

John Paul Academy Newsletter



Issue

September 2019



Inside this issue:

Head Teacher's Welcome	1
Focus on Departments	2,5,6,9
Teaching and Learning in JPA	3
Rights & Responsibilities	4
Welcomes and Farewells	7
Family Learning	8
Digital Learning	8
Extra-Curricular Activities	10
Pupil Leadership	10
Developing the Young Workforce	10
Building Relationships	11
Key Dates	12
Contact Info	12

Head Teacher's Welcome:

Welcome to the first newsletter of the new session. It follows another fantastic year for the school and its young people. You will see from the newsletter just some of the exciting experiences and achievements our young people have been involved in. Last session has been pleasing on a number of fronts. In our SQA exams the number of people gaining the highest level of qualifications is now at an all-time high putting the school amongst the top performers in the city. Equally the number of young people leaving our school on to a positive destination continues to impress.

Two of our new S6 students, Mary Olaleye and Stacy Oshingbeme achieved 6 Highers at Band A in S5 - this is an incredible achievement! Both girls elected to study an additional Higher in their own time in addition to a demanding 5 Higher commitment in school. A fine example to all our young people.

As head teacher I am so proud of the commitment of our parents and staff in supporting all of our young people to this success and to the great determination and commitment our young people have shown. Our curriculum continues to grow and you will see a focus on some areas to give you a flavour of the experience young people at John Paul Academy receive.

I hope you enjoy reading about our school and I thank you for your continued support in allowing the school and young people to flourish.

At John Paul Academy, through service to the common good and recognition of the dignity and voice of each person, we commit to the pursuit of excellence through the development of each person's God given talents.

What's been happening in school?

The 2018-19 session was a very busy year in school, with lots of activity in every department. Here is a sample of what's been going on in some of our departments.

Inside Story: MODERN LANGUAGES

We have had a lot happening in the ML Department throughout session 2018-2019, here follows a snapshot of our year:

September 2018

In September 2018 S1 pupils were given the chance to celebrate European Day of Languages by trying a range of different activities including: learning Italian; quizzes; food tasting and building the tallest Eiffel Tower. All pupils thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon and many of them tasted new foods that they wouldn't normally eat.

October 2018

Our S6 Advanced Higher pupils were given the chance to visit Strathclyde University to gain a deeper insight into the study of an Advanced Higher Language. All pupils left with a renewed motivation and a clearer understanding of the course requirements.



December 2018



Two of our S6 Advanced Higher pupils successfully applied and gained a place on the Euroscola, a Glasgow City Council led trip to Strasbourg, to visit the European Parliament

Brendan Dalzell and Jonathon Sinclair spent a week in Strasbourg taking part in a number of Language based activities with learners across the Council. Both boys thoroughly enjoyed their time and said they had gained so much from the experience not only in a Language capacity but also in a social capacity. Here they are receiving their certificates.

January 2019

A number of our S1/S2 pupils were rewarded for a combination of effort, hard work and commitment to their Modern Languages studies. S1 pupils were treated to a French film in the Glasgow Film Theatre whilst S2 learners watched a film in Spanish. All pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Keep up the hard work for future reward trips.

FOCUS ON DEPARTMENTS

CELEBRATING SUCCESS.....

SQA Exam Success

Following another set of excellent exam results, we would like to congratulate all Senior learners for their effort, hard work and dedication. You deserve your success – you have certainly earned it! A special mention must go to Mary Olaleye and Stacy Oshingbeme (our language learners of the year in the City-Wide Language awards) who both gained an A pass in Spanish whilst studying it in their spare time as a 6th Higher! Well done girls and all of our SQA learners. Here is to another year of hard work.



**IF YOU CAN SPEAK
SPANISH AND
ENGLISH, YOU
CAN COMMUNICATE
WITH 80% OF THE
PLANET.**



As part of our Learning and Teaching Policy '**Excellence in Every Classroom**', all our young people are now aware of what can be expected from every lesson and member of staff in our school.

Please discuss with your child and help us develop a shared understanding of what '**Excellence in Every Classroom**' really means for our young people.

Please contact us if you would like to discuss your child's Learning experience in our school.

Tel: 0141 582 0140
Email: dowen@johnpaulacademy.glasgow.sch.uk

TEACHING AND LEARNING IN JOHN PAUL ACADEMY

Skilled Questioning and Feedback

As a learner in John Paul Academy this means....

My teacher will always let me know what I have done well and why, and what to improve and how. I will always have the opportunity to respond to any feedback given.

My teacher will use questioning to challenge my learning and increase my understanding. I will always be given time to respond and my answer will always be valued.

Purposeful and Productive Learning High Levels of Challenge

As a learner in John Paul Academy this means....

I will always be stretched in my learning and offered any support that I may need. I will reflect on my learning often and make links across future lessons, the curriculum and the world of work.

I will find my learning challenging and my learning will move at a pace that ensures I progress at a level that maximises my potential.



I think.
I question.
I imagine.
I create.
I struggle.
I collaborate.
I try.
I fail.
I persist.
I reflect.
I change.

I learn.

Creative and Inclusive Teaching Approaches

As a learner in John Paul Academy this means....

My teacher will inspire me to engage fully in every lesson through their use of a variety of learning approaches.

'Making Thinking Visible' routines will be evident across the school and will allow me to demonstrate greater understanding, become more engaged and independent as a learner.

Effective Planning, Assessment and Evaluation

As a learner in John Paul Academy this means....

Every lesson will be planned to reflect what I already know and be specific to the next steps in my learning.

Learning Intentions and Success Criteria will be shared with me and I will always know what I need to do to improve further.



RIGHTS and RESPONSIBILITIES

Last session as part of our PSHE programme, we looked into the Rights and Responsibilities of young people in our school. We came up with our **High Expectations Charter** – which is displayed around the school. This sets out the Rights and Responsibilities of all young people to ensure that they are responsible citizens, effective contributors, confident individuals and successful learners.



JOHN PAUL ACADEMY HIGH EXPECTATIONS CHARTER FOR PUPILS

RIGHTS	RESPONSIBILITIES
Known Teachers know you and your learning needs.	Involved & Active Attend school every day. Participate fully in learning activities.
Safe & Nurtured You feel cared for by teachers to ensure your wellbeing is as good as it can be.	Respectful & Reflective Understand the role of teachers as classroom managers. Willing to accept and follow teacher instructions. Able to listen to and take advice from teachers.
Learning To experience excellent teaching. To acquire knowledge. To develop skills for life, learning & work.	Organised Always prepared and ready for class.
Achieving To be challenged to improve as a learner.	Determined Prepared to work hard and give your best.
Supported To receive good advice at key times.	Aspiring Wanting to improve and be better at what you do.
Respected & Included You feel valued, listened to and important in the school.	Curious Open to new learning and experiences.

Inside Story: Religious Education



**"2018-19 was
a terrific year
for the RE
Department."**

**Mr Kierney
PT Religious
Education**

NEW CHAPLAIN!

The year finished on a high for us with news that **Father Jim Lawlor** from our local parish The Immaculate Conception, has now officially been appointed as our School Chaplain.

He has already been busy organising our school oratory, as well as the annual S1 Retreats. Our young people will be taking part in the Parish Retreat happening this month.

After many years supporting the school we are glad to have him now formally recognised as being our chaplain. We very much look forward to exciting times ahead.

Here are some pictures of the new additions he has brought to our school oratory. We are very grateful.



National Qualifications in RE: We launched the National 4 RMPS course, a new feature of our S3 & S4 courses for all pupils.

Caritas: Thirty S6 pupils successfully completed their Caritas Award, and around fifty pupils gained their Leadership Award at Level 6.

YP 2018! Our S5 pupils all participated in giving presentations to 170 of their peers on a local charity they had researched and visited by undertaking the Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI). Charlie Dey and Toni Haldane were successful in securing a £3,000 donation for a well-known local charity Young Possil Futures.

Lenten Appeal: Our school family raised £2,700 for Mary's Meals during Lent, having great fun along the way.

Parish Partnership: Our partnership with Immaculate Conception Parish prospered.

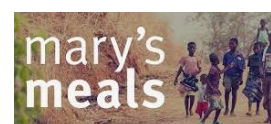
- Caritas pupils starred in raising funds for SCIAF through leading the Parish's Car Wash.
- Tons of tins were also shared by pupils and staff with the Glasgow North West Food Bank.
- Our annual S1 retreat days with Father Jim and the Salesian UR Space Team were greatly appreciated by pupils and staff. Other 'centenary' retreats at Carfin and the now annual Immaculate Conception Caritas retreat were also greatly enjoyed.
- Thank you again to the wonderful parish volunteers who give up huge amounts of time each year to prepare hot food and snacks for us.

And, of course, we welcomed back again local minister, Rev Stuart Matthews, who spoke with classes from all year groups, ending in an inspirational assembly for S6 as they were about to leave us.

YPI 2019: The RE department launched this year's Youth Philanthropy Initiative with S5. Over the next few weeks pupils will be researching and contacting local charities before making their pitch to win £3,000 to assist their charity's work.

Lenten Appeal – Mary's Meals:

A cheque for **£2,700** has been forwarded to Magnus Macfarlane-Barrow, founder of Mary's Meals, to help extend the reach of this great charity which provides the poorest children around the world with a cooked meal in a place of education. The monies were raised from our Lenten Appeal. Thank you to all families, pupils and staff who contributed so very generously.



Inside Story: Business Education

The Department went from strength to strength last year with a large increase in the number of candidates gaining qualifications.

Exam Congratulations - to all the young people for their hard work – and in particular for N5 Administration and IT and Business Management learners with a 100% pass rate in both subjects. A fantastic achievement – well done!

New Qualifications - the National Progression Award in Business with Information Technology is now a very popular course at Levels 5 and 6 and there was an increase in the number of candidates gaining the NPA this year.

Looking forward to the new session we have introduced Advanced Higher Business Management for the first time and we are looking forward to growing this area of the curriculum too.

The Stock Market Challenge

Mr Innes ran the Stock Market Challenge during the Wider Certification programme and 2 of the teams qualified through to the National Competition after the initial trading period. Both built very healthy stock market portfolios, but unfortunately the teams didn't reach the finals. However, they now have a good idea of investment and maybe there will be some future stockbrokers out there?



WE LOVE A CHALLENGE.....

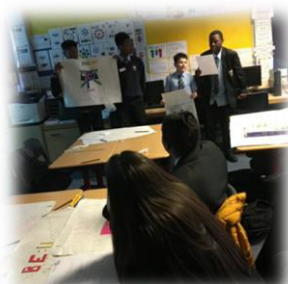
The High Street Challenge

The High Street Challenge was undertaken by a group of S3 pupils in December. This challenge is run by Young Enterprise Scotland and is a full day problem-solving event where young people were tasked with coming up with a new and innovative shop to revive our crumbling high streets. Some excellent creative ideas were highly rated by YES and the young people involved all had a fantastic day!



The Dragons' Den

The annual Dragon's Den Challenge was an Easter themed event. S2 were asked to come up with a new product idea for an Easter Egg. A Fantastic range of ideas meant it was a difficult decision for the Dragons, but the winning team – with a Lego themed design won the day. Thank you to Mr McGhee, Mr Owen, Mrs Kinley and Mrs McElroy for putting all the teams through a grueling set of questions. Our Dragons were very impressed!





WELCOMES and FAREWELLS

Welcome to our new S1

At the start of the term we extended a warm "John Paul Academy" welcome to our new S1 pupils. They have made quite an impression already with their excellent uniform, behaviour and work ethic. We wish them all the very best as they settle into our school community and look forward to getting to know them better over the coming months.

Please look out for your invitation to attend the "Settling-in" interviews which will take place throughout September; this is a great opportunity to meet your child's Pupil Support Teacher and to discuss your hopes for the year ahead.

Welcome to our new members of staff

We have quite a number of new teaching staff in the school this year – it's great to welcome so many newly qualified teachers joining us for their probation year and some new teachers joining departments. A list of the new teaching staff includes;

Ms Connelly – Biology
Ms Phelan – English
Ms Bennie – Social Studies
Ms Meharry – Business Education

Ms Wilson – Biology
Mr Grimley – PE
Mr Mathers – Social Studies
Mr McPhie – Computing Science

Farewell to S6

Every year it's always with a sense of pride that we say farewell to our young people as they move out into the world of work, further and higher education. With a fantastic set of exam results to send them on their way this year, we are confident that they are well equipped for the next stage of their lives. We hope that they take with them some fond memories of their time at John Paul Academy and remember the learning and the values that we have instilled in them.

Fond Farewells and Thank You!

Last session we had two retirements from long standing members of staff in our school. In the Spring we said goodbye to the legend Mr Terry O'Brien from our PE Department. Mr O'Brien left as a newly decorated British Empire Medalist which recognised his outstanding contribution to Orienteering – one of the many talents he brought to the PE Department here in John Paul Academy.

In the summer we said goodbye to Mrs Carol Muir, who was our Principal Teacher of Employability. Carol worked tirelessly to ensure that every person in our school was given the opportunity to leave school to a positive destination, and it is a credit to her hard work that we enjoy such a high percentage of young people gaining employment, apprenticeships, college courses etc.

We thank both of them for their service to our school and wish them a long, happy and healthy retirement.

FAMILY LEARNING

In John Paul Academy we recognise that the best outcomes happen where the School and Home Partnership is strong. This year we are introducing a programme of Family Learning Events to encourage parents to help support their young people in their Learning. Over the coming session we will offer a range of activities for parents/carers to help foster stronger partnerships and take forward ways to improve Home Learning and Family Partnership working. Please see the posters advertising the events around the community and on our website. This term the Family Learning Events are taking place in September and October. Future events are already planned, please watch out for emails / tweets or texts about these events. Alternatively, please visit the Family Learning area of the website.

Family Learning Short Courses:

IT Skills – 10 week course, starting Thursday, 19 September 2019
Maths/Numeracy Level 1 - 12 week course, starting Thursday, 19 September 2019

Family Learning

John Paul Academy



Join our **NEW** free Parenting Workshops

1. Coping With Teenagers Emotions

Thursday 12 September

2. Reducing Family Conflict

Thursday 26 September

3. Getting Teenagers To Cooperate

Thursday 10 October

4. Building Teenagers' Survival Skills

Thursday 24 October

4pm– 6pm

Tea and Coffee Provided

For More Information Contact

John Paul Academy on

0141 582 0140

Get free help and advice from our Parenting Support Practitioners at the Central Parenting Team on

0141 277-7560

DIGITAL LEARNING

As we start a new term, learners in John Paul Academy are encouraged to use the range of Digital Learning opportunities available. The new S1 are completing a 'Digital Literacy' course in the Business Education Department to ensure that they are registered and logged into all the Digital Learning platforms that we use in school.

glow is the Scottish Education network / virtual learning environment which every learner and teacher uses in school. This includes our email network, One Drive cloud storage as well as access to a wide range of learning sites and apps to support teaching and learning. Parents should note that a learner's Glow account entitles learners to download Microsoft Office completely free on up to 4 different devices.

Show My Homework is the website/app we use to issue homework and learning resources to enable learners to continue their learning outside the classroom. Teachers regularly issue homework and often use this to send learners resources and links to relevant online learning content. Parents are encouraged to ensure young people have downloaded the App onto their phones to keep track of issued homework and deadlines. Parents can track issued homework via the link to Show My Homework on the school website.

Parents will be invited to a Family Learning event later in the term to find out more about how to support Digital Learning at home.



Inside Story: Physical Education



Always one of the busiest areas in the school, the PE Department had another successful year. Too many to fit on one page, here is a snapshot of some of the key successes and achievements in the department over the last session:

Football

Last year we competed at S1, S2, S3 and S4 level.

The S1's has a good first year and showed great determination, resilience and no shortage of skills in all their games.

The Junior girls also won the Glasgow Summer League at Toryglen! The Junior boys narrowly lost out the final!

The S2 team had an excellent year reaching the Quarter Finals of the Scottish Cup before being beaten by the eventual winners St. John's High School Dundee. They also reached the Semi Finals of the league where they narrowly missed out to the a very strong Holyrood team.

Mr Harvey's S3 team continued to improve and recorded brilliant victories over Whitehill, Hillpark and Hillhead. The pupils determination, resilience and behaviour were a credit to the school.

Mr Cassidy's S4 team had another fantastic year going all the way to the League final only to lose out to Holyrood. This is the 3rd year in a row the S4's have been in the top two.



Glasgow Schools Triathlon

We also took a group of S3 learners to participate in the Glasgow schools Triathlon at Bellahouston Park in June. The pupils completed a pool swim, cycle through the park and finished with a park run. All pupils put in great effort and we look forward to the event next year.

Giant Heptathlon

The annual Giant Heptathlon took place at the Emirates arena in April. The pupils completed in seven different athletics events and had a great time competing against all other Glasgow schools.

Netball

Our S1 girls took part in the Sirens for Success programme where they were coached by the Scotland Netball Captain Claire Maxwell. The girls then took part in the Siren's tournament at Strathclyde University and won Gold and Silver medals!!!

Our extra-curricular clubs continues to grow in numbers and success. The Junior team took part in the Scottish Cup and had a great win against Calderglen High School and Fernhill! Players of the Year were Rose Kangni-Soukpe and Amy Mulholland

The Senior team competed in the League and Scottish Cup and produced excellent performances against Holyrood, Jordanhill, Fernhill, Bellahouston, Notre Dame and Calderglen. Player of the Year was Esther Olaleye and Players Player of the Year was Amy Martin.



BMX

We were extremely lucky to have a group of S1-S3 learners participate in the BMX programme at the Glasgow BMX centre. The learners were expertly coached by Scottish Cycling and some even achieved accreditation to allow them to use the track in their own time.



Outside the classroom: Extra Curricular Activities

The wide range of extra-curricular clubs across the school is impressive. The annual 'Sign-Up' event took place at the end of August with young people being given the opportunity of taking part in a huge number of extra-curricular activities across the school. As usual, our amazing PE Department is bursting at the seams with lunchtime and after school activities in football, netball, basketball, badminton, dance and even more lively activities to engage young people in the benefits of sport. Sports Leaders were on hand to ensure that everything went smoothly and they will be actively supporting clubs this session through our Pupil Leadership Programme.



Outside of the PE Department there are already clubs in the Art, Business, English and Science departments with Curricular Ambassadors leading a range of lunch and after school activities. Further information on Clubs can be found in the Pupil Zone on the school website.

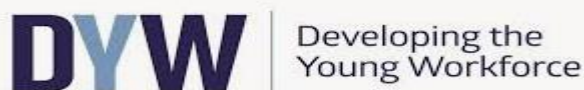
Outside the classroom: Pupil Leadership

**LEADERSHIP IS NOT A
POSITION OR A TITLE,
IT IS ACTION AND
EXAMPLE**

Our pupils are actively engaged in a wide range of Leadership roles across the school. The number of opportunities is impressive and our young people are benefitting from taking on board responsibilities to help them contribute to the wider life of the school. These include certificated leadership opportunities such as Caritas, Duke of Edinburgh, Saltire Awards and the Volunteer Tutor Organisation, to seeking out opportunities to take part in and lead clubs and events across the school.

Leadership is important in developing the skills for learning, life and work which we encourage all our young people to develop.

DYW: Developing the Young Workforce



DYW is a key national priority which place emphasis on developing skills for ensuring positive destinations after school. In the last session we appointed Mrs Emma Dick as our Principal Teacher of DYW following the retirement of Carol Muir who previously undertook the role of PT Employability.

John Paul Academy enjoys a high percentage of leavers achieving positive destinations due to the range of schemes offered to young people to ensure that they have access to the appropriate training and development programmes to make informed career choices.

Our careers advisors George and Zoe worked tirelessly throughout the term to ensure that young people had the appropriate information and access to training / work experience / training and mentoring to support them in making the best choices for their post school journey.

More to follow on DYW, Employability and Careers in the new School Newspaper later this term – see the last page of the Newsletter for details. On the next page you will find details of our new and exciting Employer Partnership.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS: NEW EMPLOYER PARTNERSHIP – FIRST BUS GLASGOW

We are absolutely delighted to announce our formal partnership with First Bus. As a school we see this as an ideal opportunity for our young people to have the opportunity to experience the excellent opportunities that First Bus can provide. We place successful transitions to the world of employment as one of our core aims and look forward with enthusiasm to working alongside First Bus in continuing to achieve this aim.

John McGhee – Head Teacher

Duncan Cameron - Operations Director at First Bus said "First Glasgow is committed to supporting the growth of employment opportunities across the city and the development and availability of potential career opportunities for young people has an important part to play in the evolution of our business.

"By teaming up with John Paul Academy through DYW Glasgow, we will be able to offer pupils at the school assistance with career choice options through a number of engagement programmes, including assembly presentations, careers fairs, information events, practical work experience and awareness sessions."

Shona MacPherson – Senior Programme Manager DYW at Glasgow Chamber of Commerce said "We are looking forward to the partnership progressing and opening up lots of opportunities for the young people from JPA".

First Bus



A group of our young people with Mr McGhee and Mr Duncan Cameron, Operations Director at First Bus and Ms Michelle Kershaw, Principal Officer Employer School Partnerships for Glasgow City Council.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS: HOME SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

One of the most important relationships in any school is the home/school partnership. We are fortunate to enjoy very positive relationships with our parents and hope that they feel welcome when they are in our school, for whatever reason. We have a fantastic team of pupil support teachers who are committed to ensuring that your child has the very best experience as a member of our school community. We are working hard to increase our family partnerships with a new programme of Family Learning Events which are detailed on Page 8, please try to come along to some.

Pupil Support in John Paul Academy

We place the wellbeing of our young people at the centre of all that we do here in school. The Pupil Support Team in John Paul Academy is organised into a House System. **You will be familiar with your child's Pupil Support Teacher, and they are your first point of contact in dealing with matters relating to your child.**

The House system is organised as follows:

Hope House – Mr Devlin (PT Pupil Support)
Howson House – Mr Cassidy (PT Pupil Support)
Kerrera House – Mrs Diver (PT Pupil Support)
Mackintosh House – Ms Beltran (PT Pupil Support)
Wallace House – Mrs MacQueen (acting PT Pupil Support)
Wellbeing Hub – Mrs Allan (PT Support for Learning)
Integration Centre – Mrs Franklin (PT IC)



PARENT COUNCIL:

A well-established relationship with our Parent Council continued to flourish last session. The Parent Council is chaired by Anne Marie Cavanagh, assisted by Tina Callan, Maureen Neill and Donna Nichol. The Parent Council meet approximately once per term with the Head Teacher to discuss matters relating to the running of the school.

The Parent Council is an important consultation forum for our school, and their input is greatly valued. We would always welcome more members to join the group. If you would like to join the Parent Council please email Mr McGhee – headteacher@johnpaulacademy.glasgow.sch.uk or contact Anne Marie on anne.marie17@btinternet.com.

The Parent Council would welcome any new members or any contact from Parents with ideas on school improvement that they can take forward with the Head Teacher.



Coming soon **Our new school newspaper** - "The JPA Journal" will be launched this term with an editorial team of senior pupils supported by Ms Wakefield from our English Department. As part of the Wider Certification programme in the English Dept, this group will collect, edit and publish a reflection of the life of the school on a termly basis – first issue due December 2019 – watch this space!



KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

September 2019

Tuesday, 3rd - UCAS Information Evening 6-7pm
Thursday, 5th – 5-Higher Information Evening
Tuesday, 10th – S4-6 Parents' Information Evening
Friday, 27th - Holiday
Monday, 30th - Holiday

October 2019

Tuesday, 1st - S1 Retreats
Thursday, 10th October – Awards Ceremony
Friday, 11th - In-service 3
Monday, 14th - Holiday Week
Thursday, 24th - P7 Open Evening 6-7.30pm

November 2019

Monday, 4th - S4 Parents Evening (4-6.30pm)
Monday, 18th - S1 Parents' Evening (4-6.30pm)
Friday, 29th - In-service 4

December 2019

Monday, 2nd - S4 Prelims Begin
Wednesday, 11th - S4 Prelims End
Thursday, 19th - End of Term (2.30pm close)

Staff Coffee Morning. On Friday 29th August a staff coffee morning was held to support the Macmillan Cancer Support fundraising event held in September across the UK – the Big Coffee Morning. A fantastic £132 was raised whilst our staff had the chance to benefit from a 10 min extended interval with some lovely home baking, coffee and good company. Thank you to all the staff for their generous contributions. We are hoping to persuade Mr McGhee to make this a regular event ☺



WE'RE ON THE WEB



Our website has been newly refreshed and is updated regularly. (See Below)

Please visit our website to find out all the latest news of life in the school.

The Pupil Bulletin announcements are updated weekly and there is a helpful Diary of key dates for the whole school year 2019-20.

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