

## Parent Council AGM – School Report

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021



FIDELIS · JUSTUS · PRUDENS

### 1. General Update

#### Health and Safety

COVID mitigations remain as they were prior to the October break.

- One way system
- Staggered Break/Lunch
- Face coverings to be worn when using school transport
- Face coverings to be worn when in the school building unless eating lunch
- Break/Lunch to be spent outdoors where possible (weather dependent)
- No unannounced visits from guests, including parents/carers
- Restrictions around extra-curricular activity

#### COVID Update

A number of pupils and staff continue to test positive for COVID, but numbers have dropped off markedly against those within our community in late August/early September. The October break has led to some issues of concern around transient absence/COVID related absence against travel guidance.

#### SQA Appeals

SQA appeal results are due to be released to schools on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October. Miss Quigley will call parents/carers of those to have appealed to notify parents/carers of the outcome of appeals.

#### Prelims

As things stand, we intend to run our S4-S6 prelim diet in January. Mitigations used in April will be applied again to ensure that we work within COVID guidance. Formal class level assessment is part and parcel of standard course delivery. Some subjects will run extended class based assessment in December. A full prelim timetable will be released to pupils and parent/carers by mid-November.

#### School Calendar

Reporting/Parents' Evening information was shared with parents/carers last week. Our school calendar has been agreed by professional associations.

Extract from communication to parents/carers shown below:

This session, interim reports will be issued for all year groups by January, with approximate release dates shown below.

Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	S4 to S6 Tracking Issued
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> October	S1 to S3 Tracking Issued
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	S4 Interim Reports Issued
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> November	S3 Interim Reports Issued
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	S5/6 Interim Reports Issued
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	S2 Interim Reports Issued
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	S1 Interim Reports Issued

A further update will be issued later in the session, but for now, the following dates can be regarded as indicative (the day of the week may need to change allowing for hall bookings).

If proceeding with Parents' Evenings:

Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	S3 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	S5/6 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	S4 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	S2 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	S1 Parents' Evening

In the event that we cannot proceed with face-to-face or online Parents' Evenings, full reports will be issued around two weeks after the dates stated above. Staff will work to the dates shown above, but there then follows a period of internal quality assurance before reports are released to families.

Please be assured that confirmation in respect of reporting/parents' evenings from February onwards will follow as soon as possible.

### **INSIGHT Results Release**

Scottish Government released school level data to schools shortly before the October break. Pleasingly, upward trends across almost all measures are evident again. In particular, more of our young people in S4 are attaining three, five or seven SCQF5 (National 5 or equivalent) qualifications. In S5, a higher number of our pupils are attaining, one, three or five Higher awards. In S6, more pupils are leaving with one or more Advanced Higher awards. Of particular significance is improvement in the attainment of those pupils for whom engaging with school is a challenge. There is a clear pattern of stronger attainment for these pupils which coincides with wider improvements as detailed above.

Significant strategic decisions that have contributed to improved attainment in recent years can be summarised as follows:

- Revised Curriculum Pathways from S2-S6
- Revised standard of materials shared with families to support correct course choices
- Significant increase in alternative SCQF qualifications on offer beyond those offered by SQA
- Introduction of our Alternative Provision base to support those struggling to attend timetabled classes
- Significant recruitment and retention of staff/removal of temporary contracts
- Focus on high standards and expectations
- Internal 'Challenge 100' mentoring initiative led by Miss Quigley for those at risk of not attaining

Scottish Government publish public facing data in around March of each year. At that time, we will be able to share the specifics of upward trends in the attainment of our young people. I would like to take this opportunity to thank staff, pupils and families for their support as we look to maintain the strong attainment record evident across the past few years.

### **School Improvement Plan/PEF**

Our draft improvement plan is available to view on the school website but is not yet public facing.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/public/stjosephsacademy/uploads/sites/2043/2021/10/25100424/St.-Josephs-Academy-SIP-2122.pdf>

Our priorities are, in the main, an extension of those present on last session's plan. PEF spending is tied in with financial year end, and as is the case with our improvement plan, most targets/areas of investment remain the same. The overwhelming majority of our PEF spend goes towards additional staffing.

- Attendance Officer
- AP Base Support Workers x2
- Classroom Assistant
- Teacher of Inclusion (0.5 FTE)

Feedback or commentary on the School Improvement Plan is welcome.

### **Vision, Values and Aims and LearnWell**

Our S3 pupil leadership team have worked with Mrs Shearer to collate values that they believe are important to them. As part of a much wider project to revisit our values and aims, our pupils will now present to all other pupils in the school. This will lead to identification of values which best capture our Catholic ethos and account for our local context. In tandem, pupils have worked with RE staff to review our House Patronage. We will shortly survey all pupils and families to select three of the following saints (one from each category shown) to replace St. Andrew, St. Columba and St. Margaret as our House patrons. The list shown below was determined in collaboration with our chaplain and pupil leaders.

#### *Patronage: Youth*

Blessed Carlo Acutis or St. Bernadette

#### *Patronage: Care of the Environment*

St. Francis of Assisi or St. Kateri

#### *Patronage: Social Justice*

St. Theresa of Calcutta (Mother Theresa) or St. Oscar Romero

Upon completion of this exercise and wider work on our Vision, Values and Aims, signage and all communication from the school will be updated to reflect our revised vision and house patronage. Thereafter, our Catholic ethos will be more overt with a range of materials focussing on the patronage of the above saints available to pupils and referenced regularly in school.

### **LearnWell**

Mr Boyle is leading a review of wellbeing provision in four arenas:

- Mental and Emotional Wellbeing
- Physical Wellbeing
- Spiritual Wellbeing
- Social Wellbeing



The aim of this review is to ensure that pupils and parents/carers can clearly understand our school's approach to each of the above. In the coming months, and in tandem with a review of our Vision, Values and Aims, you will receive information detailing school support in each area. Pupils will also receive a pupil friendly overview of support on offer. You will notice the logo shown above on letters issued by the school. All pupils will receive a LearnWell badge that can be attached to blazers. Signage across the site is also changing to

reflect our LearnWell priorities. This is to increase the profile of the extensive support already on offer in school and to ensure that access to support is known and understood by all stakeholders.

## Staffing

Mrs Lloyd (PT English) has started maternity leave. Mrs Duthie has now taken on PT responsibility. Staffing was already in place to cover Mrs Lloyd's period of leave.

Mrs Higgins has left her Classroom Assistant post and moved to a similar role at Robert Burns Academy. We thank Mrs Higgins for her work when with us.

Mrs Dickson has taken on the post of clerical assistant at St. Andrew's primary. Mrs Dickson will be missed greatly and I thank her for her contribution to the life of the school over the past year or so.

Miss Kennedy has joined our school as a clerical assistant, initially on a temporary basis.

Ms Walker has taken up the post of PEF funded AP Support Worker. Ms Walker's Classroom Assistant post has been advertised alongside Mrs Higgins' post.

Mrs Marshall will return from Maternity Leave prior to our next Parent Council meeting. This means that Mrs Kelly will return to her substantive classroom teacher post. I wish to express thanks to Mrs Kelly for the quality of work demonstrated during her time as Acting PT Pastoral Care.

Classroom Assistant (Permanent)	To be advertised
Attendance Officer – Clerical Assistant	Out to advert until 26 <sup>th</sup> October
Maternity Cover – PEF funded AP Base Support Worker	Interviews Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> October
Teacher of Inclusion (0.5FTE)	Out to advert until 1 <sup>st</sup> November
Classroom Assistant (Temporary) x2	Interviews Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November
Maternity Cover (Teaching Post)	Advertised January 2022, commences late March 2022