



# BLT 3

Issue 3  
Summer 2017

## BOROUGHMUIR LEARNING & TEACHING

Welcome to the third and final “BLT “ of this year. The aim of BLT is to capture and highlight the many opportunities for learning for pupils, teachers and parents both inside and beyond the classroom. We have managed to take advantage of the better weather and utilise the opportunities for outdoor learning. All of S1 spent the day in the sunshine during their IDL experience organised by Mr Hembury and his team at the Hermitage of Braid.

We welcomed our new S1s with a whole day at Meggetland getting to know their new classes. We look forward to welcoming them on the 16th August. (The photo was a dance routine)!



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## Scottish Scientists Walking Tour

This term many of our S1 Science classes have been researching, preparing and presenting a walking tour about Scottish Scientists that have connections to Edinburgh.

Pupils have researched to find out about a scientist's date

of birth and death, family, scientific work and their connection to Edinburgh.



They have then completed a tour of the city stopping at significant buildings, graveyards and statues and presented their findings by talking, danc-

ing or rapping. In their presentations they have also included quizzes, sweets as prizes and interesting props!

Pupils appear to have really enjoyed learning outside the classroom, making connections with the city they live in and working together. Well done S1!

See updates on our twitter feed @BmuirScience



## S2 Citizenship Through Poetry: What's in a name?

Ms Bloomer's S2 class have been exploring global citizenship through poetry as part of Learning for Sustainability. Using the poem 'The Right Word' by Imtiaz Dharker, the class have explored the power and danger of relying on labels to define people. They also completed short interviews to find out more about people in their lives who might be labelled in some way, showing that there is much more to a person than a stereotype!

**Pupils' perspective:**

"The project on the poem 'The Right Word' was to learn about how important it is to use the right word for things and to what impact labels have." – Ryan

"We did a project on 'The Right Word' because it's important that we can understand that there is much more to a person than just a label, and if we only listen to those labels then it can affect our success with life and interaction with others as well." - Mathilda

## HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

History put together the S2 atrium event where all of the year group had the opportunity to hear a live webcast talk by the holocaust survivor, Mala



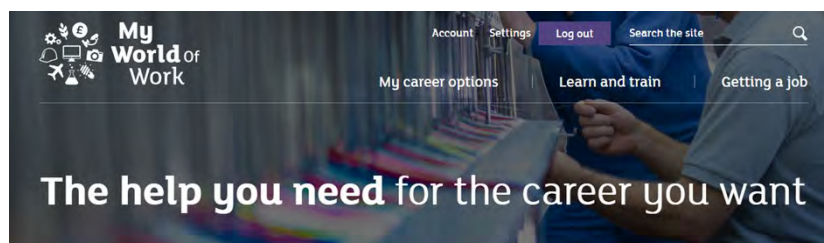
Tribich. The timing fitted well with our teaching of the Holocaust topic and the response from pupils was excellent. They really appreciated being part of a live national event and hearing directly from a survivor. It also showed an elderly person fully and impressively engaged in positive community engagement. Hopefully it stimulated a response to the stereotypes of the elderly.

## MY WORLD OF WORK



### New S2's Explore Careers with My World of Work

In their Computing Science and Business classes between now and the summer, the new S2's are exploring how they can use the website [www.myworldofwork.co.uk](http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk) to help them make career decisions. They have used the website to look at their strengths and skills and are now looking at different career options first of all in Computing Science and Business but then at general careers.



The website has lots of helpful information about what subjects you may need if you want to follow a particular career. This could be very useful when thinking about subject choices at the end of S2.

All pupils have setup their own logins so they can access these from home. The login should be

<school login number>@schools.edin.org E.g.  
038764524@schools.edin.org

### Imagine

Two professional stage and costume designers come into school and worked with Ms Leckie's two S2 Enrichment classes, on a day long work shop where the pupils in pairs designed and built set boxes for the scene 'Glass Raft' from the play 'Bambert's Book of Lost Stories'. The winning set box is on display in the foyer of the theatre, the others are all photographed and part of a digital display also in the foyer of the theatre. The two classes then attended a performance of the play at the Brunton Theatre Musselburgh, by the Australian Theatre Company 'Barking Gecko'. There was a Q. and A. session afterwards.

S3 went to the Traverse Theatre to see a Netherlands Company's own production of 'Falling Dreams' an innovative multimedia exploration of the teenage mind. This was all part of 'Imagine' Children's Festival.



## MUNICH EXCHANGE—MAY 2017

“In May, 13 S3 pupils took part in the Munich Exchange. The Exchange has been running for 35 years and gives pupils and staff the chance to stay with a German family, attend classes at school, visit Munich and the surrounding area and then host their exchange partners in Edinburgh.



burgh. As always, this was a great success. It is hard to pick a highlight, but the trip to Schloss Neuschwanstein was a new addition to the itinerary this year and went

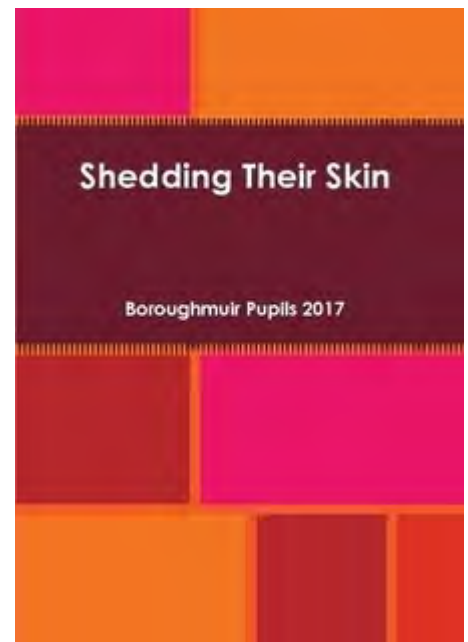


down very well with all the pupils. Plans are already underway for next year's exchange!”

## Celebrating Creativity

June 2017 sees the publication of our most recent anthology of creative writing. This year's title (which is always taken from one of the contributed pieces) is 'Shedding Their Skin' and the anthology features poetry, short stories and descriptive writing from Boroughmuir pupils from S1-6. Our contributors have imagined lost kingdoms and ancient ruins, shady figures at the end of their tether, ghostly mysteries, divided societies and dystopian lands. We'd like to show our students that writing isn't just something you do to be marked and stuck in a folder; it is there to be read, and these pieces are well worth reading!

Featured contributors are: Nicky Ambrose, Drew Anderson, Hayden Bradley, David Cowan, Hannah Douglas-Walker, Gemma Dryden, Rachel Dunnett, Jorren Dykstra, Finlay Fok, Anya Foxworthy-Bowers, Tess Mallinder Heron, Harper Pereira Hind, Jutta-Livia Katay-Fodor, Olivia Magill, Esther Martin, Christopher Munro, and Jordan Vickers.



Copies, priced £2.50, are available to buy from [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com)

## S3 Fieldwork – East Lothian Coast

All S3 Geography pupils spent a day carrying out fieldwork along the East Lothian coast. Prior to the visit preparation included all pupils being involved in the risk assessment process.

We visited 2 locations – Yellowcraig and Dunbar and had to endure a whole day of blue skies and blazing sunshine in the process. We just about coped with the weather. Working in groups all day developed collaborative learning skills.

### Purpose

Students were working on 3 different projects during the day to gather first-hand information about coastal landscapes and coastal management issues.



Comparing coastal landscapes at Yellowcraig and then Dunbar cliffs by field sketching and making annotations as well as working out wave frequency. They also carried out interviews and mapping in Dunbar. Visiting these locations helped consolidate learning in the classroom. Gathering first-hand information is not only important for Geography but also for the work place.

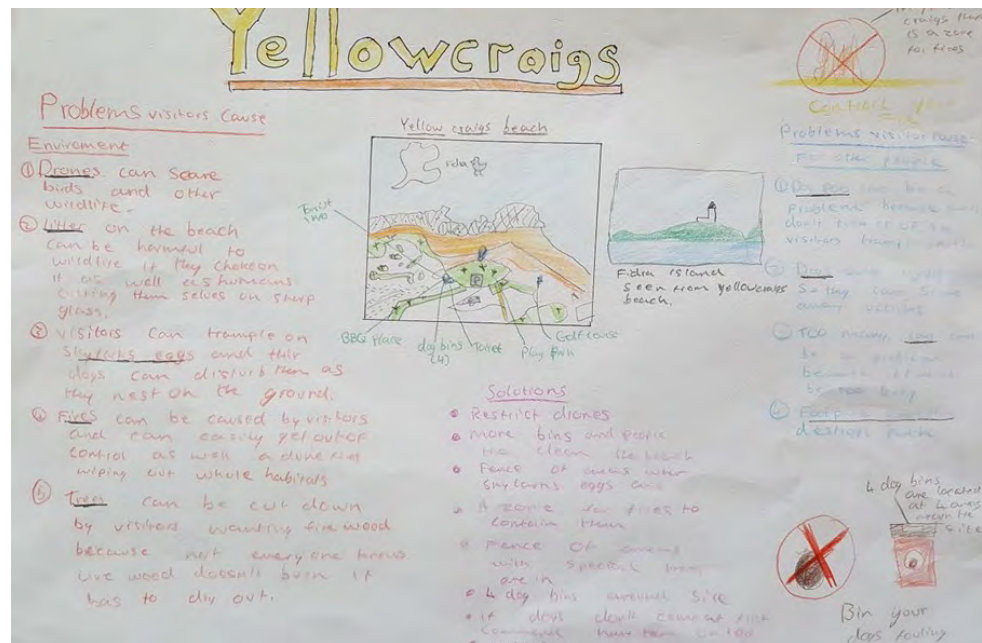
Students enjoying an informative guided walk by the East Lothian Ranger at Yellowcraig. They learned about the different ways 250,000 visitors a year impact on the environment and what the ranger service does to manage this.

This not only developed their learning for sustainability but they learned about interesting outdoor employment.

### Back in the classroom

In class pupils drew on their collective learning to produce a poster about visitor management at Yellowcraig. They also had to produce

a fieldwork report as practice for their S4 assignment, on one of the other investigations they had gathered information about. This developed their data handling and interpretation skills.



## Bring Your Parents to School Day 29th May

Our 3rd “Parent Class” came to join us in school on 29th May. Our class this time also included pupils who were part of the experience for the first time.

We asked them at the end of the day “What went well?”

“I enjoyed joining in and doing the same thing as the parents.”

“Excellent to participate in practical subjects where we had limited knowledge of what happens.”

“A good mix of subjects, very well organised and we were made to feel very welcome. Good light on school day but quite tiring! Very enjoyable”

“I really enjoyed the inclusion of students as part of the group.”



We also asked “Even better if...?”

“A visit to English or modern languages.”

“We would love to experience all subjects but appreciate time restrictions.”

“Drum up a few more parents to share the experience.”

“Would have liked science”.

We are planning another opportunity to come to school in October for S1 parents. We hope you can join us to gain the insight into learning and teaching at Boroughmuir. Thanks to all the teacher, pupils and parents for making this day such a success. Over 60 parents have now made it back to school for the whole day.



## Professional Learning Breakfast

On the morning of the 1st June our Learning and Teaching Group hosted the first “Learning Breakfast”. This involved a group of teachers meeting together before school started to talk about learning and teaching and to share ideas. The group was delighted by the high turn-out from colleagues (perhaps also attracted by the offer of breakfast)! We are aiming to run similar sessions next year to ensure that all colleagues can participate in professional learning at a time of day which suits them best.



On our August Inservice Day our Learning and Teaching workshops have the following focus:

- **My World of Work**
- **Numeracy Across Learning**
- **Pupil Voice**
- **Moderation and Assessment**
- **Inter-disciplinary Learning**

# Interdisciplinary Learning at the Hermitage of Braid

*“Learning for Sustainability is learning to live within the environmental limits of our planet and to build a just, equitable and peaceful society “*

Mr Hembury has developed a Curriculum Topic Overview which was used to review the main subject content for this visit and then looked for *disciplinary* knowledge and skills to incorporate into a range of tasks and activities:

- a) Pre-visit
- b) During the visit itself
- c) Post visit – Pupil Projects (to collect evidence of IDL)
- d) Develop aspects of Learning for Sustainability



There were 4 main activities on the day aiming to develop knowledge and skills:

Activity 1 - History/English/ Literacy

Activity 2 – HWB/HE/PE

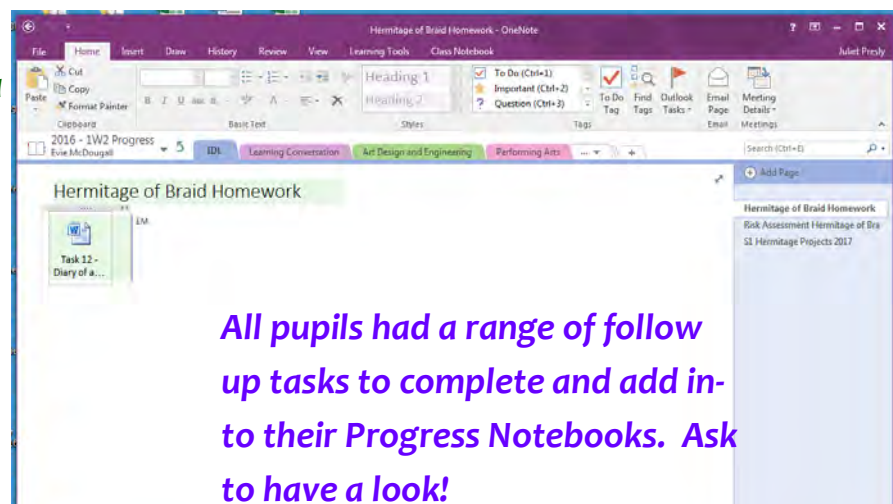
Activity 3 – Science/Numeracy/ Art

Activity 4 – Geography/ Community

Staff worked collaboratively to plan and deliver the activities for our 200 S1 pupils over 2 days. The weather in the end was very kind to us and they were two of the sunniest and warmest days this year.



*Next year the plan is develop this further and support pupils to be accredited with a John Muir Award.*



*All pupils had a range of follow up tasks to complete and add into their Progress Notebooks. Ask to have a look!*

## Numeracy and Maths

Throughout the month of May the S1 pupils in the Maths department were very busy researching and learning about the “History of Maths”. Pupils were also developing the skills of working together and presenting to the class. There were some excellent posters and in one class a rap! Pupils all gave feedback to each other and were also allowed to question the presenters on the content of presentations. Mrs Walker was very proud of her class!

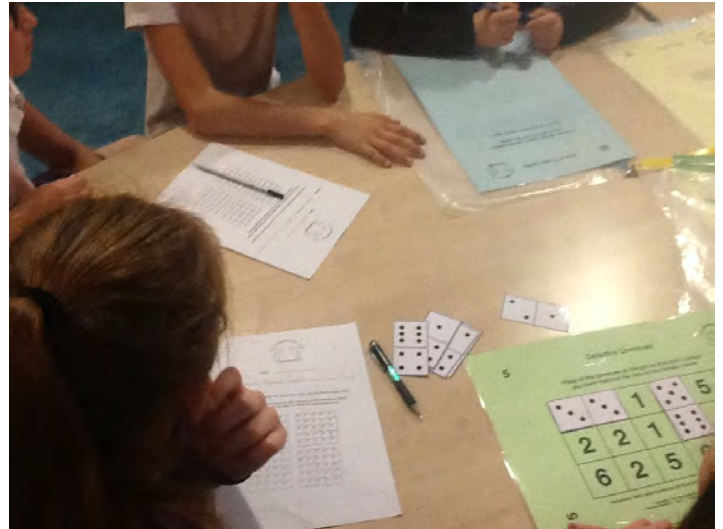


Mrs Mac Pherson and Mr Williams also welcomed our P6s to their morning of Maths at Boroughmuir. We were very impressed by the effort and enthusiasm for problem solving! Well done P6s.



Mrs Walker has been assisted by the **Student Learning Team** this term trying to gather evidence of numeracy across learning.

Teachers will be working on this on the in service day.



# BOROUGHMUIR CAR BOOT SALE

## September 9<sup>TH</sup> 2017, 2-4pm

The Boroughmuir High school car boot sale will take place on Saturday 9/9/17 in the grounds of Boroughmuir high school, Viewforth.

**Why not turn some of those bits and pieces that are cluttering up the house into cash?! If you don't want to sell, then come along and find a bargain to buy instead!**

The entrance fee is £1 per adult with children free.

We will be running a 'Nearly New' BHS uniform stall, including blazers, ties, sweatshirts and other uniform items previously owned but in good condition. If you have any items to donate to this, boxes will be available next to the janitors office for pupils to drop donations in. (Please note uniform will continue to be collected in this way even after the 9<sup>th</sup> September, to be used at future uniform sales. Thank you for helping us raise funds while doing your bit for the environment!)

A car park space costs £10. Initially car spaces are reserved for Boroughmuir and feeder primary school families until 15th July. After that date any spaces remaining unsold will be put on sale to the general public.

**To book your car park place please click the link - <https://bhs-car-boot.eventbrite.com>**

**Or go to [Eventbrite.co.uk](http://Eventbrite.co.uk) and enter 'Boroughmuir' in the search box.**

Spaces go quickly so please do not delay, as spaces are allocated on a first come basis.

For more information, please email: [boroughmuir.sfr@gmail.com](mailto:boroughmuir.sfr@gmail.com)



Our Parent Council will be attending all the "Information Evenings" in the new term to continue to look for more members and support.

The Social and Fundraising group would be delighted to hear from you if you want to get involved. They have recently given £1050 to departments in the school from their fundraising last year. This will help to try to start up our French Exchange with Lyons and buy games for support for learning and much more!

# GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP HONG KONG & SHANGHAI

## PROFESSIONAL LEARNING EXCHANGE

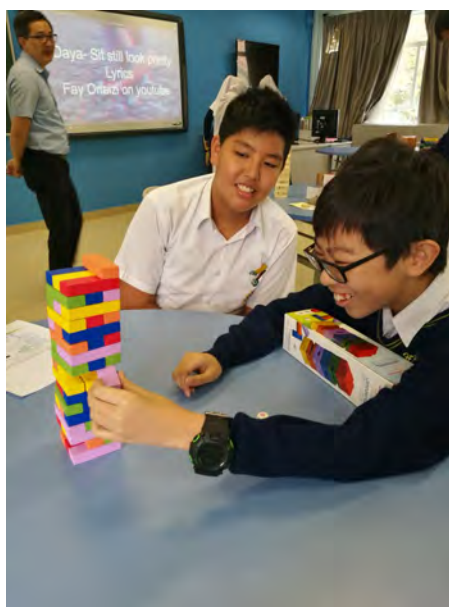
In May Mr Dempster and Ms Presly were part of a delegation from Edinburgh schools who visited Hong Kong and Shanghai. The purpose of the visit was to strengthen the “Hong Kong Scottish Schools Improvement Partnership”. This involves reciprocal visits from our Hong Kong Partners to learn from each other and to continue to improve our schools.

We visited 4 schools in Hong Kong including our partner school Kwok Yat Wai and then another 3 schools in Shanghai. The Shanghai visit was to also promote the learning and teaching of Mandarin which we are in the process of growing in Boroughmuir. We have 30 S1s learning Mandarin next session. The trip was a hugely valuable experience and enabled us to also strengthen partnerships with Edinburgh colleagues alongside our Chinese colleagues.

Mrs Bloomer is planning to take a group of senior students to Hong Kong in September.



**Kwok Yat Wai College —  
Our Partner school in  
Hong Kong**



**English Language  
club—playing  
Jenga and building  
confidence with  
speaking English—  
and fun!**

## SEND MY FRIEND TO SCHOOL

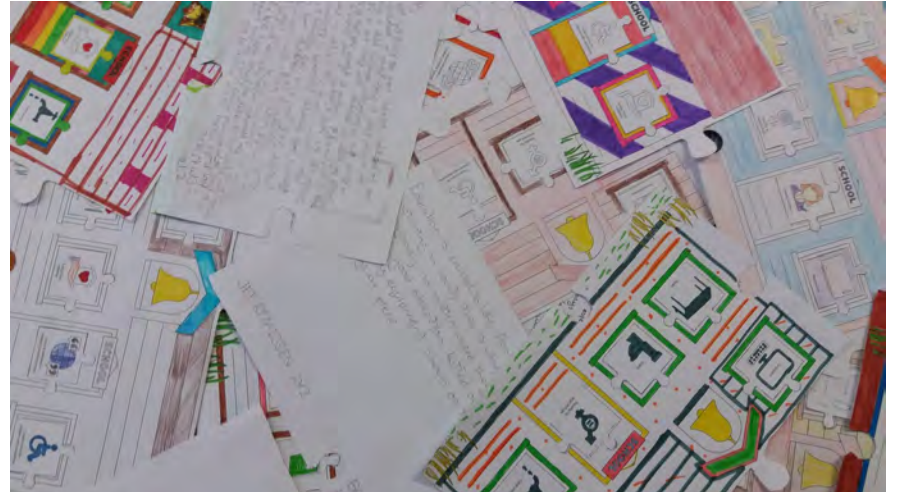
In RMPS this term second year pupils have been examining children's rights and as part of this we took part in the Send My Friend to school campaign. The campaign encourages pupils to lobby their local MP for equal access to education for all. We focused on the differences in education delivery in other countries and the reasons why children may not have access to education (refugees, lack of teachers, class size etc.). The aim of the activity was to encourage pupils to reflect on what is important to them for their education and the things that help them to achieve in school.

The pupils then coloured in a picture of a school and added the things that they felt were most important for a good quality education. On the back of these they wrote persuasive letters on the back of the pictures to their MP's (who at the time were unknown due to the general election) lobbying them to take action on education for all. These letters have now been sent to the MP for the area in the hope that they will encourage the government to take action on education for all.



Pupils reflections on what provided a good education were interesting, they focused on the personal side of education, as they felt that small class sizes and good teachers who knew their pupils well and had high expectations of them had more impact on their learning than access to ICT and the internet.

They enjoyed taking part in the activity and an unexpected outcome was that the pupils were interested in finding out about the ways that they could make their voices heard so time was allowed for research into lobbying and elections.



***Thanks to Ms O'Thy for the article.***