



1. General Update

Catholic Ethos/Catholic Education Week

Our rosary group has been re-established this session with membership at around twenty-five. All pupils are encouraged to join us in prayer.

Weekly Mass will now take place at 8.25am on Friday mornings. We encourage as many pupils and staff as possible to attend and are grateful for the support of our chaplains.

Around fifty pupils attended our first prayer breakfast and we were joined by Fr. Martin, Fr. Stephen and Fr. Kevin.

Our Caritas cohort is the largest on record within St. Joseph's and our S6 continue to witness to their faith by serving across their parish and local communities.

NET ministries were with us for a calendar month and delivered a full day retreat to every pupil in the school. We thank the NET team for their faith witness when with us.

A group of S1-S3 will participate in the first National Generation Hope faith weekend in June 2023. The event is open to all Catholic secondary schools in Scotland and will take place near Crieff.

Staff and pupils represented the school across parish communities in East Ayrshire during the weekend of Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th October (Catholic Education Week).

Young Musician

Rebecca Clark and Cecilia Grant represented our school with aplomb at the recent Young Musician event. Cecilia played a self-composed piece on piano and Rebecca sang at the event. Both girls were a credit to the school. Rebecca was second overall, recording the same overall score as the eventual winner. Well done girls.

Extra-Curricular Programme

Our programme is now up and running in full. You can access the programme by clicking [here](#).

Community Engagement

Pupils continue to represent the school at New Farm Loch Community Council, and led a group of volunteers in setting up the local Halloween trail.

A number of our pupils were presented with awards at the 4ward 2gether diversity awards ceremony.

Remembrance Sunday

Lewis and Shelley (Head Boy and Head Girl) represented our school community at the War Memorial beside the Dick Institute. They were joined by representatives of other local schools and various faith communities.

Improvement Plan Progress – Quality Assurance

For the first session since the emergence of COVID, we have been able to undertake observed lessons. SLT has visited English, Maths and Expressive Arts. The focus of visits is to determine and celebrate current practice as it relates to differentiation. Each department is then provided with an overview of strengths and areas for consideration. It has been a pleasure to observe learning and teaching after a substantial COVID induced break.

Prelim Timetable

The prelim timetable was issued last week. The timetable is subject to minor change against planned strike action (as of Monday 28th November). The current timetable can be found by clicking [here](#).

As and when revised versions are released they will be shared with parents/carers and pupils.

Parents' Evenings and Reports

The only Parents' evening prior to our next Parent Council meeting is our first S1 meeting which will take place on Tuesday 6th December 2022. Booking links are live as of 6pm on the evening of this Parent Council meeting.

S2 reports are due for release in the final week of term.

Options Information Evenings

January will see face to face options information evenings return. Staff are working to finalise plans at subject level. More information will be shared with parents/carers and pupils nearer the end of term.

UCAS

UCAS deadlines are upon those applying. Three applications submitted so far. S6 pupils are strongly encouraged to adhere to deadlines. Alteration to course presentations will not be considered immediately after UCAS deadlines are met. All course changes will follow the normal established process.

Christmas Concert

The Christmas Concert will take place on Thursday 15th December at 7pm. Tickets are priced at £2. Details to be shared on the school app this week.

Industrial Action

As you know, schools were closed across the country on Thursday 24th November 2022.

Another teaching union has indicated that strike action will take place on Wednesday 7th December 2022.

There are subsequent strike days planned in January and beyond.

East Ayrshire Council will share specific information around the impact of any further strikes, including that in early December 2022.

2. Staffing

There remains one clerical vacancy. All other staff are in post for the rest of this session.

We welcomed back Miss Millar (PEF funded AP Base) from maternity leave. We thank Miss McCrindle for her excellent work during Miss Millar's maternity leave.