

Parent Council ASM 15th May 2017

Head teacher report

1. HT appointment

On 27th April 2017 I was appointed as the substantive Head Teacher of Johnstone High School, having been here since August 2015 as Education Officer and January 2016 as Acting HT.

I would like to thank the Parent Council for their unwavering support over the last couple of years. Your kind words, emails and cards have meant a great deal to me. To oversee the care and education of your children on a daily basis is a privilege and I am thrilled to be staying at the school. I am looking forward to working with your wonderful children and the school staff over the years to come.

2. Staffing

Since the last PC meeting we have started on our 'staffing exercise' in consultation with the local authority for session 2017/18. We continue to prioritise English and Maths alongside Support for Learning, so next session we will be welcoming new appointments into these subject areas as Ms Brown is moving from Modern Studies to become a full time Leading Support teacher. Miss Mullaney was appointed as a permanent Modern Studies teacher prior to Easter and we are delighted to have her join the school team. Other appointments have included a new English teacher and French with Spanish, both permanent and starting in August. We will, of course, welcome temporary staff and newly qualified staff in August; at time of writing I have no further information to give on this.

In terms of promoted appointments, we are looking to appoint a permanent DHT and a permanent PT Art prior to the summer holidays. I will liaise with Mrs Spence about these appointments as we go through the recruitment process.

Mrs Sturgeon, this year supported by Mr Miller, has just drawn up our timetable for the new session and this represents a massive piece of work and a significant landmark during a school year. My thanks to them both for the incredible hours and effort they have put into the timetable to make sure it is the best fit possible for our students (given the constraints that every school contends with such as staffing, accommodation, uptake levels etc). The new timetable commences for the 'new S2-4' on 22nd May 2017, and the returning seniors will also 'bump up' a year on their return on 5th June.

3. School life

Since the last parent council meeting in February ...

- The SQA exam diet started in May and is going well
- Mr Menzies is overseeing a planned S4 enrichment programme for S4 students who don't have exams and are therefore in school

- Our spring newsletter came out! Have you read it?
- We pledged our support for Paisley 2021 and enjoyed our photo shoot to back the bid.
- Miss Mitchell won the Renfrewshire staff award – Young Achiever of the Year.

Pupil events

- Pupils from a range of year groups went with Mr Stevenson and staff helpers to see Scotland v Italy at Murrayfield
- Our Comic Relief efforts this session included Blind Date, a staff/pupil volleyball, 'bake off' and male staff leg waxing
- We welcomed Michael Kerr, double Paralympic and European gold medalist in to speak to our S4 about his life and experiences. A gripping session that brought the school value of determination into a real life context.
- Our pupils have been to a range of employability events – UWS taster experiences, Renfrewshire Council jobs Fayre, and the DYW West College team have been into school to carry out mock interviews with S4 pupils
- We welcomed Sherwood Greenlaw Church seniors in for a coffee morning to showcase our hospitality students catering and serving skills
- Mr McGivern unveiled World Challenge 2019 – INDIA!
- The senior awards ceremony took place on 20th April (see below)
- Our musical seniors took part in the Behind the Noise shows at Baby Grand
- The S6 graduation took place on 27th April – led by Mr Munro, an emotional, affectionate look at our leavers last 6 years
- U15 and U14 boys football teams both beat St Ninian's teams to clinch the Renfrewshire and District football league trophies, both having already won for Renfrewshire (St Ninian's had won the East Ren league)
- Wins for the boys rugby, girls football and boys hockey at the S1-2 secondary games at the ON-X on 9th May

Pupil events coming up...

- The school show is postponed until later in the year. This has allowed the Music Department to undertake a 'transition concert' involving all of our associated primary schools. This showcase event will take place in June, prior to the three day visit.
- The Music department is planning to go on tour next session. Initial plans to tour venues in Northern Europe are well underway.
- The Modern Languages department have approached me about a S2/3 trip to Brittany next session
- Mr Menzies S4 Ambassadors have planned a GBX (George Bowie) disco for the week beginning 12th June for their year and the year above (the new S5/6)
- This years activities days are Monday and Tuesday of the final week. We will have our first ever J High Carnival event on day one, and a range of activities for day two – some in and some out of school, many free/low cost. We will be collapsing the timetable on these days and pupils will be directed to activities on what should be a terrific couple of days.

Parent events

- Inspection report published and a parent consultation evening held with Head of Service Gordon McKinlay in attendance
- A parent consultation evening was held to discuss our plans for our Pupil Equity Funding (see below)
- Ongoing parental engagement sessions on a range of topics e.g. Mindset with Brian Costello, literacy and numeracy and healthy lifestyles and staying safe on social media.

4. School improvement agenda

The inspection report is out and I have presented to the entire staff on the key findings. I wrote to pupils to inform them about the headline messages, and invited each year group to a lunchtime drop in to answer any questions / take their comments. Sadly this was not well attended despite attempts to round up children at lunchtime!

The SMT have drawn up action plans for each of the 5 development areas outlined in the Education Scotland letter to parents. This will dovetail with our school improvement plan for session 2017/18 and our two key priorities next session will be around Learning and Teaching and Health and Wellbeing. I am happy to work with a group of parents early in June on our draft improvement plan, prior to submission to the council on 16th June. Similarly, I would welcome parent input into the formation of the school calendar and will ask Mrs O'Malley to liaise with Mrs Spence.

The PTs and SMT are coming together over a number of sessions in May to explore each highlighted development area, with a particular focus on attainment as we are being joined by a member of the Scottish Government's Insight team on May 17th.

5. Pupil Equity Fund update

I submitted our plan to HQ having consulted with parents, pupil council, staff through two drop in sessions and also our Scottish Government Attainment Advisor, Pat Scullion. Our plans around targeted support through nurture, and universal support through enhanced and restructured pastoral support have been met with approval from all groups.

Due to the fact that new appointments will not be in post until August, there will be an underspend in year one which we are planning to direct into the creation of temporary promoted roles to target a small number of priority areas, specifically learning and teaching and employability.

Finally, in addition to the PEF funding, we are also an "Attainment Challenge" authority and will be receiving additional staffing through this (9 out of 11 of Renfrewshire's high schools qualify and as such we are all receiving the same HQ directed resource). We already have an attainment challenge PT Raising Attainment and in the new session will get an 'Inclusion Support Officer' (non teacher) to work with pupils at risk of underachievement e.g through attendance issues. We will also share a 'transition teacher' with the cluster primaries and this individual is likely to work with our new S1 August – January, then with P7s January – June each year.

6. School Awards

My thanks to those parents who attended our senior awards ceremony on 20th April, alongside special guests including Provost Anne Hall and Director of Children's Services Peter Macleod. For clarification, pupil nominations are based on the following criteria:

S1-2: all departments are asked to nominate up to 25 pupils (based on 'merit'). Pupils who receive 5+ nominations receive an overall merit award. Those with the most nominations in both S1 and S2 receive 1/2/3 place in the year awards.

S3: all departments are asked to nominate a 1st place, 2nd place and a merit for each subject they offer (the merit award is for a student who has put in the most effort / improved the most). The three pupils who receive the most nominations receive 1/2/3 place in the year awards.

Seniors: all departments award a 1st, 2nd and a merit award per subject. Points are allocated for each 1st place (5), 2nd place (3) and merit (1). Each pupil has their points totalled and in each year group the pupils who receive the most points receive an overall 1/2/3 in the year award.

Whole school awards are nominated across the staff group, with the exception of the HT award which is at my discretion.

(Please note that departments use a transparent criteria for the awarding of 1st and 2nd places, usually based on prelim results if appropriate to the nature of the subject (i.e. If it is exam based)).

We do acknowledge pupils in S6 who received 5A highs in S5. Moving forward, we will acknowledge pupils in S5 who received 7A N5s in S4.

7. Update on building improvements

The reception bubble is now complete and we have also updated the school sign, so the new and improved school entrance is now complete.

The school air conditioning has also been fixed after many years – this will have a beneficial impact on both HE and ICT.

Our next set of plans is around furniture – the vast majority of non-practical classrooms are about to get a complete set of new furniture, and in many cases, blinds.

Finally, we are in the process of more effective use of internal accommodation – a number of moves are in progress including moving Home Link into the management area, moving RE into that vacated area and using RE for a new nurture base. The old pastoral rooms are being repurposed as a pupil study area, a room for external visiting services e.g. Education Psychology, an informal meeting room and a formal meeting room. There are also plans for a comfortable family room for parent meetings and workshops, and a staff development base for teachers to work individually or in groups.

8. Our finalised school values, aims and vision

For information. This will now form part of our corporate branding and will be visible across the school. My aim is for these to be the foundation of the life and work of Johnstone High School.

VISION

We are a school community where everyone feels safe, valued and supported to achieve to their maximum potential. We deliver high quality learning experiences within a responsive and engaging curriculum that fully prepares our young people for the next stage in their lives. We are an ambitious school that has high expectations of learners, parents, partners and staff.

VALUES

Determination

Friendship

Honesty

Respect

Responsibility

Trust

AIMS

1. To be a place that everyone is proud to belong to
2. To be a safe, nurturing and happy environment
3. To value everyone and provide opportunities for all
4. To provide excellent teaching and learning in every classroom
5. To ensure positive outcomes for all learners by developing the skills they need to compete in the modern world
6. To work in partnership with parents in the education of their children
7. To be a school firmly embedded in the heart of its community

