



## **1. Events and Activities**

Since our last meeting the following activities have taken place:

- School Inspection
- NET Retreats
- Catholic Education Week
- S2 Parents' Evening
- S4 Reports Issued
- S1 Parents' Evening
- S5/S6 Parents' Evening
- School Census Deadlines
- Local Authority Attainment Review Meeting
- Princes Trust Ayrshire Showcase
- Launch of St. Joseph's Skills Academy
- Various Trips, community engagement events and Excursions (community engagement summary attached as PDF)
- Language Day Events
- P7 Maths Challenge
- All Saints Day Whole School Mass
- P7 Transition Day
- DYW Careers Event S3

## **2. Further Detail**

### ***School Inspection***

The final version of the letter to parents and carers and the school report are to be sent to the school tomorrow (Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November). Publication on the Education Scotland website should follow by mid-December.

The draft letter will be shown to the parent council this evening, and this includes grades. Members are asked to use discretion prior to publication, but the grades will not change between then and now. The letter and report highlight some strong practice and areas for improvement. The inspection result is broadly in line with the self-evaluated grades submitted by the school, and no revisit will take place in relation to the inspection.

### ***Catholic Education Week***

Within our deanery, Catholic Education week was celebrated between Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> and Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November. Staff and young people were present at six of the nine Masses across the weekend as follows:

St. Thomas', Muirkirk  
St. Joseph's, Kilmarnock (Sunday only)  
St. John's, Cumnock  
Our Lady and St. Patrick's, Auchinleck  
St. Sophia's, Galston  
St. Matthew's, Kilmarnock

Young people contributed as readers, passkeepers, cantors, altar servers and in the presentation of gifts.

A group of forty young people also attended the diocesan Mass at St. Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr, on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November.



### ***Formal Launch of St. Joseph's Skills Academy and DYW S3 Careers Event***

Our annual S3 careers event was well received by pupils and business partners. Despite a significant number of late call offs on the part of local businesses, the event ran smoothly, with feedback from young people extremely positive. One guest commented that the group were the most engaged and best behaved that they had worked with in over ten years visiting local schools.

Our skills academy programme was formally launched last week. This programme is funded via The Princes Trust and extends from S2 to S5 for some young people. The course allows for the development of work based skills within the curriculum.

## ST JOSEPH'S SKILLS ACADEMY











### **3. Staffing**

The following posts are currently live/out to advert:

DHT (Acting DHT is Miss Quigley)	Deadline 8 <sup>th</sup> December
PT Moderation (PEF funded, acting)	Interviews Thursday of this week

The following posts are yet to be advertised

Clerical Assistant	Awaiting advertisement date
PEF funded Attendance Assistant	To commence as soon as clerical post is filled

The following posts are filled on an acting basis:

PT Social Subjects	Dependent on outcome of DHT post
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The following staff are with us on a short term basis:

Mr Jones (Maths)	June 2020
Miss McComb (Chemistry)	June 2020
Mr Paton (English)	March 2020 (maternity cover)

### **4. Strategic Matters**

#### **Prelims**

The annual prelim timetable will be shared with parents/carers and young people no later than Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November. The diet will run from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January until Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2020. The timetable needs to be revised on an annual basis in light of conflicts which can exist between two different subjects for those young people sitting both papers. Additional Support arrangements are also in hand.

#### **Revised internal tracking systems and mentoring programmes**

Miss Quigley has issued standardised intervention guidance in line with our latest improvement plan. All department staff are now working against the same procedures for intervention and communication with families.

In addition, Miss Quigley has initiated a mentor scheme for those young people sitting four or more Highers in S5. Each pupil has a staff mentor with whom they can meet regularly. Miss Quigley will provide more detail at this evenings meeting.

#### **Educational Psychologist Needs Analysis**

Mark Brotherton is our current Educational Psychologist and has been with us since September. Mark has worked with Mr Boyle to conduct a needs analysis to support us in our assessment and referral systems. These systems are used when young people require additional intervention e.g. suspected ASN need, access to our PEF funded hub, input from educational psychologist, referral to CAMHS.

The needs analysis was completed last week and we have agreed upon four baseline assessments for use with young people prior to onward referral. This is a significant step against improvement plan priorities of the past two sessions. Further update to follow around forms of assessment at next PC meeting.

## **6. Forthcoming Events**

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

- Hunterston Science Trip – This Week
- S3 Reports issued Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December
- P7/S1 Transition Meetings - Ongoing
- Christmas Concert/Showcase - Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December
- Christmas Charity Events – from Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> only
- School closes on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December, and reopens on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January
- S3 Parents' Evening – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January
- Prelim Diet – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January
- S3 Options Information Evening – Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January
- S2 Options Information Evening – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January
- S4/S5 Options Information Evening – Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January
- Options Interviews – Various dates between Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January and Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February
- Next Parent Council Meeting – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020