

Head Teacher Weekly Update – 21/02/25

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope all your children have been settling back into the routine of school life following their week off. I am pleased to share that the charities committee selling Valentine's cookies before the holidays raised £335 for Place2Be. There has been a French Exchange visit this week. It has been lovely having pupils and staff from our French partner school visiting. There was a great ceilidh in the school on Wednesday evening. A huge thank you to Hannah Gray and Katie Howells for organising this exchange, and to all the families hosting our visitors.

We are looking forward to meeting our S1 parents and carers on Wednesday, 26th February, from 4:25 pm to 7:05 pm.

There was an extraordinary Parent Council meeting on Wednesday evening, ably led by the ASN parent council sub-group. All parent councils have been given the opportunity to feed into the consultation regarding the ongoing authority-wide inclusion review.

Merchiston Community Council - The elections period for Community Councils is underway this month, and Merchiston Community Council is looking for new members. Anyone over the age of 16 can join, and it's a really interesting leadership opportunity. Please see the attached leaflet for more information.

Mobile Phones – please see the reminder that has been shared all week with our pupils regarding our mobile phone policy. This is not a change in policy, but just a reminder about our current expectations. Pupils do not require a mobile phone when at school, except for medical reasons. We are currently organising card games and board games that any young people will be able to access during social times.

Supporting Learning Through Our Mobile Phone Policy Thank you to everyone who follows our mobile phone expectations. By adhering to this policy, you're ensuring that you make the most of every learning opportunity at school. Please remember that you do not need to bring your mobile phone to school unless it is required for medical reasons. Mobile phones are not necessary for learning. If you choose to bring your phone, it should be switched off or on silent and kept in your bag during all learning times. This policy begins at 8:32 during registration and applies while moving between classes as well as when you are in class.

Our school values of respect, resilience, and inclusion are at the heart of this policy. Respect your learning environment, yourself, and your peers by minimising distractions. Show resilience by focusing on your studies and making the most of every lesson. Embrace inclusion by supporting one another and ensuring that everyone has the best possible learning experience.

For those who need extra support in following this expectation, we are here to help by holding your phone in the school office until the end of the day. Together, we can create an environment that maximizes learning and supports everyone's success.

S3 Parent & Carer Consultation Evening This will be held on Thursday 13th March. We are currently planning on opening the booking system on Monday 3rd March. More information will be sent nearer the time. <http://www.parents-booking.co.uk/boroughmuir>.

A message from CEC - The Lucy Faithfull Foundation Scotland and Police Scotland have teamed up to bring you a FREE, one-hour evening event to help you keep your child safe online. A survey of over 1000 parents and carers in Scotland found that most parents want to better understand the

digital world their children are experiencing in order to keep their child safe. Our event will provide you with information and advice on three of the biggest challenges of the digital world children are living in:

- Pornography
- Nudes (sharing intimate images)
- Online sexual harm

The purpose of the event is for you not just to come away more informed, but to be provided with practical advice and tools to help your child navigate these online challenges. We will be delivering the event 4 times throughout March 2025, tailoring the event to particular audiences:

- Wednesday the 5th of March, 2025, 7pm-8pm – online - parents and carers of S1 and above children
- Tuesday the 18th of March 2025, 7pm-8pm - online - parents and carers of P5/6 children
- Tuesday the 25th of March 2025, 7pm-8pm - online - parents and carers of children with additional special needs
- Wednesday the 26th of March 2026, 7pm-8pm - in person, Edinburgh Location TBC - parents and carers of S1 and above children

PLEASE NOTE: This event will be discussing sexual harm. This event is not appropriate for children to attend.

Here is the link to both the online and in-person event: [Link here](#)

Staffing News Gill Thomson, our new Support for Learning teacher, has started this week. It has been lovely to welcome back Sarah Duncan (Business) from maternity leave. Aileen Robb (History) starts her maternity leave this week, and we all wish her all the best. Darren Smith (PE) has also been successful in being appointed to a Senior Development Officer for inclusion at Craigoyston High School. This is a secondment, and he will be returning to Boroughmuir. He will be working with their senior leadership team, so a brilliant opportunity for him. He starts the position on 3rd March.

Parent Council Corner Please find attached the minutes from the last Parent Council Meeting.

Fundraising The Fundraising Team are using a number of different methods to raise 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 JustGiving 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. We thank the small contingent of parents who have continued to use Easyfundraising for boosting our funds and 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. 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 more. Your help and money go directly back to the school and directly to the young people.

Parent Council Corner

February Fundraising

This month the Fundraising Team have five ways you can help support the school:

1. **Would you have some spare wood?** The Woodwork Club at school are looking for some clean, dry wooden blanks so they can manufacture high-quality products such as bowls, spurtles and chopping boards! This helps to develop the pupils' practical skills and encourages creativity and problem-solving! If you can help, **please email Jonny.Ross@boroughmuir.edin.sch.uk**
2. **Sign up to easy fundraising-** turn your daily shopping into funds for the school! Shop from the easyfundraising website or app and part of what you spend is donated to Boroughmuir High School. It won't cost you any extra. The cost is covered by over 8,000 participating brands. **We have raised £132.65 in the last 3 months** – that enables the Parent Council to say yes to more funding requests to benefit the school community. Thank you shoppers, **sign up here: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/boroughmuir-pc/payments/9f5880/>**
3. **Donate via our Just Giving account-** which will be used to support our school in many different ways **-we have raised £500 this year.** Come along to one of our Parent Council meetings to hear the details of funding requests and find out what funding is approved by vote. **Donate at any time: https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/bhs-fundraising?utm_term=32ERnm3jx**
4. **Fundraising event date for your diary-** Plans are in progress for a fundraising event on Saturday 24 May 2025. We will be looking for parent and carer volunteers on the day and in preparation. Keep an eye on the Parent Council Corner for more details to come over the next couple of months. If you are available to help, please email: pcfundraisingboroughmuirhighsc@gmail.com
5. **Art and Photography Showcase Exhibition Thursday 3 April 2025** - The PC Fundraising Team will again be supporting this showcase event of the Senior Pupil's exam portfolio work from S4-6. It's a wonderful opportunity for parents, carers and friends to see all the student's hard work and creativity in one place! This gives you an example of another way the PC Fundraising Team support the school, by providing and serving soft drinks and nibbles on the night. No helpers needed for this one- we've got it covered, just come along and enjoy!

Future Parent Council meetings

Wednesday, 7th May - hybrid - in person and online.

Many thanks,

Kate Fraser

Headteacher

Boroughmuir High School

Email/website

admin@boroughmuir.edin.sch.uk

www.boroughmuir.edin.sch.uk