

James Gillespie's High School



Newsletter

Message from the Head Teacher

March 2004

It is prelim time for S5 and S6 so nervous looking students wait daily outside the hall fearing what will greet them inside. For S4 students this is also a time of preparation. Deadlines come fast and furious and the May examination period does not seem so far away. You, as parents, will have to be more patient, encouraging and supportive than usual. Teenage tantrums are likely to be even more frequent.

In the rest of the school life goes on. What that means for Gillespie's is that life remains as frenetic as always. Preparations for Diversecity are well under way, meetings about course choices for S2 and S4, S5 and S6 students are almost nightly events, the Higher Music Performance Evening has taken place and our sportsmen and women continue to achieve national

success.

Our links with South Africa are becoming more of a reality. Two students and the Principal of Zwelibanzi High School in the township of Umlazi in Durban will be visiting us during Diversecity and some of our S6 students will hopefully be going on a reciprocal visit in June. Globalisation of the JGHS curriculum is our aim. Our S6 sponsored walk on 26th March will be raising money for this venture.

Finally, the James Gillespie Trust is active again. This trust exists to support the provision of educational opportunities for our students, to improve school-parent communication and to ensure that no child at Gillespie's is prevented from achieving through a shortage of funds.

As always a number of parents give freely of their time

and energy and our intention is to raise money to increase the size of the Trust so that more projects can be supported. We hope to set up a thriving Former Student Organisation and would appreciate any support or ideas for fund raising. Please contact Anton Ziolkowski (Anton.Ziolkowski@jlg.ed.ac.uk) or Jeremy Hughes (Jeremy.Hughes@ed.ac.uk) if you wish more information.



Mr. A. Wallace

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Special points of interest:

- *Read about ways in which pupils can be helped to develop their musical talents in The World of Music on page 2.*
- *Find out how you can make use of the extended library hours for revision on page 2.*
- *Details of two exciting performance evenings, The Higher Music Performance Evening and Diversecity V, can be found on page 3.*
- *A report on the successes of our Badminton and Basketball teams is in the Sports Section on page 4.*
- *Learn about the JGHS Website on page 4.*

S6 Dancers upstage top acts

The Edinburgh International Conference Centre was the setting for one of the biggest fund-raising events of the year as Scotland's glitterati assembled to raise money for the worthy cause of meningitis. The event, organised by Olivia Giles, featured a host of top personalities including Darius, the Proclaimers, Hamish Clark, Colin McCrae, Fred Macaulay,

Kirsty Wark, the provosts of Glasgow and Edinburgh and our own education convener, Ewan Aitken.

But stealing the show with a dazzling performance of non-stop willow stripping was the 24 strong team of dancers from JGHS. Their entrance was greeted with spontaneous applause and they performed with a sparkle to match the

champagne reception. Later they were gracious enough to permit themselves to be photographed with Darius and Dougal from Monarch of the Glen and were at ease in the company of JK Rowling and Gavin Hastings.

Our dancers contributed to the 12-hour Strip-The-Willow marathon. The whole event raised more than £100,000.

The World of Music

The Colin O'Riordan Trust Annual Awards 2004

This is open to all musicians up to the age of 20. The objectives of the trust are to encourage musical excellence in individuals in the Edinburgh area and the awards could help towards the cost of a music course, purchasing an instrument etc. Any student who may be interested in applying for an award, please see Mrs. O'Brien.

Instrumental Diary

All students who receive lessons on an instrument within school should have a current progress diary.

It is imperative that this is used appropriately - **students must receive permission from their class teacher to attend an instrumental lesson at least 3 days in advance of their lesson.** Students who do not receive a signature from their class teacher in advance may not be allowed out of class to attend their lesson, and will therefore be deemed as absent from their instrumental lesson and given a referral.

Please support your child's progress on their instrument by reinforcing this with them.

Scottish Schools Orchestra Trust

This organisation is offering a one week's residential course in orchestral and wind band playing for 9 - 15 year olds from grade 3 - 8 level. The course will be held from Monday 12th July - Sunday 18th July at Queen Victoria School in Dunblane with a final concert in the Albert Halls, Stirling. Any interested student please see Mrs. O'Brien for an application form.

'Spring Fling'

Wednesday, 31st March

Our annual Easter concert takes place in the school assembly hall from 7.30pm and will feature items from junior and senior wind bands, orchestra, guitar ensemble, clarsach ensemble and flute ensemble. In addition, smaller chamber groups and a jazz ensemble will be performing on the night.

Tickets are priced at £4/£2 and will be available soon - details to follow.

Permanent Post

Congratulations to Sarah Miller, our flute instructor, who has been successful in gaining a permanent position within the City of Edinburgh. We are delighted that she will remain at JGHS on a more permanent footing.

Dorothy Dunnet, A Very Famous Gillespian

The Writer's Museum in Lady Stair's Close on the Royal Mile has an exhibition about Dorothy Dunnet until 26 June 2004 (Monday to Saturday, 10am-5pm). Dorothy Dunnet (1923-2001), one of the finest historical novelists of our time, meticulously researched history for more than 20 novels that spanned continents and centuries. Her work has inspired conventions, fan magazines, and websites.

Dorothy Dunnet went to James Gillespie's School for Girls, where she overlapped with Muriel Spark, and was taught by Miss Christina Kay, the model for Miss Jean Brodie.

JGHS is very grateful to Dorothy Dunnet's sons, Ninian and Mungo, who have given money in their mother's memory to the JGHS Trust for a travel prize for a JGHS pupil.



Reminder...

Starting on 1 March the School Library will extend its opening hours.

On Monday, Tuesday and Thursday the Library will stay open until 6pm. During this time pupils can access all resources: book stock for revision and leisure reading and research.

The Library will be staffed and there will also be access to computers for word processing, research access to school network and e mail.

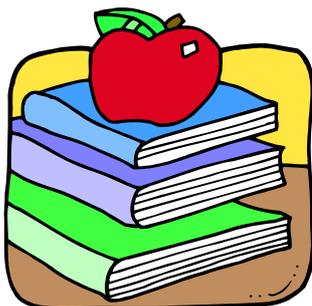
We hope that this will allow opportunities for pupils to access the excellent facilities here to help them catch up, get ahead or extend their learning opportunities.

These extended opening hours will continue until May when we will review its usage.

World Book Week

1st March to 5th March 2004

In order to celebrate World Book Week and as part of the on-going support for literacy initiatives in the school, all classes will be exploring some famous and and/or engaging novel openings this week in registration classes. There will also be a Literary Treasure



Hunt; a book review competition and a visit by award-winning author, Catherine McPhail on Tuesday 2nd March. All students will be issued with a £1 book voucher.

Spring Fling

Our Annual Easter concert, Spring Fling, will take place in the school assembly hall. A wide range of performers drawn from our various musical groups will put on their usual stunning extravaganza.

Junior Wind Band
Orchestra
Guitar Ensemble
Clarsach Ensemble
Senior Wind Band
Flute Ensemble

Wednesday 31st March 2004 at 7:30pm

JAMES GILLESPIE'S HIGH SCHOOL
PRESENTS

DIVERSECITY V

Fri. 19th March — 7.30pm

Adult —£5.00 Child — £2.00
(snacks available)

Sat. 20th March — 7.30 — till late

Adult £7.50 Child — £3.50
(including food and bar)

FEATURING

African singing & dance

Gumboot Dance

Haka

Bhangra

Indian drums

Celtic fusion

Fiddle music

Hip Hop

Ballroom

Breakdance

These two events promise a Wonderful evening's entertainment.

The students would love to see you and would value your support

The fifth in the very popular series of school concerts, DIVERSECITY V, will take place on the 19th and 20th of March 2004. Please support the wide range of talents and the diversity of cultures by coming along to support our pupils.

James Gillespie's High School

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New Telephone System

The school has installed a new call management system. This allows callers to direct their calls to where they need to go, or to hold for an operator.

At present, the system allows callers to connect to their child's Guidance Teacher if they need to inform the school of their child's absence or have other Guidance-related queries.

Holding for our operator gives you access to the full range of services we provide.

JGHS Diary

Wednesday, 05-Mar-04

Monday, 08-Mar-4

Monday, 01-Mar-04

Monday, 01-Mar-04

Wednesday, 03-Mar-04

Thursday, 04-Mar-04

Friday, 05-Mar-04

Tuesday, 09-Mar-04

Wednesday, 10-Mar-04

Thursday, 18-Mar-04

Friday, 19-Mar-04

Friday, 19-Mar-04

Friday, 19-Mar-04

Saturday, 20-Mar-04

Wednesday, 31-Mar-04

Friday, 02-Apr-04

Tuesday, 20-Apr-04

S5/S6 prelims end.

S5/S6 pupils return to school after study leave.

Extended library hours begin.

World Book Week starts. This runs for the full week until 05-Mar-04

S4 Parent's Invitational Meeting.

Higher Music Performance Evening at JGHS. 19:30 - 21:00 hr. Entry Free.

S2 pupils receive reports

S2 Parents' Evening (Practical Subjects)

Course Choice information Evening for S4/S5 parents with pupils moving into S5 and S6 at JGHS at 19:00 hr.

S2 Parents' Evening (Non-practical Subjects).

The second set of Reach for the Stars awards for S1 and S2 will be awarded.

The S2 merit award certificates, based on the recommendations in staff reports, will be presented to pupils.

"Diversecity V" at JGHS at 19:30 hr.

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Music Department Spring Fling at JGHS at 19:30 hr.

School closes for Easter at 12:15 hr.

Pupils return to school at 08:30 hr.

Sports Round-up

Basketball

The U' 14 Boys and girls have achieved great success in their first year.

The girls are in the Semi - Final of the Scottish Cup. They will play Holyrood H.S. at St. Thomas of Aquins on Wednesday March 3rd.

The boys are into the final of the Scottish Cup. Having successfully won an exciting Semi - Final against

St. Columbas (Dunfermline). The game was tied 44 - 44 at full time. In the five minutes of overtime the boys went on to win 60 - 46. The boys will play in the final on the weekend of the 5,6,7 of March.

Badminton

Congratulations to the U'14

Badminton team who have won the Edinburgh schools knock out quai ch. This allowed them to qualify for the national finals.

They were very successful at the national finals finishing in third position. This is even more remarkable when you consider the team is made up of mainly first year pupils and they were playing against teams made up mainly of second and third year pupils.

Sporting Success

The PE department would be very grateful if any pupils who have won Edinburgh or national competitions would inform a teacher in the PE department. This also applies if any pupil has represented Edinburgh or Scotland at any sport this year.

WebWorld JGHS

Calling all pupils with an interest in music!.....now online on the JGHS website is a fantastic pictorial archive of the last three JGHS Rocknights - 03/02 /01 - go to the **Pupils Page** of our website and click on 'Rocknight' to see your favourite JGHS Rockstars!also recently added to the **Pupils page** is 'Createaband', click on the Games link then click on Createaband. You can create your very own band live online - name the band, choose the musicians, choose their sound, mix the sound, add backgrounds and add your own lighting effects then sit back watch, listen and look for a recording contract..... loads of fun!

Our web address is

www.jghs.edin.sch.uk

Lots of helpful info/fun for you and your parents