

## **Head Teacher Weekly Update – 31/01/25**

Dear Parents and Carers,

The relentlessly busy term continues. I just wanted to say thank you once more for your flexibility and adaptability when the school closed last week, especially at such short notice.

It has been wonderful seeing so many parents and carers in school over the past two weeks, as we support our current S2, S4, and S5 pupils with the choices and decisions involved with their stage of education.

I experienced the joy of attending my first school Burns Supper last night, organised by the Former Pupils Association. It was a wonderful evening, celebrating Burns, filled with singing and dancing— and haggis, neeps, and tatties, of course. David Dempster delivered the toast to the lassies, and it was lovely to be able to congratulate him on his MBE in person.

The Holocaust assemblies this week have been profoundly moving, appropriately challenging, and incredibly thought-provoking. Thank you to James Crompton for supporting Bella Almel and Mischa Sutherland in writing and delivering the assembly. These S5 pupils have been the school's ambassadors this year in the Lessons from Auschwitz project. In addition, we had a visit from Sokphal Din, organised by Andrew Igoe, which added a further reflective dimension to this important week. He was a teenager under the Khmer Rouge regime in the 1970s in Cambodia.

As a school community, we have been revisiting and streamlining our values. Staff and pupils have been extensively involved and consulted. These were shared with the Parent Council last week. I am keen to share them with you all and gather any feedback. Work is almost complete on relaunching our school website, and these values will sit at the heart of this.

1. Respectful – We value kindness and consideration in every interaction, fostering an environment where every individual feels safe, valued, and heard.
2. Inclusive – We commit to equity, belonging, and unity, ensuring everyone has the opportunity to thrive and contribute in meaningful ways.
3. Resilient – We encourage perseverance, determination, and a growth mindset, empowering individuals to navigate challenges with confidence and optimism.

If you have any feedback you would like to share, please do so via this [form](#).

### **Leadership in S6**

This week has seen the launch of leadership in S6 next year. We develop leadership throughout the school from participation in clubs and activities in S1 to S3, to the Ambassador Programme in S3-4, to the Leadership qualification that all students do in S5. Students who choose to stay in S6 will all be expected to take part in the induction days in June and then join a leadership activity of some kind to help develop themselves and to support the wider community. These can range from being on the head team, or committees that organise prom and yearbook, to helping tutor younger students or provide in-class support, or helping organise clubs and activities. We also encourage all of them to think about taking on some of the more formal leadership positions such as being a prefect. The application process is an excellent experience, and we will support any students who would like to

have a go. All the information for S5s was passed on in assembly and on their year group team. Please see attached correspondence in relation to this.

Kind regards,

Damian Hayes

Depute Headteacher

### **Staffing news**

We have appointed Gill Thomson, our new Support for Learning teacher, this week. She will be joining us after the February break. This week, we have been interviewing for a Maths and Computing teacher for next year.

### **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**

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

Many thanks,

Kate Fraser

Headteacher

Boroughmuir High School

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