



Brannock High School



Head Teacher's Newsletter

September 2017

New Session

Our new session is now very much underway with pupils and staff well settled into their daily routines. The new First Years yet again have made a superb start to the session showing excellent commitment, attitude and positive behaviour at all times. Tree of Knowledge inputs to all First and Second Year pupils were very well received, reinforcing the school's overall aim of 'enabling all pupils to achieve success'.

New staff have been welcomed, including Probationer teachers, Ms Anne McMillan, Ms Cara Lovatt and Ms Nicola Stirling. We wish them well with the professional challenges that lie ahead. This session also sees Mr Clive Gibb acquiring the Post of Depute Head Teacher (DHT), Middle School. Mr Allan Baird will move to DHT Senior School with Mrs Janice Campbell continuing to fulfil the Post of DHT Lower School. Ms Helen Donald retired at the end of last session after many years of service to the school. Warm and heartfelt good wishes are offered to her as she enters a more restful period of her life.

Leadership

Year two of a planned leadership programme for Seniors witnessed a selected group of pupils attending a leadership training event offered by The Outward Bound Trust. Held this year at Loch Eil, Fort William, the course offered a variety of experiences to enhance leadership acumen, including practical challenges within an outdoor setting. The efforts of all the students were outstanding, with huge praise offered by all of the Outward Bound staff. Further leadership activities will be on offer to all senior pupils as the year progresses.



(Brannock pupils enjoy kayaking on Loch Eil while being interrupted by the 'Harry Potter Express Train')



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Transplant Games Reporters.

Four S2 pupils, Kyle Curran, Rebecca Anderson, Lucy Brown and Sophie McCrory, who take a lead role in the internal Brannock newspaper, were given the opportunity to participate in a journalism project run by North Lanarkshire Community Learning and Development and the University of the West of Scotland (UWS). They attended once a fortnight either at the Hamilton campus or the Ayr campus. This course extended from April this year right through the school summer break and was carried out under the supervision of Professor David McGillivray, James Mahon and Dr Jen Jones all of whom are very well respected experts in their field.

The pupils were given classes on all of the modern reporting techniques and very quickly mastered the intricacies of social media such as blogging, twitter etc along with the more traditional techniques of live interviews.

All of this led up to them participating in the reporting of the Transplant Games, which were held in a variety of venues across North Lanarkshire Council.

The pupils did an excellent job of their live interviews, highlighting transplant stories, where they sought the views of the competitors and their families and also managed to put across how important these games are to people who have had a variety of different medical transplants and who are now managing to compete in sport at a high level.

The pupils from Brannock were the youngest to participate on this course and on the final day the lecturers highly praised them on how able they were at the tasks they had been set, and also the mature way in which they conducted themselves throughout the course. This has resulted in them not only being put forward for a Personal Development Award, Saltire Award and Dynamic Youth Award, but they were also nominated by Community Learning Development for the Celebration of Learning Award. Well done to all !

S1/2 Maths Puzzle Challenge Day

Brannock High School marked Maths Week Scotland 2017 in a wide variety of ways throughout the school, but the highlight of the week was undoubtedly the running of a Maths Puzzle Challenge Day for every pupil in S1 and S2 on Tuesday 12th September. Enthusiastic staff and an army of over 30 volunteers from S4 and S6 ensured that the teams of pupils had a fantastic day working on a number of challenging puzzles such as Perilous Penguins, Jigraphy and Ice Cubed in an effort to win individual prizes as well as earn valuable points for their school House (the event doubled up as an inter-house competition). There is no doubt that the pupils left at the end of the day with a fresh enthusiasm for Mathematics and all the subject has to offer!



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Music Clubs

Led by Music teacher Mrs Jennifer Bogie, the following are the clubs available to pupils in the Music Room.

MONDAY LUNCHTIME - CHOIR AND GENERAL MUSIC CLUB

TUESDAY LUNCHTIME - GENERAL MUSIC CLUB

WEDNESDAY LUNCHTIME - UKULELE CLUB AND GENERAL MUSIC CLUB

THURSDAY LUNCHTIME - GENERAL MUSIC CLUB

FRIDAY LUNCHTIME - NO CLUBS

There is also an after school club on a Tuesday until 4.30pm for any year group. With a maximum space for 20 pupils, places are available on a first come first served basis !

Annual Award's Ceremony

Tuesday 19 September saw our annual award ceremony being held within the School Games Hall. An audience of over 400, made up of families and friends, witnessed a wide array of awards being offered to many pupils for both their academic and personal endeavour achievements over the last session. Sincere and well earned congratulations are afforded to all prize winners with special recognition given to Paige Allan and Callum Devine who were joint Dux Medallists for 2016.17. Well done to all !

Developing Pupil Leadership Across the School

Over the last few sessions a significant amount of attention has been placed upon developing the leadership skills of all pupils. Of particular note, these skills are designed to support personal learning, with the ultimate aim of improving achievements and attainments throughout the period of an individual's schooling. The value of such skills are also of great importance in preparation for life beyond school. Many successes were again evident for senior students last session with almost all of our leavers moving into a 'positive destination'. These destinations included, Higher and Further Education placements, Modern Apprenticeships, Training and very significantly Work.

Opportunities to develop leadership skills are offered through a variety of activities including, Specialist Clubs, Leadership Academies, Special Projects, Pupil Councils etc. Notably our House System offers direct responsibilities for pupils to undertake duties associated with Captaincy and House Representative duties.



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The month of September witnessed our new team of Captains being inducted into their new roles for the session ahead. The commitment shown by all pupils who presented themselves for these duties is to be commended and congratulations are offered to those who successfully took up post. We look forward to hearing more of the House activities and events that are scheduled for the year ahead.



(Brannock's House Team for Session 17.18)

School App

On return from our October break, our own **Brannock High School App** will go live. This will allow us to keep parents, carers and the wider community informed, involved and engaged in the life of our school. This specifically branded secondary school app will be available on Apple and Android Devices and is free for parents to download from the app stores. Further details will be published across our school community in due course