



## 1. General Update

### Return of S5/6 and August Timetables

Our S6 pupils completed their Induction Day on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May. All S5/6 pupils then started their new timetables on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. A small number of options alterations remain outstanding. Prior to the summer break, the app will be updated to provide clarity on the times and dates that Senior staff will set aside to support young people wishing to make changes to subject choices in advance of August.

Given annual staffing changes do not generally occur until August, all pupil timetables will be re-issued to all pupils in August, and those timetables will include the names of new staff. Thereafter, the timetable will not change again until after the 2025 SQA exam diet.

### Pupil Leadership Elections

Interviews for the 2024/25 Pupil Leadership team will take place on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024. The interview panel will be comprised of school staff, pupils, parents/carers and our chaplain, Fr. Jim Hayes. We wish all pupils well as they prepare to present and take questions on the day.

### School Show – Guys and Dolls

Mrs Ferguson and Mrs Howie are incredibly busy leading our cast through final preparations for the first school show in over a decade. The cast are investing many hours, both in school and at home, in ensuring that they are ready for the show, which takes place on both Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> and Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June. We thank various parents and local businesses for contributing to the raffle and encourage anyone who has not already done so, but would like to attend, to secure their tickets as soon as possible.

#### Cast List

Character/Part	Pupil
Nathan Detroit	Patrick Rosa
Miss Adelaide	Ava Murray
Sky Masterson	Kieran McLaughlin
Sarah Brown	Rebecca Clark
Nicely-Nicely Johnson	Anne Cassidy
Benny Southstreet	Kain Hart
Rusty Charlie	Erin Connelly
Harry the Horse (plus solo in 'Guys n Dolls')	Niamh Devlin
Angie The Ox (plus solo in 'Guys n Dolls')	Jennifer Rowan
Crapshooter Player	Aimee Glass
Big Jule	Luca Baxter
Lt. Brannigan	Isla McCrindle
Arvide Abernathy	Matthew Gallagher
General Cartwright	Fia Rush
Agatha (Mission Band member plus solo 'Follow the fold')	Emma Savory
Mission Band Members	Aimee Glass
	Jennifer Rowan
Mimi	Evie Gallagher

Hotbox Dancers/ Featured dancers

Evie Gallacher  
Emma Savory  
Isla Mc Crindle  
Niamh Devlin  
Lacey Mc Manus  
Matthew Gallagher  
Jessica Morrison  
Ryan Skelton  
Anna Gutowska  
Olivia Smith  
Ella Wallace  
Kiera Smith  
Abigail Wilson  
Caleb Lincoln  
Nicole McKenna  
Connie Adam  
Sarah Mc Cready

Master of Ceremonies  
Gamblers/ Dolls Ensemble

### **Generation Hope**

We were again well represented on the annual Generation Hope camp held in Crieff. Generation Hope is an annual camp open to S1-S3 pupils from Catholic Schools (or Diocesan groups in areas of the country where there are no Catholic schools), from across Scotland. Thanks to Miss Cathie, Mrs McElhinney, Mr Brown and Mr Giroux for giving of their time to attend with pupils throughout the week. The week was once again filled with a good balance of faith activity and fun, and we look forward to offering the opportunity again next session.

### **Duke of Edinburgh – Bronze Expedition**

Thanks to Mr Hannah, Miss Jordan and Mr Yemm for accompanying our S4 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh group on their recent local expedition. All pupils survived the weekend with their enthusiasm for further expeditions intact.

### **Sports Day and Dancefest**

Our Annual Sports Day was a fantastic success with hundreds of competitors across all events. Pupils also raised fund on the day which will go towards various sports equipment and kit to allow us to continue to build on recent success across a range of sports.

In addition, twenty of our S4 and S5 girls competed in Ayrshire's annual DanceFest event at the Gaiety Theatre in Ayr and opened the event. They were joined by other pupils competing for local Dance groups.

### **London Trip**

During the final week of term, our annual trip to London will take place, with several staff accompanying around forty young people. Thanks to those staff giving of their time to offer this opportunity to pupils.

### **House Reward Day**

Theresa House was our winning House Group this session, and those pupils within Theresa House to have met criteria to attend were offered the opportunity to go to Airthrill in East Kilbride. Congratulations to all members of Theresa House.

## **Internal Audit**

As part of internal audit checks with East Ayrshire Council, we were visited by the internal audit team. The audit focuses on policy implementation and associated procedures in respect of School Fund monies. A final report should be issued shortly, but indications from the visit are very positive.

## **Park School**

All staff and pupils gathered in the street area to extend the same guard of honour offered to our own departing pupils when Park School S6 left school a few weeks ago. The pilot of hosting Park S4-S6 here will run until December, prior to formal consultation and against currently known timelines.

## **Emergency First Aid at Work**

We were joined recently by staff from Amalgamate Safety who delivered First Aid at Work training to a number of senior pupils. The skills learned are invaluable for those to have participated and we thank staff from Amalgamate for working with us again this session.

## **We Make Kilmarnock Vibrant**

We were the only local secondary to participate in the recent 'We Make Kilmarnock Vibrant' event, whereby some of our students contributed to community planning. Prior to COVID, we had engaged with all community planning teams across East Ayrshire. It is wonderful to see more partnerships emerge again, and all pupils look forward to working with third sector and local authority staff again soon.

## **Caritas Awards**

On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, pupils, staff and families were in attendance at the annual national Caritas awards ceremony. Those S6 pupils to have completed Caritas received their medals on the day. Their work across the year in witnessing to faith in action is a fantastic example of our school values in action.

## **BGE Awards**

At the time of writing, BGE Awards are scheduled to take place this week, where we will recognise the hard work of pupils in witnessing to our six school values of Respect, Equality, Ambition, Courage, Truth and Service. Congratulations to all award winners.

## **Prom**

The school prom took place on Friday evening at the Park Hotel. All pupils were an absolute credit to their families throughout and appeared to have a great time. Thanks too to the prom committee, Mr Hannah (piper) and Mrs Shearer in particular for a wonderful evening.

## **Athletics**

Cara Monchello represented St. Joseph's at the Scottish Schools Athletics Championships and won Gold in both the 75m Hurdles and 200m Sprint events. Cara also represented the school at a gathering last week and secured a Bronze medal having completed the pentathlon.

In the East Ayrshire Event, we finished second overall to Grange Academy. In all previous years, final totals included the performance of pupils across all year groups. Had that been the case this year, we would have placed first overall. As it was, Junior results were used to determine placings. Even then, to finish second as one of the smaller schools in East Ayrshire was a wonderful achievement. Individual placings were as follows.

## **S1**

Sophie Atkinson - Javelin - 2nd  
Damon Goldie - Javelin - 2nd  
Joseph Duff - High Jump - 1st  
Joseph Duff - Hurdles - 1st  
Adelle Hilton - Discuss - 1st  
Oliver Bochenek - Long Jump - 2nd  
Emily Walker - 800m - 3rd  
Ethan Dimaunahan - Triple Jump - 3rd  
S1 Girls Relay - Megan Kennedy, Marcie Kane, Sophie Atkinson & Emily Walker

## **S2**

Megan Queen - Javelin - 2nd  
Rudi Antonucci - Javelin - 3rd  
Rudi Antonucci - Discuss - 1st  
Mia Brady - 1500m - 3rd  
Cara Monachello - 100m - 1st  
Cara Monachello - 200m - 1st  
Amber Oszczypala - Long Jump - 2nd  
Cole Speirs - 1500m - 3rd  
Logan Ballantine - 100m - 1st  
Logan Ballantine - 200m - 1st  
Hannah Sockell - 300m - 1st  
Charlie Bradley - Shot Put - 2nd  
Regan McNiven - 800m - 3rd  
Tilly Kennedy - Discuss - 1st  
Jayden Russell - Triple Jump - 1st  
Jayden Russell - High Jump - 2nd  
Michael McGowne - Long Jump - 3rd  
Archie Arthur - 800m - 1st  
Archie Arthur - 300m 2nd  
S2 Girls Relay - Amber Oszczypala, Mia Brady, Hannah Sockell & Cara Monachello - 1st  
S2 Boys Relay - Charlie Bradley, Jayden Russell, Archie Arthur & Logan Ballantine - 1st

## **S3**

Spencer Webb - Javelin - 3rd  
Caelan McKay - Javelin - 1st  
Lily McClintock - 200m - 2nd  
Lily McClintock - Long Jump - 3rd  
Sonny McAdam - Long Jump - 3rd  
Aimee Thomson - Shot Put - 2nd  
Aimee Thomson - Discuss - 2nd  
Giancarlo Minchella - Discuss - 2nd  
Sophie Walton - 100m - 2nd

## **Senior**

PJ Coyle - Javelin - 1st  
Erin Buchannan - Javelin - 1st

Lacie McFarlane - Triple Jump - 1st  
Callum Hunter - Triple Jump - 1st  
Callum Hunter - Long Jump - 1st  
Callum Hunter - 1500m - 1st  
Ruby Borland - 100m - 2nd  
Ruby Borland - 300m - 1st  
Abbey Kennedy - Discuss - 1st  
Abbey Kennedy - Shot Putt - 1st  
Blake Manson - 100m - 1st  
Blake Manson - 200m - 1st  
Ryan Spence - 800m - 2nd  
Ben Chapman - High Jump - 1st  
Ben Chapman - Shot Put - 2nd  
Erin Buchannan - 300m - 1st  
PJ Coyle - Discuss - 2nd  
Amelie Adam - 800m - 1st  
Senior Boys Relay - Callum Hunter, Ryan Reid, Matthew Monachello & Blake Manson - 1st  
Senior Girls Relay - Orla Duff, Ruby Borland, Amelie Adam & Lacie McFarlane - 1st

### **Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary**

Sisters Rose, Mabel and Juliett were joined by parishioners from parishes across Kilmarnock as well as several St. Joseph's pupils to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The sisters play an integral role in the life of the school and are based at Mount Carmel parish. Fresh off the zip line at Generation Hope, it was wonderful for pupils and staff to join with the order as they celebrated their feast day this weekend.

### **PC Dempster**

After nearly five years with us, PC Sarah Dempster is moving to a new role within Police Scotland and based at Jackton, East Kilbride. As a former pupil and resident of East Ayrshire, PC Dempster is well known across the community. The role of Campus Officer, if carried out effectively, is invaluable to our school. All members of SLT and Pastoral would like to offer sincere gratitude for the advice, professionalism and collegiality demonstrated daily by PC Dempster during her time here.

Like staff, many pupils are upset to see PC Dempster go and I know that they have conveyed personal wishes over the course of the last few weeks.

For the period Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June to the end of term, we will have no Campus Officer on site.

### **Improvement Planning and Calendar**

Improvement Planning templates were released by the local authority just over a week ago. With senior staff out on various residential trips, planning will be complete over the course of the next fortnight. In terms of learning and teaching, we are entering year three of a three-year focus on differentiation. In addition, there is a local focus on improving attendance, as well as school level need to look at Positive Destination data for those pupils struggling to engage with school life. Final draft plans and the calendar will be complete prior to the end of term.

### **Thanks**

The Head Teacher wishes to record particular thanks to Mr Jim Campbell and Mr Gavin Duffy, both former Parent Council Chairs, who leave the Parent Council at the end of this session. Both Jim and Gavin were

invaluable allies in work to improve the school during a period of significant transition and were highly valued and well respected. I wish Jim, Gavin, and their families every happiness in the future.

## **2. Staffing**

Preferred Candidates have been identified for the following positions.

Teacher of History (permanent)  
Teacher of Music (permanent)  
Teacher of Business (one year contract)  
Teacher of Support for Learning (one year contract)

Subject to the completion of all pre-employment checks, staff will join us in August. We also expect to welcome two newly qualified teachers, one in Modern Language and one teaching History and Modern Studies.

In addition, Mr Iain Tomb has been appointed as Principal Teacher of Technologies at Belmont Academy, South Ayrshire. This means we have a vacancy in Technical, with the post to be advertised shortly.

We will also advertise a Classroom Assistant post for session 24/25.

We are awaiting confirmation from Police Scotland as to who our new Campus Police Officer will be. The new officer will take up their post from August 2024.

Miss Woodward (PT Expressive Arts) will return to her post in August following maternity leave. We thank Miss Thomson for ably taking on the post of PT Expressive Arts during Miss Woodward's maternity leave.

Mr Kane will take a period of Paternity Leave shortly after the September Weekend, and Mrs Shearer, Miss Quigley and Mr Boyle will deputise for Mr Kane during his week of leave.

### **Departing Staff**

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

- Mrs Smith – Classroom Assistant – Retiring
- Miss Heron – Music NQT
- Miss Jordan – History NQT
- Miss McLaughlin – Business NQT
- Mrs John – 0.6FTE Support for Learning teacher
- Mr Tomb – Teacher of Technical
- Miss Pesti – Teacher of Art (Maternity Leave Cover)
- PC Dempster – Campus Officer

We thank all staff listed for their dedication and hard work during their time here and wish them well for the future.