

# JOHNSTONE HIGH SCHOOL

DETERMINATION·HONESTY·RESPECT  
FRIENDSHIP·TRUST·RESPONSIBILITY

# NEWSLETTER

*SPRING  
2018*

GET IN TOUCH

01505 322173

[WWW.JOHNSTONEHIGH.CO.UK](http://WWW.JOHNSTONEHIGH.CO.UK)



# April 2018

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

**W**elcome to our third newsletter of school session 2017-18. As ever, it is full of useful information for parents and carers, and will also give you a feel for the life and work of the school.

The most significant thing to happen this term was our much anticipated visit from Education Scotland – part of their continuing engagement programme following our inspection in November 2016.

I liaised closely with the managing inspector, Jacqueline Gallacher, prior to the inspection, which was scheduled for 26 Feb – 1 March 2018. Unfortunately, the “beast from the east” had other plans, and the inspection had to be abandoned as the school was closed from Wednesday onwards. Luckily the team were able to come back to school on the 19th March to complete their visit.

I am thrilled to let you know that the Education Scotland team were pleased with our progress and could clearly see the hard work and drive of our entire school community – pupils, parents, staff and our community partners. As a result they have no plans to come back to visit our school. We will continue to push our improvement agenda to make Johnstone High the best it can be, and the local authority will give Education Scotland a progress update in a years' time.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank each and every person who has supported our school in the last 16 months and especially to parents who completed questionnaires and met with the inspectors. And a special note of thanks to the Parent Council, chaired by Mrs Spence, who have been unwavering in their support and positivity.

Finally, there will be a letter to parents written by Education Scotland, which should be available some time after Easter. We will ensure this is sent home to you.

In other news, I hope you have had the chance to see our new style school website. It can be found at [www.johnstonehigh.co.uk/news](http://www.johnstonehigh.co.uk/news) and contains a great deal of useful information about the school through an easily accessible navigation bar. Parent Council meeting minutes, newsletters and our school improvement plan are some of the documents that can be found, alongside useful links to SQA, Show My Homework and Scholar. A useful function of the website is a specially designed page where you can upload any out-of-school achievements that your child has been engaging in.

Finally, Mrs Sturgeon usually writes the section on “contacting the school”, however this term I am taking on this duty as she is now the HT of Drumchapel High School in Glasgow. I recently visited her and she would like me to pass on her thanks for all the good wishes she received before her departure (which was also interrupted by the snow days). At time of writing this, we have carried out an assessment centre (long leet) as we seek to appoint a new substantive DHT following a very healthy number of applications. The successful candidates are going forward to a short leet interview on Monday 26th March with a panel comprising of myself, Mrs Spence, Maureen Sneddon (Education Manager at Renfrewshire Council) and Kevin Henry, Head Teacher of St Andrew's Academy in Paisley. I look forward to welcoming a new DHT colleague to our team after

Easter and will communicate the outcome to you of the interview in due course. \*stop press\*.

In the meantime, should you require to contact the school, your child's pastoral teacher is usually the first point of contact on 01505 322173:-

Arran House	Mr Rainey Mrs Chambers (acting)
Iona House	Mrs Dornan (acting) Mr Miller
Mull House	Ms Wilson Mr Menzies
Skye House	Mr Brown (acting) Mrs O'Malley
Seniors S5/6	Miss Wilkie Mr Munro

I wish you all a wonderful and relaxing Spring break – and hope that our S4-6 students use the time wisely prior to SQA exams (remembering Easter School, Scholar and school based resources on Show my Homework and the maths digital library).

Mrs Hollywood

**\*Stop press\***

**Congratulations to Mrs O'Malley who secured this substantive post.**

# Diary Dates

29/03/2018  
Easter service.

29/03/2018  
School closes at 2:30  
easter break.

16/04/2018  
School re-opens after Easter break.

19/04/2018  
Senior award ceremony.

24/04/2018  
S1 Parents' Evening.

26/04/2018  
S6 graduation.

30/04/2018  
S2 tracking reports issued.

30/04/2018  
SQA exam diet commences.

31/05/2018  
Junior award ceremony.

4/06/2018  
SQA exam diet finishes.

05/05/2018  
S5/S6 Induction.

06/06/2018  
Seniors return to school.

04/06 – 08/06  
Work experience week.

13 – 15/06/2018  
P7 transition visit.

04/06/2018  
Parent Council & AGM – 7:00 P.M.

22/06/2018  
Non uniform day.

25-26/06/2018  
Activities days.

27/06/2018  
School closes for summer at 1:00 P.M.

# Youth Philanthropy Initiatives

The S3 Youth Philanthropy Initiative is in its final stages with groups across third year completing their presentations following extensive research on local charities. The class finalists have been chosen and will prepare to battle it out in the grand final on the 11th June. This will kick start our rescheduled Charities Week in which the remaining Houses will fundraise for their House charities: Arran House will fundraise for RAMH; Skye House will raise money for St Vincent's Hospice and Iona House will fundraise for Finding Your Feet. Mull House supported a

food-drive for the Renfrewshire Foodbank in October 2017.





# Music Department News

## Piping Success

**O**n Sunday 11th March 30 young people from Johnstone High took part in the Scottish Schools Pipe Band Championships.

“The Scottish Schools Pipe Band Championships is a showcase of the talent of young musicians designed to promote the playing of our national instruments. Competition categories provide a forum for top level competition as well as a positive and encouraging environment for school pipe bands with minimal or no competing experience. The second Sunday in March sees hundreds of young people from across Scotland and England converge on Edinburgh for a day of music, friendship and fun.”

[www.thechampionships.org.uk](http://www.thechampionships.org.uk)

Johnstone High School had entries in two categories, the Quartet and Freestyle Event. Mark Johnstone, Emma Rafferty, Josh Esson and our piping instructor, Mr Bowes performed in the quartet section and we are delighted to share the good news that they came second! For the Freestyle Event our pipe band, choir and some of our senior pupils performed “This is Me” from the Greatest Showman. This performance

was the best we have ever performed the number and to do so in front of such a big audience was an amazing experience. This was a brand new challenge for our department and, despite not winning a prize in this category, we were delighted with our entry and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Well done to all involved! If you would like to see our performance, please see the Music Department Twitter feed, [@jhs\\_music](https://twitter.com/jhs_music)

### S3 Music Project at Riverbrae School

From November to February of this term, nine musical S3 pupils have been making fortnightly visits to Riverbrae School, a school for pupils with special educational needs.

The charity Hear My Music contacted the Music Department to ask if some of our S3 pupils would be interested in working on a project with pupils from the school. Through this project, young people are supported to create an original piece of music and perform it in a final concert.

Pupils applied to take part in the project and Lydia, Jessica, Lucy, Chloe, Charlotte, Apryl,

Megan, Iqra and Andrew were successful. Throughout the rehearsals our pupils established positive relationships with the staff and pupils of Riverbrae and followed the instructions of the Hear My Music staff closely to ensure both they and their Riverbrae partners got as much as they could from the project. We were delighted to receive two separate emails commenting on the positive impact that our pupils were making on the project and how sensitive they were to their partners’ needs. On both occasions they were described as being a credit to their school – we weren’t surprised! Mrs Hollywood and Miss Pellegrum visited the school to hear the final performance and very much enjoyed the friend-



ship, respect and Music being displayed.

# Poetic Licence

**C**ongratulations to our very own Anett Ziegler (S4) who won a 'Highly Commended Prize' in the 2018 SCILT 'Mother Tongue Other Tongue' poetry competition. Anett wrote her poignant poem in Hungarian and it deals with friendships and losing touch with those you love. The Mother Tongue Other Tongue poetry competition (MTOT) is supported by SCILT (Scotland's National Centre for Languages) and is an exciting multilingual poetry project celebrating linguistic and cultural diversity through creative writing, showcasing the many languages spoken by young people in Scotland. SCILT initially brought the competition to Scotland as a pilot in Glasgow in 2014, which saw over 100 entries in 18 different languages. This year, over 400 entries were submitted in 35 different languages, with a new category opening to celebrate

language learning and diversity beyond school in colleges and universities. Congratulations on your amazing success Anett!

## Idegen

Helló, gondoltam írok neked,  
hisz úgysem beszélünk már,  
Az évek alatt berozsdásodott a  
sínpár,  
Remélem jól meg vagy, már  
nagyon régen láttalak,  
Nélkülem mentél tovább, hiába  
vártalak,  
Talán még emlékszel de lehet,  
hogy csak én,  
Tudom milyen jó volt annak  
idején.  
A képek alatt lassan bep-  
orosodik a fal,  
Mikor lettünk ilyenek,  
Hol szakadt meg a dal?

Régen fontos volt, ma egy ide-  
gen nézz csak rám,  
Amiért ragaszkodtam ma lehet,  
hogy eldobnám,  
Hiszen csak gyerek voltam  
még,  
Már csak a választ szeretném,  
Azt tudom te ki vagy, de ki  
vagyok én?  
#languagesmatter  
#mtot\_scilt





# Columba 1400

**F**ollowing a rigorous selection process, 15 of our S3 pupils headed to Skye to participate in the Columba1400 leadership programme. The group took part in a variety of outdoor and indoor activities which challenged the way they think, as well as being physically challenging at times.

The trip ended with a reflective sing-song around the camp fire before heading home the next day. But the story doesn't end in Skye. While the young people were in Skye they devised a plan which will ensure that there is a programme of events which continue to embed the Johnstone High School values into the lives of pupils in the

school. There will be more about this in subsequent newsletters. In the meantime, here is a selection of some of our favourite images from our time in Skye.



# Literacy Update

## Reading with Dogs Therapet

This term Michelle Kane, Librarian, and I were delighted to welcome a volunteer from the Canine Concern Trust into the Johnstone High School learning community. Developing partnership with the charity has already made a valuable contribution to further developing a positive reading culture. Every Friday, John, (a volunteer, trained and supported by the Canine Concern Trust), visits Johnstone High School. John is ably supported by a golden Labrador called Nairn. Nairn is what the Trust call a “Therapet” dog -and the purpose of involving a dog in a reading session, is to encourage readers who lack confidence with reading to come along and read to the dog. During the sessions, I have enjoyed seeing our young readers relax and engage in a positive reading experience. Nairn loves listening to the children read stories from a range of different fiction texts: stories about homework clubs and WW2 fighter pilots to name but a few. Without a doubt, John and Nairn have been a hit with our

S1 and S2 volunteer readers. Our vision is to create opportunities for readers to enjoy the reading experience. Support from the charity is valuable and enables young learners to build confidence and reap all the benefits engaging with books can offer them.

One of the S2 readers has something to say:

‘Reading with John and Nairn is great. It is fun and helps me to relax while reading. I really like it. What’s not to like? Nairn, the dog is great.’  
S2 reader.

I am looking forward to developing our partnership with Canine Concern Trust.

Angela Haggerty  
Literacy Co-Ordinator





# Basketball Team

Kris Alexander  
& Mr Peters

Johnstone High School Basketball team lost only 2 matches this season, narrowly missing the final of the Scottish Cup.

The JHS senior boys basketball team ended their season with an exciting semi-final match against Wallace High School, from Stirling.

JHS finished the first quarter with a 6 point lead (18 - 24), but Wallace produced a strong performance in the second quarter and they finished the half leading by 13pts! (31-30)

Johnstone boys persisted and clawed their way back to a 1pt lead with strong scoring performances by Adrian Babczynski and Allan Morton with the end of the third quarter finishing at (50-51). In an exciting 4th quarter both teams continued to trade baskets, and with 2 minutes remaining in the match the score was tied at 60pts each.

Unfortunately for the JHS basketball team their cup run ended (69-62) after a tense battle, but their efforts were very commendable against a good basketball team dynasty. Getting to the semi-finals was an achievement itself. This was the best competition run JHS have had in 10yrs.



Back row, from left: Craig McBirnie (Active Schools Coach), Kris Alexander, Callum Sprought, Adrian Babczynski, Steven Buchanan, Damien Kaleta, Allan Morton, Andrew Speirs, Mr Peters (coach)  
Front, from left: Lewis Harding (Captain), Lewis McElroy  
Not pictured: Scott Durning, Lewis Grant

"They went from a group who had a few individuals who had great ability, and they transformed into a team at the end. This the sole reason that they were so close to cup success, everyone them pulled together and should be proud of their efforts."

Danny Johnston,  
Active Schools Coordinator.





# Mull House Update

Ms Wilson  
Mull Pastoral Support

Since the last update, Mull house have been revelling in their success at the Great Christmas House Challenge where Mull pupils and staff romped to victory, showing that Mull is best !

The beginning of this term started with a bang. Our S4 pupils had their first taste of the 'big exam hall' during their prelim diet. This important set of exams gives the pupils the opportunity to experience that feeling of sitting formal exams while also giving them an accurate evaluation of their progress in each subject. For some, this was very successful, while for others this has highlighted the steps that need to be taken to make improvements.

With the days rapidly counting down to their first set of formal SQA exams, S4 should now be embarking on a sustained study programme to give themselves the best possible opportunity to attain the results they are capable of. Additional classes, supported study, Easter School and during the exam period, Master classes are available to support our S4 pupils during this extremely important period.

In early March, a number of our S3 Mull pupils successfully gained a place on the Columba 1400 trip to Skye. There was an extremely intense interview process and the successful candidates were:

Struan Campbell  
Andrew Boyce  
Callum McClay  
Oliwia Bryka  
Lucy Hailstones

With 5 of the 15 pupils coming from Mull, this again shows that Mull is best !

March also saw a whole host of options interviews with our Mull pupils who are making important decisions on subjects that are going to be studied next session. These interviews allowed pupils and parents to set pathways for future attainment and success.

With only days left before the Spring break, we look forward to the well-earned rest, and intense studying for our S4 pupils.

As I mentioned in previous newsletters, 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 pupil has been successful on the sporting field, on the stage or any other activity that they let Mr Menzies know in order that these successes can get the recognition they deserve.

# Nurture Update

Miss Brown  
Acting PT Nurture

Since the last newsletter, I am delighted to report that the decoration of our Nurture Room is now complete and our room has been renamed by our young people as 'The Thrive Hive'. I have included some photos of the different areas of the Thrive Hive. You are welcome to visit the room to find out more about the work and activities that go in it at any time. Please contact me if you would like some more information or to arrange a visit.

I am also delighted to report that our Nurture Key Worker, Gabby Currie, has joined our staff team. Gabby has a wealth of experience working with young people and she is excited and delighted to have joined our school. Gabby will spend a large amount of her time supporting our young people in the Thrive Hive and in variety of classes across the school.

Many of our young people have begun working together in small groups in the Thrive Hive. They have been taking part in individual and group activities developing their skills and building their confidence and their self-esteem. I have included a photo of our recent S1 KAPLA challenge where our S1 Group worked brilliantly together developing their concentration, perseverance and patience.

I look forward to updating you further in the next newsletter.  
Thank you.









# Parent Council Update

Diane Spence  
Chair, Parent Council

The Parent Council held their 3rd meeting of the 2017/18 session on Monday 19th February and we were delighted to welcome 2 new parent members to the team. At the meeting, Ainsley Brown, Principal Teacher Nurture, gave a presentation on the school's exciting new planned approach to Nurture and delighted the Parent Council with a tour of the fabulous new Nurture Room. The Nurture intervention strategy is used to support and improve the social and emotional wellbeing of pupils and to increase the educational attainment of those young people who find it difficult to cope in the classroom. During our recent HMle school visit, several of the Parent Council members attended a parent group meeting with the inspectors. As Chair of the Council, I also met with the lead inspector to discuss our school's progress. I am thrilled that the HMle visit was a resounding success (despite the snow's disruption!), resulting in our school being signed off by Education Scotland. Fantastic news! A huge thank you to all the staff of Johnstone High who have worked tremendously hard on greatly improving our school.

A fabulous team effort!

In January, many of the Parent Council members attended the Anti-Bullying consultation with parents to discuss the school's new policy. It was a very useful and informative session and great to have the input from parents. More recently a small group of parent members assisted in an HMle local schools' area community inspection visit led by Engage Renfrewshire. The Parent Council will also be represented on the final interview panel for the appointment of a substantive Deputy Head Teacher post on Mon 26th March.

The Parent Council Funding group are progressing well with our school grounds

improvement project and hope to start developing the area in the summer term. The key priorities below are as follows:

- Redesigning the front entrance of the school to incorporate additional outside seating and shelter in a more green and welcoming environment.
- To create a garden area for growing fruit and vegetables which would be utilised by pupils from Home Economics and Science departments.

We are working with Graeme Johnston from the Technical Department who has been helping with the design and technical specification of the proposed outside seating. Angela Smith from the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) has been advising the funding group and has kindly offered to meet regularly with the pupil Eco group to involve pupils on the redesign of the garden area.

Following on from the great success of the Christmas Craft Fayre, our next fundraising event 'A Movie Afternoon' for the current S1&S2 will take place on Friday 8th June at school between 3pm-5pm. Look out for details nearer the time. 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](mailto:johnstonehighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk)

The next Parent Council meeting/AGM is on Monday 4th June 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.



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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.