**Head teacher weekly update**

**Friday 13th May 2022**

Dear Parent / Carer,

It has been some weeks since the last HT weekly update; my apologies for this. We have had challenges related to staff absence, myself included as I was absent due to being ill with Covid. It’s been great to be back at school this week and I have a few things to update you on. It’s been a wee while since I last wrote one of these, my apologies!

Exam season is upon us, and although it brings stresses and anxiety for teachers and pupils alike, I’ve personally found it very reassuring and normalising to see the pupils coming in to sit their exams. It’s also incredibly humbling, looking into the assembly hall and seeing the culmination of years of hard work – theirs and yours – in action as rows of kids have their heads down, getting on with their assessments. Thank you for everything you’ve done to get them there, from teaching and learning through to support, encouragement, and never giving up on them.

On a similar note, well done to the cast of thousands that supported H and N5 English reading/scribing/invigilation this week.

And so, onto the news for the week:

1. **Staffing News**

Mrs Cullen was appointed acting PT Modern Languages a couple of weeks ago, this is whilst Ms Price (the substantive PT) is acting DHT.

This week we had a visit from a member of staff who will soon be joining us. Mr McGinty is an experienced PE teacher and will be a permanent member of the JHS staff team from 30th May. I’m sure everyone in our school community will make him most welcome.

1. **Primary Transition Update**

On Tuesday this week the Modern Languages team – including S3 helpers -welcomed in several of our associated primary schools for a transition visit. This went really well and the p7 pupils were very positive about the experience. Many thanks to all involved, and the session is running again on Wednesday next week.

We are working with our primary colleagues to prepare for the three day visit in mid-June, and we are holding a P7 parent information evening on Tuesday 31st May.

1. **SQA Exams**

SQA Exams continue this coming week with RMPS, Graphics, Spanish, Business, Practical Cake Craft, Biology and History at all levels.

Please continue to encourage your child to attend the masterclass session prior to the actual exam. Finally, please note that pupils **MUST** be in school uniform **whenever** they are in the building – for masterclasses or examinations. Thank you.

1. **Parent Council**

The next meeting of the Parent Council is scheduled for Monday 23rd May, 6.30pm – 8pm, in the JHS staffroom. It is the AGM and all are welcome.

1. **Duke of Edinburgh**

Well done to the intrepid band of pupils and staff who have been out on DofE expedition over past two days. The weather was against them, but I hear from Ms Price and Ms Smith that spirits were high when they went along on Thursday evening for a visit.

1. **Reminders about expectations**

A small number of pupils are continuing to cause staff concern as they are not living up to our high expectations. This presents, most typically, in one of the following ways:

* Late for school
* Avoiding class
* Wearing PE kit (leggings and sports tops) all day rather than uniform
* Phones out
* Ongoing vandalism in the school toilets

We would be very grateful if parents emphasised the importance of manners and appropriate behaviour in school. Pupils who are not following our advice on these matters will have parents contacted, and we will request an in-person meeting to discuss expectations moving forward.

However, it’s very important to acknowledge that most of our pupils come to school on time every day, follow instructions and live up to our school values. My thanks to them – superstars, each and every one.

1. **Forthcoming dates for your diary:**
* Monday 23rd  – health week
* SCHOOL CLOSED FRIDAY 27th MAY
* New timetable starts Monday 30th May
* S6 induction Mon 30th – Wed 1st June
* P7 parent info evening Tue 31st May
* SCHOOL CLOSED 2ND AND FRIDAY 3RD JUNE
* New S4 work experience week – Monday 6th June
* S6 Prom – Tuesday 7th June
* BGE awards ceremony – 9th June, 7pm
* Wider achievement awards (invited pupils only) – Tue 14th 2pm
* P7 three day visit – 15-17th June
* Music Concert – Tuesday 21st June, 7-8pm
* Activities day – Mon 27th June
* School closes 1pm – Tuesday 28th June (and it’s a non-uniform day)

With best wishes to you and your family,

**Yours sincerely,**



Lynne Hollywood

Head Teacher