

The Braidy Times

December 2018—March 2019

Head Teacher's Report

As always at Braidhurst we have had a busy and productive term. Hopefully this newsletter will let you see the good work that goes on in Braidhurst High School.

It was therefore really disappointing to read the statistics in a newspaper with a 'table' of pupils achieving five Highers, where we do not look well. I would just like to point out that our dux last year achieved 6 A grade passes at Higher with the runner up achieving 5 grade A passes. This year we have two pupils applying for medicine and one applying for dentistry. The statistics in the table are based on the percentage of pupils in S4 who go on to achieve 5 Highers in S5 which is an extremely narrow measure.

It does not reflect the number of pupils who leave at the end of S4 or throughout their S5 to go to employment or college. 94.7% of our pupils have moved into a positive destination this year which is a significant improvement. University is not a route suitable for all of our pupils, and it is our duty to ensure we meet the needs of all our learners. We work hard to find the most appropriate pathway for your child whatever that may be. Nor does it count the number of pupils who do an alternative qualification in S5 other than a Higher grade course. For example, during study leave, we run an alternative curriculum for 40 of our S4 pupils who, not only have the opportunity to gain qualifications in first aid and food hygiene but also undertake a work placement to prepare them for their next steps.

As a school, we ensure that we provide many and varied opportunities to ensure our pupils move into a positive destination where they can contribute fully to society. Qualifications is one part of what a school should provide for the pupils in its care, and for our most academic pupils they can, and do, achieve.

I have an extremely hard working staff who willingly give up their time to support your child in various events. I have pupils whose behaviour is excellent and who are praised when they represent the school. I am extremely proud of every one in this school community and what we achieve together. Please do not judge us on one statistic. Our job is to get the message of everything our great school achieves to the community. Please help us by spreading the word!

S4/5/6 pupils don't forget to study and remember Easter school is there to support you! You are in a great place to move confidently towards your exams.

Have a great holiday.



CHRISTMAS DANCE

The school Christmas dance took place on Tuesday 18th December with pupils from S1-6 thoroughly enjoying themselves as they danced the night away and got into the Christmas spirit.



LINE DANCING

On Wednesday 19th December the school hosted its annual inter-house line dancing competition in the assembly hall. The event was fiercely contested, with pupils from each house group having practised their moves in the weeks leading up to the dance-off. However, on the day it was Rannoch house who impressed the judges, Mr Paterson, Mr Campbell, Ms Galloway, and Ms O'Donovan the most with their line dancing prowess. Morven house were awarded second place, Lorne third place, and Atholl fourth place. Well done to all pupils who took part in this very successful event.





ART DEPARTMENT - SET DESIGN

Art and Design pupils were very busy at the end of 2018 preparing set designs for the school's Christmas show. Thanks must go to Mr. Clifford and Miss. Galloway for their extremely hard work in preparing the fantastic set designs with the pupils!

SOCIAL DANCING - VIRAL CLIP

At the end of the year the school went "viral" with a clip of S3 social dancing being shared like wild fire on various social media platforms and even making the national newspapers. The P.E department filmed an S3 class performing the 'Dashing White Sargent' to dance anthem 'Bits and Pieces' by GBX during the annual social dancing programme in the lead up to the school Christmas dance. Not only was the clip a hit with viewers but the pupils also loved the chance to perform some traditional Scottish dancing to a modern dance classic.

CHRISTMAS PANTO - IT'S ONLY A FAIRYTALE

On Thursday 13th December the school hosted its annual Christmas show led by the fantastic Performing Arts department. This year the school entertained a packed audience in the assembly hall with a pantomime entitled 'It's Only a Fairytale'. Pupils from all year groups participated in the event and showcased their acting and dance skills to a highly appreciative audience. Well done to all the pupils and staff involved who worked so hard to once again produce a fantastic show.

BRAIDHURST PARENTS' GROUP

An essential part of the school's community is our parents' group of fundraisers and 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 fund-raising projects, such as Tin Collections, and Mary Angels Psychic Nights. 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 matters e.g. the school renovations, traffic and car parking outside the school gates etc.

The group are always looking for new members - all are welcome. If you are interested in joining please get in touch with the school on: 01698 274999.





MALAWI CHRISTMAS DOORS

In the run up to Christmas staff were asked to donate £5 to the Malawi fundraising project and get creative by designing and decorating their room door. Five pupil judges individually scored each door out of a total of 30 points based on creativity, originality and Christmas Spirit. All five judges' scores were then added together with Mrs Reilly, classroom teacher of Performing Arts, announced as the deserving winner. Honourable mention should go to Ms Donnelly and Mrs Hunter in second and third place respectively.



CHARITY CHRISTMAS BOXES

Fundraising for Malawi was combined with helping out the local community as pupils and staff were asked to donate tins and non-perishable goods which were used in Christmas hampers gifted to local residents. Pupils and staff were also invited to wear their Christmas jumper on Friday 14th December with all money donated going towards the Malawi project fund.



XL BAKE SALE

Forgey foods came to town! The XL class recently organised a bake sale as part of their Enterprise unit to achieve their Prince's Trust Award. The 'company', known as "Forgey Foods" sold a selection of tasty, bespoke home baking and bought in 'high end patisserie' treats to sell to staff at interval in the staff room on Thursday 13th December! The boys were very proud of their work and of having the opportunity to serve staff some delicious refreshments.





Braidhurst competed at the national VEX Robotics tournament in Telford.

VEX ROBOTICS – NATIONAL FINAL

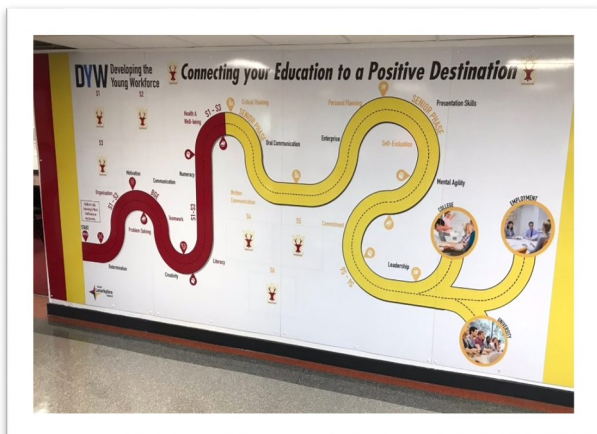
Congratulations to the school's robotic teams "KOALA-T" and "Anonymous" for reaching the quarter finals in the UK National Vex robotics competition in Telford. The Vex Robotics Challenge is the world's largest and fastest-growing robotics competition for high schools, colleges and universities. More than 10,000 teams from 32 countries took part in over 750 tournaments to compete to become the best in the world. Nearly 60 teams qualified for the UK finals, which took place at the Telford International Conference Centre. At the competition the North Lanarkshire teams took on the best of the UK, with the Braidhurst teams making it through to the quarter finals. In the VEX Competitions, presented by the Robotics Education & Competition Foundation, teams of students are tasked with designing and building a robot to play against other teams from around the world in a game-based engineering challenge. Classroom STEM concepts are put to the test on the playing field as students learn lifelong skills in teamwork, leadership, communications, and more. The Braidhurst robotics club has been very well supported by North Lanarkshire and includes pupils ranging from S1 to S4 including three S5 female students who act as STEM ambassadors and have committed to supporting the younger less experienced members. They are true role models and are equipping the developing young minds to meet the autonomous revolution that all countries are facing.





PANTOMIME REWARD TRIP

Over 200 Braidhurst pupils were rewarded for their continued exemplary behaviour and effort at school with a reward trip, just before Christmas, to the 'Cinderella' pantomime at the SEC Armadillo in Glasgow on Thursday 20th December. The reward trip was another success with all pupils and staff thoroughly enjoying the performance.



DEVELOPING THE YOUNG WORKFORCE - WALL DISPLAY

The school community are delighted with the fantastic new 'Developing the Young Workforce' wall display which was recently unveiled in the school foyer. Thank you to our partners at MIYOFit for their help in designing and erecting the display which functions as a visual walk through of the skills for life, learning and work that pupils will learn throughout their journey in S1-6.



JOHN LEWIS CONTACT CENTRE VISIT

Pupils from sixth year recently visited the John Lewis Customer Contact Centre as part of the school's commitment to 'Developing the Young Workforce'. The pupils spent the day learning individual and group interview skills, answered scenario questions and developed their telephone customer service technique.



ST ANDREW'S HOSPICE

To support St Andrew's Hospice the school has delivered a range of fundraising activities throughout the year, including a staff book swap, a Christmas tree where staff could post their season's greetings in lieu of sending Christmas cards and a sale of items at lunch time in the foyer which was run by senior pupils. All proceeds raised were sent onto St. Andrew's Hospice to support their fantastic work.





MATHS FUN

Pupils in the Maths department have recently had fun learning about fractions, decimals and percentages. As part of this they took part in a competition combining Maths with Modern Art inspired by the work of Ellsworth Kelly. Our overall S1 winner was Jacky Luo and our S1 class winners were Emily Findlay, Aaron Craig, Logan Lambert and Isabelle Costea.

PI DAY

The Maths department celebrated Pi Day with pupils in S1-S3 learning about irrational numbers, having Pi recitals and competing in Pi Dingbat competitions. It was also the North Lanarkshire Sumdog competition, our top performing class were 1.1 and our school winners were Brianna McLeod, Lucie Macis, Cooper McHolm, Alexander Mathieson and Jay Sneddon.



CAREERS EVENT

On Monday 18th February the school hosted its annual Careers Event in the assembly hall as part of the Braidhurst's improvement priority of 'Developing the Young Workforce'. A large number of employers and further education staff, including FOCUS West, Reach Scotland, Phoenix Specialist Solutions, Motherwell Football Club, Police Scotland and Skills Development Scotland, manned stalls and were on hand to speak with pupils and parents/carers eager for advice and information. The event proved to be very successful with a high number of pupils attending.





YAY YA+ BOOK FESTIVAL

A group of 15 pupils from S1 attended the Yay YA+ Book Festival at Cumbernauld Theatre on Tuesday 12th March. Each pupil was selected due to their positive commitment to personal reading and their regular attendance and support of the school library. After a warm welcome from the festival's organiser, Kirkland Ciccone, pupils were given the opportunity to participate in short workshops delivered by a range of authors about their writing and inspiration. Authors in attendance included L.J McWhirter, Ross Murdoch, Philip Caveney, Moira McPartlin and Ross Sayers. Pupils were very excited to visit the bookshop and purchase a copy of their favourite book from the event which they later got signed by the author. After lunch the keynote presentations from Kirkland and Alex Nye took place in the theatre's main auditorium and proved an excellent way to end a great event. The pupils returned to school inspired to continue their passion for reading for pleasure and were commended on their impeccable behaviour throughout the day.



THE RIVERSIDE MUSEUM 'SAILMAKER' VISIT

S4 English pupils recently enjoyed a trip to the Riverside Museum in Glasgow where they participated in an interactive guided tour of the museum which would improve their understanding of the Scottish play 'Sailmaker', by Alan Spence, which they are studying as part of their National 5 English course. During the tour, pupils discovered information about the rise and fall of Glasgow's shipbuilding, and the different jobs involved in the industry. The museum's location, facing the site of Govan's shipyards, helped to further set the scene. The visit served to enrich their knowledge of the play and support them in the run up to their SQA exams.

SKY ACADEMY VISIT

A group of S3 and S4 Media pupils participated in a very enjoyable and highly informative visit to the Sky Academy in Livingston. The trip encouraged pupils to develop skills for life and work as part of the school's 'Developing the Young Workforce' programme, with a particular emphasis, this time, on communication and creativity. Whilst at the Sky Academy pupils explored various roles within the media industry and were tasked with creating their own horror trailer. The visit proved to be a very successful day for all pupils involved.





MODERN LANGUAGES SUCCESS

A group of pupils from class 2M won a prestigious award. They performed a short film in which they sang and danced to a French version of Mama Mia, made up by their French teacher Mrs Magowan. Instead of the usual words, they used common classroom problems in French and acted out the performance in the Drama Department with the help of Mrs Magowan, and Drama teacher Mrs Reilly. This was forwarded to the French Institute in Edinburgh and the pupils were delighted to learn that they had won second prize! This was a wonderful achievement, considering entries were invited from all over Scotland. The group is now considering a second French performance, as they enjoyed the experience so much!



SCHOLAR GRADUATION

A group of S3 pupils recently graduated from the Scholar programme, an online organisation which offers over thirty courses for Scottish schools which are aligned to the SQA curriculum at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher level. The ceremony was held on Thursday 21st February at Edinburgh University. Hopefully this is the first of many graduations for this group of talented Braidhurst scientists. Well done to them all!

S3 MENTAL HEALTH DAY

On Tuesday 19th February all S3 pupils participated in a day to promote positive mental health. During the morning the pupils attended four out of six workshops focused on improving their mental health, including Yoga, Mindfulness and Nutrition. These 30 minute sessions gave pupils tasters of ways they can manage their mental health, places they can contact for additional support and stories about what can happen when you neglect your mental health. All of the experts who presented the workshops complimented the school on how enthusiastic and welcoming the S3 pupils were. In the afternoon the school had the pleasure of hosting Manchester-based rock band 'The Hara' who played some of their songs for the pupils, before delivering a talk about their own personal experiences with mental health, bullying and cyber problems, such as 'catfishing'. Afterwards the band signed autographs and took photos with pupils. All the S3 pupils said they really enjoyed the day and The Hara are likely to have a few new fans from Braidhurst High School.





ROAD SAFETY CALENDAR COMPETITION

Art and Design pupils were very successful in the recent North Lanarkshire Road Safety Calendar design competition. They put a lot of effort into their designs and came top in their age group. This is a great achievement, considering there were over 2000 entries from schools all over North Lanarkshire. Ethen Smith gained 1st place and was awarded a certificate and a £30 gift voucher. Iona Eldhose gained 2nd place and was awarded a £20 gift voucher. Whilst Ellie Anderson, Laiba Khan and Lennon Newell all were awarded Highly Commended certificates. Well done all!

BURNS' CELEBRATIONS

First Years enjoyed a mini Burns' Celebration in English. After listening to renditions of the poems 'Tam O'Shanter' and 'To a Haggis' they learned the 'Selkirk Grace' before tucking into some traditional Scottish shortbread and Irn Bru.

EDINBURGH SCIENCE FESTIVAL

On Friday 1st March a group of 44 Braidhurst pupils attended a great day out at the Edinburgh Science Festival at the National Museums Scotland. Pupils had the opportunity to explore the exhibits and develop their STEM learning and skills as part of our developing the young workforce programme.

GIRLS' FOOTBALL FESTIVAL

Pupils from our girls football programme recently assisted at the Girls' Football Festival at Ravenscraig Regional Sports Facility where primary teams from across the authority competed in the tournament. The Braidhurst girls were highly commended by the organisers of the festival for all of their help and support.

U15 GIRLS SCOTTISH SHIELD

The U15 girls' football team were in action against The Mary Erskine School in the next round of the Scottish Shield. Braidhurst won the match easily 5-1 with goals from Leigha Dobbins, Stephanie Conner, Ellie Dickson, Rachel Graham, and Jenna Woods. The Player of the Match was named as Rachel Graham.





NETBALL RESILIENCE GROUP

The netball resilience sessions aim to raise self-esteem of girls especially within PE and are delivered by professional netball player, Kelly Slater, from Strathclyde Sirens. The sessions are running every Thursday for four weeks and will culminate in a region-wide tournament when we will compete against other participating schools.



GIRLS' NETBALL

The Braidhurst S3/4 and S2 netball teams were both in action recently with the S3/4 girls winning their match against St Ambrose High School on Monday 4th March. The S2 girls won their game against Our Lady's High School in Motherwell with Emily Dougan being named Player of the Match.

NETBALL SENIOR LANARKSHIRE LEAGUE

The Braidhurst senior netball team played a fantastic match against Cardinal Newman High School on Monday 25th February and despite losing the game showed a great deal of persistence and determination throughout.



LANARKSHIRE CUP – S4 BOYS FOOTBALL

Well done to our S4 boys who defeated Our Lady's High School in Motherwell on Wednesday 30th January in a Lanarkshire Cup match. Braidhurst won the match 2-1 and now progress to the semi-finals of the tournament. The Braidhurst goals were scored by Kyle Semple and Max McGuigan. The boys are now determined to win the trophy for the fourth year in a row.

U16 BOYS' SCOTTISH CUP

The U16 boys' football team played their Scottish Cup semi-final match against Linlithgow Rose Football Club on Friday 1st March. Despite goals from Alex Lowry and Max McGuigan the score remained a 3-3 draw which took the match to a penalty shoot-out which Braidhurst unfortunately lost. Well done to the team for reaching the semi-finals!



SCOTTISH CUP – BRAIDHURST V ST NINIAN'S

The school's senior football team crashed out of this season's Scottish Cup at the hands of familiar foes, St Ninian's High School. The goal scored by second half substitute, Mark Montgomery, ended up being only a consolation as the team succumbed to a demoralising defeat. Whilst the game arguably ended unfairly with the away side losing by four goals – a sentiment shared by the coaching staff of both teams – St Ninian's were fiercely clinical with the chances they created.





Dear Parent/Carer,

Meal Price Increase

I am writing to inform you of price changes to the school meals service from 15th April 2019. The meal price will increase from:

Primary School	Currently £2.00 will change to £2.10 for 2 courses and a drink.
Secondary School	Currently £2.05 will change to £2.15 for 2 courses and a drink.

For the last 2 years the school meal price has been held at £2.00 and £2.05 respectively. In comparing prices across other local authorities based on 2018/19 figures North Lanarkshire Council were 5th cheapest for the cost of a primary school 2 course lunch with drink and 6th cheapest for a secondary school 2 course lunch with drink. In increasing the school meal price we will still remain within the average price brackets.

All Primary 1 to 3 children are entitled to receive a free 2 course school meal with a drink which includes a choice from two main meals or a snack 2 go. Our menus can be accessed in various different ways via the council's website and you are able to set up an alert system to your mail box which provides in advance access to the weekly menu so you can assist with your child's selections. You can sign up to this when you access the Primary school meals page where the link is at the top of the page - northlanarkshire.gov.uk/primaryschoolmeals.

There are lots of exciting things going on within the school meals service and we have recently run competitions on increasing milk uptake 'Drink Milk Grow Healthy' and also on encouraging our children to try new foods from around the world the 'Be a Food Explorer'. We have increased vegetable content in some meals through blending such as the sauce for the pizza recipe and the tomato pasta dish. In addition our sweet treats often include fruit and vegetables.

We are preparing for forthcoming guidelines from the Scottish Government and will be reducing the number of times that ham will be available as a sandwich filling and introducing more reduced sugar sweet treats. We are also working with schools to reduce single use plastics and have various schools participating in pilots with us with the intention of rolling this out over the next 12 months. More information can be found on our School Meals Website as above. You can contact us at FacilitySupportServs@northlan.gov.uk or telephone on 01236 856464.

Thank you for continuing to support our school meals service.

Regards

Anne Hanlon
Business Manager
Facility Support Services

