

The Braidy Times

June 2019–October 2019

Head Teacher's Report

Welcome to the first edition of the Braidy Times for session 2019-2020! We decided to include everything that happened in June last session so you can get a flavour of how many opportunities we have for our pupils and encourage your child to become involved in the wider life of the school.

We work closely with the schools in our cluster to offer a wide range of opportunities and qualifications in the senior phase. Some of these are delivered here at Braidhurst, others involve pupils travelling to other schools or colleges. This enables our young people to have the opportunity to study at Foundation Apprenticeships, Advanced Highers and Vocational level creating better and wider options as they move to a positive destination. Our newly appointed Principal Teacher of Developing the Young Workforce, Mr Clarke, is forming partnerships with many different employers, colleges and Universities to widen our range of networks.

On Wednesday 6th of November we are holding our annual 'Mock Interview' night and are opening it to all our senior phase pupils. Letters have been issued to parents informing everyone of the expectations to ensure the process is as realistic as possible. If you feel you could help by interviewing some of our pupils please contact the school.

All pupils in the Broad General Education Phase (S1/2/3) participated in our Connections Festival when we had over 25 external providers in the school to offer as broad a range of events as possible to enable pupils to make connections to their workplace through literacy, numeracy, STEM and health and wellbeing. Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed the event and behaved impeccably throughout.

We are also delighted to unveil our new school vision following consultation with parents, partners and pupils. We feel it summarises everything that is important at Braidhurst.

"Supporting aspirations, achieving excellence!"

Thank you for your ongoing support. Our next exciting event is our open evening for our S1/2 pupils and parents which is on Tuesday 22nd of October from 4pm until 6.30pm. We would love to see you there and give you a tour of our newly painted school. You will also have the opportunity to visit departments and see the work your child is doing!



A very warm welcome and the best of luck to our new S1 pupils who recently embarked on their Braidhurst journey.



Paris Trip

On Saturday 22nd June a group of pupils and staff boarded a coach for the school's annual European trip which this year headed to Paris. The first stop was 'Parc Asterix', a French amusement theme park based on the comic book series of the same title. Over the next couple of days the group enjoyed the sights of Paris including: the magnificent Eiffel Tower, a fun-filled day at 'Disneyland Paris', and a tour of the Stade de France, which pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed. Not only was the trip a roaring success, it also marked the final school trip for our retiring Principal Teacher of Modern Languages, Mrs Magowan. Bonne retraite Madam Magowan!

School Prize-giving

On Tuesday 11th June the school hosted its annual prize-giving recognising the academic, endeavour, sporting and wider achievements of its pupils alongside those with perfect attendance. Pupils were invited to attend the event with their parents/carers in the school assembly hall where they were presented with certificates and a range of trophies and cups by our guest speaker, Mr Tam Cowan, our school Chaplain Rev. Pope and a representative from North Lanarkshire, Mr Egan. Well done to each pupil who received a prize - their hard work certainly paid off.



Symphony of Success

The school hosted a fantastic evening of music, dance and drama on Tuesday 18th June at its annual summer concert, the 'Symphony of Success'. A packed audience thoroughly enjoyed the displays from our very talented pupils, whether it was a solo dance to Beyonce, a musical medley from our incredible concert band, or an entertaining drama sketch. A highlight of the night featured the school's wider community as the local primary school choirs from Muir Street and Logans took to the stage together to sing a selection of songs. The school is very proud of its fantastic pupils and would like to thank all school staff who were on hand to make the night a roaring success, especially the staff of the Performing Arts department, Miss Donnelly, Mr Crawford and Mrs Reilly.





Diana Awards

Congratulations to two of our senior pupils, James Hemmings and Ellie Murphy, who were recently invited to the Holyrood Parliament in Edinburgh where they were presented with the prestigious Diana Award. Both pupils won the award due to their exceptional attitude towards others, their strong sense of community spirit and the countless hours they have volunteered at various local groups within and outwith school. This is a tremendous achievement and both James and Ellie thoroughly enjoyed their day in Edinburgh with their families.



Reading Championship - Reward Events

The school's personal reading programme, the 'Reading Championship', delivered in partnership with the school library and English department, recently culminated with thirty-five pupils being recognised for their commitment to, and passion for, reading for pleasure. The pupils were awarded various rewards for their efforts throughout the school year, including being presented with a certificate at the school prize-giving, a reading champion badge, a movie and munchie box event where pupils watched the film 'Mortal Engines' in the library whilst enjoying a range of foods supplied by the canteen. The final reward event was an author session from writer Cathy Forde who spoke to the reading champions about how to use your own life experiences and observations as inspiration for fictional works. Pupils were also gifted a copy of Cathy's novel 'Fatboy Swim' which she kindly signed for each pupil. The 'Reading Championship' is only made possible with the fantastic support and funding of the school; in particular the Pupil Equity Fund.

BRAIDHURST PARENTS' GROUP

An essential part of the school's community is its parents' group of fundraisers and its 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 matters e.g. the school improvement plan, 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. Their next event is a Psychic Night with Mary Angels on Thursday 14th November at Club 100 in Motherwell—entry by ticket only which are on sale via the school.





Football Success - Lanarkshire Cup Wins

Both the U13 and U15 boys football teams recently lifted the Lanarkshire Cup proving once again that Braidhurst dominates local school football. The U15 side played their tournament winning match on Thursday 13th June against Calderglen High School. The final score was 3-2 with goals coming from Joe McPake and Ryan Menzies. The latter was also named Player of the Match. Meanwhile the U13 team clinched victory on Monday 17th June against St Andrew's and St Bride's. Congratulations to the players and school staff on their hard work throughout the football season.



Modern Studies International Conference

A group of senior Modern Studies pupils attended the International Conference on Thursday 13th June at the GLO Centre in Motherwell. The Braidhurst pupils represented Pakistan at the event and enthusiastically took part in discussions and debates developing further their skills and readiness for the 21st century workplace.

Sports Ambassadors

The school's P.E department recently launched its 'Sports Ambassadors' programme which saw over 50 pupils from S1-S5 interview for the positions of sports ambassadors for the coming school year. The successful applicants are as follows: Lorraine Tollan and Eve Nicholson (Young Ambassadors), Lauren Wright, Olivia Biggart, Ellie Anderson and Ryan Murray (Vice Young Ambassadors), and Robbie Tollan, Katie Morrison, Ben Millward, Libby Percy, Rachel Meechan, and Ellie Hunter (Sport Council Members). Congratulations to our new sports ambassadors and good luck in your new roles.

European Day of Languages

The European Day of Languages took place on Thursday 26th September, and pupils took part in various educational and fun activities in the Modern Languages department. S1 pupils enjoyed putting their general knowledge to the test on countries, capital cities and flags. They also competed in an Interhouse competition of *Who wants to be a Millionaire* on European culture with 1A and 1R winning the most points for their house group. S2 pupils participated in a European quiz with questions relating to sports, music, and culture among many other things. 2M were the winning house group in this quiz. Pupils in S3 were given the task of choosing a word or phrase and translating it into as many European languages as possible. Well done to Shannon Crawford who won best poster with the phrase '*never give up*'. Teachers around the school also celebrated the day wearing badges that said *hello* in various European languages. We had a Guess the Language competition where pupils had to find teachers wearing the badge and identify the language. Congratulations to Mary Onwubiko in S4 who won the competition! And well done to all pupils for taking part!





School Captains

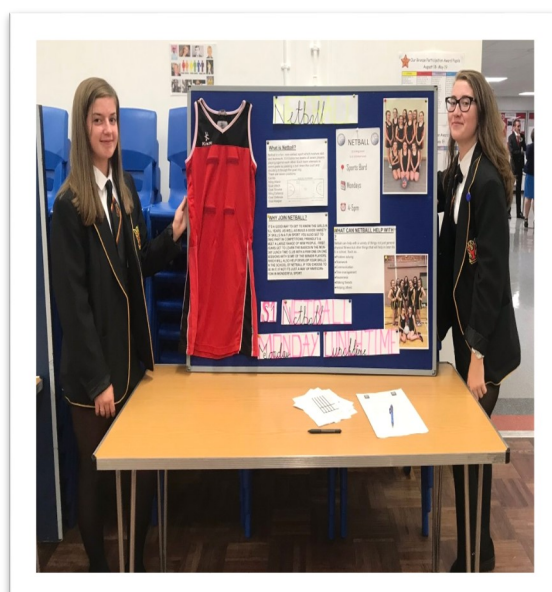
Congratulations to the following S6 pupils who were successful in their bid to become school captains for 2019-2020: Jay Blakeway, Jay Connelly, Sarah Leighton, and Alistair Small. The four pupils were interviewed by the school's senior management team and impressed staff with their strength of character, determination to succeed, and their willingness to serve as role models to pupils within the school and wider community.

House Captains

Congratulations to the school's new house captains who were selected after completing a successful interview with pupil support staff. The new team of captains and prefects are as follows: Captain Eleanor Day, Vice-Captain Chloe McDerment, and Prefects Sharleen Brandt and Darci Burns for Atholl House Captain Nicole Watson, Vice-Captain Ellie McNeil, and Prefect Karis Cowan for Lorne House. Captain Lorraine Tollan, Vice-Captain Ellie Murphy, and Prefects Aimee Harper and Kori Turnbull for Morven House, and Captain Caitlin Diggle, Vice-Captain Jenna Young, and Prefects Chloe McLaughlin and Leah McTavish for Rannoch House. Good luck to all the senior pupils for the year ahead.

S1 Extra Curricular Evening

On 29th August the school hosted its S1 extra-curricular evening 'Find Your Talent' in the assembly hall for pupils and their parents' to find out about the weekly clubs that are available for pupils to join within the school. Braidhurst offers a wide array of extra-curricular clubs at lunchtime and after school, including: cheerleading, dodgeball, badminton, trampolining, netball, robotics, art club, choir, concert band, and film club. Senior pupils, Jay Blakeway from S6 and Eve Nicholson from S5, spoke passionately about their journey through Braidhurst and how attending clubs helped them to develop new skills and grow in confidence.



Girls' Football

On Wednesday 18th September the girls' football team had their first outing of the year as they competed in the junior and senior competitions of North Lanarkshire Active Schools. Well done to all of the girls who participated.





Connections Festival 2019

All S1-S3 pupils took part in the school's annual Connections Festival which celebrates young people as they make connections to the world around them through literacy, numeracy, STEM and Health and Wellbeing. Over the two days almost 400 pupils participated in a series of fun, educational and inspiring activities from 25 external providers, including: author talks from Cathy Forde, Lari Don, Alex Nye and Kirkland Ciccone. There were yoga and relaxation sessions from the Health and Wellness Hub, clubbercise, science and engineering workshops from Terumo Aortic. They experienced a graphic novel taster from Rossie Stone of Dekko Comics, Brazilian drumming from Beats of Brazil, lego workshops from Bricks for Kids, reading with pets from Therapets, an elite athlete talk from Inspiration for Schools, sports journalism from Gordon Duncan of Clyde One Superscoreboard, and a variety of activities provided by the school's staff, all of whom contributed to our fantastic events. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the event which was launched on the Thursday morning with a special 'Read to Succeed' author talk from Gill Arbuthnott with the entire S1 year group. Pictured is Gill with a group of S1 pupils.

Below is a selection of photographs documenting the variety of activities that were on offer to pupils over the two days.





Connections Festival Coffee Morning

The Connections Festival Committee hosted a coffee morning on Friday 6th September to raise funds for two of the festival's contributors : Therapets and Inspiration for Schools. Both contributors are charities and rely on donations in order to continue their excellent work in schools and the wider community. The coffee morning attracted a large number of staff who eagerly bought cakes and raffle tickets to help raise over £260 which was divided between the two contributors. Thank you also to our senior peer tutors who helped to run the event.



Read to Succeed

On Thursday 19th September a group of ten S1 pupils, accompanied by school librarian Mrs. Scott, attended the 'Read to Succeed' closing ceremony at St Ambrose High School. Pupils from across North Lanarkshire were brought together to celebrate the importance of reading and the many ways it can positively enhance their future careers. The event was compered by author Keith Charters and included a keynote speech from Dan Freedman, the author of the highly successful football series 'Jamie Johnson', which has been televised for the CBBC channel. At the end of the ceremony each pupil was gifted a signed copy of 'Born to Play' by Dan Freedman, from the Council's Learning Hub, and had the opportunity to pose for a group photograph with Dan and their new books.

S4-6 Information Evening

On Wednesday 4th September the school hosted a very successful information evening for its S4 to S6 pupils. A number of workshops were available for pupils to attend including: volunteering, UCAS, study techniques, SQA, Education Maintenance Award, mock interview skills and Scholar.





School of Netball

The school has recently launched a School of Netball initiative for our first and second year pupils. Staff from the P.E department commend the enthusiasm shown by the netball pupils even at this early stage in the programme.

Staff vs Pupil Netball

The annual inter-house staff versus pupil netball match ended in a 10-10 draw. Both teams played spectacularly and the P.E department promises that they will arrange a re-match soon to decide the winner. The organisers would like to thank everyone who came along to the event and to all the staff who gave up their time to help out.



St Andrew's Hospice Ambassadors

The school has appointed our St Andrew's Hospice ambassadors for 2019-2020. They are Marc Leslie, Caitlin Diggle, Chloe McDerment, and Sarah Leighton. Congratulations to each of the pupils who will be working on fundraising ideas and organising events over the coming school year. Our PT of Science Mr Campbell will undertake the role of co-ordinator between the school and the charity.

St Andrew's Hospice 6K Run

On Sunday 15th September Braidhurst pupils and staff participated in the annual St Andrew's Hospice 6K run at Strathclyde Park. Not only were participants showing off their running prowess but they were also raising essential funds for the charity through sponsorship from family and friends. In addition to this, our very own DHT of S1-S2 Mr Gardiner came first place overall. Congratulations to all the runners.



"Open Evening"

Braidhurst High will hold an Open Evening for P6 and 7 pupils and parents, and S1/2 pupils and parents on Tuesday the 22nd of October between 4-6.30pm. It will give pupils, and their parents, a chance to see around the school, meet staff and participate in activities. All staff would be delighted to welcome you to Braidhurst High, a school where pupils are supported in their aspirations, to help them achieve excellence.





‘Read to Succeed’

All S1 secondary pupils in North Lanarkshire Council are currently involved in the Scottish Government's 'Read to Succeed' pledge. As part of our commitment to this, all S1 Braidhurst pupils recently enjoyed a visit from the writer Gill Arbuthnot, and participated in a variety of Literacy-themed activities during the Connections Festival. In addition, ten pupils attended the Read to Succeed closing event at St Ambrose High School. This term, all S1 pupils will receive a free book, that they will be able to choose independently, with a view to encouraging reading for pleasure.

North Lanarkshire Council is currently collecting data about the reading attitudes of parents and pupils. This will enable them to provide better interventions and resources in the future, and will also enable them to measure the impact of Read to Succeed. Here is the link:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/ASSMO/>

This link includes information for parents about the Read to Succeed pledge, a questionnaire about reading attitudes of parents and pupils and consent to use the data obtained when reporting to the Scottish Government. This link will be made live again later in the academic year as a way of measuring the impact of the project.

I would appreciate it if you took a few minutes to complete the survey with your child. The survey is completely anonymous.

Thank you for your continued support.





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Well done to all pupils for taking part!

