

JAMES GILLESPIE'S SCHOOL COUNCIL

NEWS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS JUNE 2010

Update from Ann Henderson, Chair, James Gillespie's High School Council

In recent months we have been following the progress of the project for a new School Building. Neil McCallum, Deputy Head Teacher, keeps in regular contact with the School Council, and the local authority asked us to attend a meeting to hear about the decant proposals. The public meeting scheduled for Thursday 17th June is an opportunity for all parents and the wider community to hear the details, and to submit comments before the consultation period ends on 1st July. The School Council is also keen to speak with local Community Councils and other neighbourhood groups, to ensure the whole school building project has the widest possible support, and brings benefit for all.

Discussions have started with the City Council, about how best to consult with parents over future decisions on education spending in Edinburgh, and we will put ongoing reports onto our website. We have also had the opportunity to hear about progress on Curriculum for Excellence, and we are looking forward to welcoming the new Primary 7 school students, with their experience of the new Curriculum, this year.

In school, we are working with the Management Team to improve communications with parents and carers. Work is now underway to revamp the School Website, removing all out-of-date material and improving presentation. Parents are welcome to feed in ideas, and will be included in a working group in due course. Let us know what you would expect to find on the School website, and how links and information on our own School Council website can be improved too.

Year group meetings have already been held for parents of S1 to S4 students, which has given us a much better idea of the information that families would find helpful, for instance on curriculum and on exam timelines. If you've been unable to attend these but would like to raise issues please contact me at council@jghs.org.uk

If you would like to receive email updates from the School Council, send your details to council@jghs.org.uk

JGHS BUILDINGS RENEWAL – PUBLIC MEETING 17TH JUNE

The City Council are hosting an open meeting to discuss the plans for the JGHS renewal. City Council officers will be present to answer questions and respond to any concerns. This meeting is at James Gillespie's High School Assembly Hall, Thursday June 17th 7- 9pm. <http://www.jghs.org.uk/twiki/bin/view/Council/BuildingsRenewal>

DIVERSCITY AND OTHER SCHOOL EVENTS

The Diverscity tickets will be on sale from Monday 14th in the foyer at break and lunch time. There will be a Matinee performance and an evening performance on Friday 18th. There will also be an evening performance on Saturday 19th June. There will be no tickets for sale on the door.

The Events Group is responsible for refreshments at this concert. Please get in touch with jo.clayton@blueyonder.co.uk if you have a little time to offer us that night.

Please note that the P7s will be visiting the school on 22nd -24th and Alternative Time table excursions are on the last week of term.

BOOKSALE SAT 26TH JUNE!

The School Council has arranged a second hand booksale for any Past Papers Books, Study and Revision Guides that are still in good condition (we think there might be quite a lot out there!). You will get some money back, funds will be raised for the School - and it will be a good opportunity to pick up books for use in the coming year, at a very reasonable price.

If you are interested in helping, get in touch with Ann Henderson (07786 660 258).

Book collection at the school on Friday 18th June 12:00 -2:00pm; 6:00pm - 7:30pm)

Book sale on Saturday 26th June in the school from 11:00am -12:30pm

SCHOOL WEBSITE UPDATE

The school are presently making changes to the website, improving and updating the content and hopefully making it easier to navigate. Whilst this work is going on, it is possible that some links may not work or some pages may become unavailable.

Please bear with us during this time, and if there is any information you are seeking that you cannot find, or links which you find are broken, please either come back in a day or two, or drop an email to the webmaster, clair.barrass@jamesgillespies.edin.sch.uk.

CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE

City of Edinburgh Council, and an Edinburgh parent rep has published a helpful guide to 'Curriculum for Excellence' The City council website carries more information

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/internet/Learning/Programmes_and_initiatives/Cfe/cfe_overview