



1. Events and Activities

Since our last meeting the following activities have taken place:

S2 Parents' Evening
Junior Leadership Team Elections
Rewards Assemblies
Foodbank Collection (By House Group)
S1 Parents' Evening
S5/S6 Parents' Evening
Duke of Edinburgh – East Ayrshire Awards
MacMillan Cancer Support Fundraising
S4 Reports
'Lessons from Auschwitz' Visit
Launch of HWB Extra Curricular programme
Senior Boys football tournament
Peer Mentor Training
Pupil Led 'Bee Kind' initiative led by senior pupils and the JLT
Geography Field trip to Arran
Rights Respecting Schools Silver Status awarded to St. Joseph's Academy
Launch of social subjects homework club
Ayrshire Hospice bag backing
Bake Sale fundraising
Young Journalist Society – Launch of magazine at Dick Institute
Remembrance Sunday service
Catholic Education Fortnight
Diocesan Mass
Duke of Edinburgh Young Leader training day
Anti-Bullying paper chain launched by young people
Future Chef Competition
Rotary Club – Young Signer of the Year
'O' Factor winners
Dean Park Duke of Edinburgh training for latest group led by DoE pupil leaders
Kilmarnock Christmas lights switch on – Musical input
Launch of MVP programme for this session (16 days of action)

2. Further Detail - Snapshot

Junior Leadership Team 2018/19

To promote leadership at all levels, we have introduced a junior school leadership team. Mrs Shearer, and our Head Boy and Head Girl of the JLT (Amelie Davidson and Ross Briody) interviewed prospective leaders in early October.

Euan	Connell	Junior Relationships Ambassador
Michael	Duff	Junior School Captain
Katie	Farley	Junior House Captain – Margaret House
Logan	Kenney	Junior House Vice Captain – Margaret House

Courtney	Kerr	Junior House Vice Captain – Columba House
Euan	Livingston	Junior Sports Ambassador
Cona	Maitland	Junior House Captain - Andrew House
Niamh	Malcolm	Junior Nurture Ambassador
Kass	McGiffen	Junior Equalities Ambassador
Yvette	McKendrick	Junior Rights Respecting School Ambassador
Breagha	McMahon	Junior Community Engagement Ambassador
Keira	McManus	Junior House Captain - Columba House
Ayla	Murray	Junior School Captain
Nick	Murray	Mental Health Ambassador
Jonathon	Padilla	Junior Equalities Ambassador
John	Savage	Junior House Vice Captain - Andrew House
Filip	Stradowski	Junior Language Ambassador
Leah	Wales	Junior Community Engagement Ambassador

‘Bee Kind’ launch event/anti-bullying

The Head boy and girl of the junior school worked with the Junior Leadership team to devise a presentation for each assembly. Pupils were informed of the drop in box in the school library and reminded of the form on our homepage. Pupils also created a chain of positive messages which is now on display in the street area. To date, nothing has been left in the box in the library and only six relationship issues have been raised via the online form.

Duke of Edinburgh – East Ayrshire Awards

A number of young people attained bronze and silver awards this session, and some will shortly begin their gold award training. In addition, a group of pupils have now trained as peer instructors for some elements of the bronze award. In addition, one of our excellent school janitors, Mr Gary Yemm, received recognition for his contribution to furthering the aims of D of E within St. Joseph’s Academy. Thanks also to Mr Hannah and Miss Gibson.

‘O’ Factor Winners

St. Joseph’s Academy won the annual ‘O’ factor award for best secondary school in East Ayrshire in relation to Outdoor Learning. The work of Mrs Fulton has not gone unnoticed and her dedication to the John Muir Award was showcased and recognised on the evening.

Rights Respecting Schools Award

Following assessment, which included observation, interview and focus groups, we were awarded silver ‘Rights Respecting School’ status. Miss Devanney and Mr Boyle have led the school towards this accolade. The assessor highlight the strength of relationships and the input of young people as key factors in his decision to grant the award.

3. Staffing

Miss Jaclyn Smith (PT Technical, IDL and Enterprise) will leave us in mid-January. It is hoped that the advert to fill this post will go live before Christmas, but the post is subject to job sizing. I would like to put on record my thanks to Miss Smith for all of her work with us over the past few years.

The post will be advertised as PT of Business, Computing and Technical.

I would also like to express thanks to Mr Craft, who has now left us to join St. John's in Perth just before Mrs McCaffrey returns from maternity leave on Wednesday 5th December.

Appointments since last Parent Council Meeting

Post	Staff	Joining from	Start Date
PT PE/HE	David Howson	Internal	Immediate
PT Art/Music	Rachel Whiteford	Internal	Immediate
Home Link Worker (PEF)	Elaine Demir	Grange Academy	Monday 17 th December

Supply staff currently in post

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

Staff currently in acting positions

Post	Staff	Reason	Duration
PT English	Mrs Amanda Duthie	Maternity Cover	February 2019

Vacancy Timelines

Post	Advertised	Interviews	Start Date
PT Business, Computing and Technical	December 2018	January 2018	February 2018
PE Teacher	February 2019	March 2019	August 2019
Clerical Assistant	Closed	Monday 3 rd Dec	ASAP

PEF Posts

PT Parental Engagement	Advert open, interviews Thursday 29 th November
PT Literacy	Advert open, interviews Thursday 29 th November
PT Intervention	Advert open, interviews Thursday 29 th November

4. Strategic Matters

Course Information Guidance

In advance of options exercises, and in an attempt to provide clearer transparency, each PT has been working with staff to develop N5 and Higher course guides for every subject in the school. A sample has been issued to you. These guides will be posted online and included in any options information shared with parents/carers.

Launch of Childcare with Outdoor Learning

In partnership with the Prince's Trust and Ayrshire College, we have launched our Childcare with Outdoor Learning course. We have converted one of the unused Drama areas into a mini nursery, and those completing the course have spent time setting the area up in advance of working with nursery pupils from St. Andrew's nursery.

This course offers a pathway to a college course in S4.

Launch of Parental Engagement Sessions

Our Home Link Workers, along with Mr Boyle and several teaching staff have now started a twelve session weekly programme for parents/carers of targeted young people. Reasons for attending are vary, but the focus is on how we can support one another to secure meaningful engagement from young people. At some sessions, young people and parents/carers work apart, while at others they work together. Topics covered include:

- Dealing with Teenage Behaviour
- Restorative Approaches
- Social Media
- Peer Group Issues

We will seek feedback from this project with a view to widening/extending.

Launch of Code of Conduct

As per last week's letter to all parents/carers, we will launch our code of conduct this week. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with a review scheduled as part of our vision, values and aims consultation later in the session.

Curriculum Consultation

A consultation event will be held on Thursday 6th December at 7pm. We believe a review of our S3 structure is necessary for the following reasons:

- Currently unable to fulfil a young person's entitlement to learn in each curricular area
- Difficulty in ensuring appropriate pathways from some S3 columns to S4
- Lack of provision in relation to Drama, Computing, Business and Administration
- Some unusually high allocations to English, Maths and Modern Languages when viewed against local and national patterns

Further detail will be shared on the evening, with response gathered and analysed prior to the options process. Responses will be shared with the Parent Council and then the wider Parent Forum prior to any decisions being taken.

ToK Research

The second of four surveys is now live and the link will be tweeted and emailed to parents/carers this week. You can still participate in the survey if you missed the first round. Initial data gathered via ToK following the first survey arrived last week, and will be analysed in due course. Patterns over the four surveys will assist us as we target the promotion of positive mental wellbeing.

Participatory Budgeting

Discussion of bids from the Maths, Technical and Duke of Edinburgh group

7. Forthcoming Events

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

Prayer Lunch with Bishop Nolan – Thursday 29th November

Interviews for PT Moderation, PT Intervention and PT Parental Engagement (PEF) – Thurs 29th Nov

St. Andrew House Mass – Friday 30th November

Interviews for post of clerical assistant – Monday 3rd December

Curriculum Consultation Evening – Thursday 6th December

S6 Caritas/RE Residential – Thursday 6th and Friday 7th December

S3 Reports issued – W/b Monday 17th December

Elaine Demir joins us as PEF Funded Home Link Worker – Monday 17th December

Christmas Concert – Tuesday 18th December

Prelims begin – 8th January

S3 Options Information Evening – 10th January

S3 Parents' Evening – Tuesday 15th January

Miss Smith leaves St. Joseph's Academy – Friday 18th January

S2 Options Information Evening – Thursday 24th January

S4/S5 Options Information Evening – Tuesday 29th January