

School Information

Friday 3rd December 2021

School Extension Newsletter

See here for an update on progress of the extension from the City's project team.

<https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/BHS-Newsletter-Dec-2021-1.pdf>

Christmas Holiday Dates

A reminder that the pupil holiday dates for Christmas are 12.00 midday on Friday 17th Dec to 8.32am on Thursday 6th January.

This is a change from the dates published by the City at the start of the year. These new dates were published in May.

If pupils miss school because of this date change the absence will be authorised as long as plans were made prior to May. Please let the school office know of any planned absences.

Stay safe on-line at Christmas

See leaflet from Police Scotland about on-line fraud and on-line safety

https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/PS-GSO-Xmas_Dec21_Leaflet.pdf

Charity Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our non-uniform day for Children in Need. We raised £1826.50.

Our next fundraiser will be on Friday 17 December when we will be wearing Christmas jumpers and raising money for Save The Children.

Covid Mitigations

Our school Health and Safety committee have asked that all pupils and staff are reminded of the Covid mitigations we should all be obeying

- Wearing of face coverings at all times – unless officially exempt
- 2 m social distancing between all adults and adults and pupils
- Regular sanitizing of desks, surfaces and hands
- Use of 1way systems and observance of staggered breaks at lunch, break and the end of the day

Thank you for your compliance with this. Compliance will hopefully ensure staff and pupils are not close contacts of any positive cases in school.

Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI)- Book sale

The lunch time book sales over the last 2 weeks have raised over 250 pounds towards the YPI winning Charity – Women's Aid.

Thank you to all who donated and purchased books. The remaining books are now in the staffroom for staff to buy.

Boroughmuir in the News!

Please see this link for some great news about our school!

https://www.edinburghlive.co.uk/news/edinburgh-news/two-edinburgh-schools-top-ten-22351154?fbclid=IwAR1a7uuM7fwlF_d0d6VO2_UIAMP9qCdc3VckrmjKmN67_wAUTW1rNGIsomk

Friday 26th November 2021

Members of Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYP)

Congratulations to

- Mari Humphreys (S5)
- Fabian Butchart (S3)

who have been elected as Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYP) for Edinburgh Southern.

We are very proud of their incredible campaigns and success in being elected.

Screen Success!

We are delighted to announce that Miriam Mohamed in S6 has won the MES award for Higher Media Screen Production as part of The Scottish Youth Film Festival. This was open to all Media pupils across Scotland.

Here is her winning film: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=81GEVc1lrEg>

Well done Miriam.

Winter Window Competition

Congratulations to Aminah Hussain in 1H2 who has created a winning window in The Edinburgh Winter Windows Competition. Her design will become a "Winter Window" in the City Chambers. The theme this year was "connection and Kindness". We will share a picture when the window is complete. Well done Aminah!

Reconnecting to School life- The Basics

It is vital that all our pupils reconnect as fully as they can with school life. We are now contacting home to seek your assistance in ensuring pupils comply with the areas below

- **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.

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)

School Renewal Presentation

Here is a link to the power point presentation on the School Renewal Plan that was shared at the last parent council meeting.

<https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Parent-Council-presentation-November-2021-1.pptx>

S1 Festive Art

S1 Festive Art [online shop](#) closes on Saturday. Our S1s have created art work which you can buy via this link. Profits go to the parent council fundraising group.

Staffing Update

Welcome to Mr Jeremy Beard who started with us on a full time permanent basis in the maths department on Monday 22nd November.

Friday 19th November 2021

S1,2 and S6 School Photographs:

These will be taking place in the Assembly Hall on Tuesday 23rd November at the times indicated in the bulletin. Smile!!

S4 Prelims

Our S4 prelim diet finishes today. Our teachers are now engaged in the process of marking and moderating the papers and that will take some time. Marks will be available once this process is complete.

Our pupils behaved impeccably throughout the diet and seemed to relish the opportunity to take proper exams in the proper fashion.

As well as Mr Hembury and Mr Munro I want to thank our team of invigilators and in particular the Chief Invigilator, Kim Calder who make the whole process run so smoothly.

Scottish Youth Parliament:

Over the past several months, three Boroughmuir students have stood as candidates for the Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP). They are:

- Mari Humphreys (S5)
- Sam Brander (S4)
- Fabian Butchart (S3)

Also, a big thanks to Elisa Jourdan and Alexandra Tunnah (both S3 students) who have been helping the candidates run their campaigns

The SYP is a youth-led, democratic organisation which aims to represent the young people of Scotland. The SYP is made up of around 166 democratically-elected representatives aged 14–25 from across Scotland. The main focus of the SYP elections this year have been the theme of ‘Bounce Back’. Specifically, how the candidates can be the voice in leading a Human Rights Based Approach to recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. The three candidates have engaged in numerous training workshops in and out of school based on this issue. Most notably an in-school hustings, which had a high attendance amongst Boroughmuir students with standing room only, whereby in which the candidates were ‘grilled’.

Voting has been ongoing since 8th November, and the constituency Mari, Fabian and Sam are standing for Edinburgh Southern, has had an extremely positive voter turnout rate. This has been led with the candidates creating videos, generating a social media platform and great promotion in and out of school about the elections.

Voting ends this Sunday (21st November). The link for students to vote if they haven’t done so is below:

<https://elections.youngscot.org/Election/SelectConstituencyGroup/scottish-youth-parliament-2021>

(remember students will need their Young Scot card number to vote). Results will be confirmed on Monday 22nd November between 4:00-4:30. Good luck to the three candidates, Mari, Sam and Fabian

Nut Allergies

Although it is impossible to guarantee being a ‘nut free’ environment, please be mindful of those with severe nut allergies when bringing food and sweets into school.

Youth Philanthropy Initiative -YPI

Congratulations to all the teams who took part in the Youth Philanthropy Initiative final on Wednesday afternoon. The winning team of Alannah Taylor and Alexandra Tunnah will present £3,000 to Women’s aid at the upcoming awards ceremony. A special mention has to go to Alannah who confidently presented their work on her own as Alexandra was unable to attend. It was a close

run event with excellent presentations and hard work from all the teams. Most of the money is donated by the Wood Foundation, with the classes raising the rest.

Book Sale

Next week we will host a book sale to raise our part of the £3,000 for the YPI initiative with any extra money raised being donated to the other charities who were represented in the final. The book sale will take place in the assembly hall at lunchtime on Wednesday. Book donations still welcome.

Study Support

Please find attached our current study and homework support schedule. Study support is offered for S4-6 pupils sitting National Qualifications, and homework support is available to all, for all subjects, on Wednesdays after school, in the library. Study support is offered by staff freely and voluntarily: there are currently 22 subjects on offer, and other supports may become available in the New Year. <http://boroughmuirhighschool.org/pupil-support/assessment-calendars/>

The national e-learning offer from E-Sgoil is also running weekly study support webinars for which Senior Phase pupils can register using their Glow details, as well as curricular resources across all levels from early years upwards. If pupils need their Glow details, they can ask any teacher for them.

[Digital learning from Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar | e-Sgoil](#)

S1 Panto Cancellation - Refunds

As you are aware from our newsletter last week unfortunately we have had to cancel out S1 trip to the pantomime. This decision is due to updated health and safety guidance from the City of Edinburgh Council.

Refunds are underway and you should receive payment shortly.
Thank you for your understanding.

D Dempster
Head Teacher

Friday 12th November 2021

Remembrance Service

Today we are holding our remembrance service around our school war memorial. It is being attended by 40 S6 pupils, 3 Senior staff, 5 teachers and 2 Former pupils but all pupils and staff will observe the minutes silence at 11am.

It is always a poignant service and one which we are very proud to hold each year.

Children in Need – 19th November – Dress Down Day!!

As part of fundraising for Children in Need, Friday 19th will be a dress down day. No football tops or offensive tee shirts should be worn but pupils will be able to personalise their dress for a small contribution to Charity via parent pay.

Covid Mitigations

Continuing Covid Mitigations mean that our annual trip to the Panto for S1 cannot take place. Neither can any other trip or activity that involves large gatherings. Things are slowly improving and returning to normal but unfortunately not quite everything yet.

Antibullying week – message from Mrs Patterson

Next week (15th-19th November) is anti-bullying week. Media pupils from S3 - S6 were given an opportunity to take part in a film competition for RespectMe, Scotland's anti-bullying service, and create a short anti-bullying film using the stimulus '*What made it better?*' Some of our pupils have been shortlisted for the final and will find out on Monday if they have won which is very exciting.

To help raise awareness, the pupils have given permission for some of their films to be shared in registration classes next week.

We have also been working with our pupil council to create new information sheets to show how bullying behaviours and incidents can, and should, be reported. These will be highlighted during registration next week and displayed around the school. A link to these posters can be found here

[Pupil Resources | Boroughmuir High School](#)

The link to the [RespectMe](#) website is here. This has a lot of guidance and support for young people and adults.

Equalities – message from Ms O'Thy

The Pupil Equalities Ambassadors and the Higher Philosophy class have been looking at effective protest banners. As part of this we created six banners that cover a variety of messages. These were:

Protect Trans Lives, Get a shift on – to protect the environment, Make Feminism Intersectional, Mental Health awareness, Listen to POC voices – learn to be anti-racist, Change the range – give free range chickens more space.

These have been displayed in the Atrium for the last week and have provoked many discussions! They will be moved and displayed in the library on a more permanent basis. Well done to all the pupils who created them.

Parent Council Meeting – Message from Kate Morris, Chair BHS Parent Council

If you want to know how the school will tackle the task of Covid recovery, the senior leadership team will present on Boroughmuir's Covid recovery plan at the next Parent Council Meeting, 17 November at 6.30pm. Details below of how to connect.

Topic: BHS Parent Council

Time: Nov 17, 2021 06:30 PM London

Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84792223930?pwd=RVFLNms3c0MyUjdjVFRaQ1FVczJEZz09>

Meeting ID: 847 9222 3930
Passcode: 574040

I encourage you to send questions in advance to me at chair@boroughmuir-pc.co.uk, or DM me on Facebook. These can cover any area, e.g. implications and catch up plans for specific years, impact on qualifications, mental health outcomes, social skill, and anything you raise will remain in confidence.

We have a couple of items of PC business to deal with on the evening, but these will be dealt with quickly!

Friday 5th November 2021

Prelim Assessments – S4

The S4 prelim diet starts today. Individual prelim assessment timetables have been issued and an information letter issued to pupils.

Some key reminders:

- Pupils should arrive 15mins before the start of each assessment, bringing all pens, pencils, erasers, rulers and calculators. It is very important that pupils are not late.
- Dress code should be worn
- Mobile phones and smart watches must be switched off and are left in bags at the front of the halls and rooms.
- Daily information and updates will be posted on their Class of 2024 year group Teams page
- On the days pupils **do** have assessments they are only required to attend these (they do not need to register and do not attend normal classes).
- On days pupils **do not** have assessments they are expected to register and attend normal timetabled classes. They are encouraged to bring revision/study materials with them.
- On the days pupils have **two** assessments (morning and afternoon) they are allowed to study quietly in the school Atrium.

We wish all our S4 pupils well with their assessments.

Tracking Reports – S1 and S3

The first tracking reports for S1 and S3 pupils has been issued alongside some guidance documentation for this school session.

Whilst we cannot respond to all parental queries you will have the opportunity to discuss this with class teachers during the forthcoming Parent Consultation evenings.

Please note that we have some staff absences due to Covid and other reasons. This is why there are some subjects with missing tracking data. We are aiming for these staff to issue updated tracking reports as soon as possible.

Dress Code

We continue to encourage all our pupils to wear school dress code on a daily basis. We are very grateful to the majority of pupils who do adhere to our dress code and do wear it each day.

However, we are keen to see general improvements in pupil's dress code particularly around the wearing of branded jumpers, non-black footwear and jeans.

We have been trialing some revised procedures to inform parents and carers when we think the dress code guidance is not being adhered to and we have been contacting home about this. The link to our dress code leaflet is [here](#). Your continued support in this area is appreciated.

S1 Parents Night

The S1 parents' night is next Wednesday 10th November from 4.15pm – 7.05pm. S1 parents have all been emailed information on the on-line system we are using and how to make on-line bookings.

Boroughmuir Pipe Band at Remembrance Match, Tynecastle Stadium Saturday 6th November

It's a great honour to have our pipe band play at the Hearts Remembrance match this Saturday. There is a long association between Boroughmuir High School and Hearts FC. In WW1 several FPs who became Hearts players lost their lives in battle and are remembered both on our school war memorial and also the Hearts FC war memorial.

The band will be playing on the plaza in front of the stadium from 1340 -1415. They will then move to the Soldier Memorial at the intersection of the Roseburn & Wheatfield stands from 1430-1445. A lone piper will then play pitch side before the match. There will also be short period of playing at the memorial at halftime.

I'm delighted to have been invited along to Tynecastle to see the band in action.

Here's a link to the Hearts web-site featuring this event:-

<https://www.heartsfc.co.uk/news/article/remembrance-fixture-this-saturday>

Boroughmuir Remembrance Service – Fri 12th November 11am.

This year we are able to reintroduce our annual service of remembrance around our school war memorial in the school assembly hall.

It will be a smaller event than normal with a maximum of 50 attendees made up of S6 pupils, former pupils and school staff.

The whole school will observe a minute's silence at 11am in memory of all those who have lost their lives in conflicts around the world.

Annual Academic Service

I was delighted to once again represent the school along with 2 senior pupils, Marcia MacSween, (Depute School Captain) and Marina Wilson (Prefect) at the annual Academic Service in St Giles last Sunday. The event starts in the City Chambers after which the 'Academic's' process up the Royal Mile to St Giles.

It is a celebration of the academic life of Edinburgh and is attended by Academics from the City's Universities, Colleges and Schools. The City of Edinburgh Council was represented by the Lord Provost Frank Ross and other office bearing Councillors, CEO of the City of Edinburgh Andrew Kerr, the Interim Director of Education Julien Kramer as well as Headteachers and teachers and pupils from the City's schools.

Literary Success!

The English Department would like to congratulate Ruth Shephard (4L2) and Olivia McGeachy (5M1) for their fantastic success in the recent BBC Radio Scotland "Climate Tales" writing competition! Ruth was the winner in the 14-16 age category scooping the Gold Award for her story "The Flood", while Olivia gained the Silver Award for her monologue "2050: the Year Society Got Serious about the Environment and the Same Year I Got Arrested".

The brief was to write a piece exploring "hopes, fears, frustrations and opinions on climate change" in under 500 words. Hundreds of entries were received from across the country and judged by an expert panel of authors and broadcasters.

Both girls were treated to a bag of climate-themed books while Ruth also enjoyed a workshop in BBC HQ with author Ross McKenzie to learn about the writing and publishing process.

To see the girls perform their work in the Grand Final, visit: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/2Fj2gMyxyS0jbT0jQVWsqNp/winners>

Staffing Update

Mr Lionel Richard leaves us this week after 3 years in Boroughmuir's maths dept. Mr Richard is relocating to the Borders and has a new job in Earlston High School. I'd like to thank Mr Richard for all his incredible input to the school and I wish him well in his new post.

Mr Jeremy Beard who is currently at Trinity Academy will take up post in the maths dept from Monday 22nd November.

Friday 29th October 2021

Start of Term!

I hope all our pupils and staff had a great holiday!

It's now an 8 week term with no breaks whatsoever until the Christmas holidays which starts on 17th December! Pace yourself!

HRH Prince Charles talks to Boroughmuir

Further to our recent 1.5 MAX climate change summit, the British Council organised for Boroughmuir to meet Prince Charles via Teams about the conference.

The lead Teachers Mr Bird and Mr Das, our pupil delegates and our partner school in Nepal, Janakalyan Secondary, had a great chat with the Prince of Wales who was hugely complimentary about the project and the work of our pupils and staff.

The project, carried out with schools across Scotland, Mozambique, Malawi and Nepal, was a great success in stimulating student-led climate action. It was funded by the British Council, via their connecting classrooms program. There are all sorts of Connecting Classrooms projects going on across Britain, but Boroughmuir's was chosen to be a showcase of a great example of a connecting classrooms project.

This was a great honour for the school and something we are very proud of indeed.

S1- 6 Covid Mitigations

The Government have extended existing Covid mitigations in schools for the time being.

As such all existing Covid mitigations will remain in place i.e everyone has to wear face coverings at all times unless eating, hand and desk sanitising should take place regularly and one-way systems will remain in place.

Break and lunch will also remain staggered but with changes. See below.

S4 – 6 released **2 mins** early at break, lunch and end of day

S1 – 3 released from classes on the bell at normal period timings

S1 Out of School at Break and Lunch

Our S1 have enjoyed their new found freedom at break and lunch now that they are allowed out at these times. There have been no reports of inappropriate behaviour in the neighbourhood so that is great news.

I'm pleased to say however that many of our S1 are continuing to use our excellent catering facilities in the school and enjoying the surroundings of our fabulous building.

Ask A Parent

A reminder that registrations are open for the Ask A Parent Online session.

Monday 1st November at 7pm

You can sign up or find out more information on Eventbrite.

https://bhs_askaparent_01112021.eventbrite.co.uk

Disabled spaces on Viewforth

Please do not use the disabled spaces on Viewforth for drop off in the morning. This on occasion is meaning that people in need of these spaces as parking spaces cannot access them.

I appreciate your understanding in this matter.

Friday 15th October 2021

End of term – 12.50 pm Today!!

Term ends for the October half term today at 12.50pm for all pupils and staff.

Staff return on Monday 25th October for an in-service day and pupils on Tuesday 26th at 8.32am. I want to take this opportunity to thank all our staff and pupils for working in such a positive way since our return in August. It's been a tiring 9 weeks but the school experience has got progressively better as things have been increasingly returning to normal. Have a great break!!

SWAY

Here is our latest edition of Boroughmuir Engages on Sway!

It really highlights the extent of our focus on Reconnection since returning to school!

Thank you to all our contributors and to Mr Collard who produces this incredible presentation!

<https://sway.office.com/IVw0pTm5x4dxEJkk?ref=Link>

2021 Attainment Report

I attach a link that will take you to a brief overview of the school's attainment in this years S4,5,6 national qualification diet. This was presented to the parent council at the meeting on 13th October. Due to Covid mitigations this assessment programme was delivered by schools as part of schools' Alternative Certification Model (ACM). As said in the introduction, I am delighted with the level of attainment of our pupils and the professionalism of our staff in delivering an assessment programme of this magnitude.

<http://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/HTs-Attainment-Report-Oct-2021.pdf>

S1 – break & lunch

After the October break S1 pupils are allowed to leave the school grounds at break and lunch.

We do ask for responsible behaviour in the neighbourhood and anyone breaching this responsibility will lose this privilege.

We do of course have a great dining hall and would encourage our S1 to continue enjoying all it has to offer.

P7 Open Afternoon

The Open Afternoon for P7 parents planned for the afternoon of Friday 29th October will have to be cancelled again due to on-going Covid mitigations. There is significant planning for this event and a decision has had to be made now, on current mitigations, to cancel it.

An on-line alternative will be shared with P7 pupils and parents.

S4 Prelims

The S4 prelim diet has been issued to pupils on Wednesday.

Further details will be issued after the holidays.

Ask A Parent - Event

The Parent Council is organising an Ask A Parent session on Zoom.

This is an opportunity to put any questions you might have to a panel of Boroughmuir parents from all year groups about Boroughmuir life.

It's on Monday 1st November at 7pm. You can register and find out more information here:

https://bhs_askaparent_01112021.eventbrite.co.uk

Bonfire Night – Safety

Please see the attached letter from the police about keeping children safe during the bonfire season.

<http://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Joint-Firework-Letter-2021.pdf>

Staffing Update

Today we're saying goodbye to Pauline Wearing, one of our science technicians. Pauline is moving on to take up a new post in Glasgow. We thank her for all her work in Boroughmuir and wish her well for the future.

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)

Friday 8th October 2021

End of term – 12.50 pm – next Friday 15th Oct

Term ends for the October half term next Friday at 12.50pm for all pupils and staff.

Staff return on Monday 25th October for an in-service day and pupils on Tuesday 26th at 8.32am.

Staffing Update

Congratulations to Sean Sproull who has been appointed as a full-time permanent teacher of Mandarin here in Boroughmuir High School. Sean has until now been a visiting teacher from the Swire Chinese Language Centre Edinburgh but is now employed by Boroughmuir High School. Sean will of course still work closely with the Swire Centre which will continue to provide great back up and networking to our school. Primary schools receiving input from Sean will continue to do so.

Sean's permanent appointment into Boroughmuir's own staffing is testament to the success of the Swire project and of course the quality of Mandarin teaching delivered by Sean in the school. Uptake of Mandarin has been exceptional, and we now have over 130 pupils per week studying Mandarin in Boroughmuir with pupils sitting national qualifications in National 4, 5 and Higher. Boroughmuir now is one of the biggest centres for Mandarin in Scotland and it's an area that I know will go from strength to strength.

Parents' use of Pupils' Teams

Parents should not be using their child's Teams account to make contact with the school. These are personal accounts for pupil use and are not for use by parents. If parents do want to contact the school, please do so using the normal channels of the school office or your child's guidance teacher.

Mobile Phones

This is a reminder to pupils that mobile phones should not be out in class unless under the direction of the teacher.

If phones are being used without permission, they will be confiscated until the end of the period.

Parent Council Meeting – Wed 13th Oct 6.30pm

The agenda and invite has already been emailed out to all parents. Here is a reminder of how to join the meeting.

Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89289846153?pwd=Wm8zQTdyMUxJMEJRWEtmMDZHVE5mQT09>

Meeting ID: 892 8984 6153 Passcode: 3Jwa1i

Meeting dates for 2021/22:

13 October 2021 AGM

17 November 2021

19 January 2022

16 March 2022

4 May 2022

1 June 2022

1.5 Max Summit

Our 3-day climate change summit linking with schools across Scotland and the world was a great success. Our delegates have come up with a pledge on how to make Boroughmuir a more environmentally friendly school.

The pledge and actions will be shared with the wider school community in the coming weeks.

Thank you to Mr Bird, Mr Das and all our delegates for their organisation and input to this great event.

Head Team at Fordell Firs

On Thursday and Friday of this week our new S6 Head Team have been attending Fordell Firs Scout camp. This had been to develop and build leadership skills as well as promote team building for their new roles in S6.

The S6 Head Team and indeed the wider S6 prefect team contribute so much to the good order of the school and provide incredible role models to our younger pupils.

S1 at Meggetland

Today all our S1 are at Meggetland for a morning's health and wellbeing activities. It's great to be able to finally provide a whole year group activity for our new S1, especially around such an important issue.

S4 revision

Yesterday half of our S4 year group had study support technique sessions with the company Tree of Knowledge. The other half will receive this input next Thursday. The S4s who attended this session have found it extremely helpful in their preparations for future study.

S4 Prelims

Next week S4 pupils will receive a timetable for the S4 prelims which run in the period 5 – 19th November.

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/coronavirus/coronavirus-vaccines/)

Friday 1st October 2021

Clubs & Activities

Sign-ups to clubs and activities this year has been huge! Here are links that will show you all that is currently on offer. It may grow!

Link to general clubs

http://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/BHS-General-Clubs_Sept21.pdf

Link to sports clubs

http://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/BHS-Sports-Clubs_Sept21.pdf

S1 – Welcome evenings – 5th /6th October – Delayed

Unfortunately, continuing Covid mitigations will not allow us to hold next week's S1 welcome evenings.

We really do want these face to face meetings to happen in the school so for now they are delayed.

1.5 Max Summit - Tue 5th Oct to Thu 7th Oct – Message from Mr Bird.

Boroughmuir is about to host an event unlike any other taking place in Scottish schools - with the young people of our Climate Change society playing a pivotal role. With COP26 fast approaching, we are hosting an event which brings together schools across Scotland (from Dumfries and Galloway to the Western Isles) along with schools in Mozambique, Malawi and Nepal where climate change is already having an effect.

Boroughmuir has chosen 16 delegates (pupils in every year group) to attend the 1.5 MAX Global Schools Summit on climate change. The aims of the summit are very simple: to learn about how climate change is affecting communities around the world, to devise creative local actions to tackle each school's *local* problems, and to have fun! We hope the summit will serve as a springboard for a more sustainable direction for Boroughmuir, with young people taking a leading role.

For more information, see the 1.5 MAX Twitter page @1point5MAX, or our website: 1.5max.org

S4 Prelims

S4 Prelims assessments are scheduled to **start on Friday 5th November and run until Friday 19th November**. There are some speaking exams in advance of these dates.

Due to ongoing Covid mitigations in schools the assessments will be limited to groups of no more than 50 pupils in a space therefore assessments will take place concurrently in a number of spaces throughout the school. Alternative assessment arrangements where applicable, will be in place.

Pupils will attend school every day throughout the diet.

On days pupils have an exam they only come in to school for the exam.

On days pupils do not have an exam they attend school and normal classes for the day and will engage in study.

A full prelim timetable will be issued in advance of the October holiday,

Study skills for Senior pupils - Thursday 7th and Thursday 14th October.

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.

Work for absent Pupils

This is a reminder that work for absent pupils is sign posted in the following web pages.

It is vital that pupils who are isolating or are absent but are able to engage in school work do engage in school work.

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

S1 Health & Wellbeing morning at Meggetland – Fri 8th October

All S1 pupils will be involved in a physical health / mental health activities day at Meggetland next Friday, 8th October. Pupils will meet and be registered at Meggetland, then take part in eight different stations, with the morning culminating in a House relay competition. They will be dismissed from there at 12.50pm. We hope this will be a fun event and compensate for their missed transition induction day, as well as the outdoor learning Epic Day and the residential they missed in P7.

Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) – message from Mr Hamilton

Parents. Are you aware of Pupil Equity (PEF) Funding?

Pupil Equity Funding is Government funding to ensure that all students can access all aspects of school life. It is there to support young people who may not be able to access the same opportunities due to family experience of financial difficulties. Boroughmuir's PEF list includes all students in receipt of Free School Meals, those who live in post codes within SIMD bands 1-4 (<https://www.gov.scot/collections/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2020/>), and some others, for example looked-after young people and those with experience of being in care.

This support can include help with equipment (e.g. calculator for maths), school dress code, support to access ICT and may also include financial support for attending school clubs or going on school excursions.

We recognise that recent events have led to some difficult circumstances for many families and want to encourage you to get in touch if you have relevant questions or concerns or you believe you may be eligible for this support and the school is not yet aware.

Stephen.Hamilton@boroughmuir.edin.sch.uk

Some other useful links:

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/xfp/form/261> - apply for free school meals and clothing grant

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/ema> - apply for education maintenance allowance

Other support links can be found on our school website:

<https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/pupil-support/parents-information/>

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)

Friday 24th 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 3rd 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

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David Dempster

Head Teacher

Friday 17th September 2021

Monday 20th 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 21st 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 5th November and run until Friday 19th 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](https://www.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
Bmuir 2021 %	64.01	1.91	0	1.91	4.04	27.35	0.22	0.56
National 2020 %	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.

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 \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

Have a great Holiday weekend.

David Dempster

Head Teacher

Friday 10th September 2021

Covid Mitigations

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

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

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

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 3rd 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 \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://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 6th September.

NHS Lothian

S6 Prom

With the help of some of our parents, the S6 prom has now been re-scheduled for next Friday, 10th 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.

Boroughmuir HS - sports clubs 2021-22					
Day	Time	Activity	Coach	Year	Venue
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 24th September

All S1 will have the opportunity to attend the Freshers Fair in our Assembly Hall on Friday 24th 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 6th 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.

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 27th 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 6th 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 18th 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