



August-September 2021

This bulletin gives an update on activities from our first day of the new term on Wednesday 18th August 2021. A warm welcome to all our new pupils and parents.



Term started with an easing of restrictions allowing many of our extra-curricular activities to return. The sound of sport and music after-school has been most welcome, albeit that we are not quite at a full return to normal. We continue to live with COVID-19 and are grateful for your on-going compliance with the current mitigations. Face coverings in secondary and all other changes (such as staggered arrival/departure times) will continue until the next update at the October break. Restrictions on spectating at school sports events are under review and we will update our guidance once the national advice has been published.

Please do have an enjoyable September weekend.
John Anderson, Rector

AGM

We had hoped that conditions would allow for an in-person AGM and parents' conference for 2021 and had postponed this event to November. Given the on-going restrictions, the AGM will be a virtual event and will take place in the evening of Tuesday 23 November. We will have a virtual information session for Primary and Secondary parents on this evening too. Further details will be released in due course.

Donations to Educational Amenities Trust

Thank-you for your on-going monthly donations to our [Educational Amenities Trust](#). Since the beginning of term, the trust has funded several activities for our pupils in both Primary and Secondary. For example, the trust has given grants to: allow us to invite a professional chef to our school to offer pupils an experience of the hospitality industry; support our lunchtime clubs; and allow our pupils to participate in Primary and Secondary maths competitions. With the support of the Trust, we can offer these co-curricular activities free or heavily subsidised to our pupils.



Chromebooks

We are delighted to report that all secondary pupils have now received a chromebook as part of our digital strategy. We are very grateful to our IT team: Bob Todd, Marc Anderson and Darren Griffin, who spent many weeks working to ensure a smooth delivery of this project. Our secondary digital learning group, led by Jack McGinlay, are now working with pupils and staff to design training, offer support, and evaluate chromebook use so that they continue to enhance learning.

Our Primary tablet project has begun and will evaluate the use of tablet devices for pupils in the Primary department.

School holidays

September weekend: School is closed on Friday 24th and Monday 27th September 2021.

October break: We are closed to pupils on Friday 8th October (in-service day) and Monday 11th to Friday 15th October, with pupils returning to school on Monday 18th October.

We expect all local authority 2022-23 school holidays to be published in early October and will alert you to this as soon as these are confirmed. You can find the current term dates [here](#).



Staffing

We welcome the following new staff to Jordanhill School:



- Océane Raphaël (Modern Languages)
- David Dornan (Business)
- Laura Lamont (Chemistry)
- Scott Anderson (RME)
- Lorna Coyne (Art)
- Rebecca Wilson (Business)
- Beth Davidson (Primary)
- John Harvie (English)
- Courtney Pollock (Refectory)

We say farewell to Mr Iain Archibald, our trumpet instructor, who has worked with us for over 16 years. Iain has been a huge asset to the music department and has been an inspiration to many young musicians. His irreverent comedy at our concerts will be missed! We wish Iain well in his new post with West Dunbartonshire Council.

Colin, our school crossing patrol officer, has been escorting Jordanhill pupils across Chamberlain Road for the last ten years. He made many friends at the school and always had a cheery word for everyone.

We shall miss Colin very much but wish him a long and well-deserved retirement. The temporary school crossing patrol officer is Alistair, and we are delighted to welcome him to our community.



Ashley Benjamin begins her maternity leave in early October. We wish Ashley and family well. We welcome Mrs Wesun Norcott who joins us from Aberdeen and will assume responsibility for teaching P2C.

Fireworks-cancelled

It is with regret that we have to cancel the 2021 PTA Fireworks evening. The current uncertainty over COVID restrictions has made it extremely difficult for the team to plan for this event. In consultation with the school, the PTA has decided to cancel this year's fireworks display. We very much hope that we can re-introduce a community event when conditions allow.

Glasgow Doors Open Day

Jordanhill School featured as one of the filmed attractions for 2021 Doors Open Day. Our school librarian, Joanna Donaldson, worked with a group of S6 pupils and the filming team to capture Jordanhill School during the summer holidays.



Please take some time to have a look at the films which do a great job at weaving in the history of the school with the current day:

[Striving Higher – A Virtual Tour Of Jordanhill School – Glasgow Doors Open Days Festival](#)

This has been much appreciated by the wider alumni community, so our thanks go to Joanna for her superb work researching, scripting, and co-ordinating the final films. Thanks also to our pupils and the facilities teams for all their work over the summer making sure that we were able to bring this project to life.

School Library

Over the last 18 months the library has continued to welcome primary pupils in small groups, lend books to secondary pupils using a Click & Collect service and has invested in a new digital ebook platform Wheelers ePlatform which has been available to all secondary pupils since March 2021. Wheelers ePlatform will be rolled out to p6/7 pupils before the October holiday.



Our Library management System (Oliver) has also been upgraded giving pupils access to our library catalogue anywhere/anytime to browse titles, read blurbs, write reviews, reserve and renew books. A guide to accessing Oliver will be shared with pupils on MSTEams.

We were delighted to find out that our application to the **LitInColour** initiative has been successful and we will receive 100 new books to add to our library. We are very proud of our current fiction collection which reflects the diverse nature of our school and wider community. The addition of these new titles will enhance our collection with the addition of new and additional texts.

School uniform



Many parents and staff have commented on the high standards of uniform worn by our pupils in both Primary and Secondary. We continue to promote pride in our uniform as we believe it offers several benefits to our pupils, not least how simple it makes getting dressed in the morning! By maintaining our high standards of Jordanhill uniform, we can maintain our focus on learning in classes without the unnecessary distractions that can occur from 'brand competition' amongst pupils. Thank-you for your on-going support.

Primary Uniform: After the September weekend, children should wear the winter uniform. Full details of uniform requirements can be found on the [school website](#). When children have P.E. lessons or after school sports clubs, they may come to school wearing their P.E. kit.

NB: Children should ensure they have a rain jacket on a daily basis (school colours please).

Refectory

Food supplies into the UK have been very stretched recently which has resulted in some wholesale price increases and difficulties sourcing products. This means that the refectory team may have to change menus at short notice. Please bear with us if menus are a little different to those published as a result. Thank you.

Music making in Jordanhill School

The easing of in-school restrictions is allowing us to once again host indoor music practices. Although we cannot have full orchestral rehearsals indoors, we are able to conduct smaller sectional rehearsals.



Bringing our musicians together is an important part of musical development and adds much to the pupil experience.

We are grateful to our music teachers and instructors who have continued to work with our pupils throughout a very trying time with significant restrictions. From virtual to outdoor lessons, the team have come together to ensure that music making continues in Jordanhill School.

Sports

Competitive sport returned in August with our hockey, rugby and football teams playing against competitor schools on Saturday mornings both home and away. Although spectators are not allowed, spirits have been high with many new pupils joining our squads and enjoying representing our school.

Even with the current restrictions, we continue to develop and expand our Wednesday afternoon games sessions with senior pupils taking part in a variety of activities. Most recently, we introduced golf taster sessions this month courtesy of Hilton Park Golf Club.



SQA

All schools are working on the assumption that external SQA exams will go ahead as planned in May 2022. SQA have published [contingency plans](#) should COVID-19 cause significant disruption to pupils and schools.



All National Qualification courses have been altered for session 2021-22 with, for example, course content removed, assignments removed or conditions of assessment changed. Our teachers will continue to guide secondary pupils through the requirements in their subjects and will update parents through reporting and parents' evenings.

Our S4 mock exams start on the 24th of November 2021.

School captains



We are pleased to announce that the following pupils were appointed to our S6 Captaincy team:

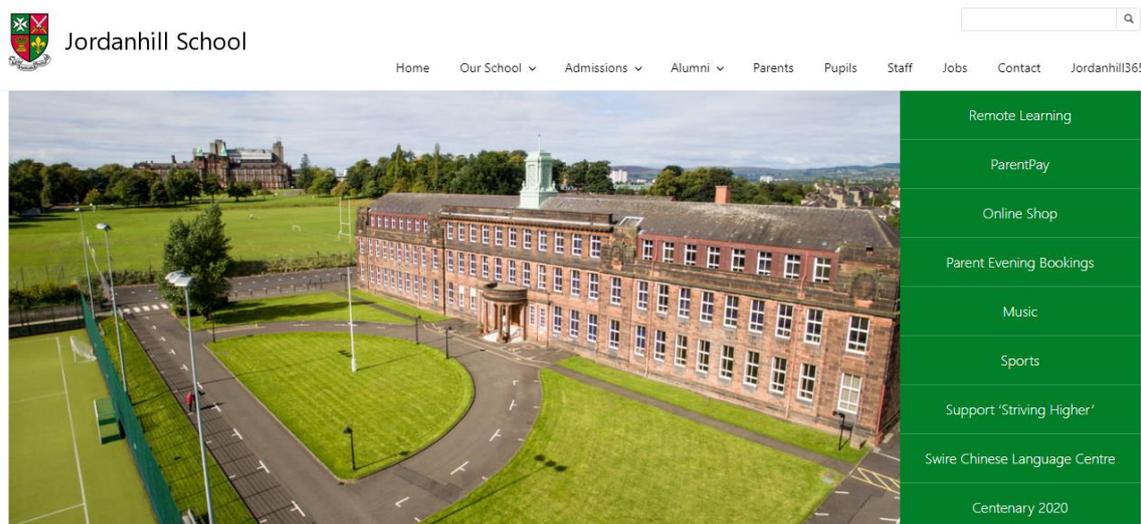
Captains: Anna Cockburn and Murray Buchanan

Senior Vice-Captains: Tony Anderson and Daniella Farrelly

Vice-Captains: Lia Lockhart, Josh Sumpter, Maisie Smith and Richard Yu.

We would like to thank all S6 pupils who put themselves forward for the captaincy team and are grateful to all staff and pupils who took part in the captaincy elections. We wish the team well for their year in office.

School communications



We continue to use email as our primary method of communicating with parents. The website contains a wealth of information and is regularly updated. We also use our Twitter feed to celebrate pupil success. Please note that the school App is not being used currently. We are revising our communication strategy and noted that the popularity of the App had decreased over the past few years. Please use the website for all up-to-date information, especially for the school calendar.

S6 Charity

The past two school sessions have been challenging for all involved. Despite the difficulties they faced, our last two S6 year groups have organised lots of Covid safe activities to support the work of their chosen charities. We were delighted to be able to present cheques in the amount of £4,258 each to [Cancer Support Scotland](#), [GAMH](#) and [Buddies](#).

Our new S6s are in the process of selecting a charity to support this session and we look forward to sharing that news with you soon.