

James Gillespie's High School



Newsletter

Message from the Head Teacher

August 2004

We are delighted to welcome you all to the new session.

A particular welcome is given to parents whose first child is joining the school. Parents of all S1 students are invited to an informal social evening to chat to senior staff, guidance staff and office staff on Tuesday, 7th September from 19:15—20:45hr in the school library. A letter will be sent home with S1 students giving details of this event nearer the time. There will be another opportunity in the first few weeks of term for parents of S1 students to see a class presentation. Details will be issued to all in S1.

We look forward to a new session in which every-

one in our school community strives to:

- Raise standards of achievement, attainment and commitment to learning
- Improve the already positive and hard-working ethos
- Improve standards of behaviour, attendance and timekeeping
- Develop in students a commitment to respect and to care for others

Our school is committed to working with parents and students to achieve these aims and I encourage you to participate in the life of the school so that you work positively with us. The School Board and The Parent

Teacher Association are the main parent bodies, but there are many other events for parents, which are detailed in the school calendar issued with this newsletter.

I look forward to meeting with you during the coming year as we work together to promote the best interests of the children.



Mr. A. Wallace

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Special points of interest:

- ♦ **All students return to school at 08:30hr on Tuesday, 17th August. We look forward to seeing all of you again.**
- ♦ *Ever wanted to be in the Guinness Book Of Records? Find out how you, and the rest of the school, can be on page 2.*
- ♦ *Want to be paid to come to school? If you are in S5 then maybe you can. See page 4 for details.*
- ♦ *Get your order for a locker in early. See page 2 and the maildrop for details.*
- ♦ *Learn about the JGHS Website on page 4.*

Making the Most of School

One of the main factors contributing to lack of attainment in a student is lateness and absence from school. Statistically there is a clear correlation between attainment and lateness/absence.

When a young person is ill, clearly they cannot and should not be at school. But, you can help us to ensure that absences are properly recorded and help us to avoid the situation where absences have not been explained by a parent or are

not known to the parent. When parents do not explain an absence from school we have to consider the possibility that this might be truancy!

Our basic expectations are that;

- Young people should arrive at school ON TIME (given bus timing they should probably plan to be here by 08:25hr).
- When there is illness,

parents should let us know (either by telephone, e-mail or letter), on the first day of illness, and certainly on the day your child returns to school.

Please help us to ensure that your daughter or son develops good habits of attendance and timekeeping by keeping us informed of absence and by dealing with persistent lateness.

Be Proud to be a Gillespie's Student

Over the last few months we have been focusing the students on ways in which they can be proud to be a student of the school. We have looked at self, others, the school environment and the local community as areas that each of us should work on to ensure our contributions to the school society are as good as they can be.

This year we will continue this work and raise awareness



and activity amongst our young people. We wish to encourage a higher level of respect in the school and local environment and we have plans to involve the students in environmental improvements within the school and some projects to build better relationships with our immediate neighbours, for example, an anti-litter campaign, graffiti removal and so on. I hope you will support us in our desire to continue to develop students' sense of responsibility.

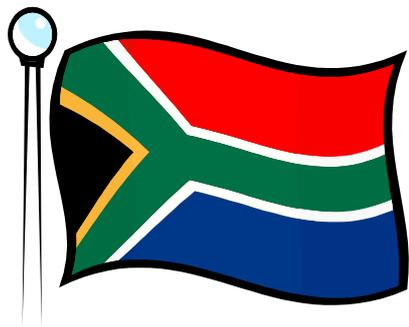
Student Lockers

Letters have already been issued to our new S1 students and will be included in the summer maildrop for all other year groups. We normally have enough lockers to satisfy all those students who want one but please ensure your request for a locker is returned promptly. The requests for lockers will be collected in PSE classes before Friday 27th August 2004.



Forging Links with South Africa

Following a trip by our Head Teacher, Mr. Wallace, to South Africa as part of a Head Teacher delegation we have created a friendship link with a South African township school, Zwelibanzi High School in Durban. The warmth of the welcome the delegation received touched everyone. Considering the complete absence of resources in township schools the staff and pupils have created a sound ethos by their optimism and their determination to succeed. The motto of the school is, "Live, Love and Learn".



Mr. Wallace resolved that James Gillespie's High School should follow the example of our founder and work to provide opportunities for the students of this township school.

Our South Africa Project will be a prominent feature of school life in this new session. Led by our sixth year students,

Be a Record-breaker

Following the success of the Maori Haka at this year's Diversecity show the school has made enquiries of the Guinness Book of Records about the size of the world's biggest Haka. It stands at 505 people. With the enthusiasm and participation of all of our students it will be possible to double the current world record.



This will be just one of the activities this year which we will use to raise funds for our South African Project. We will be asking all parents, pupils and staff to sponsor us in this world record. We will also be seeking commercial sponsorship. So parents, please enquire of your employers if they would wish to be associated with a world record attempt held for a very good cause.

we will be featuring some exciting events and fund raising schemes.

During the past year we funded a trip by the Head Teacher, Mr. Themba Mthembe, and two students from Zwelibanzi High School in South Africa. They

visited James Gillespie's during the Diversecity celebrations where they made a magical contribution of South African singing and dancing to the show. Spontaneous applause during the Head Teacher's speech brought the house down.

James Gillespie's followed this with a trip by two of our teachers and four of our sixth year students to South Africa to visit Zwelibanzi High School. This visit was a great success and a life-changing



event for those who went. James Gillespie's had raised a considerable sum through our fund raising activities throughout the year and we were able to buy video equipment, musical instruments, uniforms and stationery.

We intend to make the South African Project the focus of our fund-raising activities during the coming school year. We hope to make Old James Gillespie proud that his gift of a school will itself have created a gift to another.

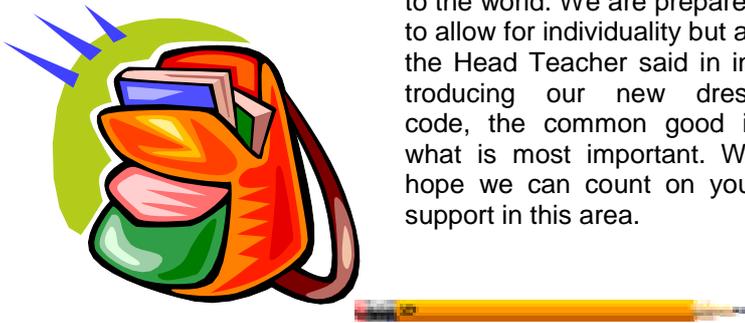
Comings & Goings

Dress Code

It is extremely important that students come to school appropriately dressed and ready and equipped to learn. Please ensure that your child comes to school with basic equipment every day, including a bag. It is essential that your child is prepared for the

work of the class and gets organized immediately upon entering the classroom

We have agreed as a community to a relaxed dress code but this does not permit short, midriff-exposing tops for girls or trousers for boys that expose their boxer shorts to the world. We are prepared to allow for individuality but as the Head Teacher said in introducing our new dress code, the common good is what is most important. We hope we can count on your support in this area.



Each new school session is a time of transition and change. This year is no exception and sadly we have had to say goodbye to old friends. However we also get to welcome new ones.

Comings

- Julie Brayford, Classroom Assistant
- Emily Connell, Teacher of English
- Ahmed Ebead, Teacher of Mathematics
- Angela Ferguson, Clerical Assistant
- Justine Finlayson, Teacher of Mathematics
- Jacqueline Forrester, Teacher of Business Studies
- Thelma Fyall, Teacher of English
- Malcolm Hardie, Teacher of Drama/Media
- Kathy Hoskins, Classroom Assistant
- Julie Howie, Teacher of Art and Design
- Mosarrof Hussain, Teacher of EAL
- Fiona Kelso, Teacher of EAL
- Derek Kerr, Workshop Technician
- Dorothy Liddell, Teacher in LSSN Department
- Lorna McCulloch, Learning Assistant
- Barbara McNaught, Nursery Nurse
- Graeme Newall, Probationary Teacher, PE
- Gillean Niven, Learning Assistant
- Jim Pennel, Head of Mathematics
- Colin Robertson, Teacher of Craft and Design
- Marcia Rose, Probationary Teacher, Drama/Media
- Mary Ross, Teacher of English
- Susan Sandison, Clerical Assistant
- Eva Simon, Language Assistant
- Jennifer Smith, Probationary Teacher, PE
- Shamyliya Syed, Teacher of EAL

Congratulations

Our best wishes to two beautiful, blushing brides;

- Allison Briggs (Khan), Head of Home Economics
- Carol Duncan (Somerville), School Bursar

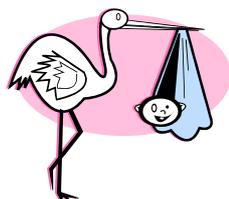


Congratulations to those promoted during the past year;

- Allison Khan to Head of Home Economics
- Jenni Scott to Senior Clerical Assistant

Our heartfelt thanks to those who have taken extra responsibilities on behalf of the school;

- Allan Crosbie, Acting Head of English
- Nikki Dallas, Acting Principal Teacher of Guidance
- Claire Fraser, Acting Head of RME and Philosophy
- Frank Gormlie, Acting Head of Drama/Media
- Anne Lyall, Acting Head of Physics
- Deirdre O'Brien, Acting Head of Music
- Zee Sulleyman, Acting Principal Teacher of Guidance



Congratulations to new Mum
Leesa Fallon, Teacher of PE

Goings

- Don Carlisle-Kitz, Teacher of English
- Isabel Cornwill, Welfare Assistant
- Jennifer Findlay, Classroom Assistant
- Suzanne Graham, Teacher of English
- Billy Higgins, Head of Physics
- Kate Hyde, Head of English
- David Leslie, Head of Music
- Daragh Lynch, Probationary Teacher, Computing
- Diane Mayze, Teacher of Business Studies
- Frank McAllan, Principal Teacher, Guidance
- Luke McAllister, Probationary Teacher, PE
- Keith McFarlane, Probationary Teacher, PE
- Emma McGregor, Classroom Assistant
- Jim McLellan, Teacher of Drama/Media
- John Mullen, Teacher of Chemistry
- Pauline Ritchie, Probationary Teacher, Physics
- Carolyn Seator, Teacher of Mathematics
- Hamish Thom, Principal Teacher, Guidance
- Yvonne Trench, Senior Clerical Assistant

James

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JGHS Diary

Tuesday, 10th August 2004
Tuesday, 17th August 2004
Friday, 20th August 2004
Tuesday, 31st August 2004
Tuesday, 7th September 2004
Monday, 20th September 2004
Tuesday, 21st September 2004
Monday, 11th October 2004
Tuesday, 12th October 2004
Wednesday, 13th October 2004
18th-25th October 2004
Tuesday, 26th October 2004
Thursday 28th October 2004
Friday, 29th October 2004
Monday, 2nd November 2004
Tuesday, 9th November 2004
Tuesday, 9th November 2004
Thursday, 25th November 2004
Friday, 26th November 2004
Tuesday, 7th December 2004
Monday, 13th December 2004
Thursday, 16th December 2004
Thursday, 23rd December 2004

SQA Results issued
Pupils return to school at 08:30hr
A-level results issued
School Board and PTA Meetings
S1 Parents' Social Evening
Public Holiday (School closed)
Pupils return to school at 08:30 hr
Start of S4 Students' Work Experience Week
School Board and PTA Meetings
P7 Tour of school (18:30-20:30hr)
Mid-term holiday
Pupils return to school at 08:30hr
S1 Fancy Dress Party
S1 Settling-in reports issued
S4 Consultation Evening
Senior school mathematics challenge
School Board and PTA Meetings
S5/S6 Parents' Consultation Evening
S3 Interim reports issued
School Board and PTA Meetings
S1 & S2 Parties
Carol Concert, Usher Hall at 19:30hr
Start of Christmas Holidays

Odds and Ends

Library and Resource Centre

The school has a well-stocked library, which provides good facilities for reading and finding information using a variety of resources, books, CD-ROMs and the Internet.

The library is normally open to students from 08:30hr to 16:30hr Monday to Friday.

Please encourage your child to make good use of this excellent facility.



JGHS Website

Why not visit James Gillespie's High School's award winning website? Learn about the history of our school and browse some old photographs. Or perhaps learn about the courses your children are taking currently or wish to take in future years. Visit the art galleries and view the work of our talented students, some of which was used in this year's calendar. Go to the parent's page and find out how you can use your talents to develop the school for the benefit of the pupils. The wealth of the world wide web awaits.



Paid to Attend School?

Starting in August 2004 pupils in S5 can apply for an Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA). £

This is a weekly payment of up to £30, paid while the student attends school. €

Payment is dependent upon students having full attendance during the school year. In addition there are two bonus payments of up to £150 which can be awarded if pupils meet attainment targets. \$

The EMA is means tested. More information has been included in the summer mail-drop. Application forms are available from the school. ¥

