

From: [Redacted S38(1)(b)]

Sent: 15 January 2019 15:22

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>

Cc: DG Education, Communities & Justice <DGECJ@gov.scot>; [Redacted S38(1)(b)]; Robertson

FMG (Fiona) (Director of Learning) <Fiona.Robertson@gov.scot>; [Redacted S38(1)(b)]; Hicks C

(Clare) <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Newlands Junior College

Dear [Redacted S38(1)(b)],

Please find the attachments mentioned below attached (they were missing from the previous email).

With thanks,

[Redacted S38(1)(b)]

From: Hicks C (Clare) <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>

Sent: 15 January 2019 14:51

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>

Cc: DG Education, Communities & Justice <DGECJ@gov.scot>; [Redacted S38(1)(b)]; Robertson

FMG (Fiona) (Director of Learning) <Fiona.Robertson@gov.scot>; [Redacted S38(1)(b)]

Subject: RE: Newlands Junior College

[Redacted S38(1)(b)]

Please find briefing for tomorrow's meeting attached along with attachments of the most recent correspondence. This advice reflects the latest advice from Glasgow City Council and I have spoken to [Redacted S38(1)(b)] today.

[Redacted S38(1)(b)] will provide official support.

Thanks

Clare

From: [Redacted S38(1)(b)] On Behalf Of Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

Sent: 15 January 2019 14:04

To: Hicks C (Clare) <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>

Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: Newlands Junior College

Hi Clare,

Just realised [Redacted S38(1)(b)] is not in today. Please see comment from DFM below.

Kind Regards,

[Redacted S38(1)(b)]

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From: [Redacted S38(1)(b)] On Behalf Of Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Sent: 15 January 2019 10:57
To: [Redacted S38(1)(b)]
Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Newlands Junior College

Hi [Redacted S38(1)(b)],

DFM has noted he needs to know the current state of play with Glasgow City Council and SG. He would also like official support at the meeting – tomorrow 14:30-15:00 in Parliament.

Kind Regards,
[Redacted S38(1)(b)]

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From: [Redacted S38(1)(b)]
Sent: 14 January 2019 14:41
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Newlands Junior College

Thanks, that's great

[Redacted S38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted S38(1)(b)] On Behalf Of Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Sent: 14 January 2019 14:29
To: [Redacted S38(1)(b)]
Cc: Hicks C (Clare) <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Newlands Junior College

Hi [Redacted S38(1)(b)] - please see attached letters referred to below.

Kind Regards,
[Redacted S38(1)(b)]

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From: [Redacted S38(1)(b)]
Sent: 14 January 2019 14:17
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>
Cc: Hicks C (Clare) <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Newlands Junior College

Hi [Redacted S38(1)(b)] – do you have copies of the letters referred to below (in yellow) ? We haven't seen them yet if they're coming through the MACCS system.

thanks

[Redacted S38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted S38(1)(b)] On Behalf Of Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Sent: 14 January 2019 13:47
To: [Redacted S38(1)(b)]; Hicks C (Clare) <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>
Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Newlands Junior College

[Redacted S38(1)(b)]/Clare

DFM is meeting with Jim McColl on Wednesday – he requested a meeting and wishes to discuss Newlands Junior College. I suspect this will be a private meeting (I will confirm tomorrow) but I'd be grateful if you could provide any briefing that would be useful to DFM prior to the meeting.

Kind Regards,

[Redacted S38(1)(b)]

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From: Alex Stewart <astewart@clydeblowers.co.uk>
Sent: 14 January 2019 12:38
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted S38(1)(b)]
Subject: Newlands Junior College

Dear Mr Swinney

We are aware that you are meeting with Jim McColl on Wednesday this week re the future of Newlands Junior College.

We are also aware that Weir Group and Arnold Clark have written to you separately. Please find attached a letter from a body of the remaining Trustee representatives.

Kind regards

Alex Stewart

Director

[Redacted S38(1)(b)]

Clyde Blowers Limited

[Redacted S38(1)(b)]

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14th January 2019



6 Inverlair Avenue
Glasgow G43 2HS

Mr John Swinney MSP
Deputy First Minister of Scotland and
Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

dfmcse@gov.scot

Dear Mr Swinney,

We write to you as a group of Trustees and advisors to Newlands Junior College (NJC), believing that it is still in your power to save what we believe is the most successful and innovative educational development seen in Scotland in recent years. Furthermore, it is one that addresses one of the main priorities of both the Scottish Government and local authorities; improving the life chances of disadvantaged young people.

The original intention was to test the concept of the junior college over a period of five years. Both the Scottish Government and Glasgow City Council (GCC) clearly felt that the idea had sufficient merit to justify investing significant sums of public money in it. As that initial five-year trial period draws towards its conclusion, we believe that the validity of the concept has been demonstrated beyond doubt. Furthermore, the encouragement you have offered along the way convinces us that this is clear also to you.

The young people who have completed their two years at Newlands have succeeded to an extent far beyond the expectations of their former schools. Their achievements have been recognised through national academic and vocational qualifications and a very broad range of personal development awards. Perhaps more importantly, they have gone into genuinely positive destinations and have remained in them, often with significant continuing support from NJC. Amazing results for a group of young people whose backgrounds and circumstances were mostly extremely challenging.

Despite its successes, the model might appear at first sight to be expensive. Any realistic cost/benefit analysis, however, will reveal that this is not the case. The young people all appeared destined for educational failure at the time of their enrolment in NJC. You will be well aware of the huge cost of such failure both to the individual and to society. In most cases the price would be paid over decades by local government, health boards, the criminal justice system and other public bodies.

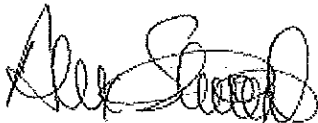
We believe the "payback" to the public purse will be apparent in less than two years and to society there will be enormous benefit over the life of the young person. Those of us in the private sector would normally never see "investment returns" like these.

The cost is the same as the cost of a 5th and 6th year education for young people from a different background. The benefits are almost beyond calculation. Morally, we can see no reason not to invest in these young people in this way.

We recognise the very significant contribution and support from the Scottish Government and GCC to the good work that has been done. Surely now is not the time to walk away from this investment? We hope that our leaders in this field, have the courage and vision now to mainstream this project for the benefit of the young people concerned, both now and in the future.

Final decisions will be forced upon us very soon. Without a commitment of public financial support, the junior college must close in the very near future. This must not be allowed to happen. These young people deserve to be given hope and we believe it will be devastating for them if NJC closes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Stewart', written in a cursive style.

Alex Stewart,
Deputy Chairman NJC

Authorised to be signed by the following:

Scott Black, Trustee

Allan Dowie, Trustee

Douglas O'Neil, Trustee

Keir Bloomer, Consultant

From: Keir Bloomer <[Redacted S38(1)(b)]>

Sent: 14 January 2019 11:46

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted S38(1)(b)]

Subject: Newlands Junior College

Dear John

For the past five years I have been an educational adviser to Newlands Junior College (NJC). It is now threatened by closure. I am aware that you will be meeting with Jim McColl on Wednesday when he will appeal to you to intervene and prevent this from happening.

Your government is, quite rightly, committed to closing the attainment gap between disadvantaged young people and their more affluent peers. The First Minister has asked to be judged on progress towards this aim.

NJC exists in order to give better life chances to young people who have disengaged from education and are at risk of lifelong failure. The great majority of NJC students over the four years of its existence have come from the most disadvantaged postcodes. None has an affluent background. Yet all who completed the course have left for positive destinations; college courses, apprenticeships and worthwhile employment. NJC's meticulous programme of maintaining contact with former students has helped some to move to other positive destinations and others to remain in their original ones. As a result all have made a strong start in adult life.

NJC students have achieved academic, vocational and personal development awards that seemed far beyond their reach when they first enrolled. Perhaps even more important, they have developed a different attitude to learning, work and, indeed, life. They have become people likely to succeed, rather than almost certain to fail.

There are many factors that have contributed to this success but one is paramount; the quality of relationships between staff and students. This could only be achieved in a small-scale intimate setting where an ethos of trust can be established. I applaud what Glasgow City Council has achieved in terms of raising standards generally but do not believe that provision in mainstream schools can achieve for disengaged young people what is possible in a setting such as NJC.

Although Glasgow is not willing to sustain a separate junior college, there are several other local authorities that would be eager to set up their own, given a modicum of Scottish Government support. You have the opportunity to take an initiative that would be both popular and effective.

Politicians from all parties have visited NJC. Setting aside members of your own party, such as the current leader of the city council, these include leading members of opposition parties such as Liz Smith, Iain Gray and Willie Rennie. All have left highly impressed by what NJC is doing, I am sure that none would oppose it being incorporated by you into the mainstream education system, whether as a nationally-run facility or through the city council. On the other hand, I am certain that they would have questions to ask if NJC were allowed to close after substantial public investment without any lessons apparently being learned for the mainstream.

Looking more widely, the issue here is about innovation in Scottish education. No objective observer now disputes the need for significant change. Yet here is an innovation lauded across the political spectrum that seems likely to die because of a lack of will to see it continued. There is a serious risk that the closure of NJC will be seen as proof that Scottish education is incapable of sustaining innovation even where results are highly positive and political opinion, across party divisions, agrees that the benefits to underprivileged young people have been clearly established.

I hope you will take the opportunity in your discussion with Jim, to give your backing to a proven success. Scottish education is dangerously short of successes.

Best wishes

Keir

Keir Bloomer

[Redacted S38(1)(b)]

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10 January 2019

Mr John Swinney MSP
Deputy First Minister &
Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Dear Mr Swinney,

I am writing to you in connection with Newlands Junior College (NJC), which the Weir Group has been proud to support since its inception nearly five years ago.

The Weir Group chose to get involved with the project as it addresses a clear need to improve the life chances of disadvantaged young people in Glasgow, which I know is a priority both you and Glasgow City Council (GCC) also share. NJC has proven to be successful in this regard and I am writing to seek your support in ensuring the concept can now be adopted and built upon as part of Scotland's education system, starting with ensuring NJC's current model is maintained as it transitions to being part of the overall mainstream system.

The original intention was to test the concept of the junior college over a period of five years. Both the Scottish Government and GCC clearly believed the concept was worth backing over this period and committed to investing in NJC over this period. This investment has been more than matched by local private sector companies, including Weir, over the same period. As the trial period draws towards its conclusion, we believe that the validity of the concept has been demonstrated beyond doubt. This has been corroborated by the views of a number of education experts who have visited NJC and several other councils, having witnessed the success of the model, are now investigating how to replicate it within their own local areas.

The young people who have completed their two years at NJC have succeeded to an extent far beyond the expectations of their former schools. Their achievements have been recognised through national academic and vocational qualifications and a very broad range of personal development awards, which I understand have been demonstrated to you in your prior meetings with Jim McColl. Perhaps more importantly, they have gone into genuinely positive destinations and have remained in them, often with significant continuing support from NJC.

Clearly this has been achieved with investment that is above the per-pupil average government expenditure on mainstream education. However, any realistic cost/benefit analysis will indicate this is not representative of the net cost to the state over the life of these young people, who were all at high risk of educational failure at the time of their enrolment in NJC.

As I am sure you will appreciate, supporting NJC is entirely consistent with your mission to improve the life chances and educational outcomes of all Scotland's children and empower local schools to make decisions that best support the children they educate.

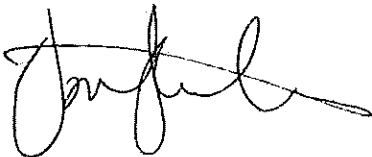
From my conversations with the trustees, I believe the payback to the public purse from the NJC is apparent in less than two years and to society there will be enormous benefit over the life of the young person. The additional cost is broadly the same as the cost of a 5th and 6th year education in a mainstream school. As such the required total investment in secondary education for these young people is equivalent to others, albeit received over a shorter period and with more intensive support.

I understand however that the future of NJC is presently at risk as Glasgow City Council and the Scottish Government are not currently supporting NJC's transition to being part of the mainstream education provision. Without a commitment of public financial support, the junior college will close in the very near future.

I hope you agree this would be a deeply regrettable result, particularly for the young people whose lives would be transformed by NJC, as part of a range of approaches to close the attainment gap in Scottish education.

If there is any further information you need or if you would like to discuss this in person, please do not hesitate to contact me or the trustees. As I hope you can tell this is something I am passionate about and I believe will bring genuine benefits to Scotland and to the many young people who will be able to thrive as a result of NJC's support in the future.

Yours sincerely,



Jon Stanton
Chief Executive Officer

From: Eddie Hawthorne [Redacted S38(1)(b)]
Sent: 11 January 2019 17:45
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
<DFMCSE@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted S38(1)(b)]; Alex Stewart <astewart@clydeblowers.co.uk>
Subject: Newlands Junior College

Dear Mr Swinney

I write to you as a Trustee of Newland Junior College and also as the CEO of Arnold Clark Automobiles Ltd, who have been a major supporter of the College and its aims since its inception almost 5 years ago.

Through Newlands Junior College, Arnold Clark Automobiles have been able to access and train over 40 young people, who through the conventional education system would never have had the opportunity to come to our Company. All of the trainees have attained a positive outcome. Twelve of these trainees, having graduated from Newlands with educational qualifications which were thought beyond them in mainstream education, are now in full time employment with our business and are making a superb contribution.

Mr Swinney the model works and as the 5-year test period draws to an end in my opinion it has proved that it addresses one of the main priorities of both the Scottish Government and the City Council; that of improving the life chances of disadvantaged, disengaged young people.

As a major employer in Scotland, Arnold Clark is fully supportive of this educational model as it is an excellent mechanism for accessing talent in our society, which would not under normal circumstances be visible.

As a Trustee I recognise the Scottish Government and the Glasgow City Council have already made significant contributions and support to this project, however now is not the time to withdraw support from this project. Without a commitment of public financial support, the Junior College must close in the very near future, the current students will be returned to mainstream education, which unless a model similar to the Newlands Junior College can be replicated. They have already demonstrated that they would not flourish in this type of mainstream environment and also the model which has been 5 years in development will evaporate.

We have a working solution, I hope you can help to sustain it.

Yours Sincerely,

Eddie Hawthorne
Chief Executive and Group Managing Director

Arnold Clark Automobiles Limited / Registered Office 454 Hillington Road, Glasgow, G52

4FH / Registered in Scotland No. 36386 / VAT Registration No. GB 334331879. The following subsidiary companies, also registered in Scotland, have the same Registered Office and VAT Registration Number as the parent company: Arnold Clark Finance Limited, Registration No. 39597 (also trading as Arnold Clark Vehicle Management, Activa Contracts and Arnold Clark Car and Van Rental) / Harry Fairbairn Limited, Registration No. 43023. GTG Training Limited, another subsidiary company registered in Scotland, also has the same Registered Office / Registration No. 290157 / VAT Registration No. GB 382946709. Arnold Clark Insurance Services Limited, another subsidiary company registered in Scotland, also has the same Registered Office / Registration No. 192797. Arnold Clark Automobiles Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FRN 308092). Arnold Clark Finance Limited / Arnold Clark Insurance Services Limited / Harry Fairbairn Limited are appointed representatives of Arnold Clark Automobiles Limited. This e-mail message is confidential and is for the intended recipient only. If you are not the intended recipient, any unauthorised copying, disclosure or other use of the message is prohibited. If you received this message in error, please contact the Arnold Clark Support Team on +44 (0)141 648 1999 and delete the message from your system. Any attachment with this message should be checked for viruses before it is opened. Arnold Clark cannot be held responsible for any failure by the recipient to test for viruses before opening any attachment. If you communicate with anyone at Arnold Clark by e-mail, you consent to us monitoring and reading any such correspondence for the purposes of training and maintaining professional standards. Any views or opinions expressed in this message are those of the author and not necessarily those of the company. www.arnoldclark.com '.

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15 January 2019

Deputy First Minister

Newlands Junior College Update

1. As DFM will recall, a high level agreement has been reached between Newlands and Glasgow City Council, that at the end of Newlands' 5 year pilot operating period in June 2019, the Council will take the concept Newlands' has developed and deliver this model itself directly (and more widely) to Glasgow pupils who have the same needs as those currently attending Newlands. Our most recent grant to the College states that it is our final contribution and requires regular reports to be made on the College's progress in planning for an orderly transition to future provision in GCC.
2. We have been keeping in touch with both GCC and Newlands on their negotiations, [Redacted S30(b)(i)]
3. [Redacted S30(b)(i)]
4. GCC are clear that their duty is to the pupils involved and that it is in the pupils' best interests for the college to stay open until an orderly closure in the summer. However, they are fully aware that there is a risk of early closure and are ready to resume responsibility for the pupils earlier if necessary. GCC are confident that they can and do provide good support for similar students and would be able to do so for the current Newlands cohort. [Redacted S30(b)(i)]
5. The Scottish Government grant to Newlands, of £363,000 for 2018-19, has mostly been paid. We are currently delaying approving the final instalment (around £62,000) due to concern that the college may not be able to fulfil its grant conditions – for example in delivering education for the full year. The college is aware of this delay and we have said we are willing to consider it sooner if the shortfall is causing them difficulties. We understand that they may require much greater sums to remain open until May/June and it is not clear how they expect to meet these costs.

Correspondence from Newlands Trustees

6. The letters from Newlands Trustees refer to the public investment in the college, which has been significant. GCC has provided £100,000 per annum for 5 years, and Scottish Government provided £500,000 as a capital contribution at the outset and £345,000 in 2017-18 and £363,000 in 2018-19. However, the project was a 5 year pilot, for the Trustees to test the model and determine whether it could be sustainable in the long term. The only long term solution on offer has been GCC's agreement to mainstream it, and it must be the duty of the Trustees, having not identified any alternative, to ensure there is an orderly completion of the project and transition to GCC. [Redacted S30(b)(i)]

7. The recent letters also reiterate Newlands' assertions that they are delivering unprecedented outcomes for their students and that this represents very good value for public investment. There is no independent evidence or assessment of this. The Scottish Government grants (in 2017-18 and 2018-19) have required Newlands to commission independent research to test this claim ("a rigorous and independent evaluation of the college to verify the outcomes it is achieving and assess whether these offer good value for money in comparison to other approaches in the Scottish Education system designed to prepare young people for work, for example Developing the Young Workforce"). [Redacted S30(b)(i)]
8. Following intervention from Scottish Government officials there has been improved communication between GCC and Newlands around the transitional arrangements for both staff and pupils. GCC are committed to taking the innovative learning from Newlands and increasing the curriculum options with the wider college network for their young people. [Redacted S30(b)(i)]

Conclusion

9. The Scottish Government has made significant financial support available to the college, but this is on the expectation that the college will have an orderly transition to future provision by Glasgow City Council, ensuring that the learning from the Newlands College is fully captured. We would encourage both parties to work together on that solution, and making every provision to safeguard the interests of the current Newlands' students. [Redacted S30(b)(i)]

Clare Hicks
15 January 2019

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Copy List:	For Action	For Comments	For Information		
			Portfolio Interest	Constit Interest	General Awareness
			x x		

DG Education, Communities, and Justice
Fiona Robertson
[REDACTED S38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted S38(1)(b)]

Sent: 18 January 2019 09:36

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>

Cc: DG Education, Communities & Justice <DGECJ@gov.scot>; Robertson FMG (Fiona) (Director of Learning) <Fiona.Robertson@gov.scot>; [Redacted S38(1)(b)]; Hicks C (Clare)

<Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Newlands Junior College

Deputy First Minister

Newlands Junior College – meeting note

You met Jim McColl on Wednesday, 16 January for an update regarding Newlands Junior College and in particular arrangements for the College's work to be taken forward by Glasgow City Council. Following a discussion, you undertook to discuss the transition process with Glasgow City Council when you meet its Director of Education next week.

I hope this is helpful,

[Redacted S38(1)(b)]