



BOROUGHMUIR HIGH SCHOOL

Parent Council - Head Teacher's Report – January 2017

Our Vision

To ensure a confident, nurturing & inclusive learning community where ALL achieve their true potential & embrace life's challenges.

A Happy New Year to all our pupils, parents and staff!

Staffing

Mrs Fiona Somerville, Pupil Support Leader of Westhall House retired at the end of term (Dec 22nd): Mrs Lucy Wallace, who has been doing a job share with Mrs Somerville took up post as full time replacement for Mrs Somerville at the start of term in January.

Thank you to Mrs Somerville for her 22 years of service to the school and I wish her a long and happy retirement.

New Boroughmuir High School

On 13th October 2016 it was announced that the delivery of the new school would be further delayed. With a projected completion date of April 2017 we have decided that we will not attempt to move until after the diet of National examinations.

In the coming months we will provide details of exactly when we will move and will provide details about new 'exceptional closure' days to allow staff to pack up here and unpack and set up in the new building.

Our activity week in the last week of June will not be affected.

The letter below was issued to all parents on 13th October.

<http://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/BoroughmuirHS-131016-002.pdf>

National Exams – Sunday Times Placing

On 27th November 2016 the Sunday Times published their annual Parent Power publication.

Boroughmuir is placed 5th equal out of over 360 state secondary school in Scotland.

The figure is based on a calculation of passes rates in the National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher National Qualification exams.

This is our highest ever placing. We were placed 6th in 2014.

We are extremely proud of this achievement and it testament to the incredible levels of hard work that our pupils and teachers put in to making the process of teaching and learning so successful.

On-Line Parents' Night Booking System

Our new on-line booking system has been very well received by parents.

At the time of writing have had our S3 and S1 parents' nights and feedback from parents has been very positive.

This system will continue to be used for all other parents' night also and we are confident that as we use the system more we can iron out some of the minor settling in issues we have had with it.

Christmas Concert

Our annual Christmas concert took place again this year in Central Hall, Tollcross on Monday 12th December. It was as always a spectacular event with over 300 performers and an audience of nearly 600!

The level of musical talent was incredible and all those who were there loved every minute.

Well done to all involved – especially Mrs Clegg, our Head of Music, who coordinated and directed the whole event.

Dream Team

On this 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, Boroughmuir's Drama department in conjunction with a range of other subject departments organised a series of learning events around the life and work of Shakespeare. Pupils from across all year groups were involved and the project culminated in a showcase evening in St Oswald's Hall on 7th December. Here, pupils from S4,5, 6 put on a production of 'A Mid-Summer Night's Dream', pupils from S2 gave a short theatrical production and other S2 pupils were able to show short films they had made. This along with static displays of models, art work, poetry and prose gave for a stimulating and impressive evening. Well done to all involved but especially Mrs Reith and Mr Graham of our drama dept. who coordinated the whole event.

Bring your parents to school day #2

On Tuesday 8th November the parents of 25 S1 pupils attended Boroughmuir High School as pupils!! This due to popular demand was our second time offering this experience, May 2016 being the last time. They had a brief meeting with the Head Teacher and DHT and then followed an S1 timetable for the day. The feedback from mums and dads was incredibly positive with the common theme being how active the learning experience was now compared with their own school experience. We were delighted to offer this insight of school life to parents and there was overwhelming support from them that we offer it again. One of the parents, Mrs Constable was so taken by her experience that she wrote a piece for the Times Educational Supplement Scotland (TESS) which was published on 2nd Dec 2016. The piece is on page 3 of the BLT (below)

BLT

The first edition of our newsletter, Boroughmuir Learning and Teaching (BLT) has been placed on our website in the News and Events section.

It is a showcase of the many great teaching and learning strategies that go on day in day out in the school which of course is our core business.

Have a look. I'm sure you'll find it an impressive document.

<http://boroughmuirhighschool.org/blt-webzine/boroughmuir-learning-and-teaching-webzine-issue-1/>

Hong Kong Scotland School Improvement Partnership (HKSSIP)

As intimated before, Boroughmuir High School is now part of a new collaboration between 6 schools in Edinburgh and East Lothian with 6 schools in the New Territories in Hong Kong.

In the period 27th November – 2nd December 3 pupils and 2 teachers from our Hong Kong partner school (TWGHs Kwok Yat Wai College) visited Edinburgh for an inaugural visit to what we hope will become a regular exchange programme. They were part of a larger delegation linking with the other Scottish schools.

Apart from visiting our schools and being involved in cultural visits the HK pupils along with their Scottish partners attended the 5th Scottish Chinese Education Network (SCEN) conference at the EICC on Friday 1st December.

Click the link below to see a picture of our 3 HK visitors Kelvin, Tommy and Harry at the SCEN conference.

<http://www.scen.info/media/7384/DSC0461.jpg>

S4 Prefects

Every year during S5/6 exam leave we invite S4 pupils to take over prefect duties during the S5/6 prelim exam diet. This involves S4 pupils helping out with corridor and atrium supervision as well as representing the school at evening events. This year we are pleased to repeat this highly successful and popular opportunity again and I am delighted that over 40 of our S4 have volunteered to take on these duties.

S5/6 Prelims

Can I wish all our S5/6 pupils who are sitting Higher and Advanced Higher prelims in the period 16th– 25th January all the very best of luck.

Prelims are an essential part of the preparation for the final exams and all pupils need to use this experience to identify their strengths and weaknesses in subject areas and to take appropriate action.

S4/5 Course Choice

Pupils in S4 and S5 will soon be making choices for their future study. Two information evenings are organised to inform parents of the process involved. They are:

S4→S5	-	Thursday 23 February 6.30 – 7.15 in the Atrium
S5→S6	-	Thursday 23 February 7.30 – 8.15 in the Atrium

Mr Cifelli (DHT S3/4) and Mrs Paterson (DHT S5/6) will facilitate these sessions. I will also be present at both sessions. I hope parents of pupils in these year groups will manage along to what is always a very informative evening.

S2 Personalisation and Choice

Our S2 pupils will soon be embarking upon the process of choosing their S3 curriculum.

This is part of their personalisation and choice and will reduce the number of subjects they study from 14 in a week to a maximum of 8. Pupils will at some point in S3 and by the start of S4 at the very latest embark upon their study of National Qualification (NQ) at levels appropriate to their ability.

NQs are completed by the end of S4.

Parents of pupils in S2 will be invited to attend an information evening on the S2 course choice process on Thursday 2nd March and will receive extensive information on the process to go along with information contained in the S2 pupil progress reports.

Family Learning

Will you join us and help keep all children safe online?

O2 and the NSPCC have joined forces on a mission to help all children and their families in the UK stay safe online. Together, they're offering useful tools, support and guidance to help parents and carers have conversations with their children about their online lives.

As part of this, they're running free online safety workshops for parents and carers. We would like to host one of these workshops at Boroughmuir but need to gauge interest.

The hour-long workshop will help parents and carers understand their child's online world and build confidence to have those important conversations that can help keep children safe online. It is likely that this workshop would take place one day after school from 3:30-4:30pm.

If you would be interested in attending a workshop, please let us know by emailing

admin@boroughmuir.edin.sch.uk with "NSPCC" as the subject.

Until then, if you need any support or guidance, check out the NSPCC website pages and step-by step guides online, call the O2 and NSPCC Online Safety Helpline on 0808 800 5002, or pop into your local O2 store for help from a Guru.

Dress Code

I appreciate your support in ensuring your children adhere to our dress code policy.

- *Formal black skirt/trousers*
- *Formal white shirt*
- *Black V neck jumper*
- *S1-4 Boroughmuir striped tie*
- *S5/ 6 Boroughmuir crested tie*
- *Formal black shoes*
- *Black Blazer*

Can I remind you that our supplier of embroidered blazers are Aitken & Niven, 6 Falcon Road West EH10 4AQ.

We also carry a stock of sew on blazer badges in the Finance Office (£3.00) if you wish to buy a plain black blazer from another outlet. Blazers are integral for all year groups.

PE kit: We are requesting that PE kit be a 'Boroughmuir Green' crested t-shirt and Navy tracksuit bottoms/shirt/skirt.

Allergy Alert

Can I remind you that we have a number of pupils in the school with severe nut allergies. Although we understand it is virtually impossible to create a completely nut free school we would appreciate you doing all you can to ensure that products containing nuts are not brought into school.

IGNITE @ Boroughmuir #2

Ignite is an event in which people give a talk about something they are passionate about. It is special in that you use only 20 slides and have only 5 minutes to present on the topic. On the 14th December we held our 2nd Ignite event in St. Oswald's. 5 pupils and one member of our parent council presented a range of topics from Aeroplanes to Vegetarianism. As always the standard was incredibly high.

A special thanks to teachers Mrs Deighton, Mrs Bloomer and Ms Robb along parent council members and in particular the chair of the parent council Jacqueline Whymark, who organised a series of workshops in advance to help develop the pupils public speaking confidence.

FP Association (BPFA)

Joining the Boroughmuir Former Pupils Association is easy!
For more information and instructions on how to join go to their website at <http://www.boroughmuirhighschoolfpa.co.uk/>
They are great supporters of the school and are always looking for new members.

Parent Council /PTA

Can I take this opportunity to thank the members of the Parent Council and Parent Teacher Association for the huge amount of work they do in supporting the school. Both organisations are extremely active in the life of the school and are always keen to hear from new parent helpers.
The school calendar gives dates of both PTA and Parent Council meetings.
The Parent Council website (www.Boroughmuir.org) is a rich source of information about the work of the Parent Council.

Pupil Achievements

As always, can I ask that you keep a regular eye on our website which is where we display the huge range of pupil achievements that we are made aware of. Our pupils achieve great things in representing the school and in many cases their region and their country.

Recent Events

Monday 7 – Tuesday 15 November	S4 Prelim Exams
Wednesday 16 November	S3 Parent's Evening
Thursday 8 December	S1 Christmas Party
Monday 12 December	Christmas Concert, Central Halls, 7pm (more to follow)
Tuesday 13 December	S1 Panto Visit
Thursday 22 December	S4 Christmas Karaoke
	S5/S6 Christmas Cinema

Future Events

Monday 16 – Wednesday 25 January	S5/6 Prelims
Friday 20 – Friday 27 January	S2 Ski Trip
Thursday 2 February	S5/6 (H/L) Parent's Evening, various, 4.30 - 7.00pm
Tuesday 7 February	S5/6 (V/W) Parent's Evening, various, 4.30 - 7.00pm
Monday 13 – Monday 20 February	February Break
Monday 13 March	S2 Parent's Evening, various, 4.30 – 7.00pm
Thursday 23 February	S4 Course Choice Evening, Atrium, 6.30 - 7.15pm
Thursday 23 February	S5 Course Choice Evening, Atrium, 7.30 - 8.15pm

Thursday 2 March

S2 Course Choice Evening, Atrium, 7.00 - 8.00pm

Future Parent Council Meetings

Wednesday 25 January

Wednesday 22 March

Wednesday 26 April

Wednesday 14 June

David C. Dempster

Head Teacher

January 2017