

JGHS Council Bulletin

No.2 March 2008

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

The Wave 3 schools group (5 schools including JGHS) have met with the City Council twice since last October. The City Council has conducted feasibility studies for renewing the five schools, and has allocated 20% of the estimated funding. The next step is for the City Council to seek the other 80% from the Scottish Government (historically 80% of funding for school building has come from central government). The feasibility study, including outline plans for rebuilding the school, will be available in the school library.

Parents have attended meetings of the CCWP (Consultative Committee with Parents), the City Council's official parent-related committee. Through this we have learned about and provided input to the City's Estate Evaluation Forum, which is reviewing the school estate across the city.

The School Council made strong representations to the City Council about their underfunding of the JGHS energy costs, which has cost the school the equivalent of about one teaching post over the last few years. As a result, energy will be fully funded centrally by the City Council in the future, which will help the school budget considerably.

Next School Council meeting is on Tues.11th March in the School Library

PROGRAMME:

7-7:30pm: Tea & coffee will be available. This is a good chance to meet other parents, staff & S6 students for an informal chat.

7:30-8pm: School Council business including Alex Wallace – Head Teacher's report.
The agenda is posted on the school council web site.

8-9 pm: An opportunity to meet & hear from **students & staff from both Zwelibanzi High School & JGHS** who will be showing a short DVD & introducing the **JGHS South African Project**
- a substantial link between **JGHS & the Zwelibanzi High School** in Umlazi township, Durban
- an urban school in KwaZulu-Natal.

***What is the relationship between our two schools and what does it mean to the staff, parents & most importantly the students in both schools?
...Come along and find out.***

Parents, students, staff please join us for any part or all of the evening programme – **all very welcome** - even if you can only drop in for a short while.

If you need any assistance to be able to come along on Tuesday 11th March, 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

“Out of the Box”

The Communications Group is working with the school on plans for a multi disciplinary art & architecture workshop project with school students & staff to have some fun experimenting with ideas for improving the school environment.

Are there any parents with skills or interest in architecture, art, or design who would be interested in working with students & staff on this project?

Non-resident parent facilitation

All parents have obligations in engaging with the education of their children, as spelled out in the Parental Involvement (Scotland) Act that set up the School Parent Councils.

Approximately 30% of the school roll across Scotland has parents who live at different addresses, and a significant proportion have alternative primary carers such as grandparents or local authority guardians.

A working group within the Edinburgh City Council (ECC) Children & Families Dept has been working towards a policy and practical strategy for engaging with non-resident parents. JGHS Council members have made submissions; and parent John Forsyth & DHT Mrs Chetty recently attended an ECC focus group.

The School Council has agreed to organise an open meeting for parents, carers, staff and young people from all the South Edinburgh schools to feed in views during the forthcoming City Council consultation period.

Further details will be available shortly.

Working with the school

Six parent volunteers have come forward to join the **Home Study Working Group**, which will be working with the school on its review of JGHS home study policy.

DHT Mr Rae will convene a meeting of the Group after the Easter break.

This is an issue that has come up at a number of the parent/carer Year Group meetings, and parents with any views to feed in are encouraged please to submit them via the School Council.

Events Group

HELP - get Involved - meet other families in the school community in a relaxed setting.

We provide teas & coffee during Parent Consultation evenings in School, and we will be running the bar at the Diversecity event on Friday 14th March.

The more help the better, please get in touch via the School Council, and one of our Events Group members will call you back with all the details and answer any questions.

Fri.14th & Sat.15th March at 7:30pm



...with dance, music, poetry and comedy
+ a few surprises thrown in for good measure!
This year is extra special as it is the **10th year** that the school has been running an event like this, and visiting students & staff from **Zwelibanzi High School** will be taking part.

Tickets go on sale from 7th March in JGHS Foyer and are expected to be snapped up very quickly so book early to avoid disappointment

Fri.14th Student £4, Adult £8

Sat.15th Student £5, Adult £10 (including food)

+ a students only matinee at 1pm on Fri.14th, £3