

# The Braidy Times

October 2018 — December 2018

## Head Teacher's Report

It always amazes me when we collate all the information for the newsletter how much has been going on at Braidhurst high School, and this does not even cover our Christmas Concert, reward trips, dance, service and last day activities and, for many the highlight of the session, our interhouse line dancing competition! As always learning and teaching remains the focus, particularly as our senior pupils have their prelims in January.

All pupils will be issued with an interim report before the end of term. An attendance print out will also be included and a note of their merits and demerits. Please discuss these with your child. If you have any questions please get in touch with your child's pupil support teacher.

Our renovations have started and we have a notice board in the foyer to explain what work is being undertaken. As we have more people around the school it is more important than ever that all our pupils remain visible in their school uniform at all times. Outdoor jackets, hats and scarfs should be removed on entering the school. Pupils should see Ms Watson in science if they wish a locker to put outdoor jackets in during the day (£10 to rent, £5 of which is reimbursed at the end of the year when the key is returned and the locker left the way it was found.) Please note school uniform is a white shirt, black skirt or school trousers (not jeans or leggings), V-neck jumper or cardigan, school tie and plain black shoes.

The school finishes on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> of December for the Christmas holidays. Buses and taxis will be booked for 1.30pm to ensure all our pupils get home safely. The school re-opens on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> of January at 8.55am.

I hope you all have a happy and peaceful holiday and look forward to welcoming back our pupils in January.



Braidhurst recently participated in the 'Lessons from Auschwitz' project led by the Holocaust Educational Trust which included a visit to the Nazi death camp for two senior pupils.

Full report later in the newsletter.



### **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, such as Tin Collections, and Fashion Sales. 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 and voice to important matters e.g.: the school improvement plan; 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 Kirsten Scott via email: [kirstens@braidhurst.n-lanark.sch.uk](mailto:kirstens@braidhurst.n-lanark.sch.uk).

### **Digital Explorers**

Senior students recently attended the Digital Explorers event hosted by TCS (Tata Consultancy Services) and EDT (Engineering Development Trust). The program was hosted by Tess Gallacher the Schools Programme Officer for EDT and was designed to highlight to pupils the world of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). Braidhurst is a center of excellence in the delivery of STEM, via its award-winning Robotics club and the embedded S1-S2 technology elective.

During the event the students participated in events with a STEM theme such as The Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Crypto-currencies exemplified by Bit-coin. This demonstrated to them the skills and attributes both necessary and valued in the STEM industry. It was also made very apparent that within such a fast moving sector with rapid growth there were many career opportunities.

### **Skills Scotland**

On Wednesday, 24th October, many pupils from Braidhurst High school took part in a visit to the SEC centre in Glasgow where a Skills Scotland event was underway. This convention, described as 'Glasgow's largest careers, jobs, skills and apprenticeships event' lived up to its reputation as the average turnout is around 6,000 14 – 19-year-olds over the course of the event being held. Braidhurst pupils were able to participate in many workshops, ranging from construction to Coca Cola. It is highly beneficial to any young person looking to identify and acquire the necessary skills for working in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The school provides many great opportunities such as this, to all pupils organised and coordinated by Mr. Clarke, our Developing the Young Workforce Champion over the course of the school year.





### **Meeting the Digital Challenge**

Pictured above are the S2 cohort from the school's "STEM" elective. The elective has just received the first batch of, "state of the art, STEM V5, autonomous equipment' to make artificial intelligence (A.I.) systems. The elective classes are embedded into the school curriculum, both the S1 and S2 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematical) teaching ensures that the school's broad general education (BGE) offers personalisation, choice, relevance and enjoyment. Both the elective and the award-winning Robotics club are organised by Mr Hussain of the science department. Mr Hussain commented that, "we at Braidhurst are committed to meeting the needs of the individual by being creative and providing them with the opportunity to develop skills they will need in the world of work, An emphasis has also been put on encouraging girls into STEM subjects and Mr. Hussain has signed up to the Girl power pledge, #GirlPowerd. The theme of the initiative is to show how exciting it is to be involved with STEM, showcasing examples of how women are changing the world, providing tools for success, and enabling comfortable environments where the confidence and abilities of all students can flourish."

### **Mental Health Ambassadors**

The school's Mental Health ambassadors were awarded the Health and Wellbeing' award at the North Lanarkshire CLD Partnership Celebration of Learning which took place on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November at New College Lanarkshire's Coatbridge campus. A huge well done to our fantastic ambassadors.



### **Photography – 'Maths Inside'**

The Higher Photography class took part in this year's Glasgow University 'Maths Inside' photography competition. Andrew Gil-mour in S5 gained a commended award for his photograph using the schools tower block to compose a photograph showing symmetry within architecture. Well done Andrew!





## Book Week Scotland

The school library recently celebrated Book Week Scotland with a number of events including S1 pupils Jamie Scallan and Briana McLeod interviewing staff about their reading habits and favourite books. Our Reading Lunch club was also launched with staff and pupils gathering in the library to enjoy their food and a good book in golden silence. We also recorded a podcast with pupils, Eleanor Day (S5), David Blair (S3), Craig Young (S2) on the subject of "the book that has changed our lives." The events were organised by school librarian Mrs Scott and were used to promote reading for pleasure amongst staff and pupils.



## Libraries Week

In honour of Libraries Week, and to promote the importance of libraries within secondary schools, Braidhurst's school library organised a series of S1-S3 pupil podcasts to discuss all things reading related. These podcasts can be accessed and listened to via the school library area on the school website. Each of the pupils involved gave a very honest and insightful account of their own reading journey and commented on the debate of young people and reading. As a reward for their participation each pupil was gifted a new book by the author Danny Weston. Staff were also involved in the celebrations by recommending a book of their choice to pupils. The nominated books represented the best in young adult fiction and their choice was promoted via a poster which staff placed on their door to prompt discussion with their classes regarding reading for pleasure.





### **Dragon's Lair**

The Dragon's Lair final was held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November in the Atrium Centre in Coatbridge and out of 6 finalists Braidhurst were represented by 2 teams. Educate Me's entrepreneurs were Finlay Anderson, Iona Eldhose and Rebecca Nevans who designed an app to educate children in all aspects of their learning by providing additional support and skills to improve their knowledge and understanding of a subject. The app would also include video tutorials, timetable, planners, games and prompts. Supernova – Solar Mower entrepreneurs were Ellie Anderson, Ryan Murray and Robbie Tollan who designed a new and improved lawn mower powered by solar energy to combat global warming by depending on reusable energy instead of using fossil fuel. The pupils attended an Information Day where they were advised on the completion of their business plan. This was submitted 2 weeks later and marked by one of Business Gateway's Business Advisors. Out of 19 submissions, Braidhurst was overwhelmed to have 2 teams in the final. After selection, the pupils attended a briefing day regarding their presentation to the Dragon's and had one week to prepare their pitch. On the day, the pupils excelled in their presentation skills and dared to enter the dragon's den for 5 minutes of questions. Although both teams were unsuccessful in winning the title, they were complimented on the exceptionally high standard of their business plans and presentation skills.



### **S3 Drama – Tron Theatre**

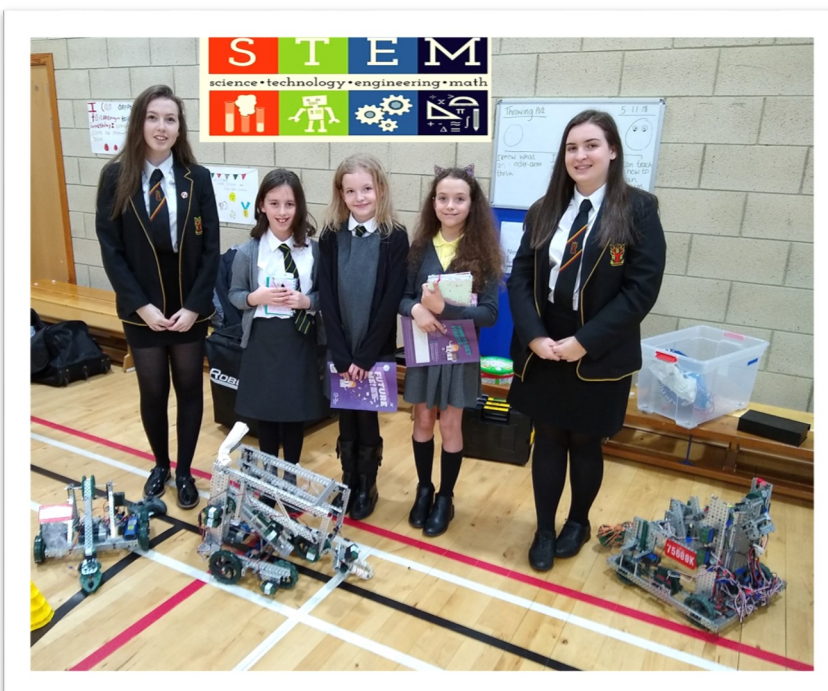
The S3 Drama class were recently working with the Tron Theatre over two weeks where they participated in a range of workshop activities. They explored set design and costume as well as lighting. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience and found them educational and fun.





### Mock Interview Evening

On Wednesday 7th October, the school held its annual mock interview evening for S4 pupils. Pupils created their own personal CVs in PSE classes in preparation for interviews and each pupil was allocated a specific employer who would conduct the interview. There were 19 employers in total who were gracious enough to attend the event and give those in S4 a taste of the nerve-racking, but beneficial world of job interviews. Pupils were encouraged to participate in the regular formalities of job interviews with conventional clothing to be worn and handshakes to be exchanged. Motherwell F.C. icon and current assistant to manager Stephen Robinson at Fir Park, Keith Lasley, was one of the interviewers on the night. He posted on his own official Twitter account after the event: 'a pleasure to be part of the S4 mock interviews at Braidhurst High School this evening.'



### Braidhurst High School Students helping foster STEM Development in North Lanarkshire

Once again Braidhurst, like other North Lanarkshire schools, has embraced STEM teaching, by creating the role of senior school STEM ambassadors who recently visited Rochsolloch and All Saints Primary's DYW event, to showcase and inspire STEM in students at an early age. Their mission was to ignite the imagination of young people and nurture their talent for the long-term benefit of North Lanarkshire. The school's two STEM ambassadors, Jenna and Chloe, are passionate about bringing gender diversity into the world of engineering, actively taking a lead role in encouraging their female peers to take an interest in the subject. Through their love of science, the two senior students have devoted their lunchtimes and evenings to lead a STEM club for younger pupils within their school where they have created a fun and welcoming learning environment. The STEM club sessions are now so popular that there is a waiting list of pupils who want to join.





### **P7 Science Morning**

Ninety-seven primary seven pupils from our three catchment primary schools enjoyed a fun morning filled with different scientific experiments at Braidhurst High School. The event involved twenty-two sixth year pupils demonstrating, explaining and leading the younger children through the various activities. The primary pupils had a great day with one stating, "I had a brilliant day, it was interesting and the sixth year helpers were great. I would like to do it all again". This was down to the senior pupils' excellent communication and organisational skills. Many of the primary pupils commented on the kindness and words of encouragement offered by the S6 pupils.



### **Inter-House Potted Sports**

On Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October, S1 and S2 pupils competed in the annual inter-house potted sports competition. Pupils took part in a range of timed sporting activities either in the sports barn or assembly hall. All pupils gave their all but once the scores were totaled Lorne house proved victorious. Well done to all who took part.

### **PE Lifeskills**

Pupils from the PE Lifeskills class recently participated as Sports Leaders at the North Lanarkshire Active Schools Primary Sports Hall Athletic Event on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November at the Ravenscraig Regional Sports Centre. All pupils showcased excellent teamwork and support for all the teams competing at the event.





### **Auschwitz Visit**

On 30<sup>th</sup> October 2018, senior pupils Chloe McLaughlin (5M) and Matthew Sinclair (6L) joined 200 young people from central Scotland in a History lesson they will never forget. The pupils embarked on an emotional pilgrimage to the infamous Nazi death camps in Auschwitz, Poland as part of the 'Lessons from Auschwitz' project led by the Holocaust Educational Trust. They were accompanied on their visit by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon. Prior to their visit, Chloe and Matthew took part in an Orientation Seminar for the once in a lifetime opportunity to hear the incredible story of a Holocaust survivor first-hand. Eva Clarke shared the story of her mother, an inmate and survivor of the Nazi death camps and of her own story of fate and good fortune to have been one of only a few babies to survive being born in an extermination camp. The heart-touching story evoked an emotional response from the audience and added a personal perspective to the events and atrocities of the Holocaust which the pupils had previously studied from textbooks, films and photographs. On arriving in Poland, Chloe and Matthew explored the camps and prison cells at Auschwitz which have now been dedicated to a museum housing evidence of the atrocities. The tour continued in the afternoon to Auschwitz-Birkenau II. The sight alone of the railway tracks leading into "the gates of hell" sparked an emotional response from many students. Chloe and Matthew walked along the infamous railway tracks which took many innocent men, women and children to their fate. The day ended with a moment of reflection with a short service of memorial and a candle lighting ceremony led by Rabbi Daniel Epstein in memory of the dead. Chloe and Matthew agreed that this was an appropriate and touching end to their visit. Reflecting on her visit, Chloe commented "The trip to Auschwitz has been an unforgettable experience. I believe it is extremely important that we never forget the horrifying and unimaginable torture that innocent people endured. 'Seeing is not like hearing' is a very true statement. Being able to see and walk around the camps has changed the way I view the Holocaust. We must remember each victim and survivor as an individual and not lose their identity as just a fact and statistic of the past." Matthew mirrored the views of Chloe and remarked "I am privileged to have had the chance to witness first-hand the horrors of the Holocaust. The atmosphere in Auschwitz is indescribable. There is a feeling of calm and serenity in a place where so much terror and hatred was previously bestowed upon the camps' innocent victims. My involvement in this project has had a lasting impression on me. Chloe and Matthew will now work in school as Ambassadors for the Holocaust Educational Trust and will complete a Next Steps Project in which they will pass on the lessons they have learned from their involvement in the programme. This will include a presentation and lesson delivered to lower school pupils focusing on the theme of prejudice, racism and tolerance. The experience is sure to be one lesson from history that Chloe and Matthew will never forget.





### **Scottish Cup Visit to Braidhurst High School**

On Friday 9th November, the Scottish Cup found its way to Braidhurst as part of its regular tour around the country in which the trophy is displayed in many schools across Scotland. Pupils and staff were able to have their photo taken with football's oldest national trophy.



### **U14 Girls' Football Team Success**

The U14 Girls' football team recently competed in the Scottish Schools FA Girls' Sevens (Central Region) on Thursday 11th October at Chryston High School. The team played five matches and won all of them which is a super achievement and now means that they can progress to the next round of the competition which is due to be played in November. A huge well done to all the girls involved.



### **U14s Girls Football**

Congratulations to Braidhurst's Girls' Under 14 7s team who successfully made it to the final of the Scottish Schools' FA U14 7s tournament at the Torglen Regional Football Centre on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Jamie Smith Football Visit**

Braidhurst recently welcomed back Scottish FA and Performance School graduate Jamie Smith for a Q&A and practice session with our S1-S2 performance school pupils. Jamie was also happy to pass on excellent advice to our S2 goalkeepers after he recently made his debut for Hamilton Academicals reserve team.





### **Scottish Cup – Braidhurst vs. Alva**

Braidhurst senior boys began their under 18 Scottish Cup campaign with a superb 5-0 victory over Alva Academy at Braidhurst High School on the 31<sup>st</sup> October. The team will now face Stirling High School in the 3<sup>rd</sup> round. Both teams set a good, early tempo to the game and appeared more than capable of keeping possession well and playing the ball out from the back under pressure. Braidhurst however were first to take the initiative as they opened the scoring in the 6<sup>th</sup> minute of the match, as Mark Montgomery played a clever ball over the top of the Alva defence which Alistair Small latched onto and audaciously lobbed the goalkeeper to put the hosts in front. It was 3<sup>rd</sup> time lucky for Barry Frew as he claimed his first goal of the game and the team's second on the 24<sup>th</sup> minute after a dashing counter attack from Braidhurst following an Alva corner. Goals from Liam Scott and Dylan Morrow gave Braidhurst a 4-0 lead. The fifth and final goal came on effectively the last kick of the ball as a long pass was played over the top of Alva's defence for Barry Frew to chase. He showed great pace to surge past the opposition's right back and round the keeper to make it 5-0. Mr Clarke believes they have a 'great chance' of lifting the trophy come May with the team they have, which has still to gain players back from injury. Braidhurst: Purves, McDonald, Reid, Sinclair, Peacock, Fleming (Morrow 40), Scott, Redfern, Frew, Montgomery and Small.



### **German Immersion Day**

A group of pupils studying Higher German at Braidhurst High School travelled to Glasgow last week to take part in a German Immersion Day organised by the Goethe Institute. The group worked with students from other schools in the division and engaged in a number of purposeful, as well as fun, activities in the foreign language, including conversing with young German people to discover more about the culture and music of modern day Germany. Braidhurst pupils were assisted by their German Exchange Teacher, Miss Marie-Kristin Schmadel, who works with the pupils for part of the week. All pupils thoroughly enjoyed getting to know other young people out with their own school, as well as having the opportunity to practise their language skills and extend their knowledge of various aspects of Germany today.



### **U15 Boys' Football**

On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December the U15 Boys' football team were in action against Hamilton Grammar in the next round of the Lanarkshire Cup. The Braidhurst side won 4-1 with superb goals from Joseph McPake, Ryan Menzies, Callum Wylie, and Jay Miller.

