



Autumn 2019

## Breakfast + Maths = Success

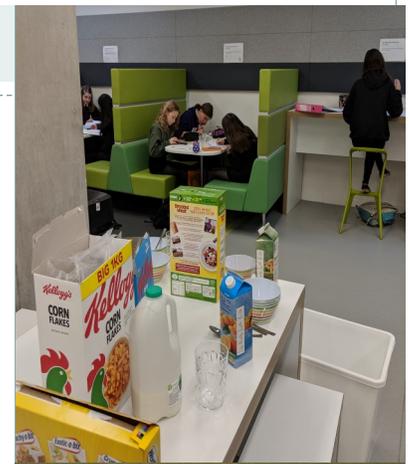
*"I never usually have breakfast..but I do now"*

*"My brain can work things out more easily first thing in the morning".*

*"I like to get the support before the school day so I can still socialise with my friends at break!"*

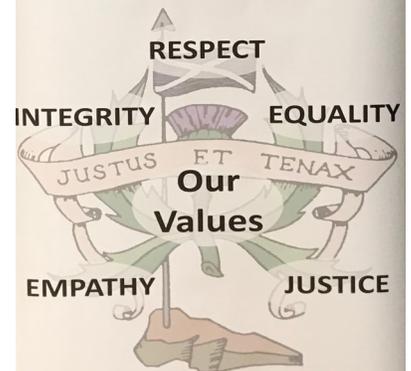


These are just some of the reasons why lots of pupils are arriving very early on Tuesday mornings to attend the Breakfast Club on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Mrs Craig and Mr MacDougall are there to provide the early morning sessions to support pupils with maths. The club is growing in popularity and proving a real success for many reasons. Mrs Craig and Mr MacDougall also thoroughly enjoy these sessions which are proving very successful. *"It is the nicest teaching hour of the week"* according to Mrs Craig and Mr MacDougall also added *"for me it is especially rewarding to get to support pupils I wouldn't normally meet"*. As a school we offer study support in lots of different ways – at lunch time or after school and now before school too.



### Our Vision

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



A confident, nurturing & inclusive learning community



# S1 Freshers Fair



Active Schools and Boroughmuir High School Senior Management worked together to put on an S1 Freshers Fair in early September. All 260 new S1 pupils were able to find out about the wide range of activities on offer as lunchtime or after-school clubs in the school. The event was a tremendous success

and the S1s signed up with enthusiasm for both activities they wanted to continue with and new ones they had not tried before. We would like to thank all the pupils and coaches who staffed the stalls for their time and their 'sales skills' in recruiting S1s to their clubs, and also the Sports Leaders for guiding the S1s through the Fair.

**Juliet Presly, Depute Head Teacher:**

***"This is a great way to introduce our new S1 pupils to the excellent range of clubs on offer across all aspects of sporting, social, creative***



## BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS IN S1

During the first few months for S1 we offer a range of opportunities to get to know each other better and to build our community. The Freshers' Fair allows S1s to join clubs and get involved with the wider life of our school.

The Sponsored Walk allows S1s and S6s to spend time together whilst raising money.

The charity chosen this year was "Make Tiny Changes" and was set up to raise awareness of mental health. This was chosen by our S6 Charities Committee as the charity to support this year.

We have raised more than £2000. This money goes to charity and goes back into school funds to continue to support our young people.

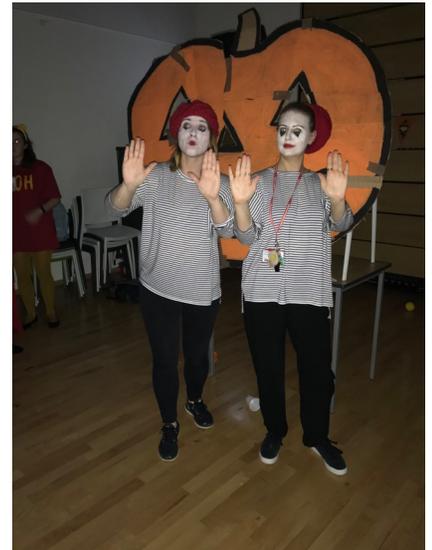


# S1 Halloween Party

Our annual Halloween Party is a chance to get together and socialise as a whole year group. S6 organise and run the party and did an excellent job of making it a lot of fun for more than 160 S1 pupils.

Staff also enjoyed the opportunity to get dressed up and even take part in the "teachers dance off"!

The S6 Fundraising Committee organise the party to raise money for S6 events and at the same time provide opportunities for S1 to get together. Next event is the S1 Christmas Party in December followed by the Panto and the Christmas Ceilidh.

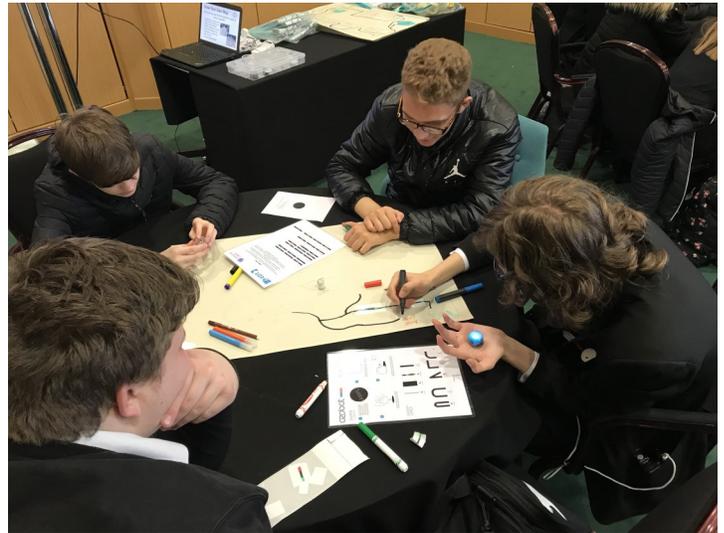


## STEM - S2 DIGITAL EXPLORERS

S2 pupils from our Computing enrichment classes spent the day at the TCS Digital Explorer event at Easter Road Stadium on Tuesday 8th October. They spent the day coding Ozobots, designing technical prototypes, examining key skills and asking industry experts questions regarding technology jobs.

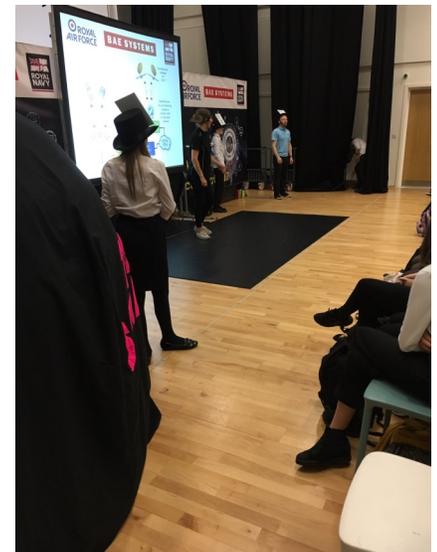


Senior pupils from the Digital Media Computing class, spent the day at TCS Digital Explorer event on Thursday 10th October. Pupils looked at solving challenges with ozobots robots, discussing careers with industry experts and building CVs focussing on skills required for a career in technology.



## S1 and S2 STEM Roadshow – visit Boroughmuir

The focus of the road show was science, technology engineering and maths as well as interdisciplinary skills. The group from the Royal Navy and RAF delivered an exciting show to 540 pupils. The show was centred on how we are connected and they had some great technology... always a hit with our young people. The pupils really enjoyed it and some were even brave enough to volunteer to help with demonstrations!



# DYW Assemblies to Highlight Skills



Developing the Young Workforce

Developing the Young Workforce (DYW), and in particular Employability skills, is a key focus for the school this year and features highly on our improvement plan. To help pupils further understand the skills they are gaining in their subjects each Faculty is giving a presentation to each year group Assembly over the course of a week which will outline the skills they are developing in each subject and highlight some possible career choices that use these skills. These subject Assemblies follow on from an Assembly from Skills Development Scotland (SDS) which informed pupils all about the Career Management Standards.

The first of these Faculty Assemblies was from Computing Science and Business Education who highlighted the keys skills these subjects bring and also the huge array of possible career paths open to pupils who decide to take Computing Science, Business Management or Economics.



Almost all jobs in the future will involve working as part of a Business and will most definitely involve Digital Skills and so having an opportunity to develop skills in both these subject areas will help pupils in whatever future career they choose to follow. From Computing Science pupils heard about careers such as Programming and Web Development but also about opportunities such as Ethical Hacking to combat Cyber Crime and to develop the next generation of AI Applications. From Business pupils found out about the diversity of opportunities that a Business qualification provide a pathway to including careers in Marketing, Finance, Advertising, HR, Retail and Logistics.

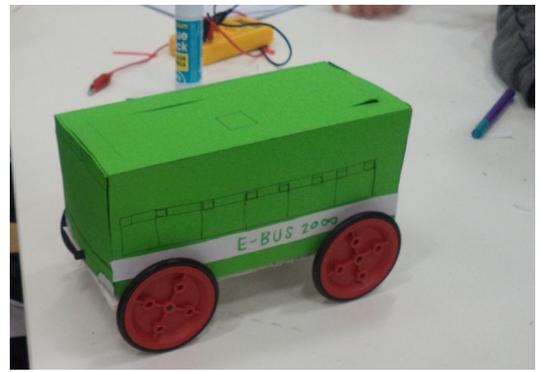


Choose Scotland,  
Choose a cool office - with cooler colleagues,  
Choose excellent money, Choose spending it wisely,  
Choose good job prospects, Choose team work, Choose job opportunities,  
Choose creativity, Choose travelling, Choose to create and invent, Choose shaping the future,  
#ChooseComputing Science.

**Choose.**

# S3 & S4 ENGINEERING

All S3 and S4 Engineering science students (60 of them) took part in a STEM activity all day last Thursday. Their task was to build and test electric cars. This was a very successful day which the students enjoyed. Thanks to Smallpiece who put on this event.



## S2 Interdisciplinary Learning – Royal Mile, Holyrood Park and Our Dynamic Earth

On the 25th & 26th September all of S2 ventured out to experience some Interdisciplinary learning focussed on the 4 aspects of the John Muir Award – *Discovering, Exploring, Conserving and Sharing*. This is a follow up to their visits to Hermitage of Braid in May. They were utilising skills from across their curriculum to complete an Outdoor Learner Journey down the Royal Mile. This was followed by a trip to Our Dynamic Earth and a walk through some of the more hidden trails within Holyrood Park. The learner journey down the Royal Mile was based around a theme chosen by the pupils themselves. These themes ranged from Mythical Beasts to Tourism to Closes. We were also joined by one of our parents Mrs Walker to help with some geology in Holyrood Park. Many staff from across the school supported the day.



# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LANGUAGES

On Thursday September 26<sup>th</sup> Boroughmuir High School again successfully celebrated the many languages spoken by our talented staff and pupils with the annual Day of Languages event. Over 15 languages were represented on the day; ranging from those from closer to home with Welsh and Gaelic, to those from further afield, like Japanese and Afrikaans. It was great to see so many of our junior pupils turning up and enthusiastically taking part. It was clear that we also have some potentially fantastic language teachers in the making! Delicious cakes and treats were on sale from the Charities Committee, who donated the profits to an organisation focusing on mental health.

A massive Merci, Danke schön, Gracias etc. to all who contributed to and attended the event.



## S2 HISTORY

In S2 History, the students have been learning about many of the everyday changes and experiences of Germans living under the new Nazi government in the early 1930s. This includes the changes to education, to the organisation of youth activities, the traditional and restricted role for girls and women and the development of widespread censorship, propaganda and terror. It's important for them to also learn about those Germans who stood up to the new Nazi ideas and publicly opposed them, often facing extreme risks as they did so.

In class we watched some key scenes from the German language film, *Sophie Scholl*, which focus on the way the Scholl siblings, Hans and Sophie, distributed anti-government leaflets in Munich in 1943, were caught, charged with treason and faced a show trial. Classes learned too about the anti-Hitler graffiti the White Rose group painted on the walls of churches and even Nazi party buildings in that city. The lesson allowed for a good sense of Interdisciplinary Learning (IDL) as it focused on key historical themes alongside a linked element of German language phrases and an opportunity to be creatively engaged with the historical activities of the young opponents of the German government. Most importantly, the students enjoyed the activity and com-

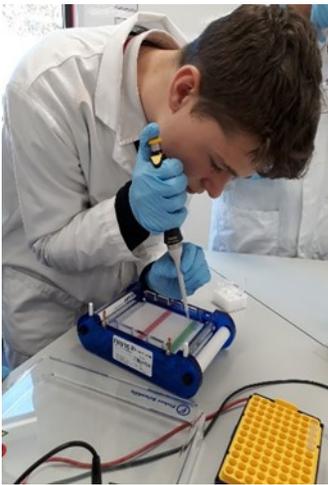
pleted the task at home to a very high standard leading to a very impressive display of a Munich wall in 1943 in their classroom. Well done S2s!



## " A Question of Taste "

Some senior pupils were given the opportunity to attend a workshop at the Easter Bush Outreach Science Centre (EBSOC) at the Roslin Institute. It was a full day, hands-on event in a purpose-built teaching laboratory using techniques covered in the Higher Human Biology course.

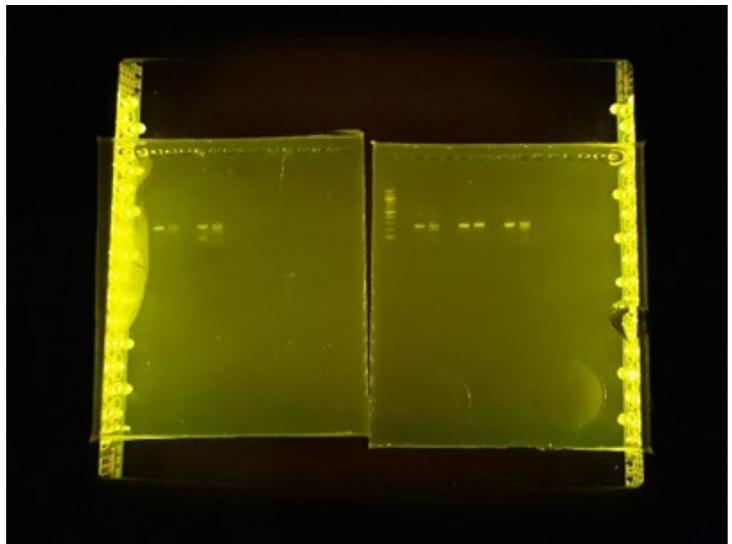
Using their own DNA extracted from cheek cells, they used Polymerase Chain Reaction ( PCR) to make multiple copies, used restrictive enzyme digestion and gel electrophoresis to separate their DNA fragments.



They were given the opportunity to use cutting - edge equipment and carried out a number of activities to enhance their understanding of technology in research.

The results allowed them to determine which version of the bitter taste receptor gene TAS2R38 they have for PCP, the compound similar to the one found in sprouts. (Check with them before serving up sprouts this Xmas, some people are 'strong tasters'!)

They were assisted through the day by Jayne Quoiani, E.B.S.O.Cs Education Officer and staff from the University of Edinburgh Centre for Inflammation Research giving the pupils insight into study and work opportunities in the field.



## Boroughmuir Launches its Canoe Club!!

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September Boroughmuir took to the water for the very first time!!! Our wonderful Canalside school has recently purchased kayaks and Canadian canoes to allow pupils to start connecting with the Union Canal which passes by the front door of the school.

The Head Teacher Mr Dempster said, “ We are delighted to be one of the very few, if not the only, school to have direct access onto a waterway where now our pupils can engage in a whole new set of activities and clubs involving water sports. Today we are dipping our toes in for the first time with our kayaks and Canadian canoes but in time we want to expand this to include rowing and paddle boarding.”

Parent and accomplished kayaker Cynthia Berry, organised the inaugural session which involved about 14 pupils. Cynthia has been involved with kayaking on the union canal for many years but the opportunity to have a club based at the school and launching onto the canal from our front door was an opportunity Cynthia relished.



We look forward to expanding the membership of our new club in the weeks and months ahead.

## Geo-Bus passes by!

Geo-bus, an educational outreach programme supporting Earth Science in schools around Scotland, stopped at Boroughmuir High School last month! Over 50 Second-year pupils participated in experiments focusing on the composite structure of the Earth and creating lava!

The Geography Department at Boroughmuir are looking to make Geography learning more interactive, challenging and creative so watch this space....!

The pupils were highly engaged and impressed Geo-bus with their hard-work and enthusiasm!



## JUPITER ARTLAND

The senior Art & Design pupils were invited to Jupiter Artland sculpture park for a private guided day tour. The Higher and Advanced Higher pupils were given an excellent tour by Matt from Jupiter Artland of the world class artworks hearing about their creation and site specific concept. This was an invaluable experience for the pupils, being able to get close and interact with contemporary conceptual art, and gave



them excellent material for their art analysis as well as great inspiration for their own work.

The images show Charles Jencks massive land art sculpture 'Cells of Life' and Cornelia Parker's huge Shotgun sculpture – 'Landscape with Gun and Tree'.

## Celebrating Libraries Week

This year's Libraries Week ran from the 5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> October, with the theme of 'Libraries in the Digital World'. To help celebrate Libraries Week in school, the library and Computing Science combined forces to show S1 pupils how much computers, technology have in common and that literacy isn't just about books.

Over the course of the week, S1 pupils visited the school library where they were given the task of making Binary Code bracelet. To do this, pupils were shown how '0's and '1's can be represented by colour beads (for example a white bead is '0' and a black bead '1') and by using the Binary Code Alphabet could create a bracelet that had their initials in Binary Code.

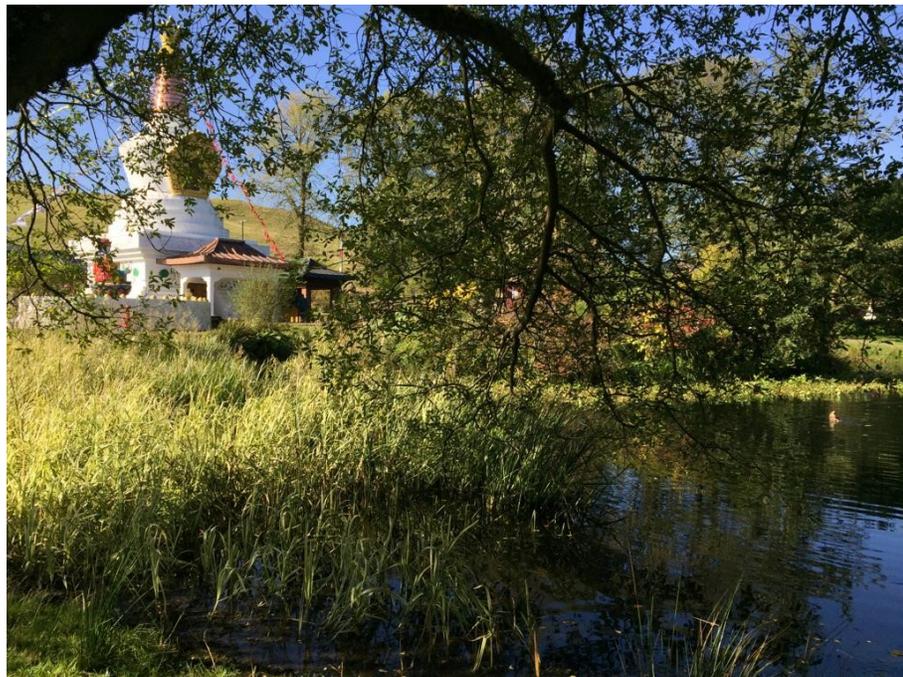
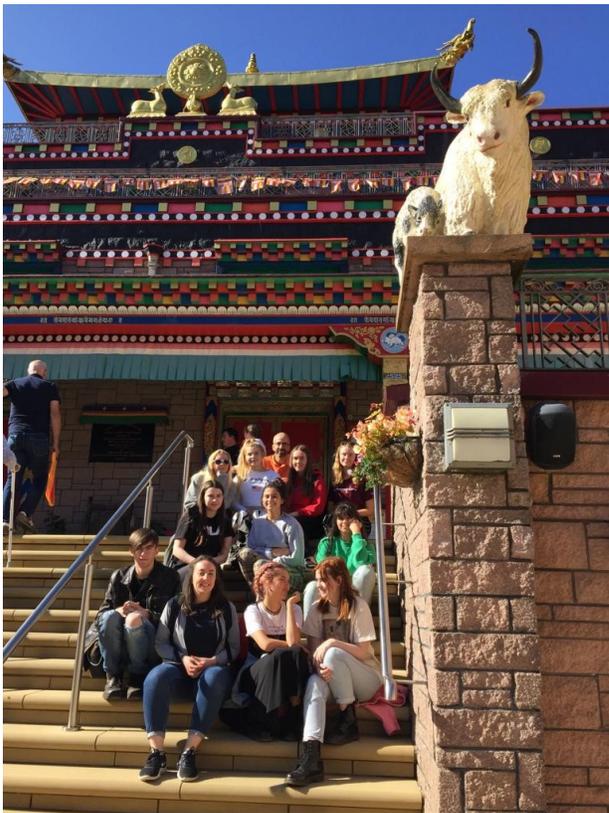


# Samye Ling Higher RMPS/ Philosophy Trip 2019

In September, the Higher classes enjoyed a warm sunny weekend away.

Staying in a "Dark Skies" area, we enjoyed a panoramic view of the night sky, shooting stars and all, on Friday night. This linked in well to the "Origins" topic in Higher RMPS as we discussed where it all came from.

Saturday was spent at Western Europe's biggest Buddhist temple complex, Samye Ling. We had a fantastic veggie lunch followed by a guided tour, allowing students first hand contact with the religion they are studying. A great weekend experience!



## P7 SPORTS EVENT - SENIOR SPORTS LEADERS

A huge thanks to all our P7s who came to Meggetland on 1st October. Although it was cold, all pupils were amazing. There was no moaning/complaining and it was a very successful transition event. All pupils were a real credit to their schools and the energy and enthusiasm was outstanding. Our senior sport leaders really enjoyed the experience and it was brilliant to see both ends of the Boroughmuir community working together.



## Remembrance

*The Head Team attended all assemblies during the first week of November to allow all pupils time for reflection. On the 8th November S6 pupils, former pupils and staff attended a service of Remembrance in the Assembly hall. We all observed a one minute silence at 11am.*



## **Trip to Edinburgh International Book Festival**

S2 were thrilled to take part to the Edinburgh International Book Festival. Steven Camden run an impromptu creative writing workshop and helped the audience creating real characters with a real personality and story: students and teachers were very participative. Jason Reynolds talked about his experience in growing up in America, writing and sense of identity. William Sutcliffe enthralled us teaching us how to be spontaneous when thinking about a story, and how to write real dialogue in our stories or piece of writings. Muhammad Khan and Tom Pollock chatted with the pupils about being different and the importance of respect in virtual and real world, going through interesting read of their new books. Pupils behaviour was amazing, and we have been lucky with the weather during our walk to the festival venue. Overall a great success and good feedback from students and staff!

## **Silent Book Club**

New addition to the library activities! Answering to the children need to find a quiet place in our busy and very active school, we started a Silent Book Club on Wednesday Lunch Time. Pupils can come to the library to read their books, do their homework and access the laptops for research. Only rule is they need to be quiet, only whispering is aloud. So far it has been a success, around 45 people every day, and response from the students has been great: they always make sure that there is another silent club the following week when they leave!

## **Teen Titles Party**

The second week back from the summer holiday, the librarian and the reviewers for Teen Titles, the literary magazine for High School students written by High School students, went to the Teen Titles Gala at Central Library. We had a chance to taste delicacies offered by the council, while chatting with some of our favourite authors, librarians and students from other schools. We also had a complimentary mindfulness session. A very well-deserved evening out indeed.



## **Banned Book Week**

22-28 September 2019 we celebrated Banned Books Week. Registration classes were invited to solve the impossible 'Burn That Book' quiz. Congratulation to 5W2 that, using their research skills managed to find 7/9 correct books and got a small prize at the end pf the week. This activity sparked some conversation with a lot of students that noticed the display and asked why the book were banned.

## **Waterstones New Book**

The LRC went to an evening to Waterstones to get some new books ideas and manged to snatch some freebies that are now added to the library. Lots of good new reads!



## Health and Wellbeing P7

On Thursday the 19<sup>th</sup> of September, we hosted a HWB transition morning, P7 pupils from Buckstone were welcomed by some very talented Boroughmuir pipers, Max Grigor, Finlay Gourlay and Harris Wilson playing Flower of Scotland-wow!



S2's led the pupils in groups to a variety of experiences that focus on physical, mental and emotional wellbeing. In HFTT P7's experienced a learning and teaching activity based on The Scottish Dietary Goals and Better Eating Better Learning within a marketplace setting, engaging with different games/ quizzes all developed and delivered by S3 HWB pupils. Skills that can promote physical health were developed whilst making delicious muesli breakfast pots. Our mini club fair promoted the benefits to mental health through participation, friendship and fun, there were lots of stalls to visit even American football! PE put the P7's through their paces with time in the fitness suite on The Muga and finally we ensured the P7's got to experience our dining space with a breakfast and lunch tasting session. There were lots of happy faces and great feedback from all involved, our next transition involves Bruntsfield in January- looking forward to it!



## Bring your Parents to School Day

It was great to see 20 S1 Parents at Boroughmuirs “Bring your parents to school day” when they joined the Health, Food and Textile Technology Department! We wanted parents to experience a “real” S1 practical lesson and on the schedule was Savoury Scones. Parents needed to be very organized in terms of time management, equipment and show good numeracy and literacy skills as

well as communication, teamwork and collaborative capacities which feature heavily in all of our lessons and they all worked superbly! They were an excellent class and we were very impressed with their product.



## Paris 2019- Activity Week

The HFTT department, Mr Das and Mrs Gibson took 45 students to Paris during activity week for a very busy and HOT couple of days! We left Edinburgh in a Monsoon and arrived in Paris, first stop the Eiffel Tower, followed by dinner. On Tuesday we headed to The Choco Story Museum for tastings, a demonstration by a chocolatier and a tour of the museum, some sight-seeing in our airconditioned bus on route to Disneyland was a great way to cool down in the heat. Next stop was Disneyland, the pupils were fantastic, keeping topped up with water, sunscreen and checking in with staff! It was fantastic spending the whole day there, seeing the parade and fireworks- magical! Some of our S3 pupils used their DOE skills when a group got lost returning to the bus! Saved!

With over 27,000 steps walked we all needed a good rest. We had a busy day making truffles and Calzone on the



Thursday with a trip to see Toy Story 4 on the last day of term. We would like to say a big thankyou to al the pupils – who were fantastic!

## BRING YOUR PARENTS TO SCHOOL DAY 2019

This year our “Bring Your Parents to School Day” was featured in the Times Education Supplement Scotland. Our class was joined by one of their writers - Emma Seith who then wrote a 6 page feature in this national publication. We have already had a request from another school to find out more about how we do this.

We were once again joined by almost 60 S1 parents who came back to school for the day to “walk in the shoes of their children” and get a real insight to a day in the life of an S1 pupil at our school.



### What surprised you most about today?

*Variety, the practical aspects and facilities are amazing.*

*Our classes were serious learning!*

*I enjoyed subjects I disliked at school - how organised it was despite the size of school*

*Enthusiasm of the teachers - incredible organisation - whole day was seamless*

*How tiring it is to whizz around every hour*

*Bunsen burners are still allowed in school!!*

*How taxing all the moving about and constantly changing mindset or discipline is. It's been a long time since I was at high school!*

### How do you think this day will help your relationship with us?

*Greater understanding of the complexity of running this massive (and wonderful) high school.*

*It was fun and I felt welcome. I feel more confident contacting school.*

*Gives me an insight into the workings of school and some subjects (PSE) which I know little about but help our children. Helps me participate more in my children's learning.*

*Greater understanding of the pressures you face with so many children*

*It has improved it - great to feel how S1 feel. Nice to meet teachers*

*Greater understanding and respect for teachers.*

*Great way to get to know your way around and meet some of the teachers*

# LEARNING TOGETHER AS A CLUSTER



On 21<sup>st</sup> October more than 200 colleagues from across our cluster came together at Boroughmuir for a day of learning and healthy activities.

*“It was a fantastic day for our cluster and thoroughly enjoyable.”*

Our day began with a keynote from Claire Lavelle about the importance of our own health and wellbeing and the impact it can have on our pupils. Healthy teachers are always better equipped to deliver better learning experiences. Following this there were 20 workshops to choose from focussing on different aspect of learning and teaching.

We then came back together following our workshops to hear from Pattie Santelices who spoke more about the impact of teacher wellbeing on learning.

Mr Collard then shared some of the experiences on offer for staff wellbeing at Boroughmuir. He had also organised and co-ordinated opportunities to experience some of these in the afternoon – these included Zumba, Spin, Watercolours, reading, cooking, yoga, a walk along the canal and much more.

*“I took something really useful from everything I attended and even better left relaxed and energised. More than that, looking round the table at the end of the afternoon all my colleagues were laughing, relaxed and looking happy.*

*So sincerely well done and thank you - it was a really great day.”*



# Hong Kong Scotland School Improvement Partnership

Boroughmuir is a founder school in the Hong Kong Scotland School Improvement Partnership (HKSSIP).

Its aim is promote cultural exchange for pupils between Hong Kong and Scotland as well as providing opportunities for teachers to learn from each other's systems.

In the week 2<sup>nd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> November Boroughmuir hosted 5 pupils and 1 teacher from Hong Kong with the pupils all being accommodated in host families.

They were part of a larger delegation of 50 pupils and 16 teachers and Head Teachers from Hong Kong. The other Edinburgh schools involved were James Gillespie's, St Thomas', Liberton, Gracemount, Balerno, the Royal High School and Knox Academy East Lothian.



It was a tremendous week with great friendships being formed which will hopefully last a lifetime.

Here is some feedback from one of the Hong Kong pupils.

On the first day of school, I could totally feel the differences between Hong Kong and Edinburgh.

To begin with, it was raining when we went to school. Almost all pedestrians did not take an umbrella, they just wore hats. When in Rome, do as the Romans do—I didn't take an umbrella or a raincoat out. We took bus and then walk a short distance to school. I found that Scottish people can cope with rainy days calmly. Perhaps it's exactly because of the different environments that cause the differences in how we handle adversity.

When I came to school, I met the head teacher, Mr Dempster and he treated us well with big smile. I really appreciated his kindness. Then we started to get to know students in our sister school by a ice-breaking-game. It really enhanced my confidence through communicating with them. In addition, the students showed us around and told me about their school with patience. They had over 20 subjects to choose which was really amazed me. And they could learn how to dance in PE lesson.

After paying a visit around school, we had lessons with our buddies. To be honest, it's quiet challenging for me to understand what Scottish teachers had taught about. From my perspective, I could feel that it was quite free for students in class. In other words, it seemed that students could chat anytime but they can focus on their work in a short time when there was class work distributed by teacher. Also, they had their own realization about what they could do or what they could not do without certain rules. Although I could not understand the learning content of the class most of the time, I still felt that the students here were strongly self-regulated.

The most wonderful lesson I had was Mandarin. The reason why I described as wonderful was because they had different ways for Scottish students to learn a new language. Teacher could teach some words through games in order to let students gain more interests in learning Mandarin. Also, I could feel that Scottish teacher was keen on teaching and learning Mandarin. Every language has its own meaning to learn. Now I see why we need to have some exchange programs around the world.

At the end of the day, we had eight people all together to have dinner. It was still raining but the wind was so strong that our umbrella flew up so we ran to the restaurant as quick as we could. I noticed Scottish people got used to a quite change in weather. Let us try to live with it.

Xu Wei, Rita

S5 TWGHs Kwok Yat Wai College

Host school: Boroughmuir High School

*As we approach the end of another year we like to celebrate and end our term on a positive note for the winter holidays.*

## **Monday 16th December**

School Christmas Concert in Central Hall

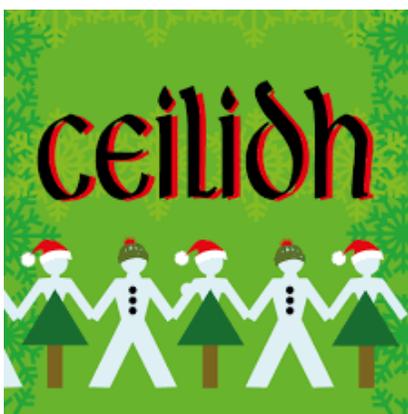
## **Thursday 19th December**

S2 - Christmas Film in the Assembly Hall - S6 Fundraising Committee

## **Friday 20th December**

We invite all pupils to wear some winter sparkle or accessorise and donate to Save the Children.

**CHRISTMAS  
JUMPER DAY**



**Friday 20th December at 11am**

S1 - Festive Ceilidh - Sports Hall

S4 - Award Winning, World Famous Karaoke with Mr Cifelli Assembly Hall



S5/6 - Christmas Service - Bruntsfield Evangelical Church

