

School Newsletter

Friday 30th September 2022

Additional holiday – Monday 24th October

As City of Edinburgh schools were closed on Monday, 19 September during the State Funeral, an additional day's holiday is being granted to schools on Monday **24 October 2022**. The City of Edinburgh Council's schools' inset day that was due to take place on 24 October will be moved to 25 October. Pupils return to school after October break on Wednesday 26th October at 8.32.

Visit by Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

Yesterday we hosted Ms Shirley Anne Somerville, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills. She was accompanied by staff from Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB) as well as Cllr Cammy Day, Leader of Edinburgh City Council and Cllr Scott Arthur. The members of our Climate Change Society, Eco Group and Pupil Voice were a credit to themselves and the school in presenting projects they have been doing that relate to Learning for Sustainability and Climate Change.

Sport Scotland School Sports Ambassadors

I'm pleased to say that Owen Harris and Kate MacPhail (both S4) have been appointed as the school's Sports Ambassadors. As their first event they will be attending the Sport Scotland's 'Young Ambassadors' conference at Tynecastle Park on Wednesday. Well done!

European Day of Languages

Our European Day of Languages took place on Wednesday, as a celebration of the linguistic diversity across Europe. This is an event we celebrate every year and after a couple of years absence it was great to have it back. The linguistic diversity we have in the school, amongst both staff and pupils, is enormous and this year we had 15 languages represented in our stalls.

Dutch School Visit

This week, our Advanced Higher Modern Studies class welcomed 20 students and 2 teachers from Wateringse Veld College, The Hague. In the spirit of enhancing global citizenship and enriching their visit to Edinburgh, the Scottish and Dutch pupils took part in discussion groups facilitated by our very own David Cogan, heard from special guest speaker Presiding Officer Alison Johnstone, and shadowed Higher and Advanced Higher classes. A real highlight for the teachers involved was to see the informed, interested, and passionate exchange of ideas from all of the young people involved. Hopefully this is the start of rich partnership and we will get to see our Dutch friends again - maybe in The Hague next time!

Norwegian Architects Visit

Last Monday we welcomed 51 Norwegian Architects who had asked to visit our school during their study tour visit to Scotland. As expected they were highly impressed with our building and our canal side location- something of course which is pretty common in Holland.

McMillan Coffee Morning

Today our Princes Trust S4 students are hosting a coffee morning in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support. The group used their barista training to entertain over 30 guests made up of staff, parents, local businesses, MSPs and MPs. Donations are still welcome and can be made via the QR code. We would like to thank Coffee Conscience, Cuckoos Bakery and Stewart Grace for their generosity in making this event a success.



Friday 23rd September 2022

Boroughmuir School Makar

We ran a competition to find two creative, passionate, and artistically excellent pupils (one for the senior year groups and one for the junior year groups) to act as Boroughmuir School Makars. We will ask these pupils, occasionally, to share with us their 'take' on current or school events – just like Kathleen Jamie does as the Scots Makar and Hannah Lavery does as the Edinburgh Makar.

The competition was small but the poems were absolutely wonderful. They were clever, thoughtful, fierce, heart-breaking, funny, thought provoking but above all unique. **They were all so good.** Thank you to everyone who entered. As a result of the quality of the work sent in, a selection of the best – from across the school – will be published after the October Holiday for pupils and parents to purchase.

The Art dept are currently running a competition for pupils to design the cover for that publication, so artists – if you're interested – please do get involved and ask your Art teacher for more information.

The poetry competition was judged anonymously by Ms Yates, Mr Dempster, Ms Presley and Sam Tongue from the Scottish Poetry Library.

The winners are:

S1-S3, Oscar Cobham (S1)

S4-S6, Caitlin Conway (S6)

Our winners will each receive a badge for their bags, a goody-bag from the Scottish Poetry Library, a copy of Kate Clanchy's *How to Grow Your Own Poem*, a £10 book voucher and their poems will be entered into the *Foyle's Young Poet of the Year* international competition. Their poems will also be published on the Scottish Poetry Library Website. These links will take you to their poems:-

<https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Makar-Oscar-Cobham-entry.pdf>

<https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Makar-The-Art-of-Protest-Poetry.pdf>

<https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Makar-Time-Heals-Grief-Villanelle.pdf>

A huge thanks to Ms Yates for organising this whole event!

School Newspaper – 1st Edition

We are delighted to share the first edition of the pupil paper with you!

<https://sway.office.com/b5ULK0IOvNgxphvY?ref=Link>

These will be published fortnightly and provide a pupil perspective on life at Boroughmuir. It has been written and edited by the pupils. Well done to all involved and Ms O'Thy who is working with the Boroughmuir Thistle Editorial team.

Highest Achieving Modern Studies Candidate 2022

Sam Moore was one of 4 pupils in Scotland who achieved the highest mark for Higher Modern Studies. This is a tremendous achievement and has been recognised by the Scottish Modern Studies Association. Sam will be presented with a trophy, a certificate and a cheque for £50 by Glasgow University's Professor of Politics at the association's annual conference in Glasgow.

Sport Scotland –School Sport Silver Award

The Boroughmuir PE Department and Active Schools clubs have achieved the **Sport Scotland: School Sport Silver Award**.

The award is based on the following areas:

- School Sport
- Physical Education
- Clubs and Communities
- Competitive Opportunities
- Celebrating Sport
- Developing our Pupils
- Developing our deliverers
- Recognising of Young People

Well done to all our PE staff, Active School Coordinator, parent and pupil volunteers and all those who assist in whatever way in helping our sports clubs see so successful.

Visit by Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

Next Thursday (29th Sep) we are hosting a visit from Ms Shirley Anne Somerville, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills. She is coming to meet members of our Climate Change Society and to see sector leading projects that they have been doing that relate to Learning for Sustainability and Climate Change.

Road Safety

Reports from the public are indicating that many parents are parking irresponsibly around the school and also that pupils are crossing roads with no due regard to their own safety.

It is in everyone's interest that proper consideration of road safety is observed by everyone.

Friday 16th September 2022

Monday 19th September Holiday: - Remember, Monday is an Edinburgh School Holiday.

Former Pupils Event – Friday 23 Sep 2022

Our Former Pupils' association are organising an FP Open evening here in the new Boroughmuir High School on the evening of Friday 23rd September 2022.

If you are an FP or know any FPs please share the link below and consider signing up and coming along. Lots of memorabilia will be on display and it could be a chance to catch up with old schoolmates.

See attached link for more details.

<https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/FP-Open-Event-flyer-2022-jpeg.jpg>

Where to find support information for senior students

S4-6 families have all had welcome evenings in the past few weeks to give out key messages and to share our approach to supporting young people this year.

The materials from the evenings can be found on the school website here [Parents Information | Boroughmuir High School](#)

Families will be particularly interested in supporting young people with preparing for qualifications. All S4s and S5s have been asked to make a plan for organising themselves this year and teachers are in the process of sharing key dates with them. The assessment calendars and study support are shared on the bulletin here [Daily Bulletin | Boroughmuir High School](#) and also on the website here [Assessment Calendars & Study Support | Boroughmuir High School](#)

Extra-Curricular

Here is an update of all the extra-curricular programmes and sport currently being offered by the school.

BHS Sports Clubs: https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/BHS-Sports-Clubs_Sept22.pdf

BHS General Clubs: https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/BHS-General-Clubs_Sept22.pdf

S3 Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI)

Next week sees our S3 students embarking on the YPI programme. This engaging, collaborative and fun venture sees S3s championing a charity via research and communication with the charity, with the end product of an innovative, passionate presentation with which they hope to land the £3000 grant for their chosen charity.

To any parents with business links, Boroughmuir are looking for key partners to join us to fund our minority contribution (£500) of the annual £3000 YPI grant.

More information can be found at: <https://ypiscotland.org.uk/>

Message from Edinburgh Police Division

Edinburgh Police Division want to hear your views as they develop local policing priorities for 2023-2026. They will publish a forward-looking Local Police Plan in April 2023.

Please use the 'Your Police survey' (link below) to have your say and let them know your thoughts.

[Your Police 2022-2023 - Police Scotland - Citizen Space](#)

Friday 9th September 2022

HRH Queen Elizabeth II 1926 - 2022

On the sad news of the passing of HRH Queen Elizabeth II we at Boroughmuir High School would like to extend our most sincere condolences to her family.

S1 Welcome Evening – message from Ms Presly.

Many thanks to all S1 Parents and Carers who battled the elements to join us on Tuesday night. A huge thanks also to our Pupil Support Team, Mrs Braisby, Mrs King and Ms Monaco, Caitlin Conway, Our Parent Council rep Keith Robson for their helpful input to making our S1 parents feel welcomed.

The Inspirational Boroughmuir Beans (and Mrs Kelly) and our Nearly New Uniform Champions also helped to create a welcoming atmosphere supported as always by our S6 Leadership Team.

Here is the link to our presentation.

<https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/s1-welcome-evening-3/>

Bring Your parents to School Day (BYPTSD) - S1 Parents Only

Each year we give S1 parents the chance to experience life as an S1 pupil! It's a full day in school following a typical S1 timetable.

This year our BYPTSD is on 13th October. Places are limited to 60 and are sure to be taken quickly. All S1 parents have been emailed the sign-up form already.

S6 Information Evening

It was great to have our S6 parents in for an S6 information evening on Wednesday night.

Here is the link to the presentation.

[PowerPoint Presentation \(boroughmuirhighschool.org\)](https://www.boroughmuirhighschool.org)

Norwegian Head Teachers and Directors of Education

We are delighted to be resuming hosting international delegations into our school. On Tuesday 13th September we are hosting 7 Norwegian Head Teachers and Directors of Education who are keen to hear about the Scottish Education system and see it in action at Boroughmuir.

We will of course be calling on the services of our pupils to meet with them which visitors always really enjoy.

Raising Teens with Confidence 2022 – dates for programme

Raising Teens with Confidence 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.

We are able to run two courses this term. Each course has a maximum of twenty spaces and will run for six weeks in school. If you would like to attend please use the Eventbrite links below to sign up to either a Wednesday or Thursday evening. Please note we cannot interchange the evenings i.e. if you sign up for the Wednesday course you should attend every Wednesday not some Thursdays. We would ask that one parent per family signs up at this time. We hope to be able to offer further courses in future.

A reminder that the course topics are:

Week / date	topic	time
1. Wednesday 14 September Thursday 15 September	Introduction: Why What You Do Matters	5-7pm
2. Wednesday 21 September Thursday 22 September	The Amazing Teenage Brain: What's Going on in There?	5-7pm
3. Wednesday 28 September Thursday 29 September	Risky Business: Managing Adventure, Risk and Resilience	5-7pm
4. Wednesday 5 October Thursday 6 October	It's Good to Talk: The Importance of Staying Connected	5-7pm
5. Wednesday 12 October Thursday 13 October	The Brain Under Stress: Overcoming Setbacks and Promoting Resilience	5-7pm

<i>October holiday – no session on 19 October</i>		
6. Wednesday 26 October Thursday 27 October	Looking After Your Own Wellbeing: Coping With the Changes	5-7pm

To book for the **Wednesday sessions** please use this link

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/boroughmuir-high-school-raising-teens-with-confidence-wednesday-group-registration-412737959347> password Boroughmuir2022

To book for the **Thursday sessions** please use this link

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/boroughmuir-high-school-raising-teens-with-confidence-thursday-group-registration-412792973897> password Thursday

Friday 2nd September 2022

Health and Well-being at Boroughmuir -message from Ms O'Thy, HWB coordinator, Teacher of RMPS, Philosophy and HWB

A new tab will shortly be appearing on the school website that aims to support Health and Wellbeing at Boroughmuir. There will be sections for parents, students and staff. The aim is to point you in the direction of help and support.

The sway below may help parents support their child's health and well-being, and gives examples of support materials and organisations

<https://sway.office.com/67KB1ZkBy1Kq7uZT?ref=Link>

Support for Families

Below is the link to access to the Free School Meals and Clothing Grants.

<https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/FSM-2019.pdf>

To ensure everyone has access to the correct support we would ask you to answer the following questions to let us know which supports your child/children may already utilise and what additional financial support may be needed.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=af6sSGo3tUKfacnke7-5xFSHYPKMNOBBohSXos_mnVxUQjhZQ0NEMzdQOUVXQkFZTElaSzkzS1Q0Ty4u

Staggered Break and Lunch Breaks

As of Monday we are altering how we stagger our breaks and lunches to assist with overcrowding. All year groups will now be dismissed from class 5 mins early at break and lunch on a rota as shown below:-

Monday – S1

Tuesday – S2

Wednesday – S3, S5 and S6

Thursday - S4

Freshers' Fair

We are holding our annual Freshers' Fair next **Friday 9th September for all S1 pupils.**

This event allows S1s to visit stalls for all the clubs and activities on offer at Boroughmuir. All S1 classes are taken to the Fair by their teachers during the school day. We also collate a booklet of all clubs for pupils and parents. The event is led by Tony Segall our Active Schools Co-ordinator and our Senior Sports Leaders.

Further information will be provided to pupils and the link to the booklet will be made available to all parents/carers via our website

Epic Days – S2 Outdoor Experience

Our S2 pupils next week and the following week are taking part in an outdoor experience in the Pentlands facilitated by The City of Edinburgh's Outdoor Unit. They will also be accompanied by their guidance teacher, their House captains and one of our PE teachers. Members of the Senior management Team will also be attending.

The timetable of visits are:-

Monday 5th September - Bruntsfield

Tuesday 6th September - Hartington

Wednesday 7th September - Leamington

Thursday 8th September - Montpelier

Monday 12th September - Viewforth

Tuesday 13th September - Westhall

All S2 parents and pupils have been given full information.

Activity Week 2023

We are aware that our pupils have missed out on our Activity Week experiences over the last few years. We are keen to get back in place some sort of Activity week for our junior pupils next year.

Watch this space for more details.

S1 and S6 Evenings

Next week there are 2 events for parents.

S1 welcome evening – Tuesday 6th Sep 6.30 – 8.00pm in the school

S6 Information Evening - Wednesday 7th Sep 7.00 – 8.00pm in the school

Due to capacity, we would ask that only 1 parent per family attends.

Bus issues

Members of the public who use the rural bus service (service 101/102) are finding that often they cannot get on the bus due to school pupils who are only travelling within Edinburgh. They are not only Boroughmuir pupils but if at all possible it would be appreciated by these people if pupils could use City bus services leaving space on the rural services for those who need it.

Friday 26th August 2022

Calling all Former Pupils

Our Former Pupils' association are organising an FP Open evening here in the new Boroughmuir High School on the evening of Friday 23rd September 2022.

If you are an FP or know any FPs please share the link below and consider signing up and coming along. Lots of memorabilia will be on display and it could be a chance to catch up with old schoolmates.

See attached link for more details.

[https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/FP-Open-Event-flyer-2022-
jpeg.jpg](https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/FP-Open-Event-flyer-2022-
jpeg.jpg)

Links to SLT Presentations

It was great to have the parents of S3,S4 &S5 in school this week for our SLT information evenings.

All the information presented and handed out is now available on the school website here

[Parents Information | Boroughmuir High School](#)

It is also on your child's Teams page.

The task for S4s this week is to put the key dates for the year into their diaries / devices or wherever they plan their work.

If you do have any further questions, please direct them through your child's guidance teacher.

S2 Update

Please see this link for a special S2 newsletter update.

S2 – click [here](#)

School Calendar /events

The next events for parents are

S1 welcome evening – Tuesday 6th Sep 6.30 – 8.00pm in the school

S6 Information Evening - Wednesday 7th Sep 7.00 – 8.00pm in the school

S1 Boys Football

We are looking for a coach (or coaches) for the new S.1 boys football team. Games are played on a Saturday morning and training will be after school on a day to be determined (although a commitment to Saturday is more important than being available during the week). If you are interested, please email admin@boroughmuir.edin.sch.uk

Fencing Success

Further to our message last week about Anne Emma Hu taking part in the Commonwealth Fencing Championships, we are now delighted to announce that she has won a silver and a bronze medal. Well done Ann-Emma.

Save the date – Freshers' Fair

We are holding our annual Freshers' Fair on **Friday 9th September for all S1 pupils.**

This event allows S1s to visit stalls for all the clubs and activities on offer at Boroughmuir. All S1 classes are taken to the Fair by their teachers during the school day. We also collate a booklet of all clubs for pupils and parents. The event is led by Tony Segall our Active Schools Co-ordinator and our Senior Sports Leaders.

Further information will be provided to pupils and the link to the booklet will be made available to all parents/carers via our website

Mr D Dempster, Head Teacher.

Friday 19th August 2022

Start of new Term

I hope all our pupils and staff had a great summer holiday.

I was delighted to welcome back all our existing pupils and new our S1 pupils on Wednesday 17th August.

With our intake of 280 S1s we now have a school roll of 1495.

SQA exam results

Well done to all of our senior phase pupils who sat SQA National exams. Overall, the results for Boroughmuir are excellent and show the absolute commitment that our teachers put into their teaching and our pupils put into their learning.

For those who didn't achieve their goal, they must speak to their class teacher to see if there are grounds for an appeal. If not, we will look at ways of assisting pupils to be re-coursed if that is possible.

School Calendar / Upcoming events

The link below will take you to information that is contained within our summer mailing.

[New Letters to Parents | Boroughmuir High School](#)

Next Monday evening (22nd Aug) there is an S3 Information evening in the school for parents and carers of the new S3.

Next Tuesday evening (23rd Aug) there is an S4 information evening followed by an S5 information session.

Details have been sent to parents of pupils in S3,4,5.

Other useful links are

[Home-School-Calendar-2022-23.pdf \(boroughmuirhighschool.org\)](#)

[Pupil-Dress-Code-leaflet-070721.pdf \(boroughmuirhighschool.org\)](#)

New Senior Leadership Team / Guidance structures

Mr Damian Hayes who was a Depute at Earlston High School in the Scottish Borders has joined our team this week

Here is a table showing our new DHT structure.

DHT	Year Group responsibilities	Other key areas of responsibility
Juliet Presly	P7 / S1	Learning, Teaching & Assessment, Pupil Equity Funding, primary school liaison
Clive Hembury	S2/ S3	Curriculum, Tracking & Monitoring, School Timetable
Damian Hayes	S4/S5	Raising Attainment & Achievement, SQA coordinator
Claire Paterson	S6 / post S6	Head of Pastoral Support Team, Equalities coordinator, post school liaison

Here is a reminder of our new Guidance team structure which was introduced at the start of June.

Pupil support Leaders are parents' first point of contact.

Pupil Support Leader	House
Fiona Grant	Hartington
Peter McIlwaine	Montpelier
Chris Brandie	Viewforth
Lucy Wallace	Westhall
Caroline Nisbet	Leamington
Kerry Scherczer	Bruntsfield

S6 Leadership week for our Head Team

This week our S6 Pupil Head Team have been on an Outward Bound Team Building and Leadership course.

The group of 24 S6 pupils are being accompanied by Mr Collard and Mr Thin from our PE dept. The pupils are all holding office in S6 and this experience provides a great focus on team building and leadership skills.

Boroughmuir FPs and pupils in Commonwealth Games

We were delighted to see 4 of our former representing Scotland in the Commonwealth Games.

Sean Flynn Cycling, Men's Road Race, 10th Place
Rachel McLachlan, Women's Rugby 7's, Quarter Finals
Jordon Edmunds, Men's Rugby 7's, Quarter Finals
Rachel Conway, Netball, 9th Place Team

Current pupil Ann-Emma is in London as part Scottish Commonwealth Fencing Team
The competition will continue to Friday 19th August.
So far Ann- Emma Hu has won a bronze medal in team event. Well done Ann-Emma!

Royal Scottish Geographical Society – Competition.

A huge congratulations to Ellie Morrison (S4) who has won the National 'Imagine a Country' competition launched by the Royal Scottish Geographical Society. She will read out her essay to an audience at the Edinburgh Book Festival on Saturday August 27th

The project stemmed from a book called *Imagine a Country*, which contained nearly 100 ideas for Scotland's future from people across the country and challenged readers to start imagining their future. The book was edited by writer Val McDermid and geographer Jo Sharp.

Ellie's essay was about how dog-walkers can use a spray that comes in a reusable and recyclable container containing microorganisms that already exist that will break down the dog waste into a fine microscopic powder that returns to the soil. A simple yet effective, sustainable solution to a common environmental nuisance! Well done Ellie for this achievement.

Young Scot Information

Please see this link for information and support from the Young Scot organisation.

<https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Young-Scot-Information.pdf>

Mr D Dempster, Head Teacher.