**Head teacher weekly update**

**Friday 22nd October 2021**

Dear Parent / Carer,

Here is the news for week 19-22nd October

1. **Staff in-service day training**

On Monday 18th October the staff had an in-service day in school.

Colleagues spent focusing on learning and teaching in departments, however the day also included ongoing training from our link Educational Psychologist on nurturing approaches (as a school we are almost halfway through the Renfrewshire Nurturing Relationships Approaches, or RNRA programme).

We also devoted significant time to online training from LGBT Youth Scotland. We already have our silver charter mark and are very close to achieving gold. For us, this is an important statement to our LGBTQI pupils, staff and parents/carers that everyone is included and valued in the Johnstone High School community.

1. **S3 Health and Wellbeing Day**

On Wednesday many outside agencies came into school to speak to S3 pupils about a range of physical, emotional and mental health matters. We had lessons delivered by:

Barnardoes

Radar (drugs and alcohol)

Exchange counselling

Kevin Neary from Aid and Abet

Active Schools

Our own S6 Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP)

Feedback from the pupils was very positive. The sessions were wide ranging, and some covered very powerful and thought-provoking topics.

1. **S1 and S3 Tempest Photos**

S1 and S3 pupils had their photo taken by Tempest on Thursday. Pupils have their order form and sample photos in their bags. Ordering is now online and all details are on the form.

Sadly S2 missed their photo last year due to covid but we have reassured them that all going well we will catch up with them next year!

Seniors are having their photos in early February 2022.

1. **S1-6 Flu Vaccinations**

Today all pupils and staff had the opportunity to get their flu vaccination. The NHS team that came into school whizzed through 1000 people, all before lunchtime, which was truly staggering. Pupils have a leaflet in their bags from the vaccination team: *‘what to expect after the child flu vaccine’.*

The pupils are to be commended on their behaviour and conduct and the NHS staff were very complementary.

1. **Parent Council News**

Sadly, the Parent Council, in consultation with myself, have made the decision to cancel the Christmas Fayre. This was due to take place on 25th November. The National and Local guidance around covid states that we are still not yet able to hold large gatherings.

We were quickly running out of time to ‘wait and see’ if the restrictions would be lifted, hence the difficult decision was made to cancel the 2021 event.

1. **Important reminders – uniform and time keeping**

You may recall that I contacted you over the October break about behaviour and conduct of JHS pupils. The DHTs and I have met with all S1/2 and we are working our way through S3-6 PSE classes to deliver clear messages about the standards we expect in school.

We have let the pupils know that uniform checks will be starting soon, and we have items of uniform in stock that we can loan when pupils don’t come to school appropriately dressed.

I would very much appreciate parent/carer support in ensuring pupils come to school in their uniform and on time. Thank you.

1. **Pupil Progress**

This week S4 have been involved in their first round of class assessments, and S5/6 assessments start next week. Staff are also busy reporting on a number of year groups, and S3 tracking reports should be issued next week.

A homework club for S1-3 pupils starts on Tuesday 26th November in Miss Gribben’s room. Each week this will be staffed by a team of volunteer staff on a rota.

If any pupil has any questions about this, please pop to speak to Miss Gribben.

1. **Parents’ evenings**

In line with Renfrewshire Council guidance, the decision has been made that we cannot go ahead with face-to-face parents’ evenings, at least up until Christmas.

Along with the other Renfrewshire High Schools, we have investigated and signed up for online (virtual) parents’ evenings platform. We have had really positive feedback on this from the neighbouring schools that have already gone ahead. The platform is simple to set up and work with, and you can even use your mobile phone.

More information will come out soon, particularly for parents of pupils in S4 who are scheduled to have their parents’ evening on 11th November.

1. **Forthcoming events**

This week Mr Munro and I met with colleagues to discuss plans for Children In Need. I am really looking forward to the fun week of fundraising activity that the staff and S6 are planning. More details will follow for pupils and parents, however for your diary this will take place 15-19th November.

Remembrance is also coming up. S6 will be going round with poppies and collection tins, and we hope to do a virtual assembly for students on 11th November.

With very best wishes to you and your family,



Lynne Hollywood

Head Teacher