



NEWSLETTER

Autumn
2020

**JOHNSTONE
HIGH SCHOOL**

DETERMINATION·HONESTY·RESPECT
FRIENDSHIP·TRUST·RESPONSIBILITY

Autumn 2020

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



Welcome to the first Johnstone High School newsletter of session 2020/21. Our aim is to produce an entertaining and informative school newsletter once per term and these are sent electronically to parents via the text messaging system, through our website and twitter feed.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers. It has been the most difficult time we have ever experienced in our school and we could not have made it through the past few weeks without the overwhelming support of everyone in our community. We have restrictive measures in school to keep everyone safe and we have made tough decisions. Most significantly, as all parents know, Johnstone High School has been subject to NHS test and protect on more than one occasion and this resulted in large numbers of pupils and their families (and some staff) self-isolating at home. September was very challenging, but we now know how resilient and tough we are and that we will cope with whatever Covid brings.

Life in school is very different from previous years. Covid restrictions impact on everything that we do, and the health and safety of your child and my staff is the number one priority. I pleased to report that we are all learning to live with the 'new normal', and the resilience and positivity of the young people never fails to amaze me. They are an absolute credit to their families and their school. As we know, being a teenager is tough, and none of us had to be teenagers during a pandemic. I am so proud of them and how they are getting on with it.

In this newsletter I will cover the following important topics:

1. My usual termly update

- a. Staffing
 - b. Start of term
 - c. Pupil Leadership
 - d. Seniors
2. Health and safety
 3. School improvement
 4. The calendar and parent evenings
 5. What to do if your child is self-isolating
 6. A plea for your help and support

1. Termly update

a. Staffing

We are now in week twelve of the new school session and the summer seems a distant memory! In August we welcomed almost 200 pupils into our new S1, and I am pleased that our school role is placing at just over 970.

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 2020/21.

We wish good luck to the following colleagues and thank them for their service:

- Miss Montgomery and Mr Murray successfully completed their probation year with us
- Mr Palombo, Acting DHT, secured a permanent DHT post nearer to home
- Miss Grose obtained a permanent post out of authority
- Mr McGurk moved to Gryffe High
- Mr Scholefield moved to Park Mains
- Miss Mullaney was promoted to PT Pastoral Care at Paisley Grammar

- Our transition teachers moved back into primary schools
- Mrs Storey became Head of Biology at St Columba's Kilmacolm
- We have therefore welcomed the following new staff who are with us in a temporary capacity:
 - Miss Wilson, Biology NQT
 - Mr Lochhead, PE NQT
 - Miss Oliver, Geography NQT
 - Miss Urquhart, Music NQT
 - Miss McIntyre, Biology NQT
- Miss Ashmole returns for PE and Learning Support
- Mr English, PE
- Miss McGinley, History
- Miss Dawson, History
- Ms Logan, Business
- Ms Kennedy, RE / general subjects
- Mr Gibson, Modern Languages

We have also made the following permanent appointments:

- Mr Glen, Physics
- Mr Smith, Psychology and Social Subjects
- Miss Semple, Geography
- Mr McDonald, Maths
- Miss Badger, Biology
- Miss McCormick, Modern Studies

Promotions

- Ms Cole was appointed DHT Iona House
- Mr McKenzie was appointed PT Science
- Miss Smith was appointed PT Technical
- Miss Gribben is acting PT English
- Mrs Smith (LS) is currently leading Modern Languages

(*All teaching posts are currently filled by subject specialists.)

b. Start of term

School staff worked in the building from June onwards to make sure the school was fully prepared for pupils returning in August. As you know, the Scottish government brought schools back early (10th August) and we had our usual two in-service days. This was spent getting classrooms ready and looking at Covid secure learning and teaching.

We also reviewed our SQA results, another key part of school life dramatically different in 2020 compared with previous years. This year's SQA process was challenging for us all, and in early August we had to react to the SQA and government changing the position on how final grades were generated. My thanks to all pupils, parents and school staff for their hard work and support throughout this time.

The new pupil session also began with virtual, in-class based lesson/assemblies where I outlined my expectations of them for this unique year ahead. I also emphasised the importance the house group structure to make sure every pupil knows who their key adults are:

PUPIL GROUP PASTORAL SUPPORT

S6 as per house
Miss Wilkie

Arran S1-5
Mr Munro DHT
Mr Rainey PT

Iona S1-5
Ms Cole DHT
Ms Butler-Robson PT

Mull S1-5
Mr Menzies DHT
Ms Wilson PT

Skye S1-5
Mrs O'Malley DHT
Mr Kennedy PT

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.

All pupils should now be up and running with 'Show My Homework'. **Miss Wilson and Mrs O'Malley have responsibility for this and any ongoing issues with SMHW logins should be directed to them.** Parents report that SMHW helps them to support their child to keep on top of homework and revision and was invaluable during lockdown.

In terms of our parents, all parents should have received a weighty data packet on the first week of term containing school information and several 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. This is particularly important in the current circumstances – if a pupil has Covid symptoms we need to get in contact with you straight away. Similarly, if your family needs to be contacted through the test and protect process we need your accurate numbers and address.

Finally, I had a virtual Parent Council meeting in early September. My thanks to Diane Spence who has this year stepped down as the Chair. Diane was a fabulous friend and supporter of the school and her legacy will be felt for years to come – not least the grounds project which provided essential seating and an outdoor classroom which were used extensively by pupils of all ages over the autumn term.

Jean McFarlane has now taken over as the Chair and I look forward to working with Jean over the next few months and years. Details about joining the Parent Council were included in your parent pack. The next meeting – virtual again, I'm afraid – will be the 16th November in the early evening.

c. Pupil Leadership

My congratulations to captains Lucy Dempster and Alexander Brown and their team of depute and vice captains who were all recently appointed. The S6 badge holders were selected by application form, assessment cen-

ter which includes a pupil panel, and a formal interview (it's not unlike the Apprentice!). 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.

We will hear more from them later in this newsletter.

d. Seniors

The beginning of the term saw a Covid secure version of senior befriending take place. Many S6 pupils undertook the appropriate training and then carried out S1 buddy duties for the first couple of weeks of term. This was especially important this year as the S1 had not been in school over the summer months because the three-day visit had been cancelled. The befrienders supported our new S1 to find their way about and during class time, break and lunchtime. My thanks to Miss Wilkie for her lead role in this and all the S6 who carried out their duties so well (future teachers were clearly obvious...as well as those who now know that it is not the profession for them!).

Senior timetables were finalised by the end of August, with several of our S6 pupils going to college courses at West College Scotland or undertaking courses at other high schools through the Renfrewshire consortia. We have tried hard to minimise external travel due to Covid and as a result have many advanced highers taking place in JHS this session.

Our Senior School Information Evening will take place virtually on 18th November this year; a presentation with audio recording. This will cover topics such as study skills, SASS funding, UCAS, plagiarism, mental health (mindful of Covid) and supporting your young person at home. Parents will receive a text when this is ready to view on our website.

Mrs Carlin (Employability Project Leader) continues to engage with Renfrewshire Council, the chamber of commerce and local businesses in order to find opportunities for training, employment and apprenticeships. She regularly posts these on our twitter page – please follow us for more info.

2. Health and Safety

I understand that parents and carers, rightly, have anxieties about sending their child to school during the pandemic. I also know that this was not made better by the fact that our school was one of the first to under-go test and protect. This was very challenging because at that point, the rule was that ENTIRE families had to self-isolate. I also know that parents would have liked more information about who had tested positive, however schools (like any workplace) are bound to be very strict about confidentiality. My apologies if you felt you would have liked more detail; our communications were directed by both Renfrewshire Council and Greater Glasgow and Clyde Public Health teams.

We had a pre-arranged meeting with the chief inspector of the Health and Safety Executive when we were in the middle of test and protect. **Our school passed with ZERO recommendations as we had implemented all government and authority health and safety guidance.** I hope this helps give you the reassurance that our school takes Covid extremely seriously.

We have put in place a raft of mitigation measures to keep everyone as safe as we can. I will list these in a moment, and if you would like any more details, please ask your child as they can tell you how this operates day to day. If you would like more information, every letter that I sent you (or that Director Steven Quinn sent you) is on our school website. We have also given the pupils several health and safety briefings as it is really important they understand why we have these rules as they are much more likely to follow them that way!

1. **If your child has symptoms they must not be sent to school. Please err on the side of caution and get a test.**
2. If a pupil reports having any Covid symptoms in school, we will securely isolate them until you can come to collect them. If your child tells us they have a new continuous cough, a temperature or a loss of taste/smell then we cannot have them back until there is a negative test.

3. Pupils enter in the morning, after break and after lunch via their dedicated year group door. They are greeted by teams of staff each time, all hands are sanitised and all masks are on.
4. One-way system so people aren't walking past each other, face-to-face.
5. Face coverings are worn in corridors and in communal places
6. There are cleaning caddies and cloths in each class – pupils wipe down their desks
7. Windows and doors, where possible, as open to allow ventilation. Pupils will be allowed to wear outdoor clothing in class if this proves challenging in the winter.
8. Pupils bring their own materials. Bags never go on desks.
9. Teachers stay in their own safe teaching space at the front, 2m away from pupils (all departments have at least one 2m stick to judge safe distance)
10. Teachers no longer circulate the class. They are using different techniques now, such as 'feedback tables' and visualisers for science demos
11. Classroom assistants have been extracting pupils to offer them help as they cannot safely do that in the classroom environment.
12. Pupils stay in the same seats, in rows, facing the front to reduce face-to-face contact
13. We have seating plans for every class in case we need to identify close contacts
14. S1-2 classes are staying in their class bubble as much as possible, therefore no 'setting' in classes such as Maths, or gender only classes (PE)
15. We no longer have a common room. S6 report to the study hall when they have a study period. They either stay there in a set seat or go to a teacher's classroom to study.
16. We have introduced a trial of staggered breaks and lunchtimes to allow S1-3 and S4-6 to stay in-side in either the canteen or hall. This also separates BGE and Senior Phase 'bubbles'.
17. Senior staff are monitoring the bus bay and pupil pick up every day. We are also handing out face coverings before pupils go on school contract buses.
18. PE has been outside, following government guidance. The weather in September was favourable, not so much in October. This has been hard as the pupils have got wet when the rain has come on during PE lessons.
19. Music, Science, Technical, Home Economics, Art – practical subjects have reduced and then adapted their hands-on activity to ensure touch surfaces have remained Covid secure. They continue to follow government guidance in their areas.
20. **Visitors / parents coming into the school – we have only been able to welcome adults in who have an appointment. This is following government and council guidance.**
21. Clubs and activities (trips etc.) have all been impacted. As have school events (we can't have large gatherings – so no assemblies, concerts or parents' evenings). We hope to get these back as soon as it is safe to do so.
22. Pupils have had briefing lessons whenever there is a change to the rules.

****STOP PRESS: TIER THREE CHANGES AS OF MONDAY 2nd NOVEMBER****

On Friday 30 November the government announced that schools would be subject to additional measures in tier three areas, which includes Renfrewshire.

For us, this means:

- All teachers wear face coverings in classrooms
- All senior phase (S4-6) pupils are to wear face coverings in classrooms

- PE guidance has changed, and pupils can now do some PE activity indoors
- Face coverings should be worn by parents and other visitors to any school site (whether entering the building or otherwise), including parents at drop-off and pick-up

3. School Improvement Agenda

In this unique school year, the biggest priority for us is the health and safety of the children and the staff, which you can see above.

Then it is about making sure they receive a quality experience when they are here. This breaks down into three priority areas, which feature on our school improvement plan for 2020/21

- Health and wellbeing with a focus on pupil mental health
- Learning and teaching
- Raising attainment

In our school we have put in place six 'recovery working groups'. All teachers are a member of one of these, so we are all sharing the responsibility for our recovery. All the actions the groups are taking forward is about Covid:

1. Health and safety
2. Learning and teaching in a Covid secure classroom, or digitally, if we go into lockdown again
3. Pupil mental health and wellbeing
4. Relationships policy – how do we make sure everyone in school is safe, ready and respectful in the current climate?
5. Curriculum – how do we ensure that pupils in the BGE catch up any gaps in learning?
6. SQA and assessment – ensuring we are ready for the SQA / government position e.g. no N5 exam, teacher estimates etc.

Maureen Sneddon, our Education Manager will virtually engage with the school on several formal occasions this session to oversee our work. Our next meeting on 'attainment' is scheduled for the 8th of December.

4. The calendar and parents' evenings

We had our school calendar ready to go in October, however the DFM John Swinney then came out with changes to the SQA diet for 2021. This meant that we had to revise the calendar, and each time we do it has to go back to the teacher unions for ratification.

I am pleased to let you know that the calendar is now ready and my apologies for the delay. We will have this with you electronically as soon as possible, and the A4 card for your fridge is currently at the printers – we will give it to the pupils to bring home when they are ready, and will text to let you know to check the bag.

Key points this session:

- We have not scheduled any events prior to Christmas. As we enter tier three measures this seems to have been a sensible move.
- We have provisional school events in the calendar for Spring / Summer 2021. If we can't go ahead in person, we will attempt a virtual version.
- Parents' evenings cannot go ahead in person this session. There is simply no safe way to have around 200 adults come into school over a 2-hour period.
- We have liaised with Renfrewshire Council and the other 10 high schools and we have agreed to offer an **additional report card** to parents in place of the traditional parent's evening. We had concerned that our IT capacity was not enough to move over to virtual appointments (teachers would have had 20-30 virtual appointments each and our connectivity would not have been able to sustain this).
- This means that for each year group in JHS parents and carers can expect a tracking report and two report cards.

(If you have any worries about your child's progress, please contact the Pastoral Support teacher.)

This year our calendar is therefore lighter than usual. As soon as we can safely do so we will have clubs, trips and events back up and running. In

their absence we are doing what we can to make school life fun. Please check our twitter feed for Halloween doors; many teachers, with the help of their classes, decorated their classroom door and we raised £40 for the foodbank.

We also have a Christmas committee and hope to do a range of activities to make December as special as possible. Sadly, we can't put on our interhouse games, Christmas Concert or Parent Council Fayre as these are 'large gatherings'. Although prelims will be taking place for seniors, I'm sure they will still enjoy their Christmas dinner, Christmas jumper day and all the other Covid safe activities the Christmas team can come up with.

5. What to do if your child is self-isolating

If you are contacted by NHS test and protect to tell you that your child is self-isolating, it is important that the family follows the advice given. If the contact happened in school, we will also send a letter to you on their behalf. This will tell you the last day of self-isolation and when your child can return to school.

Getting contacted in this way can be upsetting and very disruptive to family life. One of the many considerations you will have as a parent is about the gap in your child's learning. When the school was subject to test and protect, we were one of the first schools in Scotland to be impacted, and we also had a number of staff off who were either ill, close contacts themselves, or who had a child who was a contact. In other words, we were under a great deal of pressure. All staff are now back at work and have been for some time.

We now have a three layer approach to supporting pupils who are self-isolating:

1. Ask your child to login to show my homework (S1-3) or Micro-soft teams (S4-6). The teachers have placed materials on there, although they are not putting full lessons on as they cannot teach in person all day and fully support a digital offer at the same time.
2. We have a Johnstone High remote learning website that has lots of materials on it across a range of subjects.
3. There is now a Renfrewshire remote learning website. Subject specialists across the 11 high schools have placed materials on here, and twice a week each subject will have a Renfrewshire teacher run a 'surgery' where pupils can ask questions or get help. Mr Glen (Physics) and Mrs Campbell (French) from JHS are helping out along with several other Renfrewshire teachers.

The links you need have already been text out to you by the school. These sites can also be found on our main website. If you have any problems, please phone and we will help (if your child has forgotten their team code, the office staff have the entire list of codes for every class in the senior phase!).

Finally, it is important that if your child is self-isolating they stay in a routine and check in to their subjects every day. It goes without saying that they must also stay at home and obey their self-isolation. Pupils who are self-isolating MUST NOT 'visit' the school at break or lunchtime. Parents and public health will be contacted. Thanks for your support with this.

6. A plea for your help

I hope you can tell from the details above that the staff are currently working very hard to keep the school safe and give your child the best possible educational experience.

There are a few things we would appreciate your help and support with. I know this doesn't apply to all pupils or families, but would appreciate parents having a chat at home about:

1. Please speak to your child about face coverings:

- a. Bringing their own covering to school everyday
- b. Wearing it properly at the appropriate times. Staff will challenge young people every time they don't have it on, or it is resting on their chin. We don't want to endanger our good relationships with pupils by being constantly on at them.

2. If your child goes to the local shops, remind them to wear their face covering and follow the rules that apply to all members of the public, like social distancing

3. Parents who collect by car – the buses are struggling to get into the bays and when they get stuck it is gridlock. Not good for health and safety or drivers' blood pressure! Please park in the hub car park, thank you.

4. Litter.

It's really disappointing to see our grounds and local areas suffer from litter being left. We reinforce this in school but would appreciate you reinforcing this at home too.

Most 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 Relationships Policy (safe / ready / respectful).

Here is a reminder of some key points in the Relationships Policy:

1. 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!).

2. 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.

3. Going to the toilet at the appropriate time:

Too many of our pupils are asking to the toilet straight after the morning bell, interval and lunchtime.

4. 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.

5. Arrive at school on time:

Each morning pupils who are late sign in with me 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.



SQA Update

Ms Cole

It is hard to believe that we are now in November and have started the process of entering pupils for SQA courses this year. I would like to review the 2019-2020 exam diet then explain what will be happening with national courses this year as there has been a considerable amount of change as a result of COVID restrictions.

Exam Diet 2020

Many of you will be aware that just before lockdown in March the DFM announced the cancellation of the exam diet for all National 5 and Higher candidates. This came as a shock and disappointment to everyone who had worked towards exams and those that had supported them throughout the year. The result of this decision was that as a school we had to review the evidence we had collected for each candidate throughout the year and then, using SQA direction and Renfrewshire guidance alongside a very extensive internal moderation process, final teacher estimates were submitted to SQA in May last year.

When results were delivered in August it was clear that many teacher estimates had been downgraded by the SQA. Over the summer holidays we then prepared policies and procedures for a new appeals process and collated all candidate evidence for review so that we could submit appeals for downgraded pupils and we had already had pupils in to sign consent forms. It was the day before the new term started when the DFM announced that all pupils would be awarded their final teacher estimates submitted in May and that the appeals process would then not take place as originally planned. Whilst this decision was welcomed, and we were delighted that pupils in many cases received a higher award than originally issued by SQA, it did mean several late option changes for many pupils.

Exam Diet 2021

The DFM recently announced that a full **Higher exam diet is planned for 2021 (13th May – 4th June 2021)** However, it was also announced that National 5 Exams would not take place and that final grades would again be based on teacher estimates and coursework (where relevant).

At the time of writing this article SQA continue to make changes to National 5 and Higher courses and we are still awaiting final confirmation of what the requirements will be for each course. We are also awaiting the publication of deadlines from SQA with regards to coursework and estimated grades submission which in turn has made it difficult to set internal deadlines for the forthcoming year.

Evidence Collection

We have been informed that we will be required to submit a range of evidence to SQA to support school estimates and so we have planned assessment weeks where we can collect evidence of pupil progress throughout the year.

These assessment weeks will involve all senior pupils completing assessments under exam conditions. As all pupils at all levels will be sitting assessments this will allow a highly effective moderation process to take place within departments ensuring all recorded grades are as accurate a reflection on pupil ability as possible.

Evidence from assessment weeks alongside other pieces of evidence gathered over the year will be used to produce final estimated grades for National 5 courses (and Higher courses should the exam diet not take place in 2021) and so pupils should make sure they prepare as fully as possible for these assessments.

The next assessment week for National 5 courses from 7-11th Dec, this time would normally be used for practice exams but as there are no national 5 exams this year this will be used as an evidence collec-

tion period. Two further assessment weeks will be scheduled when we receive deadline dates from SQA.

Higher pupils will sit a full prelim diet which will commence on the 1st Dec and run until the 17th Dec. The timetable for this will be published w/b the 16th November.

To help pupils with organising their time and revision schedules I have also produced an assessment calendar which is available to download on our website and shows all currently planned in class assessments based on the most up to date SQA course information. This will be updated as more information comes into school from SQA.

<https://www.johnstonehigh.co.uk/uncategorized/jhs-assessment-calendar-2020-2021-assessment-information/>

Online Support

Due to current COVID restrictions we can't have any after school sessions running in the school building. Therefore we have planned a timetable of online raising attainment booster classes to support pupils with their learning at home. These sessions will be 'taught' sessions and pupils can access these through MS Teams.

Please see further information on the website:

<https://www.johnstonehigh.co.uk/uncategorized/online-raising-attainment-booster-classes-s4-s6/>

Candidate numbers and Entry certificates

Pupils will shortly be given a copy of their SQA entries to check. These will have their candidate number, address and all courses (with level) listed and these need to be checked and signed by the pupils to confirm all is correct. Pupils will be issued with these through PSE lessons so they can raise any concerns with their pastoral teacher if necessary.

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.

“
Timekeeping
is an
important
life skill
which
prepares
our young
people for
the world of
work.”

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
Mr Rainey
email:
daniel.rainey@renfrewshire.school

Iona House
Mrs Butler-Robson
email:
lauren.butler-robson@renfrewshire.school

Mull House
Mrs Wilson
email:
claire.wilson@renfrewshire.school

Skye House
Mr Kennedy
email:
liam.kennedy@renfrewshire.school

All S6 pupils
Miss Wilkie
email:
eileen.wilkie@renfrewshire.school

HEALTH & WELLBEING NEWS

This term has been an extremely challenging one for pupils and staff alike. The current guidance from Education Scotland and the Government is that all PE should take place outside. We have created a bespoke timetable with our limited outdoor facilities and tried to provide the best possible experience for our pupils. The response from the pupils has been amazing and they are just getting on with it as if it's the new normal.

As we go into winter the weather is only going to get worse – probably wetter and colder. As a result, it is important all pupils are prepared for this. To help us ensure all pupils are safe and healthy, please see the information below:

- Additional/appropriate clothing should be worn – extra layers, footwear (other than the shoes they wear to school)
- A change of socks may be appropriate
- Bring a plastic bag to put wet clothing/footwear in
- Staff will be making decision on a lesson by lesson basis regarding adverse weather e.g. stopping the lesson early in extremely wet condi-

tions to come in and get warm and dry. Hairdryers have been purchased to help with this.

- Even if your child is injured, they should bring PE kit and they will be given an alternative role within the lesson e.g. referee, timekeeper, coach, equipment manager etc. This ensures all pupils will have dry uniform to change into.

While the situation is far from ideal, we will continue to make the best of it and I'm sure the pupils will continue to adapt as they always do. We welcome your support as parents/carers in preparing your child for PE days so that we can maximise teaching and learning with minimal disruptions.

Home Economics Update

As a practical subject, this term has been very challenging in Home Economics. We have put in place measures that minimise risk when cooking. At present, only S4-6 certificated classes are cooking. We hope to introduce cooking into S1-3 classes ASAP.

Each year we ask for a contribution from each pupil to supplement our expenditure on food and fabric. The money we collect enables us to enhance our pupils experience by providing a wider range of higher quality food and fabrics.

We understand these are challenging times and that can include financial challenge. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's Pastoral Support Teacher for a discreet discussion and we will do all we can to support. You can also speak to Miss Purves in Home Economics for further information. All payments should be made in cash to the pupils Home Economics teacher who will issue a receipt. Please note that pupils in receipt of free school meals are exempt from this payment.

For S4 pupils the payment is £20

For S5/6 pupils the payment is £25

We would be grateful if this could be paid by Friday 6th November. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Kind Regards,
David Merriman
Faculty Head of Health and Wellbeing

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWS

“Happiness can be found even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light.”

Back with a bang... and some alliteration! What a first term it has been in the English department. We could not be happier to see our perfect, hard-working angels back in the building. As a staff we have been so impressed with the effort and behaviour of all the Johnstone High School pupils since we returned in August.

In the BGE we have been focusing on developing pupils' writing and critical thinking skills with all BGE classes studying a piece of literature and writing critical essays in order to develop the skills they will need to be successful as they move into the senior phase. This can be challenging, especially the new S1 pupils who have never experienced anything like this before. As always, all our pupils are rising to the challenge and producing excellent work. We are studying a range of exciting literature across the BGE in order to engage pupils in the wealth of exceptional literary work that

is out there; just waiting to be discovered!

Senior Phase is slightly different this year with all the ongoing changes, but this year's cohort of S4/5/6 are determined and ready to succeed no matter what is thrown their way. All seniors sat a RUAE assessment in October and overall everyone did extremely well under the pressure. As a department we are so excited to see what the pupils achieve this year and are ready to support them in whatever ways we can...even if it's a shoulder to cry on when it all gets too much! Miss Hamilton's Advanced Higher class have been working incredibly hard all session and are brightening up the department with their positivity and love of literature!

This year in English we are all about celebrating positive achievement and have introduced "Pupil of the Month" for English. Two BGE and two senior phase winners will be selected from across the department every month. You are eligible to be nominated for pupil of the month if you are working hard and giving 100% effort every time you are in English - you do not have to be the greatest writer - you just have to be giving it your best shot! Keep an

eye out on your twitter at the end of each month for the winners!

We are so excited to see all the Johnstone High pupils flourish in English this year no matter what. "Happiness can be found even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light."

Team English!

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

BGE		Senior Phase			Further Education & Jobs					
S1 & S2	S3	S4	S5	S6						
Design & Technology	Graphic Communication	N4 & N5 Graphic Communication			Higher <small>Graphic Communication</small>	AdvHigher <small>Graphic Communication</small>	Graphic Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graphic Designer Marketing Architect Apprenticeships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interior Design Table Design Mechanical Engineer Animation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Game Design Media Web Design Teaching
	Design & Manufacture	N4 & N5 Design & Manufacture			Higher <small>Design & Manufacture</small>	AdvHigher <small>Design & Manufacture</small>	Design & Manufacture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Product Design Engineering Design Civil Engineering Automotive Engineering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aeronautical Engineer Nautical Engineer Fashion Design Apprenticeships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other Job Teaching
	Practical Craft Skills	N4 & N5 Practical Woodwork					Practical Woodwork	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Furniture Designer Joiner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apprenticeships Cabinet Maker 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction Frame Welder
		N4 & N5 Practical Metalwork					Practical Metalwork	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blacksmith Jewelry Maker 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apprenticeships Pumber 	

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY NEWS

This year has seen different challenges for our team down in Design in Technology, but as always, our staff have been working hard to overcome these to ensure our learners have the best experience possible.

Having only joined the team in August, it has been an interesting start to a new school, with the department having to negotiate new health and safety rules, new equipment, processes and staffing we definitely had to hit the ground running.

One of our main priorities was the Health and Safety of our young people in the practical setting of the workshops. Some of the main measures we have introduced are our blue cleaning caddies, regular tool and equipment cleaning, hand sanitising and wearing masks in the high congestion areas of the department. Thankfully, our young people have adjusted to these practices well and have now incorporated them into their daily lessons.

Another area we have had to develop is how we support young people in class, remotely from our teacher spaces in the room. This has proved to be challenging but in typical Technical Teacher style the staff have approached this with creativity and practically in equal measures. In most rooms we have been supported by the installation of projectors and staff have created bespoke visualisers to allow learners to see demonstrations from a distance. This has allowed us to ensure learners have clear instructions and support at an appropriate distance. I have been extremely impressed at the different approaches staff have developed with the visualisers to support learner engagement.

October also saw the department receiving a small face lift in our workshop areas, with notice boards being given an injection of colour and new displays throughout. Our displays have been developed to support learners in improving their tools, equipment, materials and processes knowledge in the workshop. They have also had a key role in support learners in understanding instruction from staff and problem-solving different tasks independently. Which we hope will continue to support their un-

derstanding, confidence and progress in the coming months.

Finally, the department have been working hard to make sure all learners have access to the online resources and homework they need to support their progress this year. We have been using Teams, Show My Homework and the "JHS At Home Learning" Website to provide pupils with tasks and supporting materials over the past few months. As such we would encourage parents and carer to support pupils in accessing these on a regular basis and if there are any access issues to let us know.

A final thanks to the dedicated Design and Technology staff for taking on the challenges of our current situation, and to the pupils for their patience and co-operation with our new learning routines.

Jaclyn Smith
Principal Teacher Design & Technology

RELATIONSHIP POLICY UPDATE

After a very positive introduction to our Relationship Policy in session 2018 – 2019, we made some small changes to our policy this session. To reflect the impact of COVID-19 and how COVID-19 would impact us in school, we amended our 'Safe', 'Ready' and 'Respectful', Code of Conduct. For example, under 'Safe' we have included 'follow physical distance measures'; under 'Ready' we have 'clean any required equipment' and under 'Respectful' we have 'respect

people's personal space'.

Similar to last year, our Promoting Positive Behaviour cycles work per the calendar month. All pupils who do not receive any more than one demerit throughout the month will receive a positive recognition text home to their parents or carers. In addition to monthly texts, termly certificates will also be distributed to pupils who receive no more than two demerits per term.

As we move through the ses-

sion, we will continue to refresh and update our Relationship Policy. As a next step, we are planning to develop Restorative Practice through further staff training. More information on this will follow in the next newsletter.

EXTRA CURRICULAR UPDATE

Normally at this time of year, the whole school extra curriculum programme would be distributed to pupils and parents. However, due to the current situation around Covid-19 and the guidelines that as a school we are to follow, it has been extremely challenging to provide any extra curricular opportunities for our pupils.

A number of members of staff are currently looking into the possibility of online or virtual extra curricular provision in addition to the Raising Attainment Booster Classes for the Senior Phase pupils.

Further information will come out soon and hopefully the restrictions will change in order that we can, at some point this session, provide the same opportunities that we always do.

Diary Dates

16-20/11/2020

16/11/2020

16/11/2020

18/11/2020

23-25/11/2020

30/11/2020

01-17/12/2020

11/12/2020

14/12/2020

14/12/2020

15/12/2020

18/12/2020

18/12/2020

06/01/2021

15/01/2021

Anti-bullying Week

S4 – S6 Reports Issued (week beginning)

Parent Council Meeting (virtual)

Senior School Info Evening (virtual)

Music Practicals

School Closed - St Andrew's Day Holiday

SQA N5 Evidence Gathering

Christmas Jumper Day

Young Musician Competition (virtual)

S3 Reports Issued (week beginning)

S2 -S5 Options Launch Evening (virtual)

Non Uniform Day

School Closes at 2:30 for Xmas Break

School Re-Opens

UCAS Deadline

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Even during the height of lockdown Duke of Edinburgh pupils have continued to work on their awards adapting to the new normal and persevering through these difficult times. Ten pupils from last years DofE group headed out on a Covid secure expedition recently over two very wet days showing an enormous amount of determination and resilience to battle through the bad weather and complete their expedition with distinction. The rest of last years group have chosen to do the expedition in June and we look forward to working with them towards this closer to the time. Also, over the coming months DofE staff will be working with last year's group to make sure that they completed their other sections of the award, helping them to upload evidence to eDofE and supporting them to find new activities that comply with current restrictions.

Regrettably we have been unable to welcome a new cohort of S3s into the Duke of Edinburgh programme due to the current restrictions on extra-curricular activities in schools. As soon as these restrictions are relaxed we hope to restart with a new group of eager S3s to ensure that they do not miss out on all the opportunities that this award brings.

If any past, present or potentially future DofE pupils have any questions regarding their Duke of Edinburgh award please do not hesitate to speak to Mr Brooks in Computing.



NEW STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

Meet the new members of our team

Claire Dawson



I am delighted to have recently joined the Social Subjects team at Johnstone High School as a Modern Studies teacher. It has been a busy few weeks getting settled in, however I have been made to feel so welcome by all of the lovely staff and wonderful pupils.

At school, my favourite subject was always Modern Studies and my teachers made a lasting impact. Before deciding to become a teacher myself, I worked as part of the Electoral Registration team. I have always been passionate about democracy and international affairs and aim to instil this enthusiasm in as many pupils as possible. I want to ensure that every pupil feels, valued, supported, and empowered in order to reach their full potential, and goes on to use their democratic rights!

I am originally from Aberdeen (which explains the accent) and have made the central belt my home since 2018. I completed my teacher training with the University of Strathclyde before going on to complete my probation year at Mearns Castle High School

in East Renfrewshire, alongside Miss McGinley. So far I have loved every second of my teaching career and I cannot wait to see what this year has in store. I look forward to continuing to get to know you all and be part of the Johnstone community!

Else McCormack



I started as a Modern Studies teacher in Johnstone High in August this year. Funnily enough, I am the second generation of the McCormack family to be at the school as my dad, uncle and aunt all attended the school back in the 1970's. My dad is really keen to get to see the school again and how it has changed since then! I am thoroughly enjoying my year at Johnstone High getting to know both staff and pupils. I teach S1 to S6 and I have been very impressed by how welcoming and enthusiastic the pupils at the school are. Prior to this post, I taught at Garnock Academy where I completed my NQT year and afterwards I taught at Irvine Royal Academy. I am qualified to teach both Modern Studies and Geography and I completed my teaching degree at the University of Stirling where I furthered my love of studying society. I am vertically challenged so you will never see

me in flat shoes!

Fern Wilson

Hi, I'm Miss Wilson the latest addition to the already stellar science department. I have felt so supported and welcomed by the department and have already made great friends. Starting a new job during a global pandemic has been one of the most stressful times of my life and I don't know where I would be without the support and encouragement from everyone.

Ever since I was a wee tomboy collecting creatures from under rocks on the beach I have had a love of nature and science. This ultimately led to me studying Zoology at the University of Glasgow. I always wanted to be a teacher as I loved being at school myself. This coupled with my love of nature led me to become a biology teacher and I'm looking forward to hopefully passing on this passion for the natural world to my pupils!

Fiona Urquhart

After leaving school, I studied the BA Applied Music at Strathclyde University in Glasgow specialising in the flute before going on to complete a Masters in Arts and Cultural Management at Queen Margaret University in Edinburgh. While giving private flute and music theory tuition and completing my dissertation, I worked as an Events Manager, organising and

NEW STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

Meet the new members of our team

running music concerts, heritage and cultural events and family workshops and overseeing the music programme at St Giles' Cathedral on the Royal Mile. I then moved into the theatre business, working as a Producer for a Gaelic theatre company in Glasgow, but I soon found myself back in events, working for the National Trust for Scotland, before deciding to return to my musical roots to become a teacher, earning my PGDE at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

I am very much a history enthusiast who loves the outdoors. I enjoy activities such as snowboarding, mountain biking, fell running and mountain climbing. In my free time I have been learning and using Gaelic and I enjoy promoting the benefits of music, culture and a healthy lifestyle in my classroom.

Gayle Badger



Hello I am Miss Badger, the newest member of the wonderful Science team. I have been teaching Biology and Science for over 10 years within Renfrewshire Council and was most recently Acting Faculty Head at Gryffe High School. I also have experience of teaching the Scottish Science, Social Subject and Expressive Arts Baccalaureate which I hope to offer next year to S6 pupils – so keep an eye out! As well as having a passion for Science and learning, I also love the outdoors, keeping fit and travelling. It is because of this that I am a Duke of Edinburgh leader and have been a school leader on two expeditions through World Challenge to Mongolia and Tanzania. This was an amazing experience and a privilege, where I was able to see pupils flourish and gain confidence in their own abilities through showcasing their leadership and team work skills. I really hope that this is something that I can be a part of at Johnstone High school. I am always up for getting involved in whole school activities and love a good quiz, especially if music is involved!

I have been extremely overwhelmed by how lovely and welcoming both staff and pupils have been at Johnstone High School and cannot thank you all enough. My door is always open to all - I will sign off by quoting one of my favourite bands.

'Whilst I'm alive, I'll make tiny changes to Earth'

Jaclyn Smith



I arrived at Johnstone High to take up the position of Principal Teacher of Design and Technology in August and I have had a busy, but thoroughly enjoyable first few months in the school. I have received an extremely warm welcome from staff and pupils alike, and I look forward to working with my team to further improve opportunities for learners.

I have been extremely fortunate in my 10 years of teaching to have worked in a variety of contexts including: Principal Teacher of Technical, Enterprise and Interdisciplinary Learning; Developing the Young Workforce; Young Enterprise Lead; STEM Ambassador Programme Lead; Rights Respecting Schools Development; Wider Achievement Development as well as a dedicated Design and Technology Teacher. I was also heavily involved in extra curricular clubs such as LGT-BQ+ Equality Group, Jewellery Club, Duke of Edinburgh and Craft Club.

Outside of school I am an active member of Scottish Powerlifting where I compete in Powerlifting competitions as well as acting as the Vulnerable Groups Safety Officer for the Scottish Powerlifting Committee.

NEW STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

Meet our newly qualified teachers

I hope these are areas of experience and opportunity I can bring to the Johnstone High School community in the coming years.

Kayleigh McIntyre



I started as a biology and science teacher at Johnstone High School in August and I have very much enjoyed my time here so far! I have been made to feel very welcome by all staff and pupils within the school and I am very excited to see what the future holds.

Prior to starting at Johnstone High as an NQT, I studied Immunology and Pharmacology at the University of Strathclyde. I enjoyed my time at Strathclyde and studied several aspects of biology such as health and disease, cell biology and pharmaceutical development. I graduated with an honours degree and went on to study my PGDE at the University of the West of Scotland to pursue my life-long dream of becoming a teach-

er. I was inspired by my own biology teacher when I was at school myself and so this reward has been a long time coming!

A huge thank you goes out to everyone for the fantastic welcome I have received from JHS and I look forward to continuing to get to know my pupils and the great school community I have the opportunity to be a part of.

Kyle Lochhead



Hello to all associated to Johnstone High School. My name is Kyle Lochhead and I am a Physical Education teacher.

I first began within sports when I was a young boy. I participated in numerous sports such as: football, golf, rugby, badminton, gymnastics etc. I took a real interest in football at the age of 14 when I was scouted by St Johnstone Football Club. I then moved on to Partick Thistle Football Club and achieved a full time professional contract at the age of 16.

I went on to study Sports Coaching at

UWS. I was coming towards the end of my degree when I realised that the opportunity of becoming a PE teacher was within my grasp. I continued on at UWS where I was successful in achieving my Honours Degree in Sports Coaching. This enabled me to gain a place at UWS to study and have the possibility of becoming a Physical Education teacher. And here I am!

I am excited for what this year lies in store for all our pupils during these difficult times. However I will try my utmost to ensure that all pupils will have a positive and captivating experience with me during my time at Johnstone High School.

Lauren McGinley

I was absolutely thrilled to join the Social Subjects department this year as a History teacher. I want to ensure that every pupil feels valued and supported to achieve their full potential.

Prior to starting in Johnstone High School, I completed my probationary year at Mearns Castle High School in East Renfrewshire. During my time at Mearns Castle, I loved being involved in a wide variety of extra-curricular



NEW STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

Meet our newly qualified teachers

activities and I am excited for the new experiences with the young people here at Johnstone.

Before my probationary year, I completed my undergraduate degree in History as well as my teacher training year at the University of Glasgow. Alongside my studies, I worked part time as both a sports coach and swimming teacher at Johnstone Community Sports Hub. I absolutely loved my time within this role, and I am delighted to have lots of familiar faces sitting in front of me within my classroom this year.

My first term as a teacher at Johnstone High School has been very special. I would like to thank all of the staff, pupils, parents/carers for your warm welcome (or return) and I can't wait to see what the rest of the year has in store!

Michael English

Hello pupils and staff at Johnstone High School, my name is Mr. English and I am one of the new members of the PE department. I graduated from Edinburgh University 2 years ago and taught at Park Mains last year. Most of you will have already met me and know that I am the one with the dodgy ankle and the limp when I try and run, due to a football injury in September this year. I am privileged to also play cricket, as well as being better at football than both Mr. Lochhead and Mr. Stevenson. I believe firmly that PE is pivotal in your education and enjoyment in school and I will always push you to be the best you can

be. The PE door is always open for anyone that wants to have a socially distanced chat about PE, sport or anything in general. I am delighted to be a member of staff at Johnstone High School, and to help you through your school year in the best way that I can.

Ashley Oliver



Joining the staff at Johnstone High has been an exciting adventure so far in these challenging times! Firstly, thank-you to all the staff and pupils for being so welcoming as I start my NQT year as a geography teacher.

I was initially inspired to become a teacher during my 3rd year of my undergraduate degree while working as a classroom support teacher at a School in Glasgow. I then decided to apply for the PGDE course at Strathclyde University to become a qualified teacher. Having studied at Glasgow University for my undergraduate degree in history and geogra-

phy and my postgraduate degree at Strathclyde it's nice to finally be able to share and put into practice the knowledge I have learnt and inspire all our pupils to be the best they can be!

I have really enjoyed being able to use both my history and geography knowledge whilst teaching social subjects. My favourite topic so far has been Ice man! The theories that the pupils came up with were fantastic. I am really looking forward to being part of the Johnstone High Community.

ARRAN HOUSE

update

With restructuring of the house system, Arran house now has Mr Munro as the Depute Head in charge with Mr Rainey as the PT Pupil Support.

We are delighted to be able to support the young people.

It is therefore, good to report that during these challenging times that the pupils in Arran house have been terrific in complying with all the various demands put on them with regard to door entry, face masks and hand sanitising.

The S1 pupils have settled into their new surroundings so well and the senior pupils have assisted in that with a great deal of nurture and responsibility.

IONA

HOUSE

update

It has been an absolute pleasure to welcome all our Iona pupils back to school this term. We can't tell you how much we missed the pupils and our daily contacts during lockdown.

Our new S1 pupils have settled in beautifully and we are so impressed by the way that they have handled the transition from Primary School. Keep up the good work!

It was also so impressive to see so many senior Iona pupils applying for the role of School Captain /Prefects earlier this term. We were so proud of you throughout the whole process and you represented Iona house so well. We would also like to especially congratulate Lucy Dempster who was appointed as one of our School Captains and Eva Birchall, Darrell Carty, Leoni McFadden and Tony Brady who were also selected to be part of the captain's team. Well done to you all!

The vast majority of Iona House have been brilliant in adjusting to the very different conditions in which they are learning just now. They are remembering to bring facemasks to school, are sanitising their hands upon entry and using year group specific doors to enter in the morning and at break and lunchtimes. We know it is hard work to remember all these little steps but they really are making a big difference-keep working together and reminding each other to keep everyone safe. This is a tough time for everyone, and we are so proud of the resilience and tenacity you are showing.

MULL HOUSE

update

Well, what a start to the year. This has been unlike any other for the pupils at Johnstone High school and in particular the pupils in Mull house. Face masks, sanitising, one way systems, class bubbles, year group door entry to name but a few.

But while all these changes have been thrust upon the pupils, Mull house continues to shine brightly and put their best foot forward. Pupils have been engaged in classes, behaviour across the house group has been on the whole extremely positive and lessons have been conducted well, even with the restrictions placed upon pupils and teachers.

This term has seen the introduction of our new Mull-ettes (S1 pupils) and Ms Wilson and Mr Menzies have been spending some time getting to know our 'newbies' in and out with class where possible.

S2 pupils have remained in their bubbles across all curricular areas due to guidelines and they have made a positive start to S2. In the coming months, they will

begin thinking about the subject areas that they want to take forward into S3 and beyond. This is an extremely important time for S2 to begin to think about their future pathways and this will become part of the PSE programme soon.

Our S3 pupils have began the last step of the BGE curriculum and have now focussed on the 9 subjects that they have chosen from S2. Similar to the S2 pupils, they now need to start considering what subjects they will follow for National Qualifications in S4 and should be beginning some of the required work and skills development as part of their current courses.

With the recent announcement that there will be no National 5 exams, our S4 pupils are deep in assessment and evidence gathering. Attainment meetings have began at classroom level and following the recent tracking reports, S4 pupils will be discussing their attainment with Mr Menzies and Ms Wilson in November in order that they can set targets for the coming months.

Finally, congratulations to Alexander Brown, a Mull house pupil and one of our School Captains. He has been in the Mull bubble now for 5 years and has been a credit to himself and the house group.

As I mentioned in the previous newsletters, a large part of our school is to promote and celebrate the achievements of our young people. 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.

SKYE HOUSE

update

It is lovely to have our Skye pupils back in the building. We are very impressed with the positive start that our S1 pupils have made to High School. We know that they missed out on a lot of things in their last term of primary school, but we hope that they are enjoying the new challenges of secondary school.

We would like to thank all of our senior pupils who have embraced the leadership opportunities that have been offered to them. A large number of our S6 pupils were involved in our befriending programme and they supported our new S1 pupils during their first couple of weeks in school. Congratulations to Kate Vidler and Glory Izedome who were successful in becoming part of the school captain leadership team.

Our S4 pupils have just completed their first formal assessments prior to the October break and are working hard in preparation for their national qualifications at levels 3,4 and 5.

We are very pleased that the majority of Skye pupils are complying with the safety regulations that are in place in the school to help reduce the risk of infection by sanitising their hands and desks, wearing face masks and following the one way system. In these unusual times it is important we look after each other and do everything we can to keep safe.

We always like to hear about our pupils achievements outwith school so please tell us about them.

If your child is in Skye house and you need to contact the school please contact either Mr Kennedy or Mrs O'Malley.

SPOTLIGHT ON NURTURE

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

S1 groups: A large number of our new S1 pupils have joined one of our three S1 Nurture groups. We are delighted to be able to support such a large number of S1 pupils this term. Our S1 groups started off the session getting to know each other and helping us to get to know them. They created 'About Me' posters illustrating aspects of their personality and their hobbies and interests. Since then, our S1 groups have also created a lot of art activities including string painting and leaf painting. These are proudly displayed on our Nurture room walls.

S2 groups: Our S2 groups started off the year creating an 'Aspiration tree'. They discussed and then wrote down their aspiration for the year ahead on a single tree leaf, then they put their leaves

together to create a wonderful piece of collaborative artwork. Aspirations ranged from being more confident, to making new friends, to achieving well in all class tests. Our Aspiration tree is now beautifully displayed in the corridor.

S3 groups: Our S3 groups have started this year continuing their journey through our 'Emotion works' programme. They have been exploring regulation strategies to manage different emotions and they have been practicing managing their emotions through Art intervention tasks including 'calm place' canvas paintings.

Halloween: In the run up to Halloween, all of our young people contributed to the school's Halloween door competition by designing, creating and dressing our Nurture room door. This included filling plastic gloves with shredded paper to create creepy hands, painting the hands green and sticking false nails on to the hands before splashing them with false blood to create vampire like hands. Our finished door was terrifyingly fabulous.



EMPLOYABILITY UPDATE

Mrs Carlin

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



INVEST
in Renfrewshire

APPRENTICESHIPS . SCOT
From Skills Development Scotland



The current climate and restrictions have seen a pause in face to face Employability activities, however at Johnstone High we are always focused on achieving positive destinations for all learners. Many activities have moved online, such as our Winter Leaver “My Future Pathway Programme”. Each week via Microsoft Teams, pupils who wish to pursue a pathway into Construction, have the opportunity to receive support with CV’s, Interview techniques, networking and achieving CSCS Cards.

Launching at the beginning of November will be Hire Me! which is a universal offering to all our young people. This can be accessed at: <http://sites.google.com/re.glow/myfuturepathwayren/home>

Unfortunately, this year, we will not be able to host our annual Careers Fayre, however Renfrewshire wide online events are scheduled to take place over 4 months, which will see a

2-week slot dedicated to a business sector. This will be linked to West College Scotland and Universities. More details will follow.

Another exciting addition to our Employability suite of activities is our involvement in the Career Ready programme. S5 pupils received a presentation which highlighted the benefits of the programme: personal development, how to network, personal mentor from the world of work and a weeklong paid internship during summer 2021. This two-year programme empowers young people in S5/S6 to kick-start their chosen career through a series of authentic workplace experiences and a network of support – the only schools programme in Scotland, with the support of employers and volunteers. <https://careerready.org.uk/scotland/>

Mrs Carlin will continue to post opportunities on the school twitter feed, which all young people are

encouraged to follow.

Modern Apprenticeships are an alternative pathway to college or university, and for some learners gives them the opportunity to develop skills and knowledge in a job they are passionate about. www.apprenticeship.scot details all available apprenticeships in Scotland and many of our former pupils have secured MA’s through this platform.

If anyone has any employment related questions or needs any help, please see Mrs Carlin in Home Economics Room 1.



WORLD CHALLENGE

Mr McGivern



By this stage, the World Challenge team should have taken part in their training expedition for preparation to fly to Bolivia in the summer of next year to embark on the school's 5th World Challenge expedition.

As with so many things this year, this sadly had to be cancelled in light of the Covid pandemic.

The expedition is still pencilled in to go ahead as planned in June of 2021 with the situation under review as to whether it will be safe to do so. A final decision on this will be taken by World Challenge in March of next year, once winter is over and a better idea of where the World's stands

The current situation makes fundraising extremely difficult but we have had challengers raising funds through sponsored bike rides and online race nights. Easyfundraising remains an excellent way of raising funds for the trip with people shopping online

and at no extra cost to the individual, raising for the Bolivia expedition.

The link below allows individuals to support the Johnstone High World Challenge cause which will receive an extra £5 donation when the person raises £5 shopping through World Challenge.

It really is something easy to do in very challenging times.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/jhswc/?invite=2HV79V&referral-campaign=c2s>



S6 LEADERS INTERVIEWS

Meet our new S6 leadership team



Lucy Dempster

Position: School Captain
Primary School Attended:
Howwood Primary School

My plans after leaving school - I plan on going to university to study primary teaching and then specialise in special needs teaching.

Advice for new S1s - Always try your hardest and never give up. You will get the results and outcomes you want from high school as long as you put in the effort.



Alexander Brown

Position: School Captain
Primary School Attended:
Lochwinnoch Primary School

My plans after leaving Johnstone High School are: Either getting an apprenticeship in computing or going to university to study mathematics/computing. Working towards the end goal of becoming an AI Researcher/Developer.

One piece of advice to all the new S1s would be: Be ambitious and have confidence in yourself. Be goal orientated. Find what you do best, what you enjoy and work towards that. And remember that empathy is a super power; never be afraid to show kindness to others.



Lydia McCreavy

Position: Depute School Captain
Primary School attended:
Kilbarchan Primary

My Plans for after leaving Johnstone High School are: to go to university to study medicine

One piece of advice for all the new S1 would be: Enjoy your time in the junior years and try not to stress too much. Get involved in as much as you can around the school.

S6 LEADERS INTERVIEWS

Meet our new S6 leadership team



Kate Vidler

Position: Depute School Captain
Primary School Attended:
Lochwinnoch Primary School

My plans after leaving Johnstone High School are: Going to university to study law and getting my degree.

One piece of advice to all the new S1s would be: Although moving into high school is scary, everything will eventually fall into place.



Eva Birchall

Position: Depute School Captain
Primary School Attended:
Thorn Primary School

My plans for after leaving Johnstone High School are: To go to University to (hopefully) study vet medicine.

One piece of advice for all the new S1's would be: Don't be afraid to make mistakes, it's the only way you can grow and become a better person.



Sam London

Position: Vice Captain
Primary School attended:
Howwood Primary School

My plans for after leaving Johnstone High are: Probably a degree in engineering, into a career that would allow me to travel and do lots of cool stuff.

One piece of advice for all the new S1's would be: Take all the opportunities offered to you; you may just find something brilliant!

S6 LEADERS INTERVIEWS

Meet our new S6 leadership team



Darrel Carty

Position: Vice Captain
Primary school-Kilbarchan primary

What I want to do when I leave school, hopefully go to uni and get a degree in the field of psychology or Cyber Security

Advice for S1's. Just take one day at a time and try not to get too worked up or stressed about things as everything will be absolutely fine.



Leoni McFadden

Position: Vice Captain
Primary School Attended:
Howwood Primary school

My plans for after leaving Johnstone High School are: To attend university to study modern languages in order to become a language teacher here in Scotland or to go abroad and teach English. I would also love to travel abroad and experience new cultures.

One piece of advice for all the new S1s would be: my own advice would be that when you hit rock bottom there is only one way to go and that's up. Take life one day at a time and believe in your abilities, you can do it!



Toni Brady

Position: Vice Captain
Primary School Attended: Darvel Primary School

My plans after leaving Johnstone High School are: Going to university to study psychology or college to study social science and then university.

One piece of advice to all the new S1s would be: moving into S1 is a big change but a healthy one. You will find out what subjects you love and find lots of friends.

S6 LEADERS INTERVIEWS

Meet our new S6 leadership team



**Name: Odion Glory
Izedome Memeh**

Position: Vice Captain

Primary School: Grunschule an der
Simmernstraße and Grundschule an
der Fröttmaninger Straße

Plans for leaving school: Go to univer-
sity and study International business,
travel and hopefully volunteer in
different countries.

Quote: Stand up for what you think is
right, be yourself, don't let anyone put
you down and make the best first
impression because what ever
happens from now on will be
remembered.



Callum Mclay

Position: Vice Captain

Primary School Attended:
Auchenlodment Primary School

My plans for after leaving Johnstone
High School are: Doing a Graduate
apprenticeship in Software engineer-
ing or studying computing/math's at
university.

One piece of advice for all the new S1
would be: Do your best to get to know
a wide range of pupils and staff.



Name: Andrew Boyce

Position: Vice Captain

Primary school: Thorn primary

After I leave school I hope to do
an English degree to become an
English teacher

A piece of advice for S1 try make the
best out the situation we are in and
try get involved with the high school
as much as you can.

S6 UPDATE

UCAS News

With the applications for vet medicine and medicine already submitted, S6 pupils are now in the processes of writing personal statements for other UCAS applications.

A variety of supports are provided by Miss Wilkie and Mr Munro to ensure the best possible applications are submitted. Supports include virtual and streamed lessons as well as support PowerPoints.

If anyone need further information, then please contact Miss Wilkie or Mr Munro

With the School captains and their depute and vice captains also appointed

a variety of ambassadorial roles have been selected for each. They are

Glory Izedome/ Kate Vidler
BLM, Black History month, a pupil group

Andrew Boyce
Mental health and anti-bullying

Lucy Dempster
ASN + inclusion

Toni Brady
Mental health, a home link-based project

Callum McLay
Sport / PE / extra-curricular

Darrell Carty
ASN

Leoni McFadden
LGBTQ+

Alexander Brown
Autism awareness and clubs

Sam London
Online learning and clubs

Lydia McReavy
STEM or Music

Eva Birchall
Science club & women's health and safety

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



QR Code to school web site

Address
Beith Rd
Johnstone
PA5 0JN

Telephone
0300 300 1331

“ **KEEP IN TOUCH**

THIS IS YOUR SCHOOL ”

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

Website:
www.johnstonehigh.renfrewshire.sch.uk

email:
johnstonehighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Twitter
[@JohnstoneHighSc](https://twitter.com/JohnstoneHighSc)