

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN
2018

**JOHNSTONE
HIGH SCHOOL**

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November 2018

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

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Johnstone High School newsletter! There are a number of important pieces of information to let you know about, and one of the most important is a staffing update for the current school session. At the end of last term a number of colleagues hung up the chalk and retired: Mr Arbuckle, Mr Maitland, Mr McGahan, Mrs Pearson and Mrs MacDonald.

In terms of colleagues moving on to pastures new, Mrs Chambers is now DHT in Inverclyde, Mrs Dornan is PT Pastoral in Glasgow, Mrs Adam, Mr Peters and Miss Pellegrom have all taken on new positions and Mrs Condy, Acting PT Maths, has returned to her substantive post. Finally, Mr Miller has recently been promoted to the role of Acting Education Manager with Renfrewshire Council.

Colleagues who are joining us this year, or are changing role in the school include:

- Mr Palombo has been promoted to Acting DHT Arran House for this session
- Mrs Cole has been promoted to Acting DHT Iona House
- Mr Clark is taking on Acting PT Languages (English) and Miss Kilgour is taking on Acting PT Languages (Modern Foreign Languages).
- We welcome Mr Merriman to the role of FH Health and Wellbeing (he is a PE teacher).
- Mrs Colford has returned to her role as substantive PT Maths.

- Mrs Butler-Robson has joined us as PT Pastoral Iona (and is an RE teacher)

- Mr McKenzie has taken on the role of Acting Faculty Head (FH) of Science

- Mr Johnston has taken on the role of Acting Principal Teacher (PT) of Design & Technology.

- Mr Brookes in Computing has become a permanent member of our team

- We welcome Miss Hamilton to English (permanent)

- We welcome Miss McLauclan to Maths (permanent)

- We welcomed Miss McIntosh and Miss Clark to PE

- Mr McCulloch has joined us in RE

- Ms Ihsan has joined the Biology department

- We have welcomed 4 NQTs this session: Mr Smith (Psychology and SS), Miss McPherson (Music), Ms Grose (Maths) and Dr Crossan (Geography)

- Miss Doherty in HE has taken on the role of project leader for 'Parents in Partnership'

- Mrs Carlin in HE has taken on the role of project leader for Employability

- And finally, we are delighted to have appointed Miss Cameron as our second transition teacher to support P7 / S1 transition

With retirements and promotions we had a vacancy within English. This went to national advert in September and our new English teacher, Mr Bryce, will be with us in November.

School Life

Since August, pupils, staff and parents have been fully involved in a range of learning and extra-curricular activities. So far we have had assemblies for all years to share information with pupils



and emphasise important messages around attainment, behaviour and effort. At the start of session, the Columba 1400 graduates (now in S4) put on a successful 'values' themed week for the new S1 to introduce them to what our values mean in action. This was finished with a brilliant 'friendship disco' on the Friday afternoon. The S4 will continue to develop in their role as values ambassadors throughout the session and beyond, and we will have another S3 group undergo the Skye experience in May 2019.

In September Dr Costello took a group to Prestwick Spaceport for a STEM event.

Mr Fenwick led his annual S2 trip to Ardentenny, our pupils enjoying a host of outdoor activities such as kayaking and gorge walking. One of our seniors has represented both the school and the authority whilst meeting DFM John Swinney at the Young Scot National Strategic Partnership event in September. Three JHS seniors have been selected for the regional and national teams U17 for Volleyball, and two S5 pupils took part in an 'I Am Me' Renfrewshire Council anti-bullying event as JHS representatives. In her new role to drive forward Employability within the school, Miss Carlin has been out and about with a significant number of senior pupils over the last few months. There have been trips to the Chamber of Commerce business lunch, trades events, apprenticeship events and meetings with employers. Our pupils have conducted themselves well throughout and frequently receive positive feedback from the employers and trainers they come across.

Our extra-curricular programme is now up and running and my thanks to all staff who have contributed to this. There is a full range of sporting, academic and arts

expeditions throughout the session (weather and staffing dependent)

- December 2018 football trip
- London trip 2019
- World Challenge India 2019
- Carnival and activities on the last week of the year

A special mention has to go to our S6 pupils who have had an outstanding start to their final year of school. A large number of S6 pupils have taken on befriending training and supported our S1 as buddies at the start of term. A number of S6 pupils have also undertaken training in the 'mentors in violence prevention' programme, delivered by in-house trainers Mr Clark and Mrs Badger. These S6 have been going into S1 PSE classes to deliver lessons to their younger peers on positive behaviour and tackling bullying. We have also overseen the appointment of our new S6 leadership team – head boy Connor and head girl Rachael and a pair of deputies to work closely with each year group to help further develop pupil leadership across S1-6. One of their first events was

have your up-to-date contact information in case we need to get hold of you in an emergency. At that time we were not in a position to include the annual school calendar, however this was uploaded to the website and posted home along with other important information (PE consent forms and a parental log-in for show my homework). With reference to the calendar, the timing of parents' evenings is linked to pupil assessment, our tracking and reporting systems, staff workload (given their contractual obligation to 6 parents' evenings in total over a school year) and feedback from parents. Parents told us last year that the summer term was too long for S1 parents to wait to meet staff, therefore all S1 parents were invited in to meet their child's pastoral support teacher during October, with the formal parents' night scheduled for April (interspersed with tracking and reporting updates).

Miss Docherty in HE has been appointed as the Parents in Partnership project leader for session 2018/19. She has already made a great start to welcoming into school a small group of new S1 parents for a programme of activity. She



based activities and my thanks to Miss Keenan for overseeing this and also for running 'Fresher's Fayre' - a clubs and activities sign-up event, particularly aimed at S1, which took place at the end of August. We are very much looking forward to 'We Will Rock You', our school show planned for June 2019. This will give many of our talented pupils (both on the stage and front of house / back stage) the opportunity to showcase their skills and abilities.

Forthcoming trips (correct at time of writing)

- Duke of Edinburgh – training days and

organising a very successful foodbank collection in October. Finally, our S6 pupils have supported the staff through the recent fire alarm issues, assisting with supervision and being a visible presence in corridors and social spaces. I cannot thank them enough for everything they do for our school – they are wonderful ambassadors.

Parents

All parents should have received a fairly weighty data packet at the start of term. My thanks to those who have returned the slips contained inside e.g. medical info, photo permission, religious observance etc. It's vitally important that we

also has plans for the rest of the session to engage wider groups of parents. In October Mr Munro DHT organised a senior information evening with input from Scholar and a range of information stalls for parents and seniors from school staff on topics such as plagiarism, study skills, SQA information, nutrition and sleep, SASS funding, UCAS and so on.

Finally, Mrs O'Malley DHT and myself carried out our usual annual round of Primary School roadshow visits in Sept/October where we met prospective S1 parents and spoke to them about the wonderful staff and young people of Johnstone High School. This is the first



primary-secondary transition activity and is supported by the P7 Open Night which took place on 25th October. This was a very successful and we received lovely feedback from parents through our evaluation forms.

School Improvement Agenda

This session we have retained our two key priorities of health and wellbeing and learning and teaching. These form the basis of our school improvement plan which can be viewed on the website, alongside our standards and qualities report for 2017/8.

The school 'working time agreement' for teaching staff has dedicated time set aside for teachers to continue to work in their 'teacher learning communities' to develop key aspects of the classroom experience, such as nurture, positive behaviour, feedback, digital strategies and so on.

In terms of health and wellbeing, we are using our Pupil Equity Funding to buy in the services of Place2Be, a national counselling organisation that has had great success in a number of local authorities including Glasgow. Maggie Payne from Place2Be started with us in October and has sent a letter home to parents about the services of her organisation. They will be in our school Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays and this represents one way we are working to support mental health amongst our young people.

Over the holidays the S6 common room was re-purposed and is now a flexible space for the PE department. It is big enough to home two classes and for exercise to take place in. The S6 have been given a classroom

in the English corridor to use as a space, alongside their study room and the library when it is available. The Science department have had new furniture in half of their labs, and a formerly disused room turned into a Science skills room. The Art department has also been given their own mobile IT suite, and other subjects are able to access it through a booking system. I am also delighted to report that the new gable-end building signage is now in place and features our new corporate branding. As it is illuminated, it is visible from Beith Rd!

Maureen Sneddon, our Education Manager will be in school on three (formal) occasions this session to oversee our work. Maureen will be has already come into school in October to speak to myself and the staff about our progress in terms of leadership and wellbeing and I'm delighted to say that we got a clean bill of health! The next scheduled visit is in November to speak to us about attainment and achievement.

Behaviour in the school and local community

The vast majority of Johnstone High School pupils conduct themselves in a positive, mature manner both in and out of school. After the October break the behaviour team in school delivered reward ceremonies to pupils in S1-6 who had a great first term and who had done everything we had asked of them. My congratulations and thanks to all the pupils who made it to the event – keep being brilliant!

However, there are a few of our young people who on occasion make poor choices and don't always demonstrate the school values. For us, this impacts in terms of behaviour in class and corridors, litter, and occasional community issues. We continue to work with our pupils in modelling appropriate behaviour, support and sanctions when required, nurturing approaches, and restorative work. Exclusion from school is a last resort sanction for us and is very much guided by local authority advice on the matter.

As a school community we are thankful to parents for your support and cooperation on all matters related to behaviour. Being respectful to others and the school environment allows us all to get on with the job of learning and teaching which I'm sure you will agree is our core business.

MATHS WEEK

Mrs Colford



Pupils working together to solve a murder mystery

At the beginning of September, Johnstone High School celebrated the second National Maths Week Scotland with a week of fun filled and challenging maths activities for pupils and staff.

The purpose of this was to promote a positive attitude to maths, appreciate it's importance and show everyone that maths is all around us and that we all use maths in our daily lives.

Pupils took part in a variety of activities such as Escape Rooms, Treasure Hunts, Murder Mystery and a number of other competitions.

Teachers across the school took part in promoting maths and numeracy in departments across the school, with English working on completing The Numeracy Newspaper Competition and writing their own numeracy news articles.

Parents came into school and took part in their very own maths lesson, solving maths problems in context and learning about how to support their children with maths at home.

Pupil Voice

What did we think about Maths Week?

Some of the positive feedback after Maths Week.

- We had a fantastic time.
- The Escape Room was amazing.
- I enjoyed singing The Maths Song.
- Can we do more of this?

Competitions

Pupils from S1 to S3 battled against one another to claim victory in the competitions throughout the week, enjoying a variety of prizes and certificates.

We finished the week off with whole year groups Maths and Music Competitions for our S1 to S4's which went down a storm with everyone.

Enterprising Maths Competition

Two pupils from S3 and S4 competed in a Renfrewshire Council Wide Enterprising Maths Competition to defend their title from last year. Stephanie Tavendale and Kirsten Jenkins, Cameron Payne and Leah Anderson. We are delighted to report that once again they have done us proud and will be competing in the National Competition on Tuesday 6th November.



Some of our S3 Winners



Some of our S1/2 Winners



Our Parents enjoying Maths Week

World Challenge Update

Mr Rainey

In early October our intrepid adventurers carried out a reconnaissance weekend visit to Aberfoyle. This was designed to encourage challengers to work together in their new teams and practice vital outdoor skills in readiness for the Himalayas expedition in June 2019. Aberfoyle may not be in quite the same height league as the mighty Himalayas but challengers were given a very tough schedule including a six-hour trek on the first day, cooking responsibilities and many lessons on camp craft which will be vital on next summer's trip.

This was certainly a weekend of two halves as the idyllic sunshine of Saturday gave way to an incoming storm, which turned Sunday into an extremely wet trek over the Duke's Pass and beyond. However, spirits remained high throughout and everyone enjoyed a very successful weekend.

All credit to challengers who endured some tough conditions with great humour and resilience.



Football Update

The U14's have had a disappointing start to the season, losing their opening league games against Park Mains and St Benedict's as well as exiting the Scottish Cup to Jordanhill. There has however been some encouraging performances by some S1 pupils who have stepped into the team. A special mention must be given to Goalkeeper Kyle Aitken who has been outstanding in all 3 games.

The U16s exited the Scottish

Cup after a disappointing 6-3 defeat to Lenzie Academy in round 2, having defeated St Thomas Aquinas on penalties in the first round. They have won one and lost one in the league, losing narrowly 2-1 to Park Mains, and defeating Gryffe 2-1 despite having a threadbare squad on the day. Special mention to striker Ben Andrew who is currently averaging 1 goal a game.

The U18s have also endured a

mixed start to the season. They convincingly defeated Port Glasgow 3-1 away from home, before suffering a heavy Scottish Cup defeat to Trinity Rutherglen and then again in the league to Notre Dame. Centre back Ben Lauchlan, has been selected to play for the Paisley & District select team and has been a stand out performer in games against Dumfries & Galloway and Ayrshire.

Freshers' Fair

On Monday 27th August 2018, Johnstone High School held its annual Extracurricular 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 event was a big success and had many pupils talking about all the fantastic opportunities on offer. The impact has seen an uptake in

extra-curricular numbers with many pupils signing up to take part in more than one club.

Mr Menzies has collated an Extra-Curricular timetable, which is available to all pupils.

Employability Update

Mrs Carlin

We will continue to build a network of community partners to provide employment and training opportunities



What a busy time Johnstone High pupils have had developing their employability skills! Our senior pupils embraced the chance to network with partners from the Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce at the monthly business lunch. This enabled them to develop their communication skills.

S5/6 pupils have attended Apprenticeship and Career Events at the Science Centre and SEC. This proved a great way to find out about all the career opportunities available in our local area. S2 pupils had the chance to develop their construction skills by taking part in the Traditional Skills workshop at Paisley Abbey, where they laid bricks, carved stone, laid roofs and built a bird box. Some female S3 pupils also had a chance to build walls, weld pipes and make bottle holders at West College Scotland as part of their "Girls into Stem" initiative.

We have also had the opportunity to invite outside speakers talk to S4/5/6 pupils about career paths within the construction industry.

We will continue to build a network of community partners to provide employment and training opportunities which will be communicated to pupils through social media, assemblies and direct contact.

Mrs Carlin will continue to inform pupils about any career or apprenticeship opportunities by posting them on the school's Twitter feed, the S6 "Wall of Opportunity", assemblies or by direct contact with pupils. If anyone has any employment related questions or needs any help, please see Mrs Carlin in Home Economics room 1.

Diary Dates

19/11/20 18
PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

21/11/2018
S5/6 PARENTS' NIGHT

30/11/2018
SCHOOL CLOSED
ST ANDREW'S DAY

5/12/2018
S3 PARENTS' NIGHT

17/12/2018
CHRISTMAS CONCERT

21/12/2018
CHRISTMAS SERVICE

21/12/2018
SCHOOL CLOSURES AT 2:30
XMAS BREAK

07/01/2019
PRACTISE EXAMS BEGIN

15/01/2019
UCAS DEADLINE

23/01/2019
S2 PARENTS' EVENING

31/01/2019
S2 – S5 OPTIONS EVENING
05/02/2019
N5 MUSIC SHOWCASE EVENING

06/02/2019
HIGHER MUSIC SHOWCASE
EVENING

07/02/2019
MUSIC PRACTICAL EXAMS

8/02/2019
SCHOOL CLOSURES MID
TERM BREAK

14/02/2019
SCHOOL REOPENS

14/02/2019 & 15/02/2019
S4 & S5 OPTIONS INTERVIEWS

18/02/2019
S3 OPTIONS INTERVIEWS

25/02/2019
PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

New Staff Biographies

Miss McLachlan - Mathematics Department

I joined Johnstone High School as a Maths Teacher in August. I have absolutely loved my time here so far and have been made to feel very welcome by both the pupils and the staff. Prior to starting in Johnstone High I was an NQT in Dumbarton Academy and also completed placements the previous year in Gryffe High School.

As a pupil I attended St Andrews Academy and I loved my experience at school especially my maths. My

Maths teacher inspired me to go on to study maths and one day become a Maths teacher. I had the same teacher throughout my 6 years of High School and I always remember how interesting and fun he made Maths. I hope to pass on my passion for Maths to my classes and provide them with skills for life, learning and work.

I look forward to continuing to get to know the pupils and being part of the Johnstone High community.

New Staff Biographies

Mr Merrimen - HWB Faculty

I arrived at Johnstone High as the new Faculty Head of Physical Education and Home Economics in August and have really enjoyed my first few months in the school. I am delighted to have joined such a busy and talented team of staff and pupils in PE and HE and I am looking forward to implementing the ideas I have to further improve the experience for the young people.

Before I moved to Johnstone High, I was a PE Teacher at Woodfarm High

in East Renfrewshire. During my time there, I acted as Principal Teacher of Developing the Young Workforce.

As a PE teacher, I love all sports and in my last school I was heavily involved in extra-curricular clubs and was also the football representative. I ran trips to Premier League games in England and Champions League games, as well as ski trips to Italy and Austria. This year I am taking the Johnstone U16 football team. Outside of school, I played semi-pro football

for a number of years before taking up coaching. I like keeping fit through running and cycling.

Thank you for the warm welcome I have received from staff, pupils and parents/carers. I am really looking forward to being part of the Johnstone High Community.

Miss McIntosh - PE Department

I joined Johnstone High School in August this year as a PE teacher. I have very much enjoyed my first few months and have been made to feel very welcome by both staff and pupils alike. It has been a privilege to join such a committed and friendly PE department. Prior to joining Johnstone High, I have taught in Linwood High School and Auchenharvie Academy. PE is a great subject with lots of unique experiences to be gained in the department. I love all sports, however have a strong background

and passion for Netball, which I play competitively and also coach within the local community. This year I am taking the schools Netball teams who compete within both Scottish and Renfrewshire cups.

I am very much looking forward to the rest of my journey at Johnstone High School.

Miss Clark - PE Department

I joined the PE Department at Johnstone High in August this year. I am enjoying working with a very committed staff across the whole school and the vibrant young people in the school. I am keen and determined to improve the experiences that pupils have when they come down to PE, promoting the same passion for PE as I have.

Prior to working in Johnstone High I have worked in Park Mains High

School and St Andrews Academy in Renfrewshire. In previous schools, I took on a leading role in promoting Inter House Competition that I am keen to bring here.

My whole life has been devoted to sport, hence my decision to be a PE teacher. I have played netball since primary school and still play in competitive leagues. I also played basketball at school and was a dancer and gymnast through school. With this

experience, I have taken on responsibility of the school netball club and the school dance club. I am also enjoying gaining a new experience teaching the S3 NPA Dance class. I am a member of the Johnstone Hub and enjoy regularly using the gym and going to fitness classes as part of the community.

New Staff Biographies

Mr Smith - Psychology Department

I started as a Psychology teacher in Johnstone High at the start of term and I am thoroughly enjoying my experience in the school. Funnily enough this is not my first time roaming the corridors of JHS, because I was a former pupil here from 2005 to 2011. I really feel like this is my opportunity to give back to the school that taught me and provided me with so much. It has been a pleasure getting to know and work with the young people of Johnstone High and I was immediately impressed with the enthusiasm the senior pupils have for

learning Psychology, a new subject for them. I have also been given the excellent opportunity to work with the S1-S4 phase in their Social Subject and Religious and Moral Education classes. The balance of the two has given me a great overview of the whole school and I am enjoying being part of the team. Prior to starting at Johnstone High as a Psychology NQT I completed my BA Hons degree in Psychology at the University of the West of Scotland (2011-15) and then completed my postgraduate teacher training at

Strathclyde University (2017/18). During teacher training I completed two placement schools: Douglas Academy (Milngavie) and Williamwood High School (Clarkston). Alongside my studies I also worked as part of the Ground Operation team for British Airways at Glasgow Airport Limited for 4 years. My time at the airport and my time as a teacher definitely has one major similarity: EVERY DAY IS DIFFERENT! Although that has to be my favourite part of teaching!

Miss Grose - Mathematics Department

For the past 14 years I have worked as a manageress of a bookmakers. I started as a Saturday cashier while studying for a degree in Mathematical Sciences at Paisley University, now known as UWS. I used maths every day at work, calculating odds and working out returns on bets and as much as I enjoyed my job I always felt I had more to give. I loved my own school experience and my teachers where a huge part of that reason. I

realised that life is too short to have regrets and to not go for something that I wanted, so I applied to Strathclyde University to study a PGDE. I have recently joined the Maths department and since starting at Johnstone high in August, I have loved every minute. The staff and the pupils have made me feel very welcome. It has been a pleasure getting to know both pupils and staff. The S1 disco has been my highlight

so far, dancing with the pupils and seeing them really enjoy their S1 experience so far. I look forward to getting around the school more and getting involved in more activities with the pupils and getting to know them outside of the Maths department.

Dr Crossan - Geography Department

I have ten years' experience in academic research working in the University of Glasgow and the University of Strathclyde. I have taught at all levels of the Geography undergraduate degree at the University of Glasgow, developing and delivering tutorials, laboratory classes and lectures. During my time in academia I had a number of opportunities to take part in outreach projects aimed at high school pupils. I enjoyed this

work very much. So much so, I opted for a career change moving across to secondary teaching after successfully completing a Post Graduate Diploma in Education in June 2018. I began my probation year August 2018 at Johnstone High, where I teach Geography and Broad General Education within the Social Subjects faculty. As well as further developing my teaching skills as a geographer, I aim to achieve dual qualification status

enabling me to teach Modern Studies. I am also interested in the areas of Teaching for Employability, Skills Development and Outdoor Learning.

Staff Biographies

Miss Hamilton - English Department

I am delighted to have joined the wonderful English department here in Johnstone High School. English was always my favourite subject in school, closely followed by History, and after high school I went on to study both at the University of St Andrews. For the better part of a decade I worked in publishing and as a writer before taking up a position working with young people in a Special Education Needs school in Inverclyde. The experience of working with secondary pupils

there inspired me to go back and re-train as a teacher. Having completed my PGDE in secondary teaching at the University of Strathclyde I worked as an English teacher in Springburn Academy. There I relished the opportunity to share and spread with pupils my passion for reading and writing.

I look forward to doing the same here in Johnstone High School.

Miss McPherson - Music Department

I first came to this school two years ago as a student teacher, and was delighted to hear that I was returning here for my NQT year. Prior to starting at Johnstone High School, I studied music teaching at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and graduated with a BEd Music degree with honours. During my time at the Conservatoire I completed teaching placements in Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City Council and North Ayrshire.

Music is a fantastic subject which I

love teaching. At the moment I have music classes from S1 to S4, as well as an S3 music technology class, and having the opportunity to work across both subjects has been great.

So far I am thoroughly enjoying my time here -the staff and pupils have been great and there is lots to get involved in. Of course, in the music department, there are plenty of extra-curricular activities going on. At the moment I am running the Junior Choir and A Cappella Group as well as helping out with the school show.

There is a huge amount of talent across Johnstone High School – I've had a great first term here, and I'm really looking forward to seeing what the rest of the year has in store.

Miss Cameron - Transition Teacher

Having previously taught Primary 7 at Auchenlodment Primary for many years I am delighted to join the teaching staff at Johnstone High in my new role as Transition Teacher. The majority of my six years teaching experience have been at transitional points in a child's school career and I am aware of how vital a smooth transition is for the confidence, progression and achievement for each child.

Within this role I will be working close-

ly 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 project and one I am delighted to be a part of.



SQA Attainment

Ms Cole

We would like to congratulate all of our young people for their efforts in their SQA exams last year. As a school we are particularly delighted with the continuing progress being made in literacy and numeracy at level 4 and are determined to give our young people all the support they need to ensure that more of them start to achieve L5 in literacy and numeracy before they leave the senior phase.

A number of young people also achieved results which are simply

outstanding. We would particularly like to congratulate the 16 young people who achieved 6 or 7 'A' grade passes in S4 and the 12 young people who achieved 4/5 'A' grade passes at Higher.

A number of subject areas also managed to achieve a 100% pass rate at National 5 and so we congratulate the Art, Computing Science, German and Spanish departments. At Higher 100% pass rates were achieved in Fashion and Textiles, Spanish and German. Exceptional performance

was also achieved at Nat 5 in Admin, English, French, Music and PE with more than 90 % of young people achieving a pass at National 5.

Iona House Update

Ms Cole Takes up
her new role as Acting
Depute HeadTeacher for
Iona House

Iona house has seen some change in staffing this term as Mr Miller has taken up the role of Acting Education Manager at Renfrewshire council. I am delighted to have taken on the role of Acting Depute Head-teacher for Iona House. We also welcomed our new principal teacher of Pastoral Care, Mrs Butler-Robson in August.

We have both enjoyed meeting and getting to know the pupils in our house and look forward to working more closely with the pupils on a number of fun activities and events planned throughout the year which will promote positive relationships within our house and will also help raise money for our chosen house charity, the Teenage Cancer Trust.

It was wonderful to see so many Iona students being rewarded for their excellent behaviour and effort in lessons in the recent recognising achievement assemblies. Well done to you all!

Our S1 pupils and their parents received their first set of tracking reports and have had the opportunity

to meet with their Mrs Butler-Robson to discuss how they have settled in. Our S4 pupils have had feedback on their progress from teachers at the recent parent's evening and I am having learning conversations with all S4 pupils during our raising attainment lessons about their progress across all subject areas.

S3 will receive their tracking reports later this month and I am very much looking forward to meeting S3 parents/guardians at parent's evening on the 5th of December. Please look out for appointment sheets which will be issued towards the end of November and please contact Mrs Butler-Robson if you have any issues making appointments. S2 will also receive tracking reports at the start of December with parent's evening on 23rd January 2019.

At school we always want to hear about the achievements of pupils both in and out of school and so I encourage all of our pupils and parents to let us know so we can reward pupils and celebrate their brilliance!

Design & Technology Department

Mr Scholefield

The Technical Department has seen some changes with Mr Johnston stepping up to Acting Principal Teacher. He is bringing his wealth of experience and knowledge into his new role. There are new arrivals to the department which sees Mr Insch join the department on Tuesdays and Mr Brown returning back into the fold for the 2018/19 session.

We are re-naming the department Design & Technology to reflect the modernisation of the subject and the introduction of new technologies in our equipment.

The new S1 are settling in well and showing some great skills in the workshop and graphics room. They are just finishing off a project to create a personalised aluminium key tags.

S2 have been finishing their wooden pencil cases and moved onto designing an acrylic desk tidy, looking into all the design factors influencing their design.

The S3 classes are progressing well with the quality of work going from strength to strength. Practical Craft Skills are building their practical wood working skills with a number of practise joints. Design and Manufacture are working on an innovative bird house design. Graphics are mastering their sketching skills and developing their proficiency with spirit markers.

Senior Phase: The classes are developing their practical skills in preparation for their final assignments both in Practical Woodwork and Design and Manufacture. The senior woodworking classes have been producing work of the highest standard, including S6 Lauren Alexander who has produced a superb table with a drawer. The metalwork class have just finished their machine skills unit on the lathe and are about to start their hot metal work welding with our TIG welder.

The Design and Technology Department have been working with Employability skills with a number of pupils from the department attending an Apprenticeship Fayre and skills workshop lead by Morrisons Construction.

There has been lots going on outside of the classroom this year within the Design and Technology Department. The school is entering a team in the Incredible Innovations Challenge being ran by Developing the Young Workforce. They will compete in the Renfrewshire heat with the hope of reaching the regional final in March.

The Design and Technology department will be running a stall at Novembers Christmas Fayre. The perfect opportunity to buy a Christmas present for your home, or a gift for someone special.

A number of members of staff have been involved with a wide range of activities within the school. Mr McGurk has been heavily involved with the S3 Duke of Edinburgh group, having successfully passed his Lowland Leaders and Outdoor First Aid Certificate.

Mr Johnston will be heading off to India in June with Johnstone High's World Challenge Team. Mr Scholefield has been part of the hockey club on Thursday's, 4pm-5pm. Numbers are steadily increasing and the group are aiming to enter Renfrewshire tournaments in the 2019.

Design & Technology Department

Lauren Alexander



Well done to Lauren
Alexander Who has just
completed a stunning
ocassional table with drawer

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 new session on Monday 10th September. It was a well attended meeting where a full and varied agenda was discussed. Three new additional parent members are joining the Parent Council at the forthcoming meeting in November. A warm welcome to them!

We were delighted to have Mr Menzies, Mr Palombo and Miss Montgomery's company at our last meeting, sharing details of the new S4 'Raising Attainment & Wider Achievement' topic, which has recently been embedded in the S4 timetable, and providing us with an informative update on the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme within Johnstone High.

The Parent Council are thrilled to support the fantastic work that the team of teachers do, voluntarily running the Duke of Edinburgh Award in our school. In October the Parent Council gifted £200 to our Duke of Edinburgh team, to help purchase additional equipment for pupils' expeditions.

The School Grounds Improvement Project, organised by the Parent Council Sub Funding group, is well under way. The outdoor classroom shelter and seating furniture has been ordered and is currently being manufactured by Glasgow Wood Recycling. House builders MacTaggart & Mickel, who have recently built homes in Howwood, very generously agreed to support our project. They have carried out some building ground works for us as part of their local Community Funding. Over the October school week they painted the exterior office wall and installed new mono blocking paving in the area where the outside seating will be positioned. The Community Payback Team have also supported our project by removing planters, clearing and tidying the garden area in preparation for the new outside social seating coming soon. A huge thank you to MacTaggart & Mickel and the Community Payback team. Watch this space!

It's Christmas Craft Fayre time!
Wed 28th Nov 6pm-8pm

Following the success of last year's Christmas Craft Fayre, even more craft stalls have been booked for this year, promising a very enjoyable evening. Please come along and join in the festivities and kick off your Christmas shopping in style. Enjoy the school choir performing some Christmas tunes too.

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

Reminder – Parent Council minutes, Head Teacher reports and Chairperson's report are posted in the school website and school app.

Diane Spence

Chair, Parent Council

PARENTS IN PARTNERSHIP

Miss Docherty

We have recently come to the end of our hugely successful, four-week 'Parents in Partnership' programme. This programme, which is aimed at parents and carers; is designed to give a greater insight into the daily running of our school, helping to ease the transition between Primary and Secondary school. Our group of parents

experienced a range of different subjects/lessons and got to experience life as a first year pupil within Johnstone High. Some of the lessons included in the programme were making burgers in Home Economics, learning about conflict in Social Subjects and analysing poetry in English. Information sessions were also provided and covered topics such as

Internet Safety and Learning Support. As we move forward, a series of 'reconnect' sessions will be held in order to get the parents together again over some cake and coffee, which will allow them to get involved in designing next year's programme for our new S1.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

Nearly all of the current S4's have now completed both their practice and qualifying expeditions and have until April to collect all of their evidence for their Physical, Skill and Volunteering activities. The last group will be on their qualifying expedition in the spring and we are looking forward to celebrating the achievements of the whole group at the awards ceremony in April.

We have had 26 3rd years who have decided to take part in the Bronze DofE program this year and are already hard at work volunteering in the local community, building their skills and doing physical activities. They are loving building up

their outdoor skills on a Wednesday afternoon: putting up tents; learning how to use a compass; finding out what food to bring camping; how to cook in the outdoors and many more activities.

Also, Mr Brooks and Mr McGurk have recently completed their Lowland Leader Qualification and are in the process of doing the DofE assessors course. This means that Johnstone High will soon be a completely independent DofE centre, eliminating some of our expedition scheduling problems that we have had over the past year.



RENFREWSHIRE SCHOOLS ROAD RACE

Well done to all pupils who participated in the Renfrewshire Schools Road Race on Thursday 25th October at the On-X in Linwood, organised by Active Schools. The following S1-3 pupils attended the event and represented Johnstone High against other schools in the authority.

Huge congratulations to Haydon Barrwt who came 1ST in the S1 boys race.

Matthew New and Colin Arthur came 1st and 2nd in the S2 boys race.

Emily Gorman and Ailsa Carrigan came 2nd and 4th in the S2 girls race.



Congratulations to the following:

S1

Haydon Barrett
Caitlyn MacLeod

S2

Matthew New
Colin Arthur
Ryan Crain
Emily Gorman
Ailsa Carrigan
Ada Robertson

S3

Jack McKellar
Sophie Sinclair
Macy Gage

Mull House Update

Mr Menzies
Depute Head Teacher for
Mull House



Mull house have had a strong start to the school session with teaching and learning and health and wellbeing being our main focus again for the 2nd year. Ms Wilson (PT Pastoral for Mull house) and myself are continuing to meet daily to discuss the attainment, behaviour, attendance and well-being of all our pupils.

This session has afforded me the opportunity to support our S4 pupils during the curriculum with the introduction of the raising attainment class. This class has allowed me to have an overview of pupils attainment and provide support where required in the challenging first year of the senior phase. In addition, the class will follow the newly introduced Mental Health and Wellbeing SQA Award and one of the key units within this called 'Coping strategies and building resilience.' This will provide further support for our pupils on the run up to the pre-lim and SQA exams, while also allowing for additional tariff points in their attainment.

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 focusing on the newer elements of their courses. S3 tracking is underway and pupils should be having clear learning conversations with their teachers about progress in their selected subjects.

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: Rhea Henderson
Depute Head's of House: Abbie Kerr
and Jack Williamson

Congratulations to all three pupils who I am sure will represent Mull house admirably.

In October, all Mull pupils were asked to select a house charity and an event in which money can be raised for this house charity.

Every Mull pupil had a vote and the charity chosen was 'Dogs Trust' and the event being the Christmas Inter-House Games. We look forward to this event with anticipation as the current holders of the title.

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.

S5 & S6 Update

Mr Munro
Depute Head Teacher for
S5 & S6

War Memorial and Remembrance Service

S6 pupils will take the lead on the 9 November at the Remembrance Service. They will participate in the event which will culminate in the reading out of the names of 45 ex JHS pupils who died during WW1.

Afterwards, the official unveiling of the war memorial will take place. The memorial was created by PT Art Mr Sheppard working on designs supplied to him by pupils some of who are in still in the school. Those pupils are

Paulina Burke S5

Lauren Breckenridge S5

Apryl Cook S4

Chloe Russell S5

Katie Beverland S4

Amy Anderson S5

Kirsten Jenkins S4

Michael Buchan S5

Nicole Avril S5

Careers Events

Mrs Carlin, Project leader on employability took over 100 senior pupils to the Scottish Apprenticeship Show and SDS Skills show recently. Pupils

who attended were quick to tell us about the range of employers and training opportunities available.

Sleep in the Park 2018

Over fifty S6 pupils have signed up to accompany Mr Munro and other staff to the 'Sleep in the Park' event on Saturday 8 December. Raising money for the homeless in Scotland will be the main reason for braving the colder winter night in Kelvingrove Park as well as raising awareness of the plight of the homeless. We will post photos from the evening in the next issue, once the pupils and staff have thawed out!

Saltire Awards

Pupils in S5 and S6 have been quick to sign up to do a Saltire Award. Already dozens of pupils have accrued hours of volunteering which in turn gives them an award which is a valuable addition to any C.V. or UCS personal statement. Helping younger pupils in class, paired reading, befriending, organising events, helping at parents evenings are just some of the activities.

UCAS Higher Education Fair

Over 60 S6 pupils attended the HE Fair with Mr Munro and Miss Wilkie recently. Every university from the

UK was represented and pupils received valuable advice for completing the UCAS application.

Year Book Concert

Rehearsals are well under way for this year's yearbook concert. The event runs on Wed 14 and Thur 15 Nov from 7:15 – 10pm.

A variety of acts including dance, songs, some comedy and a special mystery group will perform.

Tickets are priced at £5 for adults, £3 for concessions and family deals are available.

Photos will be in the next issue.

Children in Need

This year the events will be run by S6 and a variety of crazy stunts have been planned including, heads being shaved legs being waxed. Photos in the next issue.

Christmas Jumper Day

This will take place on Friday 14 December and will be coordinated by depute head girl Nicola Caulfield. Pupils can pay £1 to wear a Christmas jumper to raise funds for Save the Children. It is NOT a non-uniform day.

Christmas Collection

After the outstanding success of last year's appeal we have extended the collection to FIVE weeks.

This year the collection will be coordinated by S6 pupils Diana Odiase and Rachael McLaughlin.

Please see below how you can help:

Week Beginning 5 November

Toiletries suitable for females

Week beginning 12 November

Toiletries suitable for males

Week beginning 19 November

Chocolates and sweets

Week Beginning 26 November

Selection boxes

Week beginning 3 December

Any other type of Christmas gift not covered by the above categories

SCHOLAR/ Study Skills evening

On 11 October we held our annual event for senior pupils and their parents regarding SCHOLAR and Study Skills. Staff were on hand to provide lots of useful information help pupils with their studying.

All pupils in S4-6 have a SCHOLAR password. If they have lost it they can get another from Mr Munro.

S6 Leadership team

You will see from the profiles in this issue that the S6 leadership has been appointed and they are carrying out a variety of different duties with both diligence and professionalism

The Head Girl is Rachael McBride and the head boy is Connor Wilson.

The deposes have been paired off and are responsible for a different

year group. They are

S1 A Armstrong,	C Bone
S2 E Russell, A Johnston	
S3 L McAlpine,	J Hendriks
S4 N Caulfield,	K Smolarek
S5 K McArthur,	M Spence
S6 M Sneddon,	A Wright

Foodbank Collection

S6 coordinated the recent whole school Foodbank collection and as such filled 43 crates with items. The results was that we received a notification that our efforts had supplied 1298 meals to the people of Renfrewshire.

Young Enterprise

Mr Brookes

Young Enterprise is back at Johnstone High and an enthusiastic group of S6s are ready to take the business world by storm. They have named their company "In-case" and are going to be selling personalised mobile phone cases, pop-sockets and other mobile phone accessories. To raise their initial capital the team ran a coffee morning for staff in the school and have also been selling shares in the company raising nearly £200. Look out for order forms in the near future to get your hands on a competi-

tively priced one of a kind phone case personal to you!



SENIOR PUPIL PROFILES

Meet this years
Head Boy, Head Girl
and their deputes

Head Girl Rachael McBride

Primary School
Auchenlodment

Hobbies/ Interests
Singing and fitness

What do you plan to do at the end of S6?

I plan to go to college to study music performing and industry business

Name one aspect of your personality that has changed since S1?

My confidence for sure. I have definitely come out of my shell.

If you could give S1 one piece of advice what would it be?

Don't let anyone hold you back from what you want to do. Make your own decisions.

Head Boy Connor Wilson



Primary School
Cochrane Castle

Hobbies/ Interests
Performing Arts/ TV & Film

What do you plan to do at the end of S6?

I plan to go to university to study Spanish and German

Name one aspect of your personality that has changed since S1?

Confidence!

If you could give S1 one piece of advice what would it be?

Stand out from the crowd, be your own person

Depute Head Girl Mandy Sneddon

Primary School
Auchenlodment

Hobbies/ Interests
Family and fitness

What do you plan to do at the end of S6?

I plan to go to college to study airport operations and then become cabin crew

Name one aspect of your personality that has changed since S1?

My confidence as it has helped me become a leader.

If you could give S1 one piece of advice what would it be?

Never give up

Depute Head Girl Lucy McAlpine

Primary School
Auchenlodment

Hobbies/ Interests
My Friends

What do you plan to do at the end of S6?

I plan to go to university to become a midwife

Name one aspect of your personality that has changed since S1?

Organisation and multi-tasking

If you could give S1 one piece of advice what would it be?

Grasp any opportunity that life throws at you.

Depute Head Girl Emma Russell

Primary School
Fordbank

Hobbies/ Interests
Music, books and Netflix

What do you plan to do at the end of S6?

I plan to go to university and study English Literature

Name one aspect of your personality that has changed since S1?

Johnstone HS has taken a bossy wee girl and turned her into a leader who is determined to get the best from life.

If you could give S1 one piece of advice what would it be?

Start studying for your Highers NOW.

Depute Head Girl Nicola Caulfield

Primary School
Kilbarchan PS

Hobbies/ Interests
Netball and shopping

What do you plan to do at the end of S6?

I plan to go to university to study psychology or politics

Name one aspect of your personality that has changed since S1?

My confidence

If you could give S1 one piece of advice what would it be?

Try your best that's all you can do.

Depute Head Girl Amy Armstrong

Primary School
Thorn

Hobbies/ Interests
Working and studying

What do you plan to do at the end of S6?

I plan to go to university to study biology to become a teacher

Name one aspect of your personality that has changed since S1?

My confidence and independence

If you could give S1 one piece of advice what would it be?

Listen to the advice from your teachers

Depute Head Girl Cate Bone

Primary School
Kilbarchan

What do you plan to do at the end of S6?

I plan to go to university to study English literature with a view to becoming a writer

If you could give S1 one piece of advice what would it be?

Your true colours are bound to show eventually and so you might as well be yourself from

the start.

Hobbies/ Interests

I play bassoon and piano, sing with NYCoS and read a lot

Name one aspect of your personality that has changed since S1?

My confidence

Depute Head Girl Kirsty McArthur

Primary School

Lochwinnoch

What do you plan to do at the end of S6?

I plan to go to university to study Fashion business

If you could give S1 one piece of advice what would it be?

Don't just try to blend, be yourself.

Hobbies/ Interests

Rowing. I have rowed for Scotland and trialled for GB

Name one aspect of your personality that has changed since S1?

My confidence

Depute Head Girl MacKenzie Spence

Primary School
Kilbarchan

Hobbies/ Interests
Music Art, Netball

What do you plan to do at the end of S6?

I plan to go to university to study Optometry but also interested in immunology or pharmacology

Name one aspect of your personality that has changed since S1?

My inter-personal skills

If you could give S1 one piece of advice what would it be?

Have fun making new friends and work hard in class.

Depute Head Boy Jordan Hendriks

Primary School
Kilbarchan PS

Hobbies/ Interests
Playing the drums and fitness

What do you plan to do at the end of S6?

I plan to go to university to study Mechanical Engineering

Name one aspect of your personality that has changed since S1?

My confidence for sure.

If you could give S1 one piece of advice what would it be?

Don't be afraid to ask questions

Depute Head Boy Kai Smolarek



Primary School
Fordbank

Hobbies/ Interests
Football and MMA

What do you plan to do at the end of S6?

I plan to go to college or university

Name one aspect of your personality that has changed since S1?

My ability to speak up.

If you could give S1 one piece of advice what would it be?

Don't be scared to talk to senior pupils they would love to help

Depute Head Boy Andrew Johnstone



Primary School
Lochwinnoch

Hobbies/ Interests
Rugby/ Boys Brigade

What do you plan to do at the end of S6?

I plan to go to university to study Psychology

Name one aspect of your personality that has changed since S1?

My confidence

If you could give S1 one piece of advice what would it be?

Take every bit of help you can get

A portrait of Alexander Wright, a young man with dark, wavy hair and a slight smile, wearing a white shirt and a dark tie. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Depute Head Boy Alexander Wright

Primary School
Lochwinnoch

Hobbies/ Interests
Football

What do you plan to do at the end of S6?

I plan to go to university to study engineering

Name one aspect of your personality that has changed since S1?

Confidence, but also my height!

If you could give S1 one piece of advice what would it be?

Be the best you can be

COLUMBA 1400

On return to school after the summer holidays our 15 Columba 1400 Values Ambassadors had been working very hard to plan an event for our new S1 pupils.

S1 Values week saw all the new S1 pupils take part in a number of activities which were based around our school values at Johnstone High. From a blindfolded Trustathon to a Determination treasure hunt around the school – the S1 pupils got a real flavour of what our school community is all about.

The week ended with a Friendship disco on the Friday afternoon for all S1 pupils and the S4 Columba Ambassadors. This was a fantastic event enjoyed by all with special thanks to our resident DJ Mrs Colford.

The S4 Values Ambassadors having being an excellent example of what school community is all about and they continue to make a positive contribution to the school. Keep up the excellent work!



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.