

JPA Journal



Termly Journal of School News ISSUE Dec 2021



Welcome to the latest edition of our school journal. For me this is always a lovely opportunity to celebrate the successes of the young people in our school. This term is no different in that respect and we continue to be proud of all that our young people have achieved. However, it is also tinged with sadness as this will be my final time writing in the JPA Journal. Having being headteacher of John Paul Academy for just under eight years has been the privilege of a lifetime. From the moment I arrived in the school until now I have always had the outstanding support of our parents, pupils and staff. The culture in our school is one where all people are valued and many a visitor to our school have commented on the unique atmosphere and care they feel when visiting. It is testament to the young people, staff and parents of our school that the school continues to grow and be successful.

The school has been recognised as leading in many areas within the city and I am confident it will continue to do so moving forward. It is in this recognition that I have been trusted to lead another school in the city. I know I leave John Paul Academy in caring and capable hands and will continue to keep it in my thoughts and prayers.

To our young people, I ask that you continue to be the bright, caring and hopeful people I have had the privilege of getting to know over the past few years. What you learn in our school will benefit your community and I truly believe our future will be in good hands if you continue to be the people I know you are and can be.

I would finish by thanking each and everyone of you for the fantastic support and love you have shown me over the years and wish each of you a restful and peaceful Christmas break.

John McGhee
Head Teacher

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Pupil Leadership Team

Keira Gibson – Head Girl



How does it feel to be Head Girl / Head Boy?

Keira: – amazing! It is good to have been here for 6 years and to have achieved the position of Head Girl as it shows that the school have faith in me to carry out this role.

Saul: it feels very good to be head boy, knowing that all of the pupils and staff had faith in my leadership, knowing that they voted for me. Confident that I would be a great leader.

What made you go for the position?

K: my friends encouraged me because they thought that I would be a good leader and it feels good that they recognised this and I really glad to represent them.

S: I wanted to go for head boy because over the past few years in school I've gained great relationships with both staff and pupils so I decided that it would be great to lead them all into their final year.

Saul Johnstone – Head Boy



This year do you think the position is different because we are trying to re-build from the COVID 19 pandemic?

K: Yes, because I know that previous Head Girls had more to do in and outside of the school but I have tried my best to be involved in as many school projects as possible – eg all the leadership roles such as prom and leavers' jumpers.

S: It feels great being the head boy right now, as we have been given a great budget to help out the school for the recovery period after the global pandemic.

Our Senior Leadership Team



Tessy Ekoma

Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.



Megan Pringle

Have faith in the future.



Hayden Atkins

If not us, who? If not now, when?



Hannah Prior

Believe you can and you're halfway there.

New Staff

This year we have a whole host of fresh faces to welcome to the fabulous staff team here at JPA.

Mrs Elliot - WBH



Miss Wighton - Music



Miss Gray - Languages



Mr Noble - Science



Miss Austin - Science



Miss Cochrane - PE



Miss Jack-Comp/RE



Mr Hall - English



Mr Cook - English



Mr Dallas - English



Mrs McMunn - Science



Miss Lynch - Business



Covid procedures

As we continue to live with the pandemic, school has adjusted to ensure that we all keep safe in the building.



ENTERING THE SCHOOL

All pupils enter the school via the Assembly Hall doors in the rear playground. They are met by Deputies and PT Pupil Support teachers who remind pupils to wear masks and sanitise hands.

KEEPING CLEAN

Hand sanitising stations are located around the school buildings especially at the entry doors.

When entering classrooms, pupils sanitise their hands to make sure everyone is kept safe.

Equipment is sanitised at the start and end of lessons by pupils, anywhere they have touched especially computers, chairs, desks and work stations.

MASK WEARING

Government guidance continues to advise that pupils and staff wear masks in communal areas. This is important in the corridors where it can get very busy at class changeover time. In classrooms masks should also be worn.

EXTRA PRECAUTIONS

In classrooms all of the desks are facing forward so there is no need for any communication with the people behind you unless the teacher asks you to.

Pupils are reminded to bring their own supplies to class (pens/pencils etc) to minimize sharing resources and spreading germs.

TESTING

Pupils and staff are reminded to test twice weekly and to self-isolate if they have a positive result until such times as they have a PCR test. If this is negative, pupils and staff can return to school. If positive, they must isolate for 10 days.

NOTE – this guidance may change according to government announcements and is correct at time of writing (start of December 2021).

Feature:

Farewell to Mr McGhee!



What is your favorite memory at John Paul academy?

Oh, that's a hard one. My favorite memories, rather than just a memory, is the award ceremonies. I love seeing young people coming up, just the excitement on their faces and having done really really well, they're always dead exciting. I don't know if I've got a particular one, but its them, because it's a school that really tries to do well and succeed, and when you see wee peoples' faces just being dead happy and having done well, it would definitely be that I think. Also, the school show, I love school shows because that's the same thing – people going into a school show and not just one school show, we had ones a number of years ago (because of covid it stopped), we had the fashion shows and things and I just love all of that. It's absolutely brilliant, so those things I think would be my big highlights.

What will you miss the most about John Paul Academy?

The young people. Just dead simple. Schools are not bricks and mortar, they're not staff, they wouldn't be here without the young people so yeah that's what I'll miss because they're all dead friendly. Honestly, you've no idea how friendly this school is. I spotted it the day I came into this school, just the warmth of people, just being dead nice, so it's the young people, I'll miss that without a shadow of a doubt. You're going to make me cry now!

If you were to sum up your time at John Paul Academy in one sentence what would it be?

The best in the west.

What would your advice for your students be?

Aim for the stars. And believe in yourself.

Any last words?

You all know where I'm going, so keep in touch and let me know all your successes.

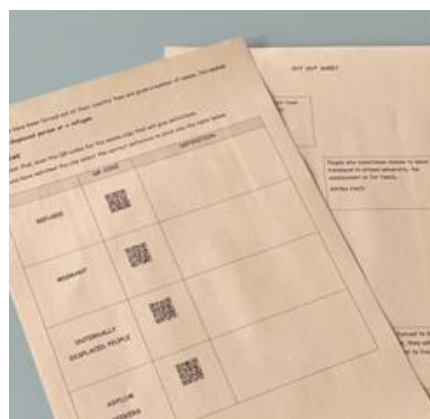


Feature: Digital Learning



Digital Ambassadors

Our group this year have been busy. We have had weekly meetings and have been helping young people using their iPads in class.



Feature: Getting the most out of your iPad

All young people have now been issued with their own personal iPad, and this has made a huge difference to learning and teaching in school and at home. Digital Learning is a key feature of our School Improvement Plan and we hope that all our young people use their iPads responsibly. Here are some top tips to help everyone get the best out of them.

Working with your iPad

- ⇒ Keep iPad clean.
- ⇒ Keep iPad dry and away from water.
- ⇒ Keep the cover on to protect it.
- ⇒ Charge iPads before coming to school.
- ⇒ Update iOS software and apps regularly.
- ⇒ Don't lend your iPad to anyone.
- ⇒ Make a secure passcode.
- ⇒ Personalise your lock screen to stop it getting mixed up with others.
- ⇒ Follow teacher instructions for using your iPad in class, **only use it in class for the directed tasks.**



All pupil iPads have black cases that also serve as stands!

Top tips / Trouble-shooting

- * Use your One Drive, organise it into folders for each subject.
- * You need to remain logged into Glow/One Drive for the Microsoft and Satchel One apps to work.
- * Proxy Authentication – you may need to enter your GSN ID (school computer login and password) at some points – so the iPad is linked to the school network, and knows you. If you bypass Proxy, then you will not be able to access the internet.
- * If apps don't work, if your software is up to-date, have checked you are logged into glow and you can access the internet–then try switching off and on again. **DO NOT DO THIS IF YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN YOUR PASSCODE** – this will block your iPad and cannot be fixed in school.
- * If you do forget your 6-digit passcode, check the photo you took with your info.
- * If your iPad is disabled, see Mrs Lynch to have your passcode reset.
- * For all other issues, see the teacher responsible for your class to report faults/problems.



iPad accessories to consider:

Screen protectors
Wireless keyboard
Stylus or Apple pen

Dept Focus: Art Department at the Dumfries House making Zero waste textile bags

The Art Dept recently took students to Dumfries House in Ayrshire to take part in a Textiles Workshop. They learned some great skills and had an amazing day!



Feature: John Paul Academy pyjama day and jumper day with the RE department.



The S6 leadership class organised the event. The proceeds were donated to Spirit Aid.

Feature:

COP26 How to live sustainably

The COP Event held here in Glasgow in November made us all re-focus our attention on the environment and the impact of climate change on all of us. Here are some hints and advice on how to live more sustainably and reduce our carbon footprint. This is reflected in our school gospel values as highlighted in Pope Francis' Laudato Si encyclical to encourage us to 'Care for our common home'

Reducing our carbon footprint

The earth is going through a very difficult time right now. Not only is there a pandemic going on but the amount of greenhouse gasses we make is slowly killing the planet and us with it. The average a person in the UK makes about 9.84 tonnes of carbon footprint yearly. This amount needs to be reduced as soon as possible because if it isn't done, we won't be able to return to normality as the ozone layer will break.

For some, global warming is seen as a hoax or is just a theory however in reality, the earth is quickly heating up to unnatural levels which is causing harm to our crops, our animals and even us. Isn't it strange that even though it is us who are killing our planet, we all stay in denial of the issue? There are in fact many ways you can reduce your carbon footprint at home at any age.

Greta Thunberg is a great example of a young person who is taking action and trying to make a difference in her and others lives. She uses her platform to inform others of what harm we are doing to our world and changing peoples minds to also change their lifestyle to save the world.

Although it may be difficult for every person to go out there and create a platform like Greta, it is still possible for you to reduce the carbon footprint you make at home and do your part no matter what age you are. Here are some of the easiest ways you can reduce your carbon footprint:



Feature: English Department

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Mental Health Trip

Ms Gillick, Ms Wakefield and Mr Dallas had a brilliant time attending Cineworld with the Wider Certification Mental Health classes to see Dear Evan Hansen. This trip was to explore the influence of the media on the representation of mental health, in line with Unit 2 of the award. Well done to the pupils for representing the school so well – everyone had a great time!

Ambassador Update

Our S6 Ambassadors have been working hard to update the notice boards with November's Pupil of the Month for every English, ESOL and Media class in the department. Stop by the boards next to the English base to see who has been rewarded for their hard work and effort this month.

Supported Study Attendance

A massive thank you to all Senior Phase pupils for their attendance and effort at Supported Study throughout November. The department was full of National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher learners who are showing real dedication to developing their understanding of their courses.

Ghost Tour Success

Ms Keogh hosted the 11th Annual Ghost Tour at JPA at the start of November. S1 and S2 pupils took part in a host of spooky Halloween activities, then attended the disco that followed.

A great time was had by all! See below for some pictures of this **Spooktacular** event!

Feature: Integration Centre & Wellbeing Hub

This year we have had a great time in our wellbeing hub. We opened our Christmas cafe to staff, we also learned how to make pizza, litter picked and had fun playing Uno! Can't wait for 2022!!





Feature: Home Economics

The Home Economics Department Extra Curricular clubs are really popular this year. The BGE (S1-3) Cake Club is busy every week. Here are some examples of the work they have been producing – YUM!





Dept Focus: Music Department



Lots of new and exciting activities have been happening in and around Music since August. Our relationship with our Cluster Primaries has been fantastic as we saw the commencement of our Maryhill and Summerston Community Pipes and Drums initiative seeing over 150 pupils gaining trials in chanter and pipe drumming. We have also been able to share, albeit virtually and sing together as a Cluster in our virtual concert.



We continue to grow our Instrumental Lesson provision across our learning community and come January, will be embarking another start up programme for Strings, Brass, Woodwind, Bass Guitar, Guitar and Drum-kit. Any pupil interested should speak to any member of the Music staff to arrange a trial.

We hope we will be able to sing together in person sometime soon. This year has seen the inauguration of our 6th Year Ambassadors where we have seen the start of S1-2 extra-curricular groups in the form of Keyboard and Guitar/Ukulele clubs. These clubs are at lunchtime and are run by our team of Ambassadors. Our Ambassadors have also been busy supporting our BGE classes in Music and Music Technology sharing their performing knowledge and gaining leadership skills with our younger pupils.

Within Music, we have been excited to see the inclusion of Musical Theatre and Music for Wellbeing. Musical Theatre has seen pupils gain new skills, new found confidence and willingness to perform. Music for Wellbeing has seen various online workshops happen during Wider Certification including a workshop with the Salvation Army's Music and Creative Arts looking at their Singing by Heart programme and how it helps people with dementia.

And finally, despite the busyness of day to day learning, it was with great joy to share in our first Virtual Concert on Wednesday 15th December after many years, 'Expressions of Christmas'. It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase some of the talent we here at John Paul Academy through Dance and Music. If you have missed it, check out our Youtube channel.



Dept Focus: Art and Design Skills

Pupils in Art and Design continue to develop skills in drawing, painting and printing. Building on our traditional skills our students are now developing confidence in creating Digital Art and Design work using AutoDesk Sketchbook. It is fantastic to see pupils working creatively and with great enthusiasm. Examples of S2 pupils' work using the AutoDesk Sketchbook App are shown below.

Sewing Bee, 2021 and participating in many interesting workshops. Well done to our pupils who were a credit to John Paul Academy who presented with excellent conduct. They posed thought provoking questions to the experts. Their discussions showed real commitment to making a difference to society.



May we please ask you to follow us on **Instagram** and talk with your child about their achievements in Art and Design. Supported Study is available for all S4, S5 and S6 learners.

Mrs Gillon – @lgillonjpaart
Miss Mochan – @missmochanartjpa
Ms Devlin – @artdesignjpa
Miss Carroll – @ecarroll.jpart

Cop26 Conference

This month Senior Pupils visited Caledonian University Cop26 Conference with the focus of Ethical and Sustainable Fashion. They enjoyed meeting Glasgow born Serena Baker, the winner of The Great British



Our School Prayer

Father,

**We thank You for our
patron, Pope John Paul II.**

**Inspired by Your love
and with the help of Our Lady,
he taught us to love one another
and to love You.**

**We pray that he will help our school,
and that he will soon be named
among Your Saints. Amen**



Games and Puzzles!

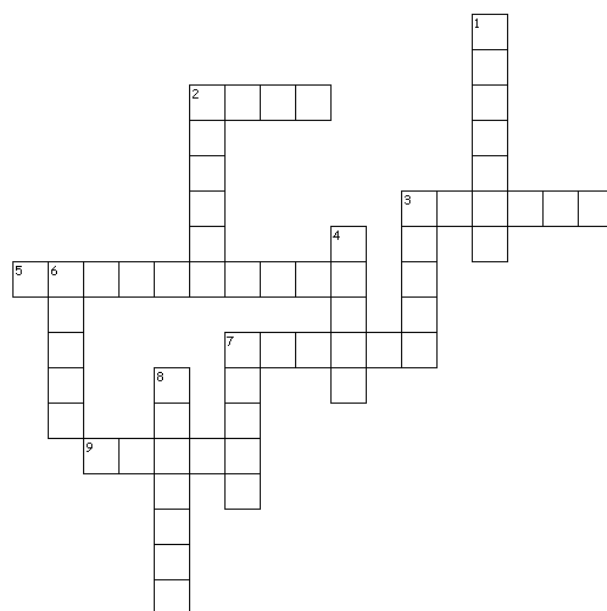
Our news team have put together a selection of activities to test your knowledge of John Paul Academy.

Y M N M S M C R A E D
D M I T R H R L K L E
I R L S E M P O A U S
S C V N S T C N W N K
S O E A F M O G R E C
A L D L A D O P H A N
C L R L C V Q C E E X
R I M A E S A K H V E
M N M S B E L T R A N
O S M R S G I L L O N
M R S M A C Q U E E N

MISSMOCHAN
MRDEVLIN
MRSALLAN
MSBELTRAN

MRCASSIDY
MRMCGHEE
MRSGILLON
MSMACDONALD

MRCOLLINS
MROWEN
MRSMACQUEEN
MSMCRAE



Across

2. Which house group does Mr Devlin run?
3. Which year group does Mr Owen run?
5. Which house group does Ms Beltran run?
7. Which year group does Ms McRae Run?
9. Which year group does Ms MacDonald run?

Down

1. Which house does Mrs MacQueen run?
2. Which house group does Mr Cassidy run?
3. Which year group does Mr Collins run?
4. Which year group does Mr Owen run?
6. Who runs the well being hub?
7. Which year group does Ms McRae Run?
8. Which house group does Mrs Diver run?

GET ONLINE

www.johnpaulacademy.glasgow.sch.uk