



## JAMES GILLESPIE'S HIGH SCHOOL

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

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### JGHS Parent council 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023

#### Staffing

##### Incoming

Mr. David Tulloch	Design and Technology
Mr. Finn Walton	RMPS
Mr. Andrew Hutchison	History
Miss. Jenny Macdonald	Science technician
Miss. Laura Hannett	Science technician

##### Outgoing

Mrs. Ashleigh Kennedy	Maternity leave
Mrs. Cat Bladon	Maternity leave

#### Prelims

S4 prelims are progressing well and in their second week now. The invigilation team have been very complimentary of the pupils and their focus in the assessments.

Planning is under way for the S5/6 prelims in January and this will be shared with pupil, parents and carers as soon as is possible.

#### School Improvement Planning

The School Improvement Plan (SiP) priorities are not placed in a particular order. These were created based on the feedback and recommendations from the Supported Self Evaluation that took place with officers from the Council last November. These are based on the Quality Improvement Indicators from "How Good is our School 4" (this is the national document for self-evaluation and improvement in schools.) Please be reassured that these are all important initiatives in relation to continuing to improve the school and to ensure we provide the best outcomes for our students. The documents referred to in the school improvement plan, will be added to the school website along with the school improvement plan.

It is our intention to include parents and carers, as well as students, in this process going forward. We normally create the school improvement plan (SIP) and the Standards and Quality report (S&Q) for submission to the local authority in June of each academic year.

Please see the attached the current policies for the SQIP, SIP and parent and carer version for the school website. Once we have the website fully functioning, these will all be available on the website. These documents were heavily based on the Supported Self Evaluation that the school undertook in November last year. This included representation from the parents and carers as well as focus groups of pupils and staff with officers from CEC.

Going forward the SQIP and SIP will be shared, and feedback sought with the parents in the May / June of 2024 and then annually.

This year we have reintroduced the school improvement teams and will be asking parents and carers to be part of these working groups going forwards. This will allow parents and carers the opportunity to review and support in the schools' progress.

As we review the policies, we have we will be looking to issue a survey to allow parents and carers to support with the work already undertaken by the staff and pupils.

### ***Scottish Curriculum Information Evening.***

Following the request from the parent council meeting in September, the information session on the Scottish Curriculum on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November in the school theatre, was attended by over 150 parents and carers. We also extended this invite to the cluster primary school P7 parents and carers.

### ***Homework***

The working group is continuing to review the policy and link with faculties for the approach on homework. We are working on resources to support parents and carers to have a clearer understanding on how they can support their young people with homework. We will share the updated policy with parents and carers as soon as we can.

### ***Mental Health and wellbeing***

The team supporting MHWB are creating a MHWB bulletin to be issued termly.

### ***Communication***

The communications group have been working on several aspects. These include – Letters to parent's and carers being updated, school app being utilised to share news, messages and the school calendar, the website continues to be progressed and a part of this process we are reviewing the purpose of the website, where information can be found. As these are progressed, we will update all parents and carers.

### ***Excursions***

We are now in the process of trying to organise and put in place opportunities for overnight and foreign excursions / exchanges as previously arranged. The CEC policies are now in place and are also being reviewed as they are implemented. We appreciate that sometimes some of these opportunities will clash for pupils in the same year group. This is due to the range of providers that we can use, partner schools' availability and the availability of the resources with the providers that we utilise. We would like to reassure you that we do everything in our power to ensure that these opportunities do not clash and that they are available to as many pupils as is possible. We are also planning to create an excursions calendar and booklet for sharing with parents and carers at the start of the school year in August. This is to support parents and carers decisions in what their young person can access. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we collate this programme.

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### ***S6 Study Space***

Mr I Porter, DHT, has been linking in with the pupil voice about the availability of space. The S6 have spaces and study booths on the ground floor of the Malala building and are free to access these spaces when there is not a class in the adjoining space. At these times, they can access the additional spaces as well as the Forum, Library and canteen space in the Sparks building. Mr Porter is linking in with the pupil voice about additional space at Darroch in addition to that already available.

### ***RSHP (Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood)***

There are letters coming to parents' and carers in S2 and S3 from the Pupil Support Leaders (PSLs) regarding the curriculum being covered. This communication will contain links to further information and links to contact for further information.

**WE VALUE THE DIVERSITY THAT EXISTS**

### ***Parent/carer/pupil experience survey data,***

No complete survey completed since 2020, however the following have been carried out since then:

- HWB by G Newall
- PEF by T Peters
- MHWB N Graham and D MacIver (peer support programme.)
- 2.3 returns
- 3.1 returns
- P&C during covid time.

We are planning for a survey to come to parents and carers in 2024 and more information will follow in the new term.

### ***Term Dates***

Proposed term dates for 2025/26 and 2026/27, we have received communication from CEC regarding the calendar for the future years and I will pass on to the parent council for consultation and response by 26<sup>th</sup> December!

### ***DYW event***

We had a successful event at the end of October for S4/5/6 pupils, with over 22 organisations attending. This included colleges, universities, and employers. We have an event for S1 and S2 pupils taking place on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November, in conjunction with the BBC.

### ***Reporting***

Apologies for the issues with preparing and distributing of reports, we had system issues, and we are investigating. The issue is around system keeps crashing after 50 reports, this then resets and starts the process again, please accept our apologies if you receive a report multiple times, while we try to have this resolved.

### ***Coursing***

Mrs D O'Brien, DHT, has clattered the date of the coursing evening, this is now on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January 17.00 – 19.00. Mrs O' Brien would like to present to the parent council on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January, if possible.

### ***Equalities***

Saroj Lal CEC Teacher award was won by Mrs Elaine Oram. We are delighted for her, and this is recognition of her hard work in equalities and supporting our young people.

### ***HKKSIP***

Visit on Monday from Principal Poon, St Pauls College. Today we were visited by seven teachers from schools across Hong Kong. They had tours of the school, met with pupil groups, and had a presentation on MHWB. They were all hugely complimentary of the school.

### ***Ministerial Visit***

We have a visit from the Cabinet Secretary for Education on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November, St. Andrew's Day. The visit is to the Darroch Campus and the opportunity to observe lessons, meet young people and to discuss Gaelic Medium Education in JGHS.

### ***Dates***

1 <sup>st</sup> December	Senior Drama production (19.00)
20 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Concert (19.00)
15 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> January	S5/6 prelims
17 <sup>th</sup> January	Coursing Evening (17.00)
23 <sup>rd</sup> January	S2 Parents Evening
30 <sup>th</sup> January	JGHS Trust meeting
31 <sup>st</sup> January	Parent council meeting (in person)