



BOROUGHMUIR HIGH SCHOOL

Parent Council - Head Teacher's Report – March 2017

Our Vision

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

New School Update

We are scheduled to move into our new school after the summer break.

To facilitate packing up, unpacking and setting up of the new teaching spaces the Scottish Government permit 'exceptional closure' days.

As a result of these days along with our in-service days at the start of the new term, it is proposed that the **school term will commence for all pupils on Tuesday 22nd August 2017 at 8.32am.**

A letter will be issued to all pupils shortly after the Easter break confirming this arrangement.

Staffing

We are saying goodbye to Mrs Avril Nicol after 16 years of service as a clerical assistant in the school office. Avril is retiring at Easter and I wish to thank her for all her hard work and support over these years. I wish her a long and happy retirement.

Exam Leave

Exam Leave starts this year for all our senior pupils on **Friday 28th April.**

S4 and S5 have a normal Friday 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 in St Oswald's Hall 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 Tuesday 2nd May.

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 Monday 5th June for their 1 day induction programme.

Our new timetable for all returning pupils starts on Tuesday 6th June.

Our new S1 start on Monday 17th 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 20-22 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/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/After-School-Study-classes-Jan-2017.pdf>

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 on 19th, 20th and 21st April.

In May, a number of curricular activities to support transition will take place including a Maths P6 Challenge and an Art project entitled "The Face of Boroughmuir". In June we welcome our P7s for their 3 day visit (20th - 22nd June) and all P7 parents for our information evening on June 21st.

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 9CL 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.

The course is running for the 2nd time this session. It is very popular and is currently full but we are planning to run it again in the new session

Engage – Careers event

On 7th March 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 – law, medicine, creative industries, recruitment and science. It was a highly informative and *engaging* evening and gave our youngsters an insight to these different career areas. 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 29th 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 by all the pupils and staff at the school. There will also be awards for the young (S1 – 3) 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 for parents and guests can be purchased from the PE department for £2 each.

Boroughmuir, Holy Rood and Trinity

On 28th February, 11 senior pupils from the 3 schools attended a session with the Scottish Government's International Council of Education Advisers to share their views. Four pupils from Boroughmuir represented the school - David Clegg, Maya Conway, Joe Cornfield and Ammarah Javid. The feedback we have received was that the session went extremely well, our pupils were fully engaged and the Council themselves were very impressed and grateful for their valuable input, as were the Scottish Government officials hosting the event. The young people also had the opportunity to meet with the First Minister and Deputy First Minister as well as the International Council.

Boroughmuir Nearly New Shop:

Mrs Craig in our maths dept.is starting a 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 Mrs Marshall

Parent Pay

Parent Pay is an on-line payment system that is being rolled out to all school in Edinburgh in the coming weeks.

It will allow parents to pay on-line for school trips, other school activities and costs as well as school meals.

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20014/schools_and_learning/1515/online_payments_for_schools_and_early_years

There will be a handling charge levied by the company for using the system of approximately 1.5%. This will not be applicable to paying for meals.

You will still be able to pay for things with cheque or cash via the school office.

We will let you know when the Parent Pay system will go live here in Boroughmuir.

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

Monday 16 – Wednesday 25 January	S5/6 Prelims
Friday 20 – Friday 27 January	S2 Ski Trip
Thursday 2 February	S5/6 (H/L) Parent's Evening, 4.30 - 7.00pm
Tuesday 7 February	S5/6 (V/W) Parent's Evening, 4.30 - 7.00pm
Monday 13 – Monday 20 February	February Break
Monday 13 March	S2 Parent's Evening, various, 4.30 – 7.00pm
Thursday 23 February	S4 Course Choice Evening, Atrium, 6.30 - 7.15pm
Thursday 23 February	S5 Course Choice Evening, Atrium, 7.30 - 8.15pm
Thursday 2 March	S2 Course Choice Evening, Atrium, 7.00 - 8.00pm

Future Events

Monday 3 April – Tuesday 18 April	Easter Break
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Future Parent Council Meetings

Wednesday 25 January
Wednesday 22 March
Wednesday 26 April
Wednesday 14 June

David C. Dempster
Head Teacher

March 2017