

## Head Teacher Weekly Update – 20/12/24

Good Morning -

As I come to the end of my first term at Boroughmuir High School, I cannot thank you enough for your support. I have so loved getting to know the full community, the young people, the staff, our partners, and all our parents and carers. What an incredible and unique community this is. I feel so honoured to be the head teacher. I am so excited to see what we can achieve together in the new year.

This week I have discovered the competitiveness of the Christmas doors competition, eventually won by Mr Dunn. I had the joy of watching the pupil led production of Alice in Wonderland, supported by the drama department. Christmas lunch was undoubtedly the finest school Christmas lunch I am yet to experience. Stewart and his team in the kitchen do a brilliant job every day, feeding the school. S1 karaoke was memorable! There is a wide range of activities happening this morning, to celebrate the end of term.

Many of our pupils were involved in the victory of the U16 Boroughmuir Rugby Football Club. There were Boroughmuir HS boys who played (L-R Finlay Cadger, Jack McCrae, Archie Stewart, Ryan James, Eli McNair). and others who were members of the squad - Ruaridh Ward, Iggy Lanza, Alexander McPhie, Lewis Broster, Euan Ricketts, Harry Tipton, Jacob Craig and Thomas Carruthers.

The S1 boys football team won a dramatic third round cup tie against mid week away at Larbert.

Carol King, our transition teacher, was celebrated last week by the GTCS for achieving a Professional Recognition in Dyslexia and Inclusive Practice qualification. She is quoted in the article below.

[New cohort of Scottish educators complete Dyslexia and Inclusive Practice programme | Dyslexia Scotland - Dyslexia Scotland](#)

### S5 Leadership opportunity - message from Mr Hayes

At LEAD, **we are running a brand new Leadership course over 10 weeks from Jan-April 2025** for a select group of six 15-18 year old young people. We'll be covering key foundations of leadership, like integrity, failure, conflict resolution, perseverance, and more, giving you a deeper understanding of yourself and your leadership potential. Guest speakers from many different spheres of society will be joining us each week to lead interactive sessions, and we'll have outcomes for each module to help you engage with your learning too!

At the moment, we're operating on an invite-only basis, and LEAD are giving **priority to some pupils we have worked with. Since they helped run our induction day this means us.** This is a really exciting opportunity and we'd recommend taking time to consider it with your parents/carers too. **The deadline for applications is 31 December 2024.**

 [The LEAD Leadership Lab Prospectus 2025.pdf](#)

### **Support over Christmas**

This can be a challenging time of year for many. Please find attached two leaflets sharing information about low cost and free family activities. In addition, please see below for a link to resources created by the National Autism Society developed to support those who are neurodivergent, but helpful to support any who can find this time of year overwhelming.

<https://www.autism.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/professional-practice/christmas-resources>

### **Staffing news**

We currently have a vacancy for a full time, Support for Learning Teacher. One ESP PSA has been appointed.

### **S5/6 Prelims - information attached - repeated information**

The main pieces of information that you need to help you with your assessments are posted on Teams. You have done this before, so you know what to expect.

Remember:

- These are practice assessments. You want to do your best, and then find out where your mistakes were so you can do better in the summer.
- You will be a bit nervous. This is normal and everyone feels that way. Generally the best way to deal with this is to try it out, ask for help and fix things.
- There are lots of instructions below for two reasons. Firstly, to make it feel exactly like real exams so you can learn to manage them. Secondly, because there are lots of people working to help you.
- Ask if you need help: your teachers, guidance, Mr Hayes, Mr Arricibita and Ms Hall for additional arrangements, the school office, the exam invigilators, and support for learning staff are all here to make things easier for you.
- All the information you need to know about qualifications is here [Your coursework - SQA](#)

**Social times** - After Christmas we will be seeking donations of card games, chess sets, and other table top games to encourage our pupils to engage and connect with each other during social times. Any donations would be much appreciated.

### **Parent Council Corner**

### **Fundraising**

The Fundraising Team are using a number of different methods of raising money this year in part because of changes to council policy and to make it easier for parents to be involved. We will have a Just Giving account available for any donations at events or at any time:

[Help raise £500 to support our parent council to provide much needed clubs, activities and spaces within BHS.](#)

[justgiving.com](http://justgiving.com)

We thank small contingent of parents who have continued to use Easyfundraising for boosting our funds and we would like to get more parents and friends using the method, especially coming up to Christmas. You can add an extension to your browser to remind you to donate - all instructions are on the app.

[You spend, brands donate to Boroughmuir High School Parent Council.](#)

[easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk)

We will be very grateful for any donations that come from events or any of these methods. The school benefits from what we collect by supporting the sports teams, science labs, spaces for young people to use and much much more.

Your help and money goes directly back to the school and directly to the young people.

### **Future Parent Council meetings**

Tuesday 21st January - online

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May - hybrid - in person and on-line

Many thanks and Merry Christmas to you all.

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