



Parent Council Meeting: 28th November 2016

Acting Head Teacher Report

1. Staffing News

Since the last parent council meeting in September there have been a number of staffing changes:

- Mrs McGlynn has retired from the English department; her post is going out to a national re-advertisement (was initially put up in Sept/Oct 16)
- Miss Milligan retired from her PT Pupil Support post and Miss Dornan (PE) has been filling in on an acting capacity. There are 22 applicants for this permanent role and we will be appointing it in December.
- Mrs Chambers has resumed her substantive post as full time faculty head of Health and Wellbeing (PE and Home Ec.)
- We will be appointing the new PT of Music in December
- In early November we welcomed two new permanent members of staff to our Maths department. Mr Sheppard and Mrs McKay come to us with a collective wealth of experience and have already made a great start in the department.
- Mrs Colford, PT Maths, is going to Renfrewshire Council on a seconded basis to become a Numeracy Development Officer. Mrs Condy, acting PT Maths at Gryffe will be taking on Mrs Colford's role early in the New Year.
- Despite two national adverts we have been unable to recruit a permanent Spanish / French teacher. We are working with the local authority on this and hope to re-advertise sometime in the New Year.
- Finally we hope to appoint two part time classroom assistants and a part time whole school technician in the next few weeks to enhance our support staff team.

2. Education Scotland Inspection

As you will be aware, 10 Education Scotland (ES) inspectors came to visit Johnstone High School 14th – 18th November 2016. 250 parent questionnaires were randomly issued, along with questionnaires to all members of staff and 240 pupils. These were analysed by ES prior to their visit. Before the 14th we also sent them a range of self evaluation material and liaised closely with the team to develop their schedule for the week. This involved a range of lesson observations,



pupil focus groups, sessions with parents and partners and a varied set of engagements with staff (formal meetings through to information drop in sessions). My thanks to all parents who took the time to engage with ES through questionnaires and meetings. I know the inspectors were impressed with the young people of Johnstone High and they acknowledged the good quality support and challenge offered by our very strong Parent Council.

In the next few weeks ES will send all parents a letter of their findings. A more detailed 'summary of inspection findings' will also appear online. It may be useful to convene an additional Parent Council meeting once the letter and SIF have been published.

3. Pupil Events

Despite of the preparation for our ES inspection, the life and work of the school continues as usual. Over the course of the autumn term the following have taken place:

- Ardentenny trip S2
- Employability taster experiences for some S5 pupils
- STEM and Media work place ambassadors working with selected pupils
- Coding workshop run by UWS for S2
- S5/6 investment challenge
- Assemblies for the re-launch of House groups including the issuing of House badges
- Behaviour reward ceremonies for pupils S1-4
- Gathering the Voices (Holocaust) exhibition, class inserts and assembly
- Fireworks inserts from community safety for younger students
- BBC school report for junior pupils
- Children in Need fundraising activity
- Intergenerational work in the local community
- Largely successful school football fixtures (see twitter for more details)

4. Parent Events / Information

We hope you enjoyed our new style newsletter that came out prior to October week. More to follow!

In the autumn term we have offered S4-6 parents an SQA information evening with inserts from Mr Palombo (PT Languages), Lynne Biagioni from Scholar and Brian Costello from Headspace on strategies for parents on supporting their children through exams.



We also visited all 7 associated primary schools in October to start the P7-S1 transition programme. This was supported by a very successful P7 Open Evening for P7 pupils and their parents on 25th October. Again, my thanks to all Parent Council members who supported these events.

5. School Improvement

Since the last Parent Council meeting I, along with the link DHTs, have met with Principal Teachers to review their SQA results and information coming in from Insight (Insight is next due for update in February so is a possible focus area for the February PC meeting). All PTs have submitted their department's 'SQA Action Plan' which is the result of reflection, professional dialogue and collegiate working with departmental colleagues. Priorities have included addressing areas of under performance in component parts of the exam and strategies designed to address the poverty attainment gap.

All departments have also engaged in self evaluation this term with a focus on the area of learning, teaching and assessment.

Finally we engaged in a department 'closer look' review of Social Subjects in October, meeting with pupils and staff and observing lessons. As a result we were able to highlight a number of key strengths and areas for further improvement in this already strong area of the school.

6. On-going building improvements

The next stage in our plan for the school building is to put up a new security entrance for the front foyer. This, hopefully, will be carried out over the Christmas break. It will provide a 'bubble' for visitors to wait until they are buzzed in to reception (this is in place in many other primary and secondary schools) and will provide an additional level of security. Aesthetically the bubble will involve a new entrance sign on the external building and the Johnstone High School badge will be sunk into the flooring in the bubble area.

Also relating to the building, we have now moved the Guidance team in to their new shared base in the management suite to offer a 'one stop shop' for pupils. This was well received by Education Scotland. It also means that we have four small vacant rooms to repurpose in the school. I have asked Mr Cameron (our senior janitor) to review all accommodation 'possibilities and issues' so that we make well thought out decisions as to how we best use our accommodation



moving forward. That said, I have asked Mr Cameron to turn one of these rooms into a S6 quiet study zone as this was a direct request from our Head Girl.

7. Other news

- We have signed up for a 28 day free trial for a school app and will keep parents, pupils and staff posted on how this progresses.
- Christmas event preparations are in full swing and we are very proud of the S6 who are organising parcels for elderly people in our community.