

The Parent Council of St Ninian's High School

A welcome return (and now our half termly rest)

Christmas has come and gone, but memories of the School's festive activities remain fresh.

The School's Advent Service and Concert was a triumph for pupils and staff alike, and marked the joy-filled return of school community Christmas carol-singing after a three year absence. Gloria in Excelsis Deo! The School Choir also brought much joy to residents in local care homes with carol performances during Advent. S1 pupils participated in a Santa dash for charity. And the Final School Mass of 2022 closed the year most worthily.

This New Year saw a resounding success for St Ninian's Chemistry Club which won the "Top of the Bench" national competition. A sedate pace was set at the star-gazing night led by the Glasgow Astronomical Society and a fantastic night was had by all at the Advanced Higher Music Concert! We thank Father John Morrison for his prayerful and peaceful Holy Hour for Vocations. Keep up to date with the many debating, spiritual, sporting and musical successes on the varied school Twitter feeds.

The S2 pupils ski trip to the French Alps was a triumph under the expert care of Mr Eaglesham. Plans are afoot for S6 residential trips to Rome and Salamanca. We thank all school staff and pupils for their hard work in these commendable endeavours.

Threats to Education Budget

In conjunction with seven other East Renfrewshire secondary schools, and 10 primary schools, we issued a Joint Letter to all 18 ERC Councillors urging them to ring-fence and protect the ERC Education Budget from savage proposed cuts aimed at plugging an anticipated budget deficit of over £30 million over the next three years (2023-2026).

Copies of our Joint Letter and the full and helpful response from Councillor Owen O'Donnell (Leader of the Council), on behalf of the ERC Councillors, are attached. [LETTER AND RESPONSE - \(CLICK HERE\)](#)

It remains to be seen whether the Scottish Government will adequately fund local authorities in the forthcoming Annual Settlement Grant to allow them to maintain education services.

On behalf of the Parent Forum, we shall continue to lobby hard to ensure that education funding is protected by the Scottish Government. We urge all parents to do the same in their private capacity.

More Strikes

Regrettably, further disruption to education (due to industrial action) is anticipated this month.

The School was closed due to industrial action on 24 November, 7 December (lower school) 2022 and again on 11 & 24 January 2023. The EIS

Issue No. 2

FEBRUARY 2022

Dates for your Diary:

Forthcoming Faith & Evening Events:

- S5/6 Parents Evening (16 Feb 23)
- Ash Wednesday (22 Feb 23)
- Careers Evening (23 Feb 23)

Forthcoming PC Meetings:

- 13 March 2023
- 8 May 2023
- 12 June 2023

all on Mondays at 7pm in St Ninian's High School

Parent Council:

Joint Chair:

- J. Stewart
- S. Reid

Vice Chair:

- A. Wilmott

Social Media Administrator:

- M. Pagliocca

Contact us:

pcstniniangiffnock@gmail.com

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

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(the largest teaching union) has called further national strikes on 28 February and 1 March 2023 meaning a further 2 days of lost education are anticipated.

We appreciate this news is likely to cause dismay to parents concerned at the ongoing dislocation of their children's education. The Parent Council has agreed to write to the Scottish Government to urge negotiated settlement at the earliest opportunity.

Friends of St Ninian's

The PC is keen to encourage and support "The Friends of St Ninian's". This is a group of volunteers (teachers, parents, pupils, past and present, who all love our School as much as we do) that, traditionally, has taken primary charge of arranging School fund-raising and social events.

Post-pandemic, we want to give a boost to our School community spirit by rejuvenating its fund-raising efforts and social activities.



We recently encouraged the School to resuscitate its promotion of the "easyfundraising" App. You can raise FREE donations whenever you shop online with over 7000 brands including John Lewis & Partners, eBay, Argos, M&S and more. Once you've raised your first £5, easyfundraising will double it!

Sign up now on <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/>

Faith Matters...

The new editions of the Diocesan "First Teachers" Newsletter for Parents and "Centred on Christ" which describes the rich and varied faith life of our Diocesan schools have been uploaded to the school blog. The blog is also a great source of school news for parents.

Remember that, throughout the School year, everyone is warmly welcomed to attend Holy Mass, which is celebrated at 8.25am (until 8.45am) in the Oratory within the School on:

- Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday,

of every week, of every School term. It is the most beautiful way to begin the day. Please do try to come along.

Parental Engagement

Feel free to contact us (with any questions, comments, ideas) on our Gmail account (pcstniansgiffnock@gmail.com), or on our Twitter or Facebook accounts. Give us a follow!