

Category	Question	Response
Advanced Highers	How is this year's S6 coping with half class -half digital education - how are you evaluating it? and what are the plans for next year's S6?	Only around 3 subjects have not been fully timetabled. The Children1st building has helped and is used for S6 classes and study. As a school we are around 90 pupils over capacity. Thus far, the arrangements for managing this over capacity are working well and new accommodation arrangements will be available in 2022/23 through the Darroch building.
GME	Is there any update on the Gaelic education plans at liberton or are they still looking at alternative sites? Is the possible ongoing impact on JGHS being assessed?	<p>The Council has, following discussions with the Scottish Government, asked for funding to scope out alternative sites e.g. the former police HQ at Fettes. Parents favoured a standalone school, and there are good reasons for that, and also Liberton is not as central as would be liked. That work is ongoing and we hope to hear soon from Council on next steps which would involve statutory consultation with parents.</p> <p>The impact on JGHS is uppermost in my mind. However, the over-capacity issue is not solely attributable to GME pupils and we would be over-capacity whether GME pupils were here or not. The school is growing – it is a popular, successful school with a new campus. The roll is scheduled to arrive at 2000 in five years’ time and then forecast to fall. The PC will be actively involved in this issue and in challenging and supporting the Council as they do their estate planning. The measures we have in place do mitigate against negative consequences of over-crowding. We are busy but managing.</p>
Homework	My son (S2) very very rarely gets any homework. Is there a no homework type policy at JGHS or will this perhaps change in S3? Thank you	There is a no homework for S1 and S2 during holidays as we feel that they need their break. Otherwise, there is always homework to be done – and young people should be reviewing their work – but I wouldn’t worry about there not being lots and lots of homework. I prefer our kids had time to develop other skills such as music, drama, sport, reading for pleasure, keeping up to speed

		with current affairs, and worry less about poring over work. The homework workload will increase in S3 and S4.
Intrumental Tuition	Why have the Music Department been so "surprised" by the number of pupils who want to audition for instrumental tuition? Since S2 pupils didn't have the opportunity to audition last year the Music Department should have been expecting at least twice the number of pupils as 2019 (given the larger roles) and yet they have been telling pupils that there is a shortage of places because there are more pupils than left in last year. This makes no sense because there were pupils who left in 2020 as well. S2 pupils are particularly disadvantaged because there are fewer of them who are being allowed to audition after waiting a whole year to do so!	We expect the amount of music provision to rise along with the rise in the school roll. If that hasn't happened then that would be a concern and is something that we would have to look into. Where there is a demand, we aim to do our level best to meet that demand and look forward to corresponding with PC on that issue. It is not new to have more demand than spaces available, but it may be that there is a higher demand than usual and so happy to come back to that. Music is very important to the school.
ipads	When are S1-S4 to be provided with ipads? Before the summer holidays we had been left to believe they would be distributed shortly after the start of term.	iPads are expected to be issued soon in New Year.
ipads	Is there an over-reliance on technology?	I have been asking young people and the majority prefer jotters over computers for note taking, and there is some evidence that when writing there is a process where information retention is stronger. Not robust research but food for thought.
JGHS Trust	What are the assets of the JGHS Trust?	The JGHS Trust publishes their financial details on their website (www.jamesgillespiestrust.com) and they hold an AGM annually. Their funds largely come from former pupils.

Learning from home	How do pupils learn from home if self-isolating?	In ideal world, when a teacher is teaching in classroom, the work would simultaneously be added to Teams but it has not been possible to make that happen in every case, although we encourage work to be put on to Teams to support young people working at home. We have recently shared a summary/advice paper with parents on that. However, we are not yet to work both online and in-classroom at the same time – Universities do that, and that day will come for us, but we will need investment in the technology we have in schools. Would like to work with PC towards achieving that. There are currently no plans for another lockdown and we hope that that will continue to be the case.
Revision materials	Is the school accepting past papers/higher revision books that no longer being used	Yes, please hand in at reception. Please also hand in text books.
S1 Residential	Will there be an S1 residential trip next year?	No decision has been taken on that as yet. We would love for that to go ahead and it would be a good way to complete the first year. We will keep parents informed.
SQA and exams	How did JGHS compare with other schools with exam results this year? Anecdotal feedback is that JGHS marked more strictly- has this been shown to be the case in results eg JGHS lower in the exam results table?	I think the anecdotal evidence is that we were stricter but our results were broadly in line with other years. We will have an opportunity to reflect further on this when more data is shared.
SQA and exams	When are the s4-6 pupils due to hear the results of any SQA appeals?	[These have since been communicated to all concerned].

SQA and exams	How are s4s (indeed all children) being prepared for exams through study and revision skill techniques?	Years 1 and 2 – in these years we are covering essential areas. At JGHS we cover the broad general education in the first two years, rather than three as happens in some other schools and we are looking at the content and home in on skills that will allow attainment further up the school. I am not a fan of term 'lost learning' because during lockdown pupils will also have developed other skills e.g. resilience and IT skills. Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 – some revision taking places and courses have been truncated by the SQA in response to the recent disruption. Changes vary across different subject areas and departments are getting to grips with these changes. The SQA's intention is to return to diet of exams, primarily in May, and the SQA timetable is now available online and has been circulated. We plan to return to traditional prelims but will be balancing that with time in school, perhaps by having less exam leave. There are pros and cons, but we are keen to replicate the exam experience as closely as we can.
Subject choices	What guidance is there for pupils choosing subjects to help them keep their favoured options open ? And how are parents included in that process?	To give a brief overview, students reduce from 16 to 8 subjects from S2 to S3 but they retain a lot of flexibility and can, for example, still do three languages, or three sciences. Information on course choices will be coming out soon after October break. We are working on this earlier this year so that can plan how best to use Darroch next year.

Wi-Fi	How stable is the school Wi-Fi?	The Wi-Fi at the school has been an ongoing problem and the Council has given us a positive response about efforts being made to update servers and connectivity for 365 applications. We have been reassured that work is being undertaken across Edinburgh schools on this. In relation to iPads, we anticipate that they will be distributed to remaining pupils early in the new year, so every pupil has an iPad. These will only be able to access the apps agreed to by the Edinburgh Council. Our experience is that the iPads are robust and work well.
Young Scot cards	How do S1s get Young Scot cards?	[This has since been communicated in a Friday email]. Those who are seeking a YoungScot card for their child should go to the following link: https://young.scot/the-young-scot-card/edinburgh . Contact Mr Macdonald directly if it is still an issue for some individuals.