



BELL BAXTER HIGH SCHOOL

Weekly Update Monday 9th March, 2020

WHOLE SCHOOL MESSAGES

Coronavirus

I understand many people may be feeling anxious as we continue to hear about the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). However, despite the precautionary measures that governments and local authorities are now taking, health professionals are reminding us that the risk to individuals remains low.

Public health advice is clear that schools do not need to close and pupils should attend as normal. Fife Council is working closely with Fife Health & Social Care Partnership, NHS Fife and Health Protection Scotland to monitor and respond to the national situation. I'm in regular contact with Fife's Headteachers and we will continue to work with health agencies to make sure we're giving schools the most up to date advice.

The safety and wellbeing of everyone in our schools community is always our top priority. If your family has travelled in an affected area, follow the NHS advice and contact your school if you need to self-isolate. Please be aware that speculation is rife about the coronavirus and not everything you read online or in newspapers may be accurate. The most up to date information can be found at www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus.

The main things we can all do to help prevent the spread of viruses like this is to:

- avoid direct hand contact with your eyes, nose and mouth
- wash hands with soap and water regularly throughout the day, particularly:
 - after coughing or sneezing
 - after going to the toilet
 - before eating and drinking
- cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing with disposable tissues and dispose of them in the nearest waste bin after use
- avoid direct contact with people that have a respiratory illness and avoid using their personal items such as their mobile phone

All our schools will be promoting these basic hygiene messages with children and young people. Please reinforce them at home too.

The council will update information and advice about the local impact of the virus at www.fife.gov.uk/coronavirus

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Carrie Lindsay Executive Director, Education & Children's Services, Fife Council

Coronavirus - Personal Hygiene

We have received a number of enquiries in relation to Coronavirus and we would like to alleviate any concerns in relation to hand-washing facilities in school and provide assurance that we are taking appropriate measures. All toilets have running hot water and hand soap available. This is a recommendation as part of Government guidance. Please encourage your children to wash their hands regularly whilst in school.

Fairtrade Fortnight



A huge thank you to everyone who supported Fairtrade Fortnight in the school. And a massive well done to Mrs Kerr and everyone in the Bell Baxter Global Goals group – what a huge amount of work they put in to make this fortnight, and all our events, a success.

A reminder of this year's Fairtrade Fortnight events:

- Fairtrade Tuckshops at Friday intervals with design competitions for fabulous Fairtrade prizes.
- A presentation by Andy Ashcroft from Koolschools speaking to young people and staff about the impact of choosing Fairtrade cotton at BBHS.
- A group of 10 young people represented the school at Grove Academy's celebration of all things Fairtrade. We had a stall telling our BBHS Fairtrade story so far.
- Delicious Fairtrade cakes and treats for sale on Friday 6th March.

And it's safe to say that our Fairtrade Candy Floss was a definite winner!



A reminder that the Fairtrade Football Match has been re-scheduled to accommodate prelims. The new date is Friday 13th March. Will Staff or Pupils be victorious in the prestigious BBHS Fairtrade Cup 2020? Come along to the Astro at interval and see!

School Bags/Valuables

Please be aware that we strongly encourage young people not to bring valuable items to school. Where they do so it is at their own risk.

We have a clear policy in PE for valuables to be handed in and locked in the valuables box. Please encourage your child to follow this policy to keep valuables safe.

Similarly, we would encourage all young people to carry their school bags at all times and not leave them unattended in outside areas of the school at break and lunchtime.

REMINDERS

- **Prelims**

While the main diet of prelims has now finished, there are still some prelims and SQA exams taking place in the coming weeks. Please can everyone follow the directions for any closed off areas of the school, and keep the noise to a minimum while moving around the school and at interval and lunch time.

- **Bell Baxter 'Colours' Awards**

Closing date for nominations is **Friday 13th March**. Visit the [school website](#) for more details.

CLUBS, EVENTS AND REHEARSALS

DAS Pupils Swimming Success

A number of DAS pupils competed in the DSF (Disability Sport Fife) Fife Swimming Championships on Friday 28th February, with the following successes:

Lauren Hamilton (S1) - 25m freestyle front - Gold Medal

Thomas Quigg (S2) - 25m freestyle back - Silver Medal

Jack Hanly (S3) - 25m freestyle back - Bronze Medal

Congratulations to all who took part!

New Hockey Club



Due to the great number of sign ups, we're delighted to announce that the afterschool Hockey Club will run on Mondays after school from 3-4pm starting Monday 9th March.

For any enquiries, please speak to the Active Schools Co-ordinator, Hayley Smith in the PE Base.

Polar Academy – 4 weeks to go

There's a little under 4 weeks to go until our Polar Academy team head out to Greenland for their arctic adventure.

They're embarking on a self-guided, 100km, 10-day expedition across Greenland.

On Monday 9th at 7.30pm on BBC1 Scotland, there is the first in a 4 part documentary following last year's participants, Bathgate Academy, as they embarked on the year of tough training to prepare them for the extremes of the polar wilderness. You can find out more here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m00098mw>

(This programme originally aired in 2019)



The group are also undertaking a Tyre Haul on St Andrews beach on the 14th March at 10.00am. Support and encouragement would be most welcome.



Young Leaders Meeting

Please can all Young Leaders meet with the Active Schools Co-ordinator, Hayley, on 10th March during lunch from 12.45-1.00pm. The meeting will take place in the PE Department.

Fife Sports Stars Meeting

Please can all Sports Stars meet with the Active Schools Co-ordinator, Hayley, on Tuesday 10th March during interval. The meeting will take place in the PE Department.



REMINDERS

- **Schoolgirls Golf Championship 2020**

August 1st-2nd, St Andrews Links Trust Golf Courses

Entries for the 2020 Championships are now open

<https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/sport/sport/events/schoolgirlschampionship/>



- **Drop In to the Janny's Hoose**

Thursday Lunchtimes – Free Food – Chat to Youth Workers



- **SPACE – Support Programme for Adolescents with Chronic Eczema**

Saturday 14th March at the Holiday Inn Express in Dunfermline, 1-4pm

<http://bit.ly/fifeeczemayouths>

The Duke of Edinburgh Award



Well done to Lauren Mather (S3) for completing the Skills section of her Bronze DofE Award.

"My Duke of Edinburgh experience so far has made me realise how easy it is to fit into my busy life. Only an hour a week of physical, skill and volunteering. In the past 3 months I learned how to knit, I have been volunteering at my local Scout Group and have been improving my golf skills too. I am excited to continue and finish my last categories and to experience the expedition to complete my Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award."



Lauren Mathers (S3)

DofE – Bronze Group

A reminder that all participants should have returned the 'Training Weekend' tear-off slip to Mr McNicol, or emailed a reply. Please ensure you have done this by the end of the week.

The next after-school meeting for Bronze Participants will be **Tuesday 24th March** (3pm – 5pm). We will likely be outside in the school grounds, so ensure you bring a warm jacket.



DofE – Silver Group

The next Silver DofE meeting will take place on Thursday 19th March in room 402. This meeting is to discuss expedition dates.



Show Racism the **RED** Card

The Show Racism the Red Card Creative Competition encourages young people from schools and other educational settings to produce creative work with an original anti-racism theme.



The 2020 competition received over 1,600 entries from all over Scotland and the standard of entries was reported to have been fantastic. After final judging from Education Scotland, the SQA and UWS, a group from Bell Baxter have been invited to attend the Awards Ceremony in Hampden Park at the end of March.

Huge congratulations to all who took part and we'll keep our fingers crossed for the final awards ceremony.

Course Choice Timeline

As per the Course Choice timeline shared in January, S4 and S5 Course Choice takes place Wednesday 11th to Friday 13th March. A copy of the sheet has been emailed to parents and paper copies are also available from Guidance and Reception. As shared at the Parent Information Evening, columns are shaped by the best fit of choices selected during mock choice in January.

S4 into S5 Course Choice

All young people in S4 will have a Course Counselling appointment on Wednesday 11th or Friday 13th March. They must ensure that they check when their appointment is and arrive promptly at the Senior Guidance Office for their meeting. Times will be displayed in the Dining Hall, on the Assembly Hall doors.

Course Choice sheets will be sent home containing further information and instructions. If there are any questions, please get in touch with Mr Duncan (S4 Guidance).

S5 into S6 Course Choice

All young people in S5 will have a Course Counselling appointment on Thursday 12th or Friday 13th March. They must ensure that they check when their appointment is and arrive promptly at the Senior Guidance Office for their meeting. Times will be displayed in the Dining Hall, on the Assembly Hall doors.

Course Choice sheets will be sent home containing further information and instructions. If there are any questions, please get in touch with Miss Cunneen (S5 Guidance).

Scottish Space School Acceptance

Huge congratulations to Anna McAllister (S5) for her acceptance onto the Scottish Space School program, which could lead to a visit to NASA in Houston.



Study Leave for SQA Exams

The first exams in this year's SQA exam diet begin on **Monday 27th April**. This means that the last day in school for all young people in S4-S6 will be Friday 24th April. As always, 'Subject Masterclasses' will be running throughout Study Leave - we'll send you more details in the coming weeks.

All young people returning for S5 and S6 will be invited in for Senior Induction (more information will be sent out nearer the time) prior to them returning for the start of the new timetable on Wednesday 3rd June.

Animal Care & Gamekeeping Open Day at SRUC Elmwood Campus

**Animal Care & Gamekeeping
Open Day at
SRUC Elmwood Campus**

Tuesday 24th March 2020
Animal Care: drop in between 10am – 3pm
Gamekeeping: Morning session starts 10am
Afternoon session starts 1.30pm



On Tuesday 24th March there will be an Animal Care and Gamekeeping Open Day at SRUC Elmwood Campus in Cupar.

There's no need to book – just drop-in between 10am-3pm for Animal Care or at 10am or 1.30pm for Gamekeeping.

Visit the new facilities, speak to lecturers and students, find out about student funding and study support and take a tour of the student residences.

For more information visit www.sruc.ac.uk/elmwoodopendays or call 01334 658955

Centenary Music Competition

The annual Centenary Music Competition allows three musicians from each North East Fife school – Bell Baxter HS, Waid Academy and Madras College – to compete for the Centenary Cup, kindly donated each year by Miss Dymock.



The competition takes place at Waid Academy this year (Monday 30th March at 7pm). An 8-10 minute programme of pieces is required, all of which must be ABRSM Grade 6 or above.

Anyone interested in auditioning for the Bell Baxter Centenary Music Competition should note their interest with Mr McNicol by Friday 13th March.

Work Experience placements for 2020 at HSBC UK

HSBC still have availability for work experience placements in Central Scotland, Dundee and Perth.

The Work Experience programme at HSBC UK offers a five-day shadowing experience to students in the later years of full-time secondary education, sixth form or college. The programme has been set up with the idea to help young people gain an insight into a professional environment, as well as the banking industry.



The deadline for applications to the programme is 15th March 2020 and places are limited. If you are interested, please see Miss Thomson, PT Employability and Work Experience in the CDT base or Room 200, asap.

REMINDERS

- **Medical Careers Event Open Evening**

Tues 10th March at 7pm in the Gibson Auditorium at Dollar Academy

For pupils from S3-S5 with an interest in pursuing a career in the medical or caring professions

For more information email Miller-KA@dollaracademy.org.uk or telephone 01259 742511.

- **Law Society of Scotland – Legal Study and Careers Day 2020**

Wed 25th March from 10am to 3.30pm at Abertay University, Dundee

For S4/S5 pupils who are interested in studying law and a career in the legal profession.

For more information speak to your PT Guidance Teacher (S4 – Mr Duncan or S5 – Ms Cunneen)