



# THE JAMES GILLESPIE'S HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## *Headteacher's Message - November 2015*



Welcome to this last school newsletter for 2015. This past year has seen our school go from strength to strength. As I'm sure you may be aware our school was recently named 'Scottish State School of the Year' by the Sunday Times. It was wonderful to be recognised in this way

and we should all be immensely proud of having our collective efforts highlighted in this way. I wish to emphasise that this accolade has been achieved as a result of the entire community working together towards providing the best possible experiences for all of our young people.

Having received such an award I would want to reassure you that we will now not become complacent as a school. There should now be a greater expectation across the community for us to do even better in 2016. I have no doubt that when we are on one campus again we will be able to offer even more opportunities to our pupils.

I would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a healthy and successful new year.

Nollaig chridheil agus bliadhna mhath ùr dhuibh uile.

*Donald J Macdonald, Headteacher*

### Inside this issue:

Art & Design News	2
Celebrating Pupil Success	3
Performing Arts News	4
Book Week Scotland	6
News from Around the School	7
Placing in Schools Appeals Panel	8

**JAMES GILLESPIE'S  
HIGH SCHOOL**

# CHRISTMAS CONCERT

USHER HALL  
THURSDAY 17th DECEMBER 2015  
7.00pm

TICKETS AVAILABLE  
FROM THE BOX OFFICE  
£10, £8 and £6

SPONSOR  
**Morrison  
Construction**

[usherhall.co.uk](http://usherhall.co.uk) | 0131 228 1155

## ART & DESIGN NEWS

The **S2 'Lifecycle of Stuff' Art Project** with artist **Kathy Beckett** working on behalf of Creative Carbon Scotland and the Arts and Creative Learning Team is well under way. The aim of the project is to raise awareness of sustainability, the circular economy and climate change. Pupils from 2K3 have been exploring concepts such as Design for Disassembly, and a number of the class have worked on a Friday afternoon to complete elements of the final collaborative artwork to be exhibited at the Churchill Theatre in Edinburgh on 27<sup>th</sup> Nov, along with other participating schools, and coinciding with the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference taking place in Paris at the end of November.

**S3 Digital Design Agency at JGHS** have named themselves *Urban Jungle* and throughout November ten or so S3 students have met weekly to work with a professional Design Agency, SNOOK to explore the brief given them by the National Galleries to come up with ideas, through digital media, for attracting more young people to visit the exhibitions. JGHS pupils have enjoyed the design process and also learnt some new digital skills as well as being given the opportunity to pitch their ideas to National Gallery staff at the end of November in the Modern One.



## CELEBRATING PUPIL SUCCESS

### Winter Windows Competition

Congratulations from the Art Department to Olive Walker 3M2 for her winning entry to City of Edinburgh Council's Winter Windows competition. Olive's design was chosen from over 200 entries, and is one of 25 winning designs that will be transformed into a large scale back lit window to be displayed on East Princes Street Gardens during Edinburgh's 2015 Christmas celebrations. All the winter windows will be on display from Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November.

### Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award

Well done to Mikaela Carmichael who achieved great success in the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award. The following is taken from a letter from the judging panel:

“Warmest congratulations to Mikaela Carmichael who was selected as one of 85 commended Foyle Young Poets of the Year 2015. Mikaela was selected from nearly 6,000 entrants from across the world, a truly impressive achievement.

Congratulations also to all at James Gillespie's High School, especially your English department and any other members of staff who have helped inspire, develop and nurture Mikaela's poetic talent.”

### BBC Young Writers' Award

Congratulations to Hannah Ledie who reached the shortlist of the BBC Young Writers' Award.

### Rowing Success

Congratulations to Rachel Chowings (6R3) and Hannah Davis (6K4) on their rowing success on the weekend of 31st October. They won the novice double at the Inverness Head race which is the biggest in Scotland for the number of entries. A very impressive 1st place considering they were competing against some University crews in a gruelling 4k row.





### MOD Success!

Last month pupils from JGHS performed at the National MOD and have brought back with them some trophies and awards marking their success:

- **Lili McShea** (S1) and **Bronwen Stahl** (S1) came first in the Clarsach Duets U13 competition winning The Lord Birsay Trophy. Also coming third in this category were **Sorcha Thompson** and **Erin Couper** from our feeder primary Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pairce.
- **Lili McShea** (S1) and **Eilidh Lamb** (S1) came second and third respectively in the Solo singing fluent girls 11-12 competition.
- **Eilidh Lamb** (S1) came third for Self Accompaniment.
- **Eilidh Lamb** and **Lili McShea** came third in Duet Fluent U13 competition.
- **Iris Ellen MacLeod** (S2) came third in the Solo Singing Girls 13-15 competition.

*Well done to all of the performers!*

### Rotary International Young Musician of the Year Competition 2015/2016

On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November three JGHS pupils – Andoni Santoyo Brown (S6), Phoebe Hyde (S5) and Zara Freeman (S5) - took part in the Rotary Club of Braids Heats at Merchiston Castle School.

All three pupils played fantastically and Andoni (Guitar) and Zara (French horn) were placed in joint second place. Both pupils will now progress to the Edinburgh Zone Final at Heriot Watt University in February.

Well done to all three performers and thank you to Mr Dearsley for accompanying the pupils on the night!

### Rock Night – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October

Well done to all pupils (and staff!) who performed at our annual Rock Night at Electric Circus last month. It was wonderful that our pupils and staff had this opportunity to showcase their talents at such a splendid venue.

Many, many thanks to everyone who contributed to staging this highly successful Rock Concert including pupils, invited band Indigo Velvet and staff. Thank you to everyone who came along to support our performers. We look forward to seeing you next year for Rock Night 2016!

## PERFORMING ARTS: UPCOMING EVENTS

### Senior Drama Production – *Blithe Spirit* by Noël Coward

Date: Friday 4th December

Venue:

The Drama Studio G20 Darroch

Matinee Performance 2:00pm

Evening Performance 7pm

Ticket Price: £6 Adult, £4 Student/Child

Tickets will go on sale from Tuesday 1st December from the cast and crew at both Lauderdale & Darroch campuses.

Tickets will also be on sale at the door on a first-come-first-served basis.

### Christmas Events in and around Edinburgh



Many of our groups within the school will be performing at various events in Edinburgh in the run up to Christmas. Everyone is welcome to attend these events and show your support for our talented pupils!

- Tollcross Tree-Lighting Ceremony

Date: Tuesday 1st December    Time: 6pm

This ceremony will feature the JGHS Pipers and Brass Ensemble

- Marchmont and Sciennes Community Council Tree Lighting Ceremony

Date: Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December    Time: 4pm    Venue: Marchmont Crescent Scotmid

The JGHS Brass Ensemble and Chamber Choir will be performing at this year's Christmas tree lighting event organised by the Marchmont and Sciennes Community Council

- Carol singing at Holyrood Palace featuring the JGHS Chamber Choir

Date: Friday 11th December    Time: 10.30am

- Children 1st Carol Singing featuring the JGHS Chamber Choir

Date: Saturday 12th December    Time: tbc    Venue: The Winter Wonderland in Princes Street

Thank you to all pupils and staff involved in the above events!

## James Gillespie's High School Christmas Concert 2015 – Usher Hall

**Thursday 17th December, 7.00-9.30pm**

This concert features pupils from James Gillespie's High School and its six associated primaries. Items will include wind bands, string orchestras, clarsach and guitar ensembles, percussion ensemble, pipe band, accordion group, chamber choir and various junior and senior choirs.

Repertoire includes Christmas items and also ranges from Scottish traditional to classical and contemporary music.

This is a musical feast for all senses!

**\*\*On sale Monday 19th October 2015, 10am\*\***

**Tickets: £10 / £8 / £6**

---

## **BOOK WEEK SCOTLAND 2015**

A number of activities took place during the week beginning 23rd November to celebrate Book Week Scotland. Prize winning author Kirkland Ciccone entertained S3 pupils with a quirky account of his rise to literary success. He was extremely engaging and very well received. Pupils were queuing up to speak to him afterwards. Kirkland responded to a request from Jasna Deas Mason, one of his biggest fans, which meant the school was lucky enough to receive a visit from him! After the event, Jasna interviewed Kirkland for Teen Titles magazine (pictured), the Edinburgh-based magazine containing pupil book reviews and author interviews.



In addition to the author event, special sessions took place in the library for S1 and S2 pupils who created posters recommending their favourite books. There was also a Big Book Quiz and Favourite First Lines Competition.

## Invigilators

We are looking for people to join the Invigilation Team to supervise SQA exams. This would involve committing to either some morning, afternoon or whole day sessions from the end of April until early June, in return for the satisfaction of ensuring our students can operate in the best examination environment (and a small fee !). Please contact the Chief Invigilator, K Woods for further details, either by email at [georathy@gmail.com](mailto:georathy@gmail.com) or in writing, via the School Office.

## Tenerife 2016

Please be aware that the second payment for the exchange (£150) is due for the end of this month.

## Lost property

Located in the welfare office (Lauderdale). A lost property reclaim is held in the Forum, at break time, on the last Friday of the month.

## 2015-16 Immunisation programme

S4, S5, S6 meningitis ACWY vaccinations	18 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup> January
S3 meningitis ACWY & diphtheria/tetanus/polio vaccinations	1 <sup>st</sup> February
S1, S2, S3 HPV vaccinations	11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> April

CITY OF EDINBURGH  
PLACING IN SCHOOLS APPEAL COMMITTEE

# Volunteers wanted for Edinburgh's Placing in Schools Appeal Committee

Appeal Committee members are independent volunteers from the community. The Committee meets to review school placing requests turned down by the Council.

Interested in finding out more?

Come along to our Open Information Evening on Tuesday  
8 December at 6pm in the City Chambers or go to  
[www.edinburgh.gov.uk/placingappealvolunteers](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/placingappealvolunteers) for more

