

# **Boroughmuir High School Newsletter**

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

## **New Head Teacher – Letter from City.**

Please see here, a letter from Lorna French, Service Director, and Chief Education Officer regarding the recent Head Teacher appointment at Boroughmuir High School.

<https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/City-Letter-re-Bmuir-HT-2.pdf>

## **Parent Council Meeting.**

The next and final parent council meeting of the year is on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30pm here in the school.

The agenda, minutes and reports have been sent separately to all parents.

## **Edinburgh's Vision for Inclusion (ASN) - Survey Closes 5th May 2024**

The Boroughmuir Parent Council ASN group is encouraging parents and carers to provide feedback to the City of Edinburgh Council Inclusion Review.

Parents and carers need to become experts in how to meet their children's additional support needs. Our input is therefore valuable to provide that overview and make sure our children's voices are heard and inform this process, to overcome current barriers impeding their access to education. By law every mainstream School must provide an inclusive education to meet the needs of every learner. However, evidence is growing that the ambition of GIRFEC is not being realised in practice. Inclusion is one Boroughmuir's values, shared by our incoming new Head Teacher, Mrs Fraser, who has pledged to work with the whole School community to get the best outcomes for every learner.

**The Vision for Inclusion Survey** can be completed on the council's consultation Hub at:

<https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/cf/inclusive-education>

Our new ASN Parent Council group will also submit a collective response from Boroughmuir parents.

If you wish to be updated or contribute thoughts, please get in touch on:

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

## **Family Financial Support**

Please contact us via the link on our website if you are looking for any financial support with the cost of school activities or events.

All details can be found here [Family Support](#)

## **Skills Development Scotland (SDS) - Parents Survey 2024**

Parents and carers are key influencers over young people's career ambitions and choices.

SDS work in close partnership with this school to support our young people to make informed career choices and they would value feedback from parents and carers on their services. You can do this by taking part [in a short survey](#). All responses are confidential and anonymous, and the results will be used to inform SDS services. The survey should only take about 10 minutes to complete.

### **Aquathlon Success**

The Scottish National Schools Aquathlon Championships 2024 took place at the Michael Woods Sports & Leisure Centre in Glenrothes, Fife on Friday. Pupils swam distances between 250m and 500m in the pool and after the transition zone ran distances between 2km and 4km on a course made up of a mixture of path, athletics track and grass. Teams came from 88 schools across the country and BHS had four entries, Maddie Hoole, Rory Beattie, Naomi Cochran and Reuben Lees; all performed very well and particular congratulations to Reuben for a silver medal in the S3/S4 race.

## **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

### **New Head Teacher**

I am delighted to inform you that Kate Fraser has been appointed as the new Headteacher of Boroughmuir High School.

Mrs Fraser is a substantive Depute Headteacher at the Royal High School but has been acting Headteacher since January at Portobello High School.

We look forward to welcoming Mrs Fraser to Boroughmuir as HT in August.

### **Leavers**

Can I wish all our S4,5 and 6 leavers all the best for life beyond Boroughmuir. I hope that Boroughmuir has given you what you need to move successfully to the life beyond Boroughmuir. Do keep in touch and let us know what you do!

### **Exam Leave**

Exam leave started yesterday (Thursday) for our S5 and S6 pupils and starts today at 12.50 pm for our S4 pupils.

I wish all our pupils well in their upcoming exams.

All pupils return to school on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June for the start of our new academic timetable.

### **Eric Liddell Path Naming Ceremony – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April**

Boroughmuir has been working in Partnership with the Eric Liddell Community to celebrate the centenary of his Gold Medal win in Paris in 1924. We would like to invite our school community to be part of a "Path Naming Ceremony" on Friday 26th April on Bruntsfield Links between 1.30-3.30pm. There will be an "official" naming of the new Eric Liddell Way at 2.30pm and events and sporting activities from 1.30pm. All Welcome to pop along. More details can be found on our website [Eric Liddell Path Naming Ceremony](#)

### **Boroughmuir Summer Fayre 12-3pm Saturday 15th June**

Our plans are taking shape to host our first Summer Fair in partnership with The Canal Festival. Please save the date and come along to enjoy, music, stalls and much more! The flyer is on our website - [Summer Fayre](#)

## **Staff Updates**

Ann Jenkinson, one of school support assistants, retires today after 31 years of service at Boroughmuir. We thank Ann for all her incredible work over this time and wish her a long and happy retirement.

Due to senior pupils going on exam leave today many of our temporary staff leave us today. A huge thank you to them for all the input provided during their time with us.

## **Art Showcase**

On Tuesday evening our Art department put on a tremendous display of SQA work from S4,5 and 6 pupils. Parents and carers and pupils came in numbers to appreciate the outstanding quality of our pupils' work. Well done to all involved and to the art staff for facilitating this great event.

## **'Hamilton' at Boroughmuir**

As part of our Drama department's partnership with Capital Theatres, the Expressive Arts Faculty are hosting cast members from the hugely successful 'Hamilton' tour, which has been running at the Edinburgh Festival Theatre for over a month. Members of the cast will come to the school, this coming Wednesday, to talk about the production and answer questions from our pupils. This is a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to gain an insight into what is involved in being a part of a production which is the worldwide phenomenon of 'Hamilton'. Pupils are invited to the assembly hall at 3.30pm sharp and we expect the event to last around an hour. We hope that this will be an experience to remember.

## **Class Act!**

From Monday 8th April to Friday 12th of April, one of our pupils, Lidiia Tkachenko and eleven other Ukrainian pupils from all across Scotland - Peebles, Dundee, Glasgow and Fife - worked in the Ukrainian Community Centre at Royal Terrace to take part in Class Act Ukraine. Class Act is a programme that the Traverse Theatre have run for decades. It links pupils in Scotland with established playwrights and together each pupil writes a play and these are performed by professional actors at the Traverse. The plays are then printed so that the pupils can call themselves professional playwrights. Boroughmuir has been involved in Class Act in the past but this year they were specifically looking for displaced Ukrainian pupils from across Scotland.

Lidiia had a wonderful experience at both the workshops and the performance on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April, saying, "I think it was the best experience of my entire life, and i'm really grateful for this!!" Congratulations, Lidiia!

## **IET Faraday STEM Challenge**

On Wednesday a team of S1 pupils competed in the annual IET Faraday STEM Challenge that is held across the UK. The team were given a brief and had to use all of their STEM skills to design and create a prototype for their solution - unfortunately we can't share the brief/challenge details as the event is still ongoing across the country and this is being kept top secret! This was our first year competing and the team did a fantastic job stepping up to the challenges of building a prototype in the very short time that they had and presenting their idea at the end of the day. Well done to

Dannier Sabir, Emily House, Malcolm Malaekah, Mukunth Mohan and Sophie Douglas for taking part!

## **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

### **End of Term.**

Remember, school stops for the Easter break today at 3.30pm.  
All resume at 8.32 on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April.

It is important that pupils studying for SQA exams do find time to relax and refresh over the holidays. Continuing to study in preparation for exams is important, but so is some much-needed downtime. Do your best to find the right balance for you.

Have a great holiday.

### **The Basics**

It is important that all pupils come properly dressed in school dress code every day. PE kit should not be worn for travelling to school. Pupils should change into PE kit at the allotted time and place before the lesson.

Pupils must also be on time. Late coming is damaging to your learning and disruptive to classes. The new term is the time to make any necessary improvements.

### **Spring Concert**

Pupils from a range of ensembles took part in a stirring Spring Concert last night. Well done to all involved and to the staff and instructors who support these events. It was a fabulous event.

### **Art Showcase**

Come and celebrate the excellent Art and Design work produced by our National 5 and Higher pupils in their showcase exhibition of expressive and design folios before they get sent to the SQA for assessment. Showcase is only on one evening - Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 4.30-6.30 in the Art Department corridor.

### **Staff Pupil Hockey**

Our annual staff vs pupil hockey match took place at a very wet Meggetland on Tuesday evening. Despite difficult conditions the staff team managed to nudge a win with a 3- 2 victory. Well done to all involved.

### **Summer Fayre 15th June 12-3pm**

Our Summer Fayre will take place alongside the Canal Festival on 15th June in School and in the school grounds.  
We are planning stalls, refreshments and entertainment. More details to follow after Easter but please save the date!  
The Fayre will raise money for our school and raise awareness of causes we continue to support.

### **Email Problems**

There are some ongoing issues with the City's email system. Emails sent from school to parents are often going into junk folders. If you are awaiting a communication from the school, please check your junk folder to see if it is there.

## **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024**

### **End of Term Term.**

Remember, school stops for the Easter break at 3.30pm next **Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> March**. All resume at 8.32 on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April. Have a great break.

### **Spring Concert:**

The Music department is hosting a Spring Concert on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> of March in school from 6-7pm. Tickets are available for parents and carers of performers and are free of charge but are limited to 2 tickets per pupil performer on a first come first served basis.

This is due to accommodation constraints. Parents/Carers of all those performing have been sent a link to register for tickets.

### **SQA exams**

Our students have all received information in booklets in assemblies and on teams about their qualifications from the Scottish Qualifications Authority.

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/71526.12352.html> Our students have practiced exams during the prelims and did exceptionally well. As always people can feel nervous, or not be sure about something. Come and ask immediately if you're not sure about anything and we can fix it.

- The SQA timetable of exams is also online. <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/1439.html> We use slightly different timings, usually starting at 8.45, so it is important to check your individual timetable when you get it.
- Each student will get an individual timetable next week. Double check that this looks correct, particularly if you have additional arrangements.
- We also post up timings and rooms on the day of the exam, so you can check before you go in. This is why it's important to be early as rooms can sometimes be different.

### **Study leave**

S4 Students doing 4 or more exams with formal examinations are given full study leave. For S4 this starts at 12.50 pm on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April.

S5 and S6 all get full study leave. This starts at 3.30pm on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April.

S4 Students with fewer than 4 exams with formal examinations will have 3 days of study leave in advance of each exam. They also have the opportunity to complete their other qualifications in school and start their work experience programme.

The new timetable starts on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

During study leave there is a programme of immersion days to support study. Students may also come in by arrangement with their teachers but may not study unsupervised in social areas.

### **Estimates and appeals.**

The SQA asks us to tell them an estimated grade. In fact this is actually a grade that you for which we have evidence. The evidence is usually the prelim. This is then used by SQA to help with the appeals process.

This year we are expecting the process to be the same as in previous years:

1. Students will be able to ask for a re-mark of their script if their grade is lower than their estimate 'working grade'. They will do this themselves directly to the SQA. Their marks can go up as well as down.
2. Some students have an 'exceptional circumstance' on the day of the exam. They need to let us know about this within a couple of days and we can then request that SQA look at their evidence held in school.
3. Teachers have already let your child know what their evidence (usually the prelim) looks like in class and in reports. This means that April tracking report will actually come out in May as this is solely information to help you decide if you want to make an appeal.

### **Supporting Pupils with Exams**

With exams just round the corner, this is a good time to share the YoungMinds parents' guide to supporting children through exams.

[Parents' Guide To Supporting Children At Exam Time | YoungMinds](#)

### **S3 Assessments**

S3 Assessments start on April 16<sup>th</sup> and are scheduled over a number of weeks. They provide an important opportunity for S3 pupils to prepare for future S4 prelims (*practice exams*) which take place in November 2024. Unlike the S4 prelims these S3 assessments are completed under the supervision of regular class teachers and during normal class periods. S3 assessments typically cover much of the course knowledge, understanding and skills covered since from the start of S3. The outline assessment schedule and details of what is covered in each assessment is found on the Parents Information page of the website or by clicking [here](#).

### **House Captains/ Vice Captains 2024/25**

This week we held our last house assemblies with our current house captains.

We were delighted to introduce our newly appointed house captains/vice captains for next session to their fellow "house mates" at house assemblies.

Next year's captains/vice captains are:

Bruntsfield: HC Finlay Lawson VC Ritika Sharma	Hartington: HC Maia Ota VC Bella Broadhurst	Leamington: HC Spurti Soni Rahat VC Shona Cuthbert

Montpelier: HC Sam Beattie VC Orlaith Shepherd	Viewforth: HC Cecilia Morrow VC Alana Taylor	Westhall: HC Hugh Sutherland VC Morna Craig
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Congratulations to our new house captains/vice captains. We look forward to more House challenges next session!

### **House Champions 2024**

After a year of House Challenges the final standings were as follows:

**First Place:** Hartington

Second Place (joint): Bruntsfield & Montpelier

Third place (joint): Leamington & Viewforth

Fourth Place: Westhall

Well done to our house winners. The winning house will receive ice cream on Friday at the end of the day as this was the prize voted for by pupils at the start of the session.

### **Edinburgh's Vision for Inclusion (ASN) Survey – message from Parent Council**

The City of Edinburgh Council are conducting an Inclusion Review and the Boroughmuir Parent Council ASN group is encouraging Parents to provide feedback. This will be the only review of its size during our young people's Secondary education. With 50% of those currently attending mainstream Secondary schools in Edinburgh having additional support needs (ASN), it is timely to review how effectively these are being met across the City.

Additional support needs affect children 24 hours of the day and present barriers to be overcome to access education. Parental input on behalf of our children is essential to provide that overview and make sure their voices are heard in this process.

Every mainstream School must provide an inclusive Education to meet the needs of every learner. Inclusion is one Boroughmuir's values.

**Edinburgh's Vision for Inclusion Survey** is now live and can be completed on the council's consultation Hub at:

<https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/cf/inclusive-education>

There are also in person and online events still taking place to brief parents. All can be booked at:

<https://forms.office.com/e/wCPqHbN86d>

Our ASN Parent Council group rep attended a presentation to all schools' ASN Parent representatives. The review is being discussed by parents in our new ASN parents' group, who are keen to formulate and submit a collective response to the review from Boroughmuir parents.

If you wish to be updated or contribute thoughts, our group can assist. Please get in touch on:

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

### **P7 Workshops**

The last round of P7 workshops took place today. We welcomed another group of 90 P7s from Buckstone, South Morningside and Bruntsfield.

The Workshops were:

- S1s led a Drama Workshop – this was entirely pupil led and planned and delivered by some fabulous S1s – Amelie, Cora, Aila, Emma and Penny

- S3 Pupils shared their Transition Wellbeing Activities – These are planned and led by all S3 Pupils as part of their S3 Wellbeing Rota and supported by our HWB/RMPS Faculty
- S6 STEM Leaders – Thanks again to Tess and Orla for sharing their passion and love of Physics and Engineering
- Spanish Taster – Mr Arricibita stepped in to share some language and culture

Thank you to everyone involved. These workshops have offered new leadership opportunities for many Boroughmuir Pupils and have enabled our P7s to mix and learn together ahead of their full visit in June. Ms Presly & Ms King

## **Brufts**

Last year we raised over £1200 for local animal charities and had a lot of fun with our four-legged friends on the hottest day of the year.

On Friday 21st June 2024 from 2.30-4.30pm at Boroughmuir High School we are holding the second ever Brufts. There will be competitions, stalls, refreshments and a Baffle.

The entry fee is £5 per family (including dogs) - you can also include a donation if you wish.

To enter the competitions for a further £1 per competition please complete this form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/guv5J7pYgQ>.

You can pay via ParentPay from 22nd March.

Our new Pupil Brufts Team chose the charities for this year they are:

- Dog Aid Scotland
- Edinburgh Cat and Dog Home
- Therapets (We have learned lots with Marley and Hudson)

Team Brufts

## **FIRST® Tech Challenge Qualifying Tournament**

Two groups of our S54/5/6 students took part in Scotland's first qualifying tournament of First Tech Challenge. Team Photoelectric and Team Muir Tech were challenged to design, build, program and operate robots to compete in a head-to-head challenge. The event was well organised and the atmosphere was incredible. All teams were positive and had great sportsmanship, with everyone helping each other and showing support. Although so close, we did not progress to the National Championships.

Team Muir Tech dominated the qualifying rounds, consistently achieving the highest scores in the game play section. A mismatched alliance unfortunately cost them in the elimination rounds.

Team Photoelectric had a solid performance throughout the qualifying rounds and semi-finals meaning they progressed onto the finals. They performed well in the finals, particularly in the game play section, but not having a drone launcher cost them. Team Photoelectric were awarded the Think Award by judges for removing engineering obstacles through creative thinking.

These teams have spent many long afternoons and evenings overcoming challenges and perfecting their robot designs and game play to participate in this challenge, all whilst managing their studies and commitments out of school. Both teams should be immensely proud of their efforts, I certainly am. Onwards and upwards to next year's competition. If any businesses would be interested in sponsoring us or provide expertise/support for season 2024/25, we would love to hear from you ([clare.braisby@boroughmuir.edin.sch.uk](mailto:clare.braisby@boroughmuir.edin.sch.uk)). Teams already have lots of ideas on how they can improve their robot design from the robot aesthetics, to the wheels, motors and gearboxes.



### **Drama Showcases**

A huge thank you to our Drama department who over the last few weeks have run a series of Drama showcases, showcasing the work of drama students in National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Drama.

The feedback from all who saw the performances has been incredible.

### **Young Enterprise**

Congratulations to Charlie Gilson, Maisy Mabbott, Zayan Ahmed and Stuart Taylor for winning the 'Best Company Report' award at Edinburgh Napier University; competing against 24 teams across Lothian. They have worked exceptionally hard throughout the year creating and running their own company Aurum & Co.

### **Cross Country Champions**

Success for Boroughmuir in the Lothian League Cross-Country. This is a series of races across the winter/spring for pupils from Lothian secondary schools. Against strong runners from private and state schools, Rory Beattie was S1/2 Boys champion and George Vickers S5/6 Boys champion. Well done to both! Incredible achievements!

### **Staff vs S6 annual football match**

I was delighted to be a spectator at the annual staff vs S6 football match at Meggetland on Tuesday evening. Team Captains Mr Thin and Moray Shields had prepared their teams well for the contest but on the night, it was the staff who prevailed with a 4-2 victory over the S6.

This contest has been a fixture for many years and is testament to the great relationships that we have across the school. Well done to all involved and the merry band of spectators who were there to cheer the teams on.

### **Parent Council Wine Tasting Event**

The total funds raised from the Wine Tasting night was £2083.88. All this money will be used to support school activities so thank you to all involved in running the event and in supporting it. Local businesses who donated prizes for the raffle were, Frenchy's Beauty Boutique, Pilates+ by Tess, Stag & Bear jewellery, Bellfield Brewery, M&S, Mehmed Grill & Meze Bar, Ecosse Eclair Patisserie, Kreme Karamel Cafe, Remedy Cafe Bar and a range of Turkish goods kindly donated by parent Demet Kayaoglu.

Thank you also to Wildflower wines who supplied the wines for the evening.

## **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

### **Pupil Head Team 2024/25.**

After considering pupils and staff votes and face to face interviews with myself, Mrs Paterson and Mr Hayes, I am delighted to announce the successful candidates for next year's S6 Head Team are:-

**School Captains:-** Sophie Gordon & Olivia Handley

**School Vice Captains:-** Percy Sutherland & Rosie Zisman

Thank you to all who put themselves forward for these post and a huge congratulations to the successful candidates.

### **Boroughmuir Chronicle**

This time we have a slightly different edition of the paper. Still written by pupils this edition however is written by P7 pupils at Bruntsfield Primary School with help from our editorial team. Enjoy.

[Boroughmuir Chronicle \(cloud.microsoft\)](#)

### **S1 Language Choice:**

S1 pupils studying French and German need to make their choice of which language they would like to continue studying when they move into S2. To make the choice, they should click on the link to the form which has been posted on their year group team. Choices need to be made by Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. If there are any questions about making this choice, please see Mr Alexander in room 1-01.

### **P7 Workshops**

Another group of 60 P7s came to join us on Thursday this week. They enjoyed three different workshops and had a chance again to meet P7s from other schools and learn together. Our S1 Creative writers led a writing session supported by Miss Tench. Our S3 Pupils as part of their Health and Wellbeing course designed and led sessions around transition – this involved games, treasure hunts, making friendship bracelets and much more! The last workshops were led by our Computing Department and once again very well received by P7s and their teachers. Thank you all again for making this happen so successfully. Ms Presly & Ms King

### **Edinburgh Youth Action**

Please find information in this link about the first Edinburgh Youth Action (EYA) session. The PowerPoint explains what EYA is and why the City is creating these groups. The EYA is open to any pupil from S1 plus. If interested, go along on 21<sup>st</sup> March at 6pm. [EYA \(boroughmuirhighschool.org\)](#)

### **School Leavers – SAAS Information for HNC/HND/University Courses**

Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS) have upcoming online events.

#### ***Parent and Carers Funding Talks***

Funding talks which are designed specifically for the parents & carers of prospective higher education students. These sessions run from the 18 March. Attendees can book their free ticket here <https://buytickets.at/studentawardsagencyscotlan/1065324>.

These sessions will:

- explain the funding to undertake higher education courses (HNC/HND/Degree courses)
- highlight the information required regarding household income
- provide information on the repayment of student loans
- provide access to a funding awareness advisor who can assist with queries you may have.

#### ***SAAS Online Application Workshops***

Online application workshops which provide help with completing and submitting an application to SAAS for funding. These sessions can be attended by students and their parents and carers. They are on MS Teams and will run from 9 April to 27 June. Attendees can book their free ticket here <https://buytickets.at/studentawardsagencyscotlan/1158635>

### **Boroughmuir's Young Musician of the Year.**

Congratulations to William Wedgewood for winning Boroughmuir's Young Musician of the Year 2024.

William will go forward to the City final, competing against pupils from across the city and will perform his own composition on the piano. Hari Pranavam in our current S6 came 3<sup>rd</sup> in last year's competition.

This year's final will take place on the 25<sup>th</sup> March in St Augustine's High School at 6.30pm. Good luck William.

## **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

### **S1 Sports Day Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March**

Our S5/6 Sports Leaders have organised and planned a morning of activities for S1 at Meggetland on Monday. We are looking forward to meeting them there on Monday morning. S1 have permission to wear their PE kit all day and will be back in school by lunchtime.

In the event of bad weather S1's should go into their Year Group and PE teams page for instructions on what to do.

### **P7 Workshops Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March**

90 of our P7s came to visit this week and took part in another series of workshops. Most of these workshops were pupil led by our S2 Foodie Ambassadors, Sports Leaders and S6 Pupils Orla and Tess. Thanks also to our Computing Department who ran coding workshops. P7s and their teachers really enjoyed their visit. We have more P7 visitors next Thursday and Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Engage Careers Event – 12<sup>th</sup> March - 6:30pm: The Pavilion at Myreside**

Parents and Pupils, remember our upcoming Engage Careers Event, where we're diving into the world of Modern and Graduate Apprenticeships! Book Your Seat Here:

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/engage-careers-event](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/engage-careers-event)

### **Senior School Exam Leave**

**S4:-** Pupils doing 4 or more SQA N5 exams that involve external assessments have exam leave starting at 12.50pm on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April.

Those doing less than 4 should attend school and will have 3 days of exam leave per exam in advance of each exam.

**S5/6:-** All S5/6 pupils have full exam leave starting at 3.30pm on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April.

The new timetable for all starts on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

### **S3 parents' evening**

We look forward to welcoming S3 parents and carers into the school for the S3 parents evening this coming Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Edinburgh's Vision for Inclusion**

It is The City of Edinburgh Council's vision that inclusion lies at the heart of the culture, ethos and practice in all learning communities. An inclusive approach to education recognises diversity, minimises exclusion and holds the ambition that all children and young people are enabled to achieve their fullest potential.

A recent collaborative enquiry and improvement project involving inclusion experts from across Scotland found that Edinburgh has much to celebrate in its vision and approach, but also made recommendations for improvement. We want your help inform us on how these improvements can be made.

Online Events For parents and carers:

- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 10am to 11am
- Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 6pm to 7pm

Sign up to an event here: <https://forms.office.com/e/wCPqHbN86d>

If you have any questions or suggestions, please email: [inclusion@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:inclusion@edinburgh.gov.uk)

### **Scottish Youth Parliament election results**

The results of the SYP election were announced at the City Chambers on Monday night. There were 1,945 votes cast across the city and Shona Cuthbert of Boroughmuir High School was elected for Edinburgh Southern.

### **Fencing Success**

It's been a successful couple of weeks for fencing sisters Ann Emma Hu S6 and Lev Jac Hu S4! Ann Emma was the U20 female foil winner in the Scottish Youth fencing Championship. A brilliant achievement to become Scottish U20 Champion 2024!

Lev Jac was selected to compete for Team GB at the European Cadet Fencing championships in February and came 45th out of 90 fencers in the individual competition and came 4th in the team competition.

Well done to Ann Emma and Lev Jac on their brilliant achievements.

## **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

### **YPI Final**

Today is the final of this year's YPI programme (Youth Philanthropy Initiative). All 260 S3 pupils have been in teams and have been part of the programme representing and supporting a local charity. Today, one of the 5 teams in the final will win £3000 for their chosen charity. This money is provided by the programme sponsor, the Wood Group.

It is a great programme and one that really develops a sense of social conscience and social values in our young people.

### **Lord Provost visit**

We are delighted that Robert Aldridge, the Rt Hon Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh is part of today's YPI judging panel along with myself; Kaylum O'Neill, Client Manager at ABRDN as well as Sam Brander and Ruth Shephard from our S6 school Head Team.

### **S3 Parent Consultation evening – 14<sup>th</sup> March**

The booking system goes live on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 6pm - please check your login details for Parents Booking in advance to ensure you can get logged in. If you do have any issues please contact the school office by calling us on 0131 229 9703 or by emailing [admin@boroughmuir.edin.sch.uk](mailto:admin@boroughmuir.edin.sch.uk).

### **Kiva Micro Loan Company**

Last week, S5s were involved in running "Kiva Week". Assemblies were presented to S1-S5 year groups, colourful bows sold, and students visited register classes to sell raffle tickets. Thanks to these efforts, and your help via ParentPay, Boroughmuir raised over £550 to support business start-ups across the developing world. We have in total now loaned almost \$12,000 (US\$) to businesses in 59 countries. It's a great enterprise for the students, who learn about real-life situations of people from all over the planet and actively contribute to improve the world. Well done all!

### **Engage Careers Event – 12<sup>th</sup> March - 6:30pm: The Pavilion at Myreside**

Parents and Pupils, mark your calendars for our upcoming Engage Careers Event, where we're diving into the world of Modern and Graduate Apprenticeships! Connect with Professionals, Apprentices, and Former Pupils hailing from renowned companies like: The Royal Airforce - Armed Forces; Baillie Gifford - Financial Services; Aecom - Civil Engineering; Leonardo - Defence and Space Manufacturing; BT Group - Telecommunications Black Rock - Financial Services. There will be a dynamic speed networking format! Engage in insightful conversations, ask burning questions, and gain valuable insights into apprenticeship opportunities compared to traditional paths. Book Your Seat Here: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/engage-careers-event](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/engage-careers-event)

### **S2 Author**

Congratulations to Matthew Esser, one of our S2 pupils who is now a published author!! Matthew is an avid writer, thinker and YouTube contributor on all things relating to history, politics and religion. He created a fictional nation, more than three years ago, and decided to put his ideas, creations and thinking in a book for others to enjoy as well. Matthew has now had this book published and you can have a look on amazon and purchase if you wish. Fantastic achievement, well done Matthew! [https://www.amazon.co.uk/ALIFYAH-Nation-Yerelah-Histories-Allies/dp/BOCW37Q5M7/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?crid=1CIPKPDACIFC9&dib=eyJ2ljojMSJ9.vYh5KUoaX1-T4Ch-E3jGmJnFCp\\_ASf6-7P81DZdYQDOcttTRCKylvK0yvePvgeLZ.ooRuiiFidbFEYPrpEc-Z3FqhZrLAu4vW5DciXPOq1o&dib\\_tag=se&keywords=The+Nation+of+Yerelah&qid=1708616891&s=books&prefix=the+nation+of+yerehah%2Cstripbooks%2C70&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/ALIFYAH-Nation-Yerelah-Histories-Allies/dp/BOCW37Q5M7/ref=sr_1_1?crid=1CIPKPDACIFC9&dib=eyJ2ljojMSJ9.vYh5KUoaX1-T4Ch-E3jGmJnFCp_ASf6-7P81DZdYQDOcttTRCKylvK0yvePvgeLZ.ooRuiiFidbFEYPrpEc-Z3FqhZrLAu4vW5DciXPOq1o&dib_tag=se&keywords=The+Nation+of+Yerelah&qid=1708616891&s=books&prefix=the+nation+of+yerehah%2Cstripbooks%2C70&sr=1-1)

### **Scottish Schools Swim Championships - 23 Feb - East Kilbride**

Well done to Maddie Hoole, Arthur Miller and Reuben Lees who represented the school in the Scottish Schools National Swimming Championships at East Kilbride on Friday, having qualified from the Edinburgh Championships earlier in the school year. All three swimmers swam very well, matching or improving on their Personal Best times with Maddie winning two bronze medals. Congratulations to all!

## **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024**

### **Head Teacher Recruitment - Update**

The City have informed me that the post of new Head Teacher for Boroughmuir High School is being re-advertised to ensure that there is a competitive pool of candidates. The application period closes on 7<sup>th</sup> March.

### **S1 Parents Evening**

We look forward to welcoming S1 parents and carers into the school for the S1 parents evening this coming Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> February.

### **Boroughmuir Breakfast Club**

Starting Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February our Boroughmuir Beans coffee bar will be open from 8am offering drinks alongside breakfast items of cereal, pastries and fruit. As well as being the place to grab breakfast there will also be stationary available and nearly new uniform. It is the one stop shop to start the school day prepared to learn! For a limited time, all food and drink will be free of charge.

### **How to help your child: iPads for organisation**

iPads have replaced school diaries. Teachers are now using TEAMS to record deadlines. Students will be used to checking TEAMS / ASSIGNMENTS or CALENDAR to see their homework and other deadlines.

They can also use this to set their own alerts, for example for a music lesson or a club.

Families can help by having a weekly sit down with their child to check the iPad and to plan the week ahead.

### **City Health and Wellbeing Survey**

As part of our duty to meet the wellbeing needs of the children/young people across our educational settings, we plan to invite them to take part in a short, anonymous survey about their health and wellbeing. The purpose of this is to establish strengths and next steps at school and local authority level to better meet pupils' needs. The questions being used can be found here:

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/healthandwellbeingsurvey>.

We would like to reassure you that pupils will not be required to enter any personally identifiable data, and no one will be able to identify your children from their answers. The collated responses will be used to produce statistics at school and local authority level.

This approach is well established within our schools and ensures that strategic planning is based on needs identified.

If you would prefer that your child does not take part in this survey, please contact the school.

### **Your library, your say**

An engagement and consultation process is currently being carried out to gather views and feedback on service provision. This will help shape a new strategy for Edinburgh's libraries and inform future proposals for change. Between the 26<sup>th</sup> of January and 19<sup>th</sup> of April we're asking you to get involved in this first stage by having your say and helping us to shape a new plan that will ensure the library service is sustainable and fit for the future. More information and link to the online questionnaire can be found at <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/futurelibraries>

### **Parent Council Wine Tasting Event**

The parent Council are organising a fundraising wine tasting here in the school on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March. This is a return of the very popular format that we ran for many years, and which has generated significant funding to support the school.

Tickets are now on sale via the link below.

[Fundraising Wine Tasting Evening Tickets, Fri 1 Mar 2024 at 19:00 | Eventbrite](#)

## **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

### **Half Term**

Remember, school stops today at 12.50pm for the half term break. All resumes at 8.32 on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February. Have a great break.

**S5 and S6 Foundation Apprenticeships** –a session for parents and carers run by Skills Development Scotland (SDS) – Thursday 22 February 6.30pm – 7.30pm

Are you a parent or carer supporting a child to make their senior phase option choices? Join our webinar in partnership with National Parent Forum Scotland to learn more about how your child can get a head-start on their career with a Foundation Apprenticeship.

- Find out how Foundation Apprenticeships work and where they can lead to – from a Modern or Graduate Apprenticeship to college, university, or employment.
- Hear parent and teacher perspectives of the benefits of Foundation Apprenticeships as they share their own experiences and advice.
- Get information on support available and how to apply for a Foundation Apprenticeship.

To support accessibility, this webinar will be recorded and British Sign Language translation available.

Find out more and sign up for the webinar here:

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/b6e3abac-8840-4435-81cc-f12244f85d19@33ca6d47-5e4f-4774-84f1-696cbb508cbe>

### **S1 Parents Consultation**

We are looking forward to welcoming S1 parents and carers for their first parents' consultation on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February. Booking went live yesterday at 6pm. Please get in touch with our school office if you have any issues with booking appointments.

### **Summer School Fayre - June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

Save the Date - we are planning a whole school Summer Fundraising Fayre during the Canal Festival on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June. More details to follow about this joint Pupil Council/Parent Council Venture.

### **S2 Course Choice for 2024/25**

Please remember course choices are requested by the end of the February Holidays (by Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February). Here is the [S2 to S3 Course Choice Booklet](#). Choices are entered using the website <https://www.studentoptions.co/S2-BOR/>. Individual login details have been sent by email.

### **S4 and S5 Course Choice for 2024/25**

Course choices are requested by the end of the February Holidays (by Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February) . Here is the [S4 and S5 Course Choice booklet](#). Course courses are entered via <https://www.studentoptions.co/Senior-BOR/>. Individual login details to be sent by a separate email.

### **S5s invited to choose leadership positions in S6.**

If you are interested in one of the more formal roles: prefect, house captain, or head team, you should apply using the link on their S5 teams page or here <https://forms.office.com/e/mj0VT2Yasq> by Friday 9th February. More information has been sent out to S5s by group call and on Teams.

### **Top of the Pops.**

Many thanks to all our superbly talented performers last night, students and staff alike! It was an amazing show. The Committee, especially Callum Watt, did a fantastic job. Thank you too, to all who made up our audience! You were so supportive and appreciative of all the acts! Thank you for making it a very memorable 25th Anniversary! And of course, a huge thank you to Fiona Grant who has been organising this event for 25 years.

### **First Lego League Tournament**

On Wednesday a team of pupils competed in the annual Edinburgh First Lego League Tournament where the team had to build and code a robot using Lego to complete a number of missions. These missions were being completed by teams all around the world! This was our first ever year competing, and the team should be very proud of the missions that they successfully completed during the tournament! Well done to Caitlin Rebello and Candice Wong in S1, Raltao Cai and Zocy Cai in S2, Stuti Singh, Christina Polydorides, Rania Kotsovou, Irene Liang and Mariyam Afzaal in S3.

## **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024**

### **Half Term**

Remember, school stops for the half term break at 12.50pm next Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> February and resumes at 8.32 on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

### **Email Problems**

Due to issues with the City's email system, emails sent from school to parents are often going into junk folders. If you are awaiting a communication from the school, please check your junk folder to see if it is there.

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

Thank you to those of you who were able to join us for our S4/5 Course Choice evening last Thursday (25 January). Please find below links to the slides that were used.

<https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/S4-Course-Choice-Presentation.pdf>

### **S5 Course Choice Presentation**

For any young person who was interested in the option of college, information on forthcoming college open days can be found here [Open Days 2024 | Edinburgh College](#)

### **S2 Course Choice evening**



Thank you to all that were able to attend the S2 Course Choice Market Place event on Wednesday. Please can choices be entered online by 19<sup>th</sup> February.

S2 Parents's Information Evening slides – [here](#)

S2 Course Choice Booklet [here](#)

Website Help Guide [here](#)

### **S5s invited to choose leadership positions in S6**

At the start of the year, we encourage all students in the school to participate or lead in some activity. All S5s have had training in this through their leadership qualification. Leadership is important because it enables you to:

- manage your own lives and learning.
- give back something to others.
- challenge yourself.
- stand out in applications.

The Senior Management Team would now like to invite pupils in S5 who wish to stay into S6 to nominate themselves to be considered for a post of responsibility in S6. We expect all S6 students to be involved in leading the school, but you should choose the role that suits you best. You should look for something that both challenges you and uses your skills and abilities to help others. If you are interested in one of the more formal roles: prefect, house captain, or head team, you should apply using the link on their S5 teams page or here <https://forms.office.com/e/mj0VT2Yasq> by Friday 9th February. More information will also be sent out to S5s by group call and on Teams.

### **Top of the POPS**

TOTP 2024 is this Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm in school! General ticket sales opened on parent pay a week past Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> January – cost £7.10.

This is our 25th Anniversary so it's guaranteed to be a sell-out.

### **Edinburgh Food Project**

The Edinburgh Food Project have been in touch to thank everyone at Boroughmuir for collecting 656.6kg of food in the run up to Christmas to donate to their project. Here is the message we received.

"To everyone at Boroughmuir High School, all of us at the Edinburgh Food Project wanted to say a huge thank you for the amazing donation of food you gifted before Christmas, and all the generosity and kindness you have shown to us over the years. Your tins, packets and jars have helped those struggling by giving them the basic essentials that they urgently need. Thank you for making a difference to people in crisis. With heartfelt gratitude, Edinburgh Food project".

Well done everyone.

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

### **Former Pupils Burn's Supper – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February**

The FP association are holding their annual Burn's Supper here in the school on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February. All FPs and all those connected to the school are welcome. More details are in this link. <https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Burns-Supper-Poster-2024.pdf>

### **Parent Council Wine Tasting Event**

The parent Council are organising a fundraising wine tasting here in the school on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March. This is a return of the very popular format that we ran for many years, and which has generated significant funding to support the school.

Tickets are now on sale via the link below.

[Fundraising Wine Tasting Evening Tickets, Fri 1 Mar 2024 at 19:00 | Eventbrite](#)

### **S2 Course Choice Evening - Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January**

Course choice information for S2 has been issued.

Here is the [S2 to S3 Course Choice Booklet](#).

Choices are entered using the website <https://www.studentoptions.co/S2-BOR/>.

Individual login details have been sent by email.

Indicative course choices are requested by the end of the February Holidays (Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February) and can be amended up to Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February when the website closes.

An in-school parent Course Choice Information Evening will be on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January.

6pm-7pm Subject Marketplace (Atrium)

7pm-8pm Parent Presentation (Assembly Hall)

We politely request that pupils do not attend due to potential capacity limitations within the Assembly Hall.

### **S1-S3 Wellbeing Week**

Final call for all activities to be selected for S1-S3 Wellbeing Week is Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January. All pupils were reminded at Assembly this week and reminders added on Year Group Teams. Our admin team are also contacting home for any pupil who has not made a choice. S2 are not required to make any choices at this stage.

### **P7 Science Spectacular**

Our P7s were back in the Assembly Hall today being dazzled with a spectacular Science extravaganza. Thank you to our Chemistry Team for making this happen and inspiring our future Scientists. Thanks to all P7 staff – lovely to welcome you again.

### **Duke of Edinburgh's Award in S3** – message from Ms Weiss and Mr Hayes

Around 140 students have signed up to do Duke of Edinburgh's Award in S3. We are delighted to have so many keen S3s. The information about the Award has been posted on the S3 year group team along with the expedition allocations. Next week we'll be matching students to their teacher who'll help support them through the award.

1. If you cannot do a date, you must let us know.
2. We will likely be able to swap some people around. Let us know next week when we meet again.

3. If you are on the wait list you can still do activities with us during wellbeing week, and you also have a good chance of getting a place as there is often some shifting about.

### **End of S5/6 Prelims**

Well done to the 480 S5s and 6s who sat prelims this last fortnight. It's excellent practice for the real exams and will give you and your teachers great information about what to work on next. Our invigilators team reported that you were exemplary. They and your teachers should also be thanked. They prepared for and supported you through 1920 individual examinations. We are one of the largest school examinations centres in Scotland and it shows! Thank you to all involved.

### **More Rugby Success**

We are delighted to announce that Boroughmuir have been crowned National 1 Club Conference Champions 2023/24. This is a fantastic achievement for the club. That is the 3rd win in 4 years, highlighting how strong and capable our Youth Academy is.

The national conference championship is played at u15, u16 and u18 level and the top team is the club that wins most of its games across all three age groups. About 30 pupils of the school play for the club across these teams.

Congratulations to everyone involved in making this happen - it is a brilliant for the club to be producing so many talented players and teams.

Final Placings were: Boroughmuir, Ayr/Wellington, Stirling County, West of Scotland, GHA, Mackie

## **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

### **Parent Council Meeting – Tue 23<sup>rd</sup> January 6.30pm – In School**

The next parent council meeting takes place on Tuesday here in the school. This is a change from the previously advertised 'on-line' meeting. This is due to the need to address the recruitment and selection of a new Head Teacher. An officer from the City will attend the first part of the meeting to outline to the Parent Council how this process will progress.

The agenda of the meeting and minutes of last meeting will be sent out separately.

### **Parent Council Wine Tasting Event**

Save the Date – the parent Council are organising a fundraising wine tasting here in the school on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March.

This is a return of the very popular format that we ran for many years and which has generated significant funding to support the school.

Further details and information on how to buy tickets will be available soon, but Mr Dempster and Ms Presly will be the 'sommeliers' for the evening! (of a fashion!)

### **S2 Course Choice for 2024/25**

This week we have issued course choice information for S2 to S3 pupils. This information is being shared via Assemblies, PSE/Guidance teachers and discussed within subject classes.

Here is the [S2 to S3 Course Choice Booklet](#).

Choices are entered using the website <https://www.studentoptions.co/S2-BOR/>.

Individual login details have been sent by email.

Indicative course choices are requested by the end of the February Holidays (Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February) and can be amended up to Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February when the website closes.

An in-school parent Course Choice Information Evening will be on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January.

6pm-7pm Subject Marketplace (Atrium)

7pm-8pm Parent Presentation (Assembly Hall)

We politely request that pupils do not attend due to potential capacity limitations within the Assembly Hall.

### **S4 and S5 Course Choice for 2024/25**

Course choice information for S4 to S5 and S5 to S6 pupils has been issued and will be shared via Assemblies, PSE/Guidance teachers and discussed within subject classes.

Here is the [S4 and S5 Course Choice booklet](#). Course courses are entered via <https://www.studentoptions.co/Senior-BOR/>. Individual login details to be sent by a separate email.

Indicative course choices are requested by the end of the February Holidays (Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February) and can be amended up to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March when the website closes.

There is an in-school Parent's Information Evening on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January.

S4 to S5 pupils – 6.30pm

S5 to S6 pupils – 7.30pm

### **Top of the POPS**

TOTP 2024 is Coming!! Save the date Thursday 8th February in school! General ticket sales open on parent pay on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January – cost £7.10.

This is our 25th Anniversary so it's guaranteed to be a sell-out. Pop the date in your diary.

### **Parent Mental Health Day 2024 – message from Ms O'Thy, Wellbeing Coordinator**

To mark Parents' Mental Health Day, I'm sharing some information on Stem4 (Supporting teenage mental health) a charity that looks to support young people and their families to address issues of mental health. This event was started in light of the pressures that Covid and the cost-of-living crisis has had on families.

On 25<sup>th</sup> January there is a webinar looking at how we can 'create positive relationships'. You can sign up to on their website. There are also resources to support young people and their families and free apps that focus on different mental health issues. Links for these are below as well as the Stem4 website.

Combined minds – to help families and friends provide mental health support.

[Home - Combined Minds App](#)

Worth Warrior – to help young people manages low self-worth, poor body image and related eating disorders. [Home - Worth Warrior App](#)

Move mood – to help manage low mood and depression. [Home - Move Mood App](#)

Clear fear – to help young people manage the symptoms of anxiety. [Home - Clear Fear App](#)

Calm harm – to help teenagers resist or manage the urge to self-harm. [Home - Calm Harm App](#)

[Parent Mental Health Day - 27th January - stem4](#)

### **The Boroughmuir Banshees.**

Boroughmuir Rugby Academy is working hard and is successfully building a girls rugby section, The Boroughmuir Banshees. As part of this, they are offering FREE MEMBERSHIP to any S1 to U18 girls who would like to play for The Banshees. No experience is needed! Girls are welcome to come along and try out rugby at any training session with The Banshees. Training is Wednesdays 5:30-7pm.

If you fancy being part of a club building a legacy in girls and women's rugby, please email [girlsrugby@boroughmuirsports.co.uk](mailto:girlsrugby@boroughmuirsports.co.uk) with any questions you may have. Instagram @b.muir\_banshees"

### **Staffing Update**

Ms Katie Bowbelski, teacher of Modern Languages, leaves us today to take up a new post in James Gillespie's High School. We wish Katie well in her new post.

Mr John Hogg replaces Ms Bowbelski and starts on Monday.

## **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

### **Happy New Year**

Can I wish all our staff, pupils, parents, carers, and everyone connected with the school a very happy new year.

### **Mr Dempster's retirement**

On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January I announced that I would be retiring at the end of the summer term. This has been an incredibly difficult decision for me. Being the Head Teacher of Boroughmuir is indeed an honour and to leave such a school is an extremely difficult thing to do. However, after a career spanning 41 years, with 35 of these years being in Boroughmuir, it is time to retire.

I am however looking forward to continuing working with your children and the wider school community until I do leave on June 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **S5/6 Prelims**

Our senior students have been working hard over the holidays, and we wish them very well in their prelim practice papers.

All students and families have had information via Teams and group call.

- S6s have study leave from 12<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January. Some practical subjects such as art will ask for S6 attendance during study leave.
- S5s must attend your normal classes on days you do not have assessments where you will have a supervised study period or classwork. Please ensure you bring revision materials on these days.
- On **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January** you will return to your normal timetable.

On the day of your assessment

- Double check you know where to go and what time. If there are last minute changes they will be up on the board outside the school office.
- You must wear school dress code.
- Bring pens, pencils, rulers, calculators, protractors, language dictionaries and whatever else you may need for a specific assessment. They cannot be taken into the room inside a bag/pencil case.
- Be outside the assessment room at least 10 minutes before the assessment is due to start.

Following the prelims we'll update the assessment calendar, the study support plan and the revision plan for February to April.

We'll also send out reminders about the outstanding digital support available. These are the online and testing packages Achieve and Scholar and the excellent esgoil online tuition, also available on ClickView. The study support package is available on their iPad: Teams / Year group team/ General tab/ files/ class materials/ study support.

**Qualifications advice:-** All learners are being given these booklets in assemblies this month. It's important that they read them, particularly the sections on plagiarism and collusion. [Your National Qualifications \(sqa.org.uk\)](https://www.sqa.org.uk)

### **Former Pupils Burn's Supper – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February**

The FP association are holding their annual Burn's Supper here in the school on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February.

All FPs and all those connected to the school are welcome. More details are in this link.

<https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Burns-Supper-Poster-2024.pdf>

### **Wellbeing Week 2024**

All pupils in S1-S3 are taking part in Our Wellbeing Week from 25<sup>th</sup>- 27<sup>th</sup> June. This is a range of options "off timetable" to have some fun, strengthen relationships and build confidence. Most of the activities are outdoors. S1 and S3 Pupils have made initial choices about activities and things are now taking shape. There will be further communication to all S1-S3 Parents next week and we need all pupils in S1 and S3 to complete their choices.

### **Wellbeing Week 2024 Summary**

- S1 – Benmore Residential or Daily Adventures
- S2 – Humanutopia & Community Project at The Hermitage of Braid & A Day of Team Building at Meggetland
- S3 – Bronze Duke of Edinburgh or Daily Adventures
- S4 & S5 are taking part in Work Experience

### **The Eric Liddell 100**

This week John McMillan , CEO of the Eric Liddle Community has been presenting at our assemblies. **The Eric Liddell 100** is a programme of events and activities to recognise and celebrate the life

of Eric Liddell. It will mark the centenary of Eric's famous gold medal win at the 1924 Olympic Games in Paris.

To help keep Eric's legacy alive, an online Educational Resource will be launched in January 2024 with a wealth of lesson plans and materials that can be used in assemblies and classrooms. Schools will also be encouraged to host Eric Liddell inspired sports days.

- Watch a short introductory film for schools about Eric Liddell [ericliddell.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/EL100-Educational-Film-2023.mp4](https://ericliddell.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/EL100-Educational-Film-2023.mp4)
- Find out more <https://ericliddell.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/EL100-Schools-Sept-23.pdf>
- Contact [EL100@ericliddell.org](mailto:EL100@ericliddell.org) for further information or visit [our website](#)
- Follow us on social media for latest updates and how to get involved.

### **Oxford University Computing Challenge**

Back in November, pupils in the Computing Department took part in Bebras Challenge, a global Computing and Problem-Solving Challenge. Some of our pupils performed brilliantly, with 39 of them achieving a score that was in the top 10% in the UK. This is an incredible achievement!

These pupils have been invited to participate in the Oxford University Computing Challenge. The challenge takes place next week and the pupils have been working hard to prepare for it. We wish them the best of luck!

A special mention goes to the pupils who achieved the Gold Award – this is for the highest score in each year group:

S2: Jack Egan, S3: Nathan Adams, S4: Sean Gatenby, S6: Sam Brander

### **Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS)**

In previous years we have managed to have a representative from SAAS attend an S6 assembly towards the end of term 2 to explain the process of student funding and how to apply for post school funding for higher education. Unfortunately SAAS is no longer offering these in person talks so we are unable to have them in to speak with pupils. They are instead offering on line sessions which can be booked here <https://buytickets.at/studentawardsagencyscotlan/1065324>

These sessions are running from 6-7:30pm on the 22, 23, 29 and 30 January.

If your young person is planning to move into higher education next year and requires information regarding SAAS funding, we would recommend booking a slot.

### **Important dates – all in school**

Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup> Jan inc.	S5/6 Prelims	
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> January	S4 parent's evening	4.25-7.05
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Parent Council Meeting (in school)	6.30 – 8.00
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	S4 course choice evening	6.30- 7.15
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	S4 course choice evening	7.30 – 8.15
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	S2 Progress Reports issued to parents.	
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	S2 course choice & market place	6.30-8.00

### **Staffing Update**

Teacher of Business Education, Ms Sarah Duncan leaves on maternity leave today. We wish Sarah well.

Ms Anqi Xu will cover for Sarah in her absence. Welcome Anqi.

Ms Laura Sloan started in the geography dept on Monday 8<sup>th</sup>. Welcome Laura.

Mr Hogan Choi started with us as a full-time permanent Pupil Support Assistant on Monday 8<sup>th</sup>. Welcome Howard.

## **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023**

### **End of Term**

School stops today at 12.50pm for the Christmas break.

Staff return for an in-service day on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and pupils return on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024, at 8.32am.

I hope you all have a great Christmas holiday!

**Health and Wellbeing in the holidays** – message from Jane O’Thy, Teacher of RMPS, Philosophy and Health and Wellbeing & Wellbeing Coordinator

Holidays are great fun, but there can be times when we all need a bit of support. The school website has links to support that is available the links to the site are below:

Pupils - <https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/health-wellbeing-pupils/>

Parents - <https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/health-wellbeing-parents/>

### **House points & Food Bank House Challenge**

Well done to our 6 Houses for competing so well in our House Food Bank House Challenge. With a total of over 1000 food items donated here’s how it broke down (most items 1<sup>st</sup>):-

- 1 Bruntsfield
- 2 Hartington
- 3 Montpelier
- 4 Viewforth
- 5 Leamington
- 6 Westhall

When this is added to Duck challenge points here is the overall order of house points:

1<sup>st</sup> Hartington

2<sup>nd</sup> Bruntsfield and Montpelier

3<sup>rd</sup> Viewforth, Westhall and Leamington

All could change if/when we do another challenge....there are only a few hundred points between 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place...

### **Treasure Island – School Show**



Well done to all involved in producing, directing, and delivering the pupil led school show, Treasure Island. The pupils gave 3 performances, 1 to pupils and 2 evening performances to parents -all to rapturous applause.

This production was testament to the skill and talent of our pupils across all year groups in theatrical performance.

### **Rugby Success**

Last Sunday saw the Boroughmuir Rugby Academy U18s win their fourth consecutive National Youth Cup final at Murrayfield Stadium in fine style, beating Stirling County 36-17 in a well-contested match.

The squad enjoyed great support on the evening and really rose to the occasion.

For a full match report by online rugby publication The Offside Line, please see here: -

<https://www.theoffsideline.com/national-youth-boys-under-18s-cup-final-boroughmuir-power-past-stirling-county/>

Thanks also to all those who came along to lend their support.

### **Staff vs S6 Pupils Netball**

On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December, we had our annual Staff v S6 netball match.

Despite being the last week of term there was a lot of energy and enthusiasm in the hall and a great match of netball was played.

The S6's were led by Lexy and the staff by Miss Boag. The evening was controlled by our Umpire Sophie Gordon - who kept her cool while reminding staff and pupils alike of the rules and what and where they could go!

A fast, furious and fun match with the pupils taking a 13 - 9 lead at half time. However, the staff regrouped and brought the score back to within 1 point at 16 - 15 in Q3 and finished with 20 - 19 victory to the pupils.

Great funs and sportsmanship shown by all involved - well done to everyone!!

## **Merry Christmas Everyone**

### **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

#### **End of Term**

Remember, school stops for the Christmas break at 12.50pm on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

Staff return for an in-service day on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and pupils return on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024, at 8.32am. Have a great holiday when it comes.

#### **School Christmas Card**

Our school Christmas card, designed by Feya Coen, S6 is now on the front page of our school website. Please click here to see it.

<https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/BHS-Xmas-2023.jpeg>

It is also displayed on our screens around the school and over 300 copies of the card are sent to staff, other schools and partner agencies around Edinburgh and further afield.

### **Scottish Winners- Princes Trust Enterprise Challenge**

Yesterday, five S4 Boroughmuir pupils won the Scottish Final of the Princes Trust Enterprise Challenge!

Harry Williamson, Daniel Charlotte Ivison, Lewis Tong and Calvin Marshall had won regional finals to go through to the last 5 schools competing in the Scottish Final and they came out on top in the business challenges that were presented to them!

Well done to all involved and to Ms Mahnoor for leading the group.

### **Christmas Jumper Day and Bake Sale**

Many thanks to all those pupils and families who contributed to our Christmas Jumper Day and bake sale. With your help we have raised £1520.73 for Save The Children. A big thanks from the S6 Charities Committee for supporting this event.

### **Edinburgh Food Project**

Our house captains have been collecting items for the Edinburgh Food Project over the last two weeks. Around 1000 items have been donated by the Boroughmuir community and will be dropped off to the food bank prior to the Christmas holidays so that these can be distributed to families in need. Thank you from our house captains to all the pupils and families who supported this house challenge. The winning house for the challenge will be announced next week.

### **Christmas Show**

Our pupil led school show Treasure Island is taking place next Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at 6.30pm in the assembly Hall.

Tickets are available on Parent Pay at £5.50.

All our S1s are having a free performance on Monday period 6.

Please come along and support the production and see the incredible talent that our performers have.

### **Duke of Edinburgh – South Edinburgh Open Award Group**

Some places are still available for DofE Bronze expedition training with the Tuesday night open group starting in January next year (meeting for info Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup> January Rm. 1.05). Contact [leaders.seoag@gmail.com](mailto:leaders.seoag@gmail.com) for more information.

### **Rugby Cup Final** – message from Jonathan Broster

This Sunday sees the Boroughmuir Rugby Academy U18s go up against Stirling County RFC in the final of the U18 National Youth Cup. This takes place in the main stadium at Murrayfield and is completely free to attend. Simply turn up and lend the team your support.

Kick-off is at 6pm on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December.

There have been a great many brilliant contributions to this this season's Cup campaign by Boroughmuir High School pupils and the team would welcome as much support as possible on the day.

### **Modern Language Success!**

The school has a subscription to the website [www.languagenut.com](http://www.languagenut.com) and during November, the website ran a competition to see which pupils across the UK could earn the most points. As a department, we also offered prizes to the highest points scorer in each year group, as well as to the runners up. These pupils received certificates and a festive prize in recognition of their efforts. They are listed below. I would like to thank not only the prize winners, but all pupils who took part, because together, they contributed to Boroughmuir being the highest ranked school in Scotland!

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Runner Up</b>
<b>S1</b>	Eve Burnett (overall winner!)	Alison Cheung
<b>S2</b>	Lila Guerra Hardie	Matthew Pirrie
<b>S3</b>	Nicholas Chim (overall runner up)	Christina Polydorides
<b>S4</b>	Anna Chalmers	Dharshini Venkatesh
<b>S5</b>	Nicolas Swartz-Fraile	Oliver Cox
<b>S6</b>	Ewan Gatenby	Freya Pryce

## **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

### **Christmas Concert**

Next Wednesday is our annual Christmas Concert in the Central Halls. It's an absolute sell out and will be a spectacular event showcasing the incredible musical talent that we have in our school!

### **S1 Christmas party!**

Over 160 S1 pupils attended the S1 Christmas party in the assembly Hall on Wednesday night. It was a real kick start to the festive season and highlighted just how many of our S1 are excited about Christmas festivities!

### **S5/6 Prelim Timetable**

S5/6 Prelims take place in the period Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January inc.

The timetable has been issued to pupils but is here also for reference.

<https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/S56-Prelims-Pupil-Information-December-2023.pdf>

### **S6 Leaver's Hoodies**

Pupils have been ordering their leavers hoodies. Anyone in S6 who still wishes to order a hoodie has up until the end of term. Hoodies cost £23.75 and will be delivered to the school for distribution.

- Visit <https://kwikcosupplies.co.uk/boroughmuir>
- Enter the password: Boroughmuir24
- Choose your colour and size
- Enter the name you want to be transferred to the rear along with the Leavers 24 heat seal
- Click add to basket

### **St Andrew's Day event**

On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December two of our S6 students, Magnus Chapman and Abigail Martin, organised a St Andrew's day event with the help of a team of S5 leaders. They invited groups from local community organisations such as Cluny Lodge care home, Manor House care home and the Eric Liddle centre into school to watch and listen to music, poetry, and dance. The performers were drawn from across the school and included the school Makar reciting Tam O'Shanter, and a delightful Skye boat song rendition that got an encore. This is the first time in many years that we have invited in such a range of guests from our community, and we were absolutely delighted to host so many. The guests ranged from retired teachers to a professional footballer and their feedback was fantastic. This is the start of a programme to make regular links with older members of the community. We're hoping this will benefit both young and old in the future. We are particularly proud of Magnus and Abi for getting us started by taking such a great initiative. Thank you to everyone who took part!

### **S3 Wellbeing week and Duke of Edinburgh's Award**

This year S3s will be joining in our 'Wellbeing Week' for the last week of the summer term. This is an important part of our school programme to encourage wider achievement and to develop social skills ready for the more adult environment of the senior school.

A key part of this week is offering the Duke of Edinburgh Award. This is a prestigious award which is all about participation and challenge in four areas: volunteering, sport, a skill and an overnight expedition.

Not all students will want or be able to do Duke of Edinburgh. Students can alternatively choose a wide range of other activities during the 'Wellbeing Week', but all must choose some kind of activity. Students were introduced to the 'Wellbeing Week' in assembly and the information will be available on their year group Teams pages.

Students should sign up to one of the activities OR Duke of Edinburgh by December 15<sup>th</sup>. We will then organise payment of deposits for some of the activities, including Duke of Edinburgh. We are keen that as many people as possible get an opportunity so if there is a concern about any aspect, including cost, please contact us and we will do our best to arrange support.

### **House of Lords Committee Visit** – message from Mr Bird.

On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December, our school and eco committee will have the pleasure of welcoming Katie Parminter, Baroness Parminter, for a discussion about careers in politics, parliament, select committees, the House of Lords, and electric vehicles. Baroness Parminter is a Lib Dem life peer in the House of Lords and is Chair of the Environment and Climate Change Committee. She led a consultation with young people across the country (including 8 of our pupils – our school was the only one in Scotland to be accepted onto the programme) on electric vehicles, resulting in a report which will be handed to the government. We look forward to discussing the enquiry with her as well as the eco committees many achievements over the past two years!

### **Foodbank Donations**

Pupils are being encouraged to bring in donations for the Edinburgh Food Project for our next House challenge as this links with our school values. Last year we managed to send in over 1000 items to the Edinburgh Food Bank and we would like to be able to break that record. Items required by the Edinburgh Food Project can be found at his website: [DONATE FOOD - Edinburgh Food Project](#). Pupils should bring in items and leave them in their House box at the front door at the start of each day between 4 and 15 December.

### **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)**

Congratulations to Oscar Cobham from Bruntsfield House in S2 who has been working as part of *Together's Human Rights Detectives* to support the UNCRC Scotland Bill that was passed unanimously by the Scottish Parliament yesterday. Oscar was present in the Scottish Parliament for this. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is an international agreement setting out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of every child, regardless of their race, religion or abilities. Congratulations Oscar!

### **More Skiing Success!**

Once again Boroughmuir High School dominated the Boyd Anderson School Ski Race at Hillend. Our Boyd Anderson Team of Callum Hebden, Rory Beattie, Louise Glendinning and Gregor Wallace narrowly beat Linlithgow Academy to retain the trophy. Callum was also fastest boy with Rory third fastest and Louise was third fastest girl. Our Boys team of Alex Hastie, Edgar Lithgow, Oliver Quinn & Hector Laing won the boys trophy and the Girls team of Lena Sudworth, Eilidh Simon, Connie Phillips & Iona Sudjic won the girls trophy. Well done to all the skiers for successfully defending all 3 trophies we won last year.

## **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

### **Carols on the Canal:**

*Carols on the Canal* is a free outdoor performance being held at approximately 5pm outside the main entrance to the school. Some pupils from the Boroughmuir High School Music Department choirs will join singers from Edinburgh University and supported by Forth Vally Canoe Club. 'The Carols on the Canal Concert' is for the whole community with live music from two choirs and A brass band. Please come along with your family and friends. This event hopes to fundraise for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), which is part of the NHS. There is a JustGiving page, and all donations would be gratefully received by this official NHS Lothian charity.

[https://www.justgiving.com/page/carols-on-the-canal-1699254168000?utm\\_term](https://www.justgiving.com/page/carols-on-the-canal-1699254168000?utm_term)

### **Christmas Jumper Day & Bake Sale Friday 8 December**

On Friday 8 December we will have our annual Christmas Jumper Day when pupils are encouraged to wear their Christmas Jumpers or accessories. This is to raise funds for Save The Children. The

Charities Committee will also run a bake sale that day. Pupils will be able to make cash donations on the day or donations can be made via Parentpay.

### **Christmas Concert Raffle**

Raffle tickets for the Christmas concert will go on sale from Monday. Pupils will come round registration classes and sell them. There are some excellent prizes to win including restaurant vouchers, concert tickets and activity passes for various venues across Edinburgh. Tickets are available to buy individually and are £5 for a strip. All money raised will go toward the Cash for Kids 'Christmas Mission' which provides Christmas presents for children in the Lothians, Fife and Falkirk who are living in poverty. If you would also like to donate, there is a QR code on the Expressive Arts twitter with a link to our Just Giving page. Thank you!

### **P7 Transition Workshops** – message from Ms King & Ms Presly

This week we welcomed another group of our P7s to Boroughmuir. We had organised activities led by our Sports Leaders and our S6 STEM Ambassadors. The P7s said they loved their time in the workshop making their desk tidy, enjoyed a tour of the school and food tasting in the cafeteria. It was also a great chance to get to know other pupils who will become our S1s next year! Thanks to our PE department for inspiring and supporting the Sports Leaders and the CDE department for the creativity and leadership they showed today. The P7s were also supported by a number of S5 pupils as part of their Leadership Project. Thank you all for making it such a success.

### **House Assemblies – Donations for Foodbank**

This week our house captains have been leading house assemblies. At these the winning house of our last challenge was announced – Hartington are top of the board at the moment!

Pupils are being encouraged to bring in donations for the Edinburgh Food Project for our next challenge as this links with our school values. Last year we managed to send in over 1000 items to the Edinburgh Food Bank and we would like to be able to break that record. Items required by the Edinburgh Food Project can be found at his website: [DONATE FOOD - Edinburgh Food Project](#). Pupils should bring in items and leave them in their house box at the front door at the start of each day between 4 and 15 December.

### **Enterprising Maths – Scottish Champions**

Congratulations to our Enterprising Maths Team, Sean Gatenby (S4), Sneha Gadi (S4), Nicolas Chim (S3) and Jack Egan (S2), who won the National Final held at the Glasgow Science Centre this week. Our team competed in 4 rounds testing their mathematical thinking in a very tight competition and went into the final round with only 15 points between the top 5 teams. We were delighted to edge out the competition finishing in first place ahead of the High School of Glasgow (2nd) and Fettes College (3rd). There were 52 teams from across Scotland in the final!

### **Skiing Success**

Great success at the British schools Dry Slope Champs held at Hillend this week. After qualifying at the Scottish Champs in October, Boroughmuir 'A' went on to compete against England, Wales and the qualifying teams in Scotland. There were approximately 150 competitors and 38 teams. Boroughmuir A secured 2<sup>nd</sup> placed in the mixed teams and just missed first place by 0.1 second! Well done to Lorcán Morrison S2, Ellie Morrison S5, Sam Beattie S5 and Rory Beattie S2

### **Medic Menor Winner!**

Eva Gray(S5) entered the Medic Mentor Magazine competition with an article titled 'What makes a good consultation in veterinary practice?'

We are so pleased to announce that she was a winner of the competition with her brilliant article and it will be featured in the magazine in December which is a magazine covering the areas of medical, dental, and veterinary.

Congratulations to her Eva. This is a great achievement! Sadly, no prize for Eva, just the kudos, but well done her!

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

### **Boroughmuir Chronicle – Edition 14**

Here is the link to the 14<sup>th</sup> Edition of our award winning digital school newspaper!

<https://sway.office.com/OYghBjk9HqkXe9RB?ref=email>

### **Nearly New Uniform – message from Mr Beard**

We will be donating all the money raised from Nearly New Uniform sales from 27 November through December to Cash for Kids 'Christmas Mission', which provides Christmas gifts for children living in poverty who would otherwise not receive anything on Christmas Day. This is the same charity the Music Department are raising money for through their raffle, and at the Christmas concert. Not only will you grab yourself a bargain, Blazers £7:00, Hoodies £5; Shirts/Trousers/Skirts/Sports Tees £3:00 but also be contributing to a good cause. Find us on the third floor – just ask Mr Beard.

### **Option Choices webinar for parents and carers of S2 and S3 pupils, Thursday 7 December 6.30pm**

Skills Development Scotland careers advisers are hosting a webinar for parents and carers of S2 and S3 pupils on 7 Dec at 6:30pm to discuss option choices and the support and resources available from Skills Development Scotland to support both young people and parents and carers at this time.

Parents and carers can register for our session here: <https://option-choices-webinar.eventbrite.co.uk>

### **Hong Kong Scotland School Improvement Partnership**

Next week we are welcoming the Principal, Vice Principal and a teacher from Ying Wa College in Hong Kong.

This is one of 14 schools visiting Edinburgh as part of the Hong Kong Scotland School Improvement Partnership which promotes sharing of best practice across our 2 school systems. Boroughmuir along with Royal High and James Gillespie's were founding schools back in 2016.

We now have 14 of our 23 High Schools involved. It will be a great opportunity to compare and share good practice across 2 different school systems.

### **Science Technician Award**

Ms Karthika Paranthaman, our senior Science Technician has been awarded a UK Salters' Technician Award. The Awards are an important part of the Salter Institute's programme of activities in support of its mission to promote Chemistry and related sciences and their practical applications in industry and the wider world. Award holders are asked to participate in the Institute's educational activities and events alongside other Salters' Award holders throughout the year.

The awards ceremony is in December at the Salter's Hall in central London.

Congratulations Karthika. This is an incredible achievement and one we are all incredibly proud of.

### **Edinburgh University's Carols on the Canal.**

This is a free outdoor performance – *Carols on the Canal* – to be held next Friday evening (1<sup>st</sup> December) starting at approximately 5pm.

Some pupils from the school Music Department choirs will join singers from Edinburgh University and supported by Forth Vally Canoe Club.

The event will be held outside the main entrance to the school. 'The Carols on the Canal Concert' is for the whole community with live music from two choirs and a brass band.

This event is being led by Mrs Melissa Viguier – parent to Theodore (S1), Elodie (S4) and Micky (S7!). Melissa is also heavily involved in the canoe club which many of our pupils attend.

This event hopes to fundraise for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), which is part of the NHS. There is a JustGiving page and all donations would be gratefully received by this official NHS Lothian charity.

[https://www.justgiving.com/page/carols-on-the-canal-1699254168000?utm\\_term=W3pNz54Dx](https://www.justgiving.com/page/carols-on-the-canal-1699254168000?utm_term=W3pNz54Dx)

### **Swimming Success**

Boroughmuir HS had eight swimmers competing at the Edinburgh & Midlothian Schools Swimming Championships last Sunday. It was a very busy meet with lots of fast swimming and PBs from the team of Naomi Cochran, Iona Bremner, Darragh Oldham, Aila Oldham, Gregory Kerr, Reuben Lees, Maddie Hoole and Arthur Miller. Swimmers competed in two events and Reuben and Maddie each won two medals. This was a great event for the team, and we look forward to the Scottish Schools Championships in January and to hopefully an even bigger team at the regional competition next year.

### **Christmas card Success**

Congratulations to Freya Coan (S6) who has produced the Boroughmuir Christmas card for 2023. It will be sent to staff and partners across in the City in coming weeks. We will also display it on our website, and we will provide the link here in the near future for you to see.

Also, congratulations to Isla Emslie (S1) and Candice Wong (S1) who are runners up in creating a card for Amanda Hatton Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services.

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023**



## **Boroughmuir Business Breakfast – 7am, Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Next Friday is our third Business Breakfast at Boroughmuir High School.

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 **Jim “Bomber” Brown**, the only professional football player to captain both Hearts FC and Hibs FC who earlier this year was inducted into the Hearts FC Hall of Fame. After his sporting career was suddenly cut short due to a serious injury at age 31, Jim set up, from scratch, his own successful Independent Financial Adviser business until retirement. There will also be a range of other businesspeople, many of whom are FPs, joining us for the breakfast. They will help facilitate business conversations at tables prior to our guest speaker.

Senior pupils in S5 and S6 studying Business or Economics are invited to attend our annual Business Breakfast along with other pupils who have a particular interest in attending.

### **S4 Prelims**

Only Nat 5 Art and N5 Music practical are to take place next week. Well done to all our S4 pupils who prepared so well for their prelims over the last 2 weeks.

### **S5/6 Parent Consultations**

S5/6 Parent Consultations will be face to face in the school and will offer an opportunity to discuss the tracking and written reports in more detail with teachers. These are scheduled for either:

November 22nd – for S5 in Register Classes 5R1 -5R5; S6 Register classes 6R1 - 6R4

November 30th – for S5 in Register Classes 5R6 -5R510 S6 Register classes 6R5 - 6R8

Booking for these events is open now and closes at 2355 on Sunday. The booking website

<http://www.parents-booking.co.uk/boroughmuir>

### **Boroughmuir Beans**

Mark Logan, Chief Advisor to Scottish Government for Enterprise, visited the school this week with representatives from Princes Trust Scotland. The purpose of the visit was to see our barista project in action and speak to some of the pupils involved. The visitors were very impressed, and Mark commented that he was quite emotional watching our pupils thrive. All the pupils involved in this project should be very proud of themselves.

### **Staff Quiz**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Boroughmuir Staff Quiz took place on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. 14 teams, made up of staff, former staff, family and friends pitted their wits against each other in a very close battle. The scoring was very high and in the end, only 10 points separated the winners from last place. Taking home the winners’ trophy was a team from the Science Department, while the beautiful Wooden Spoon (a one of a kind Jackson Crawford design) went to the team made up of canteen staff and Neil Anderson, although their score would probably have had them in the top three in most pub quizzes around Edinburgh.

The night raised £225 for charity, and this year, the charity is the Thistle Foundation who, from their website, support “anyone living with a long-term health condition, disability or facing a challenging life situation” . This charity was chosen by Gary MacDonald’s family as it is a charity that was close to his heart and one to which he donated regularly. They were extremely grateful for the donation.

### **S3 Hindu Mandir (Temple) Trip**- message from Mr Igoe and Miss Ross

On Tuesday, 60 S3 students took part in an afternoon visit to a Hindu temple in Leith. The talk from Vice President Ms Suman Vohra was truly inspirational, telling us of how she arrived in Edinburgh in 1974 without family and friends and with only £3 in her pocket. Through hard work, determination and her faith, she raised a family, worked 7 days a week and found time to set up a Hindu cultural centre in Edinburgh. The present site was an abandoned church with crumbling walls and holes in the floor. After taking it over in 1991, the building was transformed into the main Hindu temple and cultural hub in Edinburgh. Student feedback was excellent, saying that it really brought their studies to life, seeing statues of the Hindu gods and finding out first-hand about the religion.

### **P7 Transition Workshops**

Yesterday we welcomed 90 of our P7s to the first series of Transition Workshops. This is a new experience designed by Ms King and Ms Presly. In mixed groups from 3 schools our P7s experienced “Tennis, Tasting and Tours”. Our Senior Sports Leaders led a tennis skills workshop – they had been trained by Judy Murray. Our S5 leaders conducted tours of the school and our cafeteria team offered a tasting session of food on offer! There was a lovely buzz of excitement for the whole morning and we look forward to doing it all again next Thursday for 90 more P7s!

### **BRUFTS 2024 – 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024**

The world’s second greatest dog show is back for 2024. Save the date, tell the dogs. Hudson one of our Therapets has already been signed up and we will be supporting this initiative as one of our chosen charities.

### **Staffing Update**

Congratulations to Mr Calum Sinclair who has been appointed as temporary teacher of Modern Studies replacing Ms Ratter. Calum will start with us on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November.

Also recently started in the school are:

Attica Nedjah – Pupil Support Assistant

Fiona Burnet – Pupil Support Assistant

Chrysoula Xenou – School Support Assistant

Lara Turner – Science Technician

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

### **Remembrance Service**

Today is our annual 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 Chronicle**

Here is the latest Edition of our award-winning school newspaper – the Boroughmuir Chronicle!  
Enjoy.

<https://sway.office.com/B8rtUFripP1ULOL5?ref=Link>

### **Parent Council Meeting**

The second parent council meeting of the year is this coming Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November, in person in the school, room 1.04. An agenda will be emailed out to all parents in advance.

**Scottish Youth Parliament Elections 2023:** Voting for the SYP elections is now open. Please scan the QR code below or go to <https://voting.young.scot/> . To vote, enter the 16-digit number above your date of birth on your Young Scot card. If you haven't got a Young Scot Card or have lost it, come and see Mr Cogan in x218, where he will give you a temporary number so you can vote. Make sure to select the Edinburgh Southern constituency and rank the four candidates in order of preference. We have two candidates from Boroughmuir (Shona Cuthbert and Fabian Butchart) and two from James Gillespie's. Enjoy voting!



### **RSGS Geography Prize – Lorcan Morrison.** Message from Mr Das.

The Royal Scotland Geographical Society asked Scotland's secondary school pupils to take up the challenge of detailing ideas for Scotland's future, and writing down their own ideas about what they think needs to be changed. This was a writing competition to celebrate the second edition of Val McDermid and Jo Sharp's book '**Imagine a Country**'.

Lorcan Morrison, from S2, won the national competition.

The competition was judged by Professor John Briggs (chair of RSGS) and Jo Woolf (RSGS writer in residence). They were impressed by the local environmental vision that Lorcan presented. "In my community" will be published in a forthcoming issue of the RSGS magazine, The Geographer. Well done to Lorcan for this wonderful accomplishment.

### **Ski Success- Scottish Dual Slalom Finals at Hillend!**

After qualifying in September across the 9 centres in Scotland, Boroughmuir were through to the finals of the Dry Slope Dual Slalom. After a loss in the first race they went on to win 12 races and were through to the semi and finals. They missed out to Watsons taking second place in Scotland. Well done to Lorcán Morrison S2, Calum Hebden S3, Louise Glendinning S3 and Rory Beattie S2.

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

### **Industrial Action**

Please see attached a letter from the City regarding next Wednesday's Industrial Action by School Support Staff.

<https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/industrial-action-8th-november/>

Support staff includes Pupils Support Assistants, office staff, facilities management, cleaning staff, catering staff and Business Support.

The ability of schools to be open, be partially open or closed is determined by local circumstances i.e the number of support staff who will be on strike that day in each establishment.

According to our current assessment, the scale of absence of support staff in Boroughmuir High School on that day will not make it viable or safe for Boroughmuir High School to open to pupils on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November.

We are sorry for our closure on that day, but it is simply not viable, with our levels of support staff, to open the school.

Pupils should remain at home and follow their school timetable as teachers will provide materials on-line during this period. The materials will be as appropriate and may be live lessons or lesson material that has been posted to TEAMS. Some teachers will of course have child care issues of their own.

For pupils who don't have internet access, using a local library may be an option. Morningside Library, Oxfgangs Fountainbridge Library, Newington Library are all open Tuesday 10-8pm, Wednesday 10-8pm, Thursday 10-5pm.

**The only exception to the above is for S4 pupils who have prelims scheduled for that day. These pupils should attend at the scheduled time of the prelim and return home immediately afterwards.**

There will be no catering available.

Unless there is an update on the dispute, please assume the arrangements above will be in place and that school will resume in person at 8.32am on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Academic Service**

I was delighted to once again represent the school along with our pupil Head Team (Ann-Emma Hu, Ruth Shephard, Sam Brander, Jed Calvert) 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 as well as Headteachers, teachers and pupils from the City's schools.

### **Boroughmuir Pipe band**

I was delighted that Boroughmuir pipe band was invited to play at the Hearts vs Livingston match last Wednesday night as part of the Hearts FC remembrance game. Boroughmuir School and Hearts FC have connection through former pupils who went onto play with Hearts and then went onto fight in the great war of 1914 - 18. Sadly, many died.

A huge thank you to the pipe band and those who support and organize it.

### Remembrance Service

Next Friday 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.

### S2 Parent's Night

We are looking forward to welcoming S2 parents and carers next Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November. We have issued a separate update this week to support the smooth running of the evening. Thank you in advance for your support.

### Business Breakfast

On Friday, 24<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.

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.

Further details to follow in future newsletter.

### Dress Code – update

We appreciate your support in ensuring pupils wear school [dress code](#). We encourage all young people to follow our dress code since it supports our efforts to ensure pupils feel part of our inclusive school community and helps us to identify pupils which maintains school security. Dress code promotes a positive ethos and reduces the social pressures of wearing the latest fashion items. Dress code should be worn Monday to Friday. Pupils are welcome to get changed on Fridays when they leave at 12.50 into non-school clothing if they wish.

**Ties** - pupils are sent to the school Reception to borrow a tie if they are not wearing one. These are returned at the end of the day. They can be purchased for £3 via ParentPay or cash at office.

**Branded jumpers/hoodies or non-black jumpers** – we ask that these are not worn, pupils are asked to remove these inside the building or exchanged for a school hoodie.

**Shirts** – If not wearing a shirt, pupils are asked to borrow a school hoodie and/or a shirt and tie.

**Trousers/Skirts/Leggings** – these should be plain black.

**Shoes** – these should be plain black.

As always, families who need help with the dress code should contact the school.

### Staffing Update

Morgan Ratter, temporary teacher of Modern Studies leaves us today to take up a new post in the Borders.

We wish Morgan well and thank her for all her work while hereat Boroughmuir.

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

## **S1 Halloween Party**

Last night saw about 200 S1 pupils dress in incredible costumes (with two brilliant Minions taking the best costume prize) have great fun at our Halloween Party. Thank you to all the staff, pupils and families (for hair and make-up)! A big thank you to our S6 Fundraising Committee who raised around £1000 for their funds.

## **Fireworks and Bonfires**

Please see attached a letter regarding responsible behaviours with fireworks and bonfires.  
<https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/School-Letter-Final.pdf>

## **Help us build our community links – message from Mr Hayes**

We are keen to make connections between our young people and older members of the community. All S5 students have a Leadership class which encourages them to participate or lead in an area of the school or wider community. Some of our young people are making links with local care homes and community centres. We're hoping this may lead to visits to and from the school and events such as coffee mornings and concerts.

We would very much welcome any help or contacts that families might have. This might be a care home or centre that you use or know well and that you think might like to make links with us. Please let us know by emailing [admin@boroughmuir.edin.sch.uk](mailto:admin@boroughmuir.edin.sch.uk) for the attention of Mr Hayes.

## **Support for Neurodivergent Pupils**

*NDWell* is a service for children and young people aged between 5 to 24 years old and/or their parents, who live in the City of Edinburgh and are neurodivergent. This includes children and young people with a diagnosis of autism, ADHD and intellectual disability and those awaiting diagnosis.

Further details are here:-

<https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/nd-wellbeing-service/>

## **S2 Visits to the National Museum of Scotland Careers and Skills Event**

All S2 will be attending a Careers event at the National Museum of Scotland on either:

- Thursday, 9 November for S2 in Register classes 2R6-2R10 (periods 4-6) or
- Friday, 10 November, for S2 in Register classes 2R1-2R5 (periods 1-4)

We have taken pupils before to this event for a number of years as this is one of the largest careers and cross-disciplinary skills event in the country. Pupils will depart directly from the National Museum of Scotland. There will be no cost for this trip but a packed lunch or snacks will be required.

The pupils will work in groups completing 3 sessions:

- Interactive exhibition (with activities from a large number of employers and industry representatives)
- Panel discussion in the NMS Auditorium
- Interdisciplinary skills workshop

## **Assemblies**

There will be no assemblies on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November or Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November for S5 or S1.

### **Important Upcoming Events this term**

S2 Parent Consultation Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023, 4.25 – 7.05pm

S5/6 (1s) Parent Consultation Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov 2023, 4.25 – 7.05pm

S5/6 (2s) Parent Consultation Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023, 4.25 – 7.05pm

S4 Progress Reports – to parents by Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Dec

S4 Prelims – Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> to Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Nov inc.

Parent Council Meetings Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023 In Person; Dual Teaching Space

Christmas Concert - Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December, 7.30pm Central Halls.

D Dempster, Head Teacher.

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

### **Half term Holiday.**

A reminder that school closes today at 12.50pm for half term holiday.

Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> October is a staff in-service day and pupils return at 8.32m on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October.

Have a great break.

### **S4 Prelims**

Here is a link to information on the upcoming S4 prelims.

I know our S4 will want to do some revision over the holidays, but remember it is a holiday and having time off from school and studies is important.

<https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/S4-Prelims-Pupil-Information-October-2023.pdf>

### **S3 Individual Photos**

On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October we will be taking S3 individual photos. These will be available to purchase via Tempest (the Photo Company) in due course.

### **S2 Parent Consultation Evening**

This will take place on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November from 4.25pm to 7.05pm in school. Separate information has already been issued about this event.

The booking system is open from 6pm on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October. The booking website is

<http://www.parents-booking.co.uk/boroughmuir>. Bookings can only be made when the system is open and this will be from Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm until Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October at 6pm.

### **S1 Halloween Party – 26<sup>th</sup> October**

Tickets for the S1 Halloween party are available to purchase on Parent Pay for £6. This includes a professional DJ, a snack and a drink. There is also a tuck shop for additional purchases!

It's always a great night with some incredible costumes on display.

### **P7 Open Afternoon Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October**

The P7 Open Afternoon is on the afternoon of Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October. There are 2 slots but booking is essential. Please use the link below.

<https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/p7-open-afternoon-friday-27th-october-1-30-3-30pm/>

### **European day of languages** - message from Herr Nelson & Mme Duguid.

This week, we had our annual event for European Day of Languages, celebrating the rich and diverse linguistic makeup of the school. Pupils and staff organised and took part in games and activities in languages such as Dutch, Afrikaans, Greek, Catalan, Welsh, Spanish, Hungarian and Japanese. With international music playing and various exotic, sweet treats on offer, much fun was had by all. It was great to see such enthusiasm and pupils really excelled themselves. We're already looking forward to next year!

Gracias, Danke, Merci, Grazie, Bedankt, Ευχαριστώ, Dankie, ありがとう to all who took part.

### **Mary Somerville Prize**

I am delighted to share with you that S6 pupils Sam Brander and Alasdair Pirrie have both been awarded Mary the Mary Somerville Prize by the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries (IFoA).

This is awarded annually to pupils achieving 100% in Higher maths which Sam and Alasdair both achieved.

This is a tremendous achievement and one which we are all very proud of.

### **Arkwright Scholarship**

The **Arkwright** school Engineering **Scholarship** programme is the most esteemed **scholarship** scheme of its type in the UK. This year, two of our S5 students, Samuel Donvito and Jamie Fordyce have been successful in gaining an Arkwright Scholarship after being successful in the extremely demanding selection process. The boys will receive financial support and professional mentoring to support their studies in Engineering while in school and beyond! Well done indeed.

### **Hockey Success**

Kurt Findlater (S4), Cameron Littlejohn (S4), Finn Milne (S3) and Henry Wiegand (S3) were all picked to represent East District in the U14 and U16 Scottish Hockey Inter-District Tournament in May, a great achievement against a lot of very talented boys across all of Eastern Scotland.

Cameron Littlejohn and Henry Wiegand were then selected to play in the Scottish Hockey Brave Tournament in August and were joined by Finn Milne. All three boys were invited to try out for the Scottish Hockey Brave Academy - Scottish Hockey's pathway to representing Scotland internationally. As a result, Finn and Henry have both been selected to join the Scottish Hockey Brave Emerging Boys squad.

All four boys have excelled in their hockey development this year, representing the school at the highest level with skill, determination, and sportsmanship. Special thanks to Kurt and Cameron for their ongoing leadership of the senior boys' school hockey team. Well done to all four!

### **Film Success!**



Congratulations to Li Pringle who has won The AMES award for National 5 Screen Production at the Scottish Youth Film Festival. Li won with her very creative and scary Horror Trailer entitled 'All they found was the camera'.

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year that Boroughmuir pupils have been successful at the Scottish Youth Film Festival which shows the talent and creativity of our pupils.

## **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

### **Half term Holiday.**

A reminder that school closes for half term next Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October at 12.50pm.

Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> October is a staff in-service day and pupils return at 8.32m on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October.

### **MacMillan Coffee Morning – message from Ms Kelly**

Last Friday saw our Prince's Trust pupils host our MacMillan Coffee Morning. It was a brilliant morning and each and every pupil involved represented themselves and the school so well. It was lovely to see the likes of Freddie Miller and Fraser Black absolutely thriving! As of this morning, we have raised a fantastic £521.50 for MacMillan, which is enough to fund 2 days of nurse support. If you are still to donate, in lieu of cake or honey, or just because it is a fantastic cause, then our online platform is still taking donations. <https://coffeefundraising.macmillan.org.uk/fundraising/cm23049580>.

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

Yesterday we welcomed three classes full of S1 Parents to come back to school for the day. They were all very well behaved and thoroughly enjoyed their day despite being exhausted by 3.30pm! A Big thank you to all of them and the 23 teachers who took the classes. Here's some of the feedback:-

- *Such a wonderful, calm and empowering environment!*
- *Amazing team! Teachers, pupils and other parents absolutely fantastic!*
- *I am really grateful for this opportunity to experience in person what our kids' life at school feels like; how one of their day unfolds and the spaces + learning they have to navigate, and would highly recommend it to other parents. It made our child's daily reality much more tangible, and provides another level of depth to how I can relate to him about, and support him with, his learning.*
- *It was great to see how a day in S1 looks for our children. It gives parents a greater understanding of what school is really like these days, and that means we will be able to support our children better in high school with the academics. But it also helped to understand the layout of the school and how break and lunch work... so if they talk to us about any social problems or struggles in the future we can perhaps picture areas of the school, where clubs are happening that they might enjoy or find like minded people, and who they might be able to go to for help etc. It was also interesting to see the canteen! I think that it was particularly helpful for parents who come from a completely different cultural background and school experience, to see how a Scottish school in the 2020s works.*

### **S3 Youth Philanthropy Initiative – message from Mr Igoe and all in the HFTT/ RMPS department**

On Thursday, all S3 got the opportunity to speak to a number of charities to give them an idea of the great work which goes on in the third sector in Edinburgh. Many thanks to the dozen charities who attended. It was a challenge to smoothly run 5 minute interactions between students and charities before moving the groups to the next charity, but, thanks to both staff and some of our great YPI ambassadors in S4, the charities carousel was a great success. Each S3 group will now choose a charity they wish to champion for the £3000 grant.

### **SYP Elections- message from Fabian Butchart MSYP for Edinburgh Southern**

The Scottish Youth Parliament elections are approaching soon, running for the first time in 2 years from the 6<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2023 and young people from 12 – 25 years old can vote. I'm standing for re-election alongside Shona Cuthbert, Arden Connor and Tom Schmoll and you can find out more about all of the candidates at this link:

<https://elections.syp.org.uk/elections/19/constituency/3/>.

Once the voting opens you will get to have a say in who represents you in the Scottish Youth Parliament by going onto the SYP website and using your Young Scot Card number to vote. We'll be holding hustings in school where you can hear from all of the candidates to help you decide who to vote for and you can either vote in Modern Studies lessons or in your own time. If you have any questions about this year's Scottish Youth Parliament elections, you can contact me at:

[fabian.butchart.msyp@sypmail.org.uk](mailto:fabian.butchart.msyp@sypmail.org.uk).

### **P7 Open Afternoon Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October**

We have shared this invite to P7 parents and pupils in our Learning Community. This is a chance to come along, meet us and explore the building.

<https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/p7-open-afternoon-friday-27th-october-1-30-3-30pm/>

### **Spotlight on a Netball Star!**

Boroughmuir High School pupil Lexy Gillies is making waves in the world of netball. Selected for the U17 Europe Netball squad, she helped lead her team to a silver medal earlier this year. Lexy was also selected to represent Scotland at the 2023 Commonwealth Youth Games in Trinidad and Tobago. Fantastic achievements.

At club level, Lexy is playing for and captaining the U17 Accies Netball Club, who were triumphant in the U17 Youth Cup. With all of this success at youth level, it was inevitable for Lexy to catch the eyes of coaches and selectors at senior level. She has been invited to trial for the senior Super Cup team. At only 17, this is an excellent achievement.

Everyone at Boroughmuir High School is very proud of Lexy and we looking forward to watching her progress with the senior teams this season.

More information on Lexy can be found using the following link:

<https://www.netballscotland.com/lexy-gillies/>

### **Staffing Update**

Congratulations to Ellen Duff who was successful in securing the Administrative Officer (sessional) post on a permanent basis and Victoria Leask who has been appointed Administrative Officer (non-sessional). Both have been previously working in the school office and we are delighted to retain them in these new promoted posts.

## **Friday 29th September 2023**

### **Tracking and Reporting S4,5,6**

We will be starting our Tracking and Reporting schedule for this school session next week with the issuing of the first tracking report for S4, S5 and S6 early next week. This will follow with S1, S2 and S3 tracking before the October holiday.

When we issue tracking, we will also send separately a short information sheet that can be used alongside the tracking reports. We will also issue a copy to pupils using their school email addresses accessed via Outlook on their iPads.

Most pupils will have had a conversation with their subject teachers about these reports and can talk about them. Pupils also discuss their tracking or written reports with their Guidance Teachers.

If pupils have a Level 3 (*Requires Improvement*) indicated for subject this is likely due to inconsistencies in effort or with the completion of some tasks.

### **Dutch Visitors**

Last Monday we welcomed a group of ten students (aged 15-17) and two teachers from Wateringse Veld College, The Hague. This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> time pupils from this school had visited Boroughmuir. They had informal tours of the school, worked with the AH Modern Studies class and attended a presentation from visiting speaker Karyn McCluskey. It was a great visit and great example of young people connecting through learning.

### **Modern Studies speaker session: Violence reduction in Scotland**

On Monday the Modern Studies department hosted guest speaker Karyn McClusky, chief executive of Community Justice Scotland and formerly the director of the Scotland's Violence Reduction Unit. She came to speak to a large group of senior students about the issues of violent crime, gang violence, the causes and consequences and what can be done to solve these issues. This was also part of a school exchange with 10 students from Wateringse Veld College, from The Hague in the Netherlands with students from Advanced Higher Modern Studies. And we also invited Higher and AH students from James Gillespie's and Tynecastle High School. This was a great experience for the students and staff. Karyn was a fantastic speaker, showed some extremely thought-provoking statistics and videos and was very generous with her time and help.

### **Study Support**

Here is a link to our school study support programme. This will develop throughout the year.

[Assessment Calendars & Study Support | Boroughmuir High School](#)

E-Sgoil study support is a national study support programme. The 2023-24 Registration is now open.

<https://e-sgoil.com/senior-phase/study-support/>

### **Study skills training – message from Mr Hayes**

All S4s have now had a unit on 'how to study' taught as part of their health and wellbeing course. This is to support them in this exam year and goes alongside the assessment calendar, the study

support programme, individual supports from teachers and guidance. More information about prelims, exams and revision will come out before each set of assessments.

The study support materials are also available for all year groups on their iPad in Teams/ Year group/Files/ General Materials / Study skills.

The study support materials cover the four most essential study skills based on wide current research and teachers' own recommendations.

1. Spaced practice
  - Spaced practice suggests that you should work 'little and often'. It is much better to spread revision over 10 minutes for several days than to do 3 hours just before a test.
  - Study and revision timetables are an important way to organise yourself for this.
2. Retrieval practice.
  - This requires you to test yourself on information that you studied some time ago. A typical way is to regularly quiz yourself on work from last week, last month, last term.
3. Dual coding
  - Any method that changes or goes alongside a chunk of text to make it into a visual or audio or other cue that helps you remember it. Most common methods are mind maps, diagrams, sketches, images, mnemonics etc.
4. Elaboration
  - Make yourself explain the concept to yourself or someone else. This is time consuming but VERY powerful and students often leave it out. The best method may be the well-known technique developed by Cornell University: 'Cornell notetaking'. Instead of copying notes (very ineffective) students turn information in to questions, answers and summaries. This can then be used for spaced practice and retrieval practice.

Families may well want to arrange a weekly chat with their children to check in how things are going. One approach is to talk with them through these techniques and discuss which are working for them.

### **Hockey Success**

Following their performance with the East squads at the District finals in May and June, Arabella Porter (S4), Freya Ballentine (S4) and Freya Paterson ( S4) were invited by Scottish Hockey to attend trials for the Brave Academy (Scottish Hockey development programme).

The trials took place over the last few weekends. It's now confirmed that all 3 have all been selected for the Emerging Academy

This is a fantastic achievement by the girls and testament to their character, skill, commitment and love of the game! Well done!

### **MacMillan Cancer Trust – Coffee morning**

Today Boroughmuir Beans are hosting a coffee morning in aid of MacMillan Cancer Trust. The group have invited members of our community including MSPs, MPs, local counsellors, and parents and carers. We would like to thank Coffee Conscience, Cuckoos Bakery and Stewart Grace our catering manager for their generosity and assistance

It's always a great event and allows the Beans to really demonstrate their skills as well as raise much needed funds for MacMillan cancer. Donations can be made via this QR code.



## **Friday 22nd September 2023**

### **Industrial Action**

Boroughmuir, along with all other Council managed schools will be closed to all pupils next Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September due to industrial action from support staff.

Pupils should remain at home and follow their school timetable as teachers will provide materials on-line during this period. The materials will be as appropriate and may be live lessons or lesson material that has been posted to TEAMS. Some teachers will of course have child care issues of their own.

If things change over the weekend, we will give an update on Monday.

### **Boroughmuir Chronicle**

Here is issue 11 of our award-winning school newspaper! Enjoy!

<https://sway.office.com/4XsX2oNfJN8uSqNY?ref=email>

### **FP Event**

Last night we were delighted to welcome over 80 Former Pupils back to the school for an Open Evening for a 'School Dinner' and to look at materials from the school archive.

Our pipe band, musicians and senior pupils helped deliver an incredible celebration of our current and past school. Our FP committee did a great job in organising the programme.

If you are an FP and want to get involved next time, here is the link.

[Boroughmuir Former Pupils' Association Edinburgh - Home Page \(boroughmuirhighschoolfpa.co.uk\)](http://boroughmuirhighschoolfpa.co.uk)

### **Tennis Coaching**

Judy Murray (Andy's mum) is in Boroughmuir today, Friday 22nd September from 10:30am to 12:30pm.

Judy will take 15 Sports Leaders through a tennis workshop from 11am to 11:45am in the Sports Hall. From 11:45am to 12:30pm, we will be inviting 15 S2 pupils up to the Sports Hall to be led through a tennis session with the Sports Leaders and Judy.

It's a great pleasure to have Judy with us today and I know all at Boroughmuir will make her very welcome.

### **Whole School Photo**

Today's whole school photo was a spectacular event! 1700 Boroughmuir pupils and staff in 1 photograph.

We will let you know in due course how you can see the result!!

### **Clubs and Activities 2023/24**

Below are links to information about the Sporting clubs and activities that are on offer this year  
[BHS-Sports-Clubs-Final-Version\\_Sept23.pdf \(boroughmuirhighschool.org\)](#)

Also, the non-sporting clubs and activities.

[Clubs,Activities,Partners | Boroughmuir High School](#)

### **Boroughmuir Summary Standards and Quality Report**

This link takes you to our whole school summary Standards and Quality Report and Improvement Plan.

[Summary-Whole-School-SQ-and-IP-Leaflet-23-24.pdf \(boroughmuirhighschool.org\)](#)

### **Boroughmuir Initial Summary Attainment Analysis**

This link takes you to a summary of whole school attainment for session 2023. This was presented to the Parent Council last Tuesday evening.

A more comprehensive analysis will be presented to the Parent Council Curriculum sub-group later in the year.

[HTs-Attainment-Report-Sep-2023.pdf \(boroughmuirhighschool.org\)](#)

## **Friday 15th September 2023**

### **September Holiday Monday – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September**

Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> September, is the September long weekend and schools are closed to all pupils and staff. All resume at 8.32 on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Parent Council Meeting**

The first parent council meeting of the year in this coming Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September, in person in the school, room 1.04. An agenda has been emailed out to all parents separately.

### **S1 Updates**

Here is the link to the S1 Welcome Presentation from last week if you were unable to attend. <https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/s1-welcome-evening-4/>

We will also send all S1 Parents and Carers the link for the Extra Curricular clubs when finalised this week.

Our Parent Classes are now full for “**Bring Your Parent to School Day**”. here is also a waiting list. We will be in touch directly with more information if you signed up!

### **Whole School Photograph – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September-Period 1**

The date and time for our historic whole school photograph has been set as Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September, Period 1.

This will be a historic record of all pupils and staff in Boroughmuir High School in 2024 which is 120 years since the school was founded.

Further details will be issued to pupils nearer the time as to how we will organise ourselves in the playground.

### **Former Pupil Event Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September**

There is Former Pupils Open evening here in Boroughmuir High School on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September from 6pm. Click link for more details.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/grand-open-evening-boroughmuir-high-school-tickets-675269578487>

### **HFT: Message from Miss Mitchelmore CL, HFT, RMPS & HWB**

As part of our commitment to learning for sustainability at Boroughmuir- we would very much appreciate it if our students could bring a sealable container to class to transport their food home in. This would reduce expenditure and sit well within our vision for a greener school.

Recipes, notifications, and schedules will be posted on class Teams pages so young people have advanced notice of when to bring in a container.

We are passionate about reducing food waste and have an expectation that our young people collect their food at the end of the school day to share with you at home and enjoy. Your support is very much appreciated.

### **School Makar – message from Ms Yates.**

This August, we ran another competition to find two creative, passionate, and artistically excellent pupils to be this year’s School Makars. As far as we know we are only school in Scotland to have official pupil poets.

The competition was small but the poems we read this year were of an amazing quality and we genuinely struggled to choose winners. The poetry competition was judged anonymously by Ms Yates and Ms Tench (both from the English department) Mr Dempster, Ms Presley and Sam Tongue from the Scottish Poetry Library.

The winners this year were:

**S1-S3, Divine Basemera (S1)**

**For S4-S6, Anna Green (S4)**

Our winners will each receive some prizes 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. Also, a selection of every poet's work, from across the school, will be published after the October Holiday for pupils and parents to purchase.

Mr Thompson is currently running a competition for S3 Art and Graphic Design pupils to design the cover for that publication, so artists – if you're interested – please do get involved and ask Mr Thompson for more information.

**'Refuge – In a Memory, In a Nest' by Anna Green, (S4)**

One early Spring morning,  
Too far away to forget,  
But close enough not to remember,  
In the patchwork stone of our garden wall - someone built a bird's nest.  
Softly fallen autumn leaves met broken branches of summer.  
The path to life paved by moss.

From where I sat,  
I could only see the faintest beginnings of life.  
So small I worried they might slip through the cracks in my palm if I ever held them.  
I wondered how it felt,  
I wondered if they knew anything lay beyond the start.  
Past the walls surrounding them.

As the hours of a school day slowly fell away,  
Softly landing behind me,  
In my mind I watched the nest.  
Numbers only made sense in terms of recounting how many twigs it would take to make one,  
Words on my page dissolved into lines and scratches made by searching the dirt for worms.

In the evening light while I ate my tea,  
I saw their mother.  
She reflected the beauty of her craft,  
Small and sleek,  
Herself only the smallest part of the world,  
Yet she alone had taken up so much space of my own.  
Brought something so entirely new into it.

While I slept that night,  
I sank into the impossible depths of my duvet,  
Night air brushed it's wings over my face,  
I almost felt I could understand what it felt like in universe that sat outside my window,  
Basking in the moonlight.

**'Our Planet' by Divine Basemera (S1)**

Trees lost in thought, river's clashing together in hope  
Of change. Rocks holding hands in gestures of protest.  
The autumn brown covered with the sadness of Mother Nature, birds hiding in the trees for a home  
to live in.



The flowers withering in jesters of defeat, leaves ageing  
Carpeting the floor.  
Baby birds failing to get out of the disadvantages of life.  
Plastic bottles eating the ground away.  
Foxes turning pale with disbelief of the madness of Mother Nature.

## **Friday 8th September 2023**

### **September Holiday Monday – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September**

Advance notice that a week on Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> September, is the September long weekend and schools are closed to all pupils and staff. All resume at 8.32 on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Whole School Photograph – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September-Period 1**

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This will be a historic record of all pupils and staff in Boroughmuir High School in 2024 which is 120 years since the school was founded.

Further details will be issued to pupils nearer the time as to how we will organise ourselves in the playground.

### **Freshers' Fair**

Today all our S1s are attending our annual Freshers' Fair, where they have a chance to sign up for sporting and non-sporting clubs and activities.

### **Study support S4-6**

- Assessment calendars for the senior phase have been sent out, and are on year group Teams. This year course work is back in many subject areas. These assignments are noted on this planner. [Assessment Calendars & Study Support | Boroughmuir High School](#)
- Students will also get deadlines set for them on Teams/ Assignments and in their calendars on their iPad.
- We will also publish study support session calendars, revision timetables and other materials later in the year. We discussed some of these in the introduction to the year presentations and these are also available on the website here. [Parents Information | Boroughmuir High School](#)
- All S4s are also getting a course in study skills during their health and wellbeing classes. The materials can be found on the year group Team / Files for all senior students and cover best practice in revising.

### **S2 Events**

On Thursday, S2 were involved in a STEM showcase event. They were able to see some of the applications of their learning in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. They learned about STEM applications in a fun and engaging show lead by an RAF and Royal Navy group.

On Monday we have the Smashed Tour performing to S2. This theatre-style performance is an opportunity to support our school well-being programme.

In November (9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>) we will be taking S2 to the largest Careers and Skills event in Scotland. This is held at the National Museum of Scotland and will involve them being allowed to speak to a variety of exhibitors, take part in a skills focussed workshop and attend a lecture.

### **Sports Academy - Girls Football S1-S3**

The City of Edinburgh Council Girls' Sports Academy programme shall return for 2023/24. Although this is a performance football programme for players S1-S3 attending Edinburgh schools, the selection phase is only open to S1 & S2.

The selection phase for this will take place on the following:

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September**

**Forrester High School 3G**

**Start Time – 4.30pm**

**Finish Time – 6pm**

**For players in S1 or S2 only for session 2023/24**

**PLEASE NOTE: nominations for this programme must come from parents, not from clubs/schools.**

[Sports Academy Application Form](#)

Applications must be made no later than Midday on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September.

## **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023**

### **ENGAGE Event Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September.**

We are excited to announce that our next Engage Careers Event will take place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30pm in the Braid Hills Hotel

There are five speakers from a broad range of fields - a Biomedical Scientist & Researcher, a Senior Sales Manager for Wind Turbines, a leader and Advisor in Product Management for a TV Advertising company, a specialist in Digital Technology for the Scottish Government and the Head of Customer Acquisition at Tesco Bank.

The speakers will tell us about their role and the path and decisions they took to get there. Each speaker will then host a breakout table which Boroughmuir students can join to ask questions directly or simply listen to more from the table hosts.

This free event books up quickly! So, hurry and book your spot!

The booking link is open: [here](#).

### **S1 Welcome Evening Uniform Sale**

Our S1s are looking great in their school uniforms! If you are trying to fill a gap in your S1's uniform and you will be attending the welcome evening on Tuesday, please use the form below; you can pick up item(s) on the day. They will be held for you at the Boroughmuir Beans stall, so whilst there why not treat yourself to barista-served hot drinks?

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=af6sSGo3tUKfacnke7-5xN8NbhJR5hxKocoQ72mcKuxUMVMzSU0xT1JUWUdYMK1OSzQ5NE03QjdPOS4u>

### **S6 Post School Planning Evening**

It was lovely to see so many parents and carers at our S6 evening on Monday. Please see a link to the slides below:

<https://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Post-school-planning-presentation-2023.pdf>

### **Former Pupil Event Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September**

There is Former Pupils Open evening here in Boroughmuir High School on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September from 6pm. Click link for more details.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/grand-open-evening-boroughmuir-high-school-tickets-675269578487>

### **YPI - Youth Philanthropy Initiative**

From mid-September, the focus of the Health and Wellbeing Rota in S3 will be on charity. Students will investigate and present on a charity of their choosing, based in the Edinburgh area. If any parents are involved with a charity and would like to highlight the work they do, they are very welcome to come along to the charity carousel at the school from 10:45 on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September. If they cannot make this, but would still like their charity to be considered for the £3000 grant, collected by the winning team for their chosen charity, then they should contact the office and the information will be relayed on to the YPI team at Boroughmuir.

### **New Science labs Complete**

The reconfiguration of 2 existing classrooms in the main building into 2 additional science labs is now complete and pupils will be using these labs as of Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September. This brings to a conclusion the extension and reconfiguration programme and now gives the school a total of 87 classrooms of which 14 are science labs.

### **Pupil Dance Success!**

Emebet Procter Kerr, Natasha and Amber Hendry and Ailie Scott recently represented Scotland at the Dance World Cup in Portugal. The girls were part of the 27- strong Morningside Dance Academy team competing against teams from 61 other countries at the massive event in Braga, Portugal in summer. Their team won bronze in song and dance section on the final day of the week-long competition where team Scotland came third overall. Well done girls!

### **Staffing Update**

Nicola Gordon, Admin Officer leaves us today after 7 years at Boroughmuir.  
Nicola is taking up the post of Business Manager at Fox Covert PS and St Joseph's PS.  
A Huge thank you to Nicola for all her incredible work here in Boroughmuir and best wishes for her new job.

## **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

Presentations from S3/4/5 Parent Information evenings held earlier this week can be found here.  
[Parents Information | Boroughmuir High School](#)

### **S6 Information Evening – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August**

Next Monday evening, 28<sup>th</sup> Aug at 7pm there is an S6 Information evening in the school for parents and carers of the new S6.

### **S1 Welcome Evening – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September**

Please ensure you know the name of your child's Guidance Teacher (PSE Teacher on Timetable) and register class. More details will be emailed to S1 Parents/Carers directly.

Arrival to the Atrium from 6pm

**Session 1**      6.30 – 7pm –Registration Classes 1R1-1R5 –Presentation in the Assembly Hall  
6.30- 7pm –Registration Classes 1R6-1R10 - Meet the Guidance Team

Changeover 7.00 -7.15pm

#### **Session 2**

7.15pm – 7.45pm Classes 1R6-1R10 - Presentation in the Assembly Hall  
7.15pm - 7.45pm Classes 1R1-1R5 – Meet the Guidance Team

### **S6 Group Photo**

A reminder that S6 will have a group photograph on Tuesday 29 August at 8:45.  
Pupils should ensure they are in full uniform for the photograph.

### **S1 and S6 Individual Photos**

A reminder that S1 and S6 pupils will have individual photographs taken on Monday 4 September. Times for each class will be in the bulletin.

### **Whole School Photograph**

We are planning to have a professional photographer take a photograph of our whole school. This would involve all our pupils and staff and will be a historic record of our school community in 2023. Details of date and time in follow.

### **Humanutopia: wellbeing and relationships**

We are delighted to be again bringing in 'Humanutopia' to work at Boroughmuir. They specialise in helping students develop great relationships with each other and have already worked with S3 and S5s. Now new S1s will get a morning to think about and plan for their year ahead. S5s are also being trained as 'Heroes' to help the Humanutopia Team with S1s and to help and mentor in future. Heroes can use this as their leadership activity. S2s and S4s will get their experience in the summer.

- To help the students reflect and celebrate their achievements from their time in primary school.
- To provide students with the opportunity to share their hopes and fears about the year ahead.
- To provide them with a chance to work in small groups to analyse some of these fears and work together to find solutions.
- To empower young people to set goals and targets.
- To provide an uplifting and positive experience to help support the students make a smooth transition to secondary school.

**When:-** Wednesday 30.08.2023: New S5 Heroes Training  
 Thursday 31.08.2023: New S1 Big Jump co-delivered with S5 Heroes

**Leading at Boroughmuir: S4, S5 and S6**

All S5s have begun their leadership course. As students move through the school we expect them to broaden themselves and help others in some way, and this leadership course helps give a framework to that. S4s are able to volunteer to be Ambassadors in clubs and other activities, and to be school hosts at events. We hope that any students who choose to stay on until S6 build on these opportunities to help plan and run the many aspects of Boroughmuir.

Below are some of the opportunities to lead in some way. We're very open to any other opportunities that our wider community may have, so do please let us know!

Leadership opportunities for senior school
Boroughmuir Beans Baristas
Humanutopia Heroes
Colony in Space -philosophy in action
Eco-committee - House of Lords engagement team
School magazine
House club competitions. Such as house chess, debate, rubiks, football, volleyball,
House Subject competitions
Charity events
School 'Days' or events: Languages, Diversity, Diwali
Kiva – microfinance charity
Sports leaders
Registration buddy class S1 or S2
Primary visits
Service – old folks event, Macmillan coffee morning etc
Micro tyko competition
Paired reading programme
Wellbeing Hub lunchtime activities

**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](#)

## **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

### **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 16<sup>th</sup> August.

With our intake of 260 S1s we now have a school roll of 1546 and 115 teachers.

### **New S1 – message from Ms Presly.**

Our S1s have been absolutely incredible this week! Full of enthusiasm and taken this big step in their stride. They are looking very smart, have been polite and helpful to each other – thank you for all the support from home to make this happen.

- Please remember to complete the online permissions forms for biometrics and photographs.
- Parentpay activation letters issued **today** and if accounts are activated over the weekend S1 can use the cafeteria from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August – if not please provide a packed lunch.
- Lockers are not available yet but we will let you know when these are ready.
- Office 365 passwords and logins are being reset and will be issued next week so S1 can have access to school computers.
- S1 iPads will be issued in Business or Computing Classes from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August. Teachers of S1 Business and Computing will support S1 through the set-up of their new iPad.

### **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.

Appeals are now made by pupils themselves and this information is available on this link: -

[Appeals - SQA.](#)

For some pupils considering a resit or a recourse option may be appropriate and again speaking to your class teacher and Depute Head Teacher is essential.

### **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, 21st Aug there is an S3 Information evening in the school for parents and carers of the new S3.

Next Tuesday evening, 22<sup>nd</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-Comm-Calendar-23.24.pdf \(boroughmuirhighschool.org\)](#)

[Dress-Code-Leaflet-Aug-2023.pdf \(boroughmuirhighschool.org\)](https://www.boroughmuirhighschool.org/Dress-Code-Leaflet-Aug-2023.pdf)

### **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's Eco Committee in Parliament**

The House of Lords Environment and Climate Change Committee is a cross party group appointed to consider the environment and climate change. Earlier this year, they sought out six schools from across the UK to form their youth engagement panel, to advise them on the questions they might put to government ministers about their responsibilities. Boroughmuir was successful in its application to be a part of this panel! It is really significant for eco committee members to have such a key role in this year-long programme. All pupils are welcome (encouraged!) to attend the eco committee and to be part of this incredible opportunity this year.

### **Award for Boroughmuir Chronicle!**

The Boroughmuir Chronicle is now a prize-winning paper! At the end of June, they were awarded the First News Secondary School Newspaper of the year Award. There was competition from around the world, but the diversity of content and amazing grammar ensured the win for the highly dedicated team.

Here's what the judges had to say: "The Boroughmuir Chronicle has something for everyone, from wordsearches and recipes to LGBT+ newsletters and biographies for International Women's Day. We were very impressed to see this hard-hitting journalism alongside fun and creative segments. The editorial team clearly think about what their audience will enjoy. The newspaper is a big school effort, with even the school caretaker writing a column as Neil the Janitor in each issue! A very impressive achievement by the whole team – congratulations to you all!"

All issues of the Chronicle are available on the school website if you want to have a read of their work.

### **Boroughmuir in the Fringe!**

During the first week of the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, four Boroughmuir students; Alannah Taylor, Shona Cuthbert, Sam Brander and Fabian Butchart took part in the political debate show, 'The Ayes Have It! The Ayes Have It! They were joined by former prominent politicians such as former Scottish First Minister Alex Salmond, David Davies MP, Joanna Cherry MSP KC, the event being chaired by the former speaker of the House of Commons John Bercow.

All four students were outstanding in the event, in which they confidently presented their arguments on Scottish Independence (Alannah for, Shona against) and whether the monarchy

should be abolished (Sam for, Fabien against). They had huge support from the 300+ audience, with their ability commented on by the politicians, other guests on the show, and the production team. Their performance was also noted in the local and national press giving them 4/5 star reviews – most notably the National stating the students were “a reminder of the next generation snapping at their heels” and stating they were watching potential First Ministers.

Alannah, Shona, Sam and Fabian were a credit to themselves and represented the best of Boroughmuir High School. Well done to them all.