

School Council contact: council@jghs.org.uk

<http://council.jghs.org.uk>

JGHS Council Bulletin

No.4 March 2009

You can contact the School Council by:

e-mail: council@jghs.org.uk

Tel.: Nigel Goddard Chair 667-4033 & Ann Henderson Communications Officer 667-1646

Or see the web site <http://council.jghs.org.uk> for more information and news updates

Sign up for e-mail updates via the website, or leave your postal address for us to send out mail
Or via the School Office - FAO School Council

Update from the School Council Chair, Nigel Goddard

School budget

You will probably have heard that the City proposal to cut school budgets by a further 2%, which would have required staff and curriculum cuts, was defeated by a strong stance taken by head teachers, supported by intensive lobbying by parent councils, including compilation of an impressive dossier detailing the effects such cuts would have on individual schools.

We are glad to have been able to take part in this effective action - it confirms once again that parents can have a significant impact when we work together.

School renewal

The renewal of the school estate promises to take a major step forward in the next year as the City Council conducts a full-scale design process, for which they have allocated £1.5M

We think it is important that the school community, including parents, get started on looking at what values we'd like emphasized in the renewal - possibly some preliminary work will be done next term and over the summer, with more extensive discussions in the autumn. The City will start the formal process including consultations early in 2010, and we would be well-advised to have our ideas thought out and discussed before that starts. Although the timescale for renewal of the school buildings is still quite unclear, it is likely that the design that comes out of this process will closely inform the final renewal.

Forthcoming School Council Events

Thursday 30th April 7.30pm School Hall

Global Citizenship and JGHS

Tuesday 5th May 7pm for 7.15pm.
Business meeting.

Discussion on School renewal and refurbishment; Head Teacher's Report, and any other business that parents wish to raise.

Tuesday 2nd June 7pm for 7.15pm School Council open meeting 'preparing for August 2009 at James Gillespie's' Special invitation extended to Parent councils from the local Primary Schools.

Parents, students, staff please join us for any part or all of our evening meetings
All very welcome
even if you can only drop in for a while.
Tea and coffee available.

SIGN UP TO OUR E-BULLETIN – if you would like to receive updates from the School Council, and alerts when the School's own monthly newsletter is published online, send us your email address: council@jghs.org.uk

If you need any assistance to be able to come along to our meetings, including transport or child care please let us know as soon as possible as we may be able to help.

If you cannot make it along to any of the meetings but still want to know more about what's happening, what we are planning, how you can make suggestions or get involved please get in touch by any of the contact methods listed above

JGHS Council News

Global Citizenship and JGHS 30th April 2009 7:30pm

James Gillespie's High School has had a link with Zwelibanzi High School in Durban South Africa for over five years. This project has developed over the years and you are invited to an opportunity to hear first hand from people who have been involved. The evening will include:

- **Background to link and why JGHS do it**
- **Feedback from the recent trip**
- **Student feedback and thoughts on the future**
- **How would parents like to be involved**

Some background to the project :

A student exchange – this year 60 students and 9 staff travelled to Durban in February where they took part in a range of projects with the school , visited Umthombo a project working with street children, and displayed their artistic and sporting skills. Students from Zwelibanzi will be visiting in June, and will feature in the regular Diverscity event.

Sponsorship programme – through fundraising JGHS has been able to provide a number of resources including a library, music rooms, a sports field and a soup kitchen which regularly feeds 200 students. In addition, the neediest children are sponsored through their education and provided with school uniforms.

Through the project teachers from both JGHS and Zwelibanzi have been able to learn from the different approaches through job shadowing and training opportunities. Also, a number of families have developed links with the school and the art auction is a result of this collaboration.

JGHS South Africa project – information on the School website

<http://www.jamesgillespies.edin.sch.uk/southafrica/southafrica.html>

Other Forthcoming Zwelibanzi events

Zuluceilidh...ArtWorks@Gillespies...and Nelson Makamo Exhibition... Three events organised by the James Gillespie's Trust and supported by the school students, teachers, guardians, former pupils and friends.

28/29th March in James Gillespie's High School. Please come along - Saturday 10 –4pm & Sunday 12 –3pm
Lunch, Saffron Café, Music, Art Auction.
[ArtWorks@Gillespies](http://www.jamesgillespies.edin.sch.uk/ArtWorks@Gillespies)

Zulu Ceilidh Thursday 2nd April

more information on all these events on the School website
<http://www.jamesgillespies.edin.sch.uk>

JGHS EVENTS GROUP

Volunteers meet to arrange events and to assist with serving refreshments at School activities, including at parent consultation evenings. Contact for more information –

jo.clayton@blueyonder.co.uk

All welcome. Get to know other parents, and the Funds raised make a real difference in school too.

School Monthly Newsletter

This is no longer distributed in hard copy. It appears on the School website each month, and contains information about many different student activities, local Edinburgh City Council education information, and dates and events for your diary.

www.jamesgillespies.edin.sch.uk

If you do not have internet access, contact the School Office for a copy.

