

Return to School Information

Friday 11th June 2021

Next 2 weeks

Due to rising covid cases in the community and school population it has been decided that for the next 2 weeks we will continue with double periods.

w/b 14th June will be P1, 3, 5 and w/b 21st June will be P2,4,6.

This will significantly reduce the number of close contacts pupils and staff could have and therefore reduce the number of people having to self-isolate.

We will not be starting our new timetable on June 21st.

To do so would demand single periods and would also mean the creation of new class groups, again potentially increasing the number of close contacts.

Covid cases

Please be aware that the school are following City of Edinburgh Council and NHS protocols in the management of COVID cases.

As a school we cannot deviate from this. We as a school cannot give permission for year groups to stay at home.

We appreciate your understanding in this matter.

Self-Isolation Support Grants

There are grants to support people in self-isolation.

<https://www.mygov.scot/self-isolation-grant/apply-through-your-local-council>

Subject TEAMS

Although we are not changing timetable, some subjects will still be posting new work on TEAMS in preparation for the new timetable. So pupils should have a look at subject TEAMS pages for this.

NQ Diet

We are now at the end of our published NQ diet.

For pupils who have missed assessments through illness or self-isolation there will be opportunities this coming week to take missed assessments. Pupils will be informed but may wish to check with their teacher.

Between now and w/b 21st June schools are marking pupil assessments and then quality assuring them.

Teachers will be unable to discuss individual cases until this process is complete.

The expectation from the City of Edinburgh is that all pupils in Edinburgh will receive their results on the same day - currently planned for Wednesday 23rd June. This will be by letter emailed out to parents from the school. Please see message from the City, below.

City Message re Alternative Certification Model (ACM)

Dear Parent/ Carer

You will be aware that, as part of the SQA's Alternative Certification Model, our teachers are busy determining provisional grades for your child, which will be submitted to the SQA on Friday 25 June.

*I am writing to inform you that your child's provisional grades will be emailed after school on **Wednesday 23 June** and that you will also receive a copy of the letter by email.*

The letter will include details of the SQA's appeals process, details of which can be found on the SQA website: <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/79049.html>

The SQA has also produced an information booklet for pupils:

https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/SQA-Appeals-2021-what-you-need-to-know.pdf

Should you have any questions at this stage, please contact the school.

Engage – Tuesday 15th

A quick reminder: the next Engage careers event is happening online on Tuesday night. There is a fantastic line-up: more details and sign up here <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/engage-registration-156676879765>

Staffing Update

Congratulations to Ben Thin who has been appointed as full-time permanent teacher of PE in Boroughmuir. Ben is currently probationer teacher of PE at Boroughmuir.

Congratulations to Rebecca Kelly who has been appointed as acting Curriculum Leader of Chemistry, Science & STEM at Boroughmuir for the next 10 months whilst Ms Hearnden is on maternity leave. Ms Kelly is currently teacher of Chemistry in Boroughmuir.

Congratulations to Mr Darren Smith who has been appointed as full-time permanent teacher of PE in Boroughmuir. Darren is currently Principal Teacher of Guidance at Glenwood High School in Fife.

Mr Dempster, Head Teacher

Friday 4th June 2021

Increase in Covid Cases

You will be aware that there has been a recent increase in staff and pupil positive cases in Boroughmuir and throughout the City. I unfortunately am one of the staff who have tested positive for Covid and am self-isolating at home. I'd like to thank all those who have sent me messages wishing me a speedy recovery. It is much appreciated.

The fabulous team of staff I have at Boroughmuir have done all in their power to keep the school functioning as normally as possible in this period of increased staff absence. We have however had to ask S5/6 pupils to only come to school for scheduled assessments in the period Wed 2nd – Fri 4th June inc. This has allowed the redeployment of staff to cover the classes of absent colleagues with junior classes.

As of Monday 7th June, some self-isolating staff will return to work and we are receiving additional staffing from the City's Covid recovery team.

We therefore are planning to run the school as normal as of Monday 7th June.

All S5/6 pupils should attend classes as scheduled between assessments.

W/b 7th June is a double period week of periods 2,4,6.

This is an important time to re-affirm our **Health and Safety messages** to our whole school community in terms of social distancing, hand washing/ sanitizing and being outside as often as possible.

Wed 9th June – School Closure

This day is the 2nd school closure for all pupils to allow staff to work on national Qualifications. Some senior pupils are in for assessments. These pupils have been informed.

NQ Diet

We have now completed the first week of our 2nd assessment block. Next week is the final week of assessments.

S6 Leavers Breakfast

Below is a link to the letter that outlines our plans for our S6 leavers' breakfast on Thursday 10th June.

<http://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/S6-Bfast-Letter-21.pdf>

S5 Leavers

There will be a short S5 leavers ceremony for our 11 S5 leavers at 12.00 on Friday 11th June.

S1 and S3 Tracking reports – delayed

Due to the significant disruption in the school over the last week we cannot complete and issue S1 and S3 tracking reports as scheduled.

There will be a 1 week delay in the issuing of these.

Engage: Registrations Now Open!

The next Parent Council Engage event is coming up on the 15th of June from 6:30 to 8 p.m. via Zoom. This time the professionals speaking include a consultant in infectious diseases, a CEO, and a museum curator, among others. As always, you will have the opportunity to ask questions and gain information about different fields and careers. The EventBrite link to register for this free event is:

<https://boroughmuir-engage-15062021.eventbrite.co.uk>

Creative writing anthology

The link below will take you to our most recent creative writing anthology from some of incredibly talented pupils!

This edition should have been published in the summer of 2020 but like so many other things it has suffered a delay.

This year we've been existing in an online world, and this year's anthology reflects that. For the first time ever, we're publishing it digitally rather than as a physical book! Hopefully that will mean a wider audience for our talented writers.

And they really are talented! This year's selection features historical fiction, poetry, clever narratives, conflict... we've got such variety here, representing just a part of what our pupils do in the English department. We are very proud of them!

<http://boroughmuirhighschool.org/creative-writing/>

Session date change Christmas holidays 2021

At its March meeting, the Education, Children and Families Committee agreed to change the scheduled Christmas holiday dates from **Friday 24 December 2021 - Monday 10 January 2022** to **Monday 20 December 2021 - Tuesday 4 January 2022**.

The change was based on a similar amendment to the previous year's holiday dates. The reasons for the change are set out in this committee report:

<https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/documents/s31995/7.10%20School%20Session%20Dates%20Amendment%202021-22.pdf>

The report did not include consideration of the in-service day after the holidays. This will be Wednesday 5 January 2022. To ensure that pupils are in school for the required 190 days, the summer term will be amended to finish on **Friday 1 July 2022** instead of **Thursday 30 June**.

The agreed changes are now on the Council website, along with dates for 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25.

Mr Dempster, Head Teacher

Friday 28th May 2021

NQ diet

Today: - S4,5,6 National 5 English assessment 2 is after school 1.30-3.30pm.
The locations for this assessment are shown in the school reception.

Next Week: the 2nd two-week assessment block starts.

Double Periods

A reminder that for the next 2 weeks the whole school is moving to a double period structure. This is to accommodate the National Qualification assessments that senior pupils are involved in.

Next week, week starting Mon 31st May, every day has double periods of Periods 1,3,5

Accommodating English Assessments – Tuesday 1st June

Due to pressures on accommodation for English assessments any pupils in S5/6 who are not sitting Higher or AH English on Tuesday 1st June should study from home in the morning and arrive into school for the start of period 3.

All S/6 who are sitting Higher English or AH English assessments on the morning of 1 June should attend school as usual.

Parent Council Meeting

The re-scheduled parent council meeting will take place this Wednesday 2nd June at 6.30pm on-line. An agenda and details on how to join the meeting will be issued early next week.

S6 Leavers Breakfast

Below is a link to the letter that outlines our plans for our S6 leavers' breakfast on Thursday 10th June.

<http://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/S6-Bfast-Letter-21.pdf>

Staffing

Congratulations to Mr David Collard who yesterday was appointed as our new full-time permanent Curriculum Leader of Physical Education.

Mr Collard has been acting in this post for the last 2 years. We are delighted to have him in this post permanently.

Mr Collard takes over from Mr Jonny Else who has been on secondment as a Depute Head Teacher in Preston Lodge High School for the past 2 years. In turn Mr Else is taking up a permanent Depute Head post at Firrhill High School. We wish him well.

D Dempster, Head Teacher

Friday 21st May 2021

Holiday Monday + Tuesday School Closure for Teacher National Qualification Support

School is completely closed to all staff and pupils on Monday 24th for the Victoria Day holiday. Tuesday 25th is an extra school closure to support staff with the NQ process.

However, **some pupils will be in school on Tuesday** to complete practical assessments. Pupils involved will already know this.

- S5/6 Music Higher and Advanced Higher
- S5/6 Drama Higher
- S5/6 Psychology (college pupils only)

Some practical assessments are continuing next week as well:

Wednesday 26th May-Friday 28th May

- S4 Modern Languages (Listening)
- S4,5,6 PE (Rugby, Dance and Gymnastics)
- S4,5,6 N5 and Higher Art unit hand-in date (Wed 26th May)
- S4,5,6 Practical Cookery Planning assessment (Wed 26th May)
- S4,5,6 PE – Individual Sport videos to be submitted (Fri 28th May)
- S6 Art Advanced Higher project submission date
- S4 Practical Cookery service details assessment (Fri 28th May, period 1)

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

S4,5,6 National 5 English assessment 2 is this Friday 28th May (after school) 1.30-3.30pm.

The locations for this assessment are shown in the school reception.

NQ diet

Remember, Boroughmuir is one of the biggest and most successful presenting centres in Scotland for SQA National Qualifications at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher. A significant number of our staff work or have worked with the SQA as exam setters, verifiers or markers. There is a lot of experience and ability in our staff in supporting our pupils through this Alternative Certification Model. Please be assured all staff have the best interests of our pupils at heart and we will do all we can to ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to attain the grades that they are capable of. However, it is important to get a break from studying and I would urge senior pupils to take some time off their studies this holiday weekend. Next week is another (albeit short) week of revision and consolidation and will provide time and support for the assessments that are taking place in the following 2 weeks.

Asymptomatic Testing Programme:

Test kits are available to collect from the old medical room at the rear of the office during break, lunch and after school. This is available to all pupils. Tests will not be given out without a consent form, copies of these can be collected from the office. If you are under 16 years old you will require parental consent.

Have a great Holiday weekend!

D Dempster, Head Teacher

Friday 14th May 2021

National Qualifications diet

We have now completed our first 2week assessment block.
As said last week, overall this diet has gone very well indeed. The next assessment block starts in 2 weeks' time on Monday 31st May.

Return to revision and consolidation

The next 2 weeks are given over to further revision and consolidation for pupils in S4-6.

Return to single periods

For the next 2 weeks the school timetable reverts to single periods for all pupils.

S6 Leavers

As a school we are keen that there is some appropriate celebration for our S6 leavers.

Currently we are restricted to groups of no more than 50 pupils together indoors so we are looking at perhaps using our house system to hold concurrent house events before all pupils meet in a larger group for photos and farewells outside. This is just one idea but we think that would be compliant with regulations and would be manageable for the school.

As you can imagine, there are a range of views on this issue with less enthusiasm for such a thing from some quarters. However, as a school we do want to mark the occasion and we will do so in an appropriate fashion. Nothing is decided yet but we will be having some event to mark the end of life at Boroughmuir for our S6 pupils.

Details will follow by letter later this month.

Parent Council date change

The date of our next parent council meeting has changed from Wednesday 19th May to Wednesday 2nd June.

Details of agenda and how to join will follow.

Friday 7th May 2021

Week 1 of National Qualification Assessments

Today we complete week 1 of our first NQ assessment block.

Given the scale of the task and that all pupils are attending school while this is happening, things have gone very well indeed. The small number of issues that have arisen have been addressed and we will continue to work as hard as we can to ensure all runs as smoothly as possible.

I'd like to thank all staff and pupils for their part in making this enormous task work.

Well done all.

Pupil Head Team 2021/22

Next session we are changing the structure of our S6 pupil Head Team.

Instead of the Head Team consisting of a Head Boy, Depute Head Boy and a Head Girl, Depute Head Girl we are moving to two School Captains and two School Vice Captains. The make up of this team be determined entirely by the result of pupil and staff votes and will ensure the Head Team posts are filled on the basis of individual merit. This is in line with how our House Captain, House Vice Captain and Prefect system works.

The Basics

Now that we are back in school full time I am asking pupils to make a real effort to get Boroughmuir back to the standards we adhered to before lockdown.

Dress Code should be worn every day unless pupils have PE. If pupils have PE they can wear PE kit, but it should be Boroughmuir PE kit.

Time keeping:- we are aware that there is a reduced bus service but we would ask pupils to try their best to get to school on time for an 8.32 start.

Behaviour in the neighbourhood:- we receive regular complaints from neighbours and local businesses about the anti-social behaviour of some pupils. We would urge pupils to enjoy their surroundings but to represent themselves and the school in a respectful manner.

Forthcoming School Closure dates

Monday 24th May – Edinburgh School Holiday – all pupils on holiday

Tuesday 25th May – additional closure to support staff with NQ programme – some senior pupils in

Wednesday 9th June - additional closure to support staff with NQ programme – some senior pupils in

Staffing

Congratulations to Mr David Cogan who yesterday was appointed to the position of full time permanent teacher of Modern Studies here in Boroughmuir High School!! Mr Cogan is currently a probationer teacher of Modern Studies in the school.

Friday 30th April 2021

Holiday Monday /Tuesday– Remember that Monday 3rd May is an Edinburgh School Holiday and Tuesday 4th May is an in-service day meaning an extra holiday for pupils in S1-3.

Nearly all S4,5,6 pupils will be attending school at some point on Tuesday to sit English exams.

S5,6 Have Higher and Advanced Higher English period 1 and period 2.

S4 and some S56 pupils have English National 5 period 5 and period 6.

Double Periods

On return to school next Wed (5th May) pupils attend registration and then we have adapted the school timetable to a double period model to accommodate the diet of national Qualification assessments.

Next week each day has double periods of period 1,3,5

The following week w/b 10th May each day is a double period of periods 2,4,6

National Qualification (NQ)Assessments

The first assessment block commences on 4th May.

Schedules of assessment have been issued to all pupils and teachers are ensuring all pupils are clear on what lies ahead.

Copies of the schedules are available to view on our website

<http://boroughmuirhighschool.org/safe-return-to-school/>

under the section 'Information on National Qualification 2021.

Core PE

During assessment block weeks it is our intention that all S4 pupils still continue with Core PE.

We do not have classroom space to accommodate pupils at this time but we also feel that core PE is an excellent support for pupils H&WB in this somewhat stressful period.

S4 core PE takes place P5/6 on a Tuesday for one half of the year group and P56 Thursday for the other half.

Pupil Malpractice

Pupils must act responsibly during this diet of NQ assessments.

Pupil must not engage in any form of malpractice which might be attempting to cheat by perhaps sharing exam content with others or attempting to photograph or copy parts of a paper. The SQA have very strict policies around this. Pupils who do engage in malpractice most often have their result and qualification annulled.

Change of Level Procedures

Where a pupil agrees that a change a level of presentation is necessary (i.e perhaps changing from N5 to N4) we as a school need written parental approval. A letter or email would suffice.

e-Sgoil - Support for Senior Phase learners

The national on-line learning platform e-Sgoil, has a range of subject supports for senior phase learners.

Details can be found here.

<http://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/e-Sgoil-Supporting-Senior-Phase-Learners-April-21.pdf>

Friday 23rd April 2021

1st week of full return

It's been great having the whole school back for the first time since December.

Pupils have reconnected brilliantly with the school but they like staff are exhausted at the end of each day!

Enjoy the weather and sleep well this weekend!

National Qualification Assessments

Our senior pupils in S4,5 and 6 are continuing to prepare for their first assessment block commencing w/b 4th May.

Schedules of assessment have been issued to all pupils and teachers are ensuring all pupils are clear on what lies ahead.

Copies of the schedules are available to view on our website

<http://boroughmuirhighschool.org/safe-return-to-school/>

under the section 'Information on National Qualification 2021'

Calendar changes

The demands that this coming term is making on staff has necessitated some calendar and reporting changes.

S1

The planned S1 tracking report at the end of March was cancelled as it was closely followed by a full progress and tracking report in May.

We have now replaced the full progress and tracking report for S1 in May with a Tracking report to be issued by 4th June

S2

The S2 Tracking report will move back by 2 weeks

S3

We did an S3 tracking report at the end of March

The planned full progress and tracking report due at the end of May will now be replaced by a Tracking report due by 4th June.

There are no centrally organised S3 assessments but some depts may be locally organising these.

S4/5/6

Staff will produce an additional Tracking report for S4/5/6 so that provisional NQ grades can be communicated to pupils and parents. To be issued by 18th June.

The whole School Calendar on our website will be updated to reflect these changes.

Updated version:

	Apr (Tracking Period 4)				May (4)					Jun (4)			
W/B	5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28
			CAT 9						CAT 10				
S1									Tracking 4/6/21				Holiday
S2								Tracking 28/5/21					Holiday
S3									Tracking 4/6/21				Holiday
S4											Tracking 18/6/21		Holiday
S5/6											Tracking 18/6/21		Holiday

Extra-Curricular Activities (ECA)

Below is a City update on extra-curricular activities

- Outdoor ECA is permitted to restart in Protection Level 3 (onsite or offsite)
- External volunteers/coaches/partner agencies are permitted to deliver ECA outdoors
- No changing facilities will be available on school sites
- Schools will be responsible for any contact tracing required as a result of ECA activity

- Indoor ECA is permitted to start from PL2 (indicative date 17 May) subject to FM resource/availability

We are awaiting information on when our active schools' coordinator will start with us again.

We are not sure of the capacity or willingness of coaches at this time to get all activities going again but this is a step in the right direction.

Further information will follow from coaches and Active schools coordinators as appropriate.

Asymptomatic testing programme for school staff and ALL pupils

Can I encourage more of our pupils to engage in home testing. Test kits are available to collect from the office at break, lunch and after school.

It has now the case that this has been extended to ALL pupils.

Please click on this link below to see further information about this programme.

[Asymptomatic testing programme for school staff and senior phase pupils | Boroughmuir High School](#)