

The Braidy Times

April 2019 - June 2019

Head Teacher's Report

It is hard to believe that session 2018-2109 is drawing to a close! What a quick year it has been but, as usual, it has been extremely busy. As I said at the awards ceremony, I strongly believe every child has a talent and, as teachers, it is our privilege to help them find their talent and nurture it. I am indebted to my staff who provide such a wide range of varied extra-curricular clubs; visits; events and trips to make sure we cater for every need! It is great to read through this latest edition to remind ourselves of the successes and achievements of our pupils. Our pupils are a credit to us and you.

The two events not mentioned are our wonderful awards ceremony and brilliant summer concert – “Symphony of Success”! It was great to see the achievements of our pupils being recognised. The awards evening was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone and we were entertained by Tam Cowan, a former pupil, who encouraged us to raise our aspirations and follow our dreams. He also ensured we all left the building laughing. The concert was of its usual very high standard – our band just goes from strength to strength - and it was great to see our award winning dancers on the stage. We also thoroughly enjoyed the drama act.

As you know, at Braidhurst we have high standards and expectations of all our pupils – they are the advert for the school! We therefore expect them to be in full school uniform when they are both in school and out on trips. The uniform consist of a blazer, white school shirt, tie, and school skirt/trousers. A V-neck jumper or cardigan can be worn but the tie must always be clearly visible. We would also ask the all pupils wear either black school shoes or, if they prefer, plain black trainers, - no white soles please! The uniform is available from Miyo Apparel (the old Le Mirage shop in Motherwell). Please support us in making sure your child wears their uniform at all times. We retain a small stock of nearly new uniform, if you have any outgrown items, in good condition, they would be gratefully received.

The school finishes for the summer break on Friday 28th of June with buses and taxis ordered for 12.30pm. On 7th of August the school will be open from 9.30am if any of our S5/6 pupils wish to make changes to their courses following their SQA results. School re-opens for pupils on Wednesday 14th of August at 8.55am.

May I wish you all a happy and restful holiday. Hopefully the sun will shine for us all!



Congratulations to our U16 boys football team on lifting the Lanarkshire Cup for the fourth time in a row!!

PTO for full story.



U16 Lanarkshire Cup Final

The U16 Lanarkshire Cup Final took place on Thursday 6th June with Braidhurst battling against Uddingston Grammar to take the cup. By the final whistle each team had scored 3 goals with Braidhurst winning the match on penalties. The win marked the fourth time in a row that they have lifted the Lanarkshire cup. Congratulations to all of our footballers on a fantastic achievement.



U15 Girls' Football – Scottish Shield Final



Congratulations to our U15 girls' football team for making it to the final of the Scottish Shield tournament played on Thursday 2nd May against Boroughmuir High School at the Spartans Community Football Academy in Edinburgh. Despite losing 2-0 to Boroughmuir the girls fought a very competitive game and the school are proud of every single player. Well done girls!

Scottish FA Performance School Graduation

Congratulations to pupils who attended the Scottish FA Performance School Graduation ceremony at Hampden Park on Saturday 8th June. The Braidhurst performance school pupils were each invited onstage and awarded a certificate which recognised their achievement in completing the programme. After the graduation ceremony the boys took their seat to watch Scotland v Cyprus, an international qualifier. At half time they were interviewed on the Hampden pitch. Well done to all our pupils on a fantastic four years.



Niamh Miller

Congratulations to S3 pupil Niamh Miller on recently earning her first international cap in a friendly match against the U15 Northern Ireland team.





NLC Athletics Championship

Well done to all pupils on their performance, in very difficult conditions, at the NLC Athletics Championship which took place on Thursday 30th May! Four golds, two silvers, three bronze medals, and a host of qualifiers for the finals. There were brilliant performances by all who took part!



NL Dance Championships

Twenty pupils took part in the recent North Lanarkshire Dance Championships, held on Thursday 28th March. The overall level of dancing on display was outstanding with several of the girls winning gold and another group gaining silver medals in the Hip Hop category. Well done to all participants!



P7 Cluster Potted Sports Day

On Wednesday 8th May, Braidhurst's cluster primary schools – Ladywell, Logan's, and Muir Street, were invited to take part in a potted sports event which took place in the sports barn. The day was a huge success for the P7 pupils who were ably assisted by a group of Braidhurst pupils. Well done to all involved!



BRAIDHURST PARENTS' GROUP

An essential part of the school's community is our parents' group of fundraisers and our parent council. Both groups are led by Chairperson Claire Wright and Vice-Chairperson David Clark and work under the umbrella name: Braidhurst Parents' Group. Throughout the school year the group meets regularly to organise fundraising projects. These events raise much needed school funds which are given back to pupils to help lessen the cost of, for example, the school prom, trips, and ties etc. Meanwhile the parent council is the official voice of the parents/carers of Braidhurst pupils through which they can lend their support to important practical matters e.g.: the school renovations, as well as education and matters such as discussing the school improvement agenda.





Pop Up Banners

A huge thanks to our parent group who have purchased pop-up banners to be used in the school. We are delighted with them and appreciate their support in helping to make our school look lighter and brighter.

Darci Burns

S4 pupil Darci Burns recently accompanied the North Lanarkshire Schools Pipe Band to the 'Big Apple', New York City, to take part in the annual 'Tartan Day' parade on Saturday 6th April. This is a fantastic achievement by all pupils and staff involved, who not only marched down Sixth Avenue as part of the parade procession, but also brought Grand Central Station to a standstill with their rousing version of, amongst other songs, 'Scotland the Brave', and appeared on national American television, 'Fox and Friends'. Well done Darci!



S1 Tinto Hill Walk

Some of our S1 pupils, accompanied by members of staff, climbed Tinto Hill to help raise money for St Andrew's Hospice. The weather stayed dry which allowed all climbers to reach the summit. At the top pupils enjoyed a well-earned packed lunch before making the descent. Well done to everyone who made the climb, raising much needed money for a great local charity.



M & D'S Reward Trip

On Wednesday 22nd May a group of S2 pupils enjoyed a fun day out to M&D's theme park as part of North Lanarkshire's reward programme which recognises those pupils who have high attendance and a low number of demerits. Pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed their day out.





S1 Outdoor Classroom

S1 pupils recently participated in the three-day, interdisciplinary project, the 'Outdoor Classroom'. The project was organised by Faculty Head of Technology, Mr Conboy, and Principal Teacher of Pupil Support Atholl, Miss Lytle and took place both at school and at Strathclyde Park. Over the three days pupils took part in activities, such as: pond dipping, cycling, kayaking, bridge building, and problem solving exercises, all of which helped pupils work towards their John Muir award, and ensured that they had a fun learning experience. S1 pupils agreed that they thoroughly enjoyed the experience with so many school departments coming together to offer participants a diverse range of activities.



S5/6 INDUCTION DAY

The annual induction day for our new S5/6 pupils took place on Tuesday 28th May. The day began with an inspirational presentation from Jen Downs from Live-n-Learn, followed by a series of workshops from Skills Development Scotland and Focus West amongst others before receiving their new senior timetable. Good luck to all of our senior school pupils as they embark on a very important year.





Heart Start



Three fourth year pupils recently received certificates to mark their successful completion of the British Heart Foundation's Heart Start programme. The pupils were very keen to experience the course which they attended after school. They are now proficient in CPR, recovery position, dealing with suspected heart attacks, choking and bleeding. Sharleen Brandt, Ellie Murphy and Emily Irvine thoroughly enjoyed the course and appreciate how useful it may be in their lives.



Alex Nye Creative Writing Project

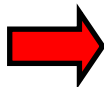


A group of talented S2 pupils were recently given the chance to participate in a nine-week creative writing project delivered by author Alex Nye. The eleven pupils were tasked with putting together a book pitch, including all aspects of short-story writing and designing a book cover, which they presented to a book editor via role play. Each week pupils examined what it means to be a writer and how to find their unique voice for telling stories. Pupils rose to this challenge with Alex repeatedly commenting on their inventiveness, creativity and modesty, and even giving them the nickname 'the Writers of Motherwell'. At the end of the project Alex presented each pupil with a signed copy of her book 'Darker Ends' which they are all very eager to read. This project is yet another very positive example of how the school is raising pupil aspirations and enriching their experience of school and the wider world.





EASTER FUN – MODERN LANGUAGES



The Modern Languages Department ran its annual Easter Egg competition and, as usual, entries were of a high standard. After much consideration the winners were declared as follows: First prize - (S1) Amy McCoull – Les oeufs qui brillent! Second Prize – (S2) joint entry Lucy Lawrence and Gemma Baird – Des oeufs au café. Third Prize – (S2) Thomas Hogg - Le nid de Robin. Commended were: Melinda Tamas, Lisa Blair, Rhys Brown, Zakk Crawford, Jamie Rowlands, Oliwia Marek, Charlotte Hemmings, Jade Brennan, (our seniors) Marc Leslie, Aaron Cairns, Jamie Kinnen, and Braidhurst's multi-talented ASNA Mrs Sweeney with her entry 'La Reine des Coeurs' (The Queen of Hearts) All entries received a certificate, chocolate egg and house points.



On Mange Une Glace

First year French students have been learning how to talk about 'Food and Drink' and, as part of their course, they were asked 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 Gardiner, Depute Head Teacher, chose the sundaes he considered best met the criteria for the task, as well as being the ones he would most like to eat! Winners were Jevan Beattie, Alexander Mathieson, and Courtney Connelly of 1A; Amy McCoull, Lucie Macis and Zoe Toms of 1L; Max Watson, Brooke Delaney and Dainis Sroms of 1M and Erynn Haugh and Abigail Lees of 1R.



1 + 2 Modern Languages Awards

The Braidhurst winners of the first prize 1+ 2 Modern Languages Award received their certificates on Monday 21st May 2019 at Airdrie Stadium. Well done to Israel Owubiko, Arista Ghai, Jay Goode and Mia Caffrey.





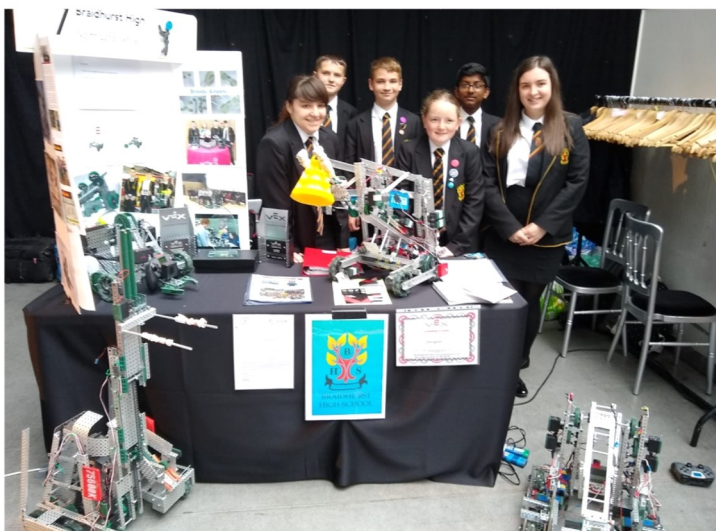
German Assistant Farewell

The Modern Languages Department said "Auf Wiedersehen" to the German Exchange Teacher Marie, who returned to Germany in April. Marie worked with S3-S6 pupils, and assisted them in their study of the German language and culture. Marie's support and hard work were much appreciated. Marie intends to return to Scotland in the future, as she still has much of the country to see, and she assures us that she will visit the department again on her travels. Gute Reise und Viel Gluck!



Robotics – Glasgow Science Centre

Our robotics club attended the Scottish Council for Development and Industry's event at the Glasgow Science Centre. This event was a fantastic opportunity for school pupils across Scotland to celebrate STEM projects and learning. At their stall the Braidhurst team showcased their many achievements in robotics which impressed the many who were in attendance, especially Motherwell and Wishaw MSP Clare Adamson.



S6 LEAVERS ASSEMBLY

On Thursday 25th April the school celebrated its sixth-year leavers' with a special celebration in the school library. Head Teacher Mrs Rooney opened the event with an uplifting speech which encouraged the departing pupils to go out into the world and strive to be the best possible version of themselves despite the inevitable setbacks life may throw at them. School Captains, Katie Kennedy and Zafar Khan delivered the valedictory speech before Depute Head Teacher for Upper School Ms Anderson presented a humorous analysis of each graduating pupil alongside their P7 transition photograph which provoked much laughter. Teacher of Music Mr Crawford then played his 'Remember the Good Old Days' slideshow which documented, through photographs, the journey the pupils had taken from S1-S6. Pupils Scott Allan and Alistair Peacock closed the assembly with a vote of thanks to the Senior Management team, school office staff, English teacher Mrs Swinburne, and Biology Teacher Miss Watson for helping to organise the event. Good luck to all our graduating pupils for their future endeavours.





Skills for Life and Work Programme



As part of the school's 'Developing the Young Workforce' programme a group of 40 S4 pupils recently participated in a 'Skills for Life and Work' week. This programme guaranteed that pupils would gain seven additional qualifications and an improved CV before heading out on work experience for the remainder of study leave. Qualifications on offer included Emergency First Aid, REEHIS Food Hygiene, and Police Scotland's 'Keep Safe' ambassador programme. The week ended with a presentation of certificates to pupils by MP for Motherwell and Wishaw Marion Fellows and Depute Leader of North Lanarkshire Council Paul Kelly, Head Teacher Mrs Rooney and programme organiser Mr Clarke. Congratulations to all of the pupils who participated.



Prom 2019



Our annual senior prom was held at the Radstone Hotel, near Larkhall. The school would like to thank the prom committee of select S5 pupils, Biology teacher Miss Watson and Depute Head in charge of senior school Miss Anderson for organising a fantastic event. The evening saw pupils from S5-S6 and many staff celebrate the success and achievements of our senior students, especially those who are leaving school to begin a new chapter of their lives at university, college or the workplace.





S3 BGE Graduation Ceremony

The third year pupil BGE Graduation Ceremony took place in the school assembly hall. The ceremony marked the completion of the Broad General Education (BGE) phase of their formal schooling and they will now move into the Senior Phase during S4-S6 when they will undertake their National and Higher examinations. Each pupil was gifted a new senior tie from the Parent Group which they are now able to wear as part of their school uniform. Well done to all S3 pupils!



Modern Studies – Visit to Scottish Parliament

On Thursday 21st of March S4 Modern Studies pupils visited the Scottish Parliament building in Edinburgh. The parliament educational staff put on a brilliant programme. On arrival the class participated in an interactive quiz about Holyrood and the powers it possesses. They then witnessed a lively and topical First Minister's Questions where they observed Nicola Sturgeon's skill in giving appropriate responses to questions. Liz Hamilton, MSP, asked a question about social media and the harm it causes to teenagers, especially the mental health and self-esteem of teenage girls, which generated much discussion when back at school, with a pupil promising to raise the issue at the next pupil council meeting. Lastly, the pupils met with Graham Simpson MSP and had the chance to question him about life as an MSP. The pupils behaved impeccably and engaged well. They were a credit to the school, and received compliments from members of the public on the high standard of conduct shown.





“Craigneuk Clothes Bank”

**We are looking for your child/ren's
used school uniforms for our
Summer School
Clothes Bank**



At the end of term, please consider donating any items,
that are still in good condition to us, so that we can pass
them on to others who may be able to use them.

Items can be handed into the Centre at
641A Glasgow Road
Monday – Friday 9.30am – 2.30pm



The Clothes Bank will be open all during the Summer
holidays. It can be accessed by anyone and is FREE of
charge, so please drop-in and see if there is anything you
could use in complete confidence and privacy.



Further information from
Louise/Liz
on
01698 373401

