



1. General Update

Prelim Results

All prelim results were issued shortly after the Christmas break. Pupils and parents are encouraged to take note of attainment in prelims, and to work towards continuing engagement with studying and revision against the advice of individual subject teachers.

Park School Consultation

The formal consultation process has now ended, and Education Scotland visited the site to meet with Park and St. Joseph's staff, pupils and parents. Education Scotland will submit a report as part of the process, which will be shared with you when released to us. Thereafter, elected members will take the final decision as to whether or not S4-6 Park provision is relocated here permanently.

Parent Surveys

Via the school app, Parents/Carers have been asked to contribute to two different surveys. The first is around our approach to supporting Wellbeing. Parents/carers, as the first educators of their children, are responsible for encouraging their child to engage in wellbeing activities in the first instance. As a school, and as part of our ethos, we are responsible for promoting wellbeing, and directing pupils to support where required, whether physical, social, emotional/mental or spiritual. The resources shared outline the ways in which we support wellbeing in each area. Parents/Carers are asked to offer any thoughts or ideas.

In addition, and on behalf of the SDS careers service, parents/carers of those to make options this year are asked to complete a survey about the SDS support on offer in school.

Options Information Evenings

Information Evenings prior to the 25/26 options process took place as follows:

S4 and S5 – Thursday 9th January 2025, 6.30pm

S3 – Tuesday 14th January 2025, 6.30pm

S2 – Thursday 16th January 2025, 6.30pm

Extensive supporting documents have been shared via the website and school app. School staff are in the process of undertaking around four hundred and fifty individual interviews over the month of January. Thereafter, a draft schematic will be created. For any young person unable to secure the combination of subjects requested, individual follow up meetings will be scheduled. As with all school timetables, across all schools, we operate against a finite resource, and while our success rate remains high, there are occasions where the combinations chosen, coupled with staff available are not viable. As always, staff will aim to reduce the impact of this where possible.

College staff will be on site over the next three weeks to support with College applications for those moving on to College or applying for School/College partnership courses.

The materials that can be accessed are extensive and include the SDS Regional Skills report for Ayrshire.

Immunisations

Immunisations that were scheduled to take place on Friday 24th January have been rescheduled to now take place on Friday 31st January.

Reporting and Parents' Evenings

The following Parents' Evening and reporting dates occur prior to our next Parent Council meeting.

S4 Parents' Evening – Thursday 6th February 2025

ASN

Staff were scheduled to present on ASN provision and calendars this evening, but given ongoing challenges in forming a Parent Council, this will be moved to the next Parent Council meeting in the hope that a new Council is fully established.

P7/S1 Transitions

All P7/S1 transition meetings are scheduled, whereby parents of those learners with additional needs meet with St. Joseph's staff to plan the P7/S1 transition. Primary colleagues are working with families to close off any Child's Plans that will not carry over into Secondary school. Each primary will liaise with individual families to communicate meeting dates/times.

School Catering Payments

During this week, we will migrate to a new payment system when using the canteen. The system is PIN based, and all parents/carers will receive their child's pin for dissemination. Pupils will also receive a copy of their PIN. It is also possible to align Young Scot cards to the system, and tap to pay. Catering staff will assist young people in aligning their card with their own account. Further information has been shared via the School App.

Car Park

We continue to receive complaints about a significant minority of parents/carers across the campus who refuse to park in designated bays at pick up and drop off times, and instead, double park along the road parallel to the school or park in disabled or taxi bays when not a disabled badge holder or taxi.

School staff have recently engaged with Ayrshire Roads Alliance and Mitie about the possibility of a number plate recognition system and barrier, and discussions are ongoing. School staff have requested on-site support from traffic police in the area, and hope that this may act as a deterrent to those unable to use designated bays with no good reason.

Extra-Curricular

Our S1 and S3 school teams are playing fixtures regularly in the lead up to Easter. In addition, our previously shared club directory continues to run week to week.

2. Staffing

Technical Teacher (Full Time)

We are still unable to attract any applicants for the post of Technical teacher. Previously communicated arrangements remain in place for S4 and S5 sections. S3 sections in Practical Woodworking were collapsed.

Given ongoing challenges, we are now unlikely to source a permanent staff member. We will continue to request that a temporary post be advertised up to the Easter break. Thereafter, consideration will be given as to whether or not it is viable to offer Technical during session 2025/26.

Business Education Teacher (Full Time)

The advert closed today, with one internal applicant. Against local policy, we require a leet of two, and the post will be re-advertised shortly for one additional week.

Teacher of Support for Learning

Pre-employment checks are ongoing prior to our preferred candidate taking up their post. It is anticipated that the new post holder will be in post w/b Monday 3rd February 2025.

Classroom Assistant Vacancies

Both Classroom Assistant adverts have now closed, and we have around fifty applicants in total. Leeting is ongoing at the time of writing, with interviews anticipated to take place w/b 3rd February 2025.

AP Base

Ms Chalmers started with us after the Christmas break, meaning our AP provision is now live again.