

# The Braidy Times

April 2018—June 2018

## Head Teacher's Report

As always at Braidhurst, we cram in as much as we can every term to ensure we meet the needs of all our pupils. We have had a vast range of trips, visits and events and they continue up to the end of the term. I hope this newsletter will give you a flavour of the range of opportunities that exist for your child and would urge you to encourage them to make the most of these next session

As you are probably aware by now, all our pupils have moved onto their new timetable. This enables us to make sure the work continues until the end of term at a pace. Our senior pupils have selected their subjects but we are fully aware they may want to change their subjects once they receive their results on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> of August. Staff will be available in school from 9am on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> of August to deal with any concerns pupils may have either about their subject choice or results. If they wish to choose other subjects I would urge them to come in on that day as this ensures when they return to school on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> of August teaching and learning can start immediately. Our careers advisor, Joseph Martin, is also available if any of our leavers and/or their parents wish to get in touch over the holidays about results or post-school destinations. His contact details are below.

I have included a flyer from our uniform supplier La Mirage in Motherwell. If there are any issues accessing or purchasing the uniform please let us know as soon as possible – we always have a solution. Can I please remind you of our school uniform:

Black blazer to be worn at all times  
School tie  
White shirt  
Plain black V-neck (tie should be visible)  
Black school skirt or trousers (skirts should be of a suitable length)  
Plain black shoes or trainer (no white soles, laces or stripes)

For PE  
Plain black shorts/joggers/leggings  
Plain white t-shirt (no logo)

We have a lot of visitors at Braidhurst High school and they all comment on how smart our pupils look in their uniform. Our pupils all wear their uniform, including their blazer, at all times and are expected to wear it on a trip when they are representing the school. They will be told on the odd occasion this is not the case.

I would just like to finish by thanking you for your continued support and help this year. As a school we value the input from all our parents and carers and I would encourage you to keep in contact with us. Our website contains information on everything that happens in the school, and is updated regularly thanks to Mr Hamilton.

To ensure we get all our pupils home safely on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> of June we have booked the taxis and buses for 12.30pm. Lunch will be available from noon.

School re-opens on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> of August at 8.55am.

Have a lovely, safe holiday and I hope the sun shines for us all!

School website:- [www.Braidhurst.com](http://www.Braidhurst.com)

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### **Girls Football Report 2017-18**

Our girls' football team have had a number of successes this year. They secured their first trophy of the year by winning the U15 LAGTA Bosh cup at Ravenscraig in November. Following this, the Braidhurst 7s 'A' team won the Lanarkshire cup at Hamilton Palace in April, which also meant they qualified, along with the 'B' team, for the area finals of the U15 National Soccer 7s which took place at Queen of the South's home stadium, Palmerston Park. After some dominating and impressive performances in Dumfries, both teams were again successful in progressing to the U15s Scottish Soccer 7s Finals, which took place at Torglen Football Centre. They met some tough opposition as you would expect for a final, with the 'A' team narrowly missed out in playing in the Scottish final match that day.

Throughout the year, the girls have also been competing in the North Lanarkshire Active Schools 7's league competition, where they have been playing monthly fixtures. The league title went right down to the final week with Braidhurst looking to secure the shield for the second successive year. However, they ended up finishing second place, one point behind first.

It has been great to see so many girls involved in our girls football team this year, and the progress in team performance and individual talent has been evident. We now look forward to building on our successes for next year.



### **S2 Storytelling**

The end of the Spring term marked the finale of the school's Storyteller project. Twenty S2 pupils were involved in this initiative, which has been supported by Pupil Equity Funding, and is part of our drive to improve Literacy levels across the Broad General Education phase of the school. Pupils worked with Storyteller, Bea Ferguson, who led them through the process of creating their own stories and developing their public speaking skills. At an afternoon tea for friends and family, pupils regaled an audience, which also included Primary 7 pupils from Muir Street Primary and residents from Baillie Court, with their stories. Our S5/6 Hospitality class provided home baking and these Senior pupils did a fantastic job of ensuring that our guests were well-looked after throughout the afternoon. We are always proud of our pupils, but watching this S2 group rise to the challenge and deliver engaging, original stories was a very special treat.





### **S1 Outdoor Classroom**

A highlight of the school calendar for S1 pupils is the Outdoor Classroom project, and this year's was no different. From Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May until Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May, all S1 pupils were released from their regular school timetable to take part in an inter-disciplinary project delivered by a variety of departments in the school. The theme of the project was developing problem solving skills. The pupils were given the opportunity to take part in six different activities across the three days, which took place both in school and at Strathclyde Park. Departments who gave input at this year's event were: Technical with Bridge Building; P.E. with Team Building, and Watersports; Art with a Leaf Project; French with a Tour de Parc; Maths with Orienteering; and Biology with Habitat Sampling. This year's project will also go towards S1 pupils achieving The 'John Muir Award'. One pupil reported that "they had the best time and learned a lot". A huge congratulations to all pupils who were involved, particularly for their excellent behaviour and representation of Braidhurst High school.



### **British Open Champion**

Congratulations to our S5 pupil David Sinclair who recently won the British Open Championship in Muay Thai. This has resulted in him being selected to represent Team GB in the European Championships and Baltic Championships. Well done, David, on this fantastic accomplishment!







### **Ben Nevis Challenge**

On Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June a group of staff and pupils climbed Ben Nevis to raise money for St Andrew's Hospice. Well done to all who reached the top.



### **TedxYouth Visit**

In celebration of the 'Year of Young People 2018', 30 S4 pupils attended the TedxYouth Glasgow event at the SEC and Armadillo on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> May. Based on the successful TedxTalks events and YouTube channel, the TedxYouth event hosted a programme of live speakers and discussion labs to spark motivation and inspiration with young people. Hosted by David Farrell and Jennifer Reoch, our young people heard from 9 speakers including Reece Hayes from the Princes Trust, Food Medic Dr. Hazel Wallace, and Mollie Hughes, the youngest woman in the world to successfully summit from both the north and south sides of Mount Everest. The event was a fantastic opportunity for our young people to step out of their comfort zone, explore new ideas, and discover their full potential. They left inspired and motivated for the challenges ahead as they move into the senior phase.





## S6 Leavers' Lunch

Congratulations to the sixth years on their Leavers' Lunch. Head Teacher, Mrs. Rooney, started off the celebration with an inspiring talk on looking towards the future and discovering more about life and her hope for the pupils' success and happiness. Next, Hannah Gordon and Joseph Farmer, the school captains, shared their memories and experiences of their time at Braidhurst. These accounts of bygone days were rewarded with bursts of laughter as individuals were reminded of some of their more notorious actions. The nostalgia continued as Ms. Anderson, Depute Head Teacher of S5-6, shared her memories of each individual pupil when they first arrived at Braidhurst based on what they had written about themselves in Primary 7. These anecdotes were accompanied by a slide show put together by Mr. Crawford, which displayed photographs of the sixth years at the start of their Braidhurst journey compared to how they looked now. Some people were clearly recognisable from their earlier pictures whereas some had changed considerably, but as Ms. Anderson reminded them, they had all retained their own unique personalities and qualities. Following on from this, there was a montage of photos from school events and trips, backed by a soundtrack of Taylor McQuoid singing. By this time, the laughter was mingled with sighs and a few tears. Each pupil was presented with a leaver's certificate and a 'wordle' devised by Mrs Swinburne, which brought together their hopes for the future before they indulged in a slice or two of cake, organised by Ms Watson. We wish this year's leavers every success in their SQA exams and a happy, healthy, and successful future.



## BGE Graduation

On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, S3 pupils celebrated being 'Successful Learners' when they graduated from the Broad General Education Phase (S1-S3) to the Senior Phase (S4-S6). The focus of the ceremony was 'Celebrating Success' with an emphasis on the young learners' career journeys in applying skills for learning, life skills and work. Alongside first-class musical entertainment from the Performing Arts Department, the pupils heard from our S3 World of Work Ambassadors and a panel of invited guests. Karen Baird and Emma Baird, former pupils, shared their career journey as owners of *Funtastica*, a thriving local business. We were delighted to welcome them back to their old school. Joseph Martin, the school's Career Adviser, shared valuable information on his role in supporting pupils in the senior phase. Pauline O'Neill, Continuous Improvement Officer for NLC, had recently visited the school to see Developing Young Workforce in action, and we were delighted that she could join us to celebrate and encourage our young people on their journey. Our final speaker, Kieran Aitken, Managing Director of Orbit Enterprise Education, shared his inspirational success story with the graduates. Thanks to all staff involved in organising such a successful and inspiring event.







### S5/6 Induction

Our new S5 and S6 pupils recently participated in a senior school induction day. Alongside an inspiring talk from Kieran Aitken, Managing Director of Orbit Enterprise Education, and the recipient of Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2017, pupils took part in a range of team-building and problem solving activities.



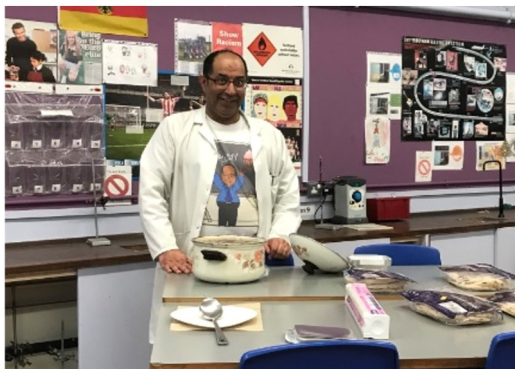
### Malawi Bag Packing

The Malawi committee were in action once again on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April with a bag packing drive at Tesco in Wishaw. The pupils worked hard packing groceries and managed to raise £830. Well done to all involved.

### Pancakes for Malawi

The Malawi fundraisers hosted a pancake and cake sale, on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March, in the school hub. S5 pupil Robbie Caldwell organised and led the event and raised a fantastic amount.

Our Malawi ambassadors recently undertook first aid, Heartstart and a workshop-planning training day at Kildonan Street in Coatbridge. These skills will prove very useful when the ambassadors make their visit to Malawi this summer.



### Curry for Malawi

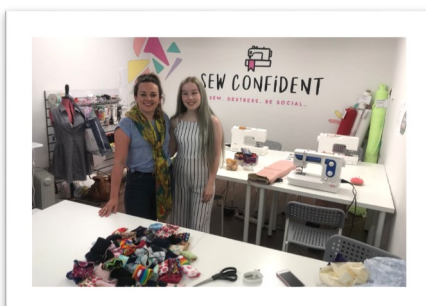
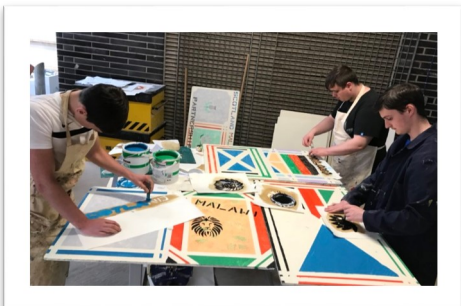
Science Teacher, Mr Hussain, recently auctioned off a pot of his fantastic homemade curry to school staff and raised a fantastic £210 in the process, all for the Malawi project.





## Malawi Trip—Final Preparations

As the departure date for Ms. Young and the school's four Malawi ambassadors' Robbie Caldwell, John Clark, Luke Biggart and Katie Kennedy, draws nearer, the final preparations for their trip to Malawi began in earnest. The Malawi fundraising team were busy putting together useful aid bags which will be handed out during the trip, whilst the ambassadors attended a stenciling and painting workshop, organised by North Lanarkshire Council, to help create eye-catching message boards. Katie worked with Sew Confident to make re-usable sanitary towels for the female pupils of our partner school Missan Jo CDSS.



## Malawi Project – Kier Construction Donation

Kier Construction kindly donated £300 towards Braidhurst High School's Malawi project. Malawi Ambassadors Katie Kennedy and Robbie Caldwell accepted the cheque from Gwenth Blair, Social Impact & KPI Coordinator and Paul Carey, Project Manager, on the Friday prior to their visit to Malawi on Tuesday 5th June. Kier also donated protective clothing for pupils to wear whilst working in Malawi. The Malawi group would like to thank Kier for their very generous donation and will use it towards improving the educational conditions and environment in our linked school, Missan Jo CDSS, in Malawi.



## St Andrew's Hospice Fundraising

Senior pupils Emma Ewart and Christopher Duncan have been continuing their fundraising efforts this year for St Andrew's Hospice and recently sold items, including keyrings, lip balms, pens, torches, and jars of sweets, to pupils from the stall they set up in the foyer at lunchtime. By the Easter holidays they had managed to raise over £200, which is a fantastic effort. Emma and Christopher are also helping to organise the school's upcoming Ben Nevis trek, which will raise more money for the hospice.

## Performance School Graduates Q&A

The school were delighted to welcome back three of our Scottish Football Association Performance School graduates: Kyle Mitchell (Falkirk FC), Jamie Semple (Motherwell FC) and Kyle Connell (Blackburn Rovers FC). The former pupils held a Q&A session with current S1-S2 football performance pupils and were more than happy to pass on invaluable advice and guidance to the younger footballers.







### Premiership Experience

Pupils recently enjoyed another 'Premiership Experience' trip, which was once again organised by staff in the P.E. department, and saw pupils travel to Stoke-on-Trent and Manchester to experience a range of fun activities, including two premiership football matches. On Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May pupils and staff attended the Stoke City vs Crystal Palace fixture followed by food and ten-pin bowling at the Bolton Hollywood Bowl before checking into their hotel at the Bolton Stadium. On the following day the group moved onto Manchester to watch the Man City vs Huddersfield Town match at the Etihad Stadium. Beforehand pupils and staff were also given the opportunity to take part in a range of fun footballing activities as part of the Man City Skills Academy. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed their experience.



### Inter-house Basketball

The annual S1-S2 Inter-house basketball tournament took place on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March in the school's sports barn. Pupils from each house group, Atholl, Lorne, Morven and Rannoch, competed against one another and displayed fantastic skill and team spirit. However, there can only be one winner and this year Lorne house triumphed to win the basketball trophy. Pictured are the Lorne House Captains and the winning team. Well done to all pupils who participated.

S1 Basketball Squad were winners of the South District League before losing in a play-off in the North Lanarkshire Finals. Our departing Senior Pupil Christopher Duncan was instrumental in assisting them with his expertise during Basketball Club every Wednesday.



### Dance

Congratulations to the school's female dance troupe who recently competed at the North Lanarkshire Dance competition where they managed to win two silver medals and a gold medal. A fantastic effort from all the girls involved in the dance numbers.







### Girls' Netball

It has been an extremely successful season for our S3 and S4 Netball squads this year. Our S3 squad played an extremely tight and competitive match against the High School of Dundee and after winning the first three quarters, they lost in the final quarter with 25-33. However, our S3/4 A and B teams have worked hard all year playing in the North Lanarkshire Netball league and both teams played in the semi-finals. The participation in Netball has increased this year and dedication, effort and motivation is evident and fantastic to see.



### P6 Enterprise Event

On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March Braidhurst hosted an enterprise morning for the P6 pupils of our local primary schools Muir Street, Logan's and Ladywell. Pupils participated in a series of group tasks in the school assembly hall with the aim of developing their skills for learning, life and work. The P6 pupils were assisted in this by a team of S1 ambassadors who kept the groups on task.

### P7 Two-Day Transition Visit

At the end of May, the incoming P7 pupils, from our local cluster primary schools and the successful applicants to the SFA School of Football programme, enjoyed a very informative and eye-opening transition visit. The night before the visit commenced, parents and carers of our new pupils gathered in the school assembly hall to hear talks from Head Teacher Mrs. Rooney and Depute Head for S1-2 Mr Gardiner, before participating in Literacy and Numeracy workshops hosted by Principal Teacher of English, Mrs Paterson, and Teacher of Maths, Mrs. Hunter. Over the course of the two days, pupils sampled various subjects across the curriculum, as well as receiving a workshop in the school library exploring 'Why We Should Read'. Pupils were also given the opportunity to experience a school lunch in the canteen and to familiarise themselves with the school building. We look forward to welcoming them all back to Braidhurst in August.





### The Excellence and Equity Education Awards - Nurture Unit Success

We were delighted to be invited to The Excellence and Equity in Education Awards, held at Motherwell Civic Centre on the evening of Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> of May. A delegation of pupils represented the school's Nurture Unit, The Hub, following its successful inclusion as finalists in the category: "Big Challenges – Effective Solutions". As always, our pupils were a credit to the school and we were proud that the work done by our staff in The Hub was also recognised as the service has made a huge contribution to our school community here at Braidhurst over the past 10 years. The Hub continues to go from strength to strength, with more projects and initiatives than ever finding their focus in this area of the school, all of which are supported by an ever-growing team of dedicated staff, determined to meet the needs of all of our pupils. Our free of charge Breakfast Club takes in place in The Hub five mornings a week, and Homework Clubs for S1-S3 run on Wednesdays and Fridays from 3:55pm until 4pm.



### The Excellence and Equity Education Awards – Melissa Rodger

The awards keep coming for Braidhurst High S4 pupil Melissa Rodger, who recently received the Pupils Leading Learning award at the North Lanarkshire Excellence and Equity Awards ceremony, held in the Civic Theatre. Melissa was also given the honour of giving the vote of thanks to close the event. In front of many stakeholders in education Melissa thanked all who attended, from the host Heather Reid OBE, and Isabelle Boyd CBE, to Sir John Jones who gave an inspirational setting the scene seminar. It has been a busy year for this Braidhurst student as she has had to balance the success of receiving several awards, including the Princess Diana Award, which is given to young citizens who have had a positive impact in the lives of young people, to her work in meeting the Scottish Governments, her desire to encourage the up-take of Science, Engineering, Technology, Mathematics (STEM), and keeping up with her school work for the SQA exams. Well done to this very hard working and committed student.

### U16 Football – Lanarkshire Cup Final

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April the U16 football team were in action against St Andrew's and St Bride's High School in the final of the Lanarkshire Cup. The Braidhurst boys played very well and managed to score two goals from Barry Frew and Alistair Small. However, Braidhurst were pipped to the post by their opponents who beat them on penalties 4-3.



Our S3 Football Team were winners of the Lanarkshire Cup Final, having achieved success in the same competition three years in a row since S1. Unfortunately, they lost 1-0 in a tight Scottish Cup Semi-Final.

Our S4 Football Team had a disappointing season as they lost to Holyrood in the Scottish Cup. They also led 2-1 in the Lanarkshire Cup Final before conceding a late goal and losing on penalties!







## Braidhurst Parents' Group

Braidhurst Parents' Group recently organised two very successful fundraising events for the school: a tin collection at the Motherwell vs. Aberdeen football match and a Race Night at the Centenary Suite of Fir Park Stadium. Together the events raised almost two thousand pounds which will be used to fund an array of pupil-centred projects and events, such as the senior prom, excursions, and ties. As well as essential fundraising the parents' group have also been supporting the school during the ongoing building works. The group are always looking for new members. If you would like to find out more please contact Kirsten Scott on 01698 274999 or [kirstens@braidhurst.n-lanark.sch.uk](mailto:kirstens@braidhurst.n-lanark.sch.uk). Our next meeting will take place on Tuesday 28th August at 6.30pm. We hope you can join us.

## Les Oeufs de Paques

The Modern Languages Department held its annual Easter Egg competition and pupils were asked to decorate an egg and label it in a foreign language. The response was excellent and it was difficult to choose winners. First prize was awarded to 1L pupil Sophie McCallum with her Humpty Dumpty sur le mur', second prize was given to Rebecca Davidson for 'On fête Pâques à la campagne' and third prize was won by Thomas Hogg of 1L for his egg 'Madame Magowan' (PT Modern Languages). The most eggs submitted were by Morven House, followed by Lorne, Atholl and Rannoch. All entries gained points for their house. There were also excellent submissions from the Hub group, under the tutelage of Madame Currie, and also the Modern Languages for Life and Work class taught by Mrs McKenna. The department was most impressed by the imagination and commitment of the pupils who entered and would like to wish them all a 'Frohe Ostern!'



## On Mange Une Glace!

First year French students have been learning how to talk about 'Food and Drink' in France, and as part of their course, they were asked to work in pairs to devise an unusual and delicious ice cream sundae in French. The responses were outstanding, showing imagination, flair and linguistic competency. After much deliberation, Mr Hamilton, Depute Head Teacher, chose the sundae he considered best met the criteria for the task, as well as being the one he would most like to eat! Winners were Skye Bailey and Anna Baxter of 1M with 'Coupe Arc en Ciel'; Jenna Straub and Paige Carty, also of 1M with their coupe entitled 'Coupe Chouette'; Andrew Blair of 1R with 'Coupe de Braidhurst' and Amy McAlonan with 'Sundae d'été'. The winners are pictured here with their prize – a real ice cream sundae complete with chocolate flake, chocolate sauce and lashings of cream!



## 1+2 Modern Languages Awards

A group of pupils accompanied by French and German teacher, Miss Lennox, recently attended the 1+2 Modern Languages award ceremony at the Excelsior Stadium in Airdrie. The pupils were recipients of certificates for showing exceptional talent in their study of Modern Languages. The ceremony was presided over by Mr Robert Dalzell, Continuous Improvement Officer for North Lanarkshire Council, Nathalie Kormaz from the Alliance Française, Dr. Sabine Schluter from the Goethe Institut, and Xabier San Isidro from the Spanish Education office in Edinburgh. Braidhurst pupils received certificates as follows: 'Outstanding Language Learner of the Year in S1'; (Nathan Chalmers, Arista Ghai, and Amy McAlonan); 'Outstanding Language Learner of the Year in S2'; (Iona Eldhose, Jay Goode, and Callum Scott), 'Outstanding Language Learner of the Year in French and German in S3'; (Craig Campbell, Cameron May, and Amy-Lee McLaughlin); and 'Most Improved Language Learner of the Year in S3'; (Ellie Brady, Dylan Campbell, and Alex Lowry).

