

James Gillespie's High School



Newsletter

Message from the Head Teacher

March
2005

March has been a busy month with a number of prelims still taking place and a lot of SQA deadlines occurring.

We also had some wonderful events such as the Higher Music Performance Evening and two fabulous performances of Diversecity. Our students continue to do exceptionally well in the sports area and our debating team goes from strength to strength.

Next session sees some major changes which we are currently preparing

for. We are moving from a horizontal to a vertical pupil support structure and from our current 40 period week to a 27 period week. We will be starting a major information giving programme with the students and will be sending letters home in the next few weeks. All the changes will be included in the next Newsletter. We hope these changes will make JGHS an even better place to be.

Following on from the enormous success of

Diversecity our students have been asked to perform at a conference on Africa leading up to G8 and at another international conference at EICC on international disasters.



Mr. A. Wallace

Special points of interest:

- ♦ *Message from our Head Teacher (page 1)*
- ♦ *Another outstanding Diversecity festival (page 1)*
- ♦ *Get up to date with all the Music Department events (page 2)*
- ♦ *Remember to call us to forewarn us of your child's absence (page 2)*

Diversecity

Our annual festival, Diversecity, continues to go from strength to strength. This year over 300 students and 35 staff were involved in some way be it onstage or helping behind the scenes. This event has become an important part of the life of our school community. Our Saturday night performance tickets sold out within 48 hours!

The performances ranged from our "UV Spinners" to the Sword Dance and Pipe Band and from Hip Hop to Bollywood. Two of our boys gave a stunning performance of Martial

Arts and of course there was the first appearance of our Breakdance Team.

Importantly, this year, there was a reflective element to the event. A video looking back at the tragedy of the tsunami made by our media production group was screened, followed by a poetry recital spoken to the haunting chords of a clarsach piece and ending with a Thai dance, which is performed after someone has died.

Four members of our link school, Zwelibanzi, in South Africa joined us for our festival. Themba, the Head Teacher, gave a

moving speech on the importance of such a partnership, words which echoed our own Head Teacher's opening speech. In the second half our Senior Vocal Group gave a moving rendition of "Nkosi Sikele" - the anthem of South Africa.

As a tribute to this association with the Rainbow Nation our Fourth Year Dance Group, trained by Anna Wallace, performed an inspirational piece choreographed by Anna herself, which demonstrated the power of the meeting of two cultures.

This school has a wealth

of talent. The professionalism of these young people was staggering. The thoughtfulness of their contributions was moving. The sheer joy of their performances was palpable.

Underpinning the work and preparation of the festival is an embedding of the notion that these students of James Gillespie's are global citizens ready to make a real difference during their lives. Their creative contributions reflected this. Their faces as they sang the final song, "Lean On Me" said it all.

James Gillespie's High School

James Gillespie's High School
Lauderdale Street,
Edinburgh, EH9 1DD.



Telephone: 0131-447-1900
Facsimile: 0131-466-7035

Email:
Admin@jamesgillespies.edin.sch.uk

Website:
www.jamesgillespies.edin.sch.uk



JGHS Diary

Thursday, 10-Mar-05	S2 Parents' Night (Practical Subjects)
Tuesday, 15-Mar-05	S2 Parents' Night (Non-practical)
Wednesday, 23-Mar-05	Rock Night
Thursday, 24-Mar-05	School closes for Easter at end of day
Monday, 11-Apr-05	Staff & Students resume at 08:30hr
Monday, 18-Apr-05	Spring Holiday
Tuesday, 19-Apr-05	Staff & Students resume at 08:30ht
Friday, 29-Apr-05	Start of exam leave for S4 students
Monday, 02-May-05	May Day Holiday
Tuesday, 03-May-05	Staff & Students resume at 08:30hr
Thursday, 12-May-05	Start of exam leave for S5/6 students
Thursday, 19-May-05	S1 Parent's Evening (Practical Subjects)
Monday, 23-May-05	Holiday
Wednesday, 25-May-05	Students resume at 08:30hr
Thursday, 26-May-05	S1 Parents' Evening (Non-practical)
Wednesday, 01-Jun-05	P7 Parents' Information Evening
Monday, 06-Jun-05	All students return from exam leave
Tuesday, 07-Jun-05	New timetable starts

Absence Call

Our new Absence Call system has been on trial for the last two weeks. Since we are only half way through the trial period it is too early to gauge the impact. However we feel that the Absence Call Voicemail Box has been a success. Parents are requested to call and leave a message giving the reason for their child's

absence. You should let us know your name and relationship to the student, student's name and registration class, and reason for absence and expected date of return. The number to call is:

0131-447-1900 option 300

Music Department News

ROCK NIGHT 2005

This event takes place on Wednesday 23rd March from 7.00 - 9.00pm in the school hall. With 15 bands performing from S2 - S6, this promises to be a fantastic night!

Tickets will be available from the door on the night - come early to avoid disappointment as this concert is always sold out!

Tickets will be priced at £5, with £1 from each sale contributing towards the school's Tsunami Appeal.

HIGHER PERFORMANCE NIGHT

This informal concert is an opportunity for a group of Higher Music students to present a piece from their programme for their SQA practical exams.

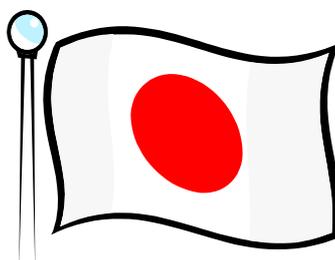
Many thanks to all performers who performed on the evening of Thu. 3rd March, and for family and friends who supported them.

JAPAN'S NATIONAL DANCE COMPANY RECEPTION

The newly initiated JGHS Pipe Band and the S4 dancers have been asked to perform at this welcome for Ishikawa Senzo, one of Japan's few 'living National Treasures'.

This reception takes place on Tuesday 15th March at the Scottish Arts Council headquarters in Rutland Square, with the band performing some Scottish pieces, and the dancers performing a sword dance.

Good luck!



SPRING CONCERT SERIES

Once again, our school will be well represented at this series of concerts during the week of the 7th March, with many of our students participating in centrally run bands and orchestras.

Congratulations to them all for all their commitment and enthusiasm.

EDINBURGH BATTLE OF THE BANDS

"Sweet Little Bullet" was one of the bands throughout Edinburgh secondary schools chosen to represent our school at the Battle of the Bands competition on Thursday 3 March, 7.30pm, at the Queen's Hall.

This band consists of senior students from the school, and are highly regarded in the rock circuit in Edinburgh, performing at many gigs.

Good luck to them in this competition - see them at JGHS Rock Night!!!