



1. General Update

SQA Certification

School staff are delighted that staff estimates stand and thank Mr Campbell, the wider Parent Council and elected members for their support.

Analysis of attainment against revised data will follow in September. Prior to the decision to award in line with estimates, our S4 attainment at SCQF5 was 1% down year on year, our S5 attainment at SCQF6 was up 3%.

We had anticipated a slightly lower S4 return and slightly Higher S5 return but the overall pass rate figures were pleasing. However, in some specific subject areas the awards at candidate level were clearly unjust and as such we welcome the revised national position.

A full analysis of attainment trends will be presented at the Parent Council meeting which follows on from the release of INSIGHT data.

Health and Safety

A general overview of health and safety measures in place, as well as a copy of the latest version of our risk assessment, can be found on our website.

Risk Assessment -

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/public/stjosephsacademy/uploads/sites/2043/2020/08/16073021/COVID-19-Secondary-School-RA-St.Josephs.pdf>

General Overview –

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/public/stjosephsacademy/uploads/sites/2043/2020/08/05075537/Re-Opening-Guidance-for-Pupils.pdf>

A group of staff meet weekly to feedback on Health and Safety as it relates to COVID and re-opening. Broadly, staff are happy with the situation as it stands and young people are to be commended for their excellent conduct.

Parental Responsibility – COVID Symptoms

The following message was shared on our website last week. It is repeated here in case members of the Parent Forum use this report as a source of information.

'Please remember that if your son/daughter has a temperature/fever, a persistent cough or a loss of their sense of taste or smell, you should not send them to school and should follow NHS advice. If you believe that your son/daughter has symptoms of COVID you should arrange for a test via the NHS.'

If you have children at different schools, and one is off with COVID like symptoms, you must inform the other establishment too and should not send siblings into the other school for as long as symptoms persist or until a negative test is returned for the child exhibiting symptoms.

Pupils with any of the above symptoms in school will be sent home and parents/carers advised to follow NHS guidance. However, the school should not be put in a position where we are dealing with situations already

known to parents/carers and where symptoms are clear e.g. sending a young person to school with a fever or persistent cough.

If sent home from school, school staff will follow up at the start and end of each school day to check in with the family.'

I am happy to take questions on Health and Safety during our meeting.

SQA Courses 2020/21

SQA is consulting with teachers on potential alterations to assessment standards in advance of the 2020/21 diet. The changes proposed range from none (e.g. Computing) to changes where elements of the course will be removed or condensed (e.g. Modern Languages removal of written assessment).

Until such times as SQA take final decisions, we cannot confirm specifics for any course or learner. However, when these decisions are taken they will be communicated to young people and parents/carers.

In addition, there is no further information on the dates of the SQA diet. A change in the dates of the exam diet would also have an impact on the likelihood or otherwise of completing courses.

Given the number of variables, it is not possible to take an informed position on implications at school level until the SQA release both the dates of the exam diet and any confirmed alteration to courses. School staff have made their thoughts known via the consultation which closes this evening.

Lunch and Break

Our staggered Lunch system is working very well. We continue to review break time arrangements, and ask for your support in encouraging young people to make their way to period 3 classes well before 10.45am. For now, we will continue with one interval but will review this at the end of next week.

Litter

Litter is emerging as an issue, particularly within school grounds. We ask for parental support around reinforcing the message that bins should be used at all times.

ParentPay

All new pupils, including our new S1 cohort, were issued with ParentPay letters earlier this week. Please follow the instructions on the letter to register.

Lockers

We have over one hundred new lockers but await installation. This explains the delay in issuing new lockers. The new lockers are on site and as soon as we can issue lockers we will.

Uniform

Uniform has been very good since re-opening. We acknowledge that in a small number of cases it has been hard to source uniform items. We will begin to reach out to the parents/carers of those not in uniform next week and will, as always, offer support where necessary.

School Lunch Pre-Order System

School staff have assisted the vast majority of pupils with registration. Around eighty pupils have forgotten their school passwords which prevents registration. As and when these passwords are reset we will continue to help young people register.

The catering department at EAC has acknowledged and remedied a fault whereby some pupils could not place orders.

All pupils wishing to purchase lunch should order online the night before. A video demonstrating how to order can be found here: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/stjosephsacademy/2020/08/17/ordering-lunch/>

Glow, Teams and Google Classroom Access

Now that school lunch registration is complete we will move onto Glow, Teams and Google Classroom access. Where young people have mobile devices with them, school staff will ensure that Glow, Teams and Google Classrooms are working.

Glow intend to reset all pupil and staff passwords soon, and this will have a knock on in terms of registration issues. The rationale for a national password reset is based on maintaining system security. School staff will support pupils to access Glow again after all passwords are reset. It is anticipated that this will take us around three weeks in total.

ShowMyHomework

On a rolling basis, we will begin to issue ShowMyHomework parental login details, starting with our new S1. We will also re-issue registration letters to those parents/carers not currently registered. It may take a week or so for these letters to be generated and will be a priority once Glow issues are resolved.

School iPads

We still await the return of some devices which were loaned to pupils across East Ayrshire during lockdown. If you have a school iPad which needs repaired then we will identify a drop off area where it can be sprayed before being passed to the IT department.

The school iPads are being phased out and as such the new S1 will not receive an iPad. Where possible, we will allocate to the new S2 but can only do so once all that were borrowed are returned to school and reset.

Google Classroom Access on EAC devices

We are aware of ongoing issues with access to parts of google classroom from within the school network and when on council devices. Please know that this issue is with our IT team for action and we will update as and when possible. Access does work on personal devices used outwith school/accessed via mobile data. However, we realise that this is not suitable for all and are working with IT to find a resolution.

PE

Today's announcement around the reintroduction of indoor sport is likely to have an impact on schools. However, we await further and final guidance. We will advise on indoor activity as soon as we can. Mr Howson will issue further information from the PE department in due course.

Annual Data Checks, EV5 forms, Photography Permission

Please continue to return paperwork as soon as possible. Thank you to those who have done so already.

SfL/ASN Timelines

All annual reviews will be undertaken throughout the course of the session, and any parent/carers can contact Mrs Hoy at any time if they feel that an urgent intervention is required. More broadly, the SfL department are working to the following timeline:

Inset Day	-	Shared information on specific S1 pupils and location of record for all other pupils with support plans/ongoing interaction with SfL department
12 th -14 th August	-	S1 prioritised in terms of immediate need and early interaction
14 th August	-	Tutorial timetables reviewed and parents/carers contacted where applicable
w/b 17 th August	-	S1 Dyslexia Assessments started S2 and S3 tutorial provision confirmed and assessment ongoing
w/b 24 th August	-	S1 tutorials to begin SQA evidence gathering (administration complete) Scheduled additional tutorials for identified pupils

College Courses

Given ongoing restrictions around face to face delivery and COVID 19, college provision will be different to that anticipated pre summer. Some College courses will run online only, some on Tuesdays only, some on Thursdays only and some on both Tuesdays and Thursdays. We will call all parents/carers to advise of how college provision will impact upon each young person.

On Friday, we received further advice that the planned start date of this week has now changed. We will share more when we can.

We also await further clarity on how S3 DYW/College provision will look and will communicate this to those pupils taking S3 college courses in due course.

Advanced Highers

It is no longer possible for pupils to attend more than one educational establishment. As such, those pupils studying Advanced Highers (AH) at Grange Academy or Kilmarnock Academy can no longer attend classes in person. The local authority are supporting the recruitment of a part time Science teacher to allow us to offer AH Chemistry and AH Biology here. AH Physics will also now run here and we can offer partial delivery of AH Music and AH English.

Arrangements in Modern Languages, History, Art and Maths are unchanged, as those AH courses were already on offer here. No pupil from outwith St. Joseph's will attend our school for AH courses.

We ask for your patience as the recruitment of another Science teacher will take around two weeks. As soon as the new teacher starts we can offer formal lessons. In the interim, pupils studying AH Biology and AH Chemistry should speak to department staff about access to resources online.

EMA Applications

EMA applications need to be scanned and sent electronically. If anyone needs their application scanned please hand the paper version into the school office.

Pupil Leadership Teams

Senior Leadership Interviews are scheduled to take place on Friday 4th September, with JLT interviews to follow thereafter.

Working Time Agreement

The Working Time Agreement governs the use of staff time within each school. The WTA is agreed in collaboration with staff and professional association representatives, and details the dates of parents' evening and reports.

Naturally, these are then communicated to parents/carers and pupils. Scottish Government took the decision to recommend that WTA discussion be postponed in May/June, and our early focus so far has been on implementing Health and Safety measures and ensuring that young people are back into the routine of learning in school. WTA discussions at school level are yet to be scheduled but will take place in September.

2. Staffing

The following appointments have been made since our last meeting:

Music (1 year temporary post) – Mrs Lamont

Acting PT Social Subjects – Miss Devanney (to cover Mrs Cunningham's maternity leave from October)

Acting PT Pastoral Care – Mrs A Kelly (to cover Mrs Marshall's maternity leave from October)

The following vacancies are currently live:

Two hub support worker posts (PEF)	-	Interviews scheduled for w/b 31 st August
One Classroom Assistant Vacancy (PEF)	-	Interview dates TBC
Modern Languages (to cover Mrs Kelly)	-	Attracted no applicants within EAC or nationally, Back out to national advert

In addition, we have an allocation of 2.1FTE staff beyond our FTE allocation. 1.5FTE are staff who will remain with us this session but work in departments where a surplus had been declared. An additional 0.6FTE is out to advert in Science to help facilitate Advanced Higher provision.

The additional staffing is necessary for two reasons:

- No young person can attend another school for any Advanced Higher course
- There is ongoing uncertainty around when College provision will start, and College admissions are down significantly as a result of COVID restrictions

The additional staff will allow us to:

- Deliver 18 periods of Advanced Higher Sciences
- Deliver around 6 periods of Advanced Higher Music and Advanced Higher English
- Deliver up to 18 periods of courses to replace College provision

Work around identifying viable alternatives to College provision has started, and Mrs Shearer is working with Principal Teachers to confirm additional SCQF courses that we can offer this session. This work had started last session whereby Mrs Shearer had organised staff training shortly before lockdown with a view to broadening provision. The college course issue has accelerated our implementation slightly.

It should be noted that the situation around Advanced Highers and College provision evolved significantly in the past week. Solutions are either in place or pending for Advanced Higher. College provision remains less clear but school staff are doing what they can to devise alternative programmes at short notice. There is also some scope to provide staff absence cover in the SfL department from within our additional staffing.

The support given by EAC in terms of additional staffing here is excellent, with 2.1FTE a substantial figure.