



Brechin High School

#ProudtobeBrechin

Weekly Update 14.03.25

Parent Voice

The Parent Council meeting on Monday was quite well attended. Julia Curtis chaired the meeting and we were joined by Dawn Rennie, the Angus Parent and Family Engagement officer for some productive conversations about school improvement. Mrs Tunilla, PT Maths, and I shared information about the focus on learning and teaching across the school, the recent consultation about the homework policy as well as the drop-in sessions and ongoing consultation about school vision and values, tracking and reporting and course choice. We had a discussion about how we can support families to help their children learn better and suggested that an initial focus on Maths would be a sensible way forward. I also discussed the emerging Pupil Voice in the school and the importance of ensuring that the young people are involved in developing the shape of their learning and their school going forward.

We discussed the implementation of the mobile phone policy. Teachers and pupils are reporting a really positive impact from the mobile phone policy and parents in particular commented that the consistency and clarity around the rules was very helpful for their children. My aim is to continue to introduce policies with clarity and consistency so that everyone is aware of our expectations. I also shared an update about the Google Guardian emails we used to send out from Google classroom giving parents and carers an update each week on learning and any outstanding assessment tasks. The delay in getting this up and running has been frustratingly lengthy, we are currently waiting for Education Scotland to progress this to allow Angus Council to put in place the appropriate legal framework to allow it to be restarted. I will keep trying to get this service back up and running in the school, I think it is incredibly helpful. I will keep you updated with progress.

We are beginning to reap the benefits of our partnership with the Wood Foundation as an Excelerate school. We had been joined in school on Monday by Gail Duffus from the Excelerate programme, who spent much of the day working with pupils to discover what they enjoyed about their lessons, and what they wanted to see improve. Gail was very impressed indeed by the thoughtful and articulate discussions she had with our young people. Gail also worked with teachers after school to support discussions in classes, and Ms Day showcased the work her

Faculty have been doing and described the positive impact on learning in Social Subjects . Mrs Mackie, Mrs McVey and I are away next week visiting different schools to see what is working well in their contexts with a view to bringing some of those ideas back to Brechin High School.

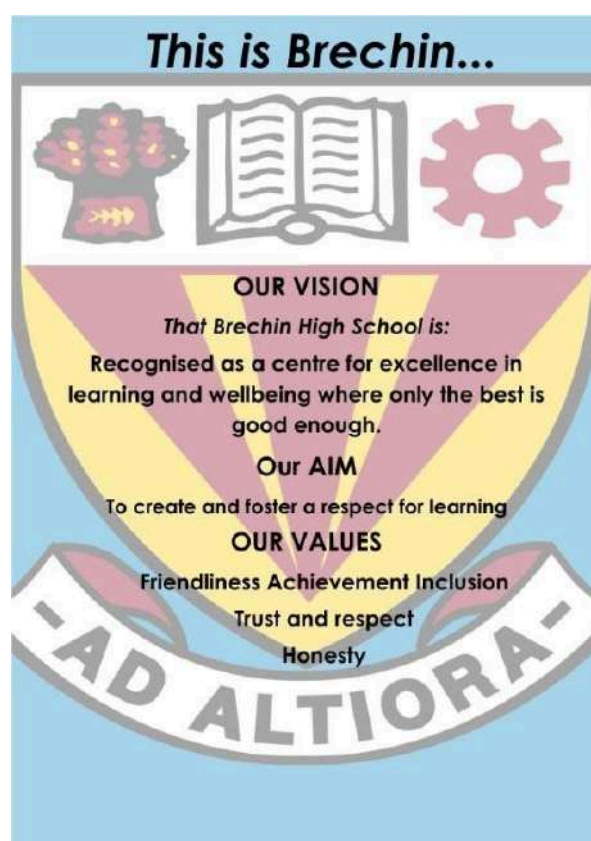
Other items discussed included discussion around the introduction of lockdown procedures across the school, the Pathways to Success information coming out soon to support S4-S6 pupils as the exam period looms, and the staffing situation in school. Currently Brechin High School has no teaching vacancies, and we are interviewing soon for a technician and a clerical assistant. Our next meeting, the AGM, will be on 2nd June from 7pm-8pm, and I would encourage you to consider coming along to add your voice to the team of parents and carers working with the school on our improvement journey.

Vision and Values Survey!

Once again, thank you to all the parents and carers who have shared their thoughts with us so far. Your input is incredibly valuable and helps shape our school community. As we continue to refine our vision and values, we're excited to hear more from you! We've created a survey to better understand the kind of school you want your child to attend and the values you believe are key to supporting their learning and wellbeing. Your feedback will play a crucial role in shaping an environment where all students can thrive. Thank you for being an essential part of this journey! Thank you once again for your continued support and collaboration.

You can access the survey here:

[Parent/Carer - Vision and Values Survey - March 25](#)



Pupils have also been sent a survey for their views today which you can see on their Google Classroom to hear their thoughts and ideas. This is a great opportunity for you to sit down together and discuss the values that matter most to both of you. By having these conversations, you can help shape the kind of school experience your child wants and the values that will guide their learning journey. Your shared insights will not only empower your child but also inspire a school environment where everyone can grow and succeed. We encourage you to make this an open and meaningful conversation!

First Aid Success

I was absolutely delighted to hand out certificates to 8 of our S1 pupils who have worked with Ian Pert of Headzup to gain their level 5 First Aid First aid qualification. Well done to Seren Keith, Grace Hudson, Lily Smith, Lily Taylor, Quinn Nicol, Krystina Martin and Sophie Aberdein.



Ross Agri trip

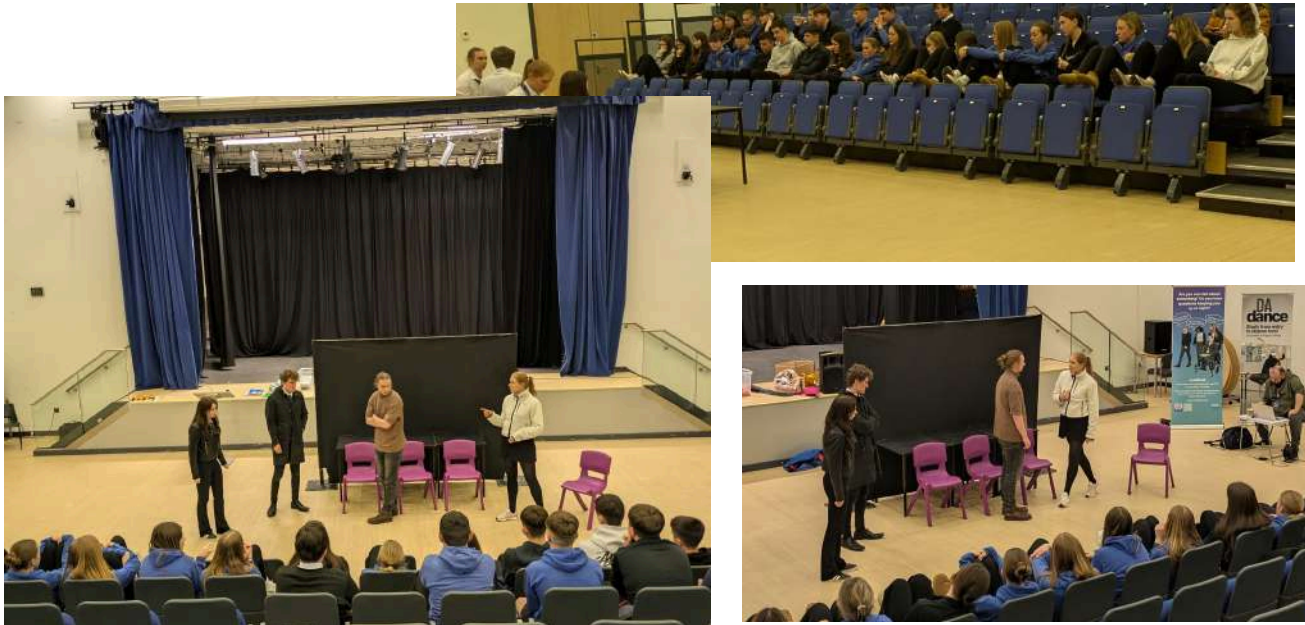
The rural students were invited to visit and were given a very comprehensive talk on the company from the Quality assurance of the tractors they sell, the precision engineering that they are involved with to precision farming methods of the future . All of their work now involves the use of hi-tech computing and the use of GPS in farming.

Currently Ross Agri have a young female mechanic and here they are talking to a female welder who has been with Ross Afri for around 10 years. She told the girls how much she loves her work, how Ross Agri has accommodated her family to allow her to work 3 days a week. Ross Agri offers apprentice opportunities in Land Based Service Engineering.



NHS Drama Tour

On Friday 7th March, all S3s participated in an NHS Drama tour in the theatre. The students saw some plays based on wellbeing issues which focused on the importance of beginning to take responsibility for their own health. They also took part in workshops and had the opportunity to ask local staff questions during a question and answer session.



Library News

World Book Day 2025

S2 School of Reading designed and shared a host of booky activities for World Book Day, including a Readathon, a **Drop Everything And Read**, and competitions.



The Reading Ambassadors recorded a 'Hear Me Out Cake' video for our literary crushes. It's on the library's Instagram account @BreachinHighLib. Check it out – it was great fun to make!

P7 Transition Library Activities

S2 School of Reading students delivered a 'Library Detectives' reading activity with P7s as part of the on-going celebration of books and reading throughout March.

Remember, you can use your £1 Book Tokens for the selected World Book Day books until 31st March.



Author Visit

We were also lucky enough to welcome celebrated author/poet, Matthew Fitt into the library for two amazing Scots language Creative Writing sessions.





This event was organised by Mrs Barnes, and included S1-3 workshops involving using the newly published vol 3 of Matthew's Scots language comic, 'Eejit Street' as source material to inspire bars for rhythmic verses. A fantastic event. Watch this space for further collaborations like our recent participation in the 'Violet Jacob' digital poetry project, hosted at Matthew's ScotsHoose Yaldi Scots language learning & creativity website.

Twilight's Parent and Pupil Sessions

Mary our Career Adviser has been trialling twilight appointments to support parents who would like to speak with their child's career adviser, but daytime is not suitable. The trial has identified that having more flexible dates would allow parents to make an appointment, therefore Mary will be more flexible to offer appointments that suit parents.

For parents who can attend school times, Mary can organise for parent and pupil appointments in school.

Surveys have shown that parents are the biggest influencers in their child's career decisions, so booking an appointment is a great opportunity for you, with your child, to discuss career ideas, career management skills, career planning, routes and pathways, industries, and much more.

Mary can chat with you face to face or via a TEAMS invitation, or she can call you over the phone. If you and your child are interested in making an appointment, you can contact Mary directly

Email - mary.welsh@sds.co.uk

Contact school and ask to speak with Mary: [01356 237100](tel:01356237100)

