

The Braidy Times

Summer 2021

Head Teacher's Report

I hope this newsletter finds you and your families well. It has been an eventful school year but I have been so impressed by how our staff and pupils have worked hard to keep everyone safe. As a school community we have faced the frequently changing guidelines and faced each challenge together. Meanwhile, the focus has been on teaching and learning particularly for our senior pupils who have worked extremely hard throughout the Alternative Assessment process.

We have missed many of our events this session, as have our pupils. However, there are some events we felt were too important to miss this year. We have had to rethink how we organise things to make sure we kept within the guidelines. Our S3 graduation took place all be it in a scaled down scale! Our pupils received their senior ties and we look forward to them moving into the senior phase and watch their progress next session with regards sitting their national qualifications next year.

We were delighted to welcome our P7 pupils to Braidhurst for a visit. They were able to tour the school and we were delighted our senior pupils, STEM leaders, demonstrated some science experiments to let them see what they can look forward to. They were also presented with a pencil case, water bottle, tie and kit bag.

I was honoured to be able to recognise the achievements of our pupils at our awards ceremony. This was recorded so we could share it with our families and school community. All pupils had an individual photograph taken which they will bring home. We will tweet as soon as it is ready.

Can I also ask if your child has grown out of their uniform if you could hand it into the school? We would be very grateful and make sure it goes to a good home. We appreciate how quickly our pupils grow so if you need help with uniform please do not hesitate to get in touch. We are really hopeful next year we will be able to use our changing rooms for PE again and pupils can come into school in full uniform:-

White shirt

School tie

Black school skirt/trousers

Black v-neck (so tie can be visible) either school or plain black

All black shoes

Finally can I thank you for your ongoing support this year? It has been challenging in so many ways but your child has shown resilience and sheer determination to make the most of a difficult situation. They have worked with us in an constantly changing situation to ensure everyone has been safe. Now it is time to switch off and hopefully enjoy the sunshine.

Take care

Carolyn Rooney



Welcome Back

The Braidhurst community warmly welcomed back all pupils to school after an extended period of home or blended learning due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. On Monday 26th April pupils in S1 to S6 arrived at school eager to resume classroom learning with their teachers. Enhanced hygiene measures remained in place, including the wearing of face masks for all pupils when indoors, pupils remaining in year group bubbles throughout the day, and increased hand washing with anti-bacterial hand wash as they enter the school building. All pupils are also encouraged to follow school uniform guidance which includes the wearing of full uniform with a Braidhurst blazer. On days they have P.E. they should wear a blazer with school clothing suitable for outdoor exercise. The entire Braidhurst community were delighted to have all pupils back in school and learning.



Read to Succeed

North Lanarkshire Council's 'Read to Succeed' programme, led by the literacy base and school librarians, have gifted each S1 pupil a free book of their choice to encourage a love of reading for pleasure. Due to the pandemic the distribution of the books was slightly delayed, but now that pupils have returned to school full-time, our S1 cohort began receiving their free book last week. Pupils were over the moon when they were invited to the school library to receive their book. Happy reading everyone.





Braidhurst's Covid Spirit

Throughout the pandemic schools have been working closely with their communities to ensure that those in need are supported. Our school is a great example of this collective and determined spirit. We have continued to keep in touch with families, with staff volunteering to make phone calls; garden visits; posting welfare cards and sending regular emails and texts. Charities have also provided support and the school has ensured these were passed on to families who need them. In particular: Sunny sid3 Up charity donated £1000 in Farmfoods vouchers at Christmas; Tesco donate food on a weekly basis; The Daily Mail provided 10 free laptops; Vodaphone provided 80 top Up cards; generous benefactors who donated warm clothing; Motherwell Disclose For their financial donation, and Freedom City Church who donated food parcels and numerous children's toys - many of which were given to our local Family Learning centre to distribute. The school continues to distribute parcels of food to the local community with over 60 going out this week alone. Carolyn Rooney, Head Teacher of Braidhurst HS, said: "We cannot thank everyone who have helped us support our pupils at Braidhurst enough - we are indebted to you."



World Book Day

During the pandemic the school library was still able to celebrate World Book Day 2021 by inviting pupils, at home and in school, to participate in an online reading quiz which tested their knowledge of children's literature. The competition was fiercely contested with many pupils gaining high scores, however the eventual winners were Luci Groves and Ella Knight from S2 and Mark Burton from S1. The trio were each awarded a new book and chocolate Easter egg to celebrate their bookishness. Furthermore all S1 pupils were given a World Book Day token which they can redeem at participating stores and receive a free book of their choice.





School of Football Trials

On Friday 7th May the school hosted its annual NLC School of Football trials as we began the process of selecting pupils who will be part of the programme from August 2021. Thankfully the weather was on our side as hopeful participants showcased their footballing skills on the football pitches. Braidhurst hopes that everyone enjoyed the process and it was great to meet you in person. Good luck to all of our budding football stars.



Growth Mindset

To celebrate Star Wars Day, on Tuesday 4th May, the Science department created a fantastic Star Wars themed display on growth mindset and how it drives motivation and achievement. Miss Watson, Biology teacher, was the mastermind behind the display and she successfully captured the attention of our pupils as they battled the decision to either go to the dark side by maintaining a fixed mindset, or to follow the force with a growth mindset, which will assist them in their school assessments and help them achieve their ambitions. Which path will you choose?

S3 Fitness Suite Induction

On Thursday 29th April, a group of lucky S3 pupils received an induction into the school's brand new fitness suite. The S5 PE Life Skills class led the induction which offered them an opportunity to enhance their inter-personal skills whilst ensuring that the S3 pupils will remain safe whilst using this fantastic resource.





School SFA Senior Girls Football Shield

Congratulations to the senior girls' football team who reached the semi-final of the SFA's Senior Girls Shield on Friday 21st May. The Braidhurst squad were pitted against St Ninian's High School in the match which was played at the Penny Cars Stadium in Airdrie. Spectators were unable to watch the match in person due to the ongoing Covid pandemic but were able to tune in via a live stream. Whilst Braidhurst lost the match 2-0 both teams played well and with pride.



Shot Put Success—Anna Bondar

The school are delighted to recognise the fantastic achievement of S1 pupil Anna Bondar a talented athlete who specialises in the shot put. Not only did Anna recently achieve a personal best in the event, she is now the proud title holder of top distance thrown in Scotland in her age category. This is a fantastic achievement and all at the school want to wish her the very best for her future in this event. Well done Anna!



P7 Transition Visit

On Monday 1st June, the school welcomed our local P7 pupils from Muir Street Primary, Logans Primary, and Ladywell Primary for a S1 transition event. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic the transition arrangements had to be adjusted in order to keep pupils and staff safe. However, it was important that our incoming pupils still had an opportunity to visit the school and meet key members of staff, including our SMT, Pupil Support teachers, Learning Support staff and senior pupil representatives. During the event pupils were kept in their P7 class bubbles and experienced a guided tour of the school building by our senior pupils who pointed out areas of interest, such as the school canteen, tuck shop area and library. Pupils also had the opportunity to watch a short film which introduced all members of staff and their areas of work which helped to give them an insight into the Braidhurst community. We are really looking forward to welcoming them in August.





Mental Health Ambassadors

As a school we are very proud of the work our staff and pupils undertake regarding the promotion and modelling of positive mental health and wellbeing. We are delighted to announce that the following S5 pupils have been appointed the school's newest mental health ambassadors after a successful application and interview process. Our mental health ambassadors for school session 2021-22 are: Jenna Woods, Ellie Dickson, Niamh Miller, Laiba Khan, Louise Day, Skye Wilkinson, Niall Douglas, Rebecca McLeod, Julia Wypych, Iona Eldhose, Caleb Monaghan, Casey Rodger, and Lee Kane. Congratulations everyone and our ambassadors will now commence two days of training before working with younger pupils next session.



S3 BGE Graduation

It was a very different BGE Graduation this year, however, the school were determined to honour our S3 pupils by celebrating their completion of the 'Broad General Education' phase of the Curriculum for Excellence. Each pupil was invited to the assembly hall with the house group and were gifted a new senior tie which they will wear as they begin the Senior Phase of their education in Fourth Year. Congratulations to all of our pupils and we wish them all the best as they begin S4 in the next school session.



Football Success—Leigha Dobbins

Braidhurst are delighted for our superstar S4 footballer Leigha Dobbins who recently earned her first cap with the Scottish Schools' Football Association in a game against England which was played in Newcastle. We are very proud of you Leigha!





S1-S3 School Prize-giving

On Thursday 3rd June, the school hosted a Covid-19 adjusted awards ceremony for our Broad General Education (BGE) prize winners from S1-S3. The S4-S6 award winner will be recognised next week. The event was quite different from our usual end-of-term extravaganza but the school community were thrilled that we were still able to celebrate the many successes of our pupils despite the ongoing pandemic. A huge well done to all of our winners who continued to attain and achieve in their learning during a very challenging school year. The event was recorded and this will be available for parents and families to enjoy in the near future.



S4 Skills for Life and Work Programme

The school recently delivered a successful Skills for Life and Work programme, for some of our S4 pupils over the week, Tuesday 1st June until Friday 4th June, at Forgewood Community Centre. During the week the pupils experienced workshops from: our campus cop PC Ross Boyle and John Lewis Retail. They also completed courses in: Level 4 Employability award, Food Safety and Hygiene training level 2, and Mental Health Awareness. The week was rounded off with a graduation ceremony, where pupils were presented with a certificate reflecting all of their hard work from MSP Clare Adamson. Pupils were also treated to pizza and soft drinks to celebrate their achievement over the four day programme. Congratulations to everyone who participated.



BACK TO SCHOOL

OPEN EVENING

with
MIYO APPAREL
SCHOOLWEAR

OFFICIAL SCHOOLWEAR SUPPLIER

Come and join us at our dedicated schoolwear warehouse in Etna Industrial Estate, Wishaw ML2 7XQ (onsite parking, large stockroom).

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for details on your school's allocated open evening date.

- **High quality garments.**
- **Friendly and inclusive service.**
- **Accommodate special requirements.**
- **Quick turnaround for any orders.**

2021
School Season

3-7PM



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