



BOROUGHMUIR HIGH SCHOOL

Parent Council - Head Teacher's Report – March 2019

Our Vision

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

School Extension

Planning is well underway for an extension on the north west corner of our building. This will incorporate 12 additional classrooms and a shared community space at ground level. The school will have exclusive use of this space during the school day. A brief City newsletter of the proposed design can be seen by clicking this link.

<http://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Extension-newsletter-Mar-19.pdf>

We will keep you posted as this project advances.

Staffing

Ms Emma Thomson has been appointed as full time permanent teacher of computing. Emma is currently temporary Curriculum Leader of Technologies and will take up her new post in mid-May on the return of Ms Clare Braisby (substantive CL) from maternity leave.

Exam Leave

Exam Leave starts this year for all our senior pupils on **Friday 26th April** at 12.50. S4, S5 and S6 have a normal Friday that day and will be dismissed at 12.50pm as usual. This year there are some exams on Thursday 25th and Friday 26th and pupils who are sitting these exams will have a day study leave in advance if they wish it. All other pupils with exams starting w/b 29th April are encouraged to attend classes up to 12.50 on April 26th.

Our S6 of course are effectively leaving school on this day. This year we are having a leavers' breakfast for them on Friday 5th April. Period 1 will be 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 get to school on time on this special 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 or 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. As said, The SQA national exam diet commences with the first examination on Thursday 25th 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 the school 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 Monday 3rd June for their 1day induction programme.

Our new timetable for all returning pupils starts on Tuesday 4th June.

Our new S1 start on Wednesday 14th 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 18-20 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.

<http://boroughmuirhighschool.org/pupil-support/study-support/>

S3 Assessments

As in previous years, most subjects are organising S3 assessments which will take place towards the end of April and the first few weeks in May. These assessments take place during class time and are 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 on our website in the letters to parents' section.

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.

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)!

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

Cluster Transition Activities – March/April/May 2019

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. A new "Health and Wellbeing" event has been organised by Ms Mitchelmore as a pilot with one of our cluster schools. This will involve working in partnership with Mr Collard our HWB co-ordinator and Mr Segall our Active Schools Co-ordinator. It will build on feedback from S1 parents and include more information on extra-curricular opportunities and sampling our food in the cafeteria. 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 on 24th 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 with the School of Rugby and School of Tennis. In June we welcome our P7s for their 3 day visit (18th- 20th June) and all P7 parents for our information evening on Wednesday June 19th.

Engage – Careers event

On 26th 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 the 3rd Sports Personality and awards night on Wednesday 27th March at 7.00pm in Bruntfield 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 £4. for adults and 25p for pupils.

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.

Parent Council Wine Tasting #2 – Save the Date

Such is the popularity of the annual Parent Council wine tasting. Another one is being scheduled for May 31st here in the school. Sommeliers Dempster and Presly will once again take the lead in this

prestigious event! It's always great fun and a great fund raiser for the parent council. Keep an eye out for tickets.

Boroughmuir Nearly New Shop:

Mrs Craig in our maths department 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 the school office.

Dress Code

Your support in ensuring pupils get to school on time and are dressed in accordance with our dress code is much appreciated.

<http://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Pupil-Dress-Code-080515.pdf>

Future Parent Council Meetings

Wednesday 22nd May 6.30 – 8.00

Recent Events

Wednesday 23 January

Wednesday 16 January

Thursday 31 January

Tuesday 5 February

11 - 15 February

Monday 18 February

Thursday 21 February

Thursday 21 February

Tuesday 26 February

Thursday 28 February

Monday 11 March

S4 Parent Consultation Meeting 16.30-19.00

S5-6 Parent Consultation Meeting 16.30-19.00

S4/5/6 Spillover Parent Consultation Meeting
16.30-19.00

February Break

All Resume

S4 Course Choice 18.30-19.15

S5 Course Choice 19.30-20.15

ENGAGE: Alternatives, Braid Hills Hotel 18.30-20.00

S2 Course Choice & Futures Marketplace 19.00-20.00

S2 Parent Consultation Meeting 16.30-19.00

Future Events

8 - 22 April

Tuesday 23 April

Friday 26 April

Monday 6 May

Tuesday 7 May

Wednesday 8 May

Monday 20 – 28 May

Monday 20 May

Tuesday 21 May

Monday 3 June

Wednesday 5 June

Thursday 6 June

Tuesday 11 June

Wednesday 19 June

Monday 24 June

Monday 1 July - 9 August

Monday 12 & Tuesday 13 August

Wednesday 14 August

Easter Break

All Resume

S4/5/6 Exam Leave

May Holiday

Staff In-Service Day

Pupils Resume

Munich Exchange

May Holiday

All Resume

S4/5/6 Pupils Return after Exam Leave

Awards Ceremony

S6 Prom

ENGAGE: Female Leadership, Braid Hills Hotel 18.30-20.00

P7 Information Evening @ 19.00

S1-3 Activity Week

S4-5 Work Experience Week

Summer Holidays

Staff In-Service Days

Pupils Resume

David C. Dempster
Head Teacher

March 2019