

# James Gillespie's High School



# Newsletter

## Message from the Head Teacher

March 2008

Here we are in March already and at last we are seeing some light in the mornings and evenings. March is so busy. For students involved in SQA exams it is the mad rush to finish pieces of work such as folios and course work. Prelim results have come out for the Senior School and S2, S4 and S5 are making important choices for next year.

It is also the month for "Diversecity" so everyone is firing on all cylinders. This year is "Diversecity 10" so it is a very special event and because of our success (masterminded by Frances Benton, our Development Officer) in achieving a Lottery Award we are bringing over two teachers and eight students from Zwelibanzi. They are an immensely talented group and will form one of the most important acts in our wonderful festival. Tickets are going fast so make sure you order quickly.

The February break saw a very successful ski trip and our annual trip to South Africa by some staff and sixth years. It was a very large group of 35 students this year but it was as always a great success. We opened a newly built soup kitchen and a refurbished music room and made great friends in the school. We also visited "Umthombo" a street kids Project and linked two other schools to schools in Edinburgh, Firrhill and Forrester. Global citizenship is

alive, well and prospering.

The school council continues to do excellent work on behalf of the school, whether they are lobbying on our behalf, fundraising or supporting events, they are a critical part of the good work we do as a school.

Finally you will probably be aware that all schools are to plan for a 1.5% budget cut. This will undoubtedly have a impact on next year's provision but we are committed to preserving what is best in terms of learning and teaching and curriculum in Gillespie's. We are proud of our record in creating an environment which enriches the whole child. We will do our best to limit the impact of the cuts and will continue to work with you as partners in reaching appropriate decisions.



*Mr. A. Wallace*

### Inside this issue:

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### Special points of interest:

- ◆ Our "Backpack Appeal" is coming to a close. We have been putting together backpacks full of essential items for students and staff in Kenya. Please do what you can to support this valuable initiative.
- ◆ March is Diversecity month. Tickets will go on sale in the school from 7th March. The student/adult price for Friday 14th will be £4/£8 and for Saturday 15th will be £5/£10 (including food). There will be a student only matinee at 1pm on 14th, tickets for this performance will be £3.

# School News

## Food & Health Technology News

Firstly, the department has updated the name of the subject from Home Economics to Food & Health Technology. This is to keep abreast of the ever changing technological society which we are living in.

Over the past term the S4 pupils have been involved in an Enterprise task to design, make & sell soup in aid of the Soup Kitchen which is being built at Zweibanzi High School.

During lunchtime the soup was sold to the staff & pupils & a sum of £50.00 was raised. Well done S4!

There will also be a stall at Diversecity selling the soup & the recipes which the pupils created. Please visit us during the break & enjoy the show.

*Ms. A Briggs*

*PT Food & Health Technology*

## Intermediate Maths Challenge February 2008

The Mathematics department have continued to take part in the UKMT challenges this year. There are three challenges; Junior, Intermediate and Senior levels.

A large group of pupils from S3 and S4 recently sat the intermediate level. The results this year have been better than ever! Over a third of pupils participating will receive certificates for their achievement.

Our most successful participants were in fourth year, with 10 of them getting gold certificates. Six of these pupils have done well enough to take part in the 'Pink Kangaroo' competition in April. This is a multiple choice paper. Twenty five countries throughout Europe take part in this competition.

Thomas Wallace was top of his year in last years challenge. He has surpassed his previous achievement by winning the 'Best in school' prize for 2008.

The next UKMT is for pupils in first and second year. This will be May 1<sup>st</sup>.

*Ms. N Izatt*

*Mathematics Department*

## Music News

### Spring Fling

The James Gillespie's High School **Spring Fling** will take place in the School Hall on **Thursday 17 April** at 7.30pm. Performers will include the **String Orchestra, Junior Wind Band, Senior Wind Band, Clarsach Ensemble, Guitar Ensemble, Jazz Band, Flute Ensemble, and Pipe Band**. Tickets priced £6/£4 will be available at break each day from Tuesday 8 April in the foyer.

### Drum Kit for Sale

A beginner's Drum Kit in excellent condition is available for purchase from a student who no longer requires it. For further information, please see Miss Heron.

*Ms. A Heron*

*Acting PT, Music Department*

## Modern Studies

February and March have been busy months in Modern Studies. Senior students have been preparing for their Model

United Nations General Assembly where they will be representing Costa Rica. Students will spend the whole weekend working as a Security Council member of the UN proposing resolutions in an attempt to solve the challenges facing the world today.

A group of S4 students have been involved in organising the S1 backpack for Kenyan schools project. S1 Modern Studies students have volunteered to fill a backpack for a student in a Kenyan school with basic school materials. The container of bags will be shipped on March 7<sup>th</sup> 2008.

*Ms. L Halliday*

*PT Modern Studies*

## Backpack Appeal

A group of S4 students have been involved in organising the S1 backpack for Kenyan schools project. S1 Modern Studies students have volunteered to fill a backpack for a student in a Kenyan school with basic school materials. The container of bags will be shipped on March 7<sup>th</sup> 2008.

If you hear students talking about this can you give them some encouragement. If you would like to fill a backpack for a teacher or a student in the school they will be picked up on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 11am

<http://www.sircharity.org/Back%20Pack%20project.html>

Opposite is a list of suggested items. I believe Blacks has wind-up torches for half-price at the moment. In addition, teachers obviously would love to have access to basic teaching materials like chalk, paper and pens etc. (a wind-up torch and radio are also on the suggested list of items.)

Thanks for your support

*Ms. L Halliday*

*PT Modern Studies*

## Modern Languages

### Languages Work Event

At the end of January Ms. Malcolm and Ms. Fraser took 10 students in S2 to the above event at the Assembly rooms. Our representatives, who amongst them represented over 5 different languages, took part in a variety of fun, language learning activities.

The aim of the event was to promote languages as a marketable tool, useful in the world beyond school.

The 10 participants from JGHS designed their own posters for the event and claimed 2 out of the 3 the prizes. Please join me in congratulating our young linguists who did our school proud at the event.

*Félicitations*

*Mr. R.Irvine*

*PT Modern Languages*

## Diversecity

Students in the S3 dance club have been working extremely hard in their preparations for "Diversecity" where they are performing a fusion of Latin dance styles in their routine "Fiebre Latina".

*Ms. L Halliday*

*PT Modern Studies*

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# **Backpack Appeal**

## **Suggested items...**

**(The items do not all have to be new but please include items of a good quality.)**

- Jotters/notebooks
- Pencils, pens, rulers, erasers, crayons, pencil sharpener, pencil case
- Towel, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, spoon (new items)
- Shorts, T shirt, flip flops/sandals, small ball

***IF YOU WANT TO MAKE A BACKPACK FOR A CHILD IN KENYA PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU HAVE IT READY BY LESSON IN WEEK BEGINNING MON 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2008. CONTACT MISS HALLIDAY (L14) FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.***



For further info: <http://www.sircharity.org/Back%20Pack%20project.html>

# James Gillespie's High School

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## JGHS Diary

Tuesday, 4th March 2008  
Tuesday, 11th March 2008  
Wednesday, 12th March 2008  
Wednesday, 12th March 2008  
Thursday, 13th March 2008  
Friday, 14th March 2008  
Saturday, 15th March 2008  
Thursday, 20th March 2008  
Monday, 7th April 2008  
Friday, 11th April 2008  
Thursday, 17th April 2008  
Monday, 21st April 2008  
Tuesday, 22nd April 2008  
Tuesday, 29th April 2008  
Thursday, 1st May 2008  
Thursday, 1st May 2008  
Friday, 2nd May 2008  
Monday, 5th May 2008  
Tuesday, 6th May 2008  
Tuesday, 6th May 2008  
Thursday, 8th May 2008

S2 Parents' Evening (Practical Subjects)  
School Council Meeting, 19:30hr  
S2 Parents' Evening (Non-practical Subjects)  
S4 Course choice forms due  
S2 & S5 Course choice forms due  
Diversecity  
Diversecity  
Term ends  
All resume  
S5/S6 Progress Reports issued  
Spring Fling (19:00hr in Assembly Hall)  
School Closed for Spring Holiday  
All resume  
JGHS Trust Meeting  
SQA Exams begin  
First day of S4 exam leave  
S1 Pupil Reports issued  
School closed, May Day Holiday  
All resume  
JGHS School Council Meeting (19:30hr)  
First day of S5/S6 exam leave

## News Round-up



### New streetwork project launched to engage young people on our streets

On many a Friday night you can see young people gathering together outdoors. The reasons for being there are varied. Starting this spring, Morningside Baptist Church is launching a new streetwork project to engage with these young people.

The project is called "MBC Street Team" and it has three aims: to earn the right to be a positive and supportive role model who will work towards helping these young people realise their full potential; to identify and respond to the young people's needs and interests; and to support and encourage their exploration of spirituality.

The streetwork team will be out between 7.30-9.30pm on a Friday night, starting on the 7<sup>th</sup> March, and initially in the Bruntsfield, Morningside and Oxfgangs areas. If you have any concerns or questions, contact Scott Burton, the Youth Pastor at MBC, on [scott@mbc.org.uk](mailto:scott@mbc.org.uk) or 446 9926.

### Congratulations (I)

The following former pupils have achieved success at Newcastle University.



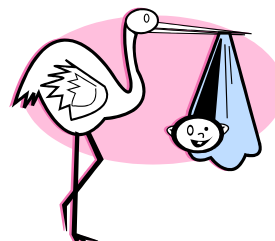
**Corin Andrews**, BA (Hons) Architectural Studies

**Sarah Hamilton**, BA (Hons) Sociology

**Jane Richardson**, MB BS (Hons) Medicine & Surgery

**Mariam Sanii**, MB BS (Hons) Medicine & Surgery

**Claire Wilson**, BA (Hons) Combined Studies



### Congratulations (II)

Our congratulations go out to Mrs. O'Brien, Principal Teacher of Music, and her husband on the birth of their son, Keir, on Saturday 2nd February 2008.