

Head Teacher Weekly Update 23/08/24

Dear Parents and Carers –

It has been lovely to meet many of parents and carers of young people in S3, S4 and S5 this week during the curriculum evenings. The slides used in these evenings can be accessed in this update. I look forward to the S6 evening next Monday, and S1 and S2 the week after. Many faculties have been making the most of being able to walk to many of the festival events in the city, and there have been visits to the book festival, theatre visits and some of our musicians had the opportunity to listen in to a rehearsal in the Usher Hall. We also had the S6 photo on Monday – which was such an impressive sight in front of the school building. In this bulletin I have included an overview of SQA attainment across the senior phase, including all qualifications. This is a very impressive set of results, with success coming in many forms and at different levels. I have given an overview of the levels and the qualifications offered within that level within school.

Today, as a school we participated in a minute silence to mark the UNESCO international day for the remembrance of the slave trade and its abolition. Friday 23rd August is International Day for Remembrance of Slave Trade and its Abolition. This International Day is intended to inscribe the tragedy of the slave trade in the memory of all peoples. This is in the wider context of our ongoing work to develop a more inclusive, diverse, and decolonised curriculum. The background to this began in August 2022. The City of Edinburgh Council's Policy and Sustainability Committee endorsed a report about Edinburgh's Slavery and Colonialism Legacy produced by an independent Group chaired by Sir Geoff Palmer. The report includes a set of ten recommendations featuring both short- and long-term measures. One of recommendations was a City-wide observance of the annual, UNESCO designated International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition every August 23 is introduced and resourced. To prepare staff and pupils and make this a meaningful event the school has been using some of the resources prepared by the authority. As with any themes which may have particular significance for or impact on individual learners or groups of learners, teachers want to ensure that young people are prepared and supported to mark this day.

SQA attainment

It is important to recognise that success comes in many forms, and every young person's journey is unique. It is also important to recognise and acknowledge the very impressive SQA attainment results across all levels for Boroughmuir students. Large numbers of young people across S4, S5 and S6 clearly have demonstrated hard work, dedication, and a passion for learning, supported by staff in the school, to achieve great success. There was outstanding achievement at all levels, including Nationals 3 and 4, and the National Progression Awards at level 6 and 7 that some faculties are starting to present young people for. I look forward to supporting this pattern of excellence as the new head teacher, helping all to achieve their potential. The results below include National Progression Awards (NPAs). I look forward to discussing this attainment results in more detail with the parent council. 2020 and 2021 were the years of the alternative certification model implemented because of COVID.

Level 3 – National 3 or NPA equivalent at this level

Level 4 – National 4 or NPA equivalent at this level

Level 5 – National 5 or NPA equivalent at this level

Level 6 – Higher or NPA equivalent at this level

Level 7 – Advanced Higher or NPA equivalent at this level

At the end of S4

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
5@3+	96	98	97	96	99	95	97	97
5@4+	96	98	95	94	97	94	95	97
5@5+	80	77	78	84	78	83	80	89

By the end of S5

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1@6+	89	90	85	86	89	92	91	86
3@6+	74	73	69	72	75	73	73	77
5@6+	50	52	42	52	49	50	47	53

By the end of S6

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1@6+	93	96	96	96	91	95	96	100
3@6+	75	80	79	79	81	82	78	87
5@6+	64	68	70	66	67	67	66	78
1@7+	53	52	58	56	54	60	58	65

Upcoming events

SLT/Parent Info Sessions	Year Group	Time
Monday 26 th August 2024	S6 Post-School Planning Evening	6.30-7.15pm in School
Monday 2 nd September 2024	S2 Welcome Evening	6.30-7.15pm in School
Tuesday 3 rd September 2024	S1 Welcome Evening	6.30-8.00pm in School

S3, S4 and S5 Parent and Carer information Evenings

The slides used for these sessions are on the [Parents Information](#) section of the website. The S3 Parent and Carer Information Evening slides can be viewed directly [here](#)

Family engagement

Here is a reminder of the planned parent council meetings for the year. It would be wonderful to work with as many of you as possible, to help continue Boroughmuir High School go from strength to strength.

Parent Council Meetings	
Tuesday 17 September 2024	In Person in school and hybrid (includes AGM)
Wednesday 13 November 2024	On-line
Tuesday 21 January 2025	On-line
Wednesday 7 May 2025	In Person in school and hybrid

Appealing for a marking check

Students can appeal for a marking check. You do this yourself until 27th August here [Appeals service - SQA](#)

You should be aware that this is just a check, not a remark, and that marks can go down as well as up. Always speak to a subject teacher first to get advice if you're thinking about an appeal.

Have a lovely weekend,

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