

1) Please can you confirm that it is being remembered that the money to refurbish the Darroch Annexe was given by the Scottish Government on a GME budget? Is this part of the conversation at the rising rolls group? The more CEC use it for EME, the further we move from that. The money from the Scottish Government is ring fenced for the purposes of GME and is not for use for any other purpose.
2) Would JGHS be able to liaise and utilise the services of Bridge 8 Hub for outdoor learning? They can accommodate up to 70 children per session [I think] Yes, they are an approved provider on the CEC framework.
3) As I'm entirely new to the secondary school system here (having finished school abroad), could you explain a bit more about after-school clubs? Specifically: Who runs them - are they led by teachers, external providers, or parent volunteers? Can parents volunteer? (I recently saw an email asking for volunteer football coaches.) Can an after-school club run out of spaces? Do parents usually have to pay any fees for their child to join? Thank you. The extra-curricular programme is offered by a variety of providers. This includes teachers, school staff, active schools programme, coaches, and parent volunteers. The active school programme is free and is coordinated by the school active school coordinator Mrs Burn. There are also competitive sports teams / clubs that carry a cost for each sport. These are coordinated by the Physical Education staff. The staff try to offer opportunities for all pupils to access the clubs.
4) How many children study history/modern studies/higher/advanced Gaelic. How many study no Gaelic subjects after S5? • AH Gaelic – 11 • H Gaelic - 22 • Higher GME History – 5 • Higher EME History – 46 • Higher EME Modern Studies – 42 • GME Students in S6 – 32
5) In the changeover from SQA to QS, will there be a proper consultation with teachers to make sure there can be real feedback on curriculum and exams? There is an annual review and feedback on the annual diet. This is then feedback with any amendments for the following year. QS are currently undertaking a national review of the qualifications diet and processes. Have your say page on QS website. Strategic advisory council in place as well, as appointed by the Scottish Government.
6) I hope the Christmas concert will be in the Usher Hall again this year. Could the school please refrain from block booking all the best seats? These sat empty last year while parents were in stall seats with the worst view. The Christmas concert is in the Usher Hall again this year. I will speak to performing arts team about the ticket availability.
7) Would school uniform be reconsidered for the pupils? We are reviewing the school dress code.
8) It is so disappointing to see comments made about displacing GME students being a solution to overcrowding at JGHS. This happened at a previous meeting and will no doubt come up again today. Overcrowding at JGHS is down to rising rolls and is the result of the

Council's failure to deal with this long term. Focusing on GME pupils is not ok and can result in bullying.

The school focuses on all our pupils, and they are all part of our school community. We would not wish to see any of them being displaced.

- 9) Last year, the Parent Council sent a survey asking for parents' views on changes to the school's toilets and changing rooms following the Supreme Court ruling. Could you tell us what changes have been made? Parents haven't received any communication from the school explaining this.

Information was issued by CEC, as this is a council wide priority. We have taken steps to ensure that we are compliant and that we work with Facilities management to ensure that the toilets are the best they can be for pupils.

- 10) What steps are being implemented on a whole school basis to discourage comparing body shapes and sizes and is the danger of this behaviour fully appreciated?

We do Body Image in S1 through the Dove Project. We also address the harms of advertising "body image perfection" in our S4 when covering Pornography.

In S1 Science (Health and Technology topic) we discuss healthy BMI and the issues with a "one size fits all" calculation. There is also an "Agony Aunt" activity.

We are currently looking at how we can work this into our relationships and/ or equalities work.

It is part of our PSE review and plans to involve Pupil voice/councils in this process will help in terms of content and knowledge to be shared.

- 11) With the recent changes in staffing, who is now leading in which area? Will the head should take this opportunity to bring in some fresh faces and to abandon some of the more outdated and sexist practices without anyone to stand in the way of change.

We have shared this information through the welcome back letter at the start of term. It was also shared through the recent HT Friday update.

- 12) I'm new to the school - my child has just started in S1. He's loving it so far. I was surprised by the number of substitute teachers that he's had in these first few weeks. Does the school have targets for maximum use of substitute teachers? And are they on track with this? Thanks!

We do not have targets and we always strive to fill all vacancies on a permanent or long term basis dependent upon the need. We have had a few vacancies at the start of this academic year, that we are aiming to fill as quickly as is possible. We have also had some unexpected long term absences, so this requires us to fill with supply staff initially as well.

- 13) Can you advise on the policy re informing parents when there are long-term teacher absences and non-specialist cover teachers?

When we know there will be a long term absence or change then we strive to communicate this with parents and carers at the earliest opportunity.

- 14) Can you please share the link to the home study resource mentioned?

[Home Learning – James Gillespie's High School](#)

- 15) Is there any plans to look at changing the name of the school? I know some of the young people have objected to the current name due to the slave trade link.

There are currently no plans. The equalities group looked at this recently and there was not a desire to change the school's name, but rather to ensure that the history of the school was

shared through education and that there is always an understanding of the impact of the transatlantic slave trade.

16) Is there any management feedback as to the impact of rising rolls on the iPad question? Are teachers forced to be over reliant on the devices as they don't have access to enough resources due to lack of a set classroom/moving part way through etc

The i Pad is one of the aspects of the teacher's toolkit, and we would expect them to use this with pupils as one of the resources available. We would not expect teachers to only use this resource when delivering the learning.

17) How do we communicate student absences for several days planned ahead?

The preferred method of communication to advise of your child's absence would be via text message

this way absences can be recorded quicker and more accurately.

Please text details of your child's absence to 078600 29667. Please provide full name, Class, reason and duration of absence