

Category	Question	Response
Active Schools	How can we contribute to the active schools programme (increasing donation) if the kids are already signed up?	Parents can go on to Parentpay to make additional contributions.
Active Schools	Not a question but what a brilliant, clear, compelling and entertaining presentation from Eliot - many thanks!	Thank you.
Active Schools	So weird to new Gillespie's families like us - why the switch to "donation" based extra curricular sports provision, but actually payment is still a requirement, not optional? Very mixed and confusing message I'm afraid Eliot, sorry! We aren't "donating" yet, as we've only managed to get on waiting lists, boo!	There have been changes to the system by Sport Scotland which mean it is not possible to charge directly for Active Schools, so we've now put in place a system of donations. Although Active Schools is free to access, it still costs money to maintain provision and donations are needed at a similar level to what we were charging before. The reality is that there is a considerable rise in demand, and it still costs money because there are not enough volunteers and coaches are expensive. As a school, we are ahead of the curve in terms of other schools in terms of what we are providing and that is down to how we are working on this. When Sport Scotland made decision that no payments to be required from parents, that impacted on schools, which is one of the reasons that provision has stalled in some other places. We worked with PC on how to mitigate the problems posed by the new system, and went down the donations route. We now have a model we will tweak over time, but acknowledge the effort that has gone into putting it in place. The underlying principle is that those who can't afford can access sport, but those who can pay we would like you to pay and pay more.
Active Schools	Thanks, Eliot. £30 is great value for the activities on offer	Thank you.
Active Schools	Eliot - is the 63% of parents donating from parents whose children are participating in clubs or is it the whole parent body so more people are donating than are attending?	It is 63% of the parents of the 500 pupils who are participating in clubs, not the whole parent body.
Active Schools	I've just donated an extra £20 for active schools. We're happy to do that and are lucky to be able to do that. However, life is busy and it would really help if you just told us what a course / sport costs for our child and I'd just pay it. I don't have the brain space to work out what is appropriate, you just need to make it an easy no-brainer for	Thank you. At the start of term we suggested £30 for a year would be reasonable donation, and that seems a good place to start.

	me and we'll make that donation. Many thanks as our son is loving his sport.	
Active Schools	Appreciate all your work Eliot. A lot of senior schools have no clubs right now - which is not because of covid. Happy to donate more as this is still cheaper than private clubs, and so we can get good coaching in.	Thank you.
Active Schools	Lots of kids in no clubs yet and on waiting lists, no? So, why not open next term's active school clubs to those on the waiting lists so more kids can have a turn?	The reason is we have both recreational clubs and also ones that are part of leagues and competitive sport, and for some kids this is part of their SQA studies. In addition, some are competing so if we reset the bookings for the kids on the waiting list, the coaches will be saying why are all my kids in my team that I've worked with all term not got places and PE staff will be asking why SQA pupils don't have access to extracurricular activity. We are trying to work out the best way to be fair, especially in light of the need to support wellbeing. Over next 2-3 weeks [from 30 November] we will be emailing current parents asking if they want to continue or if kids have stopped attending, so a few places may be liberated and will contact the parents on waiting list to see if still want a place, and hopefully waiting lists will reduce a little. We will also check attendance on the register to check if children turned up once and not again. If so, we might have to cancel their space for someone on waiting list.
Active Schools	Do you need to sign up for active schools again in term 2/3 or will existing bookings still stand? Thanks	Please see response above.
SQA	Hi, please can you tell me when the timetable for the prelims is coming out?	This was shared in last week of term.
SQA	When does exam leave start for the prelims?	Monday 10 January
SQA	On prelims will this count towards exams if Covid stop exams in May?	Yes. A prelim assessment would form part of the assessment evidence that would be used to determine an overall course award for a candidate in the event that final examinations were cancelled

SQA	Just double check this year 2022 Highers exam will that be as per normal, ie a proper exam?	Yes, under the current plan being implemented by the SQA, all candidates are working towards final exams for N5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses
SQA	When students are off studying for prelims in January, will they have access to their teachers to help with course questions?	Yes, at the times they would normally have that teacher's classes
SQA	Will assignments be included in the science subject assessments this year? Last year they were not which negatively affected final grades awarded. They would be worth approx 30% of the final grade	Assignments have been removed by the SQA in all science subjects for session 2021-22.
SQA	Were we not expecting a discussion of how JGHS results this year compared with past years and other edinburgh schools? It was commented at last Parent Council that anecdotally our assessment process was more rigorous than other schools and resulted in fewer top grades being awarded	In preparation for the Parent Council meeting the school's SQA Coordinator was asked by the HT to prepare a presentation on the SQA's model for certification 2022 and this is what was delivered. It would be possible to arrange for a 2021 results analysis at a future meeting.
SQA	Are the prelims usually over 3 weeks? That seems a lot of precious teaching time lost	Yes, when assessing all of the N5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses, as we try to replicate what will happen in May next year. JGHS offers an extensive number of subjects; more than any school I know and by doing that will have longer exam diet. Would love to avoid youngster sitting two exams in one day but that is probably going to happen. If we reduced to two weeks there would have pinch points for youngsters sitting 3 assessments in a day. If a youngster feels is unduly challenging, contact us and we will see what we can do, but it is with a view to replicating exam diet. We are keen they gain experience of it.
SQA	What happens if a pupil can't sit the prelim exams due to COVID-19 or new quarantine restrictions after traveling for Christmas? Especially if the N5 exams are not to be sat in April due to restrictions. Let's say that Plan C wouldn't work for these kids. What would happen in this case?	Arrangements would be put in place for those students to sit assessments at the earliest opportunity (within an agreed timescale) on their return.

SQA	So under SQA Plan C, there is "no requirement" for final exams to be set by the school. Can you confirm that the school would not be setting exams in this situation?	Hopefully we will have prelims and exams as normal, but we can provide reassurance that during the year assessments are taking place (unit tests) and departments will be storing these and using the information on how youngsters are progressing. There are youngsters who do better with continual assessment. Current consultation on this. More innovative approaches at university and things we can learn in school system. Hoping will return to normal prelims and exams. Not perfect but of all the systems it's the most robust one.
SQA	So as my s6 has just said - It's final exams for assessment until it's not. Can we get any undertaking that we won't rely on a high stakes final exam, without factoring in assessments through the year, like last year if events	JGHS applied the SQA guidelines and Edinburgh Council followed up to confirm consistency across all 23 High Schools. In the absence of national examinations and a central marking approach, it is likely we will have some variation across schools. The city of Edinburgh Council sought to ensure consistency across all 23 schools by scrutinising the data from schools prior to submission to the SQA.
SQA	Last year JGHS did not gather evidence that was of any use in the final result or for an appeal. Other schools did gather evidence. Will JGHS follow the spirit of the SQA advice (as other schools did) not the letter of the law because last year's strict approach by our school disadvantaged JGHS pupils?	As would be the case in schools across Scotland, JGHS gathered evidence generated in school assessments whilst students were attending school until Christmas. In line with SQA advice, assessments towards the end of the year were used to determine gradings as they required fuller answers, covered more of the course and were deemed to have high predictive evidence. In order to ensure a fairness of interpretation of SQA guidelines, Quality Assurance was carried out at both school and Council levels to ensure that JGHS attainment was in line with that of recent years.

SQA	<p>According to the SQA 'in the interests of enabling all learners to achieve their best, opportunities for gathering evidence should not be solely based on one-off, high-stakes scenarios.' <a href="https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/97701.html">https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/97701.html</a>. So why did JGHS just have exams only for certain topics. And the SQA appeals were bound to fail as they just re-marked the paper because there were no prelims there was no back up evidence for the students. In previous years the prelims are used as evidence for appeals. So the appeals were automatically going to fail. It all seems very unfair when other schools were able to use prelims and other work for their mark.</p>	<p>Please be aware that all academic judgement, SQA appeals are a check that marking has been done correctly, regardless of what evidence is submitted. We have no control over the appeals process, the method and focus of appeals is dictated by the SQA. As the questioner points out, given the structure of the appeals system, a high number of appeals would result in no change of grade. This was a result borne out across the country and not specific to JGHS. The SQA had a long list of requirements regarding the robustness of candidate evidence generated and the quality assurance processes that all such evidence had to go through. Given that JGHS offer an extremely broad curriculum with a wide range of SQA courses on offer from S4 - S6, this meant that there was not sufficient time within May to run multiple assessments for each course and also complete the necessary quality assurance processes. That being said, results for each and every course and level were scrutinised to ensure that they were in line with those from previous years. This process was then further scrutinised and signed off by Quality Improvement Officers from CEC.</p>
Vaccinations	<p>Do you know how and when will those that missed their HPV vaccinations be vaccinated?</p>	<p>HPV vaccinations will take place on 6 and 7 April 2022</p>
Spanish	<p>Is there a JGHS Higher Spanish vocabulary booklet from a previous year (or this year) which covers all the topic vocab in the Higher Spanish syllabus please? (There was something like this created by JGHS for National 5 Spanish in the past). Can the Head of Languages please issue this to S5 Higher Spanish pupils before the Christmas Holidays, so they can start learning this early enough and revise accordingly for their Higher Spanish Prelim in January, then continue consolidating towards their May exam. This would be greatly appreciated. We know already there are resources on Scholar, bbc bitesize, languages online, class quizlet etc, but in addition, it's a complete vocab/phrases list we are after. Nothing like this has been issued in class yet and to receive a vocab booklet (everything all in one</p>	<p>Following the meeting the newly appointed Head of Languages was contacted in order to ensure that all relevant revision materials were provided for pupils.</p>

place) would be a great help if it's given to pupils early enough (ie. now), so they have a chance of learning it all in time. Thank-you.

Spanish	guidance on where to find appropriate Spanish language programmes for help with listening and speaking would also be very welcome.	Following the meeting the newly appointed Head of Languages was contacted in order to ensure that all relevant revision materials were provided for pupils.
Spanish	S2-4 parents were recently emailed with covid catch-up online resources from the languages department to cover what their sons/daughters may have missed last year due to the lockdown. Many thanks for this. However, as I am also an S5 parent – my son is learning higher Spanish – I have received nothing (no email or guidance) in this respect for him (I'm sure his cohort has had gaps during their nat 5 spanish last year too). Is it possible for the school to email parents with resources for higher Spanish, so we know they are covering everything too?	Will share with newly appointed Head of Languages. Expect the provision to be consistently good/excellent.
Lab technicians	Please what about the Technicians in the labs as I understand there hasn't been as much practical done as previously.	There was a situation where we were missing three science technicians for legitimate reasons. There has been less practical work as a result, but we are now back up to full strength.
Homework	It would be helpful to find out more about homework expectations - thanks for this.	To be followed up.

Assessments	Why do we never get told the students course estimates? on the reports htere is space for the working and target grade but it is never filled in. I would find this informative and helpful	We are really keen to develop tracking/marking system so can offer timely updates to parents, and frustrated that we have not been able to do that yet. We would like to develop an online system that parents can access more readily and feel that is very important. We are keen to work with parents on this.
ipads	Is there an increase in eye problems amongst students caused by the use of i-pads and other screens in all subjects now? Are students given advice by teachers to take regular screen breaks? This is even more of an issue with homework and studying for exams, with so many resources online rather than on paper / in books.	That's not something I'm aware of but might be something that NHS services may be able to comment on especially as we come through lockdown where there was more use of IT and screens. This is something we do need to keep an eye on.
ipads	when will S2-4 get iPads?	This will be August/September this year. (2022)
ipads	Do you know when some pupils will receive their iPads? We were told to expect them before Christmas	Please see response above.
Course content	Some of the children are finding some course content very heavy and bleak. Given the stresses induced by other factors would it be possible for teachers to consider this when choosing topics for study. Whilst it is important to deal with history and current affairs some subjects seem to be overdoing it. Important to consider the mental health and resilience of these children. Thank you.	Thank you for sharing this. This will be shared with staff so that where latitude exists this can be taken on board.
School App	Could the dates of the JGHS PC be added onto the "Dates" tab on the "School App for Parents"? Thanks.	Yes - we will do this.
Maths	My s2 had a recent maths test across the entire year group. Revision materials and videos were put on teams by the teacher. But this was not communicated directly to parents - can you email parents for year-wide tests or assessments in future please, so we can support appropriately at home?	We apologise if this has not happened most recently. We will endeavour to ensure that the relevant information is shared timeously with parents.
Covid	Has COVID resulted in a higher or lower proportion of previous S4 pupils returning for S5 and S5 returning for S6?	The number is anticipated to remain broadly the same at 97-99% for both S4 into S5 and S5 into S6. We don't think Covid wil impact on this.

Key adult time	My s2 pupils Key Adult is often late for KA time and there they dont get the support they need. I'm not sure how long the session is supposed to last but some weeks its only 2 mins I am told. How long should they be getting with their Key Adult?	The allocated time for Key Adult time is 20 minutes (0935-0955) on Wednesday mornings. Specific concerns can be relayed, in confidence, to the Headteacher.
Additional needs	What proportion of pupils (roughly) have additional needs?	Broadly speaking, all students will have additional needs at various points as they progress through school. Key adults provide universal additional support and our Pupil Support Leaders provide targeted supported. Additionally, we work with partner agencies to provide more specialised supports. In recent times, probably as a result of COVID, the number of students with additional needs appear to have increased.
ADHD	Is education and an understanding of ADHD included in PSE?	Yes. We cover issues related to wider equalities issues. For example, ADHD is covered in S4.
Mental health	Is CAMHS backlog effectively being moved to the school counsellor?	No. The school counsellor provision is intended to complement rather than replace any current provisions.
Toilets	Can you tell us about the arrangements for the toilet provision in Darroch? Will there be separate girls and boys toilets, or will the mixed sex option be favoured?	Darroch is the annexe overspill that will be available to JGHS from next summer for 300-350 pupils, and the building is currently under development. We will consult on how toilets will be designated, including with young people how to use these in the building via the Pupil Voice and we will talk to parents as well. There will be none with the old-fashioned urinals so these can be designated as we wish.
Toilets	In reference to the question about toilets, is it true that more than 10% of pupils do not identify as male or female?	We don't have a record of exact numbers but would suggest that the percentage is much lower than 10. Currently, SEEMIS (the school's management information system) only allows for students to be recorded as either F or M. The Headteacher has asked the CEC to explore whether SEEMIS can be updated to better reflect and capture how our students wish their gender status to be recorded.

Toilets	<p>Sorry if the issues has been raised in the past, I am a new S1 mum. My son - who is not the tidiest - was shocked by the state of the toilets. He now only uses the gym one because, being single access, a teacher always sees who comes in and out, and hence children seem to show more "personal responsibility". Could anything be brainstormed to improve toilet cleanliness? I don't remember this problem in my old school, but there teachers and pupils shared the toilets, so maybe there was more pressure to keep things tidy.</p>	<p>We have day cleaners and they are tasked with ensuring toilets are clean and tidy but, given the volume of pupils and some youngsters are less domesticated than others, means that they are not always how we would wish. We recommend that if any pupils come across toilets not to their satisfaction, to let a member of staff know and will let the janitor know. As you can imagine difficult for staff to patrol toilets. We aim to keep them clean but some youngsters let us down.</p>
Energy use	<p>My daughter reports that the classroom computers are left on all the time, including the monitors which don't seem to go into any sort of 'sleep' mode. I've also heard that the monitor screens were seen through the windows to be active when the school was closed during the lockdown. Obviously we should all be looking to save energy and reduce carbon emissions, not to mention electricity bills which are presumably paid from the school budget or by the council, and it doesn't set a great example to the pupils if the school is wasting energy and money this way - unless there is a good reason why they have to be left on all the time? Please could you clarify the school's policy on this and how it is enforced. Thank you.</p>	<p>All monitors automatically go into sleep mode after a few minutes. Remote access to PCs is active and does allow for upgrades to be made to machines outwith school hours. That having been said, staff will be reminded to switch off or use sleep mode when devices are not in use.</p>