



1. General Update

SQA Exam Results – INSIGHT Data Release

Mr Kane will provide an overview of INSIGHT data trends during the AGM meeting.

Prelim Dates

The final prelim timetable depends upon accurate presentation levels for all pupils across all subjects. In order that pupils have as long as possible to demonstrate competence at the highest level possible, and to allow us to quality assure department returns, it is not anticipated that the final prelim timetable will be released until the end of October. This will still be circa six weeks prior to the start of the prelim diet. Friday 1st December to Tuesday 19th December remains the intended window for the majority of prelims.

Timings of later practical prelims in Drama are confirmed as follows.

National 5 Drama – Practical Prelim – Wednesday 17th January

Higher Drama – Practical Prelim – Thursday 18th January

Learning and Teaching

We are in the second year of three-year focus on Differentiation across the school. This session, visits have taken place across the Social Subject and Modern Languages department, with SLT observing around twenty-five lessons. Department staff have received feedback and strengths were shared by several staff during a recent whole staff meeting. Where there are areas for further attention, Principal Teachers know to include these as a development priority within department improvement plans.

Parents' Evenings and Reporting

Dates of Parents' Evenings and reporting for all stages were shared via the app earlier this month. The school app calendar section is also up to date.

Extra-Curricular Activity

We are on schedule to release full calendar to all parents/carers by the October break. Various clubs/groups are already up and running and Mrs Shearer continues to gather wider achievement data.

Pupil Participation

Beyond extra-curricular activities that will occur on a regular basis, pupils have also had the opportunity to engage in various one off or annual activities as follows.

- Astronaut Visit to Halo (Ayrshire College)
- Future Asset Competition for Girls
- Music input from Sir James MacMillan (Composition sessions and support)
- Paris Trip
- Advanced Higher History trip to Glasgow University
- New Farm Loch Community Council – Plant bedding initiative
- Enterprising Maths Competition

- U14 Girls Football Tournament
- U16 and U18 Ayrshire region football trials
- Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions (various dates starting October 2024)
- S3 Music Pupils (Access Opera visit)
- S3 College pupils, ECC support sessions as part of Childcare course
- EAC Clean/Green Conference
- Youth Parliament representation

In addition, the following trips are provisionally booked.

- S1-S3 Generation Hope (May or June 2024)
- S5/S6 London Trip (June 2024)
- Paris Trip 2024 (September 2024)

Pupil-led Activities

Our pupil leadership teams have arranged to offer the following experiences in the coming weeks and months.

- Bake Sale and House Colours non-uniform day – Friday 13th October
 - £1 for non-uniform/House Colours
- Christmas Fayre – Saturday 16th December – more details to follow post October week break
- Elf Auction – Monday 18th December
- Elf Games – Wednesday 20th December
- ‘St. Joseph’s Stars in their Eyes’ – First week of Lent 2024
- ‘St. Joseph’s Strictly Come Dancing’ – Thursday 28th March 2024

House Masses and All Saints Day

This week marks the final House group Mass, whereby pupils attend Mass with their House group peers on the feast day of their House patron. Masses were held on the feasts of St. Francis and St. Teresa of Calcutta. This week, Carlo House will attend Mass on the feast of Bld. Carlo Acutis.

Wednesday 1st November is All Saints Day, and as a Holy Day of Obligation, all pupils will attend Mass on this date.

2. Staffing

Following interviews, we have preferred candidates for the following posts. The names of successful applicants will be shared after the completion of various pre-employment checks.

- Teacher of Computing (until June 2024)
- Teacher of SfL (0.5FTE until June 2024)
- Classroom Assistant (0.6FTE until June 2024)

Interviews for the following posts will take place on the dates stated.

- PT RE (four applicants) – Monday 23rd October
- PT Expressive Arts (maternity cover, two applicants, internal EAC advert) – Wednesday 25th October

Both applicants for the PT Expressive Arts post are teachers of Music, which means that after appointing, we will likely need to advertise for the post of Art teacher to run concurrently against the maternity leave PT post.