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BLAIRGOWRIE HIGH SCHOOL

Headteacher's Message

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Welcome to the first newsletter of the session and particularly to our new first year parents and carers. I trust your child has settled well into the school in the first few weeks and is enjoying Blairgowrie High School.

School session started this year with the unexpected news that Mr Miller would be absent from school and that he had also confirmed his intention to retire at the end of October.

I am sure that you will all join us in wishing Mr Miller a long and happy retirement after a career in which he dedicated and committed himself to the education of young people.

In August I stepped in as the temporary Head Teacher until a permanent appointment could be made. I am delighted to say that I have now been appointed as the permanent replacement for Mr Miller and am looking forward to working within the Blairgowrie High School community.

Examination results loomed large in the minds of many of our pupils as they waited for texts, emails or letters to arrive in August. I am pleased to report that results were very good and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all young people who sat their exams. In almost all of the national measures, performance last session was the best ever. 98% of S4 pupils gained 5 or more qualifications at Foundation level; 82% 5 or more at General level; and 36% gained 5 or more at Credit level. In S5 45% of pupils gained 1 or more Highers; 26% of pupils gained 3 or more Highers; and 14% gained 5 Highers. S6 results were also very good with 24% of pupils gaining at least 1 Advanced Higher. I wish to thank staff, parents and pupils for the hard work that secured these results.

The year has started well and many opportunities have been organised for pupils, and by pupils. You can read about many of these opportunities in this newsletter. I have been encouraged by the positive attitude of the pupils of Blairgowrie High School as they participate in the wide range of curricular and extra-curricular activities on offer to them. If you have access to Twitter, why not follow some of these activities?

Lastly I would like to say a few words about school uniform. Most Blairgowrie High School pupils are good representatives of the school, identifiable by the smart way they are turned out in uniform. Please can I ask that you encourage your child to continue to wear school uniform and to be proud of being part of our school community?

School Uniform consists of:

- Black trousers (school trousers, no denim) or skirt, both of which should be at least knee-length.
- White shirt or blouse (these should have buttons to the collar and not be V necked).
- School tie (available at Doig's, Blairgowrie).
- Plain black sweatshirt or jersey, no hooded or non-uniform tops will be permitted in class or assembly.
- Stout shoes (black or brown) are preferred. Where trainers are worn these should be black.
- An outdoor coat should be carried at all times.

Enjoy the October break.

B Leslie

OUR CURRICULUM IN 2013-14

The curriculum nationally is made up of 4 parts: ethos and life of the school; curriculum areas and subjects; interdisciplinary learning; and opportunities for personal achievement. Curriculum consultations took place in May/June of last session to look in particular at curriculum areas and subjects within Blairgowrie High School. As a result of the consultations, our curriculum areas and subjects for session 2013-14 can be summarised as follows:

S1	Broad General Education across all curriculum areas*
S2	Broad General Education across all curriculum areas*
S3	Continuing with their 8 subject choices and will sit National 4 or National 5 qualifications in 2015
S4	Pupils will be offered the opportunity to sit Intermediate 2 examinations in 2014 where appropriate. Letters about each S4 pupil will be issued to parents/carers early in November.
S5/6	Pupils will sit Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2 or Higher examinations in 2014

*Curriculum areas are Languages (English and Modern Languages – French, German, Spanish); Social Studies (History, Mod Studies and Geography); Expressive Arts (Music, Art, Drama); Sciences (Integrated science covering Physics, Biology, Chemistry); Maths; RME; Health & Wellbeing (PSE; PE.); Technologies (Home Economics, Business; Tehnical) If you have any queries about curriculum, please contact your child’s House Head in the first instance.

Look out for the Blairgowrie High School Curriculum for Excellence Bulletin early next term.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

AS PART OF OUR D OF E COURSE WE ATTENDED A RESIDENTIAL AT KINLOCH RANNOCH AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER.

Before we went we had to plan our meals, organise kit lists and buy the food for our group. After a bit of a detour due to “shoddy signposting” according to Mr A, we arrive at the centre. What a brilliant place it is. We dumped our kit then headed off into the forest doing some map reading and basic compass work. Forests are not easy to navigate in! We used stoves to make hot drinks and when we got back nearer the loch we practiced putting up our tents. We had a huge meal in the evening and everybody helped tidy up. We all watched a bad film then off to bed. The next day we all had a huge breakfast together then cleaned the rooms and the centre. Then we went for an explore of the loch and some football in this alright park. The warden thanked us for leaving the place so tidy then off home. We had brilliant weather, a great time and learned lots. **Jake Bailey/Reece Gray S4.**



THE YOUNG AMBASSADORS CONFERENCE

At the beginning of September this year myself and Erin McGregor were asked to speak at the Young Ambassadors conference to the newly selected Gold Ambassadors of Scotland. Erin and I are now two of Scotland's Platinum Young Ambassadors. The newly selected Gold Ambassadors for Blairgowrie High school are Kieran Matthews and Drew Madoc-Jones.

The conference took place at the Perth Concert Hall. On arrival we were welcomed by the Active Sports staff and were then taken to meet our mentors for the day. I was lucky enough to be working with Gold medallist commonwealth champion in Gymnastics Steve Frew and Erin was teamed up with hammer thrower and Gladiator Shirley Webb. Working with our mentors for the day was such a fantastic experience, getting to talk to groups of 20 young ambassadors, telling them our stories of what we have done to get to where we are today as YA's. So far we have had some amazing opportunities, getting to meet members of Team GB, such as curler Euan Macdonald, with a Gold medal in the World

Championships and David Smith holding an Olympic Gold medal in rowing and a few others of Team GB. I have had an opportunity that not everyone would be lucky enough to say they have had, I have had the chance to hold two Olympic gold medals and a bronze something I will never forget! As the platinum ambassadors of Blairgowrie we cannot wait to work with the new Gold YAs and planning the year ahead, bringing more fun sporting events to the school.

By Hannah Reid.



Keiran Matthews, Erin McGregor, Hannah Reid & Drew Maddoc Jones

TALENT SHOW



SENIOR PUPILS AT BLAIRGOWRIE HIGH SCHOOL RECENTLY HELD A TALENT SHOW IN THE ASSEMBLY HALL WHERE ALMOST 300 PEOPLE CAME TO WATCH AND SUPPORT YOUNG LOCAL TALENT.



This was done in aid of the Malawi project where pupils continue to fundraise for Geisha Primary School in Mzuzu, in Northern Malawi. Event organiser Rachel Barr, with the assistance of other senior pupils on the night, managed to arrange a variety of acts including singers, dancers and bag pipes. Former pupil Eilidh McGuire also appeared to sing several songs which went down well, alongside current pupils ranging from 1st to 6th year. Thanks to all those who turned up to support the show as well as all of the pupils who helped in one way or another to make this event successful and the total raised was a whopping £1000! Roll on next year!

Photo features Gregor Cunningham, Eryn Sinclair, Matthew Davidson, John Driscoll, Callum Douglas

SENIOR PUPILS DEMONSTRATE AT THIS YEAR'S DUNDEE FLOWER AND FOOD FESTIVAL

The winning BHS Superchef team were given the opportunity to demonstrate their culinary talents at this year's festival. We are the only school to be given such a prestigious slot and the girls did a fabulous job. They demonstrated Scallops with Rocket and Pancetta Salad and Gremolata Dressing followed by Vanilla Panna Cotta with a Pineapple and Coriander Compote. They also got to meet Paul Hollywood behind scenes.



Pupils from left to right: Lois Anderson; Jodie Morrison; Erin McGregor



Lois Anderson & Erin McGregor with Paul Hollywood

TO CELEBRATE THE EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES ON 26 SEPTEMBER 2013, S1 DISCUSSED THE QUESTION:

'Why study languages?'



This is a roundup of some of their conclusions:

1. It looks good on your CV (Paige, 1G3)
2. There is a high demand in business for people who can speak other languages (Georgina, 1G3)
3. Improve your communication skills (Chelsay, 1G3)
4. To get a better job and a better salary (Casey, 1G3)
5. More self-confidence! (Erin, 1G3)
6. Learning languages can be fun (Cameron, 1G3)
7. Not everyone speaks English! (Gordon, 1G3)
8. Helps with holidays (Zack, 1G3)

CREST AWARDS

S1 AND S2 PUPILS SHOWN IN THE PHOTO WILL SOON BE TRYING THEIR HANDS OUT IN CARRYING OUT A FUN PRACTICAL PROJECT, FOR ALL IN THE NAME OF SCIENCE!

There are currently 22 pupils working towards gaining their Crest Award at bronze level which all of them are hoping to achieve by the end of the session. They meet every Friday lunchtime in room D8 with Mr Sultan who is leading the group. Miss Gillies is also helping out with the projects and acting as a mentor too.



The Crest Awards is a national STEM-subject based awards scheme which is organised by the British Science Association. Pupils of all ages and ability can take part in a Science project to enhance their skills in the lab as well as other skills such as group work, giving a group presentation and working in a team within a given deadline. Crest is also intended to create a fun atmosphere for pupils to make friends whilst carrying out hands-on projects.

Examples of projects the pupils will be investigating are:

- **The effects of different toothpaste brands on removing coffee stains on eggshells**
- **Growth of bacteria and the effectiveness of cleaning products**
- **Investigating different designs of model airplanes wings and the distance they can travel**

Here are some quotes as to why the pupils decided to join the Crest Awards...

"I really enjoy Science anyway, so I was interested in doing some experiments and projects"

"The Crest Awards will help me for university in the future, and my friends wanted to do it as well"

"I love doing experiments and learning more about Science and finding out about new things"

Watch out for more photos of the projects in action and an update on their progress in the next newsletter!

FRENCH PLAY

The French theatre company *Onatti* performed a play called “Mon Pere ne me comprend pas” in front of all the 1st years and Senior ML pupils. The play was about a girl called Helene. It was her 15th birthday and she got rubbish presents, including a magic wand but she soon realised that the wand was actually magic! Her dad turned into all sorts of different characters and whilst he was a drama teacher he got two pupils, Kerry McPherson and Lawrence Catarroja onto the stage. It was very enjoyable and really funny.

By Luke, Martin, Harvey, Scott and Darren 1T1



“We knew much more French than we thought we would”
Lauren Irving 1T1

“But then things change by the flick of a wand”
Amy Mitchell

DELEGATES FROM INDIA VISIT BLAIRGOWRIE HIGH SCHOOL

Scottish Qualifications Authority selected Blairgowrie High School to host a lunch and workshop for a group of senior officials from the Indian Government to show how Intermediate 2 ‘Skills for Work’ in Hospitality is delivered in schools in Scotland. It was a huge accolade to the school to be selected as a centre of good practice and the feedback from the day was extremely positive. The pupils were a credit to the school and demonstrated their skills under the watchful eye of Willie Little, chef and proprietor of Little’s restaurant, Blairgowrie. The delegates were on a fact-finding mission to witness first-hand how the practical and vocational skills pupils develop in the classroom can be put to use in the workplace.

The visit, organised by the SQA and the National Accreditation Board for Education and Training in India (NABET), took in pupil demonstrations in the purpose built teaching kitchen and restaurant at Blairgowrie High School. Delegates enjoyed a marvellous lunch prepared by pupils and assisted by Willie Little - one of the school’s business partners. The school has many business partners linked to the success of developing hospitality skills of young people including Love to Eat and ELM associates (event organisation), who also had representatives at the lunch.

The visitors from India were on a week-long tour of Scotland taking in other examples of how young people’s skills and talents are identified and enhanced including a focus on the construction industry, a visit to the site of the new South Glasgow Hospital and an overview of hair and beauty training before five of the delegation headed to Dundee to complete a course on becoming master-trainers, enabling them to pass on coaching and development skills to other teachers once they return to their schools in India.

Lynn Smith, Principal Teacher of Home Economics at Blairgowrie High School, said: “Skills for Work courses focus on developing generic employability skills that young people need to succeed in the work place. They are flexible enough to allow us to tailor what we offer to our pupils, allowing us to develop good relationships with local employers and they have definitely contributed to our success in ensuring our pupils end up in positive destinations - either going on to further or higher education, training or employment.”



Seafood Trip

A GROUP OF EIGHT SENIOR PUPILS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH AN EVENT TO HELP PROMOTE FISH IN THE DIET. THE WHOLE EVENT WAS ORGANISED BY WILLIE LITTLE OF LITTLES RESTAURANT IN BLAIRGOWRIE AND SPONSORED BY THE SEA FISH AUTHORITY THIS EVENT INVOLVED 4 STAGES:

STAGE 1

Pupils visited Peterhead before the summer holidays to see around a trawler boat and visit the market at 6 o'clock in the morning to see how the fish is sold. They also visited a processing plant in the town to see first-hand how the fish is prepared for the retail market. They were shown around the trawler and processing plant by John Buchan who featured on the Trawlerman Series on TV.

STAGE 2

Pupils visited 'Fish in Crieff' where Willie Little (proprietor) took them through the stages of preparing the fish for the customer. He also cooked up a fish dish for them to taste in his demonstration area in the shop.

STAGE 3

The pupils then went on to work with Willie Little to prepare and serve a three course meal in his restaurant 'Littles' in Blairgowrie.

STAGE 4

Again they worked with Willie Little in the department to prepare and serve a three course meal in the Aspirations, the training restaurant.

The pupils gained a lot from the whole experience and have gained a real insight into what it takes to get fish from the sea on to the plate. They now also fully appreciate the health benefits of from eating fish.



Career Academy

Recently 6 of our S5 pupils successfully applied for a place on the Career Academy Programme. This 2 year programme sees our young people partnered to a mentor from business in a range of employers from across Perth and Kinross. They will also attend guru lectures and have visits to the workplace. Part of the programme is a paid internship lasting for a month in summer 2014. The launch of this programme takes place at Crieff Hydro next week. We will keep you updated on the project in future newsletters.

Foodbank

A Perth and Kinross Foodbank was launched on the 27 September in St Catherine's Road Perth and will serve Perth clients. It is intended that food distribution bases will be rolled out to other areas including Blairgowrie.

Attendance

Please inform the school if your child is to be absent by calling 01250 871299 to leave a message.

Please also ensure that on return to school your child has a note to explain the absence and the dates your child was not present in school.

PARENT COUNCIL MEETINGS

During the new school year parents will see lots of changes to the examination system, with Standard grades being replaced by examinations called Nationals. We hope that the transition will run smoothly but this is something the Parent Council will be keeping a close eye on and is likely to feature in our meetings over the coming year. We will also be discussing the implementation of actions taken by the school following the inspection of the school during the 2012-2013 session. Meetings of the Parent Council are open to all parents and carers so please do try to come along .

Next year's meetings are being held on the following dates:

November 5th 2013, December 12th 2013, January 28th 2014, April 3rd 2014, June 6th 2014

All the meetings are held in the school and they all start at 6.30pm

Charity Shop

We are running a charity shop in Coupar Angus the week beginning the 9th December 2013 - all donations will be most welcome. They can be left at the school office or if you need them collected contact Barrie Rutherford. t: 01250876353 or email j.rutherford725@btinternet.com

River Rafting

As you may know the river rafting fund raiser had to be postponed because the water levels in the Ericht were too low. Nae Limits, the people who are running this event are monitoring water levels and will be letting us know when it is feasible for it to take place. We will try to give everyone at least 2 weeks notice of the new date.

Need more information about the Parent Council?

Go to the Parent Zone web page :www.educationscotland.gov.uk/parentzone or contact Barrie Rutherford :01250876353 or j.rutherford725@btinternet.com

STAFFING

We have welcomed several new members of staff this session:

Miss Gillies and **Mr Sultan** have joined the Biology Department, **Mrs Pogson** has joined the Support for Learning Department, **Miss Yule** has joined the Art & Design Department, **Mr Dymock** has joined the PE Department, **Mr Gallacher** has joined the Maths Department, **Miss McAndrew** has joined the Modern languages Department. After the October holidays we welcome **Mr O'Hara** as the new Principal Teacher of Business and IT and **Mrs Holt** to the Business Education Department. We are still looking to recruit for vacancies in English and Physics.

School Terms and In-Service Days	
Monday 28th October 2013	Term starts
Thursday 14th November 2013	In-Service Day
Friday 15th November 2013	In-Service Day
Friday 20th December 2013	Term ends
Monday 6th January 2014	Term starts

Reports, Parents' Evenings and Exams	
Monday 11th November 2013	S5/6 parents' evening
Thursday 28th November 2013	S4 parents' evening
Friday 13th December 2013	S5/6 and S4 non-Higher report issued

Please Remember: It is important that we are able to keep in contact with you. If any of your contact details change, please let the office or your child's register or guidance teacher know. You can email, phone or send a letter with your child. Thank you.

What's On	
Wednesday 30th October 2013	Hallowe'en Disco
Wednesday 13th November 2013	Children in Need non-uniform day
Wednesday 27th 2013	Safe Drive Stay Alive November
Thursday 19th December 2013	Christmas Concert