**Head teacher weekly update**

**Friday 20th May 2022**

Dear Parent / Carer,

Here is the news for the week ended 20th May:

1. **Reminders about expectations**

Over the past few weeks, we have been prioritising behaviour, uniform and punctuality with the pupils. Each day we are moving pupils along from the ‘milling area’ and unfortunately, this week we had to close the large boys toilet due to vandalism whilst waiting on repairs. Staff will continue to supervise the milling area and any pupils who are found to be vandalising our building or vaping on school premises will have the appropriate sanctions put in place. Parental support in this area is very much appreciated.

On a similar note, I am asking parents and carers to make sure that each morning your child comes to school wearing appropriate school uniform. Sadly, standards have slipped, and I find myself reminding pupils daily that the following IS NOT school uniform:

* Hoodies
* Jeans, joggies or tracksuit bottoms
* PE kit (leggings, Nike pro gear etc)

I appreciate that parents will be thinking about new school uniform purchases over the next few weeks and months – please support the school by purchasing shirt and tie, school trousers/skirts and appropriate black jumpers.

If any family is struggling with costs associated with uniform please get in touch – confidentially – and we will help. We also have period items and a full range of toiletry items for both girls/boys that are available to any young person.

Any pastoral teacher, or Mrs O’Malley (depute head) can be relied on to offer confidential, discreet support to individual pupils or families.

1. **Asist training**

Well done to Mrs O’Malley, Ms Wilson and Mr Kennedy who all completed ASIST training this week.

Mental health is an area that has been badly impacted due to the pandemic, and teenagers are no different from the adult population in sometimes experiencing mental health difficulties. We are very fortunate that we have school counsellors on-site three days per week, however I am very grateful that we now have three fully trained staff on hand to support pupils who are struggling with self-harm or suicidal thoughts. Mr Rainey and Miss Docherty will also be going on this vitally important training course over the next few weeks

1. **Staffing News**

Renfrewshire Council have been in touch this week to discuss our newly qualified teacher (NQT) allocation for next session. Along with the recruitments we have progressed this session, all going well we will not have any vacancies in August.

Our final recruitment priorities are to appoint a Computing teacher and part time staff in Modern Languages and PE.

1. **SQA Exams**

Next week is the last full week of exams (there are only a couple of exams remaining in the diet after the holiday weekend) and I am delighted to report that, so far, everything has progressed smoothly. During this final push, 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.

The documentation (minutes, HT report, Chair Person report etc) will appear on our website soon after.

1. **Parent Drop-In**

On Friday 20th I sent a text to parents of pupils in S1-5 to invite you to a drop-in session with myself at 5-6pm on Tuesday 31st May. This is to hear your views on our improvement plan priorities for 2022/23, and to ask your opinion about how we spend our ‘Pupil Equity Funding’ from Scottish Government.

We will also be sending out a survey, should you be unable to attend the drop-in.

1. **Duke of Edinburgh**

We are coming to the end of the bronze expeditions and I would like to congratulate all the young people who have taken part so far – many of them in very trying weather conditions! Well done to you all!

A big thanks to all the staff who supported the expeditions as it is a huge commitment and time away from their own families.

1. **Forthcoming dates for your diary:**
* Monday 23rd  – health week – your child should have information on this from the PE team
* 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