



## **1. General Update**

### **SQA Exams**

The exam diet has now ended and passed without issue. Results will be issued to pupils on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

### **SQA Appeals**

Information pertinent to the appeals process will be shared with pupils and parents/carers this week via glow mail and the school app. This year, SQA will not consider any alternative evidence (i.e., evidence gathered by the school via Prelims and other internal assessments). The only means of appeal is that of a remark. In practice, this will mainly take the form of a clerical check, during which any issue with the marking of the marker in question will also be considered. However, internal SQA quality assurance procedures when marking papers should minimise issues with application of the agreed marking standard.

Appeals must be registered by learners and cannot be registered on their behalf. Miss Quigley will issue an online form via Glow mail on results day. As is always the case, SQA will have two appeal windows, one to consider priority appeals where the result of an appeal could impact University/College entry, and the other for all remaining appeals. Specific dates will be shared in communication issued this week.

### **Prelims**

SQA courses will return to those offered pre-pandemic, meaning content that had been removed to this point will be reinstated. Principal teachers are keen to trial a December prelim diet, both to take account of the fact that timetable change provided new S4 with more time than normal in classes this session and to ensure that prelim results are available prior to options in January. SQA exams have also started earlier over the past few years, and an earlier prelim provides more scope for pupils to action any areas for improvement prior to the final exam.

### **New Timetable – S5/6**

Our new S5-S6 timetable is up and running and all options changes requests post exams have been actioned. As always, we anticipate further change requests after results are issued. These changes will be gathered via a form from results day but not processed by school staff until the INSET days in August.

### **School Prom**

We enjoyed a fun and highly successful prom at the Park Hotel on Friday evening. All pupils were a credit to themselves and families. There was a high turnout of both staff and pupils.

### **P7 Transitions**

The final visit of our incoming S1 takes place on Friday. Our transition programme is fairly extensive, and pupils appear to have enjoyed additional time on site this session. Our information evening was very well attended in late May.

## **Athletics Success**

Our school won more than thirty medals at the All Ayrshire Athletics Championships; a record return for our school. A few weeks earlier, we placed third overall in the East Ayrshire Championships, again a record return for our school.

Individual pupils also continue to enjoy local and national success and some will shortly compete in the SIAB International Track and Field competition at Grangemouth over summer.

We were also delighted to see many pupils participate in 'roon the toon this year.

## **Eco Schools Green Flag Status**

We found out today that we have been awardee Green Flag status. Our pupils continue to implement various plans for sustainability that also correlate well with the aims of Laudato Si. In particular, pupils and staff have worked with Mr Cassidy (volunteer) to improve our internal enclosed garden area. We look forward to sharing more positive developments next session.

## **School Football Team**

Our senior boys team lost in the final of the Ayrshire Cup to Belmont Academy. Our team have been highly successful relative to teams fielded in recent years and we thank all members of the squad for their determination to represent the school well while playing some nice football.

## **Work Experience**

Pupils in S6 should now be in receipt of their work experience placement. In some cases, pupils have elected to self-register for an alternative. A small number of outstanding issues will be resolved this week.

## **Generation Hope and Alton Towers**

Highly successful trips to Generation Hope and Alton Towers have taken place since the last Parent Council meeting. Generation Hope is a weekend residential for BGE pupils. It is organised and offered by the Catholic Church in collaboration with those who run Mary's Meals. Pupil conduct, enjoyment levels and engagement with all aspects of the weekend were exemplary.

Staff in attendance at Alton Towers were similarly delighted with the conduct of those pupils in attendance.

The London Trip takes place during the final week of term.

## **Pupil Leadership Team**

After very insightful and detailed presentations and interviews earlier today, the following pupils have been appointed to formal posts as part of the Senior Pupil Leadership Team for session 23/24.

Head Boy – Caleb Lincoln

Head Girl – Sarah McCready

Depute Head Boy – Paul Duffy

Depute Head Girl – Mahnoor Mirza

Head Boy Junior School – Joseph Davidson

Head Girl Junior School – Evie Gallacher

Depute Head Boy Junior School – Luca Baxter

Depute Head Girl Junior School – Anne Cassidy

We thank all pupils who interviewed for various posts today. All unsuccessful applicants for the above posts will be invited to take on the role of House Captain.

### **Caritas and Salesian Retreats**

Our outgoing S6 received their Caritas awards at the National ceremony in early June. All pupils were a credit to our school, and by proportion of school roll in S6, we had a very high number of pupils gain the award.

New S3 pupils reported that they very much enjoyed their retreat programme offered by the Salesian sisters in early June.

### **Other Successes**

- Eva-Grace in S4 was selected as one of six finalists for the Poppy Scotland Learning Competition
- Chad in S4 completed a six-week fire skills programme with Scottish Fire and Rescue
- Various Duke of Edinburgh expeditions took place in late May/early June under the careful guidance of Mr Hannah and Mr Yemm
- Sarah McCready (S6) won a Coronation Champion award for her dedication to volunteering.

### **School Holidays – Reminder**

The last day of term is Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June and school re-opens to pupils on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August. Mr Kane will be in school on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> August and Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August. All staff will return to school on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> and Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August for INSET days.

## **2. Staffing**

### **St. Andrew's Primary HT**

While not directly relevant to St. Joseph's, Mrs Elizabeth Hastings was appointed as HT of St. Andrew's Primary School. Mr Kane's temporary dual posting as HT of both centres between Easter and Summer is coming to an end. In the new session, further information will be shared in respect of how Mr Kane's Campus Head role will operate now that a HT is in post for St. Andrew's.

### **New Staff - Session 23/24**

We will welcome Mr Jim Hogg as teacher of Computing. Mr Hogg is currently based at Robert Burns Academy and was posted to our school on a permanent basis.

We will welcome three Newly Qualified teachers as follows:

Miss McLaughlin (Business Education)  
Miss Jordan (History)  
Miss Heron (Music)

Miss Blacklock was appointed as full time PT of Modern Language. Miss Blacklock was previously PT on a 0.4FTE basis and class teacher on 0.6FTE basis.

### **Departing Staff – Session 23/24**

The following staff will leave St. Joseph's at the end of term.

- Mrs McDaid (PT Modern Languages 0.6FTE, Retiral, left just after Easter)
- Mrs Burnett (PT Pastoral Care, appointed to an officer post at Dumfries and Galloway Council, left just after Easter)
- Miss Basharat (Temporary Teacher of Modern Studies, left in March)
- Mrs Munn (0.4FTE Teacher of Physics, retiral)
- Mrs Cassidy (0.6FTE Teacher of Business Education, retiral)
- Fr Martin Chambers (School Chaplain, moving to OLA and St. Meddan's Parish, Troon)
- Mr Dunn (Temporary Teacher of Computing, moving to Biggar High)
- Miss McLachlan (Temporary Teacher of Music, moving to Alloa Academy)
- Mrs Kennedy (Temporary Teacher of English, moving to Garnock Community Campus)
- Miss Fiddes (Temporary Teacher of History)
- Mr Avery (Temporary Teacher of SfL)
- Miss Waddell (Temporary Teacher of PE)
- Mr Hamilton-Bulger (Temporary Classroom Assistant)

One of the Mitie Janitorial team, Alex, is also retiring after fourteen years with us.

Alex, Fr. Martin, Mrs Cassidy, Mrs Burnett and Mrs Munn have all given considerable years' service to our school community and I wish to place on record formal thanks for their work here. Likewise, I wish every success to those staff moving on after a shorter time working with us.

## **Vacancies**

Interviews for the post of Physics teacher will take place on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June. There were eighteen applicants and seven have been invited to attend interview. The post is a one-year temporary position.

Mrs Flanagan (Computing) has very recently secured an Acting PT post at Loudon Academy. All relevant paperwork to advertise for a temporary teacher of Computing has been submitted. However, given the timescale between notification of Mrs Flanagan's success at interview and the end of term, it is unlikely that recruitment will happen this side of summer. Mrs Flanagan will only be released to her new post once a replacement is in place here.

We have one other vacancy for the post of PT Pastoral Care. Mrs Duthie has held this post on an Acting basis since August and will remain in post on an Acting basis into the new session when the post will be advertised nationally.

In addition, a small number of staff have interviews for external promoted posts this week. If they are successful, the Parent Council will be advised of any vacancies that then need to be filled.