



JAMES GILLESPIE'S HIGH SCHOOL

Interim Head teacher / Ceannard: Neil McCallum B.Ed (Hons), SQH

Address: 120 Warrender Park Road, Edinburgh EH9 1DD
e-mail: admin@jamesgillespies.edin.sch.uk
Website: jamesgillespies.co.uk
Telephone 0131 447 1900

JGHS Parent council 5th September 2023

Staffing Update

All current teaching staff vacancies have now been filled.

CDT – Mr David Sturrock (starting 2nd October)

Support Staff

Three of our science laboratory technicians have moved on to new opportunities. Two have returned to university to undertake teaching qualifications and the third has been sought out for a job in the Geology field. We wish them all every success and know they will be very successful in their new careers.

We have now appointed a new Senior Laboratory Technician, who has taken up their role. Three new appointments were made and will all be starting imminently.

Prelims

Proposed dates and further details will follow shortly.

S4 Prelims (Study support)

20th November to 05 December

S5/6 prelims

15th Jan – 30th Jan

Key information will be shared through the school app, school website and as appropriate by individual subject areas.

Mrs O'Brien (DHT) is currently collating the extra curricular and study support programme for sharing with the whole school community.

Christmas concert

We are pleased to share that we will return to the Usher Hall in December. The music department are preparing for rehearsal weeks that are built into the calendar prior to final concert in December.

Extracurricular activities

Eliot Ambrose, active schools, has issued all the information by email to parents and carers.

Mrs O' Brien, currently collating the study support and additional information for extra-curricular clubs. To be share shortly.

Excursions

CEC have now issued the updated policy, and this has been shared across the authority. We will be engaging with the new process and looking to sharing information regarding the wider excursion opportunities as soon as possible.

School Dress Code

We are sharing with the whole school community regarding our school dress code and the expectations that are placed regarding this.

Pupils are expected to dress decently, appropriately, and comfortably. Clothing that is considered inappropriate, includes items that may harm an individual, or cause offence to others through the display of slurs and or offensive / inappropriate messages / slogans. Offensive clothing such as T-shirts or other items painted with obscene language or illustrations are not permitted. Football strips and logos are forbidden – they cause obvious tensions – and underwear should not be exposed. While pupils are asked to wear appropriate clothing to school, harassment or teasing of someone's chosen dress code will not be accepted. Thank you for your support in ensuring our young people are dressing appropriately for school.

Further details are available in the school handbook, on the school website.

S1 / S6 photos

The S1 photos have taken place and proofs will be shared with parents and carers as soon as they arrive in school.

The S6 photo will be taking place this year. This normally take place in October time, we are waiting on confirmation from photographer. Information will be shared with S6 students as well as parents and carers as soon as this is confirmed.

Rising rolls

The school population is currently sitting at 1695, with a waiting list of both catchment and non-catchment in all year groups. Meetings are to take place with officers from the council. Further details will be shared once these meetings have taken place.

Assemblies

All year groups had assemblies in the first week of the new term. The focus was on the school values of respect and inclusion.

Information on Teams – There have been SLWG working groups looking at homework and communications. This is one of the areas being reviewed and we will follow up on this and information to follow in line with training to support staff and parents / carers.

Toilets – We have had these updated freshened up with new décor and linking in with facilities management to ensure that all facilities are working properly and cleaned on a regular basis. We shared with pupils that the signage will be updated to ensure that all young people have appropriate safe spaces and are able to access them. We are doing a full review with the whole student body and will also be seeking the input of parents and carers.

Mental health post – Ms Nikki Graham is continuing as Senior Development Officer. This will allow the continuation of the SNUG and our continuing work to support pupils and to engage with appropriate partners. We would like to thank all parents and carers who have contributed to the success and sustainability of this provision.

F1 in schools – I am delighted to share that our national championship team are currently in Singapore for the World Championships. We wish them every success and we will share their experience once they return.

Croatian Teacher delegation – We were delighted to welcome a visit from 33 teachers from across Croatia. They had presentations on the school and the Scottish Education system. Our wonderful S6 took them on tours of the campus and shared the experience of being a pupil at JGHS. Our English faculty then welcomed them to observe lessons and to experience a variety of year groups. They had a wonderful day and were very complimentary of the school and what they witnessed.

CEC Children and families Education committee delegations- Ms Donna MacIver (DHT), Mr Cailean Methven (CL of GME), four pupils and I attended the committee at the city chambers today. We gave a short presentation and the councillors then had questions, mainly for the young people about their GME Experience and their thoughts on the Gaelic language. Our students were excellent and answered all the questions fully and gave a full account of their perspectives.

School Improvement Planning

Please see the additional paper for further information regarding the priorities for the coming year. We will be looking to include parents, carers and students in this process going forward. The school has established School Improvement Teams (SIT) for each of the priority areas. These are being led by a variety of staff.