



## BOROUGHMUIR HIGH SCHOOL

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# Parent Council - Head Teacher's Report – January 2018

### 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**

Mr Ian Drennan, Senior science Technician is retiring on 19<sup>th</sup> January after 40 years at the school.

Mr Steven Foster, Science Technician is retiring on 16<sup>th</sup> February after 41 years at the school.

I thank them sincerely for all their hard work over these years and wish them well for a long and happy retirement.

Mr Mark Lauchlin started as our new Senior Science Technician on 8<sup>th</sup> January.

Ms Karthika Paranthemam starts as our new science technician mid-February.

Mr Sean Willis, our ICT Technician has been promoted to the role of Senior Audio Visual Technician for the City's Education Dept. He left us at the end of December. Sean was with us for 4 years. We wish Sean all the best in his new role, which will include the commissioning on the new AV equipment for the new Boroughmuir High School.

Mr Tim Simson his replacement, starts mid-February.

### **New Boroughmuir High School**

We are delighted to have taken possession of the new school on January 16<sup>th</sup> 2018.

Throughout the month of January we will be providing familiarisation visits for staff and pupils and will also be hosting some classes for pupils in the new school.

A reminder that our exceptional closure days are Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>, Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February and Mon 19<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February.

School commences for all on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018.

We will be communicating with pupils and parents weekly throughout the month of January via email on our familiarisation visits and other arrangements for moving to the new school.

### **Surplus Equipment for Burkino Faso**

Boroughmuir High School Campaign: 'Reuse Recycle - Help Burkina Faso'

Our new building will have new equipment installed and rather than send our current equipment to land fill we would rather send it to schools less fortunate than ourselves where it could be best used. As a school we have linked with a group of schools in Burkina Faso, West Africa, through the charity 'Transform Burkina' which Mrs Walker, one of our Maths teachers, is involved with. We are going to send a container with school equipment not being taken to the new school to Burkina Faso in February, as well as other vital Educational and medical equipment. But we need your help! It costs money to send a container, so please consider donating towards this project. Thank you in advance for your support.

A 'go fund me' campaign has been set up to allow you to donate online, by using this link :

<https://funds.gofundme.com/dashboard/reuse-recycle-help-burkina-faso>

We would of course be delighted to acknowledge support from local businesses on our web page and in any future publicity. Any questions please contact [alice.clegg@boroughmuir.edin.sch.uk](mailto:alice.clegg@boroughmuir.edin.sch.uk) or [Liz.dighton@boroughmuir.edin.sch.uk](mailto:Liz.dighton@boroughmuir.edin.sch.uk).

### **BLT – Boroughmuir Learning and Teaching**

The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> editions 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 and events that go on day in day out in the school.

Have a look. I'm sure you'll find them impressive documents.

<http://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/BLT-4.pdf>

<http://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/BLT-5-Dec-2017-.pdf>

### **National Exams – Sunday Times Placing**

On 26<sup>th</sup> November 2017 the Sunday Times published their annual Parent Power publication.

Boroughmuir is placed 7<sup>th</sup> equal out of over 360 state secondary school in Scotland.

The figure is based 2016 results and is a calculation of passes rates in the National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher National Qualification exams.

Boroughmuir was placed 5<sup>th</sup> in 2016 and now 7<sup>th</sup> in 2017.

We are extremely proud of our achievement over the years 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.

### **Former Pupil – Nobel Prize Winner 2017**

Dr Richard Henderson, a former pupil of Boroughmuir High School, who left in 1962, is a joint recipient of this year's Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

He is one of 3 scientists who have shared this year's award for their work on Cryo-Electron Microscopy.

It is a fabulous personal achievement for Dr Henderson and one that we as his former school are also incredibly proud of.

Mr Dempster, Head Teacher, has written on behalf of the whole Boroughmuir High School community to offer our warmest congratulations.

We are delighted to have Dr Henderson as our guest of honour at this year's award ceremony on the 7<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

### **Christmas Concert**

Our annual Christmas concert took place again this year in Central Hall, Tollcross on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December. It was as always a spectacular event with over 300 performers from Boroughmuir and for the first time over 100 primary pupils from our 3 feeder primaries. The audience topped 700!

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.

### **The Laramie Roject**

Our annual Show this year was the Laramie Project, a true story of the disturbing events around the murder of a gay student in Wyoming in 1998. It was a demanding piece to attempt but the performances from the 30 S4,5&6 pupils in the cast were outstanding.

Well done to all involved but especially Mrs Reith and Mr Graham of our drama dept. who directed and coordinated the whole event.

### **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 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 26 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 11th– 24<sup>th</sup> 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 22 February 6.30 – 7.15 in the Assembly Hall (new school)
- S5→S6 - Thursday 22 February 7.30 – 8.15 in the Assembly Hall (new school)

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.

It's also a great chance for parents to see the new school for the first time. Some short tours will be available. Details to follow.

### **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 1<sup>st</sup> March and will receive extensive information on the process to go along with information contained in the S2 pupil progress reports.

### **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.

### **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](http://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 and Twitter feed 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**

Wednesday 30 August	S3 Course Information Evening, Atrium, 18.30-19.15
Wednesday 30 August	S4 Course Information Evening, Atrium, 19.30-20.15
Thursday 31 August	S5 Course Information Evening, Atrium, 19.00-19.45
Monday 4 September	S6 Post School Planning Evening, Atrium, 19.00-20.00
Tuesday 5 September	S6 Higher Education Convention, Ingliston
Friday 8 September	S1 Fresher's Fair
Friday 8 September	Advanced Higher English, Writer's Conference
Saturday 9 September	Car Boot Sale, BHS Car Park, 14.00-16.00
Tuesday 12 September	S1 Royal Navy STEM Roadshow
Monday 18 September	September Holiday
Thursday 21 September	S1 Welcome Evening, Atrium, 19.00-20.00
Thursday 21 September –	S6 Hong Kong Pupil Trip
Saturday 30 September	
Monday 25 September	European Day of Languages, Various events
Monday 25 September	S2 No Knives, Better Lives Play
Tuesday 26 September	Parent Council – ENGAGE Career event for pupils and parents, Braid Hills Hotel 6.30pm
Wednesday 27 September –	S2 Inter Disciplinary Learning Visits
Thursday 28 September	
Wednesday 4 October – Friday 6 October	S5/6 Madrid Trip
Wednesday 11 October	S6 Young Driver's Event, Corn Exchange
Friday 13 October	S1 Sponsored Walk
Monday 16 October – Monday 23 October	October Break, In-Service for Staff
Tuesday 24 October	Pupils resume
Friday 27 October	P7 Open Afternoon, Atrium, 13.30
Monday 4 November –	S4 Prelims
Tuesday 14 November	
Thursday 9 November	S4-6 Skills Scotland, Ingliston
Wednesday 15 November	S3 Parents Evening
Thursday 30 November	S1 Parents Evening
Thursday 7 December	S1 Christmas Party
Monday 11 December	Christmas Concert, Central Halls, 19.00

Tuesday 12 December	S1 Trip to Pantomime
Monday 25 December – Monday 8 January	Christmas Break, In-service for Staff
Tuesday 9 January	Pupils resume
Thursday 11 January – Wednesday 24 January	S5/6 Prelims

## Future Events

Tuesday 16 January	Parent Council Meeting
Wednesday 17 January	S4 Parents' Eve 16:30 – 19:00
Friday 26 January	S2 Holocaust Talk/Question Time with Mr Rudi Oppenheimer
Thursday 1 February	S5/6 Parents' Eve (Hartington/Leamington) 16:30 – 19:00
Tuesday 6 February	S5/6 Parents' Eve (Viewforth/Westhall) 16:30 – 19:00
Wednesday 7 February	S4/5 Work Experience - deadline for paperwork to Guidance
Wednesday 7 February	Top of the Pops, whole school 19:30-21:00
Thursday 8 February	Exceptional closure
Friday 9 February	Exceptional closure
February 12 – 16	February break
Monday 19 February	Exceptional closure
Tuesday 20 February	Exceptional closure
Wednesday 21 February	Pupils Resume
Thursday 22 February	S4 Course Choice 18:30 – 19:15
Thursday 22 February	S5 Course Choice 19:30 – 20:15
Friday 23 February	S2 Tracking/Progress Report
Friday 23 February	S4 Tracking Report
Tuesday 27 February	ENGAGE, 6.30pm, 'Alternatives'
Thursday 1 March	S2 Course Choice Info Eve 19:00 – 20:00
Friday 2 March	S5/6 Tracking Report
Monday 5 February	Baccalaureate presentation 3:30-5pm
Wednesday 7 March	Career Ready Pupils - Masterclass 6 – JGHS 13:30 – 15:30
12-16 March	Health & Wellbeing Week
Monday 12 March	S2 Parents' Eve 16:30 – 19:00
Wednesday 14 March	Parent Council meeting 6:30 – 8:00 pm

**David C. Dempster**  
**Head Teacher**

**January 2018**