

# **Boroughmuir High School Newsletter**

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023**

## **Boroughmuir Chronicle**

Here is the latest edition of our school newspaper, compiled and edited by our S1-3 pupils while our seniors have been on exam leave. Well done!

[The Boroughmuir Chronicle \(office.com\)](#)

## **BFPA Quiz Night 7th June**

Special reduced entry of £2 for 6<sup>th</sup> year pupils (old and new) which will include free membership of the FPA (Former pupils Association). This is your chance to start a lifelong link with not only your school, but your classmates of the last 6 years. Don't miss this unique opportunity. Book by text or phone to Stephen Brown on 07761 293317 (Pay on the night)

<https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/bfpa-quiz-night-7th-june-2023/>

## **Annual Awards Ceremony – 8<sup>th</sup> June**

Our annual academic awards ceremony and recognition of service to the school is this coming Thursday. It's always a special night where we are able to celebrate the incredible talents and commitment of so many pupils. This year our guest of honour is former pupil Mr Jim Fleming MBE.

## **S6 Prom – 9th June**

Our annual S6 leavers' prom is next Friday evening in the Sheraton Hotel. It's the last time that our S6 will all be together as a year group and it will be a great celebration of their 6 years at Boroughmuir.

## **Young Person's Free Bus Travel Scheme**

The Young Person's Free Bus Travel Scheme is currently being evaluated, with a survey available for parents/carers of children aged 5-23, and young people themselves aged 12-23. Feedback is being sought from both those with experience of using the Young Person's Free Bus Travel, and those that do not use it in order to find out why. The survey can be accessed here: <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/Yr1-YPFreeBusTravel>

The closing date for all responses is 9th July 2023.

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

## **School Extension – Open**

We are delighted that the school extension came into operation on Tuesday of this week. We now have 12 additional classrooms operating in the extension and although it will take our teachers a bit of time to get fully unpacked and all snagging addressed, by and large we have a very impressive set of new classrooms.

I was delighted to be able to show members of our parent council round the extension on Tuesday night prior to the parent council meeting.

## **Timetable 2023-24**

We will start our new timetable next Wednesday 32st May. We will be sharing key information with pupils via our Office365 Year Group Teams pages. It is important that your child is regularly looking at these. Some key points are:

- All new S2-6 pupils should attend on Wednesday by 0830.
- Updated Registration class teachers and rooms will be shared beforehand on Year Group Teams and displayed on noticeboards at the school Reception from Monday.
- Pupils will be issued their individual timetable on Wednesday morning during an extended Registration.
- We will notify before Wednesday all pupils who have PE.
- Some temporary teachers are shown on pupil timetables. This is due to a number of new teachers joining us in August.
- For this period leading up to the summer holiday some temporary room changes may also be required and pupils may need to update their paper timetable over the first week to reflect any temporary changes.
- After the summer holidays (on Wed. August 16<sup>th</sup>) we will reissue updated timetables.
- We are now using the school extension. These rooms are indicated with an 'X' prefix e.g. X2.18

### **S2 and S3**

- We have made some changes to some class groupings. This is normal and these are made for many reasons.

### **S4**

- Will continue with their current subjects. There may be some new or temporary teachers in place for June and also some changes to classrooms.

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### **S5 and S6**

- Additional information will be provided for S5 and S6.
- All pupils must follow their timetable and remain in those classes at all times.
- Further information regarding enquiries for course changes following the issuing of SQA exam results in August will be sent in due course.

## **Ipad Return - Monday 29 May - Ipad Return/Prom ticket Collection**

S6 Pupils should come into the school assembly hall at one of the times below on Monday 29 May to return their iPad and collect their prom tickets:

- 10:00-10:30
- 12:00-12:30
- 14:00-14:30

The S6 iPads need to be returned and all data removed from them so that they are ready to be distributed to our new S1 in August.

If S6 have anything on their iPads that they wish to keep, they will find instructions on the S6 team from Ms Braisby explaining how to do this before Monday 29 May.

Pupils will be shown how to remove all data when they return their iPad and as soon as the iPad is returned, they will collect their prom ticket. Pupils should download the app **CGI QR Launcher** as this will enable them to wipe the iPad quickly on the 29 May.

This is also an opportunity for young people to return any textbooks they might still have lurking in dark corners! Please search and bring in on the day.

**FREE Engage Careers Event is taking place on: - Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June at 6.30pm at the Braid Hills Hotel**

A BAFTA and BIFTA winning Film and Documentary Producer Emily Leo will be traveling from Cannes to Edinburgh to share her insights and advice about careers in the film industry.

Ex Professional Skate Boarder now Nike Sports Marketing Manager of Europe, The Middle East and Africa Colin Kennedy will be talking about his unusual route into the corporate sector.

Business Owner and Dentist David Kilroy will be sharing his knowledge and experience working in the Dental Profession and will be there to answer any questions you have about this rewarding career vocation.

Senior Lecturer and Chartered Psychologist Dr Clare Uytman will be sharing about all the careers that are available to students following a psychology degree. Dr Uytman will also highlight the non-traditional routes to university.

Academy Manager at the Royal college of Veterinary Surgeons, Jennifer Ayers will be sharing her insights about the opportunities that are available within the Veterinary Nurse Profession and all the wonderful skills you will gain within the profession.

BOOK NOW! - Eventbrite Link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/engage-boroughmuir-high-school-tickets-637513428827>

**Sports day**

A huge thank you to all our staff who contributed to the running of our S1-3 sports day. A special thanks to our PE staff who organised the whole event and our S5 Sports leaders who contributed so much. It was a massive undertaking, but the pupils enjoyed the event immensely with the year group and staff relay races at the end of the morning being a real highlight!

**Big days Out**

This week around 160 S2 and S3 Pupils and 20 staff have enjoyed “Big Days Out” at Go Ape and Fox lake. It has been a real joy to get outdoors in the glorious weather this week. Staff and pupils have

really enjoyed getting outside, strengthening relationships, having fun and building confidence. Thanks to everyone involved for making these days a big success and a lot of fun.

### **Transition Visits**

This week we had 38 P7s complete their third Transition visit. The pupils had a period of Maths followed by a visit to Health and Food technology to make (and then eat) their own lunch. Pizza, smoothies and fruit kebabs were healthy and delicious! Our S1 Foodie Ambassadors were also a great support to our P7s. The group completed their visits by leaving some positive messages ahead of the 3-day visit for everyone on 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> June. We look forward to welcoming all our new S1s then.

### **Brufts 16<sup>th</sup> June**

Today is the closing date to add any more dogs for Brufts on 16<sup>th</sup> June. Numbers are looking good and the judges have been hard at work preparing! We are also still looking for any donations for Raffle Prizes. Please drop off any donations to reception.

## **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

### **Holiday weekend**

A reminder that Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May is a school holiday for all. Pupils and staff return on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 8.32.

### **Parent Council Meeting**

A reminder that the next and final parent council meeting of the year is next Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 6.30pm.

The meeting, originally planned to be on-line, will now be held in the school in our new extension. Parents will have a chance to view the extension from 6.30 – 6.50 prior to the start of the meeting.

The agenda and minutes have been emailed to all parents separately.

### **Sports Day**

Today all S1,2,3 pupils are attending our annual sports day at Meggetland. It's always a great day with all S1-3 participating in a number of team activities. Well done to all involved and especially our PE dept for organising such a huge event!

### **S1 Progress Reports**

S1 Progress reports will be emailed out to parents early next week.

### **Princes Trust National Awards Ceremony**

I was delighted to travel to London this week with 8 of our pupils and 2 staff for the National Finals of the Princes' Trust Awards. The S4 pupils involved in the Boroughmuir Beans Barista Project were Scottish winners in 2 categories. The S4 group of Rachel Struckmeier, Ayla Leitch, Matthew Hoggan, Michael McHale, Luca Fitzsimmons Cameron McNab, George Rosano and Pedro Quirogo – Vilaro were Scottish Winners in the Community Impact category. Rachel Struckmeier was also an individual

winner in the Education Award category. These are incredible achievements of national note and as such we were invited to the National Finals in London.

It was a lavish ceremony in the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, hosted by Ant and Dec. A significant number of other celebrities were part of the event.

Due to SQA exams, not all of our S4 could attend so some of our S3 'Beans' stepped in to represent the school. Hana Currie, Layla Clyde, Fraser Black and Owain Elliot did a fabulous job in supporting the S4 award winners.

The whole project has been led by chemistry teacher Mrs Kelly and assisted by maths teacher Mr Beard. A huge thank you is due to them for leading on this programme.

Although we did not win any of the National Awards the achievements of our pupils are outstanding and will be acknowledged again at our school annual awards ceremony on 8<sup>th</sup> June.

## **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

### **Mr MacDonald**

It was with great sorrow that I had to inform the school of the death of one of our teachers, Mr Gary MacDonald. Gary was a teacher of Design and Engineering for 14 years here at Boroughmuir High School. Gary was a hugely popular and talented member of staff and he will be sorely missed by us all.

We will be opening a book of remembrance that will allow pupils to record memories of Mr MacDonald. This will be in the school library from Monday next week.

If any pupil feels that they would like some additional support in the coming days, please let your guidance teacher know.

### **School Extension**

I am delighted to announce that we now have possession of the completed extension.

Over the next few weeks we will be moving materials, computers and ultimately some classes over to the new rooms.

The subjects that will be taught in the extension will be history, modern studies, computing, some business management and some economics.

Our new timetable starts on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May and by that time these subjects will be using the rooms in the extension.

### **S1-2 Climate Change Awareness Week – message from Mr Bird & Eco Committee**

Next week is our second annual Climate Change Awareness Week in Boroughmuir, this time for S1 and S2! You will see the themes of climate action and nature coming up in your lessons across the timetable. Your teachers want to hear your views and ideas about how we can avoid further damage to our fragile planet (it is after all, your future) and to give you some ideas ourselves. The ideas for

the lessons were created by pupils, for pupils! If you want to get involved with creating next year's CCA week, pop by to our next meeting, Monday lunchtime in 3.07!

### **Humanutopia**

Reminder that Humanutopia is next week is for S2 students. This is a whole day event.

S2 X half (2V1, 2H1, 2M1 etc) Tuesday 16th May

S2 Y half (2V2, 2H2...) Wednesday 17th May

### **British Champion Fencer!!**

Last Sunday in Sheffield, Lev Jac Hu overcame 52 opponents to win the British Youth Championship Foil Fencing for the u14 group. This is her first British Championship title. Congratulations Lev, an incredible achievement.

### **Staffing Update**

Amy Leung and Oya Miller joined our Pupil Support Assistant Team on Thursday of this week. We offer a warm welcome to Boroughmuir.

## **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

### **Holiday weekend**

A reminder that Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May is a school holiday for all. Pupils and staff return on Tuesday 9th May at 8.32.

### **Boroughmuir Chronicle**

Here's the latest edition of our school newspaper!

<https://sway.office.com/exfqySANB7DdLMs6?ref=Link>

### **ENGAGE - Save the date!**

We are excited to announce that our next Engage Careers Event will take place on:

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June at 6.30pm at the Braids Hotel.

A Dentist, a Nike Sports Marketing Manager (previously a Professional Skateboarder), a Senior Lecturer and Chartered Psychologist and a Veterinary Nurse from the Royal college of Veterinary Surgeons will be talking to you about their careers, the paths they took and the decisions they made. They will also be sharing their valuable insights and advice.

An Eventbrite booking link will be released very soon, watch this space.

**Boroughmuir Former Pupils Association (BFPA) Quiz Night – all welcome.**

Our Former Pupils Association are organising a fund-raising quiz night here in the school on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June.

All pupils, parents, teachers and staff are welcome to form a team and enter. Details are included in the link below.

<https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/bfpa-quiz-night-7th-june-2023/>

### **Boroughmuir on Tour**

As part of our support for P7/S1 transition we took Boroughmuir on Tour! More than 20 of our Teachers, our S1 Pop Choir, our S1 Foodie Ambassadors and 25 S3 pupils went to South Morningside and St Peter's Primaries this week to recreate a day at Boroughmuir. Our S3 pupils shared their experiences and advice around friendship, sustainable travel and coping with change. We were made very welcome and loved the experience. It was so good to be able to strengthen our relationships across the cluster with our primary colleagues, also getting to know our new S1s and for our current pupils to lead learning. We are in Bruntsfield next Tuesday and Buckstone on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May to complete our tour dates for 2023.

### **Humanutopia: wellbeing and resilience event**

One of our school priorities is to help support all our young people to develop their wellbeing, their relationships with each other and their resilience. We want them to be better equipped to achieve our vision to 'achieve their true potential and embrace life's challenges'.

We have already started a number of initiatives to support targeted groups of students such as a wellbeing hub and continued counselling support. We also deliver a strong Health and Wellbeing curriculum. In the coming year we are adding a registration focus and training students to support each other. All this is being launched by the 'Humanutopia' days.

Humanutopia is a specialist organisation who do work on wellbeing and resilience with large groups of students across the UK. They are very highly regarded and have a great track record in schools in Edinburgh. The day deals with important teenage issues around personal awareness, peer pressure, conformity and bullying. It helps students make positive choices and to take ownership of their lives and consider how exciting their future could be.

Students in current S2 and new S5 will spend the day off-timetable in the Assembly Hall, their guidance teachers and some of their registration teachers. Students should wear uniform but do not need to bring any other school equipment to school. They will be able to get break and lunch as normal but with slightly different times. We hope to repeat this with other year groups later in the year.

We are very keen that everyone joins in on the day so if there are any reasons why your child cannot attend, do let us know and we can arrange support.

Current S2 X-half (2R1-2R5) Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May -

Current S2 Y-half (2R6-2R10) Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May

New S5 X half (5R1-5R5) Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June

New S5 Y half (5R6-5R10) Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

### **Holiday weekend/ in-service day**

A reminder that Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May is a school holiday for all and Tuesday is an in-service day. Only pupils who have SQA exams attend on Tuesday or those who are attending an immersion day session.

### **S6 Breakfast**

I want to thank all our S6 leavers for making last Friday's leavers' breakfast and ceremony such a marvellous event. They conducted themselves in an impeccable manner and the morning was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Their afternoon in North Berwick was commented on by some local people who wrote to me to say that our pupils had been exemplary on their visit to the beach there.

We are extremely proud of them all and are looking forward immensely to meeting them all again at our leavers' prom at the Sheraton hotel on 9th June.

### **SQA exams.**

The SQA diet of National exams started on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> and continues through until Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June.

Our immersion days, providing study support for pupils, are being well received and I'd encourage pupils to make use of this resource.

[Department of Education \(boroughmuirhighschool.org\)](http://boroughmuirhighschool.org)

### **S1 Epic Days**

S1 have been truly Epic this week. All S1s had the opportunity to learn outdoors, have fun and experience new things this week on their Epic Days. The activities at Bonaly included a Forest Escape Room, Archery, Bushcraft, a Stream Scramble and a hike up the hill! S1 were resilient, positive and gave everything a go. Staff also enjoyed getting out into the fresh air (and snow) and spending time with S1 in a different context.

### **Brufts 16<sup>th</sup> June**

There is still time to sign up for [BRUFTS 2023](#). Places are filling up, Judges have been selected and merchandise is now being produced.

Raffle Donations :- We are also looking for donations for our Brufts Raffle to raise some money for local animal charities. Please hand in donations to the school office.

Pre-loved dog accessories :-We are also looking for pre-loved dog accessories to sell on to raise money for our charities. Please hand these into the school office.

### **Staffing Updates**

Temporary staff James Melvin (maths) and Cate Shields (geography) left us last week. Can I thank them both for their incredible work in the school over the last year and I wish them well going forward.



## Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2023

### Welcome Back!

I hope you all had a great Easter holiday and are looking forward to the summer term ahead.

### May Holiday Dates Reminder

A reminder that Monday holidays in May are Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May (Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May is also a pupil holiday as it is a staff in-service day), Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May and Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

### S6 last School Day!

Today is the last school day for our S6. This year group had their S1 in the old school and their next 5 years here in the new school. They are therefore the last year group with any connection to our old school!

We have a leavers' breakfast planned for today and a leavers' ceremony will follow that.

WE wish them well in life beyond Boroughmuir but will of course meet them again at our S6 Leavers' Prom at the Sheraton Hotel on 9<sup>th</sup> June.

### Exam Leave Starts

Our students in S4, S5 and S6 who are doing a full diet of National Qualifications are on exam leave from Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April until 30<sup>th</sup> May inclusive.

Pupils in S4 who are not doing a full diet do not qualify for full exam leave and they are aware of their specific arrangements.

The new timetable starts on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May.

### S4, S5, S6 Exams update

Well done to all our senior students for their hard work so far. Here are a few important reminders and updates for the examinations in the next few weeks.

1. All exams follow the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) timetable, but please remember there are a few different times for starting. All of our early **morning exams start at 8.45** instead of 9.00 am and there are occasional differences in the afternoons. Please check your individual timetables carefully and ask if you're not sure.
2. Please note that we are **no longer using the 'dual teaching space'** because the extension is not yet ready. All exams that were in the dual teaching space are now in the assembly hall. The assembly hall is also being used for smaller groups for some exams as we did in the prelims.
3. Students should be in dress code for exams and as well as study sessions in school.

Pupils should check their timetables carefully and come and seek assistance if required.

On the day it is particularly important to get here early so you can find where your room is and get yourself settled.

Students coming in for immersion days should register with the teacher running the session.

We are very proud of all that you have done this year and are looking forward to some well-deserved results in the summer.

### **S3 Assessments**

Our diet of S3 assessments started this week. These are small scale assessments covering all or nearly all subjects pupils are studying in S3. It is great preparation for pupils in their study skills and also a good preparation for prelims that follow later in the year.

### **City of Edinburgh Council Gaelic Language Plan Consultation**

Appended below is a link to allow you to participate in the public consultation for the third Gaelic Language Plan in Edinburgh.

<http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/draftgaelicplan>

### **Art Showcase Prize Winners**

Thank you to the Art department for putting on an incredible showcase of our pupils' SQA art work on Monday night.

The result of the public vote for most popular artworks are:

The Design winner is Olivia Bunworth in S5 with her Coraline book cover design

The Expressive winner was a tie - Murray Sudjic in S5 with Winning Streak, and Emily Offer in S5 with Thinking in Colour.

The Photography winner was Sam Hinder.

Congratulations to the winners who all receive a voucher for The Edinburgh Art Shop, generously provided by the Boroughmuir Parent Council. This can be collected from Mr Thomson

Thanks again to all who came along to the exhibition and to all those who voted and celebrated the excellent talent we have here in Boroughmuir.

## **Friday 31st March 2023**

### **End of Term: -**

Term ends today - Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 12.50pm.

All pupils and staff return on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April.

It is important that all those preparing for SQA exams do find time to relax and refresh, so please do try and find a healthy balance between exam preparation and downtime.

Have a great holiday.

### **School Newspaper Edition 9 – The Boroughmuir Chronicle**

Please see link below for the 9<sup>th</sup> Edition of our school newspaper, now renamed as the Boroughmuir Chronicle.

[The Boroughmuir Chronicle \(office.com\)](#)

### **S4,5,6 Exam preparation**

All students should have received an exam timetable in registration this week. Pupils have also had a booklet detailing exam arrangements in assembly.

Look carefully through both these and check they are correct. Let us know immediately if you spot any errors so that we can fix them in good time.

All students also have reminders of study arrangements on year group Teams. This was also sent home via group call.

### **Exam guidance for parents**

Exams can be a difficult time for young people and for parents and carers knowing the right things to say and do can be difficult. Luckily there is a lot of advice and support available. The websites below offer guidance to parents and carers on how best to support your young people at this time.

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/exam-time/>

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/blog/how-to-help-your-child-manage-exam-stress/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/children-and-young-adults/advice-for-parents/help-your-child-beat-exam-stress/>

<https://www.parentkind.org.uk/for-parents/health-and-wellbeing/exam-stress-and-failure>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zckydxs>

### **Staff vs Pupils Sports**

This week and last week there have been some great staff and pupil sporting events, played in great spirit and providing great fun.

Staff vs pupil hockey: - draw 3 -3

Staff vs pupil Football: - Pupils win 3-2

Staff vs pupil Netball: - Pupils win 25-16

These are great events and really show the great sense of community we have across the staff and pupil body.

### **Sports Personality of the Year**

Lasts night's lavish ceremony celebrating the huge sporting success in the school concluded with Ann Emma Hu being awarded the Boroughmuir 2023 Sports Personality of the Year. Ann Emma is a Fencer and recently competed in the Commonwealth Games.

Lorcan Morrison won Junior Sports personality. Lorcan is a skier, triathlete and a hockey player.

Given the level of competition, these are huge accomplishments, and we are extremely proud of Ann Emma and Lorcan and indeed all who were nominated and all those who were recognised in other areas of achievement also.

Thank you to Mr Collard and all the staff involved in organising this incredible event.

See the link for a video of the finalists.

<https://youtu.be/HjhCjyWcdck>

### **Edinburgh Young Musician of Year**

We were delighted that Hari Pranavam competed in the Edinburgh final for Scottish Young Musician of the year and was the runner up. Hari was chosen to represent Boroughmuir after our own Musician of the Year final earlier this month. Hari's performance on the drumkit was impressive, all the more so as he had composed the piece himself. We are all very proud of his achievement.

### **Boroughmuir Rugby Success!**

The U18 Boroughmuir Rugby Club team won the 2023 National Youth Cup Final last weekend at Murrayfield.

Boroughmuir 22 - 5 Peebles

Boroughmuir Pupils in the team were Brodie Clark, Cameron Gemmell and Sam Webb

Former pupils in the team were Lewis Bissett, Joe Sobey and Gavin Lockhart. Gav was Captain and won Player of the Match

Boroughmuir have won this cup three years in a row. What a fabulous achievement. Well done all!

### **Top of The Pops**

Top of The Pops on Thursday night was an incredible showcase of musical talent in our school – and that includes the staff act also! Well done to all who took part and all those involved in organising, especially Ms Grant who oversaw another brilliant evening, for the 24<sup>th</sup> year!

### **Drama Showcase Performances**

Over the past few weeks our drama department have showcased the work of pupils preparing for upcoming SQA exams. The performances were open to parents to attend. The feedback from parents about the quality of pupils' performance and the drama staff support was incredible. Well done to all involved.

### **Spring Concert**

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, the music department hosted a Spring Concert in the assembly hall. The standard of performances was exceptional, and the feedback from parents was incredibly positive. Thank you to all who performed and indeed to the staff who organised.

### **S4,5,6 Art and Photography Pupil Exhibition**

There is an S4,5,6 Art and Photography Pupil Exhibition on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023 from 4.30-6.30pm This is an opportunity for parents and carers to see some of your child's work from the various courses: S4-6 Art and Design -Design and Expressive units, 5-6 NPA Photography and S6 Advanced Higher. The show will be hung on the Monday and only remain up for that evening – 4.30-6.30pm. It will then be taken down and packaged for SQA uplift.

Please come along if you can.

### **Staffing Update**

Tina Paterson, School Support Assistant since 2019 leaves us today on medical retirement. We thank Tina for all her great work in the school and wish her well in life beyond Boroughmuir!

Erin Webster, teacher of English since August 2022 leaves us today to take up a new position in St. Machar Academy, Aberdeen. Thank you to Erin for all her great work and we wish her well in her new post.

## **Friday 24th March 2023**

### **End of Term: -**

Term ends next Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 12.50pm.

All pupils and staff return on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April. Have a great holiday.

### **Responsible car use**

We've had feedback from some parents and members of the public about dangerous driving, parking and manoeuvring in the vicinity of the school.

Please do use your car responsibly and be mindful of other road users, pedestrians and pupils.

### **New House Captains & Vice captains for 23/24**

After pupil and staff voting, we now have a full compliment of House Captains and House Vice Captains for next session. They are:-

<b>House</b>	<b>House Captain</b>	<b>Vice Captain</b>
<b>Bruntsfield</b>	Donald Sutherland	Lexy Gillies
<b>Hartington</b>	Murray Sudjic	Alice Kippax
<b>Leamington</b>	Toby Francis	Charlie Richmond
<b>Montpelier</b>	Joseph McLean	Anna Whiteley
<b>Viewforth</b>	Nina Smith	Mhairi Bremner
<b>Westhall</b>	Hannah Knipe	Jack Cran

Congratulations to all and we know they will contribute greatly to the life of the school next session.

### **HRH Princess Royal**

I was honoured to meet HRH The Princess Royal, Princess Anne at a reception in the Merchant's Hall on Wednesday evening.

The work we have done as a state school in delivering Mandarin in conjunction with George Watson's College, which is a Merchant School, was highlighted to HRH. Boroughmuir is now the largest state school presenting centre of Mandarin for SQA examinations in all of Scotland, a fact we are very proud of. It was a pleasure to be able to share the success of this collaboration, funded by Swire, with HRH.

### **Visit by poet, Ash Dickenson – message from Ms Yates**

Ash Dickenson, poet extraordinaire, was back in school to work with the School Makars, Caitlin and Oscar on Wednesday. He also ran a poetry workshop with some S1s who had a blast! They heard some fantastic and hilarious poems by Ash, wrote haikus, rhymed, alliterated, described mad planets run by cats and genies granting wishes (or not). Thanks again to Ash and check out his work on [www.ashdickinson.com](http://www.ashdickinson.com) .

Still available!!! The 'Our World' collection of poetry written by pupils from S1 - S6, and edited by our two school Makars, Oscar Cobham and Caitlin Conway, is still available in a beautiful booklet (cover designed by Ava Gilson in S3). Copies are £3 and available to buy at the Top of the Pops evening on Tuesday 28th March. Alternatively, if you want to buy a copy email [admin@boroughmuir.edin.sch.uk](mailto:admin@boroughmuir.edin.sch.uk) and we will get the copy to you by pupil post.

Proceeds from the sale will go to the Boroughmuir Kiva Loan group.

### **Edinburgh Libraries' Terracotta Readers - message from Ms Aleksandrowicz**

In February, Mr Sproull's S1 Mandarin classes made a visit to the school library to help Ms Aleksandrowicz in creating an army of 'readers' to join the Edinburgh Libraries Terracotta readers. The Terracotta Readers project is aimed at celebrating Edinburgh's close links with Xi'an (home to the Terracotta Army) and the craft and skills of the artists who were responsible for the creation of the original figures. This project is part of the Living Knowledge Network's Chinese and British Exhibition.

Nearly 70 figures ranging from 'warriors' to pandas were created by S1 pupils and some of them are now on display in the exhibition cabinets on the Mezzanine at Central Library until 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

<https://talesofonecity.wordpress.com/2023/03/17/edinburgh-libraries-terracotta-readers-go-on-display-at-central-library/>

### **S4,5,6 Art and Photography Pupil Exhibition**

There is an S4,5,6 Art and Photography Pupil Exhibition on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023 from 4.30-6.30pm This is an opportunity for parents and carers to see some of your child's work from the various courses: S4-6 Art and Design -Design and Expressive units, 5-6 NPA Photography and S6 Advanced Higher. The show will be hung on the Monday and only remain up for that evening – 4.30-6.30pm. It will then be taken down and packaged for SQA uplift.

Please come along if you can.

### **Outdoor Learning – S1 Epic Days & Big Days Out**

We are offering all S1 a chance to take part in an "Epic Day" of Outdoor learning. This was a hugely positive experience for all our S2s who went to Bonaly for their Epic Days last September. All S2 and S3 have signed up for a "Big Day Out" in May and we will be sending out more information after the holidays.

Epic Days are now on parentpay and we will confirm groups and timings for S1 at assembly on 17<sup>th</sup> April. Please return all KIC forms to register teachers before the end of Term.

### **Brufts**

Boroughmuir's version of Crufts is now ready for signing up. Our House Assemblies have been advertising it all week. Please do come along to our first ever "Dog Themed" event in Harrison Park on 16<sup>th</sup> June.

### [BRUFTS 2023](#)

We are also looking for donations for our Brufts Raffle to raise some money for local animal charities - please hand in donations to the school office.

### Visitors from Piastow, Poland

On Tuesday we were joined by pupils and staff from A. Mickiewicz Secondary School in Piastow, Poland. We are very proud of our wonderful S3 and S4 hosting team: they led tours of the school, participated in discussions about the similarities and differences between school life in Scotland and in Poland, and took the Polish students to lessons in Chemistry, Biology, Geography, Physics, Computing, Maths, Art, and Engineering. Some of the visitors even joined us for Wednesday evening's concert! This bodes well for a rewarding partnership in years to come, and we very much enjoyed hosting the group.

### Staffing Update

Laura Andersson who has been a Pupil Support Assistant with us since August 2022 leaves us next Wednesday.

We'd like to thank Laura for all her great work in Boroughmuir and wish her well for the future.

## Friday 17th March 2023

### Boroughmuir Thistle – Edition 8.

Here is the 8<sup>th</sup> Edition of our school newspaper [The Boroughmuir Thistle \(office.com\)](#)

### Comic Relief

Thank you all for helping to raise £429 for today's 'accessorize it red' for Comic Relief.

### Pupil Head Team 2023/24

We have now concluded the selection process for the pupil head team for next session. The school captains for next session are Ruth Shepherd and Ann Emma Hu. School vice captains are Sam Brander and Jed Calvert.

House captains and vice captains will be announced at next week's house assemblies

### Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI).

On Friday 4 March we welcomed parents and charity representatives to see the final of the Youth This programme is delivered to all S3 through the Health and Wellbeing rota. The finalists showed

creativity and excellent presentation skills, so it was a tough decision for the judges. However, in the end the winning group were Elodie Viguier, Scarlett Moore, Elsie Lee and Marsaili Pauwels who have won £3000 for their chosen charity Fresh Start. A full report on the event will be in the next edition of the Boroughmuir Thistle.

### **Hydrogen Challenge**

Holly Nicholson, Emma Corr, Lily Norton and Poppy Leckie-Howell represented Boroughmuir High School at the final of the Scottish Schools Hydrogen Challenge at Aberdeen Science Centre on Monday 13th March after coming 2nd in the regional finals.

The team had to build a hydrogen powered car which had to travel the longest distance. After testing the car, the group were judged by two teams and had to explain the mechanics of the car and their design. The girls did amazingly and won first prize beating another 23 teams from all over Scotland.

### **Top of the Pops**

We are pleased to be able to tell you that we have been able to reschedule our annual TOTP concert for Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March. Every year S6 students organise the show, holding auditions and then deciding the running order, and managing the night. We are delighted that we can once again welcome our wider school community post COVID, with friends and parents/ carers welcome. All previous tickets remain valid however there is a waiting list for tickets as it was sold out! Please see the Office if you would like to be added to this, as there may be some returns.

We look forward to what promises to be a great night from our talented students and staff.

### **Sports Personality of the Year - SPOTY**

After 3 years away, the Boroughmuir high School PE Department are hosting a Sports Personality of the Year event on the 30th March to celebrate sport and wider achievement. We have multiple awards to hand out on the night such as Player of the Year for all of our extracurricular clubs, Sports Colours in recognition of top club, district and national level sport, our junior and senior Sports Personality of the Year plus many more. It's shaping up to be an amazing night.

The event is being held at Bruntsfield Evangelical Church from 7pm – 9pm. Tickets are available on Parentpay for the parents/carers of all award winners.

### **S3 Assessments**

S3 Assessments start w/b **April 17<sup>th</sup>** and are scheduled over a number of weeks. These have been discussed during recent assemblies and during PSE time. The S3 assessments provide an important opportunity for S3s to prepare for future S4 prelims (*practice exams*) which are likely to take place during November 2023. Unlike the S4 prelims the S3 assessments are completed under the supervision of regular class teachers and are completed during normal class periods. S3 assessments typically cover much of the course knowledge, understanding and skills covered since from the start of S3. The schedule is found here and this is mapped against your child's regular school timetable. Information about the content of each assessment is on the rear page and revision and other study supports are included <https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/pupil-support/assessment-calendars/>.



## **Engage event**

Book your ticket for this year's Engage event!

Engage is a Boroughmuir Parent Council careers initiative – its aim is to help S1-S6 pupils connect with professionals in a relaxed environment.

Five speakers from a range of fields will tell us about their role and how they got there. Attend and you'll get the chance to:

Speakers are:-

- Ian Davie Actor: Director, Filmmaker and Lecturer
- Ruth Armstrong: An awarding winning professional photographer
- Dr Joyce Garden: Software Architect, Electronics Software Engineer
- Elaine Brown: CEO of Social Enterprise, work that positively impacts the planet
- Elizabeth Roxburgh: Advocate, Corporate and Insolvency Law

**HOW & WHEN does it happen?** Boroughmuir parents and pupils are welcome to join. Please register at Eventbrite to attend the event: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/boroughmuir-high-school-engage-event-march-2023-tickets-568671099567>

**Details:** MARCH 2023 Thursday 23rd March 18:30hrs – 20:00hrs at Braid Hills Hotel 134 Braids Road Edinburgh EH10 6JD

## **Internet Safety Information for Parents**

We realise that a number of parents were unable to attend our recent internet safety evening. The slides for this evening and an information leaflet for parents can be found by following this link [Cyber Resilience Internet Safety | Boroughmuir High School](#)

## **Review of qualifications: will Highers and National 5s, 4s and 3s change?**

The Scottish government has started a review of national qualifications. The Hayward review is now consulting on some specific ideas.

There were only 700 individual responses to the first stage of the consultation and we think that many families at Boroughmuir might have a view on what's being suggested.

Key recommendations are:

- Reducing the impact of exams in S4 to move away from the 'two term dash'
- A Scottish diploma at leaving point of school...
- ...made up of a three part baccalaureate style qualification of 'subject assessment', 'interdisciplinary project' and 'personal achievement'

Families might like to think about and contribute to the national discussion. The link is here [Phase Three: The Proposed Model \(smartsurvey.co.uk\)](#)

More information is below.

[Hayward qualifications review calls for end to exams three years in a row | Tes](#)  
[Independent Review of Qualifications and Assessment in Scotland: interim report - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

[PowerPoint Presentation \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

## **Friday 10th March 2023**

### **Spring Concert – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 7pm Assembly Hall**

The music department will be hosting a selection of performances from our groups and soloists on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March in the Assembly Hall. Tickets will be available on parent pay early next week, we will update when tickets are on sale.

### **Parent Council – date changes**

Next week's parent council meeting has been rescheduled from Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March to Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May. This meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> May will also replace the meeting scheduled for Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June.

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June – rescheduled to Tue 23<sup>rd</sup> May

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June – cancelled.

### **Comic Relief**

Friday the 17th is Comic Relief Day. We'd love to see pupils accessorising in red (dress code still to be worn). Donations can be made via ParentPay.

### **SDS – Careers Conversations**

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) is delivering a national webinar 'How to have meaningful career conversations'. This will be delivered on Thursday 23 March at 6.30pm.

Parents and carers can join the webinar to hear about the value and benefits of having career conversations and get some practical hints and tips on how to approach these. The Eventbrite link can be found below:

<https://Meaningfulcareerconversationswithyoungpeople.eventbrite.co.uk>

### **Additional Holiday – 8<sup>th</sup> May**

Here is the letter from the City notifying you of the additional May holiday on 8<sup>th</sup> May.

<https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/letters-to-parents/>

### **Study support S4-6: 'Little and often**

A reminder of all the study support sessions that can be found on students' iPad under Teams / S456 Year group / Posts and on the school website [Assessment Calendars & Study Support | Boroughmuir High School](#)

You can also find assessment deadlines and other information to support study.

All S4-6 should now have made their revision timetable. S5s also have a 'success plan' showing the detail of their conversations with teachers. Families are invited to use this as a prompt for their

discussions to help their young people. We recommend a 'little and often' approach to study as the best way to manage the normal pressure of qualifications at this time of year. There is a lot of help available and we encourage young people to just ask.

An immersion day timetable of focussed study support during the study leave period will be coming out around Easter along with students' individual examination timetables.

### **Easter Study Support Sessions**

The e-Sgoil Easter Study programme provides live and interactive online webinars, delivered by experienced and fully GTCS-registered subject specialist. Please see link to register for Easter study support sessions [Digital learning from Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar | e-Sgoil](#)

### **Vote for Boroughmuir Climate Change Project!!**

The City of Edinburgh Council is providing funds to local volunteer climate projects through Participatory Budgeting in which allocations are made based on a public vote. The City supports Participatory Budgeting to raise public awareness and involvement in important initiatives and applaud the inclusion of school pupils as voters in this Edinburgh Community Climate Fund vote.

Please vote for the [1.5 MAX Edinburgh](#), an innovative climate education project providing opportunities for young people to learn, have fun and do things that make a difference in their school and community. Project activities will include meeting and speaking to school children from the most climate vulnerable countries, including Malawi and Nepal. Boroughmuir is proud to have hosted the 1.5 MAX summit in 2021 and supported the pledges of tireless, motivated young people, including 'Climate Change Awareness Week'.

Please pass this email on to your friends, associates and groups to boost the vote!

Vote here! [1.5 MAX Edinburgh](#)

We would love to hear from you if you are interested in this initiative. Please contact us at [info@sustainabilitypartnerships.org.uk](mailto:info@sustainabilitypartnerships.org.uk)

### **Staffing Updates**

I am delighted that we have been able to appoint 3 of our current probationer teachers into permanent posts starting August 2023. Until then they remain with us as probationer teachers. Congratulations to:-

Tanya Howden – teacher of computing

Katie Henderson – teacher of Business Education

Emily Spence– teacher of Health and Food Technology (HFT)

## **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023**

### **Additional School Holiday – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May**

It has now been confirmed by the City that Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May will be an additional Edinburgh school holiday to commemorate the King's coronation.

A reminder that Monday holidays in May are Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May (Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May is also a pupil holiday as it is a staff in-service day), Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May and Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

### **Zac Khalifah - Fundraising**

Zac Khalifah, one of our S3 pupils, sadly died last month. He is fondly remembered by all who knew him.

Zac's family are fundraising to commission a memorial bench to celebrate Zac's life. This will be a place where all his friends and family can visit to remember him. The family would also like to use donations to support the charity Place2Be. The *gofundme* page for donations for both causes can be found by the link here or by scanning the QR code below <https://gofund.me/3645c07f>.



### **S2 parents evening**

The S2 parents evening is this coming Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March. All S2 parents have been sent information on booking appointments.

Please ensure you are logged onto the system well in advance of your first appointment with your camera and sound switched on.

This is the last parents' evening of the year and in the coming months will be surveying parents and staff to ascertain the best format for parents' evenings next year i.e on-line, face to face or a combination of both.

### **ENGAGE – careers event – save the date!**

Our parent council have organised the next Engage careers event for Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at the Braid Hills Hotel. They are always highly inspiring events and give pupils a real insight of real career pathways. More details to follow here and via pupil assemblies.

### **S1 Sports Morning 13<sup>th</sup> March**

Our S5/6 Sports Leaders are planning and delivering a morning of Sporting Activities for all of our S1 pupils at Meggetland on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March. All S1 pupils will make their way to Meggetland to be registered at 8.32am – they will be back in school for the start of lunchtime. This is a fantastic opportunity for our Sports Leaders to apply their skills whilst delivering a really rewarding experience for all our S1s. S1 pupils will have a presentation at Assembly on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March to let them know arrangements.

## **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

### **Happy 5th Birthday to the new Boroughmuir**

It's 5 years ago this week since the new school opened - 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018. Happy Birthday everyone!

### **Planned Industrial Action – Tuesday 28th February and Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March.**

Please see attached letter from the City, regarding planned industrial action by teachers on Tuesday 28th February and Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March. Boroughmuir is closed to all pupils on these days. Teaching materials will be posted by the small number of teaching staff who are not on strike. Pupils should check class Teams pages.

[https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/0102023-Letter-to-Parents-and-Carers\\_LF.pdf](https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/0102023-Letter-to-Parents-and-Carers_LF.pdf)

### **S4 and S5 Course Choices**

Please can choices be submitted by the end of today, Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February. Login details for this have been previously issued. The website is <https://www.studentoptions.co/Senior-BOR/>.

The Course Choice Booklet containing information about each subject can be found [here](#).

### **Internet safety evening – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 6.30 - 7.45.**

With the roll out of pupil iPads, this parents' workshop will explore what some of the current risks are as well as signposting resources that parents can use to keep themselves informed about their child's virtual world. We will look at all ages from early years up to adolescents. There will be an opportunity for discussion and questions throughout the session.

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 325 919 854 551

Passcode: xC2kdm

### **Boroughmuir Thistle**

Please find attached the latest issue of our school newspaper - the Thistle

[The Boroughmuir Thistle \(office.com\)](#)

## **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

### **Half Term Holiday**

School closes today, 10<sup>th</sup> February at 12.50pm, for the February half term holiday. All pupils and staff resume at 8.32 on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February.

The tragic death of one of our S3 pupils this week has been a huge shock to our whole school community. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

It's important that we all take time over the holiday to reflect on life and to appreciate the things in your life that are important to you.

### **Friday Fundraising - Mental Health and Turkish/ Syrian Earthquake tragedy**

This Friday we had a scheduled dress down day to support mental health awareness week.

In light of the awful earthquake in Turkey and Syria, it has been decided to extend our fundraising efforts to include donations to support the rescue and relief efforts in Turkey and Syria.

Donations to support mental Health charities and the Earthquake relief effort can both be made through parent pay. We will also be able to accept cash in the school on Friday morning.

### **Boroughmuir Young Musician of the Year 2023: message from Miss Kemp**

If you are of grade 5 + on an instrument, you may like to compete to become Boroughmuir's Young Musician of the Year! The competition will take place from 1pm on the 24<sup>th</sup> February in room G02. Signup sheets can be found in the corridor of the music department until Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February. The winner will go onto compete against others across Edinburgh and potentially Scotland. Good luck!

### **SQA Update**

#### **Appeals about exam results are changing**

If you are unhappy with your SQA exam result you will be able to appeal yourself. Your exam work will then be checked and may be remarked.

Prelims and other internal evidence will not be used, so they will go back to being primarily for practice and to help students to plan their next steps.

There remains an 'Exceptional Circumstances' appeal for students who have an unplanned incident at the time of their exam. You must let us know if there is an exceptional circumstance immediately after the exam.

#### **You are responsible for checking you are doing qualifications correctly with no malpractice**

This link from SQA reminds you of all the important things you need to know about your qualifications. [Your National Qualifications 2022-23 \(sqa.org.uk\)](https://www.sqa.org.uk/your-national-qualifications-2022-23)

You should read it and ask if you're not sure about anything.

SQA is being particularly vigilant this year about malpractice in coursework assignments and folios. Make sure that you follow their rules around malpractice and plagiarism (using someone else's work or software to write things for you).

They say *"You must not pretend that other people's work is your own. Passing off other people's work and ideas as your own is called 'plagiarism' and it's cheating."*

#### **There remain some modifications of assessments to allow for Covid disruptions**

There is more guidance here about appeals and more details about how this works will follow later this year.

[National Qualifications: Helping your child prepare for SQA exams in 2023 - National Qualifications](#)

## **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023**

### **Half Term Holiday**

School closes next Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 12.50pm for the February half term holiday. All pupils and staff resume at 8.32 on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February.

### **Upcoming S5/6 Parents Evenings – on-line**

Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	S5/6 (1s (+S4 Spill Over))	4.15 – 7.05pm
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2023	S5/6 (2s)	4.15 – 7.05pm

### **S2 Course Choice Information Evening Presentation**

Thank you for your attendance on Monday for the S2 Course Choice Information Evening and for your support of your S2 child during this process.

The slides used are available on the website: Pupil & Family Support > Parents Information or by clicking [here](#).

The course choice booklet is [here](#) and the link to the course choice website is [here](#). Please can all choices be entered by the end of the February Holiday, Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

### **S4 and S5 Course Choice**

Please can choices be submitted by the end of the day on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February. Login details for this have been previously issued. The website address is [here](#). The Course Choice Booklet containing information about each subject can be found [here](#).

### **Award Winners- Prince's Trust Awards!**

On Wednesday 6 of our S4 students who are involved in our Boroughmuir Beans Barista group travelled to Glasgow to collect the Prince's Trust Awards in 2 categories! As winners for Scotland, they now represent themselves and the school in the national final later this year. This a phenomenal achievement for our Prince's Trust pupils, whose award success will feature online later this month. Thank you to Ms Kelly for supporting this initiative.

### **Award Winners- City of Edinburgh Green Pencil Award**

Congratulations to Lukas Bell, S1, who is the winner of the City of Edinburgh Libraries Green Pencil Award. Darcy Westwood in 2nd year was the runner up. This is a creative writing competition for young people in P4 to S3 in Edinburgh school and is run by Edinburgh City Libraries. The theme for this year was 'Year of Scotland's Stories' and was a chance for pupils to show their creative writing skills and their feelings on the landscapes, animals and birds of Scotland.

Well done both. Here is a link to the winners poem. Thank you to Ms Aleksandrowicz for supporting this.

<https://talesofonecity.wordpress.com/2023/01/25/green-pencil-award-winner-2022-is-announced/>

### **Award Winners- Young People in European Forests School competition**

Congratulations to S5 pupils Raphael Uddin, Hari Pranavam and Izzy Pickard who have won the Young People in European Forests School competition for the Scotland category and for the United Kingdom category! The short film they produced on the importance of rewilding is incredibly informative, well-structured and heartfelt. This success will motivate them to further showcase their passion for the country's trees and woodlands. This is a great honour for the pupils and Boroughmuir High School. Thank you to Mr Das for assisting in this.

### **Mental Health Awareness & Dress to Express Day**

Next week we are taking part in young person's mental health week looking at the theme of Let's connect. There will be a variety of activities on offer for pupils at lunchtimes and in some classes. If you want to discuss some of these themes at home with your young person there is a support sheet for parents that has been produced by the charity Place2Be as well as some activities you can try at home <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families/> .

On Friday February 10<sup>th</sup>, Boroughmuir High School is taking part in *Dress to Express Yourself* day as part of the Young Person's Mental Health Week. This is to raise money for Place2Be (<https://www.place2be.org.uk/>) a mental health charity that supports children, young people, teachers, and parents with mental health issues.

We would gratefully accept any small donation you felt able to give and these charity donations can be made through Parent Pay. You will see this as an option when you log into your Parent Pay account. Thank you to Ms O'Thy for supporting all of this.

## **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

### **Parent Council Meeting – 1<sup>st</sup> February 6.30pm in School.**

The next Parent Council meeting is in person on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February. The meeting is at 6.30pm in room G08 in the school. Minutes of last meeting and the agenda for this meeting have been emailed to all parents

Please email any issues in advance of the meeting to [secretary@boroughmuir-pc.co.uk](mailto:secretary@boroughmuir-pc.co.uk)

### **S2 Course Choice Evening and market Place**

S2 Course Choice – **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January** (moved from Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January)

Market Place 6.30 – 7.00pm

Course Choice Presentation 7.00pm – 8.00pm



## **S5/ 6 Prelims**

Our S5/6 prelim diet ends this coming Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January. Well done to all our pupils who have worked so hard in preparation for them. Results will give a good indication of exactly what needs to be done before the final exams in May.

## **S5/6 Parents Evenings**

Parent's evenings this session are all taking place on-line. This is a result of staff and parent preference when surveyed earlier this year.

We will re-survey staff and parents in March/ April after the final parents' evening.

Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	S5/6 (1s (+S4 Spill Over))	4.15 – 7.05pm
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2023	S5/6 (2s)	4.15 – 7.05pm

## **Attendance and late coming**

To highlight the importance of attendance and time keeping we have created some infographics that you can find here.

[Every-Day Counts Attendance](#)

[Every-Day-Counts Timekeeping](#)

It is our intention to send out information to every parent every month regarding their child's attendance so that parents/carers are fully aware of the cumulative totals.

This will start at the end of January. If a pupil's attendance is falling towards 85% it is likely that their guidance teacher will have made contact to see if there are any additional supports we can put in place. Equally if you are concerned that your child's attendance is falling we would encourage you to make contact with your child's guidance teacher.

Where there are known circumstances for the absence, reports will not be sent, rather the guidance teachers will make contact with parents.

Year heads are also monitoring lateness to school and will be issuing detentions to pupils who are late three or more times every week to school. Detentions will take place on the lunchtime of the day pupils have assembly e.g. S1 have assembly on a Monday so their detention day is a Monday. Parents will be informed of this by letter.

## **City Parent and Carers Consultation**

You are warmly invited to an online meeting from 6.30-7.30pm on Wednesday 1 February 2023

- share your views on 'lost pupil learning' (This is a term used to describe learning that has been disrupted or missed)
- discuss solutions and support for parents
- how these can be communicated with all parents and carers

Please contact [Parental.Engagement@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Parental.Engagement@edinburgh.gov.uk) to book a space or if you are unable to attend the meeting please send your views to [Parental.Engagement@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Parental.Engagement@edinburgh.gov.uk) marked with *for the attention of Marie Lyon*

## **P7 My World of Work Event**

Today in our Assembly Hall there is a “My World of Work” event for all our cluster P7s.

We have P7 parents talking to the P7s in groups about their jobs. Our career advisors are also supporting the event.

It's one great example of how parents support our schools and a huge thank you to all involved.

## **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

### **Planned Industrial Action – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January.**

Please see attached letter from the City, regarding planned industrial action by teachers on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January. Boroughmuir is closed to all pupils on that day. Prelims scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> January in this school are being re-scheduled to 31<sup>st</sup> January. Teaching materials will be posted by the small number of teaching staff who are not on strike. Pupils should check class Teams pages.

<https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/170123-Letter-to-Parents-and-Carers-1.pdf>

### **S2 Course Choice Evening & Market Place – rescheduled to Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January**

This event is designed to give parents and carers an overview of the course choice process. It is a very similar presentation to those that pupils are receiving in assemblies. Pupils should not attend. The presentation at 7pm is preceded by a marketplace event where many subjects will provide information on what the course of study in S3 and beyond entails as well as information on pathways from studying that subject.

The presentation will be followed by a chance to speak with guidance teachers in the atrium. A very comprehensive course choice booklet will be available in advance on Teams and the website.

The event is being held in school. For those who cannot attend the presentations will be posted on our website.

S2 Course Choice – **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January** (moved from Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January)

Market Place 6.30 – 7.00pm

Course Choice Presentation 7.00pm – 8.00pm

### **Poetry Collection written by Boroughmuir Pupils**

The ‘Our World’ collection of poetry written by pupils from S1 - S6, and edited by our two school Makars, Oscar Cobham and Caitlin Conway, is now available in a beautiful booklet (cover designed by Ava Gilson in S3). Copies will be available to buy for £3 at the S4/5 parent course choice evening on Thursday 19th January. Alternatively, if you want to buy a copy, email [admin@boroughmuir.edin.such.uk](mailto:admin@boroughmuir.edin.such.uk) and we will get the copy to you by pupil post.

Proceeds from the sale will go to the Boroughmuir Kiva Loan group.

### **British Champion**

Congratulations to Innes McDonald who has just won British Cyclocross championships, for his age category, which were held at Milnthorpe, Cumbria last weekend. It is a stunning achievement and one we are all very proud of.

### **Staff Updates**

Welcome to Mr Daragh Lynch who has this week taken up the position of teacher of computing in Boroughmuir. Darah previously worked at Musselburgh Grammar in East Lothian.

## **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

### **S5/6 Prelims**

Our senior prelim diet for S5 and S6 starts today. Here is a link to the prelim timetable.

[Boroughmuir High School- S5/6 Prelim TT](#)

Good luck to all our senior pupils.

If further industrial action takes place, the exams scheduled for 25th January will be moved to 31<sup>st</sup> January.

### **S4 and S5 Course Choice Evenings**

These events are designed to give parents and carers an overview of the course choice process. They are very similar presentations to those that pupils are receiving in assemblies. Pupils should not attend. There will be a presentation on future options such as college, apprenticeships and further study in school from the Deputy Head, Mr Hayes and Cara Davidson our Developing the Young Workforce adviser. Also present will be a representative of Edinburgh college. This will be followed by a chance to speak with guidance teachers in the atrium. A very comprehensive course choice booklet will be available in advance on Teams and the website.

The events are being held in school. For those who cannot attend the presentations will be posted on our website.

S4 Course Choice – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 6.30 – 7.15pm

S5 Course Choice – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 7.30 – 8.15pm

### **Upcoming Parent' Evenings**

Parent's evenings this session are all taking place on-line. This is a result of staff and parent preference when surveyed earlier this year.

We will re-survey staff and parents in March/ April after the final parents' evening.

The 3 remaining parent's evenings this year are:-

<b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023</b>	<b>S5/6 (1s (+S4 Spill Over))</b>	<b>4.15 – 7.05pm</b>
<b>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023</b>	<b>S5/6 (2s)</b>	<b>4.15 – 7.05pm</b>
<b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023</b>	<b>S2</b>	<b>4.15 – 7.05pm</b>

## Industrial Action

The next planned round of Industrial action that will affect Edinburgh's secondary schools is Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January. We will keep you updated with any developments.

## Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2023

### Our Vision

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

## Welcome to 2023!

I wish all our pupils, staff, parents and carers a very happy and successful new year.

I append a favourite quote of mine and one that I hope all in our school community can aspire to.

**"The greatest danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high, and we miss it, but that it is too low, and we reach it"** Michelangelo

## Industrial Action

This coming Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January, two teaching unions are taking industrial action. Boroughmuir like nearly all schools the country will have nearly all their staff on strike and therefore will be closed to all pupils. There will virtually no on-line teaching provided that day. Pupils should however check their class Teams.

I append the letter of 4<sup>th</sup> January from the City regarding this day of industrial action.

[Letter-to-Parents-and-Carers-040123-.pdf \(boroughmuirhighschool.org\)](#)

## Attendance and late coming

As we start a new year, we are always looking at ways to improve attendance and timekeeping. To highlight the importance of attendance and time keeping we have created some infographics that you can find here.

[Every-Day Counts Attendance](#)

[Every-Day-Counts Timekeeping](#)

This may be helpful when speaking to young people at home about the need for good attendance and timekeeping. It is our intention to send out information to every parent every month regarding their child's attendance so that parents/carers are fully aware of the cumulative totals. This will start at the end of January. If a pupil's attendance is falling towards 85% it is likely that their guidance teacher will have made contact to see if there are any additional supports we can put in

place. Equally if you are concerned that your child's attendance is falling we would encourage you to make contact with your child's guidance teacher.

Year heads are also monitoring lateness to school and will be issuing detentions to pupils who are late three or more times every week to school. Detentions will take place on the lunchtime of the day pupils have assembly e.g. S1 have assembly on a Monday so their detention day is a Monday. Parents will be informed of this by letter.

### **Dress Code**

For safety reasons, it is essential that all pupils are instantly recognisable as Boroughmuir pupils. School is a 'place of work' for our young people school and wearing school dress code creates the right climate and mindset required for learning. We also believe that wearing school uniform instils pride, a sense of belonging, a sense of purpose in class and projects a positive image to the local community and visitors to the school.

Items of school dress code are significantly cheaper than branded items of clothing and school dress code removes the stigma attached to not wearing more expensive branded items and reduces peer-pressure.

Boroughmuir is a great school. We want our pupils to be proud to be Boroughmuir and wear the school dress code with pride!

<https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Dress-Code-Leaflet-Aug-2023.pdf>

### **Staff Updates**

Welcome to Ms Shona Adams who has this week taken up the position of teacher of biology in Boroughmuir. Shona previously worked at Beath High School in Fife.

## **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

### **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**

This is the last newsletter of the year. Term ends at 12.50pm on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> Dec and all pupils resume at 8.32 on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a very happy new year!

### **Christmas Fun!**

On our last day during P1-4 we'd like to encourage a festive spirit of leadership and teamwork.

We've already had a whole series of events from the S1 Christmas disco, charity events, food bank donations, guess the sweets competition, the Christmas door competition, the S6 ceilidhs, the school show 'A Christmas Carol' and the spectacular school concert.

To round it off, on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December** we are celebrating the season together as follows:

**Candy Cane Post:-** Candy canes on sale at break Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Send a message anonymously via a candy cane to show someone you care this Christmas! Will be delivered during registration on the last day of term. Don't miss out!

**Christmas Jumpers:-**Come with a Christmas jumper on the last day. Optional donations to Save the Children via parent pay.

#### **Period 1**

- S3 Cinema experience in the assembly hall P1-2. Register in normal class, then come down. Teachers for P2 come and join then.
- S5 P1 register as normal then go with teachers to sports hall for S6-style pre-prom.

#### **Period 3**

- S1 Ceilidh in the sports hall. Register in normal class, then come down to Sports Hall at 11.30 during P3. Teachers for P4 come and join then.
- S2 Cinema experience in the assembly hall P3-4. Register in normal class, then come down. Teachers for P4 come and join then.
- S4 'Elves' register with teachers then meet in atrium to help prepare...

#### **Period 4**

- S3, 4 and 5 Christmas 'Thingumy'. All classes go to normal class, register and get ready...
- and with the wonderful S6 committees helping keep it all going

We look forward to a great end of term and a fantastic holiday when it comes.

#### **P7 Christmas Music!**

Today we welcome P7 pupils from all our feeder primaries to a Christmas concert given by our pupils in our school assembly hall. It's sure to be a festive occasion!

#### **Boroughmuir Beans – National Awards!! – message from Mrs Kelly**

Boroughmuir High School is delighted to announce that our Princes Trust Achieve S4 students are award winners! The Prince's Trust Awards celebrates the achievements of young people between the ages of 11-30. Rachel Struckmeier has won the Education Achievement award for Scotland and our student enterprise 'Boroughmuir Beans' has won the Community Impact award for Scotland. This is a phenomenal achievement and Rachel, along with 5 beans students, will collect their awards at an event in February and are now finalists for their categories for the national awards ceremony, which is a televised event, taking place in London in 2023. See more here!

<https://sway.office.com/SDEn73ziFej9vLrD?ref=Link>

#### **Food Bank Donations**

Many thanks to all families and young people who have supported the house challenge by bringing in donations for the Edinburgh Food project. We have received around 1200 items in the two weeks we have run the challenge which is fantastic. Most items have already been delivered to the Edinburgh Food Project to be distributed. Winning house will be announced on Tuesday.

### **Tracking and Reporting Update**

This week we issued two sets of reports. We hope you are able to use these with your child to support their work in school and at home.

S2 were issued their second tracking report. A *Progress Report* with comments will follow in early March, prior to the Parent-Teacher consultation evening.

S4 were issued their *Progress Report* and we have also provided a *course update* document separately.

### **Staff Updates**

Mrs Catriona Gibson, School Support Assistant leaves us at the end of term after 9 years at Boroughmuir. We thank Catriona for all she has done in this time and wish her well in life beyond Boroughmuir.

## **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

### **End of Term / start of term**

Term ends for all on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 12.50pm.

Pupils return on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January at 8.32am.

### **Boroughmuir in the News!!**

I am delighted to share this link that reports on the Sunday Times annual Parent Power report. The Sunday Times analysis puts Boroughmuir as the 6<sup>th</sup> highest performing state school in Scotland in terms of combined exam results in National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher. It is the school's great ethos and quality of Teaching and learning that achieves this. A huge thank you to all our pupils, parents and staff who contribute to this schools' success.

<https://www.edinburghlive.co.uk/news/edinburgh-news/top-schools-edinburgh-named-sunday-25710585.amp>

### **Boroughmuir Thistle – 5<sup>th</sup> Edition**

Please click the link below to read the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of our fabulous school newspaper

[The Boroughmuir Thistle \(office.com\)](#)

### **Boroughmuir Christmas Concert**

Reminder that our Christmas Concert is taking place at Central Halls on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December from 7pm – 9pm.

Tickets are priced at £5 each and are available on parent pay.

### **Boroughmuir Rugby**

Boroughmuir rugby club U18s team are playing in the Scottish cup final this Saturday 10th December, 18:00 BT Murrayfield. Many Boroughmuir pupils are involved in this high profile game. The link to get tickets - which are free - <https://bit.ly/3B3nKMb>

### **Visitors from Finland**

On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December we were joined by some Finnish colleagues – Katja, Anna and Mervi – who are teachers from Lohja, near Helsinki. They have been visiting Edinburgh for their job shadowing project and spent time speaking with both staff and pupils about sustainability, digital learning, and staff wellbeing. This is their second visit to Boroughmuir, and we have high hopes of developing a strong partnership with them. They were also interviewed by two of our Boroughmuir Thistle reporters about the similarities and differences between Scottish and Finnish education, so you can read more about this in issue 6 of the school newspaper!

### **Food Bank Donations**

Many thanks to all families and young people who have supported the house challenge so far by bringing in donations for the Edinburgh Food project. To date we have received just over 300 items. If you would still like to donate items we will be taking in donations during registration all next week up to Friday the 16 December. House captains will be at the front door every morning and any other donations can be left with guidance teachers in the guidance corridor.

### **Future Industrial Action**

Future Industrial action by teacher unions that will affect secondary schools is planned for 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> January.

We will of course keep you notified of how this will affect us nearer the time.

### **Staff Updates**

Mr. Alex Gilmore, teacher of Computing leaves us today to take up his new post as Curriculum Leader of Computing at Craigroyston High School.

Mr. Gilmore will be replaced by Mr. Daragh Lynch who is currently teacher of computing at Musselburgh Grammar. Mr. Lynch will start early in January.

## **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2022**

### **Proposed Industrial Action – 8<sup>th</sup> December**

As I'm sure you are aware, there is a day of Industrial action planned by the SSTA teaching union on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December.



The SSTA has significantly less members in most schools, including this school, than the EIS, however the disruption to the running of the school would still be significant.

All secondary schools are currently working with the Council to assess if their school could safely open in some way on that day.

A further communication on this will follow as soon as we have completed that assessment.

### **Boroughmuir Christmas Concert**

We are delighted that our Christmas Concert is back for the first time in 2 years. Taking place at Central Halls on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December from 7pm – 9pm, you will hear performances from our wonderful young musicians, and it is sure to be a brilliant event. Tickets are priced at £5 each and are available on parent pay.

### **A Christmas Carol**

A group of S3-S6 pupils have been working together independently to produce a performance of "A Christmas Carol". They will be performing this on Tuesday 6 December in the school assembly hall from 6-7:30pm. Tickets are on parent pay will be on a first come first served basis.

Donations of up to £10 can be made on parent pay to secure your tickets. Money raised will be for school funds.

### **Nearly new – Christmas Jerseys – message from Mr Beard**

The nearly new uniform stall is branching out into Christmas jumpers - we will gratefully receive donations starting next week (5 December) of used (grown out of?) Christmas jumpers that are still in good condition.

We will then wash, sort and return with them for sale the week of 12 - 16 December during lunchtimes in the atrium (jumpers will cost £3.00 each (cash) and all proceeds will be donated to a local charity)

Please look out and donate your pre-loved Christmas jumpers to Mr Beard in 3.02. Thank you.

### **S1 Christmas party**

The S1 Christmas party has been moved from Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December to next Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 6:30-8pm. It will be a great night for our S1s!!

### **Skills Development Scotland - Parent & Carer Voice survey 2022/23**

SDS would like to ask for feedback from parents and carers on the career service in schools. The survey runs until May 2023.

[Parent and carer research – Parent’s Voice 2022/23 | Skills Development Scotland](#)

### **Flu Vaccinations - Reminder**

The pupil flu vaccinations are taking place in the Assembly Hall next Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> Dec, starting from 9am.

The vaccinations team have advised that over 1200 of our pupils have signed up to get the vaccination.

### **Foodbank - House Challenge – message from our House captains.**

After our previous house challenge being a roaring success, we are about to start another exciting house challenge. To play into our theme of collective responsibility we decided to support a food bank for this challenge.

Our chosen charity is the Edinburgh Food Project who have 7 food banks located across Edinburgh. House captains will be collecting any donations at the front door every morning and any other donations can also be dropped off in the guidance corridor.

This challenge will run from 5-16 December. If you can donate, please do so as this is not only an initiative to collect house point but also our way of helping out and doing our bit for the wider community!

Below is a list of urgent, required and well stocked items:

#### **Urgent**

- RICE, LONG LIFE FRUIT JUICE, READY MEALS, TINNED SPAGHETTI IN SAUCE, BISCUITS / SWEETS / CHOCOLATE, JAM, HOUSEHOLD CLEANING PRODUCTS, DEODORANT, SHAMPOO

#### **Required**

- UHT MILK, SUGAR, PASTA SAUCE, TINNED VEG, TINNED TOMATOES, TINNED FRUIT, TINNED COLD MEAT (CORNERED BEEF ETC.), TOILET ROLLS, PULSES, SHAVING FOAM, RAZORS

#### **Well stocked (but still welcome)**

- TINNED FISH, TINNED DESSERTS, BAKED BEANS, COFFEE, TEA BAGS, HOT MEAT (TINNED), PASTA, SOUP (TIN), TOOTHPASTE

## **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

### **S1 parent's Night**

S1 Parents Evening booking opened on Tuesday 22nd at 6pm.

We look forward to meeting S1 Parents online on Wednesday 30th November.

If parents have any issues with bookings please do contact us at [admin@boroughmuir.edin.sch.uk](mailto:admin@boroughmuir.edin.sch.uk)

### **School Makars**

Our Boroughmuir School Makars are now on the Scottish Poetry Library website performing their winning poems. Well done, Caitlin and Oscar and all the runners-up who had a great day visiting the SPL. <https://www.scottishpoetrylibrary.org.uk/learning/meet-the-boroughmuir-makars/>

### **National Conversation on Education**

The government national consultation on the future of Scottish Education closes on 5<sup>th</sup> December. Please see this link for how to make your views known: -

<https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/National-Discussion-on-Scottish-Education-Letter-to-Parents-and-Carers-14th-October-2022.pdf>

### **Qualifications Review**

The Education Secretary has confirmed Exams and national qualifications are to be reformed. A reference group, led by Professor Louise Hayward, Professor of Educational Assessment and Innovation at Glasgow University, has been set up to provide advice to Ministers on the reforms. The review's Phase Two public consultation is now open on the Scottish Government's consultation hub [here](#)

You can find a dedicated survey for parents/carers [here](#). This will close on 16 December 2022.

Here is the [summary report of the Phase One survey](#).

### **Business Breakfast**

This morning senior pupils in S5 and S6 studying Business or Economics attended our annual Business Breakfast. It was a fabulous event with our guest of honour Mr Ally Scott (Head of Strategy and Transactions and Managing Partner, EY, Scotland) giving an inspirational address. A huge thank you to Ally, Ken Edwards (President of our FP Assoc) and the 10 other former pupil business mentors who gave so generously of their time.

### **Industrial action**

There is further industrial action by teachers planned for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> December. Again, we will keep parents and pupils posted with updated information as we receive it.

## **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

### **Teacher Industrial Action**

As you will be aware from the press, there is teacher industrial action planned for Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November.

A City of Edinburgh communication has been sent to all parents indicating that all schools will be closed to all pupils on that day.

<https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Proposed-Education-Industrial-Action-24th-November-2022.pdf>

We will keep you updated with the most current information as we receive it.

### **Internet safety evening – Wednesday 23rd November 6.30 - 7.45.**

With the roll out of pupil iPads, this parents' workshop will explore what some of the current risks are as well as signposting resources that parents can use to keep themselves informed about their child's virtual world. We will look at all ages from early years up to adolescents. There will be an opportunity for discussion and questions throughout the session.

The facilitator, Leeanne Turner, has over 20 years' experience as a social worker within the field of child protection. She has been a child protection trainer for 10 years. She is also a CEOP ambassador and supports professionals and parents to think about the risks online and how to work proactively with children and young people to keep them safe. Leeanne is also a mum to a 13year

old social media obsessed girl and so knows well the peer pressure and worries that parents can find themselves in when it comes to their children's online world.

Microsoft Teams meeting

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 387 973 939 589

Passcode: u5SHPq

### **S4 Prelims**

S4 prelims are almost complete with only Mandarin, Music and Art taking place next Monday and Tuesday.

Our pupils have conducted themselves brilliantly throughout this period and our invigilation team have again given great praise to how mannerly and respectful our pupils are.

Well done to all our S4 who have put in so much hard work and effort in preparing for these exams.

### **Important Dates to note**

S5/6 Reports to parents by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> Nov.

Wed 30<sup>th</sup> Nov – S1 parents' evening (on-line – details to follow)

S4 Reports to parents by Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Dec.

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January – S4 parent's night.

S5/6 prelims Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January

### **Business Breakfast**

Next Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> Nov, senior pupils in S5 and S6 studying Business or Economics are attending our annual Business Breakfast.

This is an event which is being organised jointly by the school and our Former Pupils Association. The aim of the event is to allow pupils to hear from and meet people from a range of business backgrounds.

This year our guest of honour will be Mr Ally Scott, Head of Strategy and Transactions and Managing Partner, EY, Scotland ([https://www.ey.com/en\\_uk/people/ally-scott](https://www.ey.com/en_uk/people/ally-scott)). Ally is also a former pupil of Boroughmuir High School. There will also be a range of other business people, many of whom are FPs, joining us for the breakfast. They will help facilitate business conversations at tables prior to our guest speaker.

It is a prestigious event with an early start. 7 am! Any senior pupils who are not studying Business or Economics but who are keen to attend should see Ms Braisby about availability of spaces by close of play on Monday.

### **Staff Updates**

Congratulations to Alex Gilmore, teacher of Computing who has been appointed as Curriculum Leader of Computing at Craigroyston High School. Alex will leave Boroughmuir on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December.

## **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

### **Remembrance Service**

Today is our school remembrance service.

S6 pupils represent all pupils at this poignant remembrance service in the school assembly hall along with invited FPs. The whole school will observe a 1minute silence at 11am in memory of all those who gave their lives in war.

### **Boroughmuir Pipe band**

Boroughmuir's pipe band will be playing at the Hearts match this Saturday as part of the Hearts FC remembrance game. I am delighted that our school pipe band is able to participate on this event and I will be in attendance to further represent the school.

### **Parent Council Meeting – Wed 16<sup>th</sup> Nov 6.30pm.**

The next parent council meeting is next Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30pm on TEAMS.

<https://teams.live.com/meet/9473780335841>

An agenda will be sent out prior to the meeting.

### **Head Teacher's Attainment Report**

Each year I provide an overview of whole school attainment in the SQA exams Please click this link

<https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/headteachers-newsletters/hts-attainment-report-nov-2022/>

I also provide a more detailed report to the Parent Council Curriculum sub-group.

### **SQA Appeals**

SQA is currently carrying out a large-scale evaluation of the 2022 approach to National Qualifications assessment. Part of this includes gathering views from parents and carers on the Appeals 2022 service. They have a panel of parents and carers who take part in occasional surveys for SQA. If you would like to take part, please sign up using this link [www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/96570.html](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/96570.html).

Those candidates that have been successful in an appeal for the 2022 diet will be notified by SQA during November.

### **Internet safety evening – Save the date -Wednesday 23rd November 6.30 - 7.45.**

With the roll out of pupil I pads, this parents' workshop will explore what some of the current risks are as well as signposting resources that parents can use to keep themselves informed about their child's virtual world. We will look at all ages from early years up to adolescents. There will be an opportunity for discussion and questions throughout the session. More info next week.

### **BIMA Digital Day 2022**

On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November all 70 S3 Computing Science pupils took part in the national BIMA Digital Day 2022. BIMA is a UK organisation which is the voice of digital and tech and is passionate

about developing the next generation of digital professionals. Boroughmuir have taken part in this initiative for many years and this year we were partnered with the digital agency Yard.

Our pupils spent the whole day on Wednesday in the Assembly Hall hearing about digital career opportunities from the staff at Yard and then taking part in some digital design challenges to come up with digital solution for well-known brands. The winning teams will now be entered into the National BIMA Competition. Well done to our S3 Computing Science pupils. You did us proud representing your school!!

## **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November 202**

### **The Boroughmuir Thistle – 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition**

Please click link for the bumper 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of our pupil lead school newspaper.

[The Boroughmuir Thistle 3.2 \(office.com\)](#)

### **S1 Remembrance Week**

Next week S1 pupils will have a strong focus on Remembrance in many of their classes. On Monday morning pupils will remain in the assembly hall after assembly where they are going to be watching a play based on the book 'War Horse'. It is a multi-award-winning, world-class piece of theatre created by The National Theatre. We will observe the interval in the play and therefore pupils will have their morning break earlier than usual. The fundraising committee will be putting on a tuck shop in the lower atrium where items can be purchased during the interval.

Through the week pupils will have a focus on Remembrance or the themes and issues explored within War Horse in English, History, Geography, PSE, RMPS, Music, HFT, Art, D&E and maybe some others.

There will be a House challenge this week too and Mr Graham will give pupils the details of this during assembly on Monday.

All other year groups will also have inputs at their assemblies around remembrance.

Our S6 will attend our annual service of remembrance in the school assembly hall on Friday 11<sup>th</sup>. They will represent all current pupils along with Former Pupils.

### **Christmas Concert - Save the date!**

The Christmas Concert is back this year on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December at Central Halls from 7pm – 9pm. Tickets will be on sale via parent pay very soon. Priority will be given to pupils performing in the concert and then will be sold on a first come first served basis. We can't wait to see you there in support of our wonderful performers.

**Understanding options available after school (SDS) for parents and carers secondary pupils, Thursday 10th November 6.30pm**

Skills Development Scotland careers advisers are hosting a webinar for parents and carers of secondary pupils on 10 Nov at 6:30pm to discuss the options available to young people when they leave secondary school, and resources and support available from Skills Development Scotland.

Parents and carers can register for our session here:

<https://Understandingoptionsavailableafterschool.eventbrite.co.uk>

### **Annual Academic Service**

I was delighted to once again represent the school along with our pupil Head Team (Kenny Chen, Caitlin Conway, Elisa Jourdan, Ben Whiteley) at the annual Academic Service in St Giles last Sunday. The event started in the City Chambers after which the 'Academics' processed 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 Robert Aldridge and other office bearing Councillors, the Director of Education Amanda Hatton as well as Headteachers, teachers and pupils from the City's schools.

### **Staffing Update**

This week we appointed 2 full time permanent teachers of Biology to replace the vacancy left by Steve Hamilton's promotion to CL and the vacancy created by the biology probationer leaving.

Congratulations to Carolyn Nisbet, who has been working in the dept on a temporary basis for the last year and also to Shona Adams who is currently a biology teacher at Beath High School in Fife.

### **Parking**

Residents have raised concerns with local councillors with regard to parents parking around the school at start and close of play, in particular, abuse of the disabled parking bays.

Please be considerate when dropping off or picking up and do so in appropriate areas.

## **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

### **P7 Open Afternoon - Today**

This afternoon is the P7 open afternoon. Details are in this link.

<https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/open-afternoon/>

### **S4 Prelims start next week**

The S4 prelim diet starts on Thursday afternoon with Spanish Listening. Mathematics is on Friday.

Good luck to all in S4 doing Nat 5 prelims. Here is the full prelim timetable: -

<https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/S4-Prelims-Pupil-Information-and-Timetable-November-2022.pdf>

### **National Parent Forum Support Materials**

If parents want more information on subjects and national qualifications, the National Parent Forum of Scotland's Nutshell series is an excellent source of information. Have a look here: -

<https://www.npfs.org.uk/downloads/category/in-a-nutshell-series/>

### **National Conversation on Education**

The government have launched a national consultation on the future of Scottish Education.

Please see this link for how to make your views known: -

<https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/National-Discussion-on-Scottish-Education-Letter-to-Parents-and-Carers-14th-October-2022.pdf>

### **Firework Safety**

Please see the attached letter from Police Scotland, City of Edinburgh Council & Scottish Fire & Rescue Service about bonfire and firework safety.

<https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Firework-Letter-Schools-2022-SE.pdf>

### **Empowered Learning Launch Week**

We are at the stage where all pupils have received their iPad.

As explained during assemblies, the Empowered Learning launch week begins next week. (w/b 31st Oct)

This means from now pupils must ensure they bring their iPad to school each day, charged. The iPads are a tool pupils will potentially need for learning throughout the day.

Pupils should have installed the following apps from the Self-Service App:

Microsoft: OneNote, Word, PowerPoint, OneDrive, Teams, Whiteboard

Others: Kahoot, Desmos, Padlet, ClickView

### **Parents' Ipad info evening**

There is an information evening for parents on iPad usage on TEAMS on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov at 6.30pm.

We will talk through some of the ways that iPads will be used in school and there will be an opportunity for Q&A.

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 350 649 807 455

Passcode: pQVC2w

### **S3 parents' Night**



The S3 Parent Consultation is on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November.

Booking for this evening opens on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> at 6pm. Information is being sent to S3 parents today.

This session all parent consultation evenings are on-line.

### **Highest Achieving Higher Maths Candidate 2022**

We are delighted to share that Jeevan Hoehnke achieved 100% in his higher maths exam and as a result is a winner of the Mary Somerville Prize awarded each year by the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries in Scotland.

This is a fabulous achievement, and we are extremely proud of Jeevan.

### **Creative writing anthology**

Our 2021-22 collection has tales of falling and of flying; of hiding and of exploring; of silence and of expression. Thanks, as always, to the whole English department for seeking out contributions from our wonderful writers, and huge thanks to our writers for producing such wonderful content.

And thank you to you for reading!

<https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/furthsetter/>

### **Association for Media Education in Scotland (AMES) Awards – Message from Ms Dunlop.**

The Ames Award for Higher Media Screen Production at the Scottish Youth Film Festival was won by **Isabella Cramer** for her short film titled 'Family'.

The Ames Award for National 5 Screen Production at the Scottish Youth Film Festival was won by **Beth Fallon** for her horror trailer titled 'The Last Night'.

This competition was open to all schools in Scotland so for Boroughmuir to win both awards is an absolute credit to our creative, hardworking pupils.

David Barras from The Scottish Youth Film Festival will be coming into Boroughmuir to present the girls with their awards in the near future.

We also had a number of runners up.

For Higher, Anna Loxley for her short film titled 'Pride' and for National 5, Lucy Irvine for her horror trailer titled 'Stalker' and Jed Calvert for his horror trailer titled 'The last place you look'.

Well done all!

### **Staff Updates**

Congratulations to Steve Hamilton who this week has been appointed as full-time permanent Curriculum Leader for the Well Being Hub.

Congratulations to Brydon Cochrane who yesterday was appointed to the position of full-time permanent Teacher of Physics here in Boroughmuir High School.

You may remember from a previous communication that Mr Cochrane had resigned his Curriculum Leader post here in the school.

With Fraser Kastelein, one of our physics teachers, being successful at interview in being appointed to that position Mr Cochrane decided to apply for the vacant position of teacher of physics.

Both will start their new roles on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November.

## **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

### **Half Term Break: -**

School breaks TODAY at 12.50pm for half term.

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October is a holiday for staff and pupils.

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October is an in-service day for staff.

All pupils return to school on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October at 8.32am.

Have a great break!!

### **Ipad Roll out- Complete!**

We have now issued 1495 iPads to all pupils in the school!

This was a massive job to ensure they were all asset tagged, that all appropriate paperwork was in place and that they were all logging on properly.

A huge thank you to all the staff involved in making this happen over the last week.

These will be a real asset in providing great support in the delivery of high-quality Learning and Teaching.

There will be a parents' information and support event on the evening of 2<sup>nd</sup> November on Teams. Further info to follow.

### **P7 Open Afternoon on October 28th**

This year the P7 open afternoon here in Boroughmuir is on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October. Details are in this link.

<https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/open-afternoon/>

### **Bring Your Parents to School Day**

Yesterday we were delighted to host 60 S1 parents who followed a full day's S1 timetable. They had a short Assembly with Ms Presly, Mr Dempster and some senior pupils. This was followed by a full day of S1 lessons, which I'm glad to say were thoroughly enjoyed!

They described feeling "excited" and "a little nervous" at the start of the day but left describing the day as:

*"I just feel so excited for my kids coming to this amazing school. Loved the building, loved the facilities and the inspirational teachers are second to none."*

*"This was a brilliant idea and a great insight into an S1s life. Can I come back tomorrow?"*

*"Fantastic and great to see pupils in leadership roles."*

*"I have learned at least 3 new skills" and "I was dreading some subjects but the teachers were lovely"*

Although thoroughly enjoyed most parents found it an exhausting day and were looking forward to getting back to work for a rest!!!

### **S4 Prelim Timetable**

Here is a link to the S4 prelim timetable which starts fully on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November.

S4, please remember to have a holiday!

<https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/S4-Prelims-Pupil-Information-and-Timetable-November-2022.pdf>

### **Saroj Lal Award**

Congratulations to our RMPS teacher Jane O'Thy who is also our Pupil Equalities coordinator and Health and Well-being coordinator who this week was highly commended in this years Saroj Lal award for the promotion of equalities in school

Please see this link for the full article.

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/news/article/13571/students-and-teachers-receive-the-inaugural-saroj-lal-award-for-city-of-edinburgh-schools>

### **Parent Council Chair**

I am delighted to inform you that after this week's AGM Mr Keith Robson is the new chair of our Parent Council taking over from Kate Morris. We are indebted to Kate for all she did in support of the school in her 3year tenure.

The next meeting of the parent council is 16<sup>th</sup> November (on Zoom) and any questions or issues can be posted to the chair via

[chair@boroughmuir-pc.co.uk](mailto:chair@boroughmuir-pc.co.uk)

### **Brufts – Save the Date – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2023 – message from Ms Presly**

Boroughmuir High School staff and pupils are organising the Brufts (a bit like Crufts) event which will celebrate the wellbeing benefits of being a dog owner. The aim of Brufts is to provide a positive community event to promote wellbeing and have fun. For many of our young people (and staff) animals play an important role in their lives and support their wellbeing. We felt after lockdown and lack of community events Brufts could offer a bit of fun and promote a positive relationship with the community and raise some money for charity too. The event will take place in **Harrison Park on Friday 16th June 2023 from 2-5pm** in which pupils and teachers will have the opportunity to bring their dogs to Harrison Park. We have a couple of animal charities confirmed who would like a stall at Brufts. If you feel you could offer some support or expertise or know someone who might be interested e.g charities, local businesses or family dog experts - then please do get in touch with [Victoria.leask@boroughmuir.edin.sch.uk](mailto:Victoria.leask@boroughmuir.edin.sch.uk)



After the October break we will be launching a poster competition and will be looking for the "Face of Brufts" so you might want to get snapping with some nice photos on autumnal walks next week!

### **MacMillan Coffee Morning - Total**

On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September, our Princes Trust pupils hosted a hugely successful coffee morning in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support. Over 30 guests of staff, parents, businesses

and MSP's enjoyed coffee, cake and sandwiches. The event has raised a phenomenal £445 for the charity so far. Donations are still welcome here. <https://thyq.uk/BUS007718007>.

## **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

### **Half Term Break: -**

School breaks for half term next Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October at 12.50pm.

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October is now a holiday for staff and pupils.

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October is an in-service day for staff

All pupils return to school on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October at 8.32am.

### **Parent Council Meeting Dates – message from Kate Morris, Parent Council Chair**

AGM - 12 October 6.30pm – ZOOM

Join the Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82886892876?pwd=NGJZbzR6VUkyWFFNempGMTN4OEsZz09>

Meeting ID: 828 8689 2876: Passcode: 452317

You are welcome to raise issues by emailing [chair@boroughmuir-pc.co.uk](mailto:chair@boroughmuir-pc.co.uk). After the AGM the new chair will be Keith Robson.

Future meeting dates are: - 16 November, 1 Feb, 15 March, 7 June

### **iPad Roll Out – Next Week**

As of Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October, we will be issuing iPad to all pupils as part of the City's Empowered Learning Programme. Pupils will come home with a brand new boxed iPad to support their learning.

Monday – S6 and S5

Tuesday – all S4 and some S3

Wednesday – rest of S3 and some S2

Thursday – all S1 and catch ups

### **School Newspaper – The Boroughmuir Thistle**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of our school newspaper can be viewed by clicking on this link.

Another fabulous publication!

[The Boroughmuir Thistle \(office.com\)](http://TheBoroughmuirThistle.office.com)

### **Face Coverings**

As winter approaches this is a reminder that anyone who wishes to wear face coverings in school can. That option exists at the moment but please feel free to wear a mask if you wish.

### **Staff Updates**

Congratulations to Fraser Kastelein who was today appointed as Curriculum Leader of Physics and Biology. Fraser is currently a physics teacher in Boroughmuir.

Fraser will replace Mr Cochrane who tendered his resignation of this post earlier this session.

Start dates for Fraser and end dates for Mr Cochrane will be shared in the near future.

## **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

### **Additional holiday – Monday 24<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 – 1<sup>st</sup> Edition**

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

<https://sway.office.com/b5ULK0lOvNqxphvY?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 (29<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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-2022-1.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](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](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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 \(boroughmuirhighschool.org\)](http://boroughmuirhighschool.org)

### **Norwegian Head Teachers and Directors of Education**

We are delighted to be resuming hosting international delegations into our school. On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> 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:

<b>Week / date</b>	<b>topic</b>	<b>time</b>
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
<b>October holiday – no session on 19 October</b>		
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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> Sep 6.30 – 8.00pm in the school

S6 Information Evening - Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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>

### **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 6<sup>th</sup> Sep 6.30 – 8.00pm in the school

S6 Information Evening - Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 (22<sup>nd</sup> Aug) there is an S3 Information evening in the school for parents and carers of the new S3.

Next Tuesday evening (23<sup>rd</sup> 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 \(boroughmuirhighschool.org\)](https://www.boroughmuirhighschool.org/Home-School-Calendar-2022-23.pdf)

[Pupil-Dress-Code-leaflet-070721.pdf \(boroughmuirhighschool.org\)](https://www.boroughmuirhighschool.org/Pupil-Dress-Code-leaflet-070721.pdf)

### **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.

<b>DHT</b>	<b>Year Group responsibilities</b>	<b>Other key areas of responsibility</b>
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.

<b>Pupil Support Leader</b>	<b>House</b>
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 27<sup>th</sup>

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.