

Head Teacher Weekly Update 09.01.26

Happy New Year!

It has been wonderful to welcome all our pupils back this week after the holidays. I hope you all had a restful break. This is a busy newsletter as we start the new term, including updates on course choice information.

What's happening this week:

- S5 and S6 prelims started today.
- Assemblies about Boroughmuir pledges and our celebration and tracking of wider achievement.
- Preparation for S4 parents evening, Wednesday 14th January

Whole School Expectations

A new calendar year is a helpful time to revisit our expectations with our pupils. All classrooms have posters displayed regarding this.

Mobile phones - should not be seen at all during learning time, including form time. Many thanks for your support with this in your discussions at home. Discussing where in their bag they will store their phone, if they chose to bring it to school, is helpful. Our tech-free Tuesday lunchtimes are going well. Many thanks to those who have already donated spare card games from home. Increasingly, more young people are bringing in their own games to play, which is great.

Late to school without a reason - just a reminder that detentions have moved from lunchtime to after school to help support young people with this important skill for life and work.

Uniform - many thanks for your continued support with this. It makes such a difference. Please remember that if any young person arrives in school not in a plain black jumper or a school hoodie, we will support them by offering them a school hoodie to wear from the office. We do not want anyone to be cold.

Course Choices for 2026-'27

Over the next few weeks we will be discussing course choice options for pupils moving from **S2 to S3, S4 to S5 and S5 to S6**

Course information will be found on the school website [Curriculum Pathways – Boroughmuir High School](#). This is a new part to the website and will be updated periodically.

All course choices are required in 6 weeks, by the end of the February Holidays.

S4 to S5 and S5 to S6 Course Choices

Further information can be found [here](#). This information will also be shared via school assemblies, pupils' Year Group Teams page and through discussions with their subject teachers and Guidance teachers.

There is an in-school Parent's Information Evening this Thursday, 23rd January. S4 to S5 pupils – starting at 6.30pm and S5 to S6 pupils – starting at 7.30pm

Your child will be provided with login details to enter course choices via a website <https://www.studentoptions.co/Senior-BOR/>. Subjects should be selected in preference order and also two reserve subjects are required.

Further information about applications for Edinburgh College part-time courses (SCP) can be found [here](#).

All course choices are required in 6 weeks, by the end of the February Holidays.

S2 to S3 Course Choices

Further information can be found in the S2 to S3 Information sheet found [here](#)

The S2 Course Choice Information Evening will be on Wednesday 29th January. This is split into 2 parts:

Part 1 *Subject Marketplace* (Atrium) from 6.30-7.30pm; Part 2 *Parent and Carer Presentation* (Assembly Hall) 7.30-8pm

We request that pupils do not attend the *Parent and Carer Presentation* due capacity limits within the Assembly Hall. They are welcome to wait in the Atrium.

A further school report will be provided prior to the information evening.

Course information will be shared via Assemblies, in discussions with PSE/Guidance teachers and class teachers. Information will also be added to their S2 Year Group Teams page

Choices are entered using the website <https://www.studentoptions.co/S2-BOR/>. Individual login details will be provided for this.

All course choices are required in 6 weeks, by the end of the February Holidays.

Message about college applications

For any young person about to go into S5 or S6 who would like to study at Edinburgh college as part of their school week in S5/6 or for anyone intending to leave school and apply for college, applications for course open on Tuesday 13th January. Open days for Edinburgh college are being held week beginning 2 February, further information can be found [here](#)

Class Charts

We are starting work on rolling out a new platform across the school to enhance our communication with parents and carers. This has been used very successfully in other schools. I shared this at the last Parent Council. It is a platform which provides an efficient way of enhancing parental engagement and allows us to actively celebrate success. More information will be shared as we proceed on our implementation journey, but if your child starts to talk about being awarded greens and reds during the day, this is what they are referring to. In the meantime, if there are any concerns that year heads or guidance teachers feel you need to know about, they will continue to contact you via email and telephone.

Boroughmuir Chronicle

The latest Winter edition just missed my last newsletter. Please find the link below. I always enjoy the variety of the pieces, in addition to the quality of the writing and pupil leadership in editing, supported by Mr MacPherson

[The Boroughmuir Chronicle](#)

[St Andrew's Day](#)

[Go to this Sway](#)

Silver Duke of Edinburgh

The Silver Duke of Edinburgh group run by volunteers and parents has now started.

The meetings are on Tuesday at 7 pm in room 1.01 at Boroughmuir High school.

The new term restarts on Tuesday 13th January.

If there are any parents who would like to volunteer, or other students who would like to join, see Mr Hayes

Gold will restart after the prelims at the same time.

Damian Hayes

Depute Headteacher

Staffing news

- Welcome to Kate Fletcher, who has joined Boroughmuir this week as our new HFT technician.
- Aileen Robb will be returning to school next week, following her maternity leave.
- We say farewell to Rachel Laird this week. We all wish her well as she heads off to Graeme High School.

Pupil Success - updates from parents, carers and coaches.

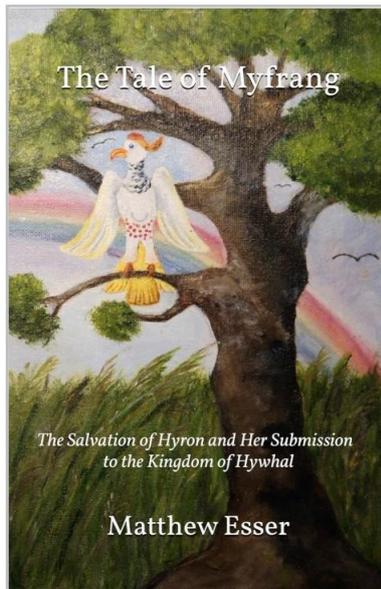
During 2024, at the age of 13, Matthew Esser (S4) published a book on Amazon. Now, 2 years later, he published the second one, a novel!

The first book provides a detailed discussion of a fictional nation. By relying on real world concepts, he created this nation with its own flag, anthem, language, measurement system, religion, detailed maps of the various regions and much more. This first book provides the reader with a journey into this new world with detailed imagination, it is written in the form of an information book. The second one is a novel based on the life and intricate story of the main character, Myfrang.

Link to book 1: <https://amzn.eu/d/08eDPQp>

Link to book 2: <https://amzn.eu/d/7BDz0KM>

Book also on Kindle: <https://amzn.eu/d/9PHbRqc>



Former Pupils Burns Supper, supported by the Parent Council and School

Sadly, this event has been cancelled. Refunds will be organised by the former pupils association for any who had signed up and paid.

Parent and Carer Information

Keeping your child safe online: Porn, Nudes and Online Sexual Harm

Online event - Jan 27 from 7pm to 8pm

The Lucy Faithful Foundation are delivering an online one-hour session on online sexual harm. This is for parents/carers and aimed at sharing practical strategies to keep children safe online. Similar sessions delivered this time last year were very popular. Poster attached

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/keeping-your-child-safe-online-porn-nudes-and-online-sexual-harm-tickets-1979712974800?aff=ebdsoporgprofile&keep_tld=1

Parent Council Corner

Parent Council Update

Happy New Year - I hope that you and your families had a relaxing break.

The attention of the Parent Council now turns to our meeting on 21st January which will take place in person in the school. We are waiting on confirmation on which Councillors will be attending and I will provide an update on this next week once I have received final responses.

The agenda can be found on our [Google Drive here](#). Please note that the minutes from the previous meeting have been embedded in this file. I have outlined some information on the mobile phone consultation below.

In order to facilitate an orderly meeting, please can you forward any questions on a) mobile phone consultation and b) school roll implications for space in the school to chair@boroughmuir-pc.co.uk. Please note that issues with the PC email addresses have now been resolved.

We are also in the early planning stages of planning for the well-loved wine tasting fundraising event which we hope to hold in March 2026. However, in order to make this happen, we are in need of more active volunteers to help with the planning as well as the event itself. If you would like to get involved in this to make sure it happens, please get in touch.

Good luck to all our S5/6s with their prelims in the coming weeks.

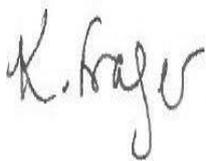
Best wishes

Karen Galloway

Interim Chair, Boroughmuir Parent Council

Parent Council Meetings	
Wednesday 21st January 2026	In person
Wednesday 6th May 2026	In Person in school and Online

Many thanks,



Kate Fraser

Headteacher

Boroughmuir High School

