



JYHS School News

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 1

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Special Points to Note

- Visit our school website at www.jamesyoung.org
- Use e-mail to correspond with the school thejamesyoung.hs@wled.org.uk

Data Checks

Although we have asked you to confirm that the data held for your child is accurate, we need you tell us throughout the year if any information changes. It is particularly important that we have up to date telephone numbers for our absence reporting system.

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Head Teacher's Remarks

We were very excited to see the start of our £19 million refurbishment project just after Easter. Over the summer, significant building work has taken place, particularly to the 'core' of the school involving toilets, changing facilities and open spaces within the school. There is still some way to go but we have been encouraged by the progress so far. A report by Mr Dobson, Service Liaison Officer is included in this newsletter.

This year also saw the construction of our New All Weather pitch which is available through the school office to the community for hire.

Mr Horne

Charter Mark



CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE

Following a monitoring visit at the beginning of July, we are delighted to announce that the school has retained its Charter Mark award. For those parents who are new to the school, Charter Mark is the United Kingdom government's national standard for customer service excellence. The standard is designed to help public service organisations focus on, and improve, their customer service and the overall quality of the services they deliver.

We are very grateful to those parents who took part in our recent Customer Satisfaction Survey and a summary of the results of the survey will be provided in the summer information pack.

We were pleased that the four areas of best practice highlighted during the original assessment (Developing and improving our services and facilities; The use of technology; Building continuous development into our organisation; Working in partnership) were recognised again in the recent re-assessment. In addition, however, we received a best practice assessment in the area of this time.

Although we are pleased with the continuation of Charter Mark, we want to do even better. For this reason, we have decided, in conjunction with the Parents' Association, to work towards the achievement of the new government Customer Service Excellence standard which was released earlier this year.

We are very lucky to have a Parents' Association which is working hard with the school to improve our services. We would encourage as many parents as possible to come along to meetings of the Association as this is where you can influence decision-making and put forward your views. Meetings take place on a regular basis and agendas and minutes are published on the school website. The school office would also be happy to provide the information to you.

Uniform Reminder

We would like to remind parents and students of the school's uniform policy as follows:

Option 1: Grey/white school polo shirt, with purple school sweatshirt or either of the school black jumpers with logo, black trousers or skirt. Black shoes/black or white trainers.

Option 2: White school shirt/blouse with collar, school tie, either of the black pullovers, black trousers or

skirt. Black shoes/black or white trainers.

We would prefer students to wear the school's jumper or sleeveless pullover with logo to ensure that they are easily identifiable with the school. However, it is acceptable for students to wear a plain black jumper with a shirt provided it is worn with a school tie. Students would not be permitted to wear a poloshirt with a plain black jumper

as this would not identify them with the school.

The following items should not be worn:

- * T-shirts which are visible under polo shirts or shirts/blouses
- * Football colours
- * Accessories such as large fashion belts

Refurbishment

The refurbishment programme has been progressing well since the project started in May.

Having set up their site/compound and provided the necessary fencing and routes to segregate pupils from the building work, the contractors (McLaughlin and Harvey) have forged ahead with the new extension to Maths/English and the front extension.

A lot of internal work has also started, with most corridor ceilings being brought down to allow access to the services. This work has been done out of school hours. The swimming pool has now been drained to allow work

on the ceiling as well as other work to the surrounding area.

Over the summer holidays all of the existing PE Department is being refurbished (PE will also gain extra facilities at a later stage). The Lecture Theatre and Dining Area will also be worked on during the holidays as well as preparatory work taking place for the extension to Music and the new dance studio. The roof and windows in these areas will also be renewed at the same time. (All windows and the entire roof will eventually be replaced).

Looking ahead, the English and Maths and Computing Departments will be moving to temporary class-

rooms (TUs) in September to allow those departments to be refurbished. Twenty TUs will be positioned alongside the car park over the summer ready for the move. The departments involved will continue to function as normal with all existing facilities (computers, Smartboards, etc.) transferring to the TUs.

It has been a good start to the project. The contractors have been working hand in hand with the school to ensure the project runs smoothly. Pupils too have responded very well to the on-going work. Their behaviour has been exemplary.

Mr Dobson, Service Liaison Officer

Eco Group

As you will already know, The James Young High School is the first secondary school in West Lothian to obtain a Green Flag. The whole school community worked hard to achieve the award. However, the school will be re-assessed in two year's time and it is important that we continue to build on the excellent progress made so far.

We have now added transport and health & well-being to our areas for development alongside litter, energy and waste minimisation. The group will be starting up many initiatives this session as well as continuing with cur-

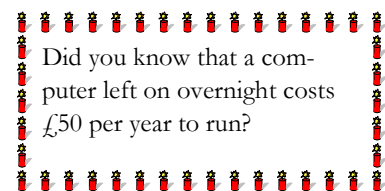
Some of our initiatives, need you help and encouragement:

- The Rag Bag Scheme
- Litter Prevention
- Walk to School
- The importance of healthy living

To encourage everyone to become involved, the group intends to run some competitions including:

- The Golden Bin
- Computer Culprits

If you have any suggestions or ideas to help with our initiatives we would be very pleased to consider them. We would also welcome your support and if anyone could come along to our meetings on Wednesday at 1pm we would be delighted.



SQA Exam Success

Pupils in last session's S4, S5 and S6 opened their exam results envelopes on 7th August, or had arranged to receive these electronically the day before. We are pleased to report that this was a very successful year for our exam candidates.

At every level in S4 and S5 the pupils either equalled or improved on the best ever results in this school, and we congratulate them. Among the impressive statistics were the 87% of S4 pupils who gained 5 or more Standard Grades at General level or better, and the 11% of S5 pupils who gained 5 Higher Grade passes.

The support of parents is always crucial to the school in our attempt to encourage our pupils to do the best they can, and we look forward, particularly through the new Parent Forum and Parent Council, to

Martin Bailey
Rhiannon Barrett
Janie Baxter
Callum Buchanan
Jonathon Cook
Fiona Docherty
Ross Fagan
Craig Fraser
Julianna Gaspar
Rosalind Gisbey
Sharon Grierson
Calum Henderson
James Hughes
Iain Johnstone
Ross Learmonth
Rachael Lyon
Samantha McCafferty
Greg McCormack
Daniel Morgan

And the following who gained 5 Higher Grade passes:

Michael Argent
Usman Aslam
Cameron Beattie
Matthew Bowron
Joanne Curtis
Emma-Jane Eadie
Amy Flett
Scott Horton
Elinor Jones
Frazer Kirk
Adam Lloyd
Samantha Mair
Rachel McBrinn
Aaron Wood
Hannah Young
Heather Nisbet
Megan O'Malley

Our Vision, Values and Aims

During the year, in consultation with pupils, parents and staff, we have reviewed the school's Vision, Values and Aims to ensure that they reflect our current thinking. They are as follows:

Our vision

To be a caring and inclusive school which promotes the highest standards of attainment, achievement and personal conduct.

To work with pupils, parents, colleagues and the wider community to improve opportunities for all learners, thus enabling each individual to achieve his or her potential.

To develop young people who are confident, responsible, well prepared for life beyond school and able to make a valuable contribution to society.

Our values

We consider the following to be important in our school:

- ◇ Respect and care for each member of our school community
- ◇ Equal opportunities and a sense of belonging in an environment where everyone is welcome
- ◇ Partnership with others, with whom we will work towards a common goal
- ◇ Integrity, impartiality, fairness and tolerance are central to everything that we do

Our aims

- ◇ To promote an ethos of achievement, where there are high expectations of all pupils and their success are celebrated
- ◇ To maintain a positive learning environment in which all pupils have the opportunity to fulfil their potential in all aspects of their development
- ◇ To deliver a curriculum that is relevant, challenging and appropriate to the abilities and aspirations of our pupils, and which will prepare them for life beyond school
- ◇ To provide learning and teaching of the highest quality in a stimulating environment
- ◇ To make effective use of self evaluation to improve the quality of learning and teaching, and raise levels of attainment
- ◇ To employ appropriate resources, technology and facilities for pupils and staff in a safe, disciplined and caring environment
- ◇ To encourage an active partnership of staff, pupils, parents and the wider community
- ◇ To promote opportunities for continuing professional development, so that all staff are active participants in the process of continuous improvement
- ◇ To provide effective support for our pupils and promote fairness and equal opportunities
- ◇ To foster a positive, welcoming ethos in the school, characterised by good working relationships and a sense of belonging

School Meal Prices

In our recent survey parents asked for an indication of school meal prices.

Details are as follows:

Special value—

, two course traditional meals £1.65

Main Course £0.73

Potatoes £0.28

Vegetables £0.28

Sweet £0.30

Custard £0.06

Soup £0.38

Meat/Fish Portion £0.70

Boxed Salad £1.11

Sweets

Jelly/Cold sweets £0.32

Trifle/Ind Cheesecake £0.36

Yoghurt £0.35

Home Baking £0.31

Fresh Fruit (Daily Prices)

Doughnuts/Cookies £0.45

Snacks

Cold filled rolls £0.64

Hot filled rolls £0.73

Sandwiches £0.73

Baguettes £1.11

Pizza £0.73

Sausage £0.33

Bacon/Hamburger £0.37

French fries £0.75

Baked Potato £0.55

Plain Roll £0.16

Buttered Toast £0.17

Drinks

Bottle water 330ml

(plain & flavoured) £0.44

Bottle water 500ml (plain) £0.80

Fruit Juice £0.40

Fresh orange (can) £0.60

Capri Sun £0.45

Milk plain (200ml) £0.26

Milk flavoured (200ml) £0.26

Early Parents' Evening

Please note that we are holding two evenings very early in the new term:

Thursday 28th August at 7pm—Information Evening for S5/6 parents

Monday 8th September at 7pm—Information Evening for S1 parents

We will send further information to relevant parents next week.

Parents' Association

We were very lucky to establish an active Parents' Association in August following a change in School Board legislation. All parents are very welcome to attend the meetings, the dates for which are publicised through the school website, through pupil post and from the school office. Some of the issues over which where discussion and consultation have taken place during the year include:

- * The development of the school's Vision, Values and Aims and Customer Service Standards
- * Refurbishment—where issues likely to affect students have been discussed
- * Uniform—where agreement was reached on additional items of uniform to be offered to students
- * Fundraising—opportunities to raise funds for the school. In the past, donations have included, picnic benches, plasma screen at the entrance foyer and more

- * Information evenings which might be of interest to parents
- * Smartboard presentation and demonstration where parents were able to view a Smartboard lesson delivered by a teacher
- * The development of the school website and the Parents' Association section.
- * School finances—an overview of the school's financial position
- * Communication with parents—how communication channels could be developed.

The Parents' Association now has its own e-mail address and you can communicate directly with the Chairperson, Jennifer Pyper at the address: jyparents@googlemail.com

Youth Dance Showcase

Well done to 13 students who took part in the Youth Dance Showcase which was held on 17th June in the Regal Theatre Bathgate and performed a 'Street Dance'. The Dance showcases have been taking place twice per year for the past few years as part of West Lothian Council's Dance Development Scheme.

Charities

Many thanks again to all parents, pupils and staff who have helped us in our Charity collections. This year an impressive £5700 was raised and donated to a range of charities. This beats last year's total of £5381. Thank you all again on behalf of the Charities Committee.