

NEWSLETTER

WINTER
2017

JOHNSTONE HIGH SCHOOL

DETERMINATION·HONESTY·RESPECT
FRIENDSHIP·TRUST·RESPONSIBILITY

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GET IN TOUCH

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Cover image: Chloe Russell S4

December 2017

Mrs Hollywood tells us
what's new in term two

Welcome to our second newsletter of the school session 17/18.

The school term October through to December is always a busy one when staff and pupils progress through courses and assessments, and for our senior pupils prelims are looming in January. The life of the school is in full swing with clubs and activities, field trips and external speakers coming into school. You will be able to read much more about this throughout this newsletter.

In terms of staff news, this term we have welcomed two new classroom assistants to our team – Ms De Stefano and Mr Cameron. I am also pleased to inform you that Ms Brown was successful in securing a temporary PT Nurture post within the school. Congratulations to Ms Brown – a very well deserved promotion. Congratulations also go to Mrs Smith who had a baby girl and Mrs Adam who had a baby boy this term.

In other staffing news, I am delighted to let you know that Mrs Sturgeon, DHT has been appointed to the post of Head Teacher at Drumchapel High School in Glasgow. Mrs Sturgeon has been in JHS since 2015 and has been thoroughly committed to the care and welfare of our children in her role as DHT for Pupil Support. I'm sure you will join with me in congratulating Mrs Sturgeon and wishing her well as she takes on leadership of her own school. Mrs Sturgeon will be with us for some weeks after the Christmas break and I will be in touch with parents of children in her house group (Arran) to let them know about head of house arrangements at that time.

The life of the school has carried on at a pace this term. Over the course of this term we have seen the following take place:

- P7 Open Evening.
- Successful S1 Halloween disco.
- Dyslexia Awareness week.
- Ongoing House Assemblies on school values.
- Remembrance Service for S2.
- Behaviour reward ceremonies for pupils S1-6.
- A careers event that focused on the expressive arts exhibition.
- Fireworks inserts from community safety for younger students.
- Children in Need fundraising activity.
- Respect Me (anti-bullying) week.
- Training for seniors on the 'MyWorldofWork' resource so they can support younger pupils.
- Gathering the Voices (holocaust) exhibition and assembly

Finally, at time of writing, Christmas is in full swing in the school and was kicked off on 12th December when we welcomed High School Musical to Johnstone High. The three night run was a huge success – my congratulations and thanks to every member of staff, pupil, parent and friend of the school who contributed to this wonderful show. If you follow us on twitter, as the week progressed you will have seen photos of the fever pitch that was 'Christmas Dinner Day' in the school canteen, which was then followed by Christmas jumper day with donations being taken for the national appeal for Save the Children. A real highlight of the week was on Friday 14th December when our wonderful S6 organised and then distributed 50



parcels for elderly people in our community. Well done to all involved – showing the school value of 'friendship' in action.

On Christmas week itself the S1 have a service delivered by myself and Dougie Adam from our chaplaincy team, there is a non-uniform day with donations collected going towards our House charities, and the final day is all about...THE GREAT JOHNSTONE HIGH SCHOOL INTERHOUSE GAMES!

At this time of year, more than any other, I feel especially proud and privileged to be part of the wonderful community that is Johnstone High School. I wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas.

Mentors in Violence Prevention Initiative

Mrs Haggerty
Literacy Co-ordinator

I am delighted to introduce the Johnstone High School S6 Mentors in Violence Prevention team. Supported by staff mentors, S6 learners enthusiastically engaged in a two day training programme, created by a development team from Education Scotland, in partnership with Police Scotland's Violence Reduction Unit. MVP is a violence prevention programme. Consequently, the programme is being delivered in Johnstone High School to support the health and wellbeing of learners - and to develop leadership skills in our S6 group of volunteer mentors.

Within a supportive learning environment, S6 mentors are involved in leading S1 learners in focused discussion about identifying behaviours which negatively impact on health and wellbeing of our learners. The sessions provide the opportunity to discuss strategies which would lead to the prevention of bullying and gender based violence. It is important to stress the point that discussion focuses on applying strategies which would not endanger the bystander in any way: the focus of the programme is to discuss safe interventions. In November our senior leaders delivered the first of three lessons to S1 during Personal and Social Development time

and our S1 learners engaged well with their senior peers. Our S6 mentors prepared well and engaged S1 in lively discussion. We are looking forward to delivering lesson two before the Christmas holidays. All that remains for me to say is that we would like to thank S6 mentors for participating in the MVP initiative - and I look forward to sharing the S1 experience before our Christmas break.



Scottish Book Week

To celebrate Scottish Book Week, S1 and a group of primary 7 learners from Cochrane Castle Primary School met Tom Palmer, author of texts such as *Defenders* and *Over the Line*. Our audience fully participated in discussion about reading and were keen to take part in a reading quiz. The atmosphere in our assembly hall was electric, when our audience discovered that the participants in Tom's quiz, with the most points, would compete in a penalty shootout

which would take place on our stage. Tom Palmer shared his own experience as reluctant reader and reminded young learners that reading is an essential life skill and that reading is FUN. Tom assured our readers that all reading material is valuable and that reading is for everyone, if we find material that we enjoy.

Inviting Tom Palmer to our school was a fantastic way to promote reading and to support Scottish Book Week. We look forward to meeting him next session.

During Scottish Book Week, S2 learners were invited to take part in our "Read for Good" initiative. The Readathon organisation has coined the expression "Read for Good" in order encourage people to engage in reading text and by so doing, raise money to refresh the book stock in Children's hospitals. The organisation also reminds us that engaging in reading for enjoyment contributes to positive educational outcomes for young people as well as nurturing emotional health and wellbeing. The organisation recognises that enjoyment motivates our young people to read- and if there is a focus for their reading - motivation is likely to increase. Consequently, the initiative

encourages readers to raise money to provide ensure that young people who have to spend time in hospital are stimulated by reading a range of texts which is regularly refreshed. Raising funds is vital because hospital staff can only accept new books in order to reduce the risk of infection for patients; therefore our donations are essential to ensure that plenty of reading material is available.

The beauty of the taking part in Readathon is that all reading material counts. Personal choice is key and determining how long a person will spend reading is determined by the reader. Inviting family and friends to sponsor the reader is a great way of raising funds, and sponsorship will encourage the reader to benefit from engaging with text. We recommend that volunteers read at home and in school. Our



library and the literacy room can accommodate any young person wishing to engage in reading during lunch or interval. Arrangements can be made by speaking to myself or the school librarians.

It is our intention to extend Readathon from the 18th of December until the end of January. It is not too late to volunteer. The pictures along side this article reinforce the idea that reading can take place in a variety of different places. We look forward to displaying a variety of pictures in the school

library. Information about Readathon can be accessed through their website: www.readathon.org

During Scottish Book Week, the librarian, Michelle Kane and I were delighted to invite a volunteer from the Canine Concern Scotland Trust to visit Johnstone High School to read with our learners. The S1 & 2 volunteers were very positive



about being given the opportunity to read and discuss their books in the company of Willow, an Old English sheepdog.

We hope to schedule regular visits to our school library this session. Regular visits would make it possible to invite more young people to participate in a reading sessions focused reading and meaningful discussion about their texts, during and after reading a section of the book. We look forward to further visits.



On the 12th of December, a group of S3 learners visited Fordbank Primary School to meet primary 5 learners. The purpose of their visit was to showcase how they used

their literacy skills to conduct research and subsequently, to create a webpage. The S3 group employed a range of literacy skills to complete their



project, which focused on life in the 1960s. They explored topics such as politics, art, music, fashion, technology and space in 1960s context.

The project enabled members of the group and to work in partnership with the librarian as well as with the teacher responsible for the group. The S3 group were able to lead learning by presenting their work to an audience of learners in Fordbank Primary.

S4 Update

Mr Menzies

Since the last update, S4 house have been hurtling to the Christmas holidays and following this the prelims. Classes are being challenged and expectations remain high for their first ever set of prelim exams. The prelim exam timetable has been handed out and a sustained study programme should now be getting planned around the festive celebrations in order that S4 pupils give themselves the best possible chance to perform well in this crucial set of exams. In addition to preparing for the prelims, I have held pupil focus groups with a number of S4 pupils in order to get

their opinions on what is working for them at Johnstone High and what they believe we could be doing better with so that the universal support is right for every child.

At the end of October and December we celebrated the promoting positive behaviour rewards events. I was fortunate enough to attend a number of these events and was delighted to see a large number of S4 pupils who are buying into the promoting positive behaviour policy. The events went down a storm with the pupils, with a number of S4 pupils winning prizes.

Since October we have held full house assemblies with a focus on two of our school values of Determination and Honesty. Our target is that these values become embedded in the day to day running of our school and are a key part of myself and Ms Wilson's daily conversations with pupils in our house group, Mull

As I mentioned in the last

newsletter, a key focus of our school is to promote and celebrate the achievements of our young people. Many of them are heavily involved in the extra-curricular provision, but there are a large number who are involved out with school.

I would ask that if any pupil has been successful on the sporting field, on the stage or any other activity that they let their house DHT know in order that these successes can get the recognition they deserve.

Gathering the Voices

Mr Fenwick

For the third time Johnstone High was privileged to host the Gathering the Voices exhibition. This was our third time - the most any school has hosted the event. This charity foundation has collected testimony from those who fled Nazi Europe and came to Scotland. This exhibition linked well with work in RME on the Holocaust and in History's big theme of examining prejudice and discrimination in the past. Classes visited the exhibition with their teacher to find out about those who escaped to Scotland.

Please have look at their website

which many recordings of interviews of those who were lucky enough to survive that difficult time.

<http://www.gatheringthevoices.com/>

The school was also very lucky in that Howard Singerman and Steven Anson were able to visit the school. They both volunteer for Gathering the Voices and speak about the experiences their parents had in escaping Nazi Europe. Howard and Steven delivered an assembly to the whole of third year which was very moving and informative. Howard spoke about his Mothers survival in Auschwitz and Steven talked about his Father's memories of arrest and

discrimination in Bavaria in the early 1930s. Howard, Steven and staff present commented on how well third year listened and respected what was a difficult and emotional presentation. Howard and Steven was also able to speak and take questions from pupils in an S1 History class with a few of S3 present.

Once again I would like to thank the team behind Gathering the Voices, especially Howard and Steven and all the teachers and pupils that were involved in helping further develop a very enriching and interesting partnership with Johnstone High School.

Teaching & Learning

Mrs Robertson

PT Teaching & Learning

My name is Katy Robertson and in August 2017 I started the post of Principal Teacher of Learning and Teaching. The main aim of my role is to improve consistency across learning and teaching in Johnstone High School and increase the sharing of good practice amongst the staff. So far this session all staff have been taking part in Learning & Teaching working groups. There are 12 working groups in total and they cover a variety of teaching techniques and key areas of teaching including: meeting the needs of all learners, pace and challenge, feedback and

next steps and embedding literacy and numeracy. Feedback from these groups has been very positive with staff finding them a useful experience to share good practice with each other. Within these groups all staff are taking part in 'learning walks' to see good practice across the school, so pupils should expect to see more staff popping in and out of their classes to see what they are learning!

Finally through staff suggestions and feedback we have come up with the 'Johnstone High Lesson' (see opposite). This sets out a baseline

expectation of what pupils should experience in every lesson. The lesson covers three main areas:

- **learning environment.**
- **The lesson methods and**
- **lesson procedures.**

So far this has had positive feedback from both the Parent and Pupil Councils, as well as from the staff. If you have any questions about the Johnstone High Lesson or learning and teaching in the school please do not hesitate to get in touch!



Learning Environment

1. Pupils will be welcomed into a positive and safe learning environment, where there are high expectations of all learners, encouraging positive relationships.
2. Praise and encouragement will be used regularly and effectively, with all pupils' achievements being celebrated.

Lesson Methods

3. Lessons will be planned effectively, making connections with previous learning and incorporating our Responsibilities For All (Literacy, Numeracy & Health & Wellbeing).
4. A range of teaching methodologies will be used to ensure all learners' needs are being met, including appropriate use of differentiation.
5. Appropriate pace and challenge will be used to motivate and engage all learners. Learning will be extended with appropriate homework.

Lesson Procedures

6. Learning Intentions and Success Criteria will be shared both visually and verbally and referred to within the lesson.
7. Starter tasks and plenaries will be used regularly to begin and round off pupils' learning. Registers will be taken within the first 10 minutes of the lesson.
8. Teachers will use effective questioning techniques through lessons.
9. Teachers will encourage and support pupils to take responsibility for their learning and be aware of their progress and next steps through effective feedback.
10. Pupils will be made aware of the real world links with their learning and have the opportunity to develop skills for life, learning and work.

PUPIL PROFILE

LEON DRYNAN



I have been snowboarding now for around 4 years and this has been my most successful year in terms of medals and wins. I ride freestyle which consists of jumps and rails/ boxes. I train twice a week at Xscape and twice a week at Bearsden Dry slope.

I am a member of the GB Team Park & Pipe Pathway and this gives me access to coaching, as well as being able to travel to various countries boarding.

This year I have been to Italy, Switzerland and Austria.

Some of this year's highlights have been, being featured on Ski Sunday in January (on my birthday too). I won the U16 Gold Freestyle competition, U16's Gold in the Big Air competition and Bronze in the overall Big Air competition at The Brits in Laax in April.

An the Scottish Freestyle School competition in September I won Gold, and a few days later took U16's Gold and Overall Gold in the Scottish Freestyle

Competition.

In October I travelled down to Manchester for The Brits competition where I won Silver in the U16's but took Gold in the Overall category. A few weeks ago there was a dry slope competition in Aberdeen where I won silver in the U16's and silver in the Overall category.

It's been an amazing year in terms of wins/ medals and I hope to improve on this success next year. Thanks to the school for their continued support.

Expressive Arts

Mr Shepard
Principal Teacher of Art & Design

On the 31st of October the Music, Art and Dance departments hosted the first Johnstone High Expressive Arts careers event. Similar to the already established STEM events, pupils from S2-S6, including some from our partner schools across the authority, were given access to first-hand, expert knowledge and experience from former pupils and professionals who are either studying in or working in the Expressive Arts field. Contributors ranged from the Royal Scottish Conservatoire to the Glasgow School of Art. The aim of the day was to give our pupils insight into what is available in terms of further study and employability within the arts beyond their secondary education. The 17 contributors came with a wide range of knowledge and in depth information which will hopefully give our pupils more choices and directions to ponder. It was an extremely informative and enjoyable day for the pupils and the contributors. The reaction to the event from the pupils has been very positive and their feedback has given us some pointers for next year.



S2 Group Update

Mrs O'Malley

It has been another very busy term. It was, as always, so nice to see so many of our S2 pupils at the behaviour rewards ceremony being recognised for their good behaviour. The S2 pupils also displayed impeccable behaviour as an entire year group at the Remembrance Service in November and this was

acknowledged by visitors to the school. As we head into the New Year the senior pupils will be preparing for their practice exams while our S2 pupils will be getting ready to choose the subjects they want to study next year. So now is a good time for them to start thinking about their subject choices and the kind of career

area they would like to work in. There is lots of information online and pupils can look at the following websites in preparation for their option choices:

www.myworldofwork.co.uk
and
www.planitplus.net

Nurture Update

Miss Brown
Principal Teacher of Nurture

I am delighted to have recently been appointed as Principal Teacher Nurture. My new role includes the setting up and running of a new support room for our young people; helping to increase their confidence, their self-esteem and their learning. Another key part of my new role is to work with staff across the whole school to continue to develop whole school nurturing approaches. Mr. Cameron, our school Janitor, has helped me to renovate one of the school rooms into the new support room. This room has been carefully arranged to have the best of both classroom and a home environment. It includes a sofa, bean bags and some plants along with learning materials including a moveable whiteboard. The room has still to be named and our young people will decide on this early into the New Year. I look forward to welcoming pupils, staff and parents into the room in the New Year when the room is up and running. In the meantime, here is a sneak preview of one of the corners of the room.

I also look forward to giving more information on the work that is done in the room to support our young people, along with an update on our whole school nurturing agenda, in the next newsletter. May I also take this opportunity to wish all pupils, parents, carers and the whole school community a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.



Show My Homework

All students should be accessing their homework through show my homework. This can be accessed by downloading the app on their phone or alternatively they can login via the website. If your child forgets their login details they can still access their homework by following these steps:

- Go to the website www.teamsatchel.com.
- Click on 'search for my school'.
- Type in 'Johnstone High School'.
- Click on 'show all' to see the full Johnstone High School homework calendar or use the filters at the top to search by year group/subject/teacher.
- Any member of staff will be able to reset your child's password and give them their username(glow email address) if they forget it.
- If you need to know your parental pin code please contact Mrs O'Malley.

There have been some technical issues with the national 5 courses which meant their homework was not appearing on the app, but homework was still being issued by class teachers. This has now been resolved and all classes should now be receiving all their homework via show my homework.

Please note that you can contact show my homework directly to help resolve any technical issues you may have or alternatively you can contact the school and we will pursue any issue on your behalf.

Active Schools 2017

Danny Johnstone

With thanks to all those who help keep our schools active.

our Active Schools coordinator

The pupils at Johnstone High have represented the School at a number of Active School's events this year.

The Renfrewshire Schools Road Race event held at The On-X in Linwood was a great success. S1 pupil, Matthew New, won gold in the S1 boy's race and Struan Campbell won Silver in the S3 boy's race. Our S1 girls' team placed 2nd, represented by; Ada Robertson, Emily Gorman, Robyn Thompson, Shannon Milligan, Isla Skelton, Hannah Ramsay and Amy Beverland. Our S3 girls' team; Millie Spence, Iris Dickie, Megan Thompson and Rachel Nisbet, won 1st place.

Congratulations to all involved!

The Renfrewshire School's Badminton Championships was another great success with pupils participating from S1-S6. Scott Edgar and Anna Lyons made it to the Quarter Finals. S4 pupil, Rebecca Adams also made it to the Quarter Finals for the S3/4 Badminton Championships and Josh Gray won the S3-S4 Championships after playing several qualifiers, a quarter final, semi-final and the final.

Our S1-S3 Dance club have been working hard, learning a routine for the Renfrewshire School's Dance event which will be held in Renfrew High in March which they are very excited about.

Finally, in the Renfrewshire swimming heats for Scottish Schools 2018

Rebecca Adams who won two golds (backstroke)

Zoe Greig who won a bronze (fly) and silver (free style)

Brodie Hood who won two golds (fly and individual medley)

Euan Walker who placed fourth (breast stroke)

Mabel Wylie who won a silver (free style) and gold (fly)



Struan Campbell S3



Matthew New S1



S3 Girl's team



S1 Girl's team



S1 & S2 pupils



Josh Gray S4

S5/6 Group Update

S6 collected and wrapped over 100 items, which they collected from staff and pupil as part of their Christmas parcel campaign. Mrs Hollywood and Mr Munro accompanied a group of S6 as they distributed parcels in Johnstone town centre on the afternoon of Friday 15 December.



They are looking to organise some events in the New Year. S6 are keen to organise a quiz night to raise money for charity. Watch out for details in the coming months.

There will be a S6 residential weekend in February with a series of outdoor activities, quizzes and general good fun.

Supporting your child during prelims.

Prelims begin on 10th January and go on till 22 January 2018.

All pupils have been issued with their prelim timetable which also contains the detailed instructions they should adhere to. Here is a limited summary:

Pupils should know that if they misplace their copy of the prelim timetable they should get another copy from Mr Munro.

Pupils should try to ensure they have eaten prior to an exam.

As many of the exams have changed their format and are much longer – 2 ½ hours in some cases – they should make sure they have water with them for during the exam.

Remember all pupils in S4 – S6 have their SCHOLAR login and they should ensure they utilise this brilliant resource when preparing for exams.

EXAMS RULES

1. There is **NO STUDY LEAVE** for prelim exams. If an exam finishes during a period, pupils are permitted to wait until the next period bell before going to class. If a pupil has no exam in the morning then they are expected to attend class.

2. Unless indicated otherwise all exams will take place in the assembly hall

3. Prior to **EVERY** exam pupils **MUST** register with office staff who will be located outside the assembly hall.

4. Please ensure you are at the exam location **AT LEAST 10** minutes before the start of each exam. The start time indicated is for when you are seated and ready to begin writing and not entering the location.

5. Pupils **MUST** wear school uniform for all exams.

6. If you feel unwell **BEFORE** an exam and you have not arrived at school you must telephone and speak with Mr Munro.

7. If you feel unwell **BEFORE** and exam and you have arrived in school you must speak with Mr Munro.

8. If you feel unwell **DURING** an exam you must inform an invigilator **IMMEDIATELY**.

9. During an exam you are not permitted to have a mobile phone, Apple watch or any other electronic device. If the device is placed in a bag prior to the exam

IT MUST BE SWITCHED OFF OR PUT ON SILENT.

If any parent / guardian wishes to discuss an issue related to the prelims, they should contact Mr Munro. He can be contacted at the school on 01505 322173 or by email on:

graham.munro@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Diary Dates

19/12/2017
NON UNIFORM DAY

20/12/2017
SCHOOL CLOSURES AT 2:30 P.M.

04/01/2018
SCHOOL RE-OPENS

10/01/2018
PRACTICE EXAMS S4 – S6 BEGIN

22/01/2018
PRACTICE EXAMS S4 – S6 END

23/01/2018
S2 PARENTS EVENING

31/01/2018
S2 – S5 OPTIONS EVENING.

08/02/2018
SCHOOL CLOSURES MID TERM
HOLIDAY

14/02/2018
SCHOOL RE-OPENS

26/02/2018
FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT BEGINS

19/02/2018
PARENT COUNCIL MEETING
7:00 P.M.

01/03/2018
WORLD BOOK DAY

19/03/2018
JHS CHARITY WEEK

23/03/2018
NON UNIFORM DAY

29/03/2018
SCHOOL CLOSURES AT 2:30
EASTER BREAK

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

Miss Wilson

Anti-Bullying Week 2017 was celebrated in style this year with the key message of 'Respect Me' prevalent across the school. Pupils wrote their anti-bullying messages on the Respect Me Wonderwall in the canteen every lunchtime and Andrew Boyce won a pair of cinema tickets for the winning message: 'Don't be mean behind the screen'.

A Photo Booth was also set up where pupils dressed up and had a picture taken with their friends. To finish the week, there was an Anti-Bullying Karaoke Inter-House Challenge. Following performances from Mr Palombo, Mr Menzies and Ms Wilson, Mull were the winning house although the best performance went to Brian Wallace for his amazing rendition of All Star.



S3 Update

Mr Miller

The pace has been increasing for the S3 cohort as they motor towards the conclusion of the broad General phase of their education and towards the Senior Phase. In the rapidly-changing climate of Scottish education, they have also been the first S3 cohort to undertake the new Scottish National Standardised Assessments in Literacy (Reading and Writing) and Numeracy.

These online assessments generate diagnostic information for classroom teachers to help support learners and to confirm CfE level judgments made throughout the course of the school year. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all pupils in S3 for the mature, committed approach they took to completing the assessments. What could have been a very complicated, laborious process was made much easier as a result of their attitude, behaviour and effort. I am very proud of them and am hopeful that the assessment will provide another useful tool for classroom teachers to ensure pace and challenge for every pupil at Johnstone High School.

After the winter holiday, S3 pupils will begin more formal preparations for making their options choices for S4 and beginning National Qualifications. Information will be issued to parents and carers about this process and they will be invited to join us for the options interview itself.

Speaking of partnership working, S3 pupils are cracking along with their Youth Philanthropy Initiative project in PSE as they bid to win thousands of pounds for a local charity of the winning group's choice. The learning process, citizenship and social justice involved in this initiative all chime with our school vision, values and aims and I am excited to see the presentations produced by the pupils as they bid to convince their peers and a panel of judges that their charity is deserving of the donation. Hot on the heels of YPI will come another fantastic opportunity for S3 in the new year as we team up with Columba 1400 to explore and promote values-based leadership and build our young people's capacity to take an active leadership role in their school. The Columba 1400 team will present to S3 after Christmas and explain the application process, which will culminate in a group of pupils and staff spending a week in Skye to work on a variety of leadership tasks and plan how they will positively impact the school on their return.



Youth Voice Award Winner

Rebecca Adams

Young Volunteer of the Year 2017

On Wednesday 8 November I was invited to the Normandy Hotel for The Positive About Youth Awards. I was a finalist in the Young Volunteer of the Year Award. A film crew from Erskine's Music and Media Studio came out to the school to film me. I was dreading it getting played in front of my friends and family!

I was nominated by Leeanne McPhail who used to be the active school co-ordinator for Auchenlodment Primary and Johnstone High. She nominated me as I had over 500 hours volunteering, was a youth ambassador for Children's Parliament, volunteered at Families First holiday camps, I am a CSH Young Leader and just recently became a youth ambassador for Young Scot and Year of the Young People 2018.

I didn't think for a minute I would win, as this was the 2nd time I had been nominated for an award and it usually goes to someone much older. When they started to say all that I achieved, I started to think could this be me. I couldn't believe it when they called my name and played my video. I was so excited. It was a great night and I felt really honoured to win and I am so grateful to have been given this honour.

By Rebecca Adams



S1 Group Update

I am delighted to report that S1 have settled well into life in Johnstone High School. Pupils have been working hard and I am very proud of the positive reports they received from their teachers at the end of last term, I am sure their next round of reports in January will be just a positive.

It has been a busy few months with different events, extra-curricular activities and of course lots of learning. At the end of October pupils enjoyed a Halloween disco which was run by S6 pupils. They showed endless amounts of energy and displayed some interesting dance moves! As a result of their excellent behaviour, the vast majority of S1 pupils were invited to attend our positive behaviour reward assemblies, during which they took part in quizzes, games and won many amazing prizes. Well done to all these pupils, who through their hard work have consistently demonstrated our school values contributing to the positive ethos in our school community.

Already mentioned in this newsletter, all S1 pupils took part in Mentors Against Violence training which was delivered by S6 pupils. Pupils now understand their

role in standing up to bullying and have a team of S6 pupils who they can go to if they need help.

Some of our S1 pupils have reflected on their time since joining Johnstone High School back in August. Here is what they have to say:

"I really enjoy Johnstone High School because I get on well with all my teachers. I have made many new friends. I have managed to find my way around the school quickly. I had fun at the Halloween disco and really enjoy the behaviour reward assemblies." Tom Stephen

"I enjoy meeting up with my friends at breaks and lunch. I get on very well with my teachers. I've met lots of new people. There are lots of clubs to choose from at lunchtime and after school. Each subject is different which makes it interesting. I really like high school as I'm able to be more independent." Jason Kirkwood

"High school is really different from primary. It's much more fun and I have met lots of new friends. Since coming to Johnstone High School I have become a different person, I'm more confident and

I work harder on my studies. I play for the school football team which is great fun." Harley McRae

"I've enjoyed coming to Johnstone High School as every day is different with different subjects. My favourite subjects are Art and English. I like the food choices in the canteen and it is fun to meet up with friends at break and lunch times. I go to the German club at lunch and I enjoy translating into English plus we get to eat German treats. I'm looking forward playing in the girl's football team after Christmas." Morgan Hayes

"Everyone is really friendly in Johnstone High School, including my teachers. Everyone encourages me to do my best. I have made lots of new friends. I am in the school choir and go to dance club after school. I took part in High School Musical which was lots of good fun and it helped me grow in confidence. I really liked being part of the school show team as we all helped each other. I enjoy all the different subjects and opportunities that school offers me." Lucy Dingwall

With such positive comments it is clear to see that 2017 has been a great year for S1 pupils.

Trainspotting Theatre Trip

Advanced Higher English

Lauren Reid S6

After a couple of class members chose to research the cult novel, 'Trainspotting,' by Irvine Welsh for their dissertation, Mr. Clark thoughtfully organised a trip to a critically acclaimed performance of 'Trainspotting' at the Citizen's Theatre, where Mr. Peters kindly drove us to and from. The cast demonstrated impeccable acting through their interpretations of the characters, and expertly explored the dark, harrowing themes prevalent throughout the book.

In an effort to improve upon our textual analysis skills we also analysed a short extract from the dramatic adaptation of the novel, prior to the trip. Being aware of the effect and reasoning behind seemingly unimportant stage directions certainly increased the impact the hard-hitting performance had on the night, and allowed us to experience the thoroughly enjoyable drama from a much more analytical perspective.

 **KEEP IN TOUCH**

THIS IS YOUR SCHOOL 

Telephone
01505 322173

Website:
www.johnstonehigh.renfrewshire.sch.uk
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