



## BOROUGHMUIR HIGH SCHOOL

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

### Our Vision

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

### New School

As you are aware, we closed the doors on our Viewforth building for the last time on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

The doors to our new building however were opened to pupils on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February and we are now fully functional in our state of the art new school.

Our pupils are thrilled at the new learning environment as well as the new social and eating spaces that are provided.

It is clear that these new environments will provide great benefits to our pupils.

Here is a few of the ways in which we think the new building will enhance our school experience

#### *Subject Departments:-*

In terms of learning environments, we now have bright, spacious, well-ventilated classrooms. Many areas of the school have 'breakout' spaces in corridors so that out with class time pupils can work in the vicinity of their classroom and teacher or perhaps work outside the room under the direction and supervision of the teacher if additional space for group work is required. The teaching spaces and adjacent spaces will provide an additional level of flexibility and creativity in how teachers and pupils use traditional classroom space.

#### *IT:-*

Every classroom has integral IT provision in the form of 80" interactive plasma screens.

There are 6 computer suites in the school that are available for booking by other departments when not being used by the computing department or other classes that are timetabled into them.

On each floor there is a set of 25 laptop computers available for teachers to book to provide an IT resource in any classroom that requires it.

#### *Interdisciplinary Learning:-*

Many departments are in adjacencies that will make for far greater interdisciplinary links and hence interdisciplinary learning.

i.e science and maths, Art and Design with Design & Engineering, for example

#### *Outdoor Learning:-*

Being on the edge of the Union canal makes for great outdoor learning opportunities in terms of wildlife study (an Otter was spotted on day 2!) as well as urban geography and many other fields of study.

#### *Study Support:-*

The new school affords pupils lots of spaces in which to study in free periods or at break and lunchtime in well designed and innovative surroundings. We are already seeing pupils arriving early and staying late and using these facilities to support their personal study.

*Pupil Health and Well Being is supported in many ways. Some are listed below:-*

*Physical Education:-* our enhanced PE facilities are allowing us to offer core PE to all pupils S1-6.

The state of the art PE facilities and changing rooms make for a far more attractive experience for pupils

*Catering:-* Our new canteen, coffee bar and 'Grab and Go' facility provides a huge range of healthy and well priced options that we are already seeing pupils finding an attractive alternative to local food outlets. Takings have been at a record level in the first few days! There's been a queue to get seats in the atrium – a first indeed!

*Outdoor space & social space:-* Our new atrium is a space that pupils want to be in. It is the heart of the school and connects them to the catering facilities, study areas, our outdoor terrace as well as linking to our main spacious playground on the west of the building and to the canal side on the south of the building. The variation of spaces is highly attractive to our pupils and adds a new dimension to social times.

Overall, despite the usual teething problems with any such move, we are all really enjoying our new school. It feels comfortable and it feels right.

As time progresses I'm sure we'll find ourselves using the building and spaces in ways we've not yet thought of. Exciting times indeed.

## **Staffing**

Johanna McCarthy- teacher of Home Economics left us on February 9<sup>th</sup> to relocate to Ireland.  
Joanne Davidson – has been appointed as Johanna's replacement and will start in March.

## **Exam Leave**

Exam Leave starts this year for all our senior pupils on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April** at 12.50.  
S4 and S5 have a normal Friday that day and will be dismissed at 12.50pm as usual.

Our S6 who are effectively leaving school on this day will be in school for 8.32 as normal and will attend P1 classes as normal.

P2 will provide opportunities for the traditional shirt signing and this will be followed by a leavers' breakfast from 10.30 – 12.00. After that our S6 are dismissed.

We ask that all our S6 pupils attend school on time on the last day and have not been involved in any 'last day parties' prior to attending school. It is important that this special occasion is not blighted by anti-social and inappropriate behaviour.

We wish all our senior pupils well in their National exams.

They are of course welcome to pop in at any time during exam leave for a bit of extra help if needed.

The SQA national exam diet commences with the first examination on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April.

For S4 pupils who are being presented for national examinations at National 1-4 level, no formal study leave is granted.

The S4 pupils who will be in school will be completing National 3/4 internal assessments if necessary and will then be following an S5 introductory timetable in preparation for S5. Also, some pupils will be preparing for leaving school by engaging in a range of experiences provided by ourselves working in partnership with work experience partners and other partner agencies

Pupils who are being presented for one or two National 5 qualifications will be granted 2 days exam leave in advance of each examination.

Pupils who are sitting three or more National 5 qualifications which have an external exam element will be granted full exam leave. S5 and S6 pupils all have full exam leave.

We look forward to seeing our new S5 and S6 back on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June for their 1 day induction programme. Our new timetable for all returning pupils starts on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June.

Our new S1 start on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> August along with all other pupils after the summer break.

We of course look forward to seeing the new S1 during their 3 day visit 19-21 June.

## **After school study sessions**

In a bid to provide additional support to pupils in preparation for exams many subjects provide voluntary after school study sessions. The classes running are listed in the link below.

There are unavoidable clashes between subjects and pupils themselves must prioritise and plan the classes they wish to attend.

Teachers provide these after school sessions on a voluntary basis and as such pupils should check in advance with their teacher if the class is running that week.

Pupils should be aware that they can approach any of their teachers at any time for additional help in that subject.

This information is also available on the school website.

## **S3 Assessments**

As in previous years, subjects are organising S3 assessments during the Month of May. These assessments are really designed to give pupils and parents an idea of progress and possible future levels of study. Final levels of presentation for National Qualifications are determined much later in S4 and tend to use the S4 prelim marks. A letter will be sent home to the parents of all S3 pupils explaining S3 assessments, the S3 profile and S3 reports. This will also be on our website in the letters to parents' section.

## **Cluster Transition Activities – March/April/May**

A number of Cluster Transition activities have been taking place throughout the year. More recently in March our Support for Learning staff attended Primary 7 Parents' Meetings and Child Planning Meetings.

In April, an extended Additional Support for Learning meeting will take place at Boroughmuir to discuss Primary 7 pupils with additional needs. A Transition Programme, led by the DHT S1/2 and S1 pupils will run weekly in May to support nominated Primary 7 pupils. This was further developed last year to include lunchtime clubs and activities.

The DHT S1/2 will also visit all Primary 7 classes (with Support for Learning staff, Support for Pupils staff and Boroughmuir S6 and S1 pupils) to give presentations to pupils about 'Life at Boroughmuir' – these visits take place in late April.

In May, a number of curricular activities to support transition will take place including a Maths P6 Challenge. All our Primary 7 pupils will also come together in May for a Modern Languages event, an Art Project "The Face of Boroughmuir" and enjoy some sporting opportunities together. In June we welcome our P7s for their 3 day visit (19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> June) and all P7 parents for our information evening on Wednesday June 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **JET**

In an effort to provide a curriculum suitable to the learning needs of our students and in keeping with career and employment changes and expectations, Boroughmuir High School is continuing to participate in the JET (Job + Education + Training) Programme, a City of Edinburgh Council approved programme. The JET Programme is a work-based learning programme which allows students in S4 and S5 the opportunity to undertake extended work experience and to acquire the essential employability skills which employers require. Students participating in the JET Programme will attend a work experience placement for a full day, every Friday from September through to the end of March. The student will be with the same employer for the duration of the programme, approximately 30 weeks. I am pleased to say that our current JET student have successfully completed the programme and have been presented for the SCQF level 4 Employability Award. The school is currently going through the recruitment process for next year – with more applicants than ever before.

## **Raising Teens with Confidence**

Boroughmuir High School is currently offering a seven week course in Raising Teens with Confidence. This course aims to give parents and carers time to explore how they can best support their teenage children to navigate increasing independence and develop confidence, security and resilience, as well promote emotional wellbeing in themselves.

Drawing on the latest research and findings around what helps support emotional wellbeing throughout life, the course give parents and carers an opportunity to explore with other parents how the teenage years can be a time for the whole family to *'thrive rather than just survive'* (Siegel 2014)!

The seven session course which are held in the school and facilitated by Mr Cifelli (DHT) and Mrs Stratton (CL English).

1. **The Teenage Years: Why What You Do Matters!**
2. **The Amazing Teenage Brain: What's Going on in There?**
3. **Risky Business: Managing Adventure, Risk and Resilience.**
4. **It's Good to Talk: The Importance of Staying Connected.**
5. **The Brain Under Stress: Overcoming Setbacks and Promoting Resilience**
6. **Looking After Your Own Wellbeing: Coping with the Changes.**
7. **Being a Dad: The importance of a Dad's role.**

This course has running for a number of years now and has been very popular. For more information please contact the school using [admin@boroughmuir.edin.sch.uk](mailto:admin@boroughmuir.edin.sch.uk)

### **Engage – Careers event**

On 27<sup>th</sup> February our parent council careers sub group organised and facilitated another Engage event. About 35 pupils from a range of year groups had a chance to hear from and then speak to a number of People from range of industries. It was a highly informative and *engaging* evening and gave our youngsters an insight to a range of careers. Thank you to all in the Engage sub-group who facilitated this.

### **Sports Personality Award Ceremony**

The PE department are running a Sports Personality and awards night on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm in Bruntsfield Evangelical Church.

This night is to celebrate sporting success at all levels both within and out with the school. There will a number of awards for pupils who take part in our school sports teams, as well as those who participate in sport out with school. The evening will finish with the main **Sports Personality award**, which will be voted for by all the pupils and staff in the school. There will also be awards for the young S1&2 and S3&4 sports personality of year, team of year, young coach/volunteer of the year and also prizes recognising pupils who have represented at national level. Tickets can be purchased via Parent Pay and will be priced at £3.

### **Boroughmuir Nearly New Shop:**

Mrs Craig in our maths dept.coordinates our Nearly New shop to recycle articles of school clothing. This includes all items of our daily school dress code and also school shoes, PE kit and trainers. They must be clean and in good condition.

Please bring items to Mrs Craig in the maths department or to Mrs Marshall.

### **Pupil Achievements**

The above is only a very small selection of recent 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**

Wednesday 17 January16:30 – 19:00	S4 Parents' Eve
Friday 26 January	S2 Holocaust Talk/Question Time with Mr Rudi Oppenheimer
Thursday 1 February16:30 – 19:00	S5/6 Parents' Eve (Hartington/Leamington)
Tuesday 6 February16:30 – 19:00	S5/6 Parents' Eve (Viewforth/Westhall)
Wednesday 7 February	S4/5 Work Experience - deadline for paperwork to Guidance
Wednesday 7 February19:30-21:00	Top of the Pops, whole school
Wednesday 7 February 2018	Final day in Viewforth Building.
<i>Thursday 8 February</i>	<i>Exceptional closure</i>
<i>Friday 9 February</i>	<i>Exceptional closure</i>
<i>February 12 – 16</i>	<i>February break</i>
<i>Monday 19 February</i>	<i>Exceptional closure</i>
<i>Tuesday 20 February</i>	<i>Exceptional closure</i>
<i>Wednesday 21 February</i>	<i>Pupils Resume – first day of new school</i>
Thursday 22 February18:30 – 19:15	S4 Course Choice
Thursday 22 February19:30 – 20:15	S5 Course Choice
Friday 23 February	S2 Tracking/Progress Report
Friday 23 February	S4 Tracking Report
Tuesday 27 February	ENGAGE, 6.30pm, 'Alternatives'
Tuesday 6 March19:00 – 20:00	S2 Course Choice Info Eve
Friday 2 March	S5/6 Tracking Report
Monday 5 February3:30-5pm	Baccalaureate presentation
Wednesday 7 March13:30 – 15:30	Career Ready Pupils - Masterclass 6 – JGHS
12-16 March	Health & Wellbeing Week
Monday 12 March 16:30 – 19:00	S2 Parents' Eve

## **Future Events**

Tuesday 13 March 6:30 – 8:00 pm	Parent Council meeting
Friday 16 March	S1 & S6 Tracking Reports
Wednesday 21 March	S1 Race for the Line (CDT/Computing challenge)
26-30 March	Autism Awareness Week
Wednesday 28 March	BHS Sports Personality of the Year Brunstfield Evangelical Church 19:00 – 21:00
Fri 30 March – Monday 16 April (inc.)	Easter Break
Tuesday 17 April	All Resume
Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> April – Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> June inc.	Exam Leave for S4,5,6
27 April – 18 May	S3 exams
Tuesday 5 June	Induction day for new S5/6
Tuesday 5 June	Parent Council Meeting
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	New Timetable begins for whole school
Thursday 7 June 19:00	Awards Ceremony
Friday 8 June	S6 Prom
Tuesday 12 June 6.30pm	ENGAGE 'Women Leaders in the Scottish Workforce'
Friday 15 June	Sports Day, whole school, Meggetland
19-21 June	P7 transition - 3 day visit to BHS
Wednesday 20 June 19:00 – 20:00	P7 Parents' Info Eve
25-29 June	S1 - 3 Activity Week
25-29 June	S4/5 Work Experience
Friday 29 June 12.00	End of Term
Wednesday 15 August	All Pupils and new S1 resume

## **Future Parent Council Meetings**

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 6.30 – 8.00

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

**March 2018**