



BOROUGHMUIR HIGH SCHOOL

Parent Council - Head Teacher's End of Session Report – June 2017

Our Vision

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

Dear Parent/Carer

Another school year comes to an end! And another one, session 2017/18 starts on Wednesday 16 August 2017 for all our pupils. Of course in between then and now we have our well-deserved summer break and I hope you and your family have a refreshing and relaxing summer break.

At this time of the year we provide a number of pieces of information that we know parents find useful. All of the information listed below is included on our school website (from 4 August) in the letters to parents' section under the heading Summer Mailing 2017.

1. Parent Council - Head Teacher's End of Session Report – June 2017
2. Reporting/Consultation Calendar for 2017/18
3. Holiday Dates
4. Staffing Review Session 2016/17
5. Whole School Staff list for session 2017/18
6. Dress Code/School Day
7. Pupil Achievement pro-forma
8. Carrying weapons to school letter
9. Applying for free school meals/clothing grants

The document below will be sent home by pupil post first week back with a return date of Friday 25 August 2017.

10. City of Edinburgh Council Pupil Data Form

The School Calendar, which runs into many pages, is on our website in the calendars section. It is updated with new events and changes regularly. Paper copies are available on request.

Our website is regularly updated and contains much more detailed information on the life of the school. Please do access it at www.boroughmuirhighschool.org

If there are any issues that you cannot find the answers to then please contact the school office on 0131 229 9703 and we will be delighted to help.

Yours sincerely

David C Dempster
Head Teacher

Throughout last session I produced Head Teacher reports at regular intervals for presentation at our Parent Council meetings. These reports have been posted on our website and provide regular updates on a range of issues in the life of the school.

This note will provide brief new recent information as well as simply drawing on previously published reports to give a brief overview of the main issues of the year.

Can I thank all our parent body for your continued support of this great school and I know you will continue to work with me in making it even better.

Staffing

There are several members of staff retiring or leaving at the end of this session:

Mrs Eva Georgeson – Curricular Leader for Modern Studies and Social Subjects – retiring after 11 years service to the school.

Mrs Joyce Scott – Admin assistant – retiring after 30 years service in school office.

Mrs Aga McGlashan – teacher of Home Economics – leaving to take up a new post at South Queensferry

Steve McLeister - teacher of Geography – leaving to take up Teaching Fellow Secondment (1yr) at Moray House.

Can I thank all our leavers and retirees for all their years of service to the school and in particular to our retirees Eva and Joyce, whom I wish a long and happy retirement.

As always there are a number of other permanent and temporary teaching and non-teaching staff who have left throughout the year, as well as new arrivals. Within the summer mailing is a report on staffing changes in the school as well as a full staff list for session 16/17.

I am pleased to inform you that the school is fully staffed in all departments and that the staffing complement for our school of 1179 pupils is 82.5 Full Time Equivalent teachers.

New Boroughmuir High School

The new school is due to receive all our pupils at the start of term in January 2018.

As in all such moves to a new school the Scottish Government approve Exceptional School Closure days to assist with the move process.

As such we will apply for additional school closures days once we have a finalised date. This will be intimated to you at the earliest possible time.

Parent Pay

As you are probably aware, we along with all other schools in Edinburgh are now using an on-line payment system called Parent Pay for all payments to the school. This includes school trips, payments for use of consumables in class i.e Home Economics and Design and Engineering etc.

There is a small transaction fee for the use of the service although this does not apply in payment for school meals.

Group Call

Group call is the new on-line system for emailing letters and attachments to parents. It is designed to allow fast and efficient communication with parents as well as saving us vast expense on postage and office staff time. There will be occasions where good old fashioned pupil post will still have to be used (reports, photographs etc) so don't lose your skills in raking through the school bag quite yet!

It is vital that we have up to date email and text details for you so please complete this year's data capture form with all that vital information that will allow us to connect with you.

National Exams

Pupils in S4, 5 and 6 have now completed their diet of national examinations on Friday 2nd June.

The new academic timetable started on Tuesday 6th June with 3 weeks of timetabled classes before the final week of term which is Activity week for S2-4 pupils and work experience for S5 & 6 pupils. It is always a long wait for the results in August - but I'm sure it will be worth it.

Exam results are issued from the SQA on Tuesday 8th August.
I hope our senior pupils especially enjoy the summer break. They deserve it!

S5/6 Induction

Our senior pupils returned to school on Monday 5th June for a day of induction. The induction programme is an essential part of our senior pupils transition to their next year and covers such areas as sexual health, personal responsibilities, risk taking behaviours and study skills amongst other areas related to being successful and responsible.
Class teaching started proper for all on the first day of the new timetable - Tuesday 6th June.

P7 3 Day Visit

A reminder that the P7, shortly to become our new S1, have their 3 day transition experience 20–22 June. On Tuesday 20th June pupils meet at Meggetland at 9am for a sports transition event. On Wednesday 20th June and Thursday 21st June pupils report to Boroughmuir High School at 9am and 8.32am respectively.
A letter with full details is issued to the new S1 in advance of the visit.
I look forward to meeting all the new S1 during the 3 day visit and of course mums and dads at the Parents' evening on Wednesday 21st June at 7pm in the atrium.

Parent Information Evenings

As always we will have a series of parent information evenings at the start of the new term for parents of pupils in S3, S4, S5 and S6 who are embarking on National Qualification courses. At these meetings we will outline details of the course structures and the demands for each year group.
We also have a settling in /welcome evening for the parents of S1 in September.
The S2 evening is at course choice time in March.
The dates for these meetings are in our school calendar and in the enclosed 'Home / School Communications Calendar'.

Bring your parents to school day

On Monday 29th May the parents of 10 S1 pupils attended Boroughmuir High School as pupils!! They had a brief assembly with the Head Teacher and then followed an S1 timetable for the day. The feedback from mums and dads was incredibly positive with the common theme of how active the learning experience now was compared with their own school experience.
This was the 3rd time we've made this offer to parents and carers and with its popularity I know we'll be offering it again in the future.

Hong Kong Scotland School Improvement Partnership (HKSSIP)

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.

The Hong Kong Scotland School Improvement Partnership (HKSSIP) has been set up by ex- HM Chief inspector of Schools Archie McGlynn and Dr Judith McClure CBE, Chair of the Scotland China Education Network (SCEN)

In the period 24 – 30th April 2016 the Principals along with a staff member of the 6 schools from Hong Kong visited Edinburgh to set up this new partnership with Boroughmuir, Gillespie's, the Royal High School, Edinburgh Academy, George Watson's and Lorretto RC Primary School.

This was then followed up in November with a small delegation of pupils from Hong Kong visiting Edinburgh and staying with host families of pupils in our schools.

This May I was lucky enough to be part of a staff delegation from the Edinburgh schools to visit our partner schools in Hong Kong and see examples their pedagogy and school governance first hand.

It is planned that our first group of pupils from Edinburgh will visit Hong Kong and their partner schools and pupils later this year. They, like me, will see schools that are highly impressive and will meet pupils that are delightful and so proud of their school. Similar in many ways to what we have here in Boroughmuir – but in a very different culture. A fabulous learning experience for pupils in both countries.

Mandarin

Boroughmuir has teamed up with George Watson's College and James Gillespie's High School to establish a Centre for Chinese Language Teaching. The initiative is funded by the Swire Trust as part of the Swire Chinese Language Programme which is being established in certain parts of the UK to mark the 200th anniversary of Swire Group. The programme is guaranteed to run for a minimum of 5 years with the likelihood of an extension to 10 years.

In this first year a small number of S3 pupils embarked on the first year of a 2 year National 5/4 study of Mandarin. Over 70 pupils in S5 and S6 took up the offer of taster courses during activity periods. We were also this year able to give all P5s in Bruntsfield primary school a weekly session in Mandarin.

In year 2 we plan to roll this out to the other feeder primaries. We are also offering Mandarin as an alternative to French or German in S1 and so far this seems to be a popular option.

As part of our trip to Hong Kong we then spent a further 3 days in Shanghai to develop further links with Shanghai schools to support our Mandarin programme in terms of pupil exchanges as well as the sharing and understanding of cultural and educational differences – and similarities.

I am absolutely delighted at this new collaboration and believe that it will bring exciting new contexts and new connections in learning between Boroughmuir, our 2 partner schools in Edinburgh and our new partner schools in Shanghai and Hong Kong. Exciting times!

S3 Profiles

All S3 pupils have been involved in creating a profile of skills and achievements gained over the S1-3 phase of their secondary education. This covers all 8 curricular areas as well future plans and aspirations.

The S3 profile is a major element and milestone for pupils in the Curriculum for Excellence programme and the process of reflection and planning is a major feature in their own learning review.

S3 pupils are now engaging in Learner Reviews with their Support for Pupil teacher to ensure that their course of study for S4 is appropriate for them.

Pupil profiles are being sent home in early June.

S3 end of year progress reports will also be coming home by Friday 9th June.

Annual Awards Ceremony

Our annual Awards Ceremony took place in St Oswald's Hall on Thursday 8th June.

My congratulations to all our award winners.

Mr Paul Matthews, grandson of Molly T Hope - a former pupil Dux of Boroughmuir, was our guest of honour.

As always it was a great celebration of the excellence that our pupils attain.

This of course complemented our other Awards Ceremony - The Sports Personality of the Year Awards.

See below.

Sports Personality of the Year Award

On March 29th we had our first ever BSpoty – Boroughmuir Sports Personality of the Year Award, which was a real celebration of all the sporting achievements of our pupils and coaches.

Many of our staff, parent, pupil and adult volunteer coaches were in attendance as well as literally hundreds of pupils who take part in sport for the school and in many cases their region and country!! It was a great celebration and a great opportunity to meet everyone and thank them for being a participant or a coach!

We are always delighted to receive offers of assistance with any of our teams and clubs.

Contact the school office who will put you in touch with our Active School's coordinator if you can help.

S6 Prom

Our annual S6 leavers' prom took place once again at the Balmoral Hotel, Princes Street on Friday 9th June.

It, as always, was a fabulous evening. This year over 200 pupils and staff in formal dress were piped into dinner by the Boroughmuir pipe band.

After a sumptuous dinner and some speeches a ceilidh band played through until midnight!

Whole School Sports Day

This year for the 2nd time we are holding a whole school sports day. It is on Friday 16th June at Meggetland. Pupils make their way directly to Meggetland for 8.32 and will be dismissed from there at 12.50.

It's an ambitious plan to have over one thousand pupils involved in such an event but we are sure this year will be as great as last year and it secures its place as an annual feature on our school calendar.

Activity Week 26 – 30 June 2017

Again this year's Activity Week is only for pupils in S2 to S4. The new S5 and S6 will carry out a week of Work experience. These pupils have been advised, where possible to arrange a placement related to their future area of work/study. The activity week is regarded as a proper school week with a focus on building ethos and friendships across the school. We expect all S2-4 pupils to participate in what we think is a hugely worthwhile week.

City of Edinburgh evaluation of Boroughmuir's parents and carers - 2015

Each year the City carry out a parent/carer evaluation of all schools. Approximately 25% of parents /carers are invited to take part. 61 parents/carers made returns this year. The results for Boroughmuir High School are given in the April 2016 Head teacher's newsletter which is located in the News & Events section of the school website. <http://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/PC-Report-April-16.pdf>

Attainment and Achievement

The attainment of our pupils is something we are extremely proud of.

Boroughmuir's attainment in National Qualifications in the previous session (2015/16) was exceptionally good and stood up very well in comparison with other similar Edinburgh state schools and similar state schools across Scotland. (HTs Newsletters September and November 2016)

Last November The Sunday Times placed Boroughmuir as 5th equal highest attaining school in Scotland out of 376 state high schools. This is based on an aggregate of results at National 5 , Higher and Advanced Higher We are hopeful that the results for session 16/17 will be excellent also.

I will report briefly on this year's results in my first newsletter in September and then give a fuller report in October/November.

As a school it is vital that we do continue to provide all our junior pupils with a dynamic and motivating broad general education in preparation for an aspirational senior phase where we provide as wide a range of subjects as possible in providing our pupils with the opportunity to attain the National Qualifications that they desire for their chosen path for life beyond school.

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.

They carry a stock of blazers and will of course order on demand for sizes they don't have.

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

Senior School ties will be available for our new S5/6 to purchase during their induction days in June. Cost is £5.00. We do ask that these pupils donate their junior tie back to the school for our stock of 'loan' ties.

Junior ties are available to purchase at the P7 parents evening on 18 June for £3. After this they are available for purchase from the Finance Office at any time.

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

The current supplier of this T-shirt is Aitken and Niven who supply in a cotton material and Football Nation in a clima cool material. A sportier Canterbury version is available from PSL sports as are sports versions of our school hoodie. The standard hoodie is available from Football Nation.

Hoodies are not to replace blazers, rather complement them. They must be removed in class.

Please check our website for full information on Dress Code and suppliers.

IGNITE @ Boroughmuir

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.

In with the Bricks

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.

End of Term

Term ends for all at 12.00 on Friday 30th June.

All pupils return, including our new S1, on Wednesday 16th August at 8.32am.

(Monday 14th and Tuesday 15th August are in-service days for staff only)

A relaxing and refreshing summer holiday to all !!

Recent Events

Friday 28th April -

Friday 2 June (inclusive)

Friday 28th April

Tuesday 2nd May – Friday 2 June

Monday 1st May

Monday 4th – Tue 12th May

Thursday 4th May

Monday 22nd May

Monday 29th May

Monday 5th June

Tuesday 6th June

Wednesday 7th June

Thursday 8th June

Friday 9th June

Exam Leave for S4-6 pupils (S5 at 12.50, S6 after breakfast)

S6 Breakfast

SQA Exam Diet

May Day Holiday (All Staff & Pupils)

Munich Trip

In-Service Day

Victoria Day Holiday (All Staff & Pupils)

Bring your Parents to School Day

New S5-6 Induction Day

New Timetable starts (Whole School)

New Head Team Interviews

Awards Ceremony (St Oswalds, 7.00pm)

S6 Prom

Future Events

Friday 16th June

Whole School Sports Day, Meggetland 8.32am – 12.50pm

Tuesday 20th June – Thursday 22nd June
Wednesday 21st June
Monday 26th June – Friday 30th June
Monday 27th June – Friday 30th June
Wednesday 17th August

3 Day P7 Transition Visit
P7 Parent's Information Evening, 7.00pm in the Atrium
Activity Week for S1-3
Work Experience for S4-6
Start of Pupil term

David C. Dempster
Head Teacher

June 2017