

## **Head Teacher Weekly Update 07.03.25**

Dear Parent/Carers,

There is rarely a quiet week at Boroughmuir High School, and this week has been no exception. In addition to all the hard work taking place in classes—especially with seniors completing coursework and approaching the end of their courses—this week has seen a flurry of events, including the S6 Quiz on Tuesday, our Skills for Work event on Thursday, pupil participation in the Saroj Lal Awards (also on Thursday), two family engagement sessions, and a visit from the First Minister.

It was wonderful to see both collaboration and competition between staff and S6 students at the quiz on Wednesday evening. Mr Alexander was a brilliant quizmaster for the 21 teams—the largest number yet. It was a closely fought contest, ultimately decided by a tie-breaker question, with Mr Williams' team emerging victorious.

The Skills for Work event last night at Tynecastle was outstanding. Ms Spence has expertly guided the class through their Level 5 qualification, which culminated in the planning, preparation, and serving of a three-course dinner to over 90 people. It was a fantastic celebration of their hard work and achievements over the year. It was wonderful to have family, friends, staff, and some of the Hearts management team, including Neil Critchley and Ann Budge, in attendance. The food, service, and atmosphere were exceptional, and we were all incredibly proud of every single student involved.

While some of us were enjoying our S3 course meal at Tynecastle, Ms Ross was accompanying a group of pupils at the Saroj Lal Awards at the City Chambers. These awards celebrate diversity through creativity in our schools. As many of you may already know, Saroj Lal was one of the first Asian women to teach in a Scottish primary school when she began her role at South Morningside Primary School. One of our S1 pupils, Salma Hassan, read out a poem she had written to great acclaim from the audience. Our Diwali pupil group was also highly commended for all the work they have done within our community.

On the subject of brilliant ambassadors for the school, we also had a last-minute request from the First Minister to visit our school library in celebration of World Book Day. The library is a vital part of our school, and Fiona Aleksandrowicz continues to do incredible work in supporting literacy across all year groups. She was able to share some of the projects she has been leading. A core group from our S3 book club had the opportunity to chat with the First Minister about their love of reading, the importance of the school library, the wide range of books available, and their own personal favourites. They also took the opportunity to ask him about his favourite book! Attached are some photos from the visit.

This week has also seen several family engagement events. Mrs Kelly opened the Boroughmuir Beans Café for a parent and carer drop-in session, with a key focus on digital support for families. Today, we hosted a coffee morning for families of young people with additional support needs, providing a chance for them to connect with one another and strengthen our sense of community. Mrs Kelly' S2 class have also organised random acts of kindness this week, delivery surprise packs of stationary to some of seniors, with inspirational messages attached. There is a photo included to give an example.

Two significant cultural observances have begun this week for many in our school community. Ramadan has now commenced—Ramadan Mubarak to all those observing. Additionally, Lent has also begun.

### **New Senior Pupil Council**

This week, I had the incredibly difficult task—alongside Mr Hayes and Mrs Paterson—of selecting our new Senior Pupil Council team. The first stage of the process led to twelve young people being interviewed, each of whom was a credit to themselves. They demonstrated strong leadership skills and clearly articulated the qualities and values that make them all outstanding leaders. It was a very difficult decision to select the final team for next year. The successful candidates are listed below.

School captains – Sam Easton and Rachael MacPherson

Vice captains – Rosa Cobham, Lev Hu and Hamish O’Hara.

I am eager to support as many students in S6 as possible in developing their leadership skills, so there will be plenty of other leadership roles available. We also owe a huge debt of gratitude to our current team. Olivia, Sophie, Percy, and Rosie generously gave their time to support all interested candidates, sharing insights about the role and guiding them through the process.

### **Study Support – Repeated from last week**

All S4, S5 and S6 pupils are now working hard to get ready for their qualifications this summer. Everyone had 'how to study' training in their S4 Health and Wellbeing lessons.

- Many have assignments and coursework due in the next few weeks.
- They should also be completing a revision plan for the 9 weeks from now until their exams.
- Many departments volunteer their time for support. Students are strongly recommended to take up these offers.
- There are a wide range of online supports. One of the best is the online free tutoring offered by e-Sgoil, particularly over the Easter holidays. Students are strongly recommended to sign up for these or the other online resources. All students have been sent their passwords again.

All these materials are available on the school website and on Teams.

### **S3 Parent & Carer Consultation Evening**

This will be held on Thursday, 13th March.

### **Parent Council Corner**

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

### **Fundraising**

The Fundraising Team is 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.

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.

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**

The Parent Council Digital Support Subgroup is working together with the families and the school to ensure that all children can confidently enjoy the opportunities offered by digital learning whilst staying safe online. We are now consulting about the use of the iPads and supporting the school with building a healthy digital learning environment.

We invite all parents and carers to join the group and share their views or concerns. If you would like to continue the conversation, please, keep in touch with the Digital Support Subgroup at [digital@boroughmuir-pc.co.uk](mailto:digital@boroughmuir-pc.co.uk)

The subgroup will be holding monthly meetings on the first Thursday of the month, and everyone is welcome to join.

### **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](mailto: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](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](mailto: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

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