



BELL BAXTER HIGH SCHOOL

Weekly Update Monday 16th March, 2020

WHOLE SCHOOL MESSAGES

Coronavirus Update

In light of a number of enquires received from parents, we would like to reassure you that the school are following guidance from Fife Council and the NHS regarding the Coronavirus.

All toilets have hot running water and soap, to enable all children to regularly wash their hands throughout the school day. In addition, we will be providing young people with further guidance on hand hygiene and stopping the spread of germs via Personal Social Education lessons this week and will keep them updated as and when new advice comes through.

Notices are placed around the school with further guidance and good hand washing techniques. Please encourage your child to regularly wash their hands to help protect them from germs.

Parental Contact Details

We would like to remind all parents of the importance of ensuring that the school has the most up-to-date email address and contact details on record so we can keep you informed.

If you would like to update your details, please contact the main office either by emailing bellbaxterhs.enquiries@fife.gov.uk or alternatively by telephone on 01334 659459.

Catering Adjustments

In line with the most recent recommendations to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus (Covid-19), the Catering Team have made some changes to the way their service is delivered.

Starting immediately:

- All self-service food will be covered including cookies, muffins, pizzas, hot rolls etc.
- All food dispensed/plated by our staff will be handed directly to the student
- If there's a query over payment at the tills, food cannot be set aside to await a pupil's return, but will be disposed of. We therefore encourage students to try to be aware of their financial position, if possible, before they begin their purchase.

This may result in some slowing down of service during busy periods, but we hope everyone will understand the necessity of these measures, and have patience.

Therapet

Buddy the Therapet has become a regular attendee at Bell Baxter of late with plans for more sessions to come.

For some years, the benefits of pets on our mental health have been documented and that was certainly noticed when Buddy took part in a calming study session with pupils last week. Students said they felt less anxious with Buddy around, and if they felt overwhelmed, clapping Buddy helped calm them.

As always, if your child has any allergies or phobias, please complete the form sent home last week.



Parent Council

The date of the next meeting of the Bell Baxter Parent Council is **Wednesday 25th March** at 7pm in the Conference Room.

The meeting will include a presentation on Work Experience from Karen Manders DHT and Carly Thomson, Employability.

All Parents/Carers are welcome and we would be pleased to see you there.

Karen Brown, Chairperson

School Trips Statement

In light of recent advice from the government, all school trips overseas have now been cancelled.

We understand that this will be disappointing for pupils, parents and staff alike, but we need to follow the recommendations by the government in order to prevent the spread of Coronavirus (Covid-19).

We are currently working through the logistics of our trips being cancelled and will get back in touch with affected parents/pupils shortly to advise of the next steps.

Thank you for your patience and understanding with what is an unfortunate but necessary decision.

REMINDERS

- **School Bags/Valuables**

A reminder not to bring valuables into school and to carry your schoolbag at all times – not leaving it unattended, especially at break or lunchtime.

CLUBS, EVENTS AND REHEARSALS



Easter Holiday Sessions for Individuals with a Disability or ASN

Active Fife, alongside partners, are providing school holiday provision for children and young people who have a disability or additional support needs, during the Easter school holidays.

There are a range of sports classes being run, at a variety of venues across Fife.

For more information on the sessions and how to book, please visit our website: www.bbhs-online.co.uk

Senior Boys Football Team Make Cup Final

A huge congratulations to the Senior Boys Football team who have made it into the Fife Cup Final.

The match will take place on **Friday 20th March** at Bayview Stadium, Methil with a 7.30pm kick off.

Entry for supporters will be £2 per head, which can be paid on the door on the night.

Come support the boys!

World Book Day Tokens

World Book Day took place on 5th March, and there are still £1 tokens available to allow you to get your free book. If none of the £1 books take your fancy, you can still use your token to get £1 off any book or audiobook costing £2.99 or more at your local participating bookseller.

In Cupar our participating retailers are WHSmith or in St Andrews there's Tesco, Topping & Company Booksellers of St Andrews, Waterstones and WHSmith. For a list of all bookshops taking part in World Book Day visit: <https://booksellers.org.uk/wbd>

You can still collect your World Book Day Tokens from the Library, English Department or from the Office.



New Books in the Library

Thanks to a recent donation, we have some new series' of books available to borrow from the library.

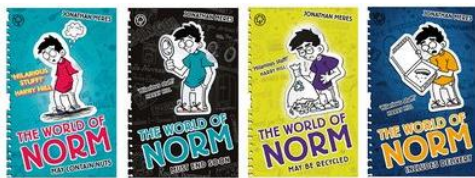


Diary of a Wimpy Kid Series (Books 1-13) - Jeff Kinney (S1-S3+)

It's official: a wimp CAN rule the world. Know that feeling when things just keep going wrong? The Wimpy Kid's life takes wrong to a whole new level.

The Diamond Brothers - Anthony Horowitz (S1-S3+)

Are you a sucker for a laugh? Do you love a killer mystery? There's lethal punfire spraying in every direction in Anthony Horowitz's daft detective spoofs. Want a mystery solving? Then DON'T hire the Diamond Brothers, the world's worst private detectives.



The World of Norm Series (Books 1-12) - Jonathan Meres (S1-S3+)

The prince of unfair. Think your parents have turned moaning into an art form? Norm's won prizes for it. Even Harry Hill is a fan.

World Challenge

There will be a meeting for everyone involved in this year's World Challenge trip to Cambodia and Vietnam, taking place on **Monday 16th March**, upstairs in the library after school.





Do you want to Volunteer? Do you have a couple of hours to spare in a week? Contact Jill Todd on the details overleaf for more information

Cupar COMMUNITY FRIDGE

A simple solution to wasting less through the sharing of good quality food.

Our Community Fridge enables businesses and individuals to waste less through the sharing of good quality food that's within its use by dates. You can drop off good, unopened food, and help yourself to what's on offer.

Opening times:
Monday 4-6 pm,
Tuesday 5-7 pm,
Thursday 2-4 pm,
Friday 12-2pm

Contact details:
Jill Todd
0345155555 EXT:450832
Jill.Todd@fife.gov.uk

Find the fridge at:
County Buildings, St Catherine Street, Cupar, KY15 4TA



REMINDERS

- **CYC: Live**

Cupar Corn Exchange, 24th March from 6-8pm
Live music and silent disco. Free event for everyone 11+.

<https://www.facebook.com/cupar.youthcafe/>



- **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



The Duke of Edinburgh Award



Well done to Eve Jennings (S3) for completing two of her Bronze DofE sections.

"Doing my Duke of Edinburgh's Award has really helped to boost my confidence and to meet so many new people. Because of my DofE, I am fitter, my hobby has turned into a full-out skill and I have made so many new friends. It hasn't been hard to do, but an exciting experience that I will definitely do again."

Eve Jennings (S3)



DofE – Bronze Group

The next after-school meeting for Bronze Participants will be **Tuesday 24th March** (3-5pm). We will likely be outside in school grounds, so please 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.



Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

NHS Nurses will be in school on Monday 16th March from Period 2 onwards to do HPV Immunisations for all of S1.

HPV is a very common virus which usually has no symptoms. While it does clear up quickly in most people, carrying HPV can make it more likely you'll develop certain types of cancer. Getting the vaccine between the ages of 11-13 protects you against future risks.

Appointment slips have been distributed to all S1 pupils, but if your child didn't get theirs, please collect it at the School Office as soon as possible.



S4 - S6 MESSAGES

SQA Coronavirus Statement

The SQA have released a statement regarding their position regarding the Coronavirus and its impact on the National Qualifications 2020 Examinations Timetable. In full:



We know that learners, parents and carers, schools and colleges will be concerned about the possible impact of the coronavirus on the National Qualifications 2020 Examinations Timetable.

The Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) is continuing to monitor the situation, in close contact with the Scottish Government and other regulators and awarding bodies across the UK.

At present there is no change to the published National Qualifications examination timetable. Our advice therefore is to continue to prepare as normal. All current deadlines for coursework and other assessments remain in place and the exam timetable is currently scheduled to run from 27 April until 4 June 2020.

Schools and colleges should be gathering any alternative evidence on candidate performance as they would do in the normal way, and as per our guidance every year, to support any consideration of exceptional circumstances. This evidence should inform estimated grades, again as it should every year.

We fully recognise that this is an evolving situation and, as you would expect, we are working through a range of scenarios. Our overriding priority, drawing on the latest guidance, is to deliver a safe and secure examination timetable with minimal disruption, which is fair to learners.

Markers and invigilators play a critical role in the delivery of our qualifications. We are reviewing our marking and invigilation processes and will issue further communication to schools and colleges shortly.

We are also strongly encouraging all candidates to [sign up to MySQA](#), our online and text service, as a direct way to receive their results.

We will continue to review the latest evidence and will communicate further updates as necessary.

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, '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.

School/College Partnership Curriculum Session 2020/21

Any pupil who has been successful in gaining a place on a course to be delivered by Fife College as part of their school curriculum next session will require to complete an on-line application. This will be supported in school on **Monday 23rd March**. Details on individual appointment times to complete applications will follow in due course.

Prospectuses in the Library

There are some new college and university prospectuses for 2020/21 now available in the careers area in the library (on the upper level beside the printer). Please feel free to come and browse.

Please also pop in to see Careers Advisors, Allison and Sharon, in the Careers Room (just along from the Library) for help, advice or support.

REMINDERS

- **Animal Care & Gamekeeping Open Day**

Tuesday 24th March at SRUC Elmwood Campus in Cupar. Animal Care: drop in between 10am and 3pm. Gamekeeping: Sessions start at 10am and 1.30pm.

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

- **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)