

# Return to School Information

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021

## Queen's Platinum Jubilee – additional Holidays

There is an additional day's holiday next year to celebrate the the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Victoria Day holiday will move to Thursday 2nd June and the additional holiday will be on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

The City are writing to all parents to confirm this. School calendars have been updated accordingly

[Calendar | Boroughmuir High School](#)

## Attendance Monitoring

Improving attendance of pupils and being able to track and monitor the whereabouts of pupils is a major focus for all schools.

We are using a period by period attendance system which involves us contacting parents if attendance concerns us or we are unable to account for the whereabouts of a pupil.

It is therefore vital that pupils sign out of school at the office if leaving school and sign in when they return.

Given the scale of the task unfortunately errors in the system do sometimes occur. We are working hard to minimise errors in the system and we do appreciate your understanding in this matter if you are contacted incorrectly.

## Freshers' Fair

Today's fresher Fair was literally going like a Fair!! It looks like there are record sign ups from our new S1 for clubs and activities. S2 also had a chance to sign up over morning break.

The Fair allows us to ascertain what clubs and activities have viable numbers to allow them to run. Next week we will Groupcall to parents a programme of all the clubs and activities that are taking place this year, along with when and where they will happen.

## Study skills for Senior pupils

We will be focussing on study skills, mindset, motivation and practical strategies in the run up to prelims for S4-6. Pupils will be shown short videos and given resources and links while in registration classes and P.S.E. classes. There will also be a study skills support section on the school website with sections for pupils and parents.

The company *Tree of Knowledge* will be working with all S4-6 pupils over the coming months to support their study preparations, with S4 pupils having workshops with them on Thursday 7th and Thursday 14th October.

### **Engage Event – Tuesday night!**

The parent council's next Engage event to support careers education is coming up on the 28th of September, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., again via Zoom. We have great people including Ian Murray, MP, and Francis Bickmore, the publishing Director of Canongate.

EventBrite registration link is here:

<https://boroughmuir-engage-280921.eventbrite.co.uk>

### **Catering Update from Chris Ross, Catering Manager CEC**

Due to current national supply chain issues, we may need to change our menus at short notice as we adapt to the changing situation. As you may be aware from the national media there is currently a shortage of HGV drivers, this in some cases may result in product substitutions. We are working closely with our catering suppliers to mitigate disruption and our catering teams are working to adapt menus at a local level based on product availability. Pupils with special diets will continue to be catered for, however menus may differ from that on ParentPay. In addition, COVID is having an impact within our catering team resources. Our teams are working incredibly hard to provide the best service possible during unprecedented times, we apologise for any inconvenience this may cause

### **REMINDER - Covid Mitigations**

Please see former newsletters for further information on Covid Mitigations and close contact protocols in schools.

Face Coverings **MUST** be brought to school by pupils. Pupils **MUST** supply their own face covering.

Lateral Flow Test kits are available for collection by all pupils from the school office

Vaccinations are available for everyone **12 years** or older in vaccine centres

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccines - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

David Dempster

Head Teacher

## **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

### **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September – School Holiday**

Remember - this coming Monday is an Edinburgh Schools Holiday. School is closed to all pupils and staff.

School resumes for all on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 8.32am. Enjoy the break! 😊

### **Daily Bulletin**

Please keep an eye on our ever-expanding daily bulletin! It hosts information on all the activities and clubs that are happening in the school.

### **Parent Council dates – Save the dates**

Listed below are the dates for this year's parent council meetings. All meetings are 6.30 – 8.00pm

13 October 2021 - AGM

17 November 2021

19 January 2022

16 March 2022

4 May 2022

1 June 2022

The meetings will alternate between Teams meetings and in-school meetings (if allowed) Parents will be informed in advance of how the meeting is being held. All parents are welcome to attend.

### **Work for absent pupils**

Here is the link to a new web page where there are further links and advice to support learning from home.

[Learning from Home / Isolation | Boroughmuir High School](#)

### **S4 Prelims – Note the dates**

S4 Prelims assessments are currently scheduled to **start on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November and run until Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November**. Obviously how we manage this diet of assessments will be determined by Government and City advice around Covid mitigations, but we are committed to ensuring that these assessments do happen in some form.

Further information will be issued by the end of September.

### **Subject Resource Guides**

These have been issued via Group call to all parents. These documents contain information for many subject areas and are in addition to the course information and support materials on *Office 365 Teams* pages. It is hoped that these guides can support individual home learning through sharing more details of the topics covered throughout the courses. Information is listed in 4 sections: Course Information – Resources - Home Study Materials – Assessment Information. Updates will be made periodically, and these will be available in the [Parents Information](#) section on the school website and school app.

### **Active Travel Survey**

this week we took part in the largest national survey looking at how pupils across Scotland travel to school. The survey is organised by Sustrans ([Hands Up Scotland Survey - Sustrans.org.uk](#)).

We asked all S1-5 pupils how they travelled to school. Our results show that a greater than average number of pupils walk to school (64.01%) or take the bus (27.35%) when compared to the national 2020 results.

Last year's national results are included for reference

	Walk	Cycle	Scooter/ skate	Park and stride	Driven	Bus	Taxi	Other
<b>Bmuir 2021 %</b>	64.01	1.91	0	1.91	4.04	27.35	0.22	0.56
<b>National 2020 %</b>	44.8	3.8	2.6	9.9	22.8	14.1	1.5	0.4

### **S5-6 School Survey - Subject, Course Choice and Timetable:**

We are seeking feedback from S5/6 pupils about curriculum, course choice and the timetable. There is a link below. It is also on your year group teams pages.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=af6sSGo3tUKfacnke7-5xD4JoQtmYmBPiciO6KkVX81UNVZCREpYSTdTN1dKVEY2VVNXV1YzMkxCTS4u>

### **Government Pupil Survey - voluntary**

**No Knives Better Lives** are being funded by Scottish Government to conduct important research about *What it is to be a boy or young man in Scotland* and the relationship that gender has to violence and violence management. As part of the research they have released a national survey for all (regardless of gender) young people to complete on a voluntary basis.

<https://survey.natcen.ac.uk/youthlink>

### **Engage Event – Coming soon!**

The parent council's next Engage event to support careers education is coming up on the 28th of September, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., again via Zoom. We have great people including Ian Murray, MP, and Francis Bickmore, the publishing Director of Canongate. Please put a "Save the Date" note in your diaries. You'll enjoy it!

EventBrite registration link is here:

<https://boroughmuir-engage-280921.eventbrite.co.uk>

### **Help Merchiston Community Council.**

Merchiston Community Council are coordinating leaf clearing sessions this Autumn.

If you are interested in helping do get in touch by clicking on the link below.

[Help Merchiston Community Council this Autumn! | Boroughmuir High School](#)

### **REMINDER - Covid Mitigations**

Please see former newsletters for further information on Covid Mitigations and close contact protocols in schools.

Face Coverings **MUST** be brought to school by pupils. Pupils **MUST** supply their own face covering.

Lateral Flow Test kits are available for collection by all pupils from the school office

Vaccinations are available for everyone over 16 years old in vaccine centres

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccines - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

Have a great Holiday weekend.

David Dempster

Head Teacher

## **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

### **Covid Mitigations**

Please see former newsletters for further information on Covid Mitigations and close contact protocols in schools.

Face Coverings **MUST** be brought to school by pupils. Pupils **MUST** supply their own face covering.

Lateral Flow Test kits are available for collection by all pupils from the school office

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[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccines - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

### **Covid Cases**

Cases in Boroughmuir have been rising as they are in all schools, and indeed society, across the country.

We currently have approximately 50 pupils absent due to testing positive. No staff are currently absent due to testing positive. Approximately 25 of these pupils will return to school on Monday.

Out of 1443 pupils and a staff of 150 these are relatively low numbers.

Well done to everyone for adhering to Covid mitigations and in helping keep these numbers low.

### **Work for absent pupils**

It is important that absent pupils do have access to materials to learn from.

I know that many staff do routinely post materials on Teams or use Notebook which automatically allows remote access to materials.

There are of course other ways that we have used over the years to provide work for pupils who are off for a variety of reasons including materials sent home and the use of the SCHOLAR on-line learning platform.

Teachers are of course in school teaching the classes in front of them which has to take priority, but we are committed to ensuring adequate provision is made for absent pupils.

Please contact your child's guidance teacher if you need assistance in this matter.

Also refer to this page of our website

[Parents Information | Boroughmuir High School](#)

Further information on supporting absent pupils will follow next week.

### **Reconnecting to School life- The Basics**

We have now been back at school for 1 month!! It is vital that all our pupils now reconnect as fully as they can to school life:-

- **Dress Code**- all pupils should be wearing full dress code at all times. PE kit should be brought to school and not worn to school.
- **Lateness** – all pupils should leave home in sufficient time to get to school in good time for the start of the school day at 8.32am
- **Equipment** – all pupils should bring a school bag with pencils, pens and any other equipment that is required for their classes.

### **S6 Prom**

Our S6 prom for 2021 Leavers is tonight at the Sheraton Hotel. I know our leavers are looking forward to it immensely and I look forward to meeting them all there.

David Dempster

Head Teacher

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021**

**Covid Mitigations**

From 9 August, for under 18s, the rules changed for close contacts of a positive Covid case.

Everyone must still self-isolate in line with [NHS Inform guidelines](#) if they have had a positive Covid test or virus symptoms.

If you are aged between five and 18, you are a close contact if you live in the same household as a positive case, or if you have been identified by NHS Test and Protect as a close contact.

**Close contacts are not now identified from close contacts in class.**

If you are identified as a close contact from NHS Test and Protect, you have to:

- Self-isolate immediately and book a PCR test
- If the PCR test is negative and you remain without symptoms, you can end self-isolation and return to school
- If the PCR test is positive, stay in self-isolation in line with NHS guidance
- If symptoms start at any time, go back to the self-isolation stage and book a PCR test

Mitigations such as face coverings, hand sanitizing, one-way systems etc remain in place and are being observed by the vast majority of our pupils. It's important they all adhere to them. Please do ensure all pupils have their own face covering.

**Lateral Flow Test kits are available for collection by all pupils from the school office**

**Vaccinations are available for everyone over 16 years old in vaccine centres**

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccines - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

### **S5/6 Information Evening Presentations**

Presentations for these 2year groups have been group called out to parents this week.

S5 - <http://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/S5-Parents-Information-Evening-2021.pdf>

S6 - <http://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Post-school-planning-presentation-2021.pdf>

### **Return of Text Books**

There are a significant number of text books that were lent to pupils not returned. Many are with S6 leavers. WE are making contact with these former pupils but please help out by returning any overdue books you have.

### **Flu Vaccines – see message below from NHS Lothian**

*The flu vaccine will reduce the risk of your child getting or spreading flu to friends and family who are at greater risk from flu and coronavirus, such as grandparents or people with health conditions. From academic year 2021/22, the flu vaccine is available to all primary and secondary school pupils. Nasal flu vaccine will be provided for most pupils.*

Please note that for the very few pupils who require the flu vaccine injection for clinical or religious reasons, the Community Vaccination Team will provide injections in school, on the day of the school session.

Community Vaccination Team (CVT) clinics will be offered to children who cannot receive for clinical reasons, are home schooled or who miss their session date.

Please fill in the consent form that your child brought home and return the completed form to the school by 6<sup>th</sup> September.

NHS Lothian

### **S6 Prom**

With the help of some of our parents, the S6 prom has now been re-scheduled for next Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> September in the Sheraton Hotel.

I would like to thank these parents for their incredible help and also our former S6 pupils for their patience and understanding in this matter.

### **S1 and S2 Homework Club**

The Homework Club starts on Wednesday 8th September for pupils in S1 and S2. It will give pupils the opportunity to get support with homework, classwork and revision for class tests. There will be some fun learning activities for pupils and guest speakers to help pupils with work. Healthy snacks will be provided

### **Active Schools**

Recent communications have informed us that the Active Schools provision for secondary schools will currently remain as was. That gives well established clubs and activities the confidence to start up in their tried and tested ways.

Listed below are some of the clubs that have already started but as said this list will change and increase regularly.

<b>Boroughmuir HS - sports clubs 2021-22</b>					
<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Coach</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Monday	15.30 - 16.30	Boys Basketball	Peter Blair	S1 - S3	Games Hall
Monday	16.00 - 18.00	Hockey	Cala HC	S4 - S6	Meggetland
Tuesday	16.00 - 18.00	Hockey	Cala HC	S2 & S3	Meggetland
Wednesday	15.30 - 16.30	Volleyball	Bill Stobie	S1 - S6	Gym Hall
Wednesday	16.00 -17.15	Girls Rugby	Gary MacDonald	S1 - S4	Meggetland
Wednesday	16.00 -17.15	Boys Rugby	Gary MacDonald	S1 - S4	Meggetland
Wednesday	16.00 - 17.30	American Football	Tom Cramb	S1 - S6	Meggetland
Wednesday	16.00 - 18.00	Hockey	Cala HC	S1	Meggetland
Thursday	15.30 - 16.30	Girls Basketball	Peter Blair	S1 - S4	Games Hall
Friday	13.00 - 14.00	Basketball	Peter Blair	S4 - S6	Games Hall



## **S1 Freshers' Fair – Save the Date – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September**

All S1 will have the opportunity to attend the Freshers Fair in our Assembly Hall on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September. Each class will be given a time slot and taken down by their class teacher. This is the chance to find out more about the range of extracurricular activities on offer in Boroughmuir. Some clubs have already started and all of these are advertised daily in the bulletin. We are aiming to support S2 to attend over breaktime too. Ms Presly

## **S6 Study Classes**

As of next week, we are going to be introducing study periods for S6 as in previous years.

Please note the following:

- No registration for any S6 on a Tuesday
- Study classes period 1 & 2 if no subject class – except Wednesday p1&2
- Study classes will not run on a Wednesday p1&2. Pupils who have a subject class periods 1&2 should attend registration. All other pupils should come into school for their first subject class on a Wednesday.

Pupils in S5 and S6 should get a new timetable during registration on Monday.

## **Engage Event – save the Date!**

The parent council's next Engage event to support careers education is coming up on the 28th of September, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., again via Zoom. We have great people this year, including Ian Murray, MP, and Francis Bickmore, the publishing Director of Canongate. Please put a "Save the Date" note in your diaries. You'll enjoy it!

## **School extension**

Erection of the steel frame for the extension starts on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September

David Dempster

Head Teacher

## **Friday 27th August 2021**

### **End of first full week**

We have now just about completed our first full week of school. There is a great vibe in the school and it's clear that our pupils are enjoying being back at school and having the experience of a full curriculum.

Our S1's have settled in brilliantly and are now on parent pay and able to use the cashless payment system in our dining hall.

### **Covid Mitigations**

Mitigations such as face coverings, hand sanitizing, one-way systems etc remain in place and are being observed by the vast majority of our pupils. It's important they all adhere to them. Please do ensure all pupils have their own face covering.

#### Covid Recovery and School Renewal Plan

Over the next few weeks we will be seeking the views of pupils, parents and staff as we plan for recovery and renewal along our three main strands of **Health, Well-being and Resilience; Teaching, Learning and Assessment; and Equalities, Equity and Inclusion**. Please look out for short Forms surveys on Groupcall and the school website, and we are also keen to speak more closely with parents from across the year groups.

If you would be interested in joining us to discuss Covid recovery, please email [Ailsa.Stratton@boroughmuir.edin.sch.uk](mailto:Ailsa.Stratton@boroughmuir.edin.sch.uk) .

#### **S3/4 Information Evening Presentations**

Please find attached information that is usually shared during a face-to-face information session. These sessions are unfortunately still not possible due to City of Edinburgh Covid-protocols, however I think the content of the slides are still useful to share. Along with other useful support resources these can be found on our website in the Parent's Information section on the website.

[S3-Parents-Information-Evening-2021.pdf \(boroughmuirhighschool.org\)](#)

[S4-Parents-Information-Evening-2021.pdf \(boroughmuirhighschool.org\)](#)

#### **S5/6 Information Evening Presentations**

Presentations for these 2year groups will be group called out to parents next week.

#### **S6 Prom**

It is with great regret that we had to communicate that the S6 Prom this Friday 27<sup>th</sup> August had to be cancelled. This is due to operational difficulties at the Balmoral Hotel as a direct result of Covid. We received an email of explanation from the Balmoral and we also spoke at length to the Hotel management on the phone. They are truly sorry for this situation.

We are currently working with parents to find a new venue that can accommodate an event of this size.

We hope to have something in place in the next week or two and we will let our former S6 know as soon as we can.

Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

### **School Extension**

School extension works are ongoing and we thank staff and pupils for their patience as the service trench is completed along the west side. The steel frame will start to be erected week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> September, and this should have minimal impact on noise and disruption. It is estimated that the steel construction will take 4-7 weeks. It will be exciting to start to see the shape of what's to come.

David Dempster

Head Teacher

## **Friday 20th August 2021**

### **Start of 2021/22 Session**

We were delighted to welcome all 1432 pupils back to school on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> August and in particular our new S1's. After an extended registration all classes were up and running from period 2 onwards.

It was great to see the school back up and running at full strength and we are hopeful that this is how things will remain throughout this session.

### **Dress Code / Lateness**

We are really keen that after a difficult last year, pupils properly reconnect with the school.

We are asking for your support in ensuring all pupils wear proper school dress code and not fashion wear.

We also want pupils to arrive in good time for the start of the school day.

<http://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Pupil-Dress-Code-leaflet-070721.pdf>

### **Home School Communication Calendar**

This year's home/school communication calendar was emailed out to all parents on Thursday.

<http://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/22.6.21-TABULAR-Home-School-Calendar1.docx>

### **COVID Mitigations**

COVID mitigations remain in place in schools. All pupils are required to wear face coverings. We are issuing a huge number of face coverings to pupils who do not bring their own and we would ask for your help in ensuring pupils do have their own face covering.

## **SQA exams 2022**

The Government announced on Wednesday that there would be a full diet of N5, Higher and Advanced Higher exams next year if it were safe to do so.

This news is very much welcomed by us and it provides clarity for our pupils at an early stage. Our plan is that there will be full diets of prelims as indicated in the above home/school communication calendar.

## **Extra-Curricular Activities**

Under the updated Covid guidance, extra-curricular sport is permitted to resume and BHS sports clubs will restart over the next few weeks; more information will be given in the Bulletin and on noticeboards in the PE Department. In addition, to get things kick-started for the beginning of term, Active Schools is running a 'Boost Your Energy' programme which is offering children and young people the opportunity to try out local sports clubs. For information, you can find out more here:

<https://www.joininedinburgh.org/media/resources/ActiveSchools/Boost%20your%20energy%20Club%20Programme.pdf>

Mr Dempster, Head Teacher