

The Braidy Times

Update from the Head Teacher

It is lovely to present our first newsletter for session 2016-2017 produced by our S1 "elective class". Our S1 and S2 curriculum includes an "elective" period where our pupils are given the opportunity to pick a subject from a list, which they study in rotation, in order to give them more personalisation and choice. One of the subjects on the list is "newsletter" which I am delighted to say involved writing this edition. This, the first group, have set the bar very high as I am sure you will appreciate when you read the newsletter.

As always our pupils are excellently turned out in full uniform. We are ensuring that blazers are worn in school and outdoor jackets are removed as soon as your child enters the building. Lockers are available for pupils to store their jackets and are available from Mrs Dalzell in the PE Department. They cost £10, £5 of which is returned at the end of the term when the key is handed back. Please note leggings are not part of the school uniform – school trousers should be worn. As we move into the winter, pupils are encouraged to wear school shoes.

We have had an extremely busy start to the term. Indeed over the summer holidays we had two big events. The first was when we attended the opening of the Forgewood Community Centre when we took some of our pupils to meet Her Royal Highness Princess Anne. As always our pupils were excellent and a credit to the school.

This was followed by our summer school when 17 of our new S1 pupils attended various workshops to help them feel more confident and positive about starting at Braidhurst and making a successful transition from primary school to secondary.

We have had three parents' events to date:-

S1 Information Evening when our pupils and their parents were able to find out about all the extra-curricular clubs available to them.

S4 Evening which provided parents information about the national courses, SQA, assessments, study skills and supported study classes. The assessment timeline and supported study programme are available on the school website.

For our S5/6 Evening we tried something different with various break out groups which parents and pupils could opt into selecting from topics such as Scholar, UCAS, Volunteering, Study Skills and various online support sites. Our careers officer, Joseph Martin, was also in attendance to offer help and advice. Our forthcoming events are on our website www.Braidhurst.org.

Update from the Head Teacher (Cont.)

We also had 135 pupils on a trip to Alton Towers as part of our Better Relationships, Better Braidhurst policy. Pupils are invited to attend trips and events depending on their number of merits, which they get from class teachers for excellent behaviour and effort, attendance and time keeping. Our next trip will be at Christmas. Pupils are informed on a regular basis how they are doing so they can amend their behaviour to enable them to participate. The event was a long day, but a great success.

We also had 50 pupils attend a trip to London over the September weekend where they were frequently complimented on their behaviour. The pupils went to see Mamma Mia, were on the London Eye, did a boat trip down the Thames, went bowling and climbed the Orb. They also managed to squeeze in some shopping!

Finally, we are investigating ways in which we can keep you more informed with your child's progress. We are reporting more frequently throughout the session with our first reports being issued during October. A covering letter will explain our new process. However, in this digital age, we are keen to move away from paper to more electronic communication. For this purpose we need to make sure we have your correct email address and mobile phone number. Please inform us if your mobile number or email address has changed since the recent Annual Data Checks were issued. In the meantime please continue to access our website for up to date information and forthcoming events.

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS/EVENTS

Braidhurst Parent' Group will hold its AGM on Thursday 13th of October at 7pm.

School will close at 2.55pm on Friday 14th October for the October holiday and will re-open at 8.55am on Monday 24th of October.

The Halloween Disco will be held on Wednesday 26th October from 7.30pm until 10pm.

S4 Parents' Meeting will be held on Tuesday 1st of November from 4pm to 6.30pm.

S4 Mock Interview evening will be held on Wednesday 9th of November from 7pm to 9pm

S1 Parents' Meeting will be held on Tuesday 15th of November from 4pm to 6.30pm.

The school will be closed to pupils on Monday 21st November for staff In-Service training. School will resume at 8.55am on Tuesday 22nd of November.

S5/6 Parents' Meeting will be held on Tuesday 29th of November from 4pm to 6.30pm.

The New School Captains

Adam Sinnet

Adam wanted to be a School Captain as he felt he had the capabilities to represent Braidhurst High School in a positive way. He liked the idea of having responsibility of being School Captain and having to meet the expectations which come with the role. Adam also wanted to show his pride in Braidhurst. He thinks that he has a wide range of qualities which will help make him a good School Captain. Above all, he is approachable and very responsible. He also has good interpersonal skills and is able to talk to a wide range of people.

Adam thinks he can offer the other pupils in the school a captain who will work hard and one who the pupils can approach about any problem or worry they might have. He will do his best to make the pupils feel important.

Lauren McKinstry

Lauren cares a lot about the school, she knows the school well and gets on with everyone. She listens to what the pupils want and she takes peoples' advice and ideas to make the school better. She is a friendly person and is someone the pupils can speak to. Lauren thinks that being a School Captain is an honour. She is willing to devote lots of free time to her job as School Captain and hopes to encourage pupils to join the many clubs run in Braidhurst.

Barry Williams

Barry has experience of being a house captain, so he thinks he has an advantage over the other Captains for winning The Inter House Shield.

Barry says he can create a close relationship with the Head Teacher and the Depute Head Teachers. Barry wanted to be a School Captain because he wanted to take the next step from House Captain and make the school proud.

Erin Wright

Erin wants to improve the school (even though it is already great!) and also help pupils if they are finding homework or studying difficult. Erin also thinks that all year groups should have a mentor and then everyone will have a person to go to when she is not there or when they just need someone to talk to. Erin wants to make a difference and listen to what the pupils think is important, so she can pass it on to the Head Teacher.



S1 INTAKE

The new S1 pupils started Braidhurst very excited and extremely smart in their school uniforms!



NEW STAFF

This year, a number of new staff have joined Braidhurst such as:

Mrs. O'Neill - Home School Partnership Worker

Mr. O'Neill - Head of PE Department

Ms Kirkpatrick - The Science Department

Ms Foy - The English Department

Mr G. Walker - The Music Department

Ms G Galloway - The Art Department

We have interviewed two of them to see how they are enjoying Braidhurst.

We asked Mr O'Neil 3 questions which were answered with positive comments.

1. How do you like Braidhurst so far ?

I am really enjoying my time at Braidhurst so far. It is a school with lots of unique features and I can understand why it has as high a reputation in North Lanarkshire.

2. What do you think is good about the school?

Amongst other things, staff and pupils have welcomed me so warmly into the school community. The other things are the variety of opportunities available to all young people in the school to develop their own talents, or find new ones!

3. Is there anything interesting about your life you would like to share?

My life is pretty normal, the most interesting thing being that I have a new baby girl!

We also interviewed Clare O'Neill.

1. How do you like Braidhurst so far?

The staff and pupils are very nice.

2. What is your favourite thing about Braidhurst

The lunchtime film club and the newsletter club.

3. What is the most interesting thing in your life that you would like to share?

I worked in New York with homeless children from the Bronx and have also worked in Boston.

ALTON TOWERS TRIP

A group of 135 S2 – S6 pupils went on a trip to the theme park Alton Towers in the south of England on Friday 16th September. This was a reward trip for excellent effort and behaviour at school. Pupils and staff left school at 1:30 in the morning and returned at midnight on Friday night, sleepy but very happy after their fun-packed day!



ROAD SAFETY

S1 pupils watched a play about Road Safety performed by the “Baldy Bane Theatre Company”. It was called 'The Nine Lives of Roddy Hog'. The play was about the life of a boy called Roddy Hog who had very bad road sense. The pupils benefited from watching the play as they have just started walking back and forth from school so road safety has to be enforced.



SPORTS AMBASSADORS

Two Braidhurst Pupils, Hannah Gordon and Tony Sharkey, went to Hampden Park last week to learn how to become Sports Ambassadors with a view to setting up a Sports Council in Braidhurst and encouraging sports club attendance.

After the talk, they met with several team GB Olympic medal winners from Rio 2016, including Robbie Renwick and Eilidh Doyle and ex-Scotland Football International, Julie Fleeting .



CLUBS

Braidhurst offers lots of extra curricular clubs at lunchtimes and after school. Some clubs pupils can attend are.....

Tuesday



Trampoline - S1 and S2 from 12:30pm to 1:10pm in the boys' gym – Mr Marshall.

Art - Ms Galloway

Thursday

Film Club- lunchtime—Mrs Scott In the Library.



Drama- Mrs Reilly lunchtime

French Club - Mrs Magowan - Room 19.



For full details, please check the school website, Braidhurst.org, or the school noticeboards.

FRENCH ASSISTANT

The new French assistant is called Juliette Lucas and she comes from Nantes near the Vendee region in the west of France.

She also teaches French to pupils in Muir Street Primary School and Logans Primary School.

Juliette will do activities, games, ICT and speaking tasks with the classes in Braidhurst and maybe even make French pancakes!

She arrived in Scotland on the 23rd of August. She really likes Glasgow because it is a big city and the people are very friendly.

She hasn't had time to explore much of Scotland yet, but she really wants to see Edinburgh. Juliette also wants to catch sight of the Loch Ness monster!

Other places Juliette would like to visit are the Shetland Islands and Stirling. She does not think Scottish food is too bad and wants to try haggis!

Juliette likes Irn Bru!



GERMAN ASSISTANT

Guten Tag!

The new German assistant's name is Adrian Wolter who is from Ottweiler in the south west of Germany. He is 20 years of age and in the UK for the first time. He is working in Braidhurst on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday with S3-S6 classes. He will also go to the P.E Department to take part in some lessons. Adrian thinks Scottish people are really friendly and he hopes to explore the Highlands and Islands during his stay.

He loves football and intends watching a few Motherwell games in the future. His favourite football team is Bayern Munchen!



HOUSE CAPTAINS



Meet our new House Captains for 2016-17. Atholl House: Jamie Lee Brennan and Amy Dishington, Lorne House: Cameron Dickson and Chelsea Dykes, Morven House: Maggie Baird and Toni Jaye Knox, Rannoch House: Tegan Quinton and Linzi McFarlane. The captains are responsible for representing their house, inspiring pupils and leading the organisation of any inter-house events.

BOOKS ABROAD



The school library donated 29 boxes of non-fiction books to the Scottish charity Books Abroad, who will recycle the books and send them to schools and other institutions in developing countries. The charity's mission statement believes that through the promotion of literacy and education children and young people are provided with the means of a sustainable escape route from the plight of poverty. Mrs Scott, the school librarian, would like to give a special thanks to her library volunteers, Charles Carroll and Sarah Cooper (both S6), for helping with the mammoth task of packing up and labelling each box of books.

THE EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES!

Braidhurst High School celebrated the European Day of Languages last week.



Some of the activities the pupils took part in were:

Playing French boules in PE, making French crepes in Home Economics, singing French and German songs in Music, learning some Gaelic and having lessons delivered in French and German in the Science Department. Pupils also made a Wall of Hands around the foyer of words and phrases in a number of European Languages and posters in the Spanish Elective Group. The School Hub staff even served a French breakfast to pupils and canteen menus were put into French and German. Help was on hand from pupils Steven Vincent, Charlene Brandt and Charlene Byers, who are native French speakers and Matei Lupascu, who comes from Romania and speaks Greek as well! All pupils thoroughly enjoyed the activities.

ST ANDREW'S HOSPICE RACE

A group of S5 and S6 pupils, accompanied by members of staff, took part in the St Andrew's Hospice 6k Race last week. They joined teams from other schools in Lanarkshire to run the course around Strathclyde Park. Fortunately, the rain stayed away and the pupils were able to complete the run in good time and not too much out of breath!



Produced by the S1 Newsletter Elective Group!

