



1. Events and Activities

Since our last meeting the following activities have taken place:

- St. Sophia's Consultation
- Closing Celebration of the Centenary of the 1918 Education Act
- Personalisation and Choice Events
- S4 Parents' Evening
- Launch of Junior Leadership Team resource boxes
- College application window now open for 2019/20 courses
- S3 girls FireReach programme
- World Youth Day (Liverpool Event)
- Diversity Day
- 4wrd2gether Dance Event
- Scottish Book Trust Competition
- S1 political engagement – Letters to MSPs
- S3 Sheriff Court Trip
- Holocaust Memorial Day Presentation
- Senior Prefect Conference at Stewarton Academy
- Senior Leadership Team (Pupils) launch feedback boxes
- INSET days 3, 4 and 5
- Safer Internet Day
- Pupil led debate club launched
- John Muir Group - tree planting on school grounds
- Consistent and increase profile of modern and foundation apprenticeships via our twitter feed
- Children's Mental Health Week 2019/Time to talk Day
- Latest Young Journalist Society magazine released
- P7 Transition Workshops and Planning
- SWEIC Catholic School Head Teacher Conference
- SWEIC Head Teachers Conference with Deputy First Minister
- Young Journalist Society Transition Guidance published
- Launch of the school Eco committee
- School of Joy in Bethlehem fundraiser
- St. Joseph's Student Investors Challenge
- S2 Business Roadshow (Parents as Partners)
- HCPT Fundraiser (S6 pupils)
- Teacher Exchange Programme – Visiting teacher from Belgium
- Future Chef Competition
- PE Trip – Burnley v Tottenham Hotspur
- Diocesan Coat of Arms Mass
- Frankie and Benny's Challenge
- Launch of Parental Engagement survey
- Duke of Edinburgh Staff Training and Pupil Planning
- S3 Careers Engagement Events
- Dealing with anti-social behaviour sessions led by PC Lynch (PSE)
- Lenten Prayer
- Mentors in Violence Prevention Training (PSE)
- Brain Injury Awareness input for S5/S6 (PSE)

- Shrove Tuesday pancake sale for charity
- Ash Wednesday Services
- SCIAF Wee Box Campaign launched
- SQA practical assessments in PE and Music (others ongoing)
- World Book Day
- East Ayrshire Music Service Concert
- International Women's Day – Suffragette Event

2. Further Detail - Snapshot

St. Sophia's Primary School Consultation

The public consultation period is over, and East Ayrshire are collating responses prior to a cabinet meeting where the matter will be discussed, and a decision taken. St. Joseph's Academy staff were present at each of the events and we have responded to the consultation stating that our preferred option is for the school to remain on site (refurbished).

The Scottish Catholic Education Service must nominate a church representative to present their views to cabinet. At the time of writing, we are yet to receive confirmation of who SCES have nominated.

As part of the consultation process, Education Scotland are due to meet individually with the Head Teachers of St. Joseph's, St. Andrew's, Loudon Academy and St. Sophia's. Mr Kane will meet with Ken McAra from Education Scotland on Friday 29th March.

Closing Celebration of the Centenary of the 1918 Education Act

Some elected members joined our Chief Executive and Bishop Nolan to mark the end of the Centenary year of the 1918 Education Act. I would like to thank the Parent Council for supporting this event. Bishop Nolan, Mr Kane and Barbara Coupar (Head of SCES) addressed those gathered on the theme of Catholic Education more broadly and within East Ayrshire. Isla Grant sang beautifully on the evening and X X X X acted as guides.

Junior Leadership Team Material Boxes

The Junior Leadership Team sourced materials to be placed in various classrooms across the school that are free of charge for all pupils. This is part of our wider pupil leadership and poverty proofing agenda.

Children's Mental Health Week and Time to Talk Day

Our Home Link Workers led our Time to Talk day during mental health week and were present in the street area offering drop in support and general advice on mental and emotional wellbeing. In addition to transition engagement events, targeted family learning and the breakfast club our Home Link staff offer very specific and well received support to many of our families.

Personalisation and Choice Events

All events were held in January, with informal feedback broadly positive.

Scottish Book Trust Competition

Sophie McIntosh won first prize for her entry in the book trailer category. Sophie's video submission was a trailer for 'Farewell Tour of an Eternal Optimist' by John Young. We are delighted that Sophie's entry won and would like to thank Mrs Kirkwood and the pupils who entered the competition.

International Women's Day

To mark the end of the Centenary Year East Ayrshire Volunteer Centre organised an event which took place on Friday 8th March 2019. St Joseph's Academy are currently working on an Intergenerational Project with EAVC and were therefore delighted to be asked to become involved in the activities taking place on the day.

The event which was funded by the Scottish Government's Equalities Unit provided an overview of the national picture in relation to the contribution women make to society and looked at what was happening in Scotland, particularly within Ayrshire.

Our Junior School Captains welcomed the guests while two S3 pupils provided them with their attire for the day, namely a 'Vote for Women Sash' and badge!! The young people took part in the 'March of the Women' and answered questions from 'Prime Minister Asquith' on why women should get the vote. Our guests were entertained by four S1 pupils as they delivered stories from suffragettes Emmeline Pankhurst and Annie Kenny and read poems written by Cicely Hamilton and Jade Anouka.

The young people involved enjoyed presentations from the Glasgow Women's Library, East Ayrshire Women's Aid and a member of the EAVC provided details of the suffrage movement in Ayrshire. Our guests were very impressed by our school pupils and the way they actively took part in the discussions with guests who had varying ages.

We hope to further develop our partnership with EAVC and develop other opportunities for our young people to participate in the Wider Community.

S2 Business Roadshow and S3 Careers Events

Parents/Carers visited our S2 pupils during PSE to speak of their career path and what it takes to run or contribute to the running of a business. Another set of parents and partners met with our S3 cohort last week to share their experience of the world of work and to outline their own professional journey. Next week, S3 pupils will be interviewed by parents and partners as part of our ongoing engagement with developing the young workforce. I would like to thank Mrs Cassidy, Mrs Marshall and all parents and partners who contributed to the above events.

3. Staffing

Mr Iain Tomb has been appointed as PT of Business, Computing and Technical and joins us from Stonelaw Academy in South Lanarkshire. Mr Tomb will take up his post on Tuesday 23rd April 2019.

The PE post vacated by Mr Howson when appointed PT of PE and Home Economics is out to advert, with a closing date of 15th March. Interviews are scheduled to take place on Friday 22nd March. At the time of writing we have thirteen applicants and anticipate the figure could rise to around twenty by the closing date. The official start date for this post is August 2019.

The annual staffing meeting is scheduled to take place on Friday 15th March. Early projections suggest that we will need to recruit a Computing teacher and a Chemistry teacher. Newly Qualified Teachers in Biology and English will be sought to cover maternity leave in the 2019/20 session. Any other posts will depend upon the outcome of ongoing options interviews with S4 and S5 pupils. More to follow at next PC meeting.

Supply staff currently in post

Post	Staff	Duration
English Maternity Leave	Mrs Kate Hutchens	June 2019
PE Vacancy	Mr Andrew Irvine	June 2019
Additionality	Mr James Williams (PE)	June 2019
Additionality	Mr Paul Blackhurst (Maths)	June 2019

4. Strategic Matters

Strategic Education Group Manager

Mr Ian Burgoyne has served St. Joseph's Academy as our SEGM for a number of years. Mr Burgoyne provides line manager support for our primary Head Teacher colleagues, and advice when required for Mr Kane. Re-structuring at local authority level means that the SEGM position no longer exists, and all SEGMS will cease to fulfil their role as of 1st April. I would like to put on record my thanks to Mr Burgoyne for his support over the last year and in the past with former Head Teachers. Where appropriate, and as and when further detail in relation to service re-design is released to schools the matter will be revisited at the next Parent Council meeting.

Leavers' Data – Nationally Published Results

Leavers' data was published last week, and Mr Kane will present to Linda McAulay-Griffiths and elected members in the coming weeks. Analysis of leaver attainment data is ongoing but some early messages are as follows:

Lowest 20% attainment when leaving school

2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
93 (VC 151)	54 (VC 116)	142 (VC 136)

Middle 60% attainment when leaving school

2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
631 (VC 716)	644 (VC 683)	762 (VC 745)

Top 20% attainment when leaving school

2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
1622 (VC 1721)	1489 (VC 1755)	1609 (VC 1745)

Attainment in Literacy and Numeracy SCQF4

2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
81.9% (85.9%)	85.2% (VC 84.1)	92.5% (VC 88.4%)

Attainment in Literacy and Numeracy SCQF5

2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
62.6% (57.8%)	63.1% (VC 57.3%)	71.6% (VC 62.5%)

Tree of Knowledge Mental Wellbeing Survey

The third of four survey periods is now live, with a closing date of Friday 15th March. A link can be found on our Twitter and Facebook pages and we encourage all parents/carers to take part in this anonymous survey.

School App

Around a year ago, we cancelled our subscription with our app provider in light of advice from East Ayrshire that central funds would be allocated to the purchase of a license for all centres. East Ayrshire have now commissioned an app provider, and our school app is live again. We ask for patience in the run up to exams but assure parents/carers that the app will act as a central point of communication for general matters during the 2019/20 session.

Parental Engagement Survey

At the time of writing, we have received around seventy response to our parental engagement survey. Results will be collated and shared with the Parent Council via email and will inform planning for the 2019/20 session.

Reflection/Detention

Staff feedback as part of the vision, values and aims consultation consistently highlights the following perceptions from the staff cohort:

- Concern around low level disruption in S2 and S3, and the need for internal deterrents and opportunities for young people to reflect on their conduct against our vision, values and aims
- Broad feeling of apathy from the wider parent forum when trying to raise issues around low level disruption, support for uniform policy and recognition of the need for parents and carers to take responsibility for the conduct of some young people
- Lack of homework completion amongst many S2 and S3 pupils, with little or no change despite informing parents/carers

In light of the above, and as of Monday 11th March, we will reintroduce reflection/detention at lunch times. For the past two weeks, young people have received warning letters detailing cause for concern on the part of staff. A sample is attached as an appendix. Young people have responded well so far, with a marked drop in the number of young people arriving late after break and lunch, the number of young people persisting in wearing non-uniform items during the school day and the number of young people leaving litter on their table at the end of lunch. I would like to thank staff for giving of their lunch break to address low level issues and to promote high standards across the school.

Where persistent issues are evident, parents/carers will be invited to meet with the Head Teacher.

Easter School

Mr Cowan has issued a schedule for Easter School, which will run during the first week of the Easter holidays. We are pleased to report that the schedule on offer this session is more comprehensive than that on offer last year. I thank staff for giving of their time during school holidays. Transport will be provided in the form of taxis for those pupils who would normally receive school transport. However, if a young person books a taxi but does not attend, or at least notify us of their inability to attend, to cost may be recovered from families.

iPad Rollout/Refresh/Logistics

Ninety devices were distributed to the current S1 since our last meeting. A further thirty are on site and are scheduled for release in the next fortnight. The final eighteen devices are with East Ayrshire and we are hopeful that all will be allocated before the Easter Break.

Digital School Awards

The school have registered with Digital Schools Scotland, with work now ongoing in order to receive formal recognition for our work in this area. It is anticipated that we will make a submission to the control board in October 2019 in advance of potential recognition as a Digital School.

Vision, Values and Aims – Parental Input

During study leave, subgroups of parents will be invited into school to contribute to the generation of a revised vision, values and aims for our school community. At the time of writing, members of the SLT are generating material to support this process. It is anticipated that our consultation will end by June 2019.

S1-S3 pupils and some of our partner agencies will also take part in this consultation.

PEF funding 2019/20

The Scottish Government have released funding allocations for the 2019/20 session. Our figure of around £96,000 is broadly static. Consultation to take place at next Parent Council meeting in advance of summer. Members are invited to send any thoughts directly to Mr Kane prior to our next meeting. By way of reminder, our 2018/19 spend is attached for reference.

School Uniform – Blazer

The wool blazer will be in stock for this summer's return to school, before being phased out and replaced with a polyester blazer which should be in stock from around October 2019. This is in response to both the feedback of young people and a need to take account of the cost of the wool blazer.

Potential Strike Action – Teaching Staff

As you know, professional associations have raised concerns in relation to the latest pay offer. The concerns focus on remuneration, workload, resources to support young people with ASN and appropriate staff training.

Professional associations are considering balloting members on potential strike action. A further improved pay offer was made on Friday 8th March, and the EIS have indicated that they are going to advise members to accept the offer. If members support this advice, strike action by member of the EIS is unlikely. At the time of writing, the SSTA have not released a public statement on the matter. The NASUWT sent communication to all Head Teachers indicating that a ballot on potential strike action will proceed, but this communication was sent shortly before the latest offer was made.

In light of the revised offer, it is my belief that strike action is unlikely but not impossible. No communication will be sent to parents/carers unless strike action proceeds.

5. Forthcoming Events

Dates stated are given in good faith. External providers may alter dates at short notice.

Second of S3 Careers Events – This week

Feast of St. Joseph – Whole School Mass – 19th March

S2 Reports – w/b 25th March

S1 Reports – w/b 6th May

Immunisations – During next fortnight

International Francophone Day – Wednesday 20th March

Easter School – Easter Holidays

S6 Leavers Mass and leaving events – TBC

SQA Exams Begin