

James Gillespie's High School



Newsletter

June 2004

Message from the Head Teacher

Since the last newsletter we have had a number of very successful events in the school. "Diversecity" this year was spread over two "sell-out" nights and was a great success, especially since our South African visitors were attending and performing. The "Spring Fling" was bigger and better than ever. Our sports teams achieved new heights and our Girls' Football Team heads for Hampden for the Scottish Final on 12th June. Our French exchange was as successful as ever. So all is well in JGHS on the extra-curricular front.

The SQA and A-level examinations are drawing to a close so there will be a lot of relieved students eagerly anticipating the start of the new timetable on 8th June. Our new 5th year should return that day for their induction

programme. Induction for the new 6th year starts the following week on 14th June.

We have a higher number of students than ever returning to JGHS for a 5th or 6th year which is a wonderful vote of confidence in our curricular provision. We look forward to working with our new senior students and wish those who have left a happy and successful future. Our Leaver's Ball and Ceremony on 17th June will give those of you with young people leaving S6 the opportunity to join us in saying goodbye to a superb group of students who will be much missed after six years of contributing to the school.

This month our seniors and two staff members head off for South Africa to consolidate our exciting project with Zwelibanzi, our township link

school in Durban. We look forward to hearing some exciting tales on their return. We raised nearly £4,000 for this project at Easter. Thank you all. This was a wonderful achievement, but we have now to find a way of sustaining this effort for the future.

I, and all of the staff of JGHS, wish all of you a happy holiday in July and August and we all thank you for your continued support and your wonderful children.



Mr. A. Wallace

Inside this issue:

Message from our Head	1
Proud to be a Gillespie's Student	1
Alternative Timetable	2
Respect the local environment	2
The World of Music	3
School Library News	3
Ski Trip 2004	3
JGHS Diary	4
Sports Round-up	4

Special points of interest:

- ♦ *Make your Children Proud to be Gillespie's Students. Read how you can help opposite.*
- ♦ *How the school intends to become a better neighbour. See page 2*
- ♦ *Please help to make Lauderdale Street safer. Read "Safety First".*
- ♦ *Budding rock star? Now is your chance. See page 2.*
- ♦ *Choose a good book from the list on page 3.*

Proud to be a Gillespie's Student

I would like to ask for your support for one of our biggest new initiatives. We are putting a huge amount of effort into our "Proud to be a Gillespie's Student" project. We are working hard with our students to stress the importance of a good work ethic, respect for self and others and consideration of the local and global community. We are trying to improve attitudes to work and generate a more positive and committed approach to learning and to belonging to JGHS. You can help by

ensuring all students come to school appropriately dress and equipped for class. Students should bring a school-bag and equipment every day, be on time and be wearing clothing that is suitable for class. Please do not allow your children to come to school in clothes that are too revealing, with offensive slogans, team colours, or indeed, anything that will distract from the core purpose of the school day, that is, a happy, secure and active learning environment.

Alternative Timetable



Our alternative timetable is at the end of the month. It is jam-packed full of exciting events featuring trips to London & Paris, Berlin, York

and a full and varied array of on-day or three-day events. These include Aboriginal Art, Bollywood dancing, cycling, photography, sailing, golf and host of other activities.



It is essential you support us by ensuring all students take part. You must inform us if you are taking early holidays or keeping students off school

for any reason. Success depends on full participation. I hope you will work with us to make our Alternative Timetable an even better event that past years.



Attendance Guidelines A Reminder

As stated in the October newsletter, we have instructions from the Scottish Executive on requests for family holidays taken during term time. These mean that the school cannot normally authorize absence for this purpose since there is a legal responsibility on parents to ensure that their children attend school. The attendance record for children absent for holidays will therefore be marked as 'Unauthorised Absence'. We clearly do not wish any child to have this on their record; so family holidays during term time should be avoided, since holidays can only be legitimately taken within the school holidays

Respect the Local Neighbourhood



In August we intend to launch a major new campaign—"Respect the Local Neighbourhood".

This will involve us in clearing litter, removing graffiti and creating a positive attitude towards our neighbours and our local environment.

1100 children impact enormously on the surrounding streets. We need to make sure this impact is positive and

improves the school's reputation rather than tarnishing it. At present, we recognise there are issues related to litter and noise that we will be tackling. We will be providing more information in our Summer Newsletter, detailing our plans.



Safety First

We would like to ask for your co-operation and support in ensuring that our school exit in Lauderdale Street remains a safe area for our students. We understand that many of you wish to drop or collect your children outside the school. However the area around the school's main gate is becoming dangerously congested with cars. Please arrange with your children a suitable and safe drop-off/pick-up point some distance from this gate.

We would also ask you to remind your children of the dangers of straying onto the road and that on the highway cars have priority.

Calling All Future Rock Stars



Napier University is offering a Youth Summer School, a week's course from 26th - 30th July. This is aimed at 14 -17 year olds of a Grade 3 'Rock School' standard and proved very popular last year. Tuition in vocals, guitar, bass and drum kit is available from some of Scotland's top tutors, and additional classes in song-writing and performance technique will also take place. The week finishes with a rock concert and each student receives a CD of their work during the week. The course is a great opportunity to all students who are interested in rock and who want to extend their skills.

The fee for the course is £125 and booking can be made on 0131 455 6801 or through <http://www.napier.ac.uk.cppd>. there is a limited number of places so book early to avoid disappointment.

Ski Trip 2004

On 12 March, 17 Gillespie's students joined Currie High School on a ski trip to Les Deux Alpes in France. For many this was their first experience on snow so we were all rather disappointed on the first day as it was too windy to go to the top of the mountain. It was bad enough being confined to the small runs near the village but then it started to rain. The next day things did not look too good as we could hardly see beyond the end of the hotel. As we took the 'red eggs' up the mountain, we left the cloud behind and then had blue skies and sunshine for the rest of our week. The skiing was fantastic with France having excellent conditions this year. The students skied on the glacier and visited the ice caves in the glacier. Blues, reds and blacks were all skied with style and the students enjoyed 'getting air' on the boarder cross. The best fall of the week however was mine with no student coming near my spectacular wipe out.



This was definitely one of the best skiing trips we have had due to great conditions and a fantastic group of students.

D Greig

Associated Board Exams

These music exams took place during the last week of the Easter term.

Once again, our students did us proud with everyone passing, some with merit and distinction awards. Congratulations to all students involved.

The National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain

This prestigious orchestra is now auditioning for applicants for 2005. Interested students must be approx. Grade 8 standard, and under 18 years of age on 1 September 2004, although violinists must be under 13 on 1 September.

The NYO meets three times a year for two-week residential courses which culminate in concerts and there is also a Composers' Course which runs alongside the main Orchestra course.

For further details, please see Mrs O'Brien for an application form.

Big Read at Newington Branch Library

Three of our pupils were invited to participate in a presentation about books which they had enjoyed (roughly along the lines of the Channel 4 Big Read). There were pupils from George Heriot's, Boroughmuir and our own three stars: Maxine Clark, Kirsty McCaskill and Andrew Ng. Not only was the quality of the speakers exceptional, but also the enthusiasm about reading was really infectious.

Who said reading was dead ??

There was no 'winner' as such since the idea was to share ideas for good books, but all of the speakers received book tokens (more good reads !!).

You too can share our student's reading experiences. Opposite are the titles of the books which they recommended (those marked * are in the stock of the School Library)

A. Inglis

Highly Recommended

Arthur, High King of Britain (Kevin Crossley-Holland)

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time (Mark Haddon) *

Eva (Peter Dickinson) *

Maskerade (Terry Pratchett) *

Merlin Conspiracy (Diana Wynn Jones) *

Pawn of Prophecy (David Eddings) *

Pirates (Celia Rees)

Scorpia (Anthony Horowitz) *



The World of Music

'Spring Fling'

Once again, this proved to be a great night's entertainment with items from all the school bands, orchestra and ensembles as well as contributions from individual groups of students. These smaller groups did a fantastic job, as they rehearsed themselves for the most part and proved most courageous on the night performing to an audience of around 250 people. Thanks to all instrumental staff and congratulations to all those involved and to the winner of the 'Easter Bunny'!

Bands/Orchestra Rehearsals

A reminder to all students that there are no rehearsals this term due to study leave for the senior students.

Rehearsals will begin again after summer - any student who plays an instrument at the required standard is very welcome to join any group.

James Gillespie's High School

Lauderdale Street,
Edinburgh, EH9 1DD.

Telephone: 0131-447-1900

Facsimile: 0131-466-7035

Email:

Admin@JGHS.edin.sch.uk

Website: www.jghs.edin.sch.uk

Special Mention

Craig Clancy in S3 who has played for the Edinburgh Secondary Schools U15 team.

Rosie Adams in S2 who has played for a girls Edinburgh team and who reached the final trial for the Scottish U15 team.

Josh Kinnear in S1 who has been selected for an Edinburgh Development squad.

Mark Mackay formerly S4 now S5 has just produced a stunning set of 3D images of JGHS. Go to our website at

www.jghs.edin.sch.uk then click on 'Gallery' to go to our image gallery where you will see a new series of wonderful 3D digital visualisations of views around our school.

JGHS Diary

Monday, 07-Jun-04

Tuesday, 08-Jun-04

Wednesday, 09-Jun-04

Monday, 14-Jun-04

Friday, 17-Jun-04

Tuesday, 22-Jun-04

Tuesday, 29-Jun-04

Friday, 02-Jul-04

Monday, 16-Aug-04

Tuesday, 17-Aug-04

S3 induction

Start of New Timetable

S5 Induction

S6 Induction

Leaver's Ceremony & Ball

Start of three-day Primary Seven Visit

Start of Alternative Timetable

Last day of school

Staff resume

Pupils resume

Happy Holidays

We're on our way to Hampden!

The S1/2 girls' 7 a side team who have made it through 3 rounds of the National Coca-Cola Cup and will now play in the finals of the competition at Hampden Park on June 12th. This run of performances has put our team in the top 8 in Scotland. In qualifying for the final some of the players, coaches and supporters were reduced to tears with the exhilaration of the success. We will hopefully be hiring a coach for supporters on June 12th. If you would like to come for the day out, please contact me at school.

Curt Finnemore, Director of Football (David.Finnemore@jghs.edin.sch.uk)

Boy, Oh Boy

The boys U18 team who made it to the semi finals of the Lothian League competition. In testing, windy conditions, the team played with commitment and confidence and dominated large parts of the game without creating too many chances. With the scores tied at 2 - 2, opponents Craigmount scored a killer goal in injury time and followed it up with a fourth seconds later as Gillespie's piled forward. All involved could feel proud of the way they played for each other and the resilience and skill displayed.

International News

A boys S3/4 team recently played a friendly against a club side from Sweden, Upsala IF. Gillespie's acquitted themselves well and ran out narrow losers by 6 goals to 5. Thanks are due to the Waverly Squash Club for allowing us to use their facilities to provide some food and entertainment for both sides after the game.

32 boys and girls in S2 and 3 will be taking part in an exchange trip with Granby-skolan in Uppsala in Sweden in September. Granbyskolan is a specialist football school with excellent facilities and resources and should provide a fine example to our developing players.



Scottish News

The boys U15 team recently travelled to Oban to play the boys club team Oban03. The Oban connection is through former pupil Paul Gibson. The weekend was a success and it was nice that Gillespie's won the friendly fixture 5 - 3. It is hoped that this could become an annual venture.

