

# NEWSLETTER

*WINTER*  
*2018/19*

**JOHNSTONE  
HIGH SCHOOL**

DETERMINATION·HONESTY·RESPECT  
FRIENDSHIP·TRUST·RESPONSIBILITY



*WINTER DANCE*  
*2018*

# February 2019

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

**W**elcome to the Winter edition of the Johnstone High School newsletter. A lot has happened since the Autumn edition which came out on the 11th of November.

As we are mid-way through the session there is less staffing news than at the start of term. Nevertheless, we have had some movement of staff. Mr Carey in Computing has retired and Mrs Sparkes has come in on a supply basis to support us. Ms Butler Robson, PT Pastoral for Iona House, started her maternity leave in January – congratulations on the birth of her beautiful daughter Josie – and Mr Kennedy from Renfrew High School has joined us as Acting PT Iona House. Mr Bryce has joined the English team on a permanent basis, and Mrs McIntyre (Modern Languages) and Ms Dimitroulaki (History) have come in to support us on a supply basis. Finally, Mrs Robertson has taken on the role of Acting Faculty Head of Social Subjects and RE.

## School Life

In terms of events and achievements, you may have seen some lovely coverage in the local press about our recently unveiled War Memorial – there are more details on this later in the newsletter. Our seniors, supported by Mr Brookes, have been taking part in Young Enterprise and had a successful show of their products at the Braehead trade fayre in December. Roll on the finals! Rachel and Connor (Head girl and boy) have carried out their duties impeccably all session and last week were the JHS representatives at the Holocaust Memorial Event in East Renfrewshire. We have had a football trip, run by Mr Stevenson, off to see Man City vs Everton on a very cold and snowy weekend in December. We've also had success in Art competitions

and a special mention to Heather whose beautiful photography work represents May in the Renfrewshire Council calendar for 2019. Finally, three of our S3 have beaten off almost 80 competitors to make it to the West of Scotland final of the Subway Sandwich competition – fingers crossed they can go all the way.

Our charitable fundraising keeps going at a pace. The S6 put in a great effort for Children in Need with dressing up in PJs for the day, shaving heads and waxing legs, raising over £300. We've also had coffee mornings, a non-uniform day and S1 disco for our 4 house charities. Plans are now underway for Comic Relief in March. Finally, as a school staff group we are supportive of local charity 'Lisa's Gift' that exists to help Renfrewshire school pupils who need financial assistance to access aspects of school life. Last year a group of staff did the Kilt Walk for Lisa's Gift, and slightly less taxing was a recent Ladies Day at David Lloyd that saw many staff in attendance. Miss Brown, PT Nurture, has been heavily involved with this charity and is planning another Kilt Walk – please support this brilliant charity if you can.

Of special note, of course, must be the Sleep in the Park charity event that took place in December, in association with Social Bite. An intrepid bunch of S6 and staff, led by Mr Munro, braved the cold and wet to sleep rough for a night in Kelvingrove Park to raise funds and awareness of homelessness. The friends and families of JHS raised a massive £2000+. Thank you all so much.

This led us nicely into the Christmas festivities within JHS. Christmas is one of my favourite times of year in the school we try to make it special and good fun for the young people. From

the huge, real tree in the assembly hall (which gets a lot of attention from the S1!), to dances, positive behaviour reward events, the Christmas fayre (more about this below), charity work, school shows and the interhouse games, there is a buzz about the school and a warm sense of community spirit. It is also a



time of year when the S6 come into their own. From Sleep in the Park, the S6 then went on to organise the Christmas parcel collection for the school and Johnstone was buzzing on the day when they hit the high street to deliver parcels to local elderly residents. We have received some lovely notes from local residents about this. The S6 also organised their first 'Snowball' Christmas dance in the Bowfield that was a brilliant night and a great practice for prom later in the year. The Christmas concert took place on the last week of term and showcased an increasingly large number of pupils' talents in singing, dancing and

instrumental skill. We witnessed some wonderful individual and group performances and I am delighted to see the growing confidence and self-belief of our children who take to the stage and give it their all. Well done!

Finally, our Christmas festivities wind up on the last day of term with our Christmas Service for S1, the inter-house games and then Christmas Karaoke in the afternoon. The inter-house games this year were won by Arran house (after three years of hurt, propping up the league table) and for the uninitiated I can only liken it to 'It's a Knockout' crossed with 'Shooting Stars', so only readers of a certain vintage will appreciate that reference! Games this year included The Penguin, Identify the Food, Hankies out the Box, Candy Cane Hook and my favourite, Wrap the First Year. Our attendance on the last day of term is holding up well due to our efforts to entice pupils in on this day. For your information, I ask all staff to continue with academic work right up until the last day of term when we put all of our efforts into a great programme of fun events for the pupils.

destination, but we are always trying to get this as near to 100% as possible. On our twitter feed parents and pupils will see lots of information about opportunities in the local area; apprenticeships, training, courses and jobs. Mrs Carlin (employability lead in the school) has been working tirelessly to support Christmas S5 leavers and is now focusing on the pupils who want to leave in summer at the end of S4. She has also organised the recent careers fayre that was well attended by local providers, employers and the college. Dr Costello, the following week, had the STEM careers fayre in the school that was also a great source of information for our young people. This is all building up to the options process for S2-5 and this year Mr Menzies is overseeing it within his remit area of timetabling and curriculum. Our options information evening on 31st of January was very busy and I hope that pupils and parents alike now have more information about future pathways. As was discussed at the presentation, there will be an opportunity for parents to attend an options interview later in the term to make sure we are all working in partnership on such an important part of

about this, and I would encourage parents to discuss this and encourage the young people to take up this facility. In the meantime, pupils should be actively using show my homework and scholar as a means to support homework and revision. Please get in touch with your child's PT Pastoral or DHT should you have any questions or concerns.

Forthcoming trips (for your information)

- Duke of Edinburgh – training days and expeditions throughout the session (weather and staffing dependent)
- London trip 2019
- World Challenge India 2019
- Carnival and activities on the last week of the year – more info will be out about this soon.

## Parents

As ever, we are grateful to our supportive parents and Parent Council. The Christmas Fayre on 28 November was



In terms of sport, our young people continue to amaze us with their hard work, skills and talents in a range of sporting areas, both individual and team based. We have had representation at District and Scottish schools events, and some of our pupils are even competing at an international level. Well done to Katie who played China in a friendly Ice Hockey fixture and Leon who has been selected for Sarajevo 2019 for the Youth Olympics (Snowboarding).

A major focus for our school is career planning and options. We are really proud that 94% of our pupils leave to go to a positive, sustained post-school

your child's school career.

At time of writing we have just finished prelims and DHTs and PTs are working together to look at how we continue to support our pupils in S4-6 to maximise their attainment. We will be hosting an academic review day for targeted S4-6 pupils in February when we will be inviting parents in to discuss next steps in their child's learning. We have also approached staff about delivering a programme of paid 'booster classes' (please note that this is separate to supported study drop-in sessions that are entirely at the goodwill of staff). We will be in touch with parents in due course

a great success and raised funds for the school and the Parent Council grounds refurbishment. My thanks to all who supported this. We had a PC meeting on 19 November, and the next is scheduled for 25 February and we regularly update the school website with the minutes of these meetings.

In our bid to keep the communication lines as open as possible with parents, can I take this opportunity to remind you to make sure that we have the most up to date, valid contact details for you/your child and your designated emergency contacts such as grandparents, family friends etc. We realise that phone num-



bers and emails can change from time to time but please remember to update us on this, thank you.

Finally, you may have noticed at recent parent evenings that we have been giving you a copy of your child's attendance to correct and annotate. This is a measure we have taken to get as accurate a picture as possible and to convert any 'unauthorised' absences (i.e. no note received) into authorised ones. My thanks for your help and support with this.

## School Improvement Agenda

In Johnstone High School, we are always reviewing what we do to see if we can improve outcomes for our pupils. Our new counselling service, Place2Be, is now in place and is beginning to embed with the pupils. Run by Maggie Payne, there are a limited number of places for youngsters who need regular, intensive support, alongside a more informal drop-in that all students can access out with class time. There are posters about Place2Be all around the school giving pupils the information they need.

I have become increasingly concerned over the past few months about the level of littering in and around the school building and local areas. As a school, we have supported the 'Team Up' campaign run by the council, however we are looking at ways we can develop this at school level. I am keen to organise a litter-picking programme with volunteer pupils, and will be in touch with

parents in due course about this. Any ideas or suggestions from parents on this will be most gratefully welcomed.

We continue to be well supported by the local authority and we work closely with our link Education Manager, Maureen Sneddon. Maureen has recently been in school to discuss our attainment, and will be visiting us again in February/March about learning and teaching. This is a planned series of visits that take place in all schools across Renfrewshire.

In the month of November, the SMT and the Art department joined up to carry out a 'closer look' review of the department. Over the course of the week, a number of classroom visits took place, alongside pupil focus groups and professional dialogue sessions with each member of the Art team. The result was a very strong report highlighting the strengths of the department, alongside a small number of suggested areas to support the department moving forward. My thanks to all the staff and pupils who helped during this process.

Finally, my thanks to the parents who took the time to contribute to the survey put out by Brian Donnelly, the consultant the Renfrewshire Council have brought in to support schools further develop their anti-bullying policies and procedures. We have had a number of meetings with Brian who will be helping us bring our Respect for All policy in line with the local authority position. Your comments and suggestions, alongside a range of pupil focus groups, are vital in helping us get it right for our young people. Brian has also been in to school to offer behaviour management professional development

for teaching staff, with further inserts planned.

# POST PRELIM PROCESS

Ms Cole explains  
the important  
next steps  
after this  
years prelims

On the 8th of January this year our senior pupils embarked on the beginning of their 2019 exam journey. Over 70 exams were sat over the prelim period and senior pupils conducted themselves brilliantly during this time. I would like to thank all of our teachers for planning, organising and assessing the prelim exams which give much needed exam practice and help us to ensure that all pupils are sitting qualifications at the correct levels. There is also a huge amount of work done by the support staff in school over the exam period which allows us to offer additional support to pupils wherever needed, many thanks for all your hard work.

The junior school were also very supportive of the senior pupils during the prelims and respected the areas that were out of bounds. This really helped the pupils sitting exams in the hall especially to concentrate- well done!

As ever we had a superb team of invigilators in school to supervise the exams and I would like to thank them all for their help and support, especially Mr Beattie, our chief invigilator, who puts in so many hours organising invigilators.

## Post Prelim Process

Prelim results are being issued to pupils as quickly as possible and faculty heads/ principal teachers are meeting with depute head teachers to discuss pupil progress and proposed level changes. As a school we want all pupils to achieve their potential and so sometimes it is necessary to give pupils and parents a recommendation for a level change as outlined below:

**Should a level change be recommended and agreed by the Depute Head teacher in charge of each house/year group then parents/ carers will be invited into a meeting during w/b 18/2/19 during which next steps will be discussed and agreed by all.**

These meetings are important so parents get the opportunity to engage with us and get professional advice on the current course structure, i.e it is not necessary for pupils in S4/S5 to complete all qualifications in one year.

**Booster Classes** There will be a programme of raising attainment booster classes running in school from the middle of February. Pupils have been given an opportunity to view all available classes and sign-up for these.

**It is important that all pupils listen to their teacher's advice as to what classes to attend and they should ensure that they attend all classes that they have been individually invited to as there is a very specific programme of targeted support for different groups of pupils.**

There will also be a programme of booster classes running during the first week of the Easter Holidays and this programme will be published during March. Pupil should again sign up for the appropriate sessions when advised to do so.

I would like to thank all the staff who already have and who will be giving up their free time to run these booster classes and for the huge amount of work involved in preparing them to ensure that all of our pupils achieve their potential.

Current Level	Recommended New Level	Reason
National 5	National 4	Low performance in class tests/prelim exam. May be better suited to studying National 5 over two years. National 4 will ensure the pupil obtains a qualification in this subject area.
Higher/National 5	Units Only	Performance in coursework/prelims/ tests indicated that the pupil will not achieve a grade in the final exams. Unit only entries allows the pupil to gain SCQF points where evidence has been gathered to support progress in some areas of the course.
Higher/National 5	Withdrawal	Performance in this subject area is very low and it may be better for the pupil to direct focus into other subject areas to maximise attainment.
Higher	Study over two years	The pupil has a real interest in this area of study but is yet to achieve potential. Class teacher feels that with extended study of the subject attainment will be maximised.

# English Department

Mr Clark

On 20th November 2018 Johnstone High's Debate Club took part in the Law Society of Scotland's Annual Donald Dewar Memorial Debate Competition. Johnstone High was delighted to host the event which saw three other schools taking part. The other schools were Stewarton Academy, Eastwood High and St Andrew's Academy. Two S4 pupils from Johnstone High, Andrew Boyce and Glory Izedome, represented the school in a debate on the "Merits of Google". Both pupils showed great initiative in researching and writing their own speeches and giving up their lunch times to practise and organise mock debates for the competition. The standard on the night was incredibly high and both pupils excelled themselves, despite competing against much more experienced debate teams.

Parents and staff from Johnstone High and the other schools turned out to support pupils and to contribute questions to the floor debate on the evening.

Staff and parents were incredibly proud of all pupils that took part, especially those from Johnstone High. The pupils themselves said that they were delighted to have taken part and are keen to continue taking part in debate club with a view to competing again in the future.



## Law Society of Scotland's Annual Donald Dewar Memorial Debating Competition

# Art Department

**C**ongratulations to Cara Batin and Kirsty MacArthur who have been offered unconditional and conditional offers respectively from Heriot Watt University in Edinburgh to study Fashion and Textiles at the Galashiels Campus next year. We wish them every success for the future.

Our best wishes also to all our other 6th year students as they complete their entry folios for art schools across the country. Fingers crossed!

We have entered a number of BGE and Senior Phase pupils into the annual Renfrewshire 'Inspired' competition and exhibition.

These are Robbie Meikle, Amelia Hood and Zac Jeffrey from S1, Lucy Fox and Daisy Newnes from S2, Anna Lyons from S3 and Emma Garrow,

Devlin McGhee, Leon Russell and Ellie Rourke from S4.

We will hear shortly if any of our entrants have been successful.

One of our former pupils, Heather Briglin had work selected from the above competition last year to feature in the Renfrewshire Schools Calendar which is sent out to all education establishments across the authority. Heather's was one of only 2 photographic pieces selected for the calendar.

Well done Heather!

The War Memorial which has been a labour of love for the department for the past 4 years was finally unveiled last November during the Remembrance service. The work features pieces completed by

former and present pupils and commemorates those who attended Johnstone High and who died during WW1. The memorial is also dedicated to pupils who have gone on to serve in all branches of the Armed Forces since the Great War.

The Memorial is made up of images etched into copper. Each image is a visual response by each pupil to the concept of service and sacrifice. Each pupil approached the subject with dignity and respect and produced visually stunning and thought provoking images.

The Memorial can be found in the entrance foyer.

## Sporting Success



**W**ell done to our U16 and Senior Football Teams who have both qualified for the Champions League stage of the Paisley and District League Competition. There will be lots of tough games ahead – follow our results on the Health and Wellbeing Twitter page @johnstonehigh

Finlay Walker (S3) recently achieved a black belt in Taekwondo. Well done on a fantastic achievement!

# Employability Update

Mrs Carlin

We will continue to build a network of community partners to provide employment and training opportunities



**W**hat a busy time Johnstone High pupils have had developing their employability skills!

In a series of workshops aimed at developing skills for the world of work, we have welcomed our Partners at Morrisons Supermarket into the school to help some senior pupils in the art of CV writing and Interview techniques. Yvonne Frame and her team provided guidance, support and practical advice to boost the confidence of pupils in applying for higher education or employment. We have also welcomed Wilma Ledburn from Renfrewshire Council and Paula Leca from Developing the Young Workforce West into school. They have been assisting Winter Leavers with college applications and employment pathways. They will continue to support our pupils throughout the coming months.

ing the finished race car and wish both pupils success.

We will continue to build a network of community partners to provide employment and training opportunities which will be communicated to pupils through social media, assemblies and direct contact.

Mrs Carlin will continue to inform pupils about any career or apprenticeship opportunities by posting them on the schools Twitter feed, the S6 "Wall of Opportunity", assemblies or by direct contact with pupils. If anyone has any employment related questions or needs any help, please see Mrs Carlin in Home Economics room 1.



January saw the Johnstone High Careers Event, which was attended by 21 companies and organisations, such as Rolls Royce, BAE Systems, J P Morgan, Future Textiles, West College Scotland, Spateston Nursery and Street League.

The purpose of the event was to help pupils with their career choices. Some pupils made contacts with employers to secure interviews and work experience opportunities.

Kenzie Thompson (S4) and Connor Hayes (S4) were selected to attend the Greenpower Initiative based at West College Scotland. Once a week these pupils work on building a race car. This experience requires both pupils to fund raise, approach employers and work as part of a team. We look forward to see-



# Diary Dates

15th & 19th /02/2019  
Academic review days for targetted seniors

25/02/2019  
PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

04/03/2019  
S3 Immunisations

26/03/2019  
Easter Concert

28/03/2019  
Non Uniform Day

29/03/2019  
Easter Service

29/03/2019  
Spring Holiday School Closes at 2:30

15/04/2019  
School reopens

17/04/2019  
Senior Awards Ceremony

18/04/2019  
Graduation Ceremony S6

18/04/2019  
School closes for Easter Weekend at 2:50

23/04/2019  
School reopens

23/04/2019  
Young Musician Evening

24/04/2019  
SQA Exam diet begins

24/04/2019

S1 Parents' night  
06/05/2019  
May Day holiday

07/05/2019  
In Service day

08/05/2019  
School reopens for pupils

13/05/2019  
Parent Council Meeting (also AGM)

24/05/2019  
to 27/05/2019  
May holiday weekend

28/05/2019  
School reopens

29/05/2019  
Junior Awards Ceremony

31/05/2019  
SQA Exam Diet ends

# School Counselling Service

We are very pleased to welcome Maggie to our school staff. She is the manager of our in house school counselling service from place2be. Pupils can be referred for intensive therapeutic counselling through their pastoral care teacher. Alternatively pupils can access place2talk which is a drop in service that is available to all pupils. This can be accessed on Monday and Tuesday before school

8.30-8.45am and on a Monday after school from 3.40pm. Pupils can also request support by filling in a form and posting it in the box outside the place2be room.



# Young Enterprise

In-case has begun taking orders for your personalised mobile phone cases and pop-sockets and we are busy fulfilling orders taken from before prelims. The team also took part in the Young Enterprise trade fair at Intu Braehead where the judges were very impressed with the core idea for the business. Sadly, we didn't win the event and Mandy was absolutely robbed of the banter award, a travesty. We are now working towards the finals in March and selling, selling, selling.

# Iona House Update

Ms Cole Takes up  
her new role as Acting  
Depute HeadTeacher for  
Iona House

It has been another great few months for Iona House. I was again incredibly proud of all the pupils from Iona who were invited to the reward assemblies at the end of last term. It was fantastic to see so many pupils being recognised for their continued hard work in lessons and for their brilliant attitude to learning across the school.

At the end of last term I also experienced my first inter-house games. The sense of house pride from all of those present was inspirational and all the pupils that took part in the games really tried their best and showed what great teamwork looks like. The support from the audience was also brilliant and really helped those taking part. Unfortunately we were pipped at the post in the last event and didn't win but in this case it was definitely the taking part that counted!

Since returning to school in January our senior pupils have been

sitting their practice exams and I have been really pleased with the mature and sensible approach that Iona house pupils have taken towards these. There will now be some more very hard work to do over the coming months as pupils prepare for their real exams in April/May and this is when our house motto 'Believe to Achieve' becomes even more important. I know you can all achieve your potential, just keep trying!

In January we also welcomed our new pastoral teacher Mr Kennedy who has joined us whilst Mrs Butler-Robson is on maternity leave. I am delighted to tell you that Mrs Butler-Robson has had her baby - a beautiful baby girl called Josie. Iona House sends her all our love and best wishes! Mr Kennedy has been working very hard to get to know all the Iona House pupils and has been enjoying PSE lessons with all the Iona classes.

I am always delighted to hear about pupil successes both in

school and out of school. Please encourage all young people to come and share their successes with Mr Kennedy and I so that we can reward them and celebrate their achievements on our wall of fame.



# LISA'S GIFT

Lisa's gift is a small charitable organisation which has been created in memory of Lisa Moran.

Its principal purpose is to offer financial assistance to students attending Renfrewshire schools, who may require extra support to allow them to take part in the full range of school based and extra-curricular activities.

Since its inception in 2014 the charity has been able to help over 400 pupils in schools across Renfrewshire, including many of our own pupils, to participate in a wide range of activities. These have ranged from educational trips, both abroad and within the UK, to the provision of breakfast supplies, sports kit and warm clothing.

To support Lisa's Gift in the wonderful work that they do, staff at Johnstone High have taken part in a number of fundraising activities to raise money for Lisa's Gift.

In April last year, four members of staff took part in the Kiltwalk, a 23-mile walk from Glasgow to Balloch, raising over £3000. In November last year, a number of staff also attended Lisa's Gift Annual Ladies Afternoon Tea which raised over £3500.

Plans are already underway for this year's Kiltwalk which will take place on Sunday 28th April. A number of staff and some of our senior pupils will take their uniform off, put their kilt on and walk the 23 miles from the starting line at Glasgow Green to the finish line at Balloch Park.

A Team JHigh fundraising page will be created soon and we will post the link to this on the schools Twitter page. Team JHigh would very grateful for any donation that you could make, helping us to support school pupils across Renfrewshire.



# PARENT COUNCIL UPDATE

If you would like to get involved with future fundraising events or get in touch with the Parent Council, please email

[johnstonehighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:johnstonehighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk)

The Parent Council held their second meeting of the year on Mon 19th November, which was well attended by parent members. We were delighted to have Mr Palombo in attendance at this meeting, along with some new members who were given a warm welcome and introduced to the Council. The main discussion points at the meeting were the final preparations for the Christmas Craft Fayre, school staffing issues and the whole school approach to pupil behaviour in classes.

It has been a relatively quiet session for the Parent Council, but the Christmas Craft Fayre on the 28th November proved to be a highlight. Despite the most awful stormy weather on that particular evening, the Craft Fayre was busy with parents, pupils and friends in the community enjoying some festive shopping from an abundance of fabulous craft stalls. Santa brought a smile to many faces and delivered a welcoming festive cheer at the entrance to all those who had ventured out, through the driving rain and wind! A great performance from the school choir also delighted the crowds with a

selection of festive songs. The Parent Council would like to thank parents and the school community for all their generous tombola and raffle donations and their support of the event. A fantastic profit of £1,172.00 was raised at the Christmas Craft Fayre with proceeds going towards the Parent Council outdoor project and school funds.

Over the winter months, landscape work on the garden area has continued, while the new furniture for the outdoor project is being manufactured. Tidying of the space, new stones, matting and bark have been laid in the garden area in preparation for the arrival of the new benches, tables, planters and pavilion. Further painting in the area will occur once the warmer weather arrives (hopefully soon!)

More recently, the Parent Council were pleased to offer their support to the Careers Fayre held at school on the 24th January, sourcing employer contributors for this event and potential contacts for similar events in the future.

If you would like to get involved with future fundraising events or get in touch with the Parent Coun-

cil, please email [johnstonehighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:johnstonehighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk)

Reminder – Parent Council minutes, Head Teacher reports and Chairperson's report are posted in the school website and school app.

Diane Spence

Chair, Parent Council



# MAN CITY v'S EVERTON TRIP

45 pupils attended the Man City vs. Everton game on Sat 15th January. Despite arctic conditions, all thoroughly enjoyed a 3-1 win for Man City at the Etihad Stadium. Pupils behaved impeccably, and this was commented on by members of the public several times. Not even some heavy snowfall on the way home could dampen the spirits after

another great trip to Manchester.



# DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

## Duke of Edinburgh Update

Our current group of S3s have been steadily working away with their volunteering, skills and physical activities. We have also been practicing the essentials for the upcoming expeditions, doing tasks on map reading, how to pack a rucksack, outdoor cooking and many more. In the near future we will be doing tasks on first aid, orienteering and camp craft. The practice expeditions are provisionally planned for May and the qualifying expeditions in June.



# Skye House Update

Mrs O'Malley  
Depute HeadTeacher  
for Skye House

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**S**kye house pupils have had a busy term with our senior pupils preparing for and sitting their prelims. This is the first time most of our S4 pupils have sat formal exams in the exam hall and they have coped and behaved very well through this process. They are now heading towards their SQA exams which start on the 25th April 2019. Pupils should take full advantage of the extra support that is on offer through supported study and Easter revision.

As always many of our pupils were acknowledged for their continued good behaviour in our rewards ceremonies in December with the majority receiving silver certificates. I look forward to seeing even more pupils receive awards at the next behaviour rewards ceremony at the end of term.

The team spirit of Skye house was incredible at the inter house games before the Christmas break and if there had been a prize for this I am confident we would have won first place.

Skye pupils decide on their new motto this year which is 'The Skye is never the limit'.

Our S1 and S2 girls received their HPV vaccinations in the 1st week of term in January and anyone who missed this will be re called in the catch up sessions in March. Please contact the school if

you have any questions regarding this.

Please continue to let us know about any achievements our pupils have out with school so we can celebrate their success in school.





Mr Munro  
Depute Head Teacher for  
S5 & S6

### **Pupil Leadership**

The head boy and head girl and the twelve deputies have been very busy in the past few months.

They arranged themselves into committee leaders and started to organise many events throughout the school. Their experiences have proved invaluable as departments have used them to run focus groups on a variety of topics. They have chaired meetings, taken notes and fed back to faculty heads.

The head boy, Connor Wilson, and the head girl, Rachael McBride, attended the leaders conference at Gryffe High School. All 11 schools in the authority were represented. Our two gave an informative speech on nurture, Johnstone High's approaches to this and details of our Thrive Hive.

They both attended the Holocaust event on Monday 28th January with Mrs Robertson held in Eastwood High.

### **Pupil Voice**

As part of the constant improvement process, Mr Munro and Mrs Robertson will be organising a new way to capture pupil voice. As part of the school's process of reviewing and evaluating Learning and Teaching both of them will be filming pupils' opinions on 'what makes a good lesson?' Pupils will shortly receive a form asking them to sign up to give their

views. No pupil will be filmed unless they wish to.

Once all the views are in a short film of the clips will be made and will be shown to all staff in school to help us continue to provide quality learning experiences.

### **Inter house Games**

The third annual inter house games took place on the last day of term before the Christmas holidays.

This event has now become firmly established in the school calendar and is held in the hall where there was standing room only. A series of the wackiest, most surreal games took place between pupils in each of the four houses each vying for points to head the leaderboard.

Among the games there were taste challenges, teamwork races and of course wrap up a first year for Christmas! All the photos are on the school Twitter page.

A final dramatic game saw Mr Rainey and Mr Palombo and the Arran pupils achieve glory much to the chagrin of defending champions Mull. To say that this year's games were tribal was an understatement with Mr Brown leading Skye in the now famous Iceland chant and them responding with Mr Brown's yellow army!

### **Senior Parcels**

Another feature of the last week of term is the S6 distribution of Christmas parcels at the Johnstone Band Stand.

For 5 weeks, S6 pupils Diana Odiase and Mandy Sneddon had coordinated a collection for the whole school of toiletries, gifts and chocolates. These were wrapped and the minibus took some of the year group down to the town centre where unsuspecting members of the public were surprised when they were handed with a gift a Christmas card from S6.

Over 200 Christmas parcels were handed out.

### **Senior Snowball**

On December 12th S6 and staff danced the night away at the annual Snow Ball which was held in the Bowfield Country Club. Organised by Emma Russel and Kai Smolarek of S6 the night was an outstanding success.

Photos of the evening are on the school Twitter page.

### **Sleep in the Park**

On December 8th, 35 S6 pupils and 6 staff (Mr Munro, Miss Mullaney, Mr Clark, Miss Gribben, Mr Brookes and

Miss Hamilton) braved the cold and sleep out overnight in the 'Sleep in the Park' Initiative. The event was organised to raise funds to combat homelessness in Scotland and as a result of the efforts the school raised £2940. A certificate was awarded and now hangs in full view in the school foyer.

Photos of the event are on the School Twitter page

## War Memorial

After almost 10 years, the school now has a dedicated war memorial with the names of ex pupils on it who fell in WW1. Principal Teacher of Art Andrew Sheppard was instrumental in bringing the design to completion. Pupils from a variety of years – past and present – had helped design aspects of the memorial. It was formally opened on 11 November 2018 exactly 100 years since the end of the Great War. It was formal-

ly unveiled by director children services Mr Peter MacLeod with local councillors and invited guests in attendance.



## Flag

The FLAG pupils are currently working on promoting 'No Fizz February'

This is a personal challenge aimed at all JHS pupils to try and resist fizzy

drinks for the month of February. It only takes 21 days to form a habit and young people can be more easily broken out of a bad habit than adults. Sugar is highly addictive and fizzy drinks are high in sugar. So lets all try and take up the challenge and say 'No to Fizz' in February.



# PROMOTING POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

At the end of each term, pupils who have received no more than one demerit throughout the term are invited along to celebrate their efforts at year group Promoting Positive Behaviour Reward Events. At these events pupils receive a certificate, take part in very fun activities and are entered into prize draws where they can win a range of prizes. Prizes include Odeon Cinema vouchers, Braehead shopping vouchers ... and the very popular 'Golden Ticket', which winners trade with a teacher of their choice to beat the lunch queue and get their lunch five minutes early on one chosen day.

At our most recent Christmas reward event, 24 lucky pupils in each year group were randomly selected to go

up on the stage and choose a raffle ticket which got them a Christmas themed prize. The Christmas prizes ranged from selection boxes to Elf Surveillance cameras ... to the surprisingly unpopular prize of an empty gift bag filled with love and joy. It was a lot of fun ... even for the winners.

The end of this term will see our Gold Reward event, our Annual Easter Egg Hunt. A firm favourite for pupils, this event will involve pupils working in teams to solve clues which, if solved correctly and quickly, will lead them to a pile of Easter Eggs for their team. It is really egg-citing and pupils are usually egg-static.

Photos and updates to follow soon.

# SPOTLIGHT ON THE JHS SUPPORT TEAM

## **Mr Rainey**

I am Principal Teacher of Pastoral Support for Arran House. My responsibilities include developing careers education and co-ordinating our Work Experience Programme. I also lead senior pupils on World Challenge expeditions.

## **Mr Kennedy**

I am Acting Principal Teacher of Pastoral Support for Iona House while Mrs Butler-Robson is on maternity leave. My focus is Mental Health and Substance Abuse. I am also responsible for ensuring that all pupils feel included in their learning particularly those from the LGBTI community.

## **Ms Wilson**

I am Principal Teacher of Pastoral Support for Mull House. I am responsible for developing the Relationships Topic in our PSE programme. I also organise the Inter-House games and co-ordinate the Pupil Council.

## **Mr Brown**

I am Acting Principal Teacher of Pastoral Support for Skye House. One of my main responsibilities is developing our Wider Achievement programme. I also co-ordinate Health and Wellbeing learning walks to ensure our Wellbeing indicators are delivered across the curriculum.

## **Ms Wilkie**

I am Principal Teacher of Pastoral Support for S5 and S6. I co-ordinate the S5 PSE programme and my particular expertise is in Mental Health. I am a trained Bereavement Counsellor and am also involved in training the S5s to become Befrienders for the new S1s coming up to high school.

## **Mrs Smith**

I am Principal Teacher of Learning and Behaviour Support. I am responsible for supporting young people with additional support needs to access the curriculum. I also teach ASDAN which is a Personal Development Programme for S3 and S4.

## **Ms Brown**

I am Acting Principal Teacher of Nurture. Along with Mrs Currie I am responsible for the day-to-day running of the Thrive Hive (Nurture Room) and the young people supported within it.

## **Lorraine Badger & Lorna Hammerton**

are our Home Link staff. They are a valuable part of the Pupil Support Team and support our young people and their families at vulnerable times in their lives.



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**KEEP IN  
TOUCH**

**THIS IS YOUR  
SCHOOL**