**Head teacher weekly update**

**Friday 3rd September 2021**

Dear Parent / Carer,

We are now at three weeks into the new term, and it is now officially the start of Autumn! Pupils may now need to consider bringing a jacket to school and we are only three weeks away from September weekend (Friday 24th and Monday 27th of September).

Here is the news for week 30 August – 3rd September

1. **Covid Update**

We continue to have a very small number of cases in JHS and parents have again been text with a link to the new ‘warn and inform’ letter. This can also be located on the Council website.

Please remember that young people who have covid symptoms should NOT be sent to school and need to get a negative PCR test before returning. Thanks for your support in keeping our school community safe.

1. **Head of Service Visit**

On Thursday this week we welcomed Julie Calder, Head of Service, to the school for a tour and meeting with myself and the depute head teachers. Julie was impressed by the calm and orderly school environment and all of our wonderful pupils who were working so hard as we toured the classrooms. Along with Education Manager Maureen Sneddon, Julie is linked to Johnstone High and we look forward to working with her over the years to come.

1. **SQA meetings**

This week in school I have been busy, along with Mrs Cole and the other DHTs, meeting all of the curricular PTs to discuss the most recent SQA results. These meetings have been really productive, and we explored with PTs what went well last year and what lessons we can learn for 2021/22. We are carefully considering our approach to assessment to ensure that we are well prepared and have collected evidence of attainment ‘as we go’, so it is available if needed.

1. **Parent calendar**

I am hoping to have that with parents electronically next week, and hard copy home in bags the week after. We are awaiting final word from HQ on the Queen’s jubilee holiday.

1. **S6 News**

UCAS – well done to the approx. 60+ pupils who signed up and went through the registration with Mr Munro this week. It’s now over to the pupils to complete the registration process by uploading their qualifications etc and ensure staff have reference forms to complete. Pupils should also start thinking about their personal statement and guides are available from mr Munro’s office.

Miss Vernal has recently been appointed as project leader with responsibility for pupil leadership. As a result, she is taking a lead role in organising the S6 Captains recruitment. Pupils who applied will receive an email early this week to let them know if they have progressed to the interview stage which will take place the following week.

MVP training – well done to the 50+ S6 who took part in MVP training this week, supported by Miss Smith, Mrs Smith, Mrs Badger, Miss Brown along with many other staff volunteers – as well as Ms Hewitt from Renfrewshire Council. MVP means ‘mentors in violence prevention’ and is a government backed programme to train older students who then go on to support younger pupils to respond positively when they witness bullying or any other form of inappropriate behaviour.

1. **Vaccinations**

HPV vaccinations went ahead today for S2 and S3 (and catch up S4). I am delighted to report that these went well, and the NHS team commented on how brilliant and mannerly the JHS pupils are 😊

Please remember to return flu vaccination consent forms – these may be at the bottom of school bags!

1. **Parent Council**

The next meeting of the parent council will take place on Monday 6th September at 7pm in the school staffroom. This is our first ‘in person’ meeting since February 2020 😊

1. **Back path**

We are beginning to receive reports from local neighbours about anti-social behaviour at the back path. Staff will continue to supervise our canteen / campus / local area to the best of our ability (staffing dependent) to ensure a safe and litter free environment for pupils and residents alike. S1 are reminded that they are not yet permitted to leave school grounds.

1. **Spotless September**

Groups of pupils will soon be taking part in litter picks as we do our bit to contribute to the council’s ‘Spotless September’ campaign. The back path may be the first focus area!

With best wishes to you and your family,



Lynne Hollywood

Head Teacher