

# B.L.T

## Boroughmuir Learning & Teaching



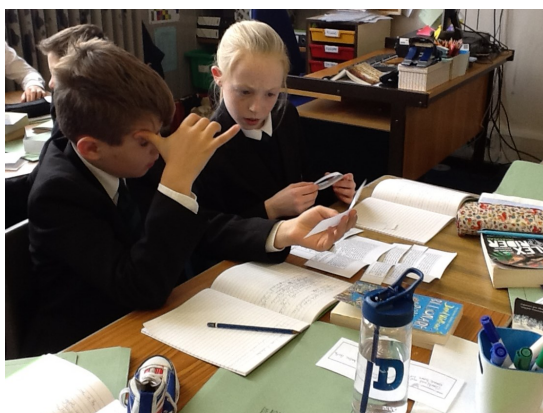
Welcome to the first ever edition of “BLT”. The idea behind this is that once per term we capture and really focus on our “Core Business” of Learning and Teaching. So many schools struggle to keep this as high on the agenda as it should be when “daily school life” takes over.

This has been put together by capturing teacher, parent and pupil voice to celebrate and highlight some of the excellent learning and teaching practice in our school.

### S.E.E What Really Works?

Our School year started with a Summer Workshop looking more deeply into the work of John Hattie. 15 colleagues from across the City gave up the last 2 days of holidays and spent 2 days learning together.

We have continued to focus on “What really works?” and used Hattie’s evidence base to support our practice. We spent time on 24th October throwing green balls at each other (!) and focussed on what we need to do next...



*“The principal’s role is to lead the school’s teachers in a process of learning to improve their teaching, while learning alongside them about what works and what doesn’t.”*

Michael Fullan



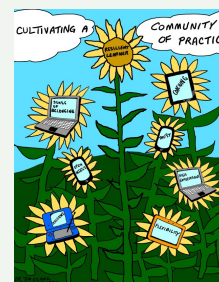
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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Professional Learning Update
- Closing the Gap
- Faculty Fair Preview

### L&T Group



### The 3 biggest effect sizes:

**S— Self Reported Grades**  
(pupils estimates and confidence)

**E—Expectations**

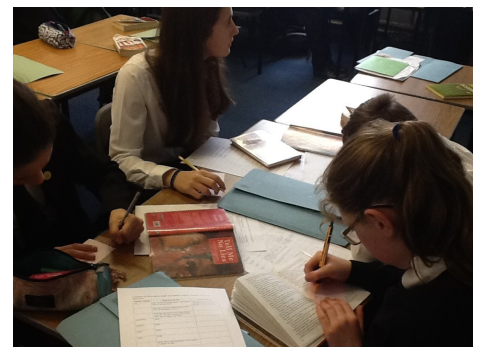
**E—Efficacy** (Collective teaching and self)

...was the question put to 50 of our S1 pupils at the end of their first term.



## C Brandie

"I loved observing Charlotte in S1



completing her “exit pass” in English with Miss Anderson. Charlotte had a lot to say! Assessment can be fun too. **Miss Presly**

2



## BRING YOUR PARENTS TO SCHOOL DAY (2)



The last time that I was at school the only reason that I got out of my seat to go to the front of the class was to get the belt! How things have changed, as I soon discovered when I (& 23 other parents) attended Boroughmuir High School's "Bring your Parent to School day".

At registration I was told that our class would follow a timetable and be treated the same as the other pupils in the school. During the course of the day, I was made to line up outside classrooms, chastised for my lack of uniform and asked to raise my hand to ask questions – no change from my school days in the 1970s! So what had changed?

Smartboards instead of blackboards: these new boards allowed the maths teacher to quickly and easily display algebraic questions. More equations for pupils, more maths learnt during the lesson, but also more external preparation required by the teacher.

Collaborative Working: in English and science I was also encouraged to move around, discuss my ideas and thoughts and share my experience and knowledge with my classmates. This peer to peer knowledge sharing is a big change from my school days and much more akin to modern collaborative work practices that pupils will progress to in the workplace.



Multiple choice test : used to consist of circling the answer on a piece of paper whilst trying not to copy/be copied by your partner, handing it in and getting the result several days later when you had forgotten what it was about! In modern languages, new technology allowed me to hold an individual card aloft to be scanned by the teacher's ipad, with the results instantaneously display on the smartboard with each pupils' name.

PSE - Personal & Social Education: a subject that was I not taught, but one that I feel is very important in today's society. In this class that I became aware of how much education has changed. It is not just about achieving good grades, but about producing young adults who are confident and can contribute to the future, in our ever changing world.

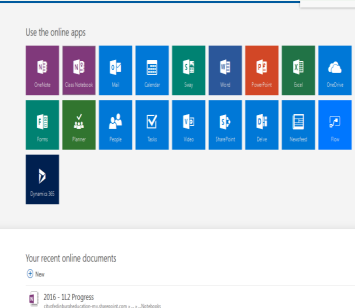
Health & Food Technology: surely that has not changed much? The scone recipe on pieces of paper! Never twist the pastry cutter when you are cutting out scones otherwise they will turn out like the leaning tower of Pisa. However, this department is now more than teaching pupil's how to cook: they have to teach them about healthy choices.

At the end of the day, I have gained an invaluable insight into how and what my daughter is taught in school enabling me to support her throughout the remainder of her school career. I also felt it helped forge a closer parent to school bond.

As we sat at the end of the day reviewing our experiences, Mr Dempster, the headmaster, excused himself from the discussion, as he liked to stand in the stairwell and be visible to each pupil as they went home. That was the final difference to my school experience – the only time I saw the headmaster was when I was in trouble! **(Published in TESS December)**

## WHAT DOES PROGRESS LOOK LIKE?

Progress Notebooks were shared with all teachers on August inservice day - there was an opportunity for



everyone to have a go...time was against us but we had made a start. All S1 pupils and teachers were given access and added to "Progress Notebooks" Learning Conversations are taking place during registration with S1 & S2 Register Teachers.

**September 2016** All S1 pupils were taught how to use "One Note" in Computing and business.

**October In service** Mr Williams shared our literacy task designed using literacy benchmarks to gather evidence to be added into Notebooks by Christmas.

**November Miss Presly added invites for S1 and has hugely enjoyed her learning conversations with lots of S1s.**

Mr Alexander created pupil feedback surveys using One Note and added these to notebooks. He was very impressed by this function (helped by Mrs Dighton).

### Dec - 1000 pieces of learning

Our aim is to upload 1000 pieces of learning by the end of term. 5 for each S1 pupil. These could be:

- Podcasts from IT
- Learning conversations
- Art Exhibition Review
- Literacy task
- Modern languages survey

## Professional Learning at BHS — Update by Miss Nisbet & Mr Hamilton

This year's twilight session focus has been on ICT.

Miss Boag and Mr Kastelein showed us how to access, set up and manage One Note. Several staff have begun experimenting with this to enable to submit homework electronically and access resources online. Mrs Dighton gave her expert advice to those who were more familiar with the programs.

Mr Mcleister introduced Smartboard tools to enhance and engage pupils with interactive lessons.

Mrs Braisby delivered a session on Office365 and how pupils and staff can use this to access all Microsoft programmes online at home for free.

We are very lucky at BHS to have so many staff that are willing to lead and share their expertise at these in house sessions.



We hope to deliver more sessions including "flipped classroom" and "mindfulness".

## INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING UPDATE DEC 2016

The IDL group led by Mr Hembury organised for 200 x S2s to complete a range of activities along the Royal Mile, Holyrood Park and at Our Dynamic Earth.



*S2s had a great day learning about our City, rocks, statues, icebergs, space, history, volcanoes and completed a literacy task to reflect their learning.*

Planning is ongoing for the S1 IDL day on May 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> 2017 to the Hermitage of Braid – this day centres around invasive species, conservation, local history, community uses.

Also a whole school Curriculum Topic Overview booklet has been produced for the BGE courses at Boroughmuir for all teachers. This first version is intended to support teachers and pupils in understanding more about what topics are covered in S1/2 in particular. It can be used to support teachers in planning for interdisciplinary learning (IDL) and for sharing classroom experience (SCE). This will be shared at our faculty fair.

Boroughmuir High School - Curriculum Mapping Task S1-2 (BGE/Level 3 BGEs)



**Boroughmuir High School**  
**S1-2 (BGE)**

### Curriculum Topic Overview (Ver1)

This first version is intended to support teachers and pupils in understanding more about what topics are covered in S1/2 at Boroughmuir High School. It can be used to support teachers in planning for interdisciplinary learning (IDL) and for sharing classroom experience (SCE). It will be simplified and displayed in the new school building and is also on the school server (IDL folder). There are subject gaps and other missing information - we are aiming for Ver2!

It is split into 4 sections:

- Section 1 - S1 Semester 1 (Aug-Dec) Pages 2-
- Section 1 - S1 Semester2 (Jan-June) Pages
- Section 1 - S2 Semester 1 (Aug-Dec) Pages
- Section 1 - S2 Semester 1 (Jan-June) Pages

## Literacy Across Learning

This term, our principal focus has been to raise awareness of literacy amongst both pupils and staff. The start of the year saw the introduction of 'Icons', a joint initiative by the literacy, numeracy, and health and wellbeing groups.

Additionally, we once again celebrated National Poetry Day, with the entire of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2nd year writing poems on the theme of 'messages'. There were many heartfelt messages of farewell written to our current building as we edge closer to the 'big move'.

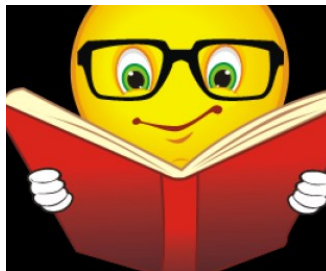
We have also been busy arranging bookswaps and the customary Boroughmuir bake sale to raise money for the National Literacy Trust.

Going forward, we will be speaking to our pupils via focus groups to best gauge how they feel literacy should be taken forward and promoted in both the near and distant future.

Mr Williams and the English Department are also supporting all colleagues with talk assessment and gathering evidence across the curriculum.

Literacy focus group feedback in our next copy of BLT.

Mr Williams Literacy Co-ordinator



## NUMERACY ACROSS LEARNING

"Following some visits out to other schools across Scotland, since May we have carried out an audit (along with the Literacy and HWB coordinators) and launched the "Icons" to help pupils to recognise their Numeracy across the curriculum.



are also looking into the idea of "Numeracy Ambassadors" and are asking pupils and staff to consider how this could develop and impact the Numeracy of pupils at BHS."

Mrs Walker & Numeracy Group

This term we have been planning Numeracy Focus Groups in S1, S2 and S3. The collation of the pupil feedback will be given in the next edition of "BLT". We



## Health & Wellbeing



S3 Health & Wellbeing rota offers the chance for additional transition experiences for our P7s and great learning and teaching for our S3 pupils too. Primary 7 pupils enjoyed playing the games developed by S3 pupils. They were also very positive about the healthy pizzas they made with the assistance of our S3 pupils.



Well done S3.

All our Primaries are visited by S3 pupils and then make a return visit to design, make (and eat) their healthy pizzas.

Extra points for more veg!





## 1 IN 5

### CLOSING THE GAP

Mr Else is leading a group looking at “Closing the Gap”. This is a national and school priority. Mrs Marshall and Miss Nisbet were trained as trainers in October and will deliver training to all staff on 24th Feb our next inservice day.

Following that we will explore ways to ensure equity and excellence of opportunity for all pupils at BHS. We will look at learning and teaching, our curriculum and the wider life of the school.



## TEACHER VOICE - OUR FIRST TERM

### *Have we smiled by Christmas....?*

‘We were all nervous but excited to start our probation year at Boroughmuir, a school with such a good reputation throughout Edinburgh. However, we have pleasantly surprised not only by pupils' ability and desire to learn, but also the supportive environment created by staff. This support has been a huge help to us in such a challenging year. This extends beyond our departments and throughout the school - from those able to offer advice, to those who offer friendly chat in the staff room. Each little thing has contributed to a positive and motivating climate in our first 'real life' teaching experience.

#### **Our Highlights:**

Miss Henderson—

“Seeing sweet, angelic S1s truly embody the spirit of Trump in our Mock Elections!”

Miss Robb –“Witnessing a genuine, triumphant air punch after a pupil exceeded expectations in her prelim results!”

Mr Johnston—“Kids still coming up to me in the corridor and talking about stories from the Benmore trip.”



## Literacy Across Learning and Our Library Resource Centre



**S1** - After a short induction into using the school LRC, S1 pupils have started the S1 information skills course which focuses on information literacy and the skills they will need for all subjects and throughout life to find information effectively.

Working with Ms Bloomer in English, the information skills unit has had a refresh, with a range of activities designed to help pupils put the theory into practice. At the end of the unit pupils will be asked to put their information skills to the test and disprove a conspiracy theory.

**S2 Edinburgh International Book Festival** Our annual visit to the Edinburgh International Book Festival took place in August, this year pupils saw Jenny Downham and Annabel Pitcher, Stanley Odd and Alan Gibbons and Brian Conaghan. The events focused on a range of issues covered in the author's books including; Alzheimer's, terrorism, Scottish storytelling, young people and mental health. Once again, Stanley Odd (a Scottish hip-hop band) were a hit with pupils, who showed that storytelling can be more than just books.

**S2 Booktrailers**— The annual booktrailer programme for S2 kick started in September. Each S2 has been asked to create a 'movie style' trailer on a book of their choice which has to be between 45 – 90 seconds long. Each class will watch their booktrailers and vote on their favourites, in the January the top booktrailers from each class will be voted on by pupils and staff before the winners being unveiled at S2 assembly in February.

If you would like a taste of some previous year's booktrailers, the winners for 2015 can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvQz5aJQCPAxdppstwGMcR1FojChSUhyg>

**National Literacy Trust Survey** Each year we ask S1 and 2 pupils to complete National Literacy Trust Survey. The aim of the survey is to gather data on young peoples' reading and writing habits and what they use to read (i.e. books, Kindles, etc). All surveys are anonymous and pupils are asked to be honest with their answers.

An update of the results will be provided in the next update. Miss Aleksandrowicz



The legend of St Nicholas written, rehearsed and performed in S1 French in 2 periods (including props and scenery)! This truly reflects learning in S1 being fun, interesting, different and exciting.

Fun? Ms Aymere Odeh's French class (She is doing animal impersonations just out of shot)...S1 Love it! Especially le Oiseau.



## Teacher Learning Communities

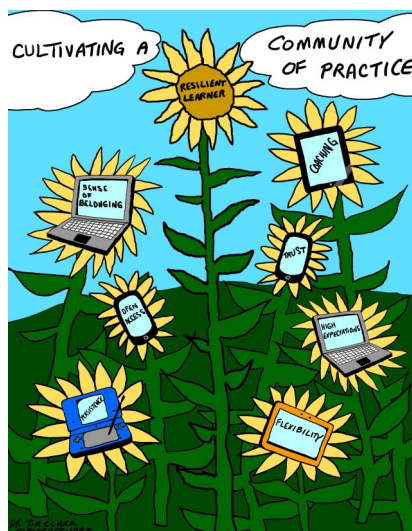
## Coming Soon

**E = Collective Efficacy**

**Please pass on your name to Mrs Yates if you would like to form part of our new teacher learning communities in the Spring Term.**

Action learning sets formalize reflective learning and legitimize the allocation of time and space to it, with consistent voluntary group membership over an extended period of time.

The Action Learning Handbook by Ian McGill and Anne Brockbank, (2006), RoutledgeFalmer



## Looking Ahead to 9th

*January 2017*

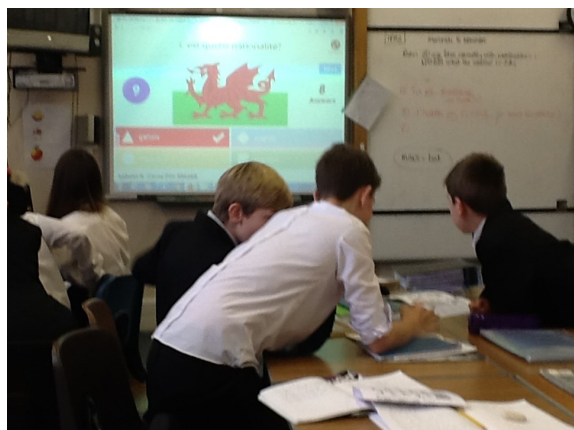
***Happy New Year !***

## Faculty Fair



## Sharing our Good Practice

*Our learning focus on our in service day is sharing our practice and collaborating with coffee and treats,*



**S1 using “Kahoot” to consolidate grammar with Mrs Hastings. Great use of technology to motivate and have fun.**

## Why?

“When the school is organized to focus on a small number of shared goals, and when professional learning is targeted to those goals and is a collective enterprise, the evidence is overwhelming that teachers can do dramatically better by way of student achievement.”



*Michael Fullan*

**Technology is just a tool. In terms of getting the kids working together and motivating them, the teacher is the most important. Bill**



The Crafty Homework club are on the case of designing and producing bunting for the faculty stalls for our faculty fair. Thanks Mrs Gibson and Crafty Homeworkers.



## And Finally...Tea with Mr D

8 S1 pupils enjoyed "Tea with Mr D" on Thursday 15th December. S1 pupils had nominated the pupils in their class who had earned the highest number of House Tokens this term. House Tokens are awarded for improvements in learning, contributions to the wider life of the school and overall effort.

They were invited to join Mr Dempster, Miss Presly and Miss Grant in Mr Dempster's office for tea and treats for their efforts! Mr Dempster asked them what they enjoyed about Boroughmuir and they asked him questions too. He shared his favourite sport (golf) and his experiences of his own school days and teaching career.

Well done to:

1H1- Marina Wilson

1H2- Ellie Dowie

1V1-Murray Small

1V2-Eve Davie

1W1-Mohammed Alakel

1W2-Arina Dobryden

1L1-Rebecca Cooper-Lee

1L2-Hannah Walker



N	Notable involvement in the wider life of the school
I	Improvement in learning
C	Consistent exemplary behaviour
E	Effort sustained over time

## Family Learning

Please Get in touch:

Will you join us and help keep all children safe online?

O2 and the NSPCC have joined forces on a mission to help all children and their families in the UK stay safe online. Together, they're offering useful tools, support and guidance to help parents and carers have conversations with their children about their online lives.

## Online safety workshops for parents

As part of this, they're running free **online safety workshops for parents and carers**. We would like to host one of these workshops at Boroughmuir but need to gauge interest.

The hour-long workshop will help parents and carers understand their child's online world and build confidence to have those important conversations that can help keep children safe online. It is likely that this workshop would take place one day after school from 3:30-4:30pm.

**If you would be interested in attending a workshop please let us know by emailing**

**[admin@boroughmuir.edin.sch.uk](mailto:admin@boroughmuir.edin.sch.uk)**

**"NSPCC" as the subject.**

Until then, if you need any support or guidance, check out our [website pages](#) and [step-by step guides online](#), call the **O2 and NSPCC Online Safety Helpline** on **0808 800 5002**, or pop into your local O2 store for help from a Guru.

## Family Learning - Raising Teens with Confidence

BHS is currently offering the Raising Teens with Confidence course for our parents and carers. This course aims to give you the chance to explore how you can best support your teenage children to navigate increasing independence and develop confidence, security and resilience, as well as to promote emotional wellbeing in themselves. Drawing on the latest research and findings around what helps support emotional wellbeing throughout life, the **seven week** course is held in the school and will give you an opportunity to explore with other parents how the teenage years can be a time for **young people, Mums, Dads and carers to 'thrive rather than just survive'**.

For more information email [admin@boroughmuir.edin.sch.uk](mailto:admin@boroughmuir.edin.sch.uk) - **FAO Mr Cifelli**