Johnstone High has helped

me develop as a person and has stood me in good shape for life after school education, with skills I've gained from the school by working in groups to speaking at assemblies. In my time here I've made life-long friends and memories that will last forever. As our head

boy this year am relishing the fact about getting all my ideas underway and sharing it with the school to help benefit their education and enjoyment at Johnstone High School.



Pupil Biography

David Lowit

Throughout my last 5 years here at Johnstone High, this school has cultivated my curiosity, determined approach to learning, and all the necessary skills I might need for a large amount of different career paths. I attend many clubs around the school and

have had the chance to pursue extracurricular qualifications through the school such as "Sports Leaders" and "Saltire Award". I have also participated in school shows and musicals. These experiences have given me good relationships with pupils and teachers which I will

use to make our experience at this school as pleasant as possible. In the future I hope to further my education by studying physics or engineering at university.

Pupil Biography

Jenna Fraser

Throughout the six years I've been at Johnstone High, I've had many opportunities to take part in a variety of activities from Duke of Edinburgh to hosting sports tournaments through sports leaders where I was able to develop strong team work skills. How-

ever, the school has also given me the opportunity to take part in some amazing experiences such as going on school trips to places like Comrie and London where I was able to build strong relationships with my peers and teachers. As depute head girl I would like to strengthen

these relationships by organising a year group trip to allow us to become closer as a year but I would also like to act as a role model and a buddy for the younger years as I know from being a pupil at Johnstone high it's important to have someone you can go to for help when

WORLD CHALLENGE UPDATE

By Mr McGivern

The 3rd World Challenge in-country experienced happened this summer in Southern Tanzania.

Two teams of 13 pupils and 2 staff members spend 3 and a half weeks in various parts of the country undertaking trekking and community projects in rural primary schools.

This World Challenge expedition was indeed a challenge. Trekking was tough, eating was tough, sleeping was tough, shopping was tough and the physical work in the schools was tough.

However, that's what we sign up. The Challenge was there in abundance and helped to make this a monumentally successful trip which the challengers will look back on with extremely fond memories for the rest of their lives.

The planning for the 4th expedition to the Himalaya in India in 2019 is already well underway and the team of 27 are busy fundraising with bag packs, cake bakes, race nights, abseils and a whole bundle of other ventures (such as the 5050 club and clothes collections) ongoing. One challenger managed to raise £3000 from a race night. That's just "wooww"!

Come November the large team will split into 2 smaller teams and choose the itinerary that they will follow in India.

It may seem a long time away, but as team Tanzania, Borneo and Nepal will testify – time does indeed fly.

Team 2's video can be found at <https://youtu.be/pJG9SLiNzvw>.



PARENTS IN PARTNERSHIP

All S1 pupils and their families are invited to our School Meals Taster Evening on the 2nd of November from 6pm to 8pm. The evening will be held in the school canteen and families will be treated to a free sample menu from our wonderful canteen. S1 pupils

have been given a letter about this with a return slip for booking tables (you can call the school to book if you cannot find the form.)

For the second half of the evening children will be entertained by staff while parents listen to a talk on

internet safety and social media.

A select group of 40 S1 parents will also be invited to attend a four week programme in the school to show the daily life of our S1 students and how to access the support available in schools in Renfrewshire.



EMPLOYABILITY

By Mr Fulton

The year started with a very well attended trip to the Scottish Apprenticeship Show in Glasgow for S4,5 and 6 pupils. Well over 100 pupils (plus staff) attended the event to get information about careers and opportunities available to them when they leave school.

The Art and Music departments are planning the first ever Expressive Arts careers fair, scheduled for October the 31st. Pupils and parents will be given more details soon through twitter, a letter home and a text message reminder closer to the date.

In conjunction with the council, some S4 pupils have begun an automotive skills college course and are building a Green Power race car as part of their studies. The college team will be competing in the same league as the race team run by our Technical

Department at the end of the year.

Many of our S2-6 pupils will be given the chance to attend college and university taster sessions throughout the year. A group of S5 and S4 pupils will attend West College Scotland and University West Scotland, respectively, at the start of November with S2 and S3 groups following later in the school year. Thanks to the Maths department, we are taking a group of S3 girls to WCS in late October to take part in STEM activities such as construction and joinery.

A group of our S4/5 pupils are also gaining some additional work experience at Renfrewshire leisure centres and The Experience in Hillington over the coming months.

The Chamber of Commerce have teamed Johnstone High School up with a Business Ambassador who

will be working with some of our S4 pupils to enhance their employability skills, CV and interview technique. The group will attend a site visit to a large company to experience the variety of jobs available in the local economy.

S6 pupils have begun competing in the annual MicroTyco competition, an entrepreneurial challenge hosted by the WildHearts Foundation. WildHearts give investment loans to primarily women in 3rd world countries to start up small businesses. The MicroTyco challenge mirrors this, as pupils receive a £1 loan and will try and turn this into the largest possible profit during November. The S6 pupils will also team up with some S5 volunteers as Career Ambassadors to deliver training to staff and pupils on online employability resources later in the year

Extra-Curricular Timetable

Time	Monday	Tuesday	
DURING SCHOOL	S1/2 Instrumental Club Music Room 1 Miss Keenan	Fairtrade Miss Montgomery	S4/5 World Challenge Computing Mr McGivern
	S4- S6 Senior Choir Music Room 3 Mrs Davidson	Engineering Club Science Mr Fulton	S1-S6 String Group Music Room 2 Miss Rush
	S1-S6 Umbrella Club English Room 8 Mr Clark		S1/2 Futsal Games Hall Mr Stevenson
	S1-S6 Sewing Club Fashion Room Mrs Carlin		S3-S6 Circuit/Fitness Club Small gym/Astro PE Staff
	S1-S6 Scalextrics Technical Mr Marshall & Mr Johnston		S3 Photography club Art Room 1 Mr McGregor
	S1-S4 Hockey Astro Coach		
	S1-S6 Running Club Astro Mrs Wightman		
AFTER SCHOOL	S1-S3 Netball Games Hall Coach		S1-S3 All Subjects Supported Study IT Rm1 Miss Mullaney
	S1-S4 Girls Football Astro Coach		S1-S6 Orchestra Music Room 2 Mrs Davidson
	S1-S6 Robot Club Mrs McHendry, Mr Johnstone, Mr McGregor, Mr Fulton		
	S1-S6 Art Supported Study Art Department – Art staff		

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
S1-S3 Junior Choir Music Room 1 Miss Keenan	S1-S6 Folk Group Music Room 2 Miss Pellegrum	Badminton Games Hall PE Staff/ Sport Leaders
S1 Science Club Science Mrs Steven & Miss Wilson	S1/2 Drama Club Music Room 2 Mrs Davidson	S1-S6 Creative writing club English room 3 – S5 pupils
S3/4 Futsal Games Hall Coach	S1-S6 Volleyball Games Hall Coach	
S1-S6 Animation club Art Room 3 Ms McHendry	S1-S3 All subjects Supported Study IT Rm1 Miss Mullaney	
S1 S3 Film Club RME Rm1 – E Peters and pupils	S1 Computing club IT Room 4 Mr Brooks	
S1-S3 Hockey Astro Mr Scholefield	S1-S6 Rugby Astro Miss Docherty & Coaches	S1-S6 School Musical Assembly Hall Performing Arts
S1-S6 Wind Band Music Room 2 Mr Russell	S1-S3 Dance Dance Studio Miss Walker	S2 F24 Technical Mr Marshall & Mr Scholefield
S1-S6 Basketball Games Hall Coach	S1-S6 Art Supported Study Art Department – Art staff	S1-S6 Pipe Band Music Room 2 Mr Bowes
DofE Miss Montgomery		S1-S6 Dodgeball Small Gym Coach
S1-S6 Art Supported Study Art Department – Art staff		

Pupil Zone

In the spirit of becoming an eco-friendlier school, the eco committee hope to soon place recycling bins in the canteen instead of just classrooms. The bins will be closely monitored so only recyclable materials are thrown in. If successful, the next goal would be to have recycling bins all around the school such as in the milling area and outside.

We would like to organise a 6th year trip to give us the opportunity to become closer as a year. We plan on going somewhere with a wide range of activities to suit everyone. Jenna also plans to oversee the management of the 6th year committees to ensure we have an amazing 6th year experience.

Johnstone High School has always been great at fundraising.

This year we hope to continue this by organising various charity events for the school and our local community. Coming up this month we have a non-uniform day in aid of our local foodbank. Make sure to bring your can of food on Thursday the 12th of October!

Here is Irwin's pupil zone:

This year my initial idea was to give the junior school more independence within themselves, I've started planning on what we are going to do, Mrs Wilson and I have discussed it and in PSE you will receive an application if you wish to apply for your House Captain if you want to have a say for your year and for your school. These applications will be out to you within the next week.

S1-S3 Supported Study

This year in Johnstone High School S1-S3 have the opportunity to attend supported study. Many seniors will get this opportunity throughout their year at school with teachers putting on specialised supported study sessions in lots of subjects. Supported study gives the pupils an opportunity to complete any homework or revision they may have under the supervision of a teacher in a quiet place. Pupils

who attend supported study will have access to the computers which will allow them to complete any research or even access Show My Homework.

Supported study will take place every Tuesday after school for 1 hour and every Thursday at lunchtime (pupils are welcome to bring their lunch along). Hope to see you all there in ICT Room 1.

Miss Mullaney.

Under 16 Football

The Under 16's have started the season in the same vein of form that they finished last season. A 7-2 win over last year's Scottish Cup winners Gryffe has them sitting pretty at the top of the league at this early stage. Goals from MacMillan x2, Lauchlan, Curran,

McGowan, Weir and Houston sealed a comfortable victory. The boys are now looking forward to an away tie to the High School of Glasgow in the Scottish Cup on 11/10/17, a competition in which they hope to have a big impact on this season.



KEEP IN TOUCH

THIS IS YOUR SCHOOL

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With special thanks to
Graham Hewitson for
his photography

And all the staff and pupils who
have contributed.