



The Braidy Times



Christmas 2021

Head Teacher's Report

I hope you have a safe, peaceful and happy Christmas and I wish you a New Year filled with hope for a brighter 2022.

It is hard to believe we are nearly at the Christmas break - it has been a very quick term! As always at Braidhurst, even although we have many restrictions, we are as busy as ever! It is great to see the opportunities available for our pupils and please encourage your child to participate.

We continue to work hard to ensure school is a safe place for your young person. As pupils enter the school, they are asked if they have a face mask with them - it would be helpful, if possible, pupils could bring their own mask to school - and sanitise hands. I appreciate in the colder weather pupils will need to wear outdoor jackets; however, these should be removed on entry to school. Full uniform should always be worn - white shirt, tie, black, V-neck sweatshirt, and black school skirt/trousers. We appreciate how quickly pupils grow so if you need new supplies, please contact your child's Pupil Support Teacher. Likewise, if you have any uniform which we can recycle please send into the school. We have a strong Reduce, Re-use, Recycle policy.

In the meantime, we continue with our focus on education in school:

- S1 have received their two reports and a parents' night
- S2 have been issued with two tracking reports to date. Their virtual parents' evening is scheduled for Tuesday 18th of January. Information will be issued on return to school after the holidays. We will also be starting the option procedures with them at the same time.
- S3 have had two tracking reports and will start the option process next term when they will move from studying 9 subjects to 7.
- S4 have had one tracking report and have just completed their mid term assessments. A report on their performance will be issued next term.
- S5/6 will be sitting their mid term assessments when they return in January which will be followed by a report.
- P7 we have started our transition programme, all be it virtually, and our handbook for next session has been issued. We are planning an information evening for parents on the 25th of January.

As we await further guidance from the government, please check our school website and Twitter accounts regularly. Any changes to our routines will be published through these channels. We really hope this will not be the case and we can return to normality. Please note school will close on Wednesday 22nd December. Buses are booked for 1.30pm. The school reopens on Monday 10th January at 8.55am.

I wish you all a happy, enjoyable, and safe Christmas and wish you and your family a healthy, happier, and brighter 2022!

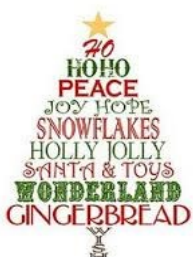
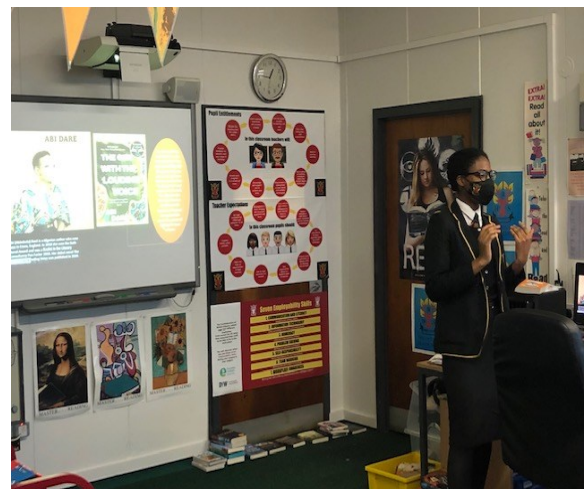




Since the start of term our Reading Schools committee of staff and pupils have been working very hard to embed a reading for pleasure culture within the school and across our local community. Reading Schools is an accreditation programme organised by the Scottish Book Trust to encourage children and adults to pick up a book for personal reading.

The committee's first act was to appoint a group of S1-S6 literacy ambassadors who are in charge of planning and delivering our calendar of literacy celebrations, including, so far, dyslexia awareness, World Kindness Day and Book Week Scotland. Our team of ambassadors have run a bake sale to raise money for the Dyslexia Scotland charity; delivered Power Points to their peers on authors of colour; read books from diverse cultures; created posters advertising various events; selected book gifts for the residents of Baillie Court and have recommended their favourite book, alongside staff, as their act of kindness to the school community. Our ambassadors will continue to lead our efforts to ensure that reading and books are at the heart of Braidhurst.

Alongside the ambassadors, the school library has been delivering a series of tasters and highlighted the 'Reading Championship' programme to all S1 and S2 pupils. Furthermore, we were delighted to invite into school the author Alex Nye who delivered a reading workshop to a group of S1 pupils. All of the work the library undertakes is to ensure that pupils are given access to books, are supported when choosing them and have as broad and fun a reading experience as possible. Please check the library Twitter @librarybhs1 and school website for more information.

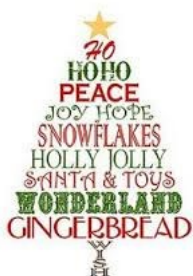




Our Faculty of English and Literacy has also been busy with Reading Schools organising a group of S6 peer tutors to work with a selected group of S1 pupils for the paired reading programme 'Scotland Reads'. Our peer tutors will soon begin visiting our lower school English classes to offer in-class Literacy support. The faculty also developed the fun 'Collected Works....' reading challenge to encourage S3-S6 pupils to read more for pleasure.

As part of our work with our local community we invited each of the P7 classes of our cluster primary schools into the school library for a transition visit where pupils explored the positive benefits of why we should read for pleasure. Pupils mind-mapped their reasons in groups and will now use their maps as the first step in creating an advert to persuade others to get reading. These will be displayed during a return visit next year.

In 2022 we are launching a membership drive for our local public libraries, creating a display for reading in our local community centre, and organising and delivering our annual 'Connections' festival for our BGE pupils; we will also be surveying pupils, staff and families on their reading habits and attitude to personal reading. So please look out for a text in the New Year with a link to our Reading Schools survey.





Jayden McKnight - Boxing Triumph

Congratulations to our boxing superstar Jayden McKnight who recently competed at Boxing Scotland's School and Junior Championship which took place at the Ravenscraig Regional Sports Facility. Jayden won his title by unanimous decision and has been boxing for five years with Newarthill Boxing Club. A huge well done to Jayden!



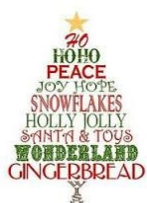
School of Netball

A huge well done to our school of netball pupils who competed in their first match of the 2021-22 season against Dalziel High School. Coach Miss Young congratulated the team on their fantastic effort and commented that they were all superstars.



Children in Need

As usual our fantastic nurture unit pulled out all the stops when celebrating this year's Children in Need with a bake sale and sweep stake. Mrs Currie and the pupils of the 'hub' organised and hosted a bake sale on Thursday 18th November whilst a sweepstake amongst staff was won by Miss Young. In total over £200 was raised with all money going towards the fantastic charities that Children in Need represents. Well done to everyone who helped raise money for a very worthy cause.





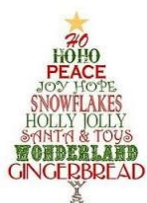
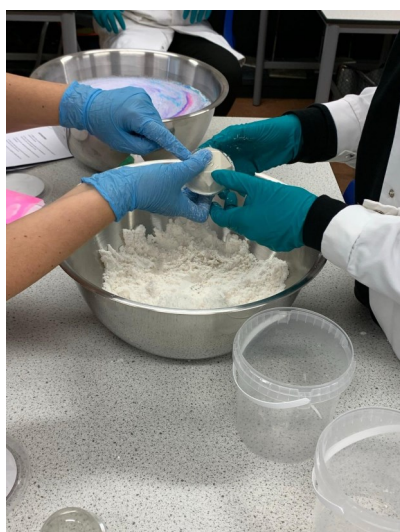
S3 Haunted Houses

Recently, as part of our Halloween celebrations, a group of talented S3 Art and Design pupils produced some spectacular haunted houses. The pupils worked hard on the design and build of their houses, which are now on display in the school's foyer.



Lush Bath Bomb Workshop

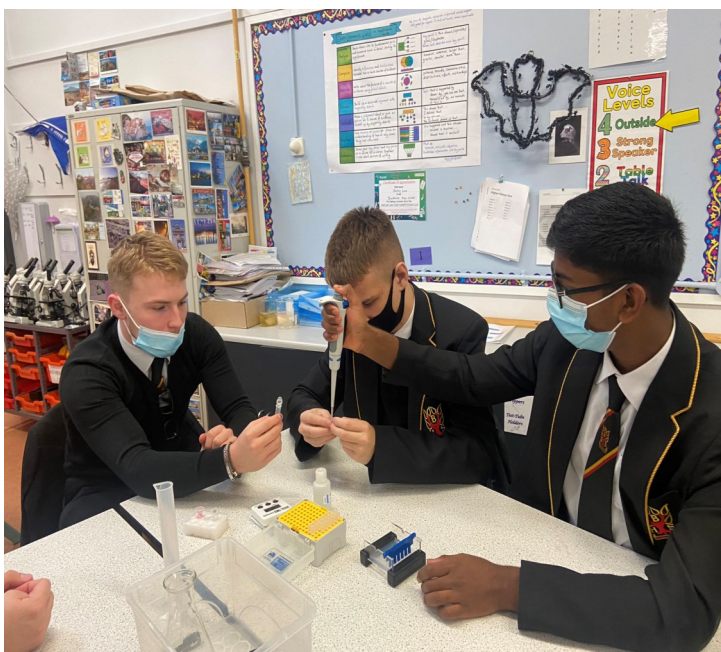
Recently a group of S4 N5 Lab Skill pupils participated in a fantastic bath bomb making workshop delivered by experts from Lush. Pupils were given the opportunity to create their own scented bath bombs by using the required ingredients and following the recipe instructions. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the experience.





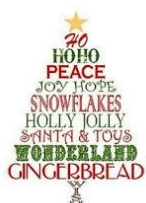
PCR Workshop

Our Higher Human Biology pupils recently took part in a very interesting and topical workshop on polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing. The session was led by staff from TimStar Laboratories with pupils being given the chance to handle the testing equipment whilst learning about the step-by-step process.



DEC Project

Recently our Developing the Young Workforce staff invited the award-winning team behind the learning program for digital built environment and infrastructure education 'Design...Engineer...Construct' (DEC) into school for a five-day project with our S3 pupils. The pupils were tasked to design a net zero McDonald's restaurant, and over the five days participated in a series of workshops with sessions such as 3D modelling and design overview being offered. It was a great week and, for completing their designs, the pupils were rewarded with a feast from McDonald's.





Active Girls Day

Recently our Sports Ambassadors organised an Active Girls' Day filled with activities, such as football, netball, volleyball, and sessions in our fitness suite, which enabled our pupils to develop and strengthen skills. Thank you to our ambassadors for putting together an action-packed and fun-filled day which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.



Football Update

The school's many football teams have recently been celebrating successful matches, such as our S2 boys with their win against Dunblane High School in the Scottish Cup, whilst our U13 Scottish School's Football Association team also won against St Ninian's High School. Well done to all of our fantastic players! To keep up to date on how our teams are progressing in their various tournaments please check out the Twitter page for the school's Faculty of Health and Wellbeing @braidhurstpe.



Gary Dempsey Visit

Recently our Developing the Young Workforce team invited Gary Dempsey from the @GlasgoPodcast into school to discuss with senior pupils how people from Central Scotland have turned their ideas and dreams into successful and lucrative businesses. The radio presenter Ali Wright, Chris Shaw (who is the founder of Box Fresh), and actor and agent Reece Donnelly also attended the event. Our senior pupils thoroughly enjoyed a Q&A session which offered lots of helpful advice.





Future Friday Provision - Off Road Bikes

Our 'Future Friday' provision for pupils on a Friday afternoon recently featured an off-road bike tutorial from Lanarkshire Police which was organised by our campus police officer PC Boyle. Pupils enjoyed finding out about the bikes and how police officers are trained to handle off-road driving. Thank you to Lanarkshire Police for delivering this very interesting session.

There is a fantastic array of opportunities for our pupils who opt to remain in school on a Friday afternoon; this includes rowing, hair-dressing, multi-sports, dance, netball, sports leadership, a podcast club, football and film club. Mr Pryde (PE) organises the events and pupils should speak to him if they wish to participate.



The Roslin Institute—Meet the Scientist

Recently, our Higher Human Biology and NPA pupils participated in a 'Meet the Scientist' online session organised by The Roslin Institute, the scientists that cloned Dolly the sheep. The pupils really enjoyed hearing from Kanchan who spoke about her autophagy research, which is the body's way of cleaning out damaged cells, in order to regenerate newer, healthier cells. Thank you to Kanchan and The Roslin Institute for such an informative and interesting session.





Young STEM Leaders



Braidhurst runs a very successful Young Stem Leaders' programme and six of the group recently visited Logans Primary School to deliver a workshop celebrating STEM week. The Young Stem Leaders is a leadership award which empowers young people in Scotland to create, inspire, and lead in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths).



S2 Basketball

Our S2 Basketball team recently played their first round match of the Basketball League for S2 against Chryston High School. Well done to the squad!



Performance Football—Wellbeing and Protection

Our Performance School pupils recently had the opportunity to speak to the Scottish FA's Wellbeing and Protection team about their experience of the programme. This was the first of four participation sessions that Braidhurst has organised to ensure that our pupils' voices are heard.

