

NEWSLETTER

JOHNSTONE
HIGH SCHOOL

DETERMINATION·HONESTY·RESPECT
FRIENDSHIP·TRUST·RESPONSIBILITY

*Autumn
2019*

World Challenge

The teams return from India

World Challenge builds the life skills young people need to live a life of courage, kindness and adventure.



Autumn 2019

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 2019/20. 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 and twitter feed.

Staffing Update

As we come back from the October holiday, we are in week ten of the new school session and the summer break seems but a distant memory! In August we also welcomed almost 200 pupils into our new S1 and I am very pleased that our school role is placing at just over 960.

As is typical every school session, we say goodbye to staff who move on to pastures new, and welcome a range of new colleagues for session 2019/20. We wish good luck to the following colleagues and thank them for their service:

Dr Crossan, Ms Grose, Ms MacPherson and Mr Smith successfully completed their probation year with us

Mr Miller, DHT, secured the headship of Stewarton Academy

Mrs McCallum, Inclusion Support Assistant, has taken up a post in the NHS

Miss Clark, PE, has been transferred to Trinity High School

Mr McCulloch, RE, has been transferred to Mary Russell School

Miss Keenan, Music, has taken on an acting PT Music at Castlehead High

Mrs Dickson, Team Leader in the Office

moved a full time role in Renfrew High School

Mr Mulaney, Physics, has retired and will be much missed by us all.

We have therefore welcomed the following new staff who are with us in a temporary capacity:

Miss Montgomery, History NQT

Miss Ashmole, PE NQT

Mr Murray, PE NQT

Mr Glen, Physics

Mr Smith returns to us for Psychology and Social Subjects

Ms Grose returns to us for Maths

Miss Semple (NQT 2017/18) returns to us for Geography

We have also made the following permanent appointments:

Ms MacPherson, Music, remains with us

Ms McFadden, English

Ms Vernal, Business Education

Ms Smith, RE

Miss Wilson, Chemistry

Miss McIntosh, PE

We currently have a vacancy in music.

Mr Kennedy has joined the JHS staff on a permanent capacity as a teacher of ICT and is currently Acting PT Skye House. Ms Butler-Robson, PT Iona House, has returned from maternity leave 4 days per week, and Miss Mulaney has taken on the role of Acting PT Iona House for one day per week. Miss Mullaney provides cover on a Wednes-

day and has responsibility for S3 Iona pupils.

I am also pleased to inform you that Mr Cameron, Classroom Assistant, was successful at interview and will take up the post of Inclusion Support Assistant later in the term. We have also appointed Mrs MacDonald, a former member of staff in our office, who will join us at the end of the month to take on the 'team leader' role.

Finally, congratulations to Mr Palombo who became a dad to baby Cora this term; and Mr Cameron who became a dad to baby Vincent.

Start of term

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 three school priorities of:

1. health and wellbeing
2. learning and teaching
3. raising attainment

Our in-service days in August included anti-bullying training delivered by Brian Donnelly (former head of RespectMe Scotland), and nurture training from Depute Principal Psychologist for Renfrewshire, Fiona Williams.

We also analysed school and department SQA results and focused on some key pupil successes, including the pupils who achieved straight A awards in National 5 and Highers. The new pupil session also began with assemblies where I outlined my expectations of them for the year ahead, introduced the

new Relationships Policy (more on this later in this newsletter) and emphasised the importance of the house group structure to make sure all members of the school community know who their key adults are:

PUPIL GROUP DHT PASTORAL SUPPORT PT

S5/6

Mr Munro
Miss Wilkie

Arran
Mr Palombo
Mr Rainey

Iona
Ms Cole
Ms Butler-Robson / Miss Mullaney

Mull
Mr Menzies
Ms Wilson

Skye
Mrs O'Malley
Mr Kennedy

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. A large number of S6 pupils undertook the appropriate training and then S1 buddy duties for the first couple of weeks of term. The befrienders supported our new S1 to find their way about and also during class time. My thanks to Miss Wilkie for her lead role in this and all the S6 who carried out their duties so well.

All pupils should now be up and running with 'Show My Homework'. Mr Palombo has responsibility for this and any ongoing issues with SMH logins should be directed to Mr Palomo who will be happy to help. Parents report that SMH helps them to support their child to keep on top of homework and revision and I would thoroughly recommend it to you.

Tempest photography have been in to take our S1 and S3 photographs and the pupils looked wonderful in their new uniforms.

The S1 were also very keen customers during our first 'fresher's fayre' event at the beginning of term. Organised by Miss MacPherson, 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 and I would ask that all parents encourage their child to sign up for something (the collated offer will be published on the website/twitter feed very soon).

Forthcoming trips this session will include:

- Geography field trip(s).
- Music theatre trip to the Kings in October 2019.
- Winter football trip in Man City.
- Duke of Edinburgh expeditions from April 2020 onwards.
- London trip June 2020.
- Activities on the last week of the year 2020.
- World Challenge June 2021.

(If your child is interested in a trip / activity / club but cost is an issue, please contact your child's Pastoral teacher. We will try our best to financially support our pupils, and always in a sensitive manner. Similarly if any parent requires support with free meal / footwear and clothing grant forms – please get in touch and we will help.)

In terms of our parents, all parents should have received a fairly weighty data packet on the first week of term containing the calendar, school information and a number of forms to complete and return. My thanks to those who have returned the slips contained inside e.g. medical info, photo permission, religious observance etc. If you haven't received this, please check your child's bag in the first instance and then contact our school office for another to go out. It is vitally important that we have the correct contact details for parents in case your child takes unwell at school.

Regarding the calendar, Mrs Cole, DHT, has created a schedule that breaks down when parents can expect tracking reports, report cards and a parents' evening from S1 through to S6. This is available on the website.

Pupil Leadership

The S4 and S5 Columba 1400 graduates put on a very successful 'values' themed week for the new S1 to introduce them to what our values mean in action. This was finished with a 'friendship disco' on the Friday afternoon. The

S4/5 will continue to develop in their role as values ambassadors throughout the session and beyond.

The seniors have also had a productive start of session. We have new pupil leaders across all years; S5 (house captains) who lead on charity work; and our S6 badge holders. My congratulations to head girl, Erin Corner, head boy, Tom Reid and their team of deputies. The badge holders were selected by application form and a three panel interviews/tasks (one of which was a pupil group made up of our Columba 1400 graduates). The maturity, poise and commitment to our school values was outstanding. Well done to all pupils who applied for a leadership role; we are proud of you all.

Seniors

Senior timetables were finalised by the end of August, with a number of our pupils going to college courses at West College Scotland, or undertaking courses at other high schools through the Renfrewshire consortia.

A coach load of 55 seniors were taken by Mr Munro, Ms Wilkie and Mr Menzies to the SECC for the annual UCAS (university application) event. We also put on a Senior School Information Evening in early October with presentations and hand outs on study skills, SASS funding, UCAS, plagiarism and supporting your young person at home.

A number of S6 pupils undertook training in the 'mentors in violence prevention' programme, delivered by in-house trainers Mr Clark and Mrs Badger. These S6 will be going into S1 PSE classes to deliver lessons to their younger peers on pro-social behavior, tackling and handling bullying, and contributing to a school culture of empowerment, respect and support.

Selected S6 pupils went with Mrs Carlin (Employability Project Leader) to the Chamber of Commerce business engagement lunch, with keynote speakers from Morrisons Construction.

Finally, the seniors are busying themselves with service to the school community activities such as volunteering, sports leadership, 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.

Parents

Miss Docherty in HE continues as the Parents in Partnership project leader for session 2019/20. This involves working intensively with groups of S1 and S2 parents, alongside P7 parents as part of our primary transition programme. Families taking part in the project take part in a number of activities (subject tasters, family cooking with their child) and information sessions from partner agencies. Miss Docherty also organises the school meal taster sessions for P7 parents and pupils at our P7 info evening each June – the last one was a huge success, attended by 300+ people. If any parent has ideas or suggestions around developing the Parents in Partnership programme please feel free to speak to either Miss Docherty, Mrs O'Malley DHT Pupil Support ,or myself.

Mrs O'Malley and I have now completed our annual round of Primary School roadshow visits where we meet prospective S1 parents (current P7) and speak to them about life as part of the Johnstone High School community. These visits took place during September and are about to be rounded off with the P7 Open Night which will take place on 22nd October. My thanks in advance to Parent Council members supported us during these events, and whose children take part in helping showcase their skills and talents.

School Improvement Agenda

This session we have retained our two key priorities of health and wellbeing and learning and teaching and have added a third – raising attainment. These form the basis of our school improvement plan which can be viewed on the website, alongside our standards and qualities report for 2019/20. Of particular note is that, in line with national and local priorities,

we have prioritised attainment in Maths and numeracy. We have dedicated an additional period in S4 for attainment. My thanks to the parents who fed back to us with school improvement suggestions following the parent council meeting in May.

Maureen Sneddon, our Education Manager will be in school on three (formal) occasions this session to oversee our work. Maureen came into school on the 13th of September to speak to myself and the staff about our progress in terms of 'leadership of change' and 'wellbeing, inclusion and equality'. Our next meeting on 'attainment' is scheduled for the 13th of November.

Finally, I will be out of school 28-31st October on inspection duties with Education Scotlan (HMIE). This is a great opportunity to see good practice in other establishments and ensure that JHS is outward looking as we continue on our improvement journey.

Updates on building improvement

Over the summer holidays we embarked on a refresh of our Assembly Hall. This involved decoration, new stage curtains, new paneling and lighting. My hope is for a new space that is warm and welcoming and sets an appropriately professional tone for pupils, parents and visitors to the school.

In order to maintain the Assembly Hall post-refurbishment, the decision has been taken to allow only S4-6 to use it at interval and lunchtime. S1-3 are being encouraged to use the canteen, coffee shop and the outdoor seating area (weather dependent). More seats have been put into the canteen to accommodate the juniors, and the sofas in the coffee shop moved out to the S6 common room in order to fit in more standard seating.

Over the summer we also moved Learning Support into the Library and vice versa. This means that the Library is now situated in the heart of the English department and that Learning Support has a large, well utilized space. LS are able to zone off areas for art therapy, paired reading, ASDAN, and it also has a reduced sensory area for learners with who

require a quiet space.

The Art department have had new furniture in a couple of the classrooms.

As Place2Be finished up at JHS in June, we now have another meeting room available. Please note that Lifelink counselling will be offering a service to JHS pupils two days per week and we continue to utilise the services of our Home Link team and Miss Wilkie, PT Pastoral, who all have counselling qualifications and expertise.

The former RE classroom is in the process of being repurposed as an inclusion space, and the next door RE staff base is now our 'Reflection room', used as alternative to formal exclusion from school.

To Conclude

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 and Twitter feed, which we update regularly. Through these you will see the big events, school news updates, and also the everyday classroom experiences of our young people.

Best Wishes

Mrs Hollywood

Pupil Behaviour

in the School and Local Community

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 I hope parents are enjoying receiving monthly texts home congratulating pupils who have followed our new Relationships Policy (safe / ready / respectful).

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 Relationships Policy and in keeping with Renfrewshire Council guidance.

We work hard to support young people to make good choices and take responsibility when things go wrong – important life lessons, I'm sure you will agree. 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:

Appropriate use of mobile phones: only in 'green zones'.

Too many of our students are 'glued' to devices and headphones throughout the school day (I'm sure parents will recognise this one too!).

Respect towards staff in classes and corridors:

Doing as staff ask, following the one way system and being in the right place at the right time.

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.

Correct uniform:

Pupils should collect a slip from the office if they are not in correct uniform and parents will receive a text message to alert them.

Arrive at school on time:

Each morning pupils who are late sign in with myself or the DHTs. Far too many pupils are coming in late as they have 'slept in' or haven't been organised to get out of the house on time. Again, this is another important life lesson that we all need in the world of work.

I would ask for parental support to get pupils into school for 8.50am which is when lessons start. Thank you.

Finally, I am concerned by complaints I am receiving from local neighbours. A 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.

For many months we have been working alongside the Council's community safety team, the Team Up to Clean Up initiative (you may have seen photos from our community litter picks) and Community Police officers who are now maintaining more of a presence in the local area during school time. This is in addition to Mr Menzies DHT who is a visible presence in the local community at intervals and lunchtimes.

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 funded grounds project has made 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 in a polystyrene container.



Pupil Attendance

Attendance at school is essential to ensure that all our pupils reach their full potential and maximise their attainment. If your child is absent from school for any reason then you must phone the school before 9.30am to inform us of the reason for their absence and they should also bring in a note to the school office on the first day of their return to school. If your child's attendance falls below an acceptable level you will receive attendance letters, phone calls from their pastoral care teacher and you may be invited into the school for a meeting to discuss your child's attendance and how we can work together to improve it.

Timekeeping is an important life skill which prepares our young people for the world of work. To improve timekeeping and keep you informed of your child's timekeeping there is a late book every morning where the reason for lateness and time of arrival are recorded. If your child is repeatedly late then you will be contacted by your child's pastoral care teacher who may put them on a timekeeping card and if this does not improve the timekeeping you will be invited to school for a meeting to discuss how we can work together to improve their timekeeping. If a pupil is 10 minutes late each day this is the equivalent of missing a full lesson each week.

“
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The school phone
number is

0300 300 1331

If you need to contact the school you should always get in touch with your child's Pastoral Care teacher. You can do this by telephone or email:

The Pastoral Care teachers are:

Arran House S1-S4
Mr Rainey
email:
daniel.rainey@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Iona House S1,S2 & S4
Mrs Butler-Robson
email:
lauren.butler-robson@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Iona House S3
Miss Mullaney
email:
gw16mullaneyjennifer@glow.sch.uk

Mull House
Mrs Wilson
email:
claire.wilson@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Skye House
Mr Kennedy
email:
liam.kennedy@renfrewshire.gov.uk

All S5 & S6 pupils
Miss Wilkie
email:
eileen.wilkie@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Diary Dates

22/10/2019
P7 Open Evening

04/11/2019
Languages at Work Day

07/11/2019
S4 Parents' Evening

11 – 15/11/2019
Anti-Bullying Week

18/11/2019
Parent Council Meeting

18/11/2019
S2 Reports Issued
(Week Beginning)

26/11/2019
S5/S6 Parents' Evening

25-28/11/2019
Music Practical Exams

29/11-13/12 /2019
SQA Prelim Exams

02/12/2019
School Closed
St Andrew's Day Holiday

12/12/2019
Options Launch Evening

13/12/2019
Christmas Jumper Day

16/12/2019
S3 Reports Issued
(Week Beginning)

17/12/2019
Christmas Concert

19/12/2019
Non Uniform Day

20/12/2019
Christmas Service

20/12/2019
School Closes at
2:30 for Xmas Break

06/01/2020
School Re-Opens

14/01/2020
S2 Parents' Evening

16/01/2020
Careers Event

30/01/2020
S3 Parents' Evening

01/02/2019
S4, S5 & S6 Report Issued
(Week Beginning)

07/02/2020
School In-Service Day

10-11/02/2020
Mid Term Holiday School Closed

12/02/2020
School In-Service Day

24/02/2020
Parent Council Meeting

24/02/2020
Performance (Music)

This year we have had a massive uptake in Duke of Edinburgh with 61 S3 pupils taking part in the award which is fantastic! We are busy training and building our expedition skills on Wednesday afternoons and expedition dates for this year are already in the school calendar so keep those dates free. If anyone in S3 is struggling to find opportunities for the Physical, Skill or Volunteering part of the award come and speak to Mr Brooks ASAP.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH



Last year's bronze group had an exciting and eventful expedition season with all 26 pupils completing their qualifying expeditions around the Greenock cut, well done to everyone! Also, a group of S5 girls from the previous year, finally, got out on their qualifying expedition and endured the worst weather imaginable to complete their award so a special shout out to them for being absolute troopers.

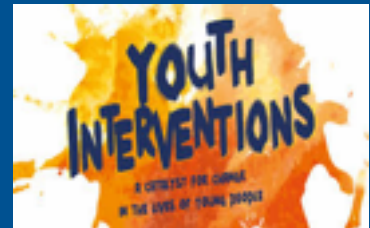
Six of last year's group have completed the rest of their sections and are ready to be presented with their certificates. If anyone in S4 still has evidence to upload please make sure it is done as soon as possible, Mr Brooks is available at any time for technical support.



HOUSE NEWS

The new Heads of Houses and Junior House Leaders have been selected for the new session. Each House is planning an event to raise funds for the nominated House charities this year.

The Arran Head of House is Megan Thomson and the Depute is Kirsten Jenkins and together with their Junior House Leaders, Ross Dingwall (S1), Islaybeth Ramsay (S2) and Kayleigh Speirs (S3), will organise an after-school quiz and pizza party for seniors and staff to raise money for their House Charity which is Youth Interventions.



The Iona Head of House is Eva Birchall and the Depute is Lucy Dempster and together with their Junior House Leaders, Logan Fletcher (S1), Zac Jeffrey (S2) and Breagh Phillips (S3), will organise an Inter-House Alternative Sports Day for S1-S3 to raise money for their charity, the Renfrewshire Foodbank.



The Mull Head of House is Lydia McReavy and the Depute is Andrew Boyce and together with their Junior House Leaders, Lizzie Ellerker (S1), Lauren Campbell (S2) and Ben Morrison (S3), will organise a Christmas disco for S2 and S3 to raise money for their House charity which is St Vincent's Hospice.



The Skye Head of House is Glory Izedome and the Depute is Olivia Duff and together with their Junior House Leaders, Del Fleming (S1), Jack McKellar (S2) and Rowan Stewart (S3), will organise a Valentine's Day disco for senior pupils to raise money for Skye's House charity which is Lisa's Gift.



SQA Attainment

Ms Cole

I spoke to you in the summer about how proud we were of all the efforts that our senior pupils made during the SQA exam diet to achieve the best possible results. We were delighted with the achievement of our pupils in a number of subject areas and the progress that many pupils made from the prelim exams to the final exams. Of exceptional note are the 7 pupils that achieved 7 A grades in their national 5 exams and the 8 pupils that achieved 6 A grades in their National 5 exams. At Higher more pupils than in the previous 3 years achieved 5 A-C grades in their higher exams with 3 pupils achieving 5 A grades and 8 pupils achieving 4 A grades. Fantastic achievements!

Outstanding National 5 results were seen in a number of departments where the percentage of pupils achieving an A-C pass was very high- PE (99%), Art (92%), Spanish (100%) and German (100%). Very strong performances were also seen in English, Woodwork, Fashion, Practical Cookery and Music Technology.

At Higher there were also a number of excellent results with the PE, French, Art, Admin and IT, Music, Spanish and Physics all performing verily strongly.

We continue to be delighted by the exceptional progress that the school is making in literacy with more S4 pupils achieving a level 5 in Literacy by the end of S4 this year than in previous years.

2019-2020

Whilst it may feel these exams are only just finished it is already time to start thinking about the year ahead. Our Prelim exam diet commences on Friday 29th November until Wednesday 18th December. This is a new time of year for our prelims which

normally take place after the winter break. However, there is now more pressure on schools to make earlier decisions about what level of exams pupils will sit in the final exams and so it is necessary to gather evidence sooner so that our decisions can be made with the most information possible.

The prelim timetable will be issued w/c 28th October. I have tried to reduce the number of exams which clash to an absolute minimum, however there may be some pupils for whom a slightly altered timetable will be needed to accommodate all their option exams. Pupils should come and see me before prelims start so we can arrange another date for clashing exams.

Accompanying the prelim timetable will be the JHS Prelim Exam Guide. This document outlines the content that each subject will cover in the prelim exam along with helpful hints and tips as well as advice on where pupils can seek extra help and advice if needed.

You will also have seen the controlled assessment and coursework calendar which has been published on the website and has been issued to all senior pupils. This will help you support your young person in their time planning which we hope will reduce their stress levels and allow them to complete all assessments to the best of their ability.

Exams are no doubt a stressful experience for many pupils, pastoral teachers should be made aware of any anxiety/mental health issues which may impact on exam performance as soon as possible so that appropriate supports can be put in place to minimise any distress the young person may feel on exam days.

I would also ask all parents and carers to please be aware of times/dates of exams and to be vigilant in making sure that their young person is on time for their exam (**ideally arriving 20 mins BEFORE exam start time**). Please also have frequent conversations about how much revision/practice is taking place in the lead up to exams. Pupils should be revising throughout the year, not trying to cram information over a couple of weeks.

Many of our young people, especially those sitting National 5 exams in 5th year (and particularly those re-sitting N5s) need to be proactive in approaching teachers for help and support. I would expect to see all pupils attending supported study sessions wherever available and whenever possible but this is particularly important for pupils who take longer to grasp the subject knowledge required at N5/Higher level.

If you have any queries or questions about SQA exams or qualifications please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Ms Cole

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EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS

Please sign up to at least one club

Monday

Film Club
When: Lunchtime
Where: Social Subjects class
Staff: Miss Montgomery/Miss Semple
Year Group: S1-3

LGBTQ Umbrella Club
When: Lunchtime
Where: English room 1

Staff: Miss McFadden/Miss Smith
Year Group: All

Percussion Club
When: Lunchtime
Where: Music Department
Staff: Mrs Davidson
Year group: All

Girls Football
When: After School
Where: PE Department

Staff: Active Schools Coordinator
Year Group: All

Dance
When: After School
Where: Dance Studio
Staff: Miss Ashmole
Year Group: S1-3

Tuesday

Crest Awards
When: Lunchtime
Where: Science classroom
Staff: Mr McGurk
Year Group: S1-2

BSL Club
When: Lunchtime
Where: Modern Languages classroom

Staff: Mrs Kilgour
Year Group: All

Netball
When: After School
Where: PE Department
Staff: Miss McIntosh & Miss Ashmole
Year Group: All girls

Junior Choir
When: Lunchtime
Where: Music Department
Staff: Miss McPherson
Year Group: S1-3

Senior Choir
When: Lunchtime
Where: Music Department
Staff: Mrs Davidson
Year Group: S4-6

String Group
When: Lunchtime
Where: Music Department
Staff: Instructors
Year group: for pupils receiving tuition

Wednesday

Fitness Club
When: Lunchtime
Where: Dance Studio
Staff: Mrs Smith
Year Group: All

Dodgeball
When: Lunchtime
Where: PE Department
Staff: Mr Murray
Year Group: S1-3

BSL Club
When: Lunchtime
Where: Modern Languages classroom
Staff: Mrs Kilgour
Year Group: All

Puzzle Club
When: Lunchtime
Where: Mrs Grose's classroom (Maths)
Staff: Mrs Grose
Year Group: S1-2

Trampolining
When: After School
Where: PE Department
Staff: Miss Ashmole
Year Group: All

Film Club
When: Lunchtime
Where: Modern Languages classroom
Staff: Mrs Kilgour
Year Group: All

Thursday

Sci-fi/Fantasy Club
When: Lunchtime
Where: English room 3
Staff: Miss Gribben
Year Group: All

Instrumental Group
When: Lunchtime
Where: Music Department
Staff: Miss McPherson
Year: S1-2

Volleyball
When: Lunchtime
Where: PE Department

Staff: Mr Merriman
Year Group: S1-3

Hockey
When: After School
Where: Astro
Staff: Mr Scholefield
Year Group: All

Friday

Creative Writing club
When: Lunchtime
Where: English room 3
Staff: Miss Gribben
Year Group: All

Glee Club
When: Lunchtime
Where: Music Department
Staff: Miss McPherson
Year Group: S1-6

Futsal
When: Lunchtime
Where: PE Department
Staff: Mr Stevenson
Year Group: S1-2

Guitar Club
When: Lunchtime
Where: Science lab 1
Staff: Mr McKenzie
Year Group: All

Badminton Club
When: Lunchtime
Where: PE Department

Staff: Mrs Wightman
Year Group: All

Board Games Club
When: After School
Where: Technical room 1
Staff: Mr McGurk
Year Group: All

Running Club
When: After School
Where: PE Department
Staff: Mr Murray
Year Group: All

Wider Community Opportunities

Monday

RAF Air Cadets
When: 7.15pm to 9.30pm
Where: 1701 (Johnstone)
Sqn Canal Road
Further Info: contact 01505 335331
www.raf.mod.uk/aircadets

Houston Hornets Basketball
When: 6pm – 8pm
Where: Gryffe High School
Further info: S1 and S2 only
www.bballpaisley.co.uk/people/houston-hornets/

Tuesday

Clyde Judo Club
When: 7pm
Where: Park Mains High School
Further info: www.clydejudo.org.uk

Wednesday

Japan Karate Academy
When: 7pm-8pm
Where: Johnstone Community Sports Hub
Further info: First lesson free
senseclair@btconnect.com

Japan Karate – female only session
When: 8pm-9pm
Where: Johnstone Community Sports Hub
Further info: First lesson free
senseclair@btconnect.com

Paisley Sea Cadets
When: 7pm – 9.30pm
Where: Brediland Community Centre, Paisley
Further info: www.sea-cadets.org/paisley/parade-times

RAF Air Cadets
When: 7.15pm to 9.30pm
Where: 1701 (Johnstone) Sqn, Canal Road
Further Info: contact 01505 335331

www.raf.mod.uk/aircadets

Thursday

Boys Brigade
When: 7pm – 10pm
Where: Johnstone High Parish Church
Further info: contact John McMillan
01505 342 725

Friday

1st 3rd Johnstone Scouts
When: 7pm – 9pm
Where: Scout Hall, Campbell Street, Johnstone
Further info: Age 10-14

Clyde Judo Club
When: 7pm
Where: The Powerhouse, Bishopton Scout Hall
Further info: www.clydejudo.org.uk

Paisley Sea Cadets
When: 7pm – 9.30pm
Where: Brediland Community Centre, Paisley
Further info: www.sea-cadets.org/paisley/parade-times

Weekend

Linwood Parkrun (5k)
When: Saturday 9.30am
Where: On X Linwood
Further info: www.parkrun.org.uk/linwood/course/

Junior Parkrun (2k)
When: Sunday 9.30am
Where: Barshaw Park
Further info: www.parkrun.org.uk/barshaw-juniors/

Castle Semple Sailing Club
When: Sunday 9.30am-12pm
Where: Castle Semple Loch, Lochwinnoch

Further info: April to October only,
www.castlesemplesc.co.uk

Braehead Rockers Curling
When: Sunday 12pm-2.20pm
Where: INTU Braehead
Further info: www.curlbraehead.co.uk/the-rockers.html

Other Opportunities Available

PACE
PACE climb – S1 and S2
Choose one (subject to availability)
A Saturday 11.15 – 12.45
Wynd Auditorium

B Saturday 13.15 – 14.45
Wynd Auditorium

C Saturday 15.15 – 16.45
Spires Studios

D Thursday 17.30 – 19.00
Wynd Auditorium

PACE Soar – S3 and S4

Choose one (subject to availability)

A Saturday 13.15 – 15.55
Spires Studio 2

A Thursday 11.15 – 12.45
Wynd Auditorium

PACE Beyond – S5 and S6

Thursday 18.30 – 20.30
Wynd Auditorium

Further info: Call 0345 1305218 /
www.pacetheatre.com

Johnstone Jets Youth Cycling
Further info

http://facebook.com/pg/JohnstoneJetsCycling/about/?ref=page_internal

<https://www.johnstone-wheelers.co.uk/johnstone-jets>

ACTIVE SCHOOLS





ACTIVE SCHOOLS

It has been a busy start to the school year for our Active Schools Team of Amy Coultie and Jamie Forrest, who have settled in well. As well as working with several primary schools in the Johnstone Cluster, Amy and Jamie have had lots going on in Johnstone High so far.

The selection of the Young Ambassadors was one of the first things to complete, and after a tough interview process, Rebecca Adams and Harry Orr were successful. A Young Ambassador has key roles in promoting sport and motivating and inspiring other young people to get involved in sport in a wide range of settings within their local communities, including schools, clubs and community organisations to influence numerous key aspects of school sport. They have already had their first taste of representing the school by opening the Primary Schools Netball League that took place in Johnstone High at the start of October. Other things the YA's will do include the formation of a School Sports Council. This council will have a significant say on sporting aspects within school.

Renfrewshire School of Sport and Education is underway for another year and there are eight students from Johnstone High taking part in this high-quality course. RSSE runs through until graduation in April 2020 and between now and then the candidates will gain several awards

including First Aid, Child Protection, TOPS Training, and numerous National Governing Body awards in a variety of sports. The candidates also complete a placement as part of the course, where they will deliver sports sessions in the local community. There is a selection process to this and the calibre of candidates was extremely high this year. It was a very difficult task to select these students, so Emma Kinnear, Kieran Munro, Lewis MacPherson, Lucy Dempster, Nicole Christine, Poppy Armstrong, Rachael Nisbet and Harry Orr should all be extremely proud that they managed to gain a place in this prestigious course.

There have been a few Active Schools events that have already taken place this school term and Johnstone High have been represented very well. The events include the Secondary Road Race, S5-6 Badminton Championships, the Secondary Girls Football League, and the Senior Volleyball League. The standard of ability, teamwork, and most importantly the behaviour and sportsmanship shown by all Johnstone High students, have all been extremely high, and we hope this continues in future events taking place throughout the school year.

Active Schools had a spot at the recent Freshers Fayre, and this gave the team the opportunity to talk to students about what Active Schools

is all about, and how students can get involved with Active Schools in various ways. Including participating in events and volunteering at many Active School run sessions across the local and wider community.

Finally, Amy and Jamie worked closely alongside the PE department in applying for funding from the Celebrating Renfrewshire Fund to allow us to have two SFA Early Touches coaching awards delivered to senior pupils. Once the students complete these coaching awards, they would be able to deliver some football sessions in the school community and provide more chances for young people to participate in sport. And we are happy to let you know that the funding application was successful!

Amy and Jamie are looking forward to the rest of the school year and hopefully making more positive sporting impacts in school. Their door is always open and they always welcome students in to their office to catch up with what's going on in Active Schools! Here's to a great sporting year!

LANGUAGES DAY



On Thursday 26th of September 2019, we held an assembly for all S1 to celebrate the European Day of Languages. This is a day to reflect on the thousands of languages from all over the world that are spoken in Europe today.

We got all S1 together to take part in activities that explored these different languages, and had some fun while we were at it! The pupils took funny photos, they tried writing some Bengali, they danced in German with our German assistant Svenja (Welcome Svenja!), and they learned a few random phrases along the way!

“ I really enjoyed the assembly because we thought about all the different languages in Europe

Lewis ”

“ Svenja is really nice. It's great to meet people from other countries, and I loved her silly dances!

Connor ”



LEARN SOME NEW WORDS

<i>Schmetterling</i>	German	Butterfly
<i>Merhaban!</i>	Arabic	Hello
<i>Jambo!</i>	Swahili	Hello
<i>Dedos do pe</i>	Portuguese	Toes (lit: foot fingers)
<i>Montaña rusa</i>	Spanish	Rollercoaster (lit: Russian mountain)
<i>Stofzuiger</i>	Dutch	Hoover (lit: dust sucker)
<i>Joulupukki</i>	Finnish	Santa Claus (lit: Christmas goat)
<i>Dian nao</i>	Mandarin	Computer (lit: electric brain)



MATHS WEEK

Mrs Colford

Johnstone High School once again were the worthy winners of the Renfrewshire Enterprising Maths Competition. They will now go on to compete in the finals nationally.



Johnstone High celebrated Maths Week in style with a jam packed agenda.

Our S1 to S3 pupils enjoyed a variety of house group activities in the hall.

The atmosphere was electric as they battled against one another in a variety of competitions such as The Chase, Tenable, Pointless and Tipping Point, maths style. Pupils enjoyed choosing a teacher to help with their team as they battled it out to win. A big well done to Arran and Mull houses who were joint winners of these events.

Countdown

The pupils were outstanding throughout, particularly when it came to countdown.

Pupils enjoyed sharing their strategies and techniques with the rest of the year group and we ended up having a

countdown competition with over 800 pupils throughout the day including our P7's from the cluster. It has to be said that the skills of our P7 and S1 were particularly impressive.

P7 Visit

Almost 200 P7's arrived in Johnstone High to take part in a maths activity organised by our transition teachers. The pupils worked in groups with senior pupils to solve a variety of maths challenges. They also took part in the countdown competition and finished their visit with a Maths Karaoke Slosh.

Maths Competition

The departments across the school took part in a maths competition related to real life. Pupils were also encouraged to write their own newspaper article involving numeracy.

Enterprising Maths Competition

It's a Hat Trick!!

Johnstone High School once again were the worthy winners of the Renfrewshire Enterprising Maths Competition. They will now go on to compete in the finals nationally. Well done to our S4 pupils, Cameron Payne and Ewan Walker and well done to our S3 pupils, Hannah Ramsay and Joshua MacMillan. You have done us proud.



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

Our first meeting of the new session was held on Mon 9th September. It was a well attended meeting where a full and varied agenda was discussed by members, as well as several parents who came along on the night. Five new parent members, representing four of our associated primary schools, are joining the Parent Council at our next meeting in November. We were pleased to have Ms Cole (Acting DHT) attend the meeting to share a preliminary overview of this year's school SQA results. A more detailed analysis from Insight will be available at our November meeting, once all the data has been fully collated. Initial indications from Insight suggest a positive year on year improvement in many areas, which is very encouraging. Miss Brown (PT Nurture) delivered an informative presentation on the school's new 'Relationship Policy' which was introduced in August. She explained that creating an environment of positive relationships, exemplary behaviour and embedding nurturing approaches will be key priorities

for our school going forward.

Several Parent Council members recently assisted Mrs Hollywood and her management team at this year's P7 school roadshows. Many thanks to those parent members who kindly presented at the roadshow meetings, highlighting the role of the Parent Council at Johnstone High School.

The Parent Council has held numerous fundraising events in recent years, the proceeds of which are reinvested in the school. Most recently this took the form of a £4,000 donation to purchase additional learning and teaching resources. Departments will receive resources such as text books, class novels and materials purchased by school. The school were absolutely thrilled to receive this donation and the Parent Council agreed unanimously that they were delighted to be able to support the school in this way.

It's Christmas Craft Fayre time!

Wednesday 27th November
6pm-8pm

Come along and join in the festivities. Kick off your Christmas shopping in style at our annual Christmas Craft Fayre. Browse a range of fabulous craft stalls and enjoy a great performance from the school choir with a collection of Christmas festive songs. Tombola and raffle donations for the Christmas Craft Fayre will be collected in November. Look out for Christmas Craft Fayre texts.

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 on the school website.

Diane Spence,
Chair
Parent Council

NEW STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

Meet the new members of our team

Sarah Semple

I started my teaching career as a probationer in Johnstone High School and am delighted to be back after spending a year teaching Geography at all levels at Park Mains High School in Erskine. It has been a pleasure getting reacquainted with both staff and pupils, as well as meeting new faces and re-establishing myself within the school.

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, involving a whole host of different skills and activities, along with establishing an Eco-Committee and Eco-Club to better the school surroundings and work alongside our community to teach about important issues, and improve our environment.

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.

David Glen

I joined Johnstone High School in August at the start of the new term, teaching physics and chemistry. The department here at JHS have been incredibly supportive and welcoming of me – it feels like joining a big team! I'm looking forward to the challenge ahead, and really getting involved in the life of the school.

Last year I spent my probationary period teaching physics and science at Earlston High School in the Scottish Borders; having been involved in learning at teaching at all levels across the curriculum, I'm excited for the new experience with the young people here at Johnstone High.

Prior to this, I completed my PGDE (Secondary) in physics & science at the University of Strathclyde, and I also hold an MSci in physics from the University of Glasgow. At the moment I am also carrying out an MEd in professional practice at Strathclyde, with a particular interest in inclusive practice in science education.

I am very much looking forward to my time at Johnstone High School, and look forward to helping the young people here achieve their best.

Annie Smith

I am absolutely thrilled to be joining the Social Subjects and RME department in Johnstone High School this year. My first few months teaching Religious and Moral Education to S1-S4 have been fantastic. I was so pleased to discover that the pupils and staff in JHS are very enthusiastic, friendly and great fun!

I am very passionate about RME and I am hoping to ignite this passion inside pupils too. In RME, it is my aim not only to teach about different religious practices, traditions and various moral issues, but I also aim to ensure pupils understand the importance of respect and tolerance, qualities which we definitely need more of in today's world. I am positive that the pupils of JHS will enjoy learning about the way in which religion, moral values and ethics affects the lives of people around the globe. As well as my work in the classroom I am also helping to run the Umbrella Club on Monday lunchtimes, again, hoping to instil a sense of respect for all.

If the first two months are anything to go by then I am confident we are going to have a bright and brilliant future in RME at Johnstone High School!

NEW STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

Meet the new members of our team

Courtney Vernal

I started as a Business Studies teacher in Johnstone High School in August and have been made to feel very welcome by both staff and pupils. It has been a very busy few months for me trying to get settled in however I am very excited to see what the future holds for me at Johnstone High School.

Prior to starting in Johnstone High School I completed my probationary year at Clydeview Academy in Inverclyde and enjoyed the experience immensely. During my time at Clydeview Academy I took responsibility for leading the Young Enterprise Team which was a very enjoyable process for both myself and the pupils involved, I am hopeful that I will have another successful year working with the fantastic Young Enterprise Team that we have this year.

As a pupil in school Business Management was my favourite subject, learning about what was going on in the real business world around me fascinated me. Hearing about people taking risks, being determined and working hard being successful inspired me. I always fancied myself as a bit of entrepreneur, the next Alan Sugar and who knows maybe someday I will be. However for now I am committed to inspiring young people and sparking that same interest I had in the business world for as many pupils as I possibly can at Johnstone High School.

Amy McFadden

I am overjoyed to have taken a permanent position within Johnstone High's English Department. I have loved my first few months at Johnstone High and have found every member of the school community to be fun, friendly, and approachable. I hope to instil an enthusiasm for English in as many pupils as possible. I am passionate about creating a safe and comfortable learning environment for all and to show pupils that English can be fun!

I am so excited to develop relationships with the wonderful pupils at Johnstone High in order for them to flourish not only in my subject area but in all aspects of life. I am keen to help any pupil in any way that I can achieve their full potential. As well as teaching English I co-run the Umbrella Club and look forward to developing inclusion of the LGBTQ+ community throughout the school this year. I want pupils to feel supported and respected at all times in their educational journey and aspire to create a generation of young people who are truly representative of the goodness in the world. My classroom door is always open (literally) so feel free to come round and visit whenever.

I am so excited for what is to come in my career at Johnstone High and am already blown away by the exceptional pupils I see on a daily basis.

NQT BIOGRAPHIES

Meet our newly qualified teachers

Tom Murray

Working at Johnstone High this year is especially exciting for me as it is my first teaching job after graduating from The University of Edinburgh in the summer. I am excited to be working with a great department and being part of as many things going on in the school as I can.

I had never saw myself doing anything else other than PE teaching for as long as I can remember. In school, I was taught by some great teachers and passing on my passion for sport and physical activity to everybody is a pretty good thing to call my job.

As a PE teacher, I love all sports and I am a big advocate in helping people integrate all types of physical activity into their daily lives. Outside of school, I have competed nationally within athletics and enjoy cycling, running and hillwalking to keep fit.

Thank you for the warm welcome I have received from pupils and staff in my first couple of months. I am really looking forward to being part of the Johnstone High Community.

Rose Ashmole

Joining the staff at Johnstone High has been an exciting venture so far! Firstly, thank-you all for being so welcoming as I start my NQT year as a PE teacher, I appreciate the help and guidance already given by staff members throughout the school. I was initially inspired to become a PE teacher during my 3rd year of my undergraduate degree while studying abroad in Malta, from then I decided to apply for the PGDE course to become a qualified PE teacher. Having studied at Strathclyde for my undergraduate and postgraduate degree it's nice to finally put my 5 years' worth of knowledge into practice!

It hard to select my favourite activities however I've played netball and tennis since primary school and always enjoyed team games. Having been involved in a range of sports from youth I was able to personally experience the endless benefits sport and exercise provide both physically and mentally. I hope to spread my passion for activity to everyone at Johnstone High!

Kirsty Montgomery

I joined Johnstone High School as both a History and Modern Studies teacher at the start of term in August. I am thoroughly enjoying my time here so far and have been welcomed by both pupils and staff. It has been a pleasure getting to know and work with the pupils of Johnstone High School.

Prior to starting at Johnstone High as a NQT I completed my MA Hons degree in History and Politics at the University of Edinburgh. I then completed my postgraduate teacher training at Strathclyde University. I want my passion for my subjects to be seen by the pupils and to share in all that History and Modern Studies have to offer.

I like to get involved in whole school and extra-curricular activities. At present, I run a Film Club for S1-S3. This allows me to establish my positive relationships with pupils by getting to know them in a different environment. Film club offers pupils a safe and welcoming environment to come and eat their lunch, be with friends and watch some movies. I hope to be involved in a lot more of wider school activities in the future.

I look forward to continuing to get to know the pupils and being part of the Johnstone High community, working alongside my department to deliver a fun an engaging curriculum.

COLUMBA 1400 UPDATE



On return to school after the summer holidays, our S4 and S5 Columba 1400 Values Ambassadors had been working very hard to plan and run another successful Values Week - 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 Determination team challenges – 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 and S5 Columba Ambassadors. This was a fantastic event enjoyed by all with special thanks to our resident DJ Mrs Colford. The S4 and S5 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! In addition to this, 5 of our Columba Ambassadors were invited to the Scottish Learning Festival in the SECC to help out at the Columba 1400 stall and speak to teachers from all over the country about their experience. You all did an amazing job representing the school and the Columba 1400 organisation – well done!



PARENTS IN PARTNERSHIP

The Parents in Partnership programme for our new S1 finished in June, with fantastic feedback gained from the parents involved. Parents stated that it helped to relieve some of the concerns they had over their child coming to secondary school and were very complimentary about the “enthusiastic staff” in Johnstone High delivering the sessions.

Our S2 PIP parents have also

been busy and at the latest reconnect session, shared ideas on what they would like to get involved with during this session. Suggestions have included Heartstart training, Makaton, Christmas crafts and cooking on a budget.

In addition to the PIP Programme, we have recently been delivering Maths homework support sessions to some of our S1 parents. The purpose of these being to give parents some practical

advice on how to help their child with homework in S1 and S2. The sessions run by our Transition Teachers; Miss Cameron and Mrs Haining and Maths teacher Miss McLachlan have so far included topics such as fractions, decimals, percentages and equations. We are keen to get more parents involved in the life of Johnstone High School so if any parents have any suggestions, please do get in touch.

EMPLOYABILITY UPDATE

Mrs Carlin

Ensuring positive outcomes for all learners by developing the skills they to compete in the modern world.



Chamber of Commerce Business Lunch

In August, Johnstone High were delighted to be invited to the Chamber of Commerce Business Lunch at the Holiday Inn, Glasgow Airport. Harry Pittaway, Daren Young, Harry Orr and James Orr had the opportunity to hear about the exciting opportunities within the local construction industry and received careers advice from industry leaders. All of the S6 pupils were positive about their experience and welcomed the opportunity to develop their communication and employability skills. The focus of the lunch was the expanding construction industry within Renfrewshire and the CEO of Morrisons Construction delivered the Key Note speech, which outlined the amazing future opportunities within this sector.

My Future Pathway – Construction

In September, six Johnstone High pupils secured a place on Renfrewshire Councils flagship “My Future Pathway- Construction Course”. Having identified construction as a career option, our pupils will be working within a group of 12 pupils from across Renfrewshire Secondary schools. Pupils will experience industry based learning opportunities such as taster days, employability workshops, site visits and CSCS card testing (required certification to get on a construction site). Upon successful completion of the programme, pupils will receive a 5-year labouring CSCS card, SVQ Level 1 Health and Safety in Construction Environment and will be put forward for on-site work placements with a local construction company. This opportunity will equip our pupils with the skills they need to enter the Construction Industry on

leaving school, and provide highly motivated individuals to the local economy. This pathway has proved successful for past pupil Liam Mc-Namee, who was invited to speak to interested pupils about his journey. Liam has secured an Modern Apprenticeship with Engie Construction after successful completion of last year’s cohort of My Future Pathway.

WORLD CHALLENGE

Mr McGivern

Passing the baton
from India to Bolivia



Every other year, a new school term means that one World Challenge expedition has come to a conclusion with the in country experience while another expedition gets ready to launch.

This summer our 23 intrepid challengers had an absolutely outstanding time in India – “the best experience of my life, without a doubt” and made a great impression on the many people they came into contact with through their project, trek and rest and relaxation phase.

The teams were busy from day 1 with a shared 21 hour white knuckle bus journey all the way to the Himalayas before a parting of the ways as they headed to their respective schools in Manali, where they would be based for a week. Lots of painting (including some fine art from Mr Johnston) in classrooms and corridors and demanding construction tasks left both schools looking spruce with staff

and pupils delighted and a lot of new friends made.

It was then time to head to the proper mountains for the very challenging treks with some really hard days being rewarded by incredible views of Deo Tibba, Indrasan and numerous other snow-capped mountains all around. Many challengers found the going tough in the snow, but everyone was delighted to have climbed to reach their own summits.

The last week saw the very cold nights in tents among the snow fade in the memory as the crazy 43 degree heat in beautiful places like Jaipur and the Amber Fort hit home hard. Fittingly the trip ended with a visit to the awe inspiring Taj Mahal. A never to be forgotten experience for our challengers who conducted themselves throughout in an exemplary manner. A credit to their school, their families and themselves.

The baton now passes to Team Bolivia. Currently, there are 33 challengers signed up for this expedition which would make it the biggest expedition in terms of numbers that the school has embarked on. Bolivia may seem a long way away in terms of miles and the time till departure (June 2021), but the team are excited and embracing the challenges of bonding and fundraising.

Why not get involved in the fundraising by supporting the team through EasyFundraising?

This has allowed us to raise £3500 since the first expedition to Nepal back in 2013, simply by having people shop online with their usual retailers and going through the Easyfundraising website. Have a look and join up to support the cause below:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/jhswc/>







ECO COMMITTEE

Thinking Globally, Acting Locally.



Johnstone High School's very own Eco-Committee has a team of dedicated Seniors who are interested in helping better not only the school environment, but also the local community. They have already taken part in litter picks and meeting about what they aim to do this year to reduce litter around the school, better the environment for their fellow pupils and make links within their community to spread the word about environmental issues. With many more planned actions to take place after the October week please keep your eyes peeled about the school for ways to help our committee make our school a more eco-friendly environment and feel free to take part and join in with our upcoming events.

We have more litter picks, documentary viewings and recycling events planned at our Eco-club come October!

Senior Litter Pick

The first of hopefully many senior litter picks tackled the back path behind the school, with a fantastic turn out of volunteers and a very successful haul.

S1 Litter Pick

Our first junior school litter pick was also a success, with many keen S1's taking part to make their school grounds less polluted and improve the environmental quality for their fellow pupils.



LGBTQ+ & THE UMBRELLA CLUB

In order for positive developments to take place we all have to support each other.

This year Johnstone High School are undertaking the LGBTQ+ Youth Scotland Bronze Charter. This is an award given to schools which demonstrate outstanding inclusion and support for all LGBTQ+ issues. We are so excited about this coming year and the opportunity to develop a positive change for our young people, as well as promoting respect for all across our school community.

The Umbrella Club, facilitated by Miss McFadden and Miss Smith, are at the forefront of JHS achieving the charter. We have lots of interesting and fun activities planned for the year to ensure we are raising awareness of the issues faced by many people in the LGBTQ+ community. The group are planning to increase their visibility throughout the school by organising various events and activities to make sure all pupils are knowledgeable about these issues and are aware about the importance of respect and kindness.

After an extremely successful Freshers Fayre, we were blown away by the amount of support and interest the club received. Both Miss McFadden and Miss Smith are excited about what's to come this year and cannot wait to work with our passionate young people to make the world a better place! The club is very welcoming and our doors are always open to new members willing to offer their support. In order for positive developments to take place we all have to support each other. If anyone is

interested in finding out more, please speak to Miss McFadden or Miss Smith, or feel free to pop along to the club who meet during Monday lunch-times in English room 1 – we hope to see you there!



FOOTBALL ROUNDUP

The U14's have made an excellent start to the season. They have won all of their games, 13-0 vs. Renfrew, 9-1 vs. St Ninians B and 4-3 vs. Paisley Grammar. Leon McDevitt has scored a remarkable 9 goals over the 3 games, and Brandon Forbes has 8. The boys are keen to maintain their 100% record as they move forward to face Paisley Grammar again in the Scottish Cup after the October break.

The U16's have made a solid start to their campaign. They drew 0-0 with Clydeview Academy in difficult conditions, in what turned out to be an extremely tough battle. They then travelled to Erskine and defeated Park Mains 2-1 thanks to a brace from Allan McCrorie. The boys have been a credit to themselves so far and are looking to build on their positive start after the October break.

The U18's have made a disappointing start to their campaign. They lost their opening league game 3-1 away to St Ninians a game that they led for the majority. In the Scottish Cup vs. Hyndland, the boys threw away a 3-goal advantage to eventually lose on penalties. There have been definite positives in both performances, and the boys are hopeful for success in the league campaign.

RELATIONSHIP POLICY UPDATE

At the start of this term, our new Relationship Policy was launched. Replacing our Promoting Positive Behaviour, our Relationship Policy has a clear focus on improving relationships and embedding Nurturing approaches across the school. The policy was developed by a working group of staff over the last year, with contributions from learners through learner focus groups.

Here are some of the key features of the new policy:

Code of Conduct:

A "Code of Conduct" has been introduced with three key concepts: 'Safe', 'Ready' and 'Respectful'. All learners and staff are expected to be 'Safe in our behaviour', 'Ready to learn' and 'Respectful of everyone'. Learners have identified what being 'Safe', 'Ready' and 'Respectful' looks like in Johnstone High and these concepts are now displayed across the school and referred to in conversations around conduct.

Mobile phone zones:

Designated 'Green Zones' (where mobile phones can be used) and 'Red Zones' (where mobile phones cannot be used) have been introduced across the school. Signs are displayed in classrooms and across the school highlighting these zones.

Meet and greet: The Head Teacher and staff volunteers now "Meet and Greet" learners at the main entrances into school in the morning. This is ensuring a welcoming and orderly entry to the school, while helping to build positive relationships with learners. In addition, learners are also greeted at their classroom doors by their teachers. Staff and pupil feedback on the introduction of the Meet and Greet has been overwhelmingly positive.

Uniform: The policy has a clear focus on all pupils wearing appropriate uniform every day. To support with this we have introduced a system where learners without appropriate school uniform are asked to collect a slip from the school office at the start of Period 1. This slip is then presented to teachers at the start of each period throughout the day. Information on learners who present without appropriate uniform is recorded by office staff, a text message is sent home and the information is passed on to the Pastoral Team.

Restorative approach: It is widely recognised that restorative approaches offer a powerful approach to promoting positive relationships and can lead to the successful resolution of any conflict. Restorative approaches permeate throughout the policy, key principles

of restorative approaches have been introduced and in September all staff attended a Restorative Approaches training session.

Celebrating appropriate behaviour:

We have refreshed our approaches and resources to celebrate appropriate behaviour across the school. At the end of every month, learners who receive no more than one demerit throughout that month receive a recognising positive behaviour text home. So far, more than 900 learners have received this text message each month. In addition, learners who receive no more than three demerits per term will also achieve a recognising positive behaviour certificate. To recognise excellent attendance, text messages will also be sent home at the end of each term to the parents and carers of learners who have more than 97% attendance.

Next steps

The policy will continue to be implemented throughout the next term. This will involve further staff training and staff focus groups to discuss strengths of the policy and areas to continue to develop. Learners will also be involved in learner focus groups to discuss their thoughts on the implementation of the policy since it's introduction.

ART DEPARTMENT NEWS

Mr Shepherd

Senior pupils have recently benefitted from talks by visiting designers. Ryan Hughes, a former pupil and now a graduate from Glasgow School of Art's Fashion and Textile course delivered a presentation about his work and experiences throughout his undergraduate training and since leaving art school. Ryan has worked in a design capacity with a leather company in Bridge of Weir and with McLaren cars and is currently completing his Masters Degree at the Royal College in London.

The pupils were keen to see and hear about real-world applications for the skills they have been taught in sec-

ondary school. They enjoyed seeing Ryan's work which included design concepts for fashion collections, leather samples and sketchbooks.

The Advanced Higher class were recently visited by Lisa McGovern from City of Glasgow College Faculty of Design. Lisa came to the school to talk to the pupils about the courses they have to offer within the faculty and brought samples of student work from the jewellery design course. The pupils were very grateful for her input and as a department we intend to build stronger links with the college. We hope to have Photography students from CoGC working with both

our Higher and NPA classes in the near future.

YOUNG ENTERPRISE

Young Enterprise is back at Johnstone High and an enthusiastic group of S6s are ready to take the business world by storm. With the recent global focus on reducing plastic consumption in mind this year's team have spotted a gap in the market and are exploring products made from bamboo instead of plastic. Bamboo is much more eco-friendly and they are currently exploring the various products they could sell made from this material.

The team ran a coffee morning for staff in the school on the October in-service day and have successfully raised over £170 which is their much

needed start-up capital to launch their business. We want to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for their support in helping us raise an amazing amount of money to kick start our business adventure. No doubt you will be seeing our budding entrepreneurs promoting their business further in the future and look out for more information about our upcoming product range.

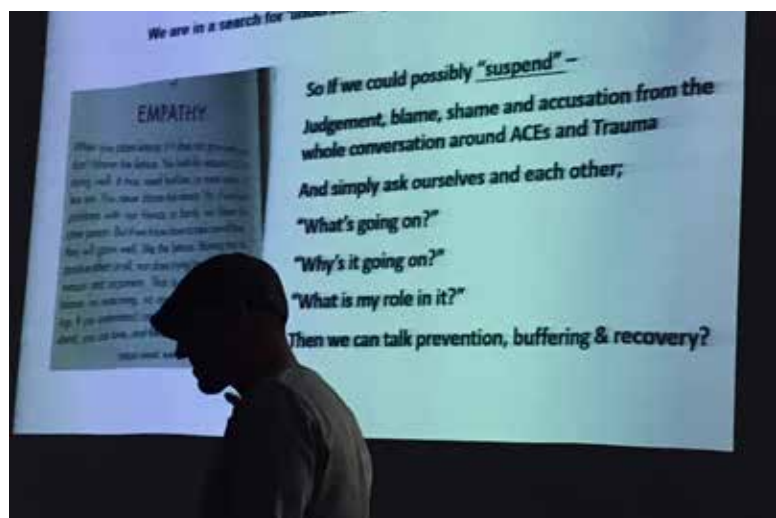


Nurturing and Keeping our children safe



On Wednesday 18th September, we were delighted to have James Docherty in to present to parents along with parents from our seven cluster primaries for our Nurturing and Keeping Children safe event. James is a Development Officer within the Violence Reduction Unit. He has previously worked on various VRU projects mentoring people with convictions seeking to re-create their lives and supporting change. James has lived experience of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) and he advocates strongly for change and awareness in how we address the hidden cost of ACE's in our schools and in society. James told his real life story filled with hope, which spreads the message that positive relationships need to be at the centre of every child's life. James' story is inspirational and there was not a dry in the house. He reaffirms our commitment to relationships being at the heart of learning in Johnstone High school.

Our World Challenge Bolivia team provided the hospitality on the night with a wonderful spread, helping to raise money for their World Challenge expedition to Bolivia.



PE SUCCESS

Mr Merrimen



Paisley and District Football Squads

Four of our pupils have been selected to represent the Paisley and District Football Squads this season at different age groups following a rigorous selection process. They are as follows:

U15 – Kyle Aitken (Goalkeeper)

U18 – Harry Pittaway (Centre Back)

U18 – Ben Lauchlan (Centre Back)

U18 – Lloyd Wilkie (Midfielder/Forward)

Well done boys and good luck for the tournament this season!

Renfrewshire Road Race

On Tuesday 24th September, 25 athletes in total represented the school in the Renfrewshire Road Race at the ON-X Linwood. There were both individual and team competitions. The results are below:

Individual Medals

Molly-Rose McLaughlin – S1 girls 1st

Emily Gorman – S3 girls 2nd

Ailsa Carrigan – S3 girls 3rd

Matthew New – S3 boys 1st

Colin Arthur – S3 boys 2nd

Team Medals

S1 girls – 1st (Molly-Rose McLaughlin, Mikaela Hughes, Lauren McMil-

lian, Sophie Henderson, Gabriella Whyte, Casey Elliot, Codie Gemmell)

S3 boys – 3rd (Matthew New, Colin Arthur, Olly Peacock, Scott Kearney)

S3 girls – 1st (Emily Gorman, Ailsa Carrigan, Isla Skelton, Hannah Ramsay, Grace Harron, Breagha Phillips)

Other Notable Results

Andrew Shorts – S1 boys 4th

Sophie Henderson – S1 girls 5th

Gabriella Whyte – S1 girls 6th

Daniel McGowan – S2 boys 8th

A great effort by all athletes whose behaviour, attitude and commitment was exemplary. Well done!



S6 LEADERS INTERVIEWS

Meet our new S6 Leadership team



Erin Corner

Position Head Girl

Howwood Primary School

After JHS I want to go to university to study sports science or broadcast journalism.

Piece of advice for S1

Say yes to every opportunity and don't get caught up in worrying. Never leave anything to last minute. Get involved in as many opportunities as possible.

What are you looking forward to about S6? Spending my last year with my close friends, make some amazing memories and have fun.



Tom Reid

Position Head Boy

Lochwinnoch Primary School

After JHS I want to go to university to study Biomedical Science which will help me complete further study to be a dentist.

Piece of advice for S1

Give maximum effort at all times and enjoy. You're only in high school once so make the most of it and get involved in as many opportunities as possible.

What are you looking forward to about S6? Coming together as a year group and make the Class of 202 a year to remember.

Mabel Wylie

Position Depute Head Girl

Kilbarchan Primary School

After JHS I want to study Maths and/or Finance at university

Piece of advice for S1

Enjoy the new experiences and take any opportunities you can get. This will help you discover what you enjoy and what you don't as well and will get you talking to new people.

What are you looking forward to about S6?

Bonding as a year group and taking part in as many events as I can.

Paulina Burke

Position Depute Head Girl

Howwood Primary School

After JHS I want to study languages at university

Piece of advice for S1

Get involved more in school and try to be outgoing

What are you looking forward to about S6?

The opportunities that will come up during the year and bonding as a year group.

S6 LEADERS INTERVIEWS

Meet our new S6 Prefects

Lucy Jeffrey

Position Depute Head Girl

Thorn Primary School

After JHS I want to go to university to study Spanish and either theatre or history

Piece of advice for S1

Try to make as many friend as possible and as many positive relationships within your year group.

What are you looking forward to about S6?

Making the most of my last year in JHS and having fun at different events in the year.

Beth Miller

Position Depute Head Girl

Howwood Primary School

After JHS I want to study music at the conservatoire

Piece of advice for S1

You don't need to be like everyone else. Originality is a good thing.

What are you looking forward to about S6?

The fun relationships I get to develop with teachers and staff. All of the amazing opportunities we get and events we can attend inside and out-with school.

Jessica Newnes

Position Prefect

Kilbarchan Primary School

After JHS I want to study a beauty course at college.

Piece of advice for S1 is you might not think first year is important but it will set you up for the rest time at high school.

What are you looking forward to about S6?

I am looking forward to becoming a lot closer with the people in my year and preparing my life for after school.

Melissa McConnachie

Position Depute Head Girl

Howwood Primary School

After JHS I want to go to university to study history and modern studies.

Piece of advice for S1

Work hard in all your classes and enjoy making new friends

What are you looking forward to about S6? Help organising all the different events. I am looking forward to being a depute head and help bring everyone together.

Rhea Henderson

Position Depute Head Girl

Kilbarchan Primary School

After JHS I want to go to university to become a teacher

Piece of advice for S1

Be yourself and hard work pays off.

What are you looking forward to about S6?

The year coming together for dances

and making this year 100 times better.

Catlin Armstrong

Position Prefect

Lochwinnoch Primary School

After JHS I want to go to university

Piece of advice for S1

Don't put too much pressure on yourself.

What are you looking forward to about S6? Getting more involved in the school community.

Finn Fowler

Position Depute Head Boy

Kilbarchan Primary School

After JHS I want to either go to university or join either the Royal Navy or merchant navy.

Piece of advice for S1

Try your best and be yourself.

What are you looking forward to about S6?

Bonding as a year group.

Rachel Anderson

Position Depute Head Girl

Fordbank Primary School

After JHS I want to study politics at university

Piece of advice for S1

S6 LEADERS INTERVIEWS

Meet our new S6 Prefects

Be more confident and make sure to always ask for help and always ensure you can be the best you can be.

What are you looking forward to about S6?

All the new opportunities and become involved in the school whilst making great memories.

Rebecca Adams

Position Prefect

Auchenlodment Primary School

After JHS I want to go to university to study sport and education or primary teaching

Piece of advice for S1

Get involved in after school activities and clubs.

What are you looking forward to about S6? Prom and more opportunities and giving back to the school.

Amber Dickie

Position prefect

Kilbarchan Primary School

After JHS I want to study at university to become a primary school teacher

Piece of advice for S1

Take advantage of all the opportunities you can and make sure you ask for help when you need it.

What are you looking forward to about S6?

Looking forward to S6 and having a memorable last year in JHS and finishing the school with a trip to Barcelona.

Eryn Elliot

Position Prefect

Auchenlodment Primary School

After JHS I want to join the army as a nurse.

Piece of advice for S1

Everything has consequences so think before you do stuff. Be yourself and you can never go wrong by it.

What are you looking forward to about S6?

Teambuilding opportunities and prom.

Neve Barrow

Position prefect

Wallace Primary School

After JHS

I want to go to college to first study legal studies and then onto university to study law.

Piece of advice for S1

Be yourself and don't change for anyone. Don't be afraid to ask for help.

What are you looking forward to about S6?

Becoming a prefect and being part of the different groups and going to prom.

Emma Heywood

Position prefect

Kilbarchan Primary School

After JHS I want to go to university to

study midwifery.

Piece of advice for S1

Never be afraid to talk to someone who can help you.

What are you looking forward to about S6?

Looking forward to prom. Getting all the qualifications I need for university.

John Steel

Position Depute Head Boy

Howwood Primary School

After JHS I want to study musical theatre but also considering engineering at university.

Piece of advice for S1

Don't be afraid to ask for help. There is always someone who cares about you.

What are you looking forward to about S6?

Getting to run various events.

Amber Kissell

Position Depute Head Girl

Kilbarchan Primary School

After JHS I want to join the police

Piece of advice for S1

Don't be afraid to ask your guidance teacher or your head of year as they are here to help you.

What are you looking forward to about S6?

Looking forward to experience a different outlook in school.

Primary Transition

Making the adjustments to all the changes and challenges they face with enthusiasm and determination.

Our Primary Transition Teachers, Mrs Haining and Miss Cameron have been working with our current S1s since January. As part of the Attainment Challenge they are working towards closing the poverty related attainment gap and collaborating with primary and secondary teachers to support curricular transition. They have been working with case study pupils on a weekly basis, supporting them in their literacy and numeracy. The S1s have settled well into life at Johnstone High, making the adjustments to all the changes and challenges they face with enthusiasm and determination.

Maths and Numeracy

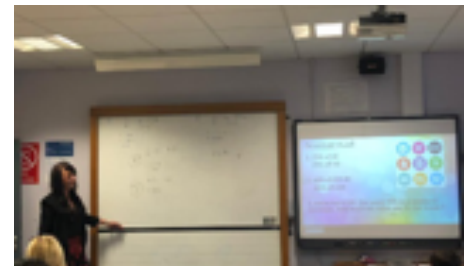
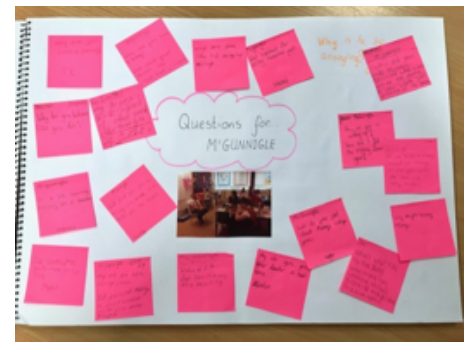
As part of Maths Week, we invited all our cluster primary 7 classes along to the high school to take part in a maths transition event. The primary 7's worked with pupils from other schools, allowing them to get to know their future classmates. With the help of some seniors they shared strategies, discussed number problems and showed the creative side of maths.

English and Literacy

The pupils in S1 have continued their learning in literacy through the Renfrewshire Literacy Approach that they are familiar with from primary school, i.e. Dive into Reading and Dive into Writing. This involves low stake writing opportunities and a reader response to the short story, 'The Great McGunnigle' that was started in primary and continued into high school. Using the skills they developed in primary and building on these within the English department, they have written their first critical essay.

Parental Engagement

Throughout the time they were based in the cluster primary schools, Miss Cameron and Mrs Haining met with several parents in order to ease their anxieties around their young person making the move to high school. This support then continued with Ms Docherty in the Parents in Partnership programme. This parental support has continued through a series of homework support sessions for maths, which has now been offered to all S1 families.



SPOTLIGHT ON NURTURE

Spotlight on Nurture

Nurture Group Activities

All of our Nurture groups started the year filling a page of their group's scrapbook with targets to achieve, both in the Thrive Hive and across the school, as well as planning fun things to do for the school year ahead. Targets ranged from subject specific targets, to joining new sports clubs to, to having more confidence, to achieving a positive behaviour certificate at the end of each term. Fun things to do ranged from going on trips out, to having a Halloween party, to organising a charity event, to helping out with the school's Christmas Fayre. Our groups are looking forward to filling their scrapbooks with photographs of them achieving their targets and doing their fun plans throughout the year.

Here are just some of the activities that our Nurture groups have been doing since the beginning of term.

S1 Core group – Our S1 Core

group have been learning about the 'Zones of Regulation'. This is a conceptual framework used to teach self-regulation and self-control. The group categorised different thoughts, feelings and emotions into each zone and learned about strategies that can help when we are in each zone. The group put their learning into Zones of Regulation posters and these will soon be displayed in the Thrive Hive.

Our S1 Core group have also been developing their perseverance skills and their patience all while having fun through KAPLA. They have also been developing their organisational skills and attention to detail through baking delicious treats.

S2 Core group – Our S2 Core group have been taking part in a variety of different Art therapy activities. One of the activities was to use music to create Art, where the task was simple to listen to music and to paint to respond to the music. The atmosphere was tranquil and the finished pieces were simply beautiful.

The group have also been developing their social and emotional, cooperative and cognitive skills as well as their concentration

skills

through the Art and Craft of paper mache. They are looking brilliant and finished pieces will be displayed in the Thrive Hive next month.

S3 Core group – Our S3 Core group started off the year learning about adolescent brain development. They learned about how the brain works, the different parts of the brain and the functions of each part. They paid particular focus to the amygdala and how this part of the brain is associated with emotions, impulses and behaviours. Fascinating.

The S3 Core group have also been busy preparing for the Christmas Shoebox appeal, which they plan to lead this year with the help and support of staff and S1 pupils. This is a nationwide appeal to provide Christmas gifts to children and families in need. This appeal will be a big focus for

the group throughout the month of October and will include a staff coffee morning and Krispy Kreme donut sale.

Variant group – Our Variant group have also been developing their skills through KAPLA, through Arts and Crafts and through baking. They have also managed to fit in a trip out to Subway for a breakfast treat.



Nurture Nairn

Since the beginning of term, we have been delighted to begin working with a golden Labrador Therapist, Nairn accompanied with his owner John. Nairn now spends every Thursday afternoon in the Calm Room and he is quickly becoming a firm favourite with pupils. Throughout Period 6, Nairn relaxes with a small reading group of S1 + S2 pupils. The group are currently reading David Williams' 'Demon Dentist'. The effect of Nairn on the pupils' confidence to read out loud has been amazing.

Nairn stays in the Calm Room Period 7 to help with our: 'End and Send'. This is a flexible session where each week different pupils get the opportunity to spend some time relaxing with Nairn at the end of the school day before going home. The effect of this has also been amazing and we are excited for more pupils to get a send-off with Nairn in the coming weeks.



Thrive Hive fish

Due to popular demand, we have welcomed more fish into the Thrive Hive. A group of pupils went out to the local pet shop and returned with two new Fantail Goldfish. The fish have been named Reggae and Gareth. Rumour has it a Silver Shark will be next to join us ... to be continued.

Recognition board

This session we have introduced a 'Compliments and Achievements' recognition board to the Thrive Hive to complement our pupils when they go 'above and beyond' in the Thrive Hive and to celebrate their achievements both in and out of school. So far, additions to the board include a number of praise postcards awarded



to pupils from subjects across the school; a 'Man of the match' award, and an 'Excellent fairness when playing Uno' award.

Compliments and Achievements

Well done to Gemma McElwee (S3) who spent some time this month helping out in a local nursery. Gemma spent time playing with the children while learning about the job she hopes to do in the future. Staff commented that Gemma was kind, caring and simply wonderful with the children and that she will make a fabulous Nursery teacher in the future.



Well done to Jay Garrity (S2) who almost beat Mr. Munro at 'Who wants to be a Chocolate-aire?' Jay's exceptionally strong knowl-





TLC Twilight event.

The group have also fed back their thoughts and experiences of the introduction of 'Meet and Greet' as part of the new Relationship Policy. Feedback from the group on 'Meet and Greet' has been overwhelmingly positive with comments including: 'It gets the class of to a good, calm start'; 'it lets them know that I know them all as individuals'; 'I think that a watchful eye in the corridor makes some pupils feel happier at change of periods'; 'pupils know that they are entering an environment where the teacher is happy to see them and this immediately

edge of Historic events and of Football (games, players and clubs past and present) helped him to get 11 out of 15 questions correct. Mr. Munro won the game after answering the final 2 questions correct, taking over from Jay on question 13.

Jay's next challenge is to paint every flag of the World while learning a little about each country. Jay has made an excellent start to this.

Whole School Approach to Nurture

Nurture Core Group – Our Nurture Core Group is now represented by every department in the school. This session the group will roll out an action plan to continue to embed Nurturing approaches across the school.

Since the beginning of term the group have completed a Nurturing Approaches audit in their departments. Responses to this audit have been excellent and highlight the good Nurturing practice that is going on across the school. Examples of Nurturing approaches that staff have identified going on across the school include: promotion of positive relationships; consistency in language used within departments; knowing all pupils and their needs; differentiated approaches in the classroom; no raised voices; reflecting on needs underlying behaviours ... and much more. The group are currently collating the information into a Whole school Nurturing approaches handout and this will be distributed to all staff at the first



creates a good environment for learning' ... and much more.

Nurture Outreach – Nurture Outreach will begin after the October holidays and will extend the Nurture support in the school.

Nurture Outreach will include the delivery of Emotion Works – an educational programme for emotional learning and literacy – to all S1 pupils. Based around a visually supportive framework for learning and talking about emotions, the goal of Emotion Works is to build emotional language and understanding in our pupils to help them to develop emotional competence and resilience.

The 'Cog Model' framework of Emotion Works identifies seven categories of emotional knowl-

edge and competence that link together to show how 'emotion works'. The links between the different cog categories demonstrate the casual connections between concepts such as emotion triggers, body sensations, emotion behaviours, intensity and regulation strategies.

Nurture Outreach will also include the delivery of Mindfulness programmes to targeted groups of pupils. We also hope that through time Mindfulness sessions and activities will also be available to staff.



PARENT PAY SYSTEM

Parent pay successfully launched in Johnstone High School on 30th April 2019. Many parents/carers have already activated their accounts and are using the cash free environment for school meals and school trips. We would encourage all remaining parents/carers to sign up as

soon as possible as the school is no longer accepting cash. For any parents who need to continue making payments by cash they may do so using the PayPoint method at local convenience stores.

Please contact the school office on 03003001331 if you



require help setting up the account, re-issuing activation codes, issuing barcodes, general enquiries.

CONTACTING THE SCHOOL

There have been a number of changes to contacting the school this session.

The school phone number has changed to 0300 300 1331.

When contacting the school your first point of contact is the Pastoral Support Teacher.

Details of the pastoral teachers are:

Seniors:
Miss Wilkie

Arran House:
Mr Rainey

Iona House:
Ms Butler Robson

Mull House:
Mrs Wilson

Skye House:
Mr Kennedy



KEEP IN TOUCH

THIS IS YOUR SCHOOL

With special thanks to all the staff and pupils who have contributed.

QR Code to school web site

Address
Beith Rd
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PA5 0JN

Telephone
0300 300 1331

Website:
www.johnstonehigh.renfrewshire.sch.uk

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