

Head Teacher Weekly Update – 1/11/24

Dear Parents and Carers –

Welcome to November - or should I say Movember, as there is a Boroughmuir staff Movember Challenge now underway in school! Parent and carers may well spot evidence of this, if you have a parents evening this month. It has been a very international week at school, with visiting teachers from Germany and the Czech Republic, as well as TESOL students from Moray House. It is always fascinating looking outwards and learning about different educational approaches. Many thanks to the staff involved in organising - Ms Bloomer, Mr Alexander and Ms Stratton. The Seville trip returned last weekend after a most successful visit to that beautiful city, most ably led by Ms Kustra and Ms Gray. We have had all the P6s from the learning community in school enjoying some brilliant Shakespearean performances from our S3 drama students. We have had yet more success across the school. We had a group of young people who entered a competition for Black history Month, and came third.

P7 Open Afternoon

The school community so enjoyed welcoming our prospective new S1 pupils for next year last Friday, and sharing what is so unique about our school. Hopefully, they all left with a taste of the vibrant, inclusive and dynamic school community that we are so proud of. There was an amazing team of S1 pupils, demonstrating their leadership skills and how quickly they have settled into school life at Boroughmuir, who were the tour guides for the afternoon.

Mobile phone policy

We have been reminding pupils this week of the existing mobile phone policy within school, which is that they should be away during learning times, and accessed only during break and lunch. We are encouraging young people to keep them zipped away in their bags, to minimise the distraction. We understand that there are a small number of young people who may require access to their phone during learning time, largely for medical reasons, and there are existing plans in place to support these young people.

S4 Prelims

S4 prelims have commenced today. It was my pleasure to meet the incredible group of invigilators, ably led by Kim Calder. There was an atmosphere of nerves and excitement as pupils entered the hall this morning. It is important that we provide our young people with a taste of what the exam diet feels like. The next week also provides an opportunity to check in with their knowledge and skills at this stage in the course, to help identify what the next steps in learning will be.

Sporting Success

There is a huge amount of sporting success happening within Boroughmuir High School, which I am really keen to capture and celebrate. We use twitter as our main vehicle to celebrate this. Please do keep sharing success happening outside of school - and let us know if you and your child are happy

for us to share. I am very aware that we are, at times, one of the few state schools that have young people participating on a national and international level for some sporting teams. This is certainly the case for both female and male hockey national development squads, to name a few.

Edinburgh Disability and Neurodiversity Hub - sharing again

Please see information attached with regards a new service in Edinburgh, which some families might find helpful. The Hub is a partnership between The Yard, Edinburgh Council and NHS - and other partner services.

www.theyardscotland.org.uk/edan-hub

Staffing news

We have appointed Ms Monaco as our new teacher for our Enhanced Support Provision. She is already very familiar with the school and the context. We will now be advertising for a new SfL teacher. There will be a process of transition with regards all the young people Ms Monaco has been supporting with their learning, helped by the fact that Ms Monaco will still be based within school.

We also appointed Mr David Morris as a new PSA.

Parent Council Corner

The next Parent Council meeting will be on Wednesday 13 November online, so it would be wonderful to see as many of you as possible, so parents can support Boroughmuir High School to go from strength to strength.

Future meetings

Tuesday 21st January - online

Wednesday 7th May - hybrid - in person and on-line

Many thanks.

Have a lovely weekend,

Kate Fraser

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