



## JAMES GILLESPIE'S HIGH SCHOOL

Head teacher / Ceannard: Neil McCallum B.Ed (Hons), SQH

---

Address: 120 Warrender Park Road, Edinburgh EH9 1DD  
e-mail: [admin@jamesgillespies.edin.sch.uk](mailto:admin@jamesgillespies.edin.sch.uk)  
Website: [jamesgillespies.co.uk](http://jamesgillespies.co.uk)  
Telephone: 0131 447 1900

### JGHS Parent council 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023

#### Staffing Update

English Curriculum Leader	Mr Allan Crosbie taking up role of Vice President with EIS
English Curriculum Leader	Mrs Fia Kirkwood and Mrs Susie Sawers taking on role.
Physical Education	Ms Claire Crosbie took up guidance role at Lasswade HS
Physical Education	Mr Ian Gray appointed.
Workshop Technician interviews	Mr James Henderson appointed and started.
Admin Officer	Miss Samantha Cosgrove appointed and started.

#### A+

- The A+ Group continues to meet monthly, and is due to have its final session of the pilot in June
- 10 Parents & Carers are registered to date, including Black families, Asian families, those of Mixed Heritage, and a couple of White allies.
- Grace Dempsey, the school's Anti-Racist youth worker from IYS has met with A+ Group members; feedback from members has been positive, as Parents & Carers valued knowing we have a Pro-Black youth worker who is based within the school.
- this month the A+ Group are discussing JGHS' 'Decolonised Curriculum' & considering what support is available for Sudanese pupils affected by the current War in Sudan.
- Zaki El-Salahi, facilitator, asks that the school & the Parent Council continue to publicise the A+ Group as much as possible in advance of the next session at 6pm on 28th June; Parents & Carers can register by text or email: 07849 547 571 / [zakielsalahi@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:zakielsalahi@yahoo.co.uk)
- Zaki will be writing up the pilot project in July, and submitting a draft to A+ Group registered members, the James Gillespie's Trust, the School SMT, and the Parent Council.

### ***Duke of Edinburgh***

The breakdown of £185 for Bronze DofE costs are:

£25.50 for enrolment of DofE and access to the eDofE (money goes to DofE)

£135 goes to MyAdventure to pay for-

1 after school training session with pupils & school staff for route planning

1 day expedition preparation out of classes

2 days and 1 night expedition. Staffing, kit rental, transport

All of the training and the expeditions need trained paid staff.

The £25 goes to supplement the cost for pupils who can't pay the full amount. If a family is struggling financially, we offer a substantial discount so they can always do the award if they want to. It also covers admin costs like colour printing.

Any spare money can go towards JGHS DofE projects like the Bike maintenance that supports the Skills section of the award.

All the JGHS staff time is voluntary including the meetings after school, the online sections approval and support of the young people's sections and responding to parental requests.

### ***S2 Outdoor Education Experience.***

We tried to put in place the same experience for the current S2 in line with the Epic Days experience that the S2 experienced earlier this month. Unfortunately, this was not able to happen this year, subsequently we have planned for the pupils in S2 to be offered the same experience as a year group in S3.

### ***Excursions***

The CEC review of excursions is progressing, and the project team are looking at the profile of excursions and how these can be supported. This included reviewing an equitable approach, sustainability and Eco approach. These would all be reviewed regarding pupil access and whether they are linked to the curriculum. As a school we are working on our policy and aim to share this along with a booklet on the excursions that will take place in the coming year and the associated information for each of these trips. We would aim trips are shared with parents and carers in plenty of time, to allow appropriate timing.

### ***Education Scotland Awards***

I am delighted to share that we have been nominated in the 'Gaelic Education' category for the Education Scotland Awards. The awards ceremony is taking place in Glasgow on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June. Fingers crossed that we are successful but delighted to have been nominated.

### ***Mental Health and Wellbeing.***

There has been a fantastic amount of work taken forward in this area over the last year. I have attached an update from Ms Nikki Graham, Senior Development Officer, for your information.

### ***Toilets***

Continuing the review process and we have had several meetings with pupil focus groups on what we need to do to always make these more accessible to all young people. Discussions with the Senior pupil council and creating a short life working group with the pupils to look at how we can ensure that these facilities are provided in a manner to ensure that they are accessible to pupils and meet all necessary requirements and legislation.

Currently organising visits with pupils to other education establishments to see their facilities and how these are set up to.

- Survey pupils through key adult. (Taking place in June)
- Link in with Rights Respecting Group
- Have a suggestion box.
- Ensure the toilets in the hub are gender specific and that they are swapped to ensure the toilets don't focus on the girl's facilities.
- Ensure all doors are fixed as quickly as possible.
- Link with facilities management to ensure all fixtures and fittings are in place.

### ***School Improvement Planning.***

This year we will have the school improvement plan in place for the end of June. This will be shared with the whole school community and will be placed on the school website. The main points of action for the 2023-24 academic year are driven by the feedback from the Supported Self Evaluation (SSE) undertaken by CEC in November. The areas for improvement in the coming year will be:

#### ***Q1 1.3 Change of Leadership***

- Re-visit the vision and values.
- Develop the equity approach in the school.

#### ***Q1 2.2 Curriculum***

Ensure appropriate pathways for all learners.

Diversify the curriculum to ensure it reflects the school community.

Develop the UNCRC (Rights Respecting School)

#### ***Q1 2.3 Learning, Teaching and Assessment***

CLPL programme to support teacher pedagogy.

Teachers Charter to be linked to ensure high quality Learning and Teaching.

Further develop the use of Edict for monitoring and tracking of learners and their progress.

#### ***Q1 3.1 Wellbeing, Equality and Inclusion***

Continue to develop the access to supports and strategies for learners' mental health and wellbeing.

Further development of the tracking and monitoring system to support early intervention for learners.

Embed pupils' rights in the curriculum.

#### ***Q1 3.2 Raising Attainment and Achievement***

Moderation across the learning community (Secondary and primary schools)

Develop supports to ensure that the lowest attaining 20% of pupils are supported.

Data analysis of literacy and numeracy from S1 transition to ensure early intervention and support.

### ***School Website***

We are currently in the process of migrating our website to a new platform. This should hopefully be live and functioning before the end of term. This is to ensure that we have greater control of the website and allows us to update information in a timely manner.

### ***Homework SLWG***

We have now had two meetings with parent and carer short life working group and have identified several factors that would be supportive in making HW more consistent and allow parents and carers to support from home. This has in turn been supported with two staff meetings to take forward these action points and to also ensure that all stakeholders voice is heard.

**WE VALUE THE DIVERSITY THAT EXISTS**

### ***Communications SLWG***

This group has met to review the current policies and procedures that are in place and to review what steps can be taken to ensure that we improve the sharing of information across the school community. This has been supported and progressed with two staff meetings to ensure that all stakeholders voices are heard.

### ***Year Group Assemblies***

S1,2,3 have all had assemblies on hate crime and this has been delivered in conjunction with our Community Police Officer.

### ***New Timetable.***

The new Timetable will be implemented on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June. There will be an induction for the new S5 on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June and S6 induction on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Period 4 on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June all current S1,2,3 pupils will have their new timetable issued and this will allow us to start on the new timetable on Monday period 1.

### ***Upcoming Events***

5 <sup>th</sup> June	New Timetable starts (all year groups)
16 <sup>th</sup> June	Diverscity
17 <sup>th</sup> June	Diverscity
19 <sup>th</sup> June	Gillespie's Games (P7 transition event)
19 <sup>th</sup> June	P7 Parents and carers Information Evening
20 <sup>th</sup> June	P7 Visit.
21 <sup>st</sup> June	P7 Visit.
22 <sup>nd</sup> June	P7 Visit.
22 <sup>nd</sup> June	S6 Prom
28 <sup>th</sup> June	End of term (13.00)