

James Gillespie's High School



Newsletter

Message from the Head Teacher

June 2010

We have had a very successful start to the new school year. The timetable, despite financial constraints, is no less broad or varied than last year's and our Inductions for the new S3, S5 and S6 students were well received.

We have delayed the implementation of our new "day structure" until August when registration will disappear to be replaced with a weekly Tutorial Time of thirty minutes on a Friday. Students will go straight to period 1 classes and be registered online. More information on this new structure will be on our website.

The students have been worked hard under Mrs. Chetty's guidance in rehearsing for Diversecity. (Tickets for Saturday night sells faster than T-in—the-Park!) They were as wonderful as always. Ten students from Zwelibanzi H.S. and our new school Dloko arrived on 16th June to take part, and of course provided an exciting cultural experience. The students are being hosted by families from the current S6 who will be going over to South Africa next February. The group will be the biggest yet...95! Thank you, as always, to the host families. We are always well supported by our parents. There is more about our ever expanding S.A. Project in the Newsletter as well as articles on our hugely successful recent trips to the Trenches and the French Alps.

You will by now be aware of the proposal to transfer secondary Gaelic teaching to Tynecastle. We regard Gaelic as an integral part of Gillespie's and are very propound of what the Gaelic children bring to our school. We will make our view known. I hope you will too.

Please turn to pages 6 and 11 to enjoy the plethora of successes achieved by our students. They make us proud.

Have a wonderful summer break. The next Newsletter will be in August.



Mr. A. Wallace

James Gillespie's win the Scottish Secondary School Chess Championship
James Gillespie's School chess team competed in the Scottish Secondary School Chess Championship, otherwise known as the Scotsman Cup, for the 4th consecutive year. The pressure was on from the outset as we were defending champions having beaten Hailhead High School in the 2009 final. The team consisted of Rhian Hughes, Jonny Scott, Shivan Murdochy and Sam Gregory (all experienced Scottish International chess players). We overcame Stewarts Melville, George Heriots and Cargilfield School in the group stage to secure a place in the quarter-final against Auchmuty High School in Glenrothes. We then travelled to Cupar to play Bell Baxter High School in the semi-final. After an enjoyable day out we won the game and were thrilled to have made it through to the final. Our opponents were a strong team from Dollar Academy who had beaten Aberdeen Grammar School in the other semi-final match. The final was held in James Gillespie's High School and was a tough and tense affair. We finally managed to win with a score of 2½ to 1½. We are all delighted to have won the Scotsman Cup again and hope to do the same next year! Lastly, we would like to really thank Mike Scott and Hugh Brechin who helped organise all of the various matches.

Rhian Hughes

Inside this issue:

Charlotte Darroch has won a prize in the Animal Aid poetry competition. 6

JGHS students won first prize in the Salters Institute/Royal Society of Chemistry's annual Festival of Chemistry. 6

Our S1 Gaidhlig class has written a drama to be broadcast by BBC Radio. 6

Saffron Café, organized and run by our S6 students has won a Scottish Social Enterprise Academy award presented to them by John Swinney, MSP. 6

Read the update about the new school in the CEC newsletter. 9

JGHS students have been very successful at the BAA Youth Games. 11

Special points of interest:

- ◆ 2010 has been a very successful year for the JGHS-South Africa partnership. The project continues to grow and has expanded to include additional schools. This edition of the Newsletter contains a report of our activities during 2010, starting on page 2.
- ◆ The science departments are looking for parents willing to mentor students through their Science Baccalaureate. Do you have what it takes? See page 8 for further details.



James Gillespie's High School



2010 South Africa Sponsorship Newsletter

Since our last newsletter there has been a lot happening in our partnership with the young people in South Africa.

During June and July of 2009 Ian Watson and his wife visited Umlazi to look at the various projects we are involved with and to further their development. Zwelibanzi was, of course, the main focus and the fabric of the school and the running of the soup kitchen were looked at.

A great deal was achieved including work with Umthombo, local craft groups, an AIDS hospice and a nursery school in Umlazi.

Ian and Carol looked at various Umlazi schools to see if there was a school nearby where we could develop a second soup kitchen. The one that we have chosen to go with is Dloko which is the nearest high school to Zwelibanzi. Some families have children at both schools. Dloko is in a much poorer state than Zwelibanzi which is only to be expected after all the support the latter school has received.



Mr. Wallace also visited Durban in July 2009:

"I decided to return to Durban without a student group to look after. I was invited to spend some time with the Cathro family who have become involved in our project since their son David took part in one of our S6 visits. The Cathro family support a former Zwelibanzi student who is attending university and is also supporting a community arts project, Ekukhoseleni, in Umlazi. I visited the nurseries and schools we are involved with and met up with many of the former students from Zwelibanzi. I also took some time out for a holiday!"

And again in October 2009:

"Claire Soper (CEC International Officer), Marie Chetty and I went to South Africa for an evaluation visit. Claire wished to carry out an evaluation of all of the projects in Umlazi connected with Edinburgh schools. We were joined by Jean Cathro who wanted to further the development of the community aspect of our project and to develop links between the disability offices of Edinburgh University and the University of KwaZulu Natal.

Claire gave our project a very positive evaluation after visiting Zwelibanzi, our new school (Dloko H. S.), and Umthombo (the Street Kids project). We had a very interesting meeting with the Director of Education and, to facilitate the evaluation, Claire called a meeting of the principals of the high schools in Umlazi supported by Edinburgh Schools. They are Zwelibanzi and Dloko (both JGHS), Ogwini (Gracemount) and Amaouti (Forrester).

JGHS South Africa Newsletter

We also visited Charles Memorial P. S. which is supported by James Gillespie's P. S. and Hillview P. S. which is supported by Sciennes P. S.

Marie and I also confirmed, through visiting and discussing, that Burlington Nursery and Maskey Nursey would also be incorporated into our project. Susan Maciver, a JGHS teacher, also supports Maskey and has set up a trust, in honour of her mother, to support children whose mothers die at childbirth.

It was a wonderful trip and the project continues to develop and grow”.

During February 2010 sixty three students and seven staff from Gillespie's visited Durban. Again it was a huge success and a great experience for all involved.



Here is a short report from Mr. Newall (Physical Education Dept.):

“My first reaction to being involved in the South Africa trip 2010 is how this is very much a year long project for every S6 and not a trip which starts and finishes during the February break. The amount of work which is put into the project from staff, pupils and parents including organising the fundraising ceillidh for Umthombo, researching the history of South Africa and hosting South African visitors allowed our pupils to develop a strong affiliation with what was happening in each of our partner schools and helped them get the most out of the short time that they had in South Africa.

This bond was clearly demonstrated in the amount of extra clothes, stationary and gifts our pupils packed to take to each of the nurseries, primary schools and high schools we visited. These items were very much needed and appreciated by all. However the sheer volume of these items did catch the staff 'off guard' at first!!

It was clear from day one that this connection was reciprocated from our South African friends as we received a carnival style welcome at Durban airport from the staff and pupils of Zwelibanzi and Dloko High School. This set the tone for our trip and there were many other highlights including the fantastic Zulu dancers at the Albert Luthuli museum, the wonderful rejoicing at the Zwelibanzi assemblies, and the humbling welcome we received from the pupils at Charles Memorial Primary School. We also managed to fit in a few cultural visits outside of the townships including a visit to the World Cup stadium which was a definite highlight of mine.



On a more personal note, as I had never taken a gap year, the South Africa trip was a completely new experience for me and opened my eyes to some of the adverse conditions which affect many black South Africans in Umlazi. Though you often see news reports and read articles on similar townships in Africa, to witness the poverty at first hand was quite hard hitting and it is clear why many staff, pupils and parents at Gillespie's have a very deep connection with the project”.

JGHS South Africa Newsletter

Now for some reflections, on their experiences, from the senior students.

Sam Airey:

“Just hearing the drumbeat and chorus of African song before being greeted with such genuine joy overwhelmed me to the point of complete speechlessness”. (On arriving at Durban airport)

“In almost a similar feeling as I walked into the courtyard of Zwelibanzi, the swell of song and rows of smiling, immaculately dressed pupils, I felt the shiver and goose bumps of such an unexpectedly brilliant greeting”.

“Giving money to a charity to remove guilt is not the best way to help. Neither is feeling guilty for your own luck or position in life. We should realise what they truly require and help them to achieve it”.



Amy Hood:

“I couldn’t explain the feeling the first time we walked into the assembly at Zwelibanzi. I was so happy I could have cried. That was the moment that I realised that this school, that we had heard so much about, was very much real with real students”.

“It is very difficult to put into words exactly what I feel this trip has given me. I have a new appreciation for the things in my life that I had taken for granted”.

“The legacy of apartheid was much more noticeable than I expected. I found a large divide which I think was due to my initial naivety”.

David Livsey:

“The main benefit I have gained from the trip are two new friends who I will maintain contact with. I have also gained a better understanding of Zulu/South African culture in general. Before the trip, I realised that poverty existed, and was a huge problem, but I had no real life context to see it in. But now, after the trip, I realise the extent of the poverty and I know exactly where the money is going and what it is going towards.”

“I was surprised at how physical the relationships were. My buddies would regularly hold my hand when walking around the school with no hesitation which I found very endearing. All the students I met were extremely polite, friendly and nice to me and were genuinely interested in getting to know me and learn about Scotland.”

Lewis Hutchison:

“I believe we had a huge impact on everyone just by being with them and having simple conversations about such things as music, colour, likes and dislikes and our families”.

“At one point a child in Dloko simply held my hand and stroked it. I am unsure but I think I may have been the first white person this boy had touched and, I believe, he was just as in awe that I felt the same as he did – a realisation that we were all just the same”.

“After talking to some of the students (in Umlazi) about their lives and their attitudes they have towards everything, no matter what the circumstances are, is really quite amazing. They do everything with such enthusiasm I feel like I have had so many opportunities in life”.

JGHS South Africa Newsletter

The experiences our S6 students gain on projects like this are invaluable to their development and outlook as leaders of the future. It is to them we entrust the development and implementation of ideas that will benefit all of those who inhabit our world. If we can help them by giving them opportunities to appreciate the plight of all the citizens of the world then we may be happy that we have contributed in some small way.

Sunrise in Durban



Sunset in the Drakensbergs

There is still a massive amount of work to be done to enhance the lives of the young people in South Africa. Many young people do not even have enough food to keep them going far less develop into strong adults. The soup kitchen is regarded by our South African partners as the single most important thing we have done. It is essential we keep it going and also develop another one at nearby Dloko.

We cannot do this without the support of students, staff, families and friends of James Gillespie's. Please try to help all you can and encourage your friends to do likewise. The sponsorship form can be found on the school website www.jamesgillespies.edin.sch.uk .

Successful Students

Poetry Competition Success

Hi everyone, just got some good news – one of my first years (now second year), Charlotte Darroch, has won a prize in the Animal Aid poetry competition we entered!

Charlotte's been invited down to a ceremony in London at the end of the month to hear who has won first, second and third prizes in each of the age categories and will be presented with her prize, whichever place it is, by BBC children's TV presenter Rani Price.

Mr. Keeley, English Department

No More Piglets

I whisper to my piglets
I tell them to hush.
For if they start oinking
The MEN will start to rush.

I hear the big doors open
I tell my piglets to "hide".
But when they start their oinking
They are snatched right from my side.

I watch as they are taken
I look into their eyes
But then my heart breaks in two
As I listen to their cries.

How many have been taken?
How many have been killed?
How many piglets have I lost?
How many hungry people have been thrilled?

Now there is no oinking
No newborn piglets' breath
No need for me to hush myself
Now there is only death.

Charlotte Darroch

BBC Radio Gàidhlig Drama

The S1 Gàidhlig class have been working with a Drama Development Officer from Fèisean nan Gàidheal over the course of the year to produce a drama script for radio. In the workshops they have developed ideas and characters for their script; explored how to produce suitable sound effects; learned how to record and edit voices; and worked on interview techniques. The project culminated in May with a crew from the BBC coming to record the final script with the class. They recorded around the school, using the skills they had learned to pick suitable locations for the sounds they were after. The final drama will be broadcast by BBC Radio once the editing is complete. 'S math a rinn sibh!

Ms. MacDonald, Modern Languages Department

Gillespie's Scientists Win 1st prize (AGAIN!)

The Salters Institute, in partnership with The Royal Society of Chemistry, invited Gillespie's to participate in their annual Festival of Chemistry held at Heriot Watt University.

The students had to complete a number of complex Chemistry challenges without any guidance or support from their teacher. Unlike many other competitors we stuck to the rules and the students worked for hours without any assistance. (Not much else they could do as Mr Bradley hit the coffee shop – for some peer discussions on CfE!)

The following pupils represented Gillespie's

Anna Carbery, Lauren Gage, Erin de Groome, Oskar Leimkuhler, Kai de Groome, Lars Fisher, Adam Hook and Callum

Hamilton.

Every one of the students were advocates for the school and received praise from the organisers for their efforts and general attitude – WELL DONE GUYS

Mr. Bradley, Chemistry Department



Saffron Success

Congratulations to the group of S6 pupils led by Alethea Braden who organise and run our Saffron Café.

Saffron Café serve Fairtrade coffee and other refreshments and snacks, to staff during intervals. They also provide a similar service at other times such as parents evenings and PTA events.

Four of the pupils travelled to the Oran Mor in Glasgow on Wednesday 9th June to receive a Social Enterprise Schools Award (awarded by the Scottish Social Enterprise Academy). They were accompanied by Adam Cassells the ex Gillespie's pupil who started up the café back in 2003. The award was presented by John Swinney, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth.

Mr. Adam, Design Technology Department

History Field Trip to Belgium & France



One of the most enjoyable and successful History Fieldtrips to the Trenches took place from May 13th-May 18th. On the way to the Fieldtrip sites we were able to do a tour of the beautiful historic city of Bruges, including a trip on its wonderful canals in the sunshine. The accommodation at CJ de Lork near Ypres was up to its usual excellent standard and a definite highlight of the second day was a visit to Sanctuary Wood where the staff and pupils survived a vicious rat attack in the WW1 Trench tunnel system. Only the prompt action of Captain Swinburne saved the day. The museum and slide shows showed a vivid and gruesome pictures of the horrors of war and made a real mark on the pupils.

The third day included an amazing guided tour of the tunnels at Vimy Ridge and an

equally impressive visit to the Medieval Caves at Arras. Few will forget the magnificent brooding splendour of the Canadian Monument near Vimy Ridge. Some light relief was had at the Ten Pin Bowling tournament in the evening which saw sterling performances from such stalwarts of the bowling fraternity as Johnny Whiteman, Jane O'Donnell and Miss Falconer (PE Department). The fourth day was set in the scene of the devastating and bloody Battle of the Somme and Miss Macdonald translated the Gaelic inscription on the monument to the Highlanders here. The teachers involved on the Fieldtrip – Mr Swinburne, Mr Sulleyman, Miss Macdonald, Miss Barrett and Miss Falconer – enjoyed working together with the youngsters. A special mention for Bob the Driver, who was his usual popular self, must be made.

Some of the comments from Parents after the trip which were mailed to the teachers involved included –

'Thank you for organising such a marvellous trip. As someone who has worked with fieldtrips for many years myself I would like to congratulate you on the real impact you have made on my son. This is real education.'



'My daughter hasn't been able to stop talking about the Fieldtrip since she came back. She was up till 1 in the morning telling us about all the amazing sites you visited. Thank you again.'

'I cannot thank you enough for the terrifically positive effect that the Fieldtrip has had on my daughter. She says it was the best experience of her life and an amazing journey into history.'

There have been many others similar from both parents and pupils involved in the Fieldtrip. Everybody came back from the Fieldtrip determined that the famous slogan uttered at the end of WW1 'Never Again' should become a reality –at last.
Mr. Swinburne, PT History



From Around the School

French Alps Field Trip

The Geography had a another fantastically successful trip to the French Alps in May. It began in blizzards but ended in glorious sunshine. Forty students from the Standard Grade Geography course experienced the beauty of the Alpine landscape and were introduced to French culture and cuisine. They practised a wide range of techniques to gather geographical data "in the field"; in the countryside, in villages and in the town of Briancon. There was time for fun too, especially at the superb high ropes course, "Parc Aventure".

Mr Stewart led the trip, with support from Mr Adam, Miss Glass, Miss Gray and Mrs Saqib. The Geography department is already starting preparations for next year and will be seeking notes of interest from S3 students shortly.

Mr. Stewart, Geography Department

Science Baccalaureate

Biology

Chemistry

Physics

Maths

Computing

Last year was our first running the Scottish Science Baccalaureate here at Gillespie's and we are pleased to report that our students were very successful and achieved excellent SQA grades for their projects.

This year we have 5 S6 students who have opted to undertake a Baccalaureate project in science and are already raring to go.

Looking ahead, we are keen to seek out parents and friends of the school who work in a science based profession who would be willing to provide a little specialist mentoring to our students. What we would aim to do is create a database of willing mentors (you) with details of area of specialism so that we could work on a 'matching' exercise at the start of every year between mentors and students.

If you are interested in getting involved or would like to discuss the Science Baccalaureate further please get in touch.

Your support would be greatly appreciated!

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New James Gillespie's High School Newsletter

June 2010

Welcome to the latest issue of the new James Gillespie's High School newsletter. In this issue we provide an update on the project, including the appointment of the design team and the consultation currently taking place on the decant proposals.

Project Progress

The Scottish Government, through the Scottish Future Trust, has recently confirmed that the part-funding they will provide towards the costs of the new school will come on-stream from the 2014/15 financial year.

Initially our plans were to take the new school project to the planning application design stage after £1.5 million was allocated in the Council's budget in February 2009. Earlier this year, the amount allocated to the project in the Council's budget was increased to £20 million. The Scottish Government's announcement on funding means we will now review the overall budget to deliver the project and take the full business case for the new school to Council later this year.

Over the past few months, consultants have been working with school staff to develop a strategic educational design brief for the new school alongside the accommodation schedule. This brief sets out

the vision for the new school and identifies how the school staff see the new school operating in a flexible way that will allow the school to adapt to future changes in the curriculum, especially taking into account the new Curriculum for Excellence.

The brief and accommodation schedule will now be shared with the project architects to allow them to start the design work for the new school.

Design Team

We are pleased to announce that the Design Team for the new school has been appointed and that they will be led by jmarchitects. jmarchitects are award-winning Edinburgh-based architectural practice, highly experienced in school design. They have designed and successfully completed many schools throughout Scotland over the last ten years, notably in Glasgow, East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire, Highland, Stirling and Falkirk.

jmarchitects are also designing the new Portobello High School and are working closely with school staff to develop their plans for the new school, the planning application

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New James Gillespie's High School Newsletter

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for which will be submitted later this year following a wide ranging pre-planning consultation process which is currently taking place across the Portobello High School catchment area. We would anticipate a similar approach will be taken for James Gillespie's.

The structural engineers are Will Rudd Davidson. AECOM are the mechanical and electrical engineers and they have a wide range of expertise in the design of efficient systems for educational buildings.

Rybka have been appointed BREEAM/Sustainability consultants for the project. Thomas and Adamson have been appointed as Project Managers and Cost Consultants.

As the design work progresses there will be opportunities for parents, students and staff to feed back their views on the new school designs. The design process will continue until the end of the year with the aim of taking forward a wider pre-planning consultation on the designs early in the New Year before a formal planning application is submitted.

Commenting on the Design Team, Councillor Marilyne MacLaren, Convener of Education, Children and Families said: "I am delighted that we have appointed such a high calibre design team for James Gillespie's.

jmarchitects have a great track record in school design and I have been highly impressed by their work on Portobello High School where they have worked very closely with the school to create a design that meets their aspirations for the future. I am confident that with them on board, the next few months will prove to be a very positive and exciting experience for James Gillespie's".

Consultation on decant proposals

The consultation period for the decant proposals is now underway and you should have received a copy of the consultation paper from your school. It can also be found online on the council's website at www.edinburgh.gov.uk (go to current consultations).

A public meeting will also be held at James Gillespie's High School at 7pm on Thursday 17 June. Written comments are also welcomed up until 1 July 2010. The outcome of the consultation will be reported back to Committee in November.

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JGHS success at the BAA Youth Games

The 2010 BAA Youth Games took place on Thursday 13th June at Meadowbank sports centre. The games is organised and hosted by Edinburgh Leisure and is Edinburgh's largest multi sports event for children and young people, with over 1600 pupils from primary, secondary and special schools participating each year.

Boys Basketball:

1. Sam Stott
2. Thomas Skinner
3. Joe Highet
4. Max Alison
5. Khalid Al-Ani
6. Alex Short

As in previous years JGHS was very well represented, with over 60 S1-3 pupils competing in a range of sports, including girls and boys hockey, girls and boys basketball, girls football and gymnastics.

Girls Basketball

1. Ailis Ball
2. Sammi Harrison
3. Sarah Gilles-Denning
4. Lauren Gage
5. Vada Olepa
6. Miriam Seddon
7. Melissa Braeford
8. Monica Dunne

The event kicked off with a huge opening ceremony at Meadowbank, including DJ sets from Forth Radio, a gymnastics and break dancing display and a performance from the Scottish Rockettes cheerleaders. The pupils were then bussed to the various venues for the competition, with the hockey being played at Peffermill, the basketball at Meadowbank and the Craggs sports centres, gymnastics at the Jack Kane centre and the girls' football at Ainslie Park.

Girls Football:

1. Jennifer Lynch
2. Eilidh Paul
3. Caitlin Donlevy
4. Willow Banks
5. Laura MacPherson
6. Chantelle Hall
7. Kirsty Harper
8. Lujain Beruwijan

All the JGHS teams played very well and put up a good fight in all of the competitions, but particular note should be taken of the boys' hockey team, coached by Mr Hay, and who were completed undefeated in the competition, the boys basketball team, coached by Greg Marr, who failed to concede a point in their first 2 games and went on to add to their Scottish Schools under 14 title by winning the S1 competition, and the gymnasts, coached by Laura Nimmo and Claire Masterton, who won the level 1 competition with routines choreographed by themselves.

Gymnastics:

1. Lucy Gogoliuk
2. Alisha Murray
3. Anna Carberry

Girls Hockey:

1. Annie Higham
2. Zora Feeseey
3. Kathryn Crawford
4. Hana Duherie
5. Lisa Badgi
6. Orla Fitzgerald
7. Mai Shimodaira
8. Romy Hudson
9. Beth Hegarty
10. Ailsa Fox-Davies

The teams then returned to Meadowbank to bask in the glory and enjoy the Festival of Sport, which took place in the afternoon, and gave the pupils the opportunity to try the range of sporting and physical activities on offer.

Boys Hockey

1. Murdo McLeod
2. Michael Ireland
3. Keiron Fitzgerald
4. John Jones
5. Stuart Kumar
6. Sam Galloway
7. Alex Gough

Everyone had a great day and a huge well done to all the pupils who competed and did their best on the day. Thanks also to the staff and coaches who accompanied the teams and made the event possible. Onwards and upwards for next year.

Tennis:

1. Lars Fisher
2. Thomas Noble
3. Alex Bryson
4. Kara Harrison
5. Adam Hook

JGHS Diary

James Gillespie's High School

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Friday, 18th June 2010	Diversecity
Saturday, 19th June 2010	Diversecity
Monday, 21st June 2010	P7 Parent Evening
Tuesday, 22nd June 2010	Start of three day P7 visit
Monday, 28th June 2010	Start of Alternative Timetable week
Wednesday, 30th June 2010	S6 Leavers' Ceremony
Thursday, 1st July 2010	Last day of session 2009-10
Monday, 16th August 2010	Staff resume
Monday, 16th August 2010	Recoursing interviews with Support for Pupils (am only)
Tuesday, 17th August 2010	Staff in-service day
Wednesday, 18th August 2010	Staff in-service day
Thursday, 19th August 2010	Students resume
Thursday, 19th August 2010	S1 Induction
Friday, 20th August 2010	S1 Induction
Wednesday 1st September 2010	S1 Parents' Social Evening
Thursday, 2nd September 2010	Rock Night
Tuesday, 7th September 2010	School Council Meeting, 19:00hr. All welcome
Thursday, 9th September 2010	Sporting Celebrations Evening
Wednesday, 15th September 2010	School Council Events Gp. Meeting, 19:00hr. All welcome
Monday, 20th September 2010	Autumn Holiday, school closed
Tuesday, 21st September 2010	All resume
Thursday, 23rd September 2010	P7 Parents' Open Evening
Thursday, 14th October 2010	Ceilidh for South Africa
Friday, 15th October 2010	Mid-term holiday, all break
Monday, 25th October 2010	Staff in-service day
Tuesday, 26th October 2010	Students resume
Wednesday, 27th October 2010	School Council AGM, 19:00hr. All welcome
Thursday, 28th October 2010	S1 Fancy Dress Party
Wednesday, 3rd November 2010	School Council Meeting, 19:00hr. All welcome
Friday, 5th November 2010	S1 progress reports issued
Tuesday, 9th November 2010	S1 Parent Consultation Evening (practical subjects)
Thursday, 11th November 2010	S1 Parent Consultation Evening (non-practical subjects)



Curriculum for Excellence

A parent-friendly guide to a Curriculum for Excellence containing information on assessment and exams has been created.

Tina Woolnough, chair of the Royal High School Parent Council, has been on work placement with CEC for her Masters degree in Public Relations. She is focussing on parental involvement in the new Curriculum for her placement. Tina says, "I have been engaging with parents to find out what kind of information they would like to receive, and how they would like to participate in the exciting opportunities offered by a Curriculum for Excellence. Educational change can sometimes be scary, especially when there is lots of new jargon surrounding the change. My intention is to help build parental confidence in Curriculum for Excellence and to share easy-to-understand information with parents on what this change actually means for their children."

The guide can be accessed online at

www.edinburgh.gov.uk/curriculumforexcellence

Preparing young
people for change

