

## Using senior pupils as JASS mentors

JASS has been running at Currie Community High School (CCHS) since the pilot in 2010 for all S1 pupils at Gold level (an average of 130 pupils).

Currie lies to the SW of Edinburgh in the commuter suburban area and is largely modern family housing built up around the original 19<sup>th</sup> century mill village. The school has a strong sports club offering and a very good Duke of Edinburgh programme that set the scene for the JASS award to be included in their wider achievement programme. The largest intake is from Currie Primary School, who run JASS at Silver level for their P7s. All the other cluster primaries are running JASS Bronze and Silver. This means that a high proportion of pupils are coming to the school already familiar with JASS and with a JASS folder, thus reducing the cost for CCHS at Gold level as only continuation packs are needed.

CCHS's JASS programme is headed up by our Deputy Head Teacher, Ben Stewart, and coordinated by the PSE/Guidance staff.

Early in the new academic term a large S1 JASS Assembly takes place and S5 and S6 pupils are there to act as JASS mentors. S1 pupils are given a JASS activity sheet to be able to sign up for activities for their JASS award programme. Mentors help the S1 pupils they are assigned to choose something from the list of after school clubs for *Get Active Stay Active* (the Active Schools coordinators will be on hand to talk about the clubs), to get involved in *Me and My World* projects that the school is able to offer and to discuss what they might do for *My Interests*. There is a full year S1 camp that will cover *Adventure*. For the handful of S1s who do not take part in this, an *Adventure* day is organised for May/June to allow them to complete this section.

## What sort of “Me and My World” offerings can the school make?

There are charity events and concerts throughout the year. The S1s take on active roles within these – for example organising a Burns Supper with music, food, readings. Designing the invitations to parents and posters for around the area, putting an article in the local press, stewarding and setting up and striking down on the night.

The school has a very active Eco programme with a strong group of eco-aware parents and some paid hours for an Environmental Officer working in the cluster. This allows them to develop the eco garden areas, to create community composting and recycling programmes and to link in with other groups, like “Friends of Muirend Park” and “The Water of Leith Heritage Centre”. There are often small grants available to support increasing biodiversity and reducing waste. The active Parent-Teacher Association members are able to source these.

These events may already be in the school calendar and can be expanded to include the 18 hours needed for *Me and My World*. This would also include researching difference charities that the S1 pupils want to give the proceeds to from ticket sales. Half of money may be kept for future JASS programme packs, and half donated to the charity.