

James Gillespie's High School Council

March 2011 - News Update for Parents and Carers

The School Council has been taking up matters raised by parents with regard to communication; coursing information and studies; local authority budget decisions; the new school building project for James Gillespie's High School; preparations for the decant to the Darroch site; linking into work with the JGHS Trust; supporting student council activities; and ensuring representation at a range of meetings of relevance to our school, including the Working Group considering secondary school GME provision in Edinburgh. Further information is contained in this newsletter and on our website www.jghscouncil.org.uk If you have anything that you would like us to raise with School, please email council@jghs.org.uk or contact the School Council through School Reception.
Ann Henderson, Chair JGHS Council 07786 660258

James Gillespie's High School – new building Project

The Project team and architects gave a presentation to our parent meeting on 8th February. The notes from this meeting are available on our website. It was a well attended evening with an informative presentation from the architects on the plans. From 21st March these are released for public pre-planning consultation, and can be viewed on the Edinburgh City Council webpage.

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20101/schools-buildings/1230/james_gillespies_schools_campus/1

An exhibition will be open to the public in the Reception area of the School (evenings and Saturdays) and in Newington Library. A schedule of open meetings has also been agreed. Details are contained in the City Council newsletter which is being distributed now. Dates for your diary – Thursday 31st March 7pm public meeting in JGHS; Monday 4th April James Gillespie's Primary School Parent forum meeting; Thursday 7th April all JGHS feeder Primaries Parent Forum meeting.

The **School Council** is keen to set up a **New Building Project sub Group** which will work with the School Management Team (Lead – Deputy Head Teacher Neil McCallum) during the pre-planning and planning process on matters of design and engagement, so do contact the School Council if you would like to be part of that. Regular reports will be given to the whole school parent forum, but we know there are parents who have indicated a particular interest in this project, so please get involved now.

Darroch site

The current schedule for the new build project will see S4-S6 students decanted to the Darroch site over the December 2012 Christmas break, for term starting in January 2013. The School and parent representatives had argued strongly for the decant to take place over a summer break, but were unsuccessful.

Parents have expressed interest in visiting the Darroch site. Considerable refurbishment work will be required and is included in the project budget.

An initial visit to Darroch has been arranged for parents, along with Neil McCallum DHT. This is scheduled for **Tuesday 5th April**. We will meet at the JGHS Reception area at **5pm**, and the group will then walk down to Darroch. (expected length of visit 1.5 hours approx). Please register in advance so that we know the numbers attending. There will be other opportunities as the project progresses.

The **School Council** has set up a **Decant sub Group**, to work with Neil McCallum and staff on this part of the project, convened by James Carter. Please contact us if you would like to help out.

Gaelic Medium Education (GME) Provision

The City Council is currently consulting over the provision of Primary School GME in Edinburgh. This will be followed by a consultation over the local authority's proposal to transfer all GME Secondary provision from JGHS to Tynecastle High. The Primary School provision consultation closes on Monday 21st March. Details on all this can be found on the Edinburgh City Council website. JGHS parents are represented on a City Council working Group that is considering secondary school provision for Gaelic Medium Education, including issues around transition and resources. More information on this work can be found on our School Council website and will be circulated shortly. Our Parent Council view has been to seek to retain GME provision within JGHS, appreciating the contribution staff and students have made to the cultural diversity of the school, including course content and in extra-curricular activities.

BOOK SALE THURSDAY 24th MARCH 6pm SCHOOL LIBRARY

Open to students and parents - buy Study Guides, Past Papers and other course books, all in good condition, at a reasonable price.

Sales income is shared between the family selling the books, and the School Council. If you have any books for sale, please leave them at Reception clearly marked with your name and contact details. And come to the School Library 6pm – 7pm on Thursday.

JOIN US AT THE PARENT COUNCIL WINE TASTING EVENING

FUNDRAISER THURSDAY 24TH MARCH 7.30pm in School. Contact Jo Clayton for tickets (£9 each) 07757597045