



JAMES GILLESPIE'S HIGH SCHOOL

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JGHS Parent council
21st March 2023

Staffing Update

Modern Language interviews –	Thursday 23 rd March
Workshop Technician interviews –	Thursday 30 th March
Science Technician -	Alex Onea started 20 th February.
Admin Officer	Sharon Kerr leaving to take up similar position at Tynecastle HS after 10 years at JGHS

Industrial Action

All the Teaching Organisations and COSLA (local authorities) have now accepted the offer from COSLA. This will bring an end to the industrial action and the agreement extend to an update in August 2024.

Toilets

Looking to review this and to have a pupil focus group on what we need to do to always make these more accessible to all young people. Discussions with the Senior pupil council and creating a short life working group with the pupils to look at how we can ensure that these facilities are provided in a manner to ensure that they are accessible to pupils and meet all necessary requirements and legislation. We will also be looking to other education establishments to see the processes they have in place to support their access to toilets.

- Survey pupils through key adult.
- Link in with Rights Respecting Group
- Have a suggestion box.
- Ensure the toilets in the hub are gender specific and that they are swapped to ensure the toilets don't focus on the girl's facilities.
- Ensure all doors are fixed as quickly as possible.
- Link with facilities management to ensure all fixtures and fittings are in place.

Homework Policy

I have convened a short life working group to review the current policy and the changes in approaches that will now be in place post pandemic and with the empowered learning project having been rolled out. The first meeting is taking place in the school library on Wednesday 22/04/23

Communications

I have established a short life working group with parents and carers to establish how we can work in partnership to ensure that the information is shared in the best manner possible. The first meeting is taking place in the school library on Monday 27/04/23.

This will allow us to look at items such as:

- Weekly HT update
- House Newsletter
- Year Specific newsletters
- Family Languages that communications are shared in a variety of languages
- School app
- Email of information.

Wi-Fi Update

As CEC went down the route of Empowered Learning and iPads, they created a network for this which was secure and protected for teaching and learning iPads only. This is the EL network. Only iPads can join this, and the iPads have control over what apps they can download and apple classroom in classes which also allows us to monitor usage and activity in classrooms.

The old LT-OPEN network which we used to use for S4-6 for bring your own device was then to be closed. The benefits of this meant that passwords won't be passed round the younger year groups for a network which we couldn't filter as well due to the range of personal devices on it e.g. phones with snapchat/social media etc.

All the students in S5-6 last year were issued their iPads in advance of the project. They joined LT-OPEN initially. Then they had to migrate these over to the EL network during the deployment for S1-4. They were all given support and info on this at the time, but some chose to not migrate as they could initially still access LT-OPEN. They now have to carry out this process to stay online.

For those who require additional access for any reason there is a system set up to request further ICT support e.g., the F1 team need software not on the iPads and so have access on specific additional devices granted. However, this is only granted in exceptional circumstances such as this.

The reduction in phone issues in classes since Empowered Learning has come into play has been really notable. I believe as training progresses further the benefits will continue to grow and solutions to any issues will continue to be resolved.

Wi-Fi issues on LT EL are now limited to software updates not being carried out, apple IDs needing updated or occasionally a wireless router might need reset etc, but this is actioned relatively quickly. The pressure of multiple devices on LT OPEN has been reduced as well.

We will continue to monitor, review and learn but things are looking positive.

Scottish Government Curriculum Review (Hayward review)

We were visited by two representatives of the Scottish Government Educational Directorate on 2nd March. This was to meet with staff and pupils to discuss the proposal as they enter phase three of the programme. This was well received, and they were appreciative of the feedback from the groups they met with.

OECD Visit

We are having a visit on Wednesday 22nd March from colleagues at the Scottish Government and OECD. This includes delegates from New Zealand, Canada and Finland. They will be attending the Darroch campus and looking at GME Strategy, Curriculum & Resourcing [inc. staff], Wider Achievement & Community, Long-term Development Strategy.

Misogyny

We have been engaging with pupils regarding this topic. We are taking the following approaches:

- Change of culture and ethos required.
- Need for follow up regarding how gossip/rumours are dealt with.
- Nurture aspect and need to ensure pupil wellbeing is at the centre of all aspects.
- Build relationships across the year group.
- Staff training to ensure better education for neuro-diverse young people.
- Whistle blowing policy for students.
- Assembly on hate crimes
- Participate in Edinburgh University research programme on Equally Safe at School.
- Staff A-Z

Study Leave

Mr Nigel Cotter, Depute Head Teacher and SQA coordinator will be sharing information with students as well as parent's and carers shortly. Study leave will be taking place from Friday 21st April until Friday 2nd June. With the new Timetable starting on Monday 5th June. There will be induction on the 1st and 2nd June for new S5 and S6.

Easter Study Support Programme

Mrs Laura Stewart, Depute Head Teacher, will be sharing this information with students this week as well as with parents and carers through the Friday update. Pupils will have this information shared with them on TEAMS.

Coursing and New Timetable.

Mrs Deirdre O'Brien, Depute Head Teacher, has been progressing the coursing and creation of the new timetable. She has followed up with those pupils in S2, S4, S5 where there was any issues with their choices. The timetable is progressing, and she now has the new S3,4,5,6 timetable well formatted.

Alternative Timetable

We had endeavoured to put this in place for the S1 to S3 pupils in May. However, this has not been possible to facilitate. We will be progressing with the outdoor education experience for the S3 pupils, and this will be in conjunction with the Outdoor Education Team from CEC.

Upcoming Events

23 rd March	Mental Health Information Evening.
24 th March	S1 Residential
28 th March	Spring Fling
29 th March	Spring Fling

31st March
17th April

End of term (12.55)
All resume