



BELL BAXTER HIGH SCHOOL

Weekly Update Monday 24th February, 2020

WHOLE SCHOOL MESSAGES

Prelims – Reminder for ***ALL* Pupils**

Senior pupils will be sitting exams over the next two weeks (up to and including **Friday 6th March**). These exams are taking place in classrooms and venues all across the school and some may run over interval and lunch.

As a result of this, certain areas will be closed to pupils so as not to disrupt those taking exams.

It is important that you follow the access signs that will be placed around the school and please keep the noise down at interval, lunch and when moving between classes.

Bell Baxter 'Colours' Awards

This year we will be combining our Colours Award ceremony with our end of year Awards. This means that all academic, sporting and wider achievements will be recognised in the Junior and Senior Ceremonies at the end of June. As the Colours Awards have a nomination process to go through, we will be launching this with all young people in Social Education classes from Monday 24th February. Further details regarding the Awards can be found on the [school website](#), along with the nomination forms. Nomination forms are also available from the main office. Please note that the closing date for nominations will be **Friday 13th March 2020**.

Library Closure

Please note that the library will be closed for the 2 weeks over the course of the prelims (24th February – 6th March inclusive) as exams are being held in the LRC. This includes interval and lunch break.



Information for all Pupils: Pupils will not be able to borrow or return books during this time. If you have a book that is due back during the 2 weeks of prelims, please hang on to it and return it when the library re-opens on Monday 9th March.

Information for Senior Pupils: No laptops are available to borrow during the prelims as they will be in use during this time. You will require to find alternative accommodation for your study time normally spent in the library. We look forward to seeing you back in the Library from Monday 9th March.

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) Applications

EMA applications close on **Friday 28th February 2020**. Any pupil who has recently applied must hand their learning agreement paperwork into the main office before Friday 28th February in order for it to be processed.

Fairtrade Fortnight



Help Bell Baxter Global Goals Group celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight 2020.

This year's focus is on women's empowerment, a living income and helping cocoa farmers deal with the impact of climate change.

Events include:

- Fairtrade Tuckshops at interval on **Friday 28th February** and **Friday 6th March** with design competitions for fabulous Fairtrade prizes.
- The Annual Staff v Pupil Fairtrade Football Match on the Astro at lunchtime on **Friday 28th February**. Supporters very welcome.
- A presentation from Koolschools about using Fairtrade cotton for our Leavers' hoodies.
- A Fairtrade Rose Tea for all staff and our community partners at interval on **Friday 6th March** in the staffroom.
- Delicious Fairtrade cakes and treats for sale in the Conference Room at interval on **Friday 6th March**.

Please make this our biggest and best year yet by giving us your support.

Mental Health

At Bell Baxter we aim to work together – staff, pupils and families – to develop a whole-school approach to mental health and wellbeing.

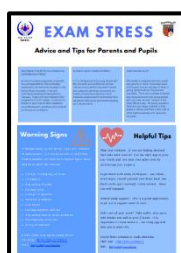
We have added three factsheets to the website on the following subjects:

[Anxiety](#)

[Exam Stress](#)

[Panic Attacks](#)

We will aim to add more factsheets and information in the coming months but in the meantime, if you're struggling for any reason please reach out to talk to someone. Or if you feel that you know someone who might be struggling, ask them if they'd like to chat.

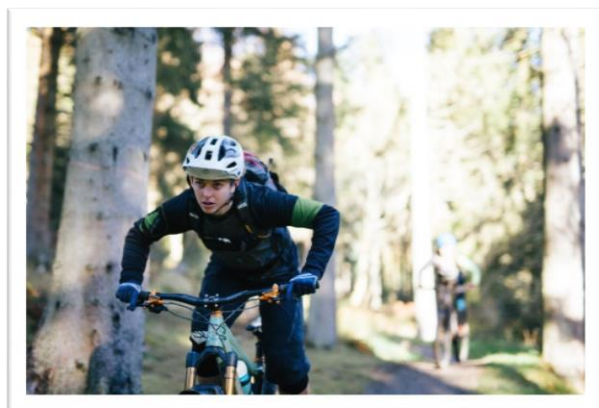


2020 Fife Schools Dirt and Road Crit Series

An opportunity to experience a bike course is being held on **Thursday 11th June from 10am – 12noon** at Lochore Meadows, Lochore, KY5 8BA.

Age: S1 – S3 with different races for each age group (all participants in each age category race together). There will also be races for riders with additional support needs.

For further information on signing up please come and see the Active School Coordinator, Hayley Smith, on **Monday 24th February** at interval (10.25am – 10.45am) in the PE department base.



Fife Schools' Burns Competition

Following recent pupil success at the Cupar Burns Competition, entries are now open for the Fife Schools' Burns Competition taking place at Auchmuty High School on Saturday 7th of March 2020. The categories are: Vocal, Recitation, Instrumental, and Bagpiping. Anyone who wishes to enter should see Mr McNicol in the Music Department by **Tuesday 25th February 2020**.

Senior Football

The game against Glenrothes High School on **Monday 24th February** will now be held on the astro turf at Duffus. Kick off 3.30pm.

Girls' Football

Please attend a short meeting on **Monday 24th February** at break (10.25am-10.45am) in Gym 1 to confirm availability for home game against Glenrothes High School taking place at Duffus astro turf on Tuesday 25th February. Kick off 3.40pm.



Music Opportunity - National Orchestra For All (NOFA)



NOFA is a youth orchestra made up of 100 young people from across the UK. They are the only non-auditioned and non-fee paying youth orchestra, opening up the opportunity of ensemble music-making to those who would not normally get it. They work with young people with complex lives such as those who are in areas of economic deprivation, have physical and learning disabilities, and are unaccompanied minor refugees or young carers. It does not matter what instrument and what level is played, as long as there is an enthusiasm for music and willingness to get involved with something new.

Anyone interested in finding out more information about the National Orchestra For All should see a member of the Music Department by **Friday 28th February**.

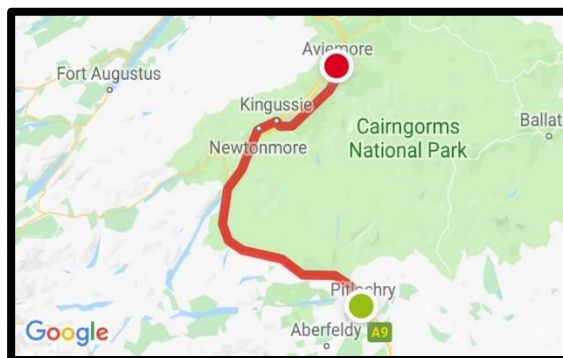
The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Congratulations to Helen Black (S3) who recently competed the 'Physical' section of her Bronze DofE Award.



"For my Duke of Edinburgh, I decided to do cycling as my physical activity. I set myself an ambitious challenge to train for three months, 20km a week for the first month, 40km a week for the second and 60km a week for the last month followed by a cycle ride of more than a 100km from Pitlochry to Aviemore. I needed an adult to go with, so I took my dad. I really enjoyed this experience so far because I have got to spend time pushing myself and getting to know people around me better."

Helen Black (S3)



S1 - S3 MESSAGES

S2 into S3 Course Choice

All young people in S2 will have a Course Counselling appointment on **Tuesday 25th February**. They must ensure that they check when their appointment is, and arrive promptly at the Conference Room for their meeting. Times are displayed in the dining hall, on the assembly hall doors.

They will be asked to pick five subjects and one reserve (these should be ranked in order of priority) at the meeting. They will all be picking Maths and English so it's just the remaining five choices we require from them. Following the meeting, an email will be sent home to share the choices they have made.

Please can pupils bring their course choice sheet that they were given in Social Education with them to their counselling appointment. If there are any questions, please get in touch with Miss Pollock (S2 Guidance).

Immunisations

The NHS nurses will be in school on **Thursday 27th February** to do some S3 pupil immunisations for Men ACWY/DTP. The Meningitis ACWY (MenACWY) vaccine helps protect against meningitis and septicaemia (blood poisoning) while DTP protects against diphtheria, tetanus toxoids and pertussis (whooping cough).

Slips will be issued to pupils concerned and immunisations will take place in the Conference Room.

FREE Start-up Science Masterclasses for S1 and S2 Students

The Royal Society of Edinburgh is inviting applications for the Spring 2020 Start-up Science Masterclasses. These are run in partnership with, and will take place at, St Andrews University. The Masterclasses are intended to give young people who have shown an interest in science and technology the opportunity to broaden their knowledge and experience.

Four Masterclasses will take place on successive Saturday mornings and will comprise of a mixture of talks and fun, practical activities with guidance and encouragement from session leaders.

There will be Masterclasses on:

- Marine Discovery (4th April)
- Bagpipes and Electrons (25th April)
- Volcanic Eruptions (2nd May)
- Chemical Cluedo (16th May)



To download an application form, visit our [website](#) or speak to a Science teacher.

S4 - S6 MESSAGES

Prelims

Prelim exams start on **Friday 21st February** and run until **Friday 6th March**. These exams will offer all young people an experience that closely replicates what they will go through in May. We hope that this will build their confidence and help with their preparation for those final exams. We will be using our Twitter page to remind everyone of exam details throughout the two weeks, if you have not already followed us, please do so at [@Bellbaxter_HS](#).

We would like to wish all young people all the best for their forthcoming exams.

SRUC Elmwood Open Evening

An Open Evening is taking place at the SRUC Elmwood campus on **Thursday 27th February**.

The event starts at 5pm and runs through to 7pm.



It includes a welcome from the Senior Tutor, a presentation about your chosen subject and the opportunity to speak with specialist lecturers. The funding, admissions and student support team will also be on hand for any questions you may have. A tour of the campus will also be available.

You can find out about courses in these subject areas: Animal Care, Countryside Management, Gamekeeping, Greenkeeping, Golf, Horticulture, Professional Cookery and Rural Skills.

These events are very informal but you're asked to book a space by visiting the [SRUC Website](#).

Pupil Wins Scholarship to USA

Rebecca McQueen of S6 will be heading to the USA to study for a year after winning a part-scholarship of \$2000 from FLAG.

FLAG (Foreign Links Around the Globe) is a US-based, non-profit international exchange organisation that helps organise high-quality international exchange experiences that transform the lives of high school students, host families and communities throughout the world. More than 5,000 students and families have had a FLAG experience since the organisation was set up in 1989.



Here, Rebecca McQueen is pictured receiving her award from Mazi Cunha, CEO and founder of FLAG.

Huge congratulations to Rebecca – we hope you have a fantastic experience in the US.

Photo by Kenny Smith.