**Head teacher weekly update**

**Friday 28th January 2022**

Dear Parent / Carer,

Here is the news for the last week in school:

1. **Retiral**

On Friday 28th January we said farewell to Mr Cameron, our lead janitor, who retired after 46 years of working in our school.

Mr Cameron was a Johnstone High School pupil and began working in the janitorial team, under his dad, in 1975. In 1991 his dad sadly passed away, and Mr Cameron then took on the role of lead janitor. He has completed 46 years in Johnstone High School and I am sure we will never again see that length of service in any one establishment, let alone JHS. He truly is a Johnstone High legend and will be much missed by staff and pupils.

We had a celebration for Mr Cameron on Wednesday after school, and everyone here wishes him all the best for a long and happy retirement.

1. **Pupil toilets**

On Monday 24th January myself and Mrs O’Malley met with pupil council representatives to discuss pupil toilets. The pupils had suggestions about how they would like pupil toilets to be organised.

Therefore, from Monday 31st January, the following new procedures will apply:

**During breaks and lunchtimes:**

S1/2 will access the milling area toilets

S3/4 will access the Eng/Maths toilet

S5/6 boys will access the Sci toilets

S5/6 girls will access the MFL toilets

And single cubicle toilets will be available to pupils preferring those.

**During lessons**, if pupils need to access the toilet, the milling area toilets and single cubicle toilets will be available. Staff will be recording toilet visits and pastoral staff will be monitoring this as there are a small number of pupils avoiding lessons by asking out repeatedly.

Finally, we have had some vandalism / vaping in toilets and pupils are reminded that any incidences of vandalism / vaping will be taken VERY seriously and parents will be contacted.

1. **Study leave**

We received conformation about study leave dates for April/May/June 2022 from Renfrewshire Council. I will write to parents this week to outline all forthcoming dates, including holidays, and share our plans for S6 and their last week of school.

I was delighted to share with the S6 captains that we have booked lapwing lodge for them😊

1. **Options update**

This week S3, S4 and S5 pupils completed the ‘dummy run’ exercise – this is when we ask them what courses they are thinking of, but it is NOT binding in anyway – this then allows Mr Menzies to draw up options forms that are a ‘best fit’, based on what the pupils are telling us. Mr Menzies is in the process of crunching all the data and options forms will be out soon. He will also speak with the Parent Council at their next meeting (21st February).

For more information on all aspects of the options process, please visit the 2022/23 OPTIONS PROCESS tab which can be found in both the pupil and parent areas of the school website.

1. **Holocaust Memorial Day**

Thanks to Miss Smith and Miss McGinley for the work they did putting together a very powerful presentation for Holocaust Memorial Day on Thursday 27th January. The feedback from staff and pupils was really positive, and pupils engaged well with this important topic.

1. **Meningitis and Diptheria Jags**

This took place on Tuesday 25th January for S3/S4 and catch-ups for S5/S6. The NHS team were complimentary about our young people who were really brave despite receiving two jags into one arm! We were super proud of them all, and really touched when some of our big boys and girls asked us to hold their hands (you’re never too old to ask someone to hold your hand!).

Many thanks to Mrs Davidson and the classroom assistant team who coordinated a very smooth-running day.

1. **S3 parents’ evening**

This took place, online, on the evening of Tuesday 25th January. Due to covid restrictions, all parents’ evenings will be taking place online this session. This was our third experience, and we are increasingly getting into the swing of it - however the 5-minute cut-off is hard to get used to!

The next parents’ evening will be S2 on Tuesday 8th February and Mr Menzies gave the year group their letters on Friday last week.

**Dates for your diary**

Reports: S4/5/6 Reports will be issued w/b 31st Jan

Virtual P7 info evening 1st February

Children’s mental health week 7 – 11 February

S2 parents’ evening 8th February

Non-uniform day 11th February

SCHOOL CLOSED 14th, 15th February

SCHOOL INSERVICE (CLOSED TO PUPILS) 16th February

Parent council 21st February

With very best wishes to you and your family,



Lynne Hollywood

Head Teacher