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### Headteacher's Message

Busy, Busy, Busy! That's how I would describe the summer term.

S4-S6 pupils have completed their exams and are now eagerly awaiting results. Results are out on 5 August. Pupils no longer have to wait for their results to drop through mailboxes. Results can be sent by email or text. Visit [www.mysqa.info](http://www.mysqa.info) to find out how to activate accounts – this must be done before Tuesday 8 July. If results are better or worse than expected, interviews regarding possible changes of course choice will be arranged in school the first week back.

Like all schools in Scotland this year, we had a small cohort of S4 pupils who were not sitting any exams. For 3 weeks, these pupils followed a timetable that enhanced skills for learning, life and work. They attended Higher masterclasses in their subject areas; undertook white-water rafting to fundraise for the Parent Council; worked on team-working skills with the Marines; attained their first Emergency First Aid Certificates; and volunteered for community service to achieve their Saltire awards. The evaluations received from the participants showed they enjoyed their learning over this 3 week period.

More recently, pupils and staff have been involved in writing and voting on the school's vision statement and our pupil responsibilities. The Blairgowrie High School vision 'learning together today to shape the world of tomorrow' is underpinned by our school values of ASPIRE and illustrates that our pupils want to make their mark on the world.

School rules have now been replaced by pupil responsibilities and pupils wrote and agreed on 6 areas of individual responsibility. Nineteen prefects applied for senior leadership roles. All conducted themselves beautifully at interview and the panel had a very difficult decision to make.

Head prefects for 2014-15 are **Kieran Matthews** and **Rachel Barr** and they will be supported by **Mattie Davidson; Elliot Sandison; Rachel Henderson; Chris Currie; Cole McCulloch; Alexandra McIntyre; and Charlotte Smith**. Well done to the successful candidates.

Successful school excursions, broadening learning experiences for participants have taken place to: Malawi; France/Belgium; London; Strasbourg; and the Royal Highland Show. A big thank you to staff who give of their own time and to pupils for being good ambassadors of Blairgowrie High School on your travels. Summer concert; P7 induction days, Ellis Watson – motivational speaker, referendum debate, sports day and enterprise day are just some of the many events that took place this session. Busy, busy, busy indeed!

### Staffing News

Mrs Williamson, Mrs McGregor, Mr Kerr and Mr Murray all retire after an incredible combined service to teaching of 142 years. We wish them a happy, healthy retirement.

Mr Dymock departs after a successful probationary year and Mr Nicholson for a promoted post in Carnoustie High School. Mrs Houghton also departs after a very successful spell in Support for Learning. Miss Grant moves on to Perth High School. Good luck everyone.

We welcome to the staff Mr Irvine (PE); Ms Rae & Mr Hunter (Art & Design); Mr Millar & Mrs Toal (English); Ms Warren (PE); Mr Snee (Mod Langs); and Mrs Watt & Mr Milne (Bus Ed). Miss Gillies (Biol) and Miss McLean (PE) now continue with us on a permanent basis and we have been able to extend the contracts of Mr Sultan (Biol) and Miss Yule (Art & Design). Mr Gilmour returns in September to the Maths department and Mr McTavish will now be teaching in Physics as well as Maths.

It just remains to say I hope that all our staff, pupils and readers have an enjoyable summer break and we will see pupils on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> August.

In April, a group of S1-S4 pupils attended a workshop to look at our school vision and pupil responsibilities.

The group worked together to formulate a vision statement for the school. A vision statement can be defined as ‘a sentence or short paragraph describing the image of the future we seek to create.’

Pupils and staff then discussed and voted on their suggestions during an extended house tutor time. The winning statement, by a clear majority was:

**Learning together today to shape the world of tomorrow.**

Underlying our new vision statement, the school values of ASPIRE, remain. (Ambition, Service, Perseverance, Integrity, Excellence).

Pupils then worked on a refresh of school rules. Pupils discussed that they wanted rules that were easy to remember and that they agreed to. After debate, the group decided that Pupil Responsibilities, rather than Pupil Rules was more acceptable. They came up with 6 responsibilities, which can be seen below.

Members of the Parent Council endorsed the new vision statement and pupil responsibilities at the meeting on 3 June. Well done to all involved. Your work will influence many Blairgowrie High School pupils in the years to come.



## S1 – Fresher’s Week 2014 House Competition

All S1 pupils will be involved in a fresher’s week beginning Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> until Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August. The week will be full of activities which will allow pupils to get to know each other and work together in teams (timetable overleaf). The main activity of the week is the Newspaper Challenge. Pupils will be developing literacy skills in the production of house newspapers.

Individually and in groups, pupils will be completing activities around the school values of ASPIRE and developing articles from a series of breaking news stories. **More details can be found on the school website.**

## Have YOUR say!

Visit the school website for our parent/carer consultation questions. Please contact the school if you require a paper copy.

Survey closes 25<sup>th</sup> August.

## Modern Languages

### 'La photoshoot' takes top prize at drama competition.

Rencontres Théâtrales, the French Institute's drama competition took place in Glasgow and Blairgowrie High School was represented by a group of new S3 pupils supervised by Mrs Boylan of the Modern Languages department. First writing and then rehearsing the play started in January, so this had been a long term commitment. 'La photoshoot' is the story of two bickering top fashion models and their exasperated photographer who eventually substitutes them with their make-up artists. It was a highly comical play, acted out in confident French with bucket-loads of attitude! BHS has taken part in the competition several times but this was the first time we have been outright winners of the secondary school competition. A cash prize of £100 was received together with a collection of posters, books, pencils and tee shirts. Congratulations to the stars of the stage who were: **Shannon Downie, Abby Miller, Robyn Milne, Nicole Needs and Louisa Pearson.**

## Home Economics

### Junior Mastercook 2014

180 second year pupils took part in the competition run by the Home Economics department. The whole experience fits in well with promoting 'Wider Achievement' in the curriculum.

Pupils took part in the 'Dine in with Me Challenge' where they were asked to come up with a main course that showed off their culinary flair in the kitchen whilst encouraging home cooking and the use of fresh Scottish ingredients. Pupils competed in class heats initially whereby the top 15 dishes were selected for the final and then Ross Morrison (head chef) at the Lairds House in Blairgowrie worked with the finalists to give them advice on how to enhance their dishes for the final.

The main judge on the day was Mr Bill McNicoll (Executive Head Chef, Huntingtower Hotel, Perth) who said *'It was fantastic to see such enthusiasm and talent in our youngsters and it was a closely fought competition.'*

### Gala Dinner 2014

This year's Charity Gala Dinner had the Junior Ryder Cup as its theme. All senior HE pupils catered for 180 guests, working alongside a professional team of chefs and front of house staff to prepare and serve a 6 course meal to their guests. The pupils said that they will carry this experience with them for the rest of their lives. Proceeds from the event go to Cash for Kids and the HE Hospitality Fund. Thanks are extended to all who supported the event.

**More details and photos are available on the school website.**

The Rotary Club of Blairgowrie sponsored specially embroidered chefs whites and hats for all finalists and the RAF careers in Dundee sponsored a new trophy. Tayside contracts sponsored the trophy for the 'Healthiest Dish' and Kenneth Allan butchers sponsored a trip to the Nick Nairn cookery school for the winner.

<b>Winner</b>	Charlotte Merrouche
<b>Runner up</b>	Shannon Downie
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Place</b>	Anna Walker
<b>Healthiest Dish</b>	Kaitlin Sloan
<b>Skills Prize</b>	Jack Lamb
<b>Hygiene and Safety Prize</b>	Abbie Nellies





# Business Enterprise

On Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May, 4<sup>th</sup> year pupils took part in a business enterprise activity.

The problem they faced was getting pupils home as the Erich Bridge had collapsed and there was a terrible car crash on the Coupar Angus road. They were given funds of £200 to create a way to get the pupils home. Additional funds were awarded to teams for answering puzzles given by Mrs Leslie. We had to use finance skills, creative skills and lots of determination. At the end of the day some pupils were awarded for various aspects of teamwork and leadership. Awards were given for: leadership, innovative thinking, best presentation and winners for all three houses. The winners out of all three houses were awarded with a Champions Cup, soon to be engraved with the winning house. That team was Glenisla (shown below).



The day, organised by the fiendish Mr O'Hara (meant in good faith) was a huge success. Input from the whole Business Team (Mr O and Mrs N), Miss Yule, Mrs Leslie and Mrs Williamson (the photographer extraordinaire!) and our judges from ENE Trust (Lucia, Nick and Simon) were excellent and were real 'Dragons'.

**Jordan Reid and James Hilditch**  
**NAT 5 Business Class**

# Religious Education

## Youth Philanthropy Initiative

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of June this year, as the winners of the YPI (Youth Philanthropy Initiative) from our school, we attended the annual YPI event in Perth. When we arrived we were given the £3000 cheque with our charity's name on it. After registration we waited in line with the other YPI winners to get our photo taken. We then met with the representatives from our chosen charity and then were asked into the hall for the main event. After a video call from the founder of YPI, Julie Toskan-Casale (all the way from Canada) and another from Olympic gold medallist Katherine Granger, we were constantly asked "this is my philanthropy, what is yours?" Then we were shown other winners creative presentations and learnt about their charities. After seeing these presentations we were given an inspirational speech by the professional adventurer Sean Conway who swam from Lands' End to John O'Groats. We had lunch and met other inspiring YPI winners.



There was music, dance and a few tears in the crowd but the day was truly inspirational and we enjoyed our time in the YPI project and hope to continue contact with our charity.

By **Stuart Smith** and **Izzy Milford** (part of the winning YPI team 2013/14. Other team members are **Kay Henderson**, **Fern Smith** and **Alexander Whytock**).

## In Other News

### Childminders Needed – Could it be You?

The Council's Childcare Strategy Team organises childminder Pre-Registration Training courses for anyone who might be interested in becoming a childminder. Previous experience of working with children is not required.

For details of current courses or for information on childcare options in the local area, phone the Childcare and Family Information Service on 01738 472350 or e-mail [childcare@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:childcare@pkc.gov.uk). Full details are also available on [www.pkc.gov.uk/families](http://www.pkc.gov.uk/families)

### IBike is coming to Blairgowrie High School

“Millions of children in the UK want to cycle to school, yet only 2% do”

An exciting project will be starting at Blairgowrie High School this year. IBike is run by Sustrans, the UK's leading sustainable Transport Charity, and helps more pupils to be able to cycle to and from school and during leisure time. Here at Blairgowrie High School we hope to create a cycling culture in the school and we aim to focus on two areas in particular:

- Maintain and improve cycling levels as pupils move from primary to secondary school.
- Address the differing needs of young boys and girls regarding cycling.

### Childcare and Family Information Directories

A new version of the Blairgowrie and Strathmore Area Childcare and Family Information Directory is now available to download from [www.pkc.gov.uk/families](http://www.pkc.gov.uk/families).

The directory includes details of a wide range of services, groups and organisations in the local area that we hope will be of interest to families and to professionals working with parents, carers and children.



We will be promoting this through cycling training workshops, working with parents and promotional activities and events. Working with the pupils and in conjunction with the School's Travel Plan, we hope to improve your children's health, fitness, independence and confidence, but will also help to teach them vital road safety skills and has been shown to help improve concentration levels in the classroom.

### Securing the Future Awards

The **BHS Coracle Project** achieved second place in the PKC Securing the Future Awards. One of our coracles will take centre stage in a spectacular Festival of flowers and Design in Glasgow Cathedral 23 and 24 July 2014-9.30am-5.30pm – Free admission.

## Enhancing Employability Programme

The Enhancing Employability Programme was a two day course hosted in the Royal Hotel, Blairgowrie where a large group of 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> year pupils met two Perth ladies name Helen and Elaine who highlighted some of the skills we will need when we move on from school. We learned how to fill out a job application correctly and what sort of personal information to jot down on a CV. We also took part in practice job interviews. We learned how to work as a team, problem solve as well as a huge list of other important skills such as being confident and communicating and coping under pressure. Every worksheet we completed we were able to take home and look over and keep for when we are ready to move on out of School, We are very grateful to Elaine and Helen for their time and this is definitely a course we would recommend. We now feel a lot more confident about applying for jobs we want when we leave school. By **Ryan Brown** and **Grant McGuiness**

## BHS Rugby Club

Tuesday Rugby training has continued throughout the spring with both squads, S3/4 and S1/2 well attended. The season finished with the Perth & Kinross Schools u14 7-a-side tournament on 16<sup>th</sup> May on the North Inch playing fields for a strenuous afternoon of matches against 4 different schools. The S2 players have been increasing in competitiveness and technical ability throughout the season and although they had been beaten in many encounters they displayed real talent at the 7s and came a very creditable second with the winning team scoring a single additional point. The squad was:

<b>Douglas Currie</b>	<b>Alasdair Coupar</b>	<b>Fraser Morrison</b>	<b>Luke Cunningham</b>
<b>Leon Bert</b>	<b>Rohan McGinley</b>	<b>Russell Cushnie</b>	<b>Connell McIntyre</b>
<b>Oran Clark</b>	<b>Fraser Matthews</b>	<b>James McCaig</b>	

## School Trips

### Strasbourg - Modern Languages Department

The annual trip to Strasbourg took place from 25 to 31 May this year. In total 31 S2 pupils made the journey accompanied by 5 teachers. The trip included time in Strasbourg, in France, in the old town with its cathedral, Botanic Gardens, small zoo, parliament buildings and in the evenings 10-pin bowling and a boat trip. In Germany we went to Triberg to see the Black Forest Museum, Germany's highest waterfall and the world's biggest cuckoo clock and then on to Wolfach to visit a crystal glass making factory where several pupils made their own vases. For many the main treat was undoubtedly the day spent at Europa Park, Germany's biggest theme park.



If you want to learn more about the trip you can see how it was all documented by the pupils during the journey on the web site:  
<http://bhsstrasbourg2014.wordpress.com>

There was not only rollercoasters and rides; there were also over 50 restaurants and 2 arcades. The weather was good for us so that made our day even better and the teachers even enjoyed it - there was a great atmosphere! Most peoples favourite ride was the Silver Star that climbed high up into the air then dropped, it was really scary. A few of the rides got you wet or soaked. It was an absolutely brilliant day and a big thanks to all the teachers and Richard for keeping us safe while we were away. **Brandon Williamson, Conall McIntyre, Greig McLagan, Benjamin Fischer**



## London Trip - Music Department

On Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May 18 S1 pupils set out for a trip to London to see sights, shows and shops.

The trip started with a visit to the BBC studios where **"The One Show"** is recorded. We also saw **"Charlie and the Chocolate Factory"** and ended the trip with a visit to the Apollo Victoria to see **"Wicked"**.

Rebecca

The **Natural History Museum** was absolutely massive with row upon row of exhibits packed with information. The **Science Museum** wasn't as grand but was just as interesting with things all about rockets and space travel and 360° flight simulators. They were both an amazing experience.

Callum Dawson

**"Woman in Black"** was really scary. It scared me mostly because of the sounds used (really loud!!!) Also the actors were so good that it seemed so real. I enjoyed it but probably wouldn't go again. Overall, a great performance though.

Lisa Fairweather



We visited **Shakespeare's Globe Theatre** (sponsored by The Pupil Council) and learned about its history including the tragic times when it burned down – twice! We also learned about the pricing of seats and how in the olden days it was about showing off how rich you were. We saw the slabs with the names of the people who sponsored the architect for the third build as he didn't get money from the government. Overall it was a great day and afterwards everyone got a Starbucks!

Niamh Hunter

## France and Belgium - History Department

At the end of May a group of s2-s6 pupils went on the trip and were all happy to go to France and Belgium. It was a great trip because we got a week off school but we still learned a lot. We learned what it was like to be in World War One. We visited a lot of places such as Vimmy Ridge, trenches, museums and much more.

I learned a lot from visiting these places. On the last day we went to Disneyland which was great fun.

The hotel food was good but I preferred the French food. Most of us brought home Belgian chocolate!!



We had 153 photos by the end of the trip!! David Bruce

On the way home it was night time and we all got told to be quiet and go to sleep after the ferry home but I was probably the only one who could not get a sleep. I only got two hours sleep on the way home.

Baking

Run, Jump,  
Throw

Hair, Nails and Make-up

## Commonwealth Games

Congratulations to **Hannah Reid** and **Jodie Smith** who have been chosen to represent the school in the Commonwealth Games.

**Hannah Reid** will be attending the Opening Ceremony of the Commonwealth Games. The audition included submitting a short video, against a set criteria. Only 2 out of the 6 selected to audition were offered the opportunity to take part. The role that Hannah will have will not be revealed until the event itself, but she will be in Glasgow, with all the other young people selected, for a week's rehearsal ahead of the OC!

**Jodie Smith** will be carrying the baton. Jodie was interviewed and subsequently selected to represent the school for her commitment and volunteering.

**Well done to both of you for all your hard work and commitment.**

## Maths Challenge 2013-14

10 pupils entered the competition this year accepting the challenge to solve 10 maths problems over 2 rounds during the first two terms. Once again our pupils successfully completed both rounds. **Zack Ireland** received a Bronze Award for his work and **Robbie Smith**, after achieving full marks in the first round, continued to excel in the second round going on to gain a Gold Award. A special mention also for **Rachel Hepburn** who, although just failing to gain an award this time, continues to accept the challenge and performs successfully each year.





Can Blairgowrie High School pupils be the most smartly dressed in Scotland? We think so!

Many of our pupils are already very smartly dressed and proud to be seen in the Blairgowrie High School uniform. In August, we hope that pupils will enhance their uniforms by wearing our new school blazer - voted for by our pupils.

All pupils were given the opportunity to try on blazers last week.

Braided blazers can be purchased online from <http://border-embroideries.co.uk/>

Please contact the Border Embroideries on **01361 810304**

if you cannot order online and they will help you to place your order.

**ALL ONLINE ORDERS PLACED BETWEEN 9<sup>TH</sup> JUNE AND 31<sup>ST</sup> JULY WILL BE DELIVERED TO SCHOOL ON MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST. PLEASE VISIT THE SCHOOL TO PICK UP ORDERED BLAZERS ON THAT DAY.**

Thereafter orders will be delivered to school on 28<sup>th</sup> of each month.

 **DO WEAR:**

 **AVOID:**

<p>Wear a white shirt or blouse that buttons to collar. Wear your school tie up to your neck and if you need a jumper/cardigan, make sure it is <u>plain</u> black.</p> 	 
<p>Wear plain black trousers, NOT leggings, jeggings or jeans.</p> 	 
<p>Wear <b>PLAIN</b> black shoes or trainers.</p> 	 
<p>Wear black skirt at least knee-length.</p> 	 

# School Newsletter June 2014

## Blairgowrie High School

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Please remember that it is important that we are able to keep in touch with you. If any of your contact details change please let your child's House Tutor, guidance teacher or the office know.

### Maths Department

Course guides, learning outcomes and pupil support notes are available for S1 - S6 maths courses. These guides are being improved and updated on a regular basis and pupils, parents and carers are invited to view them on

<http://blairgowriehighschoolmaths.wikispaces.com>

School Terms and In-Service Days			Reports and Contact Evenings	
Thurs 26th June 2014	Summer term ends 12.00pm	S1	25 <sup>th</sup> September 2014	S1 settling in report
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> August 2014	In service day		16 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	S1 tracking report
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> August 2014	Autumn term begins		5 <sup>th</sup> March 2015	S1 full report
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> September 2014	In service day		29 <sup>th</sup> April 2015	S1 contact evening
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> October 2014	Autumn term ends 3.40pm	S2	8 <sup>th</sup> October 2014	S2/3 tracking report
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> October 2014	Winter term begins		6 <sup>th</sup> February 2015	S2 full report
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> November 2014	In service day		31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015	S2 contact evening
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	Winter term ends 12.00pm	S3	8 <sup>th</sup> October 2014	S2/3 tracking report
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2015	Spring term begins		14 <sup>th</sup> January 2015	S3 full report
			29 <sup>th</sup> January 2015	S3 contact evening
		S4	22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2014	S4 tracking report
			25 <sup>th</sup> November 2014	S4 full report
			11 <sup>th</sup> February 2015	S4 contact evening
		S5/6	2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2014	S5/6 tracking report
			11 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	S5/6 full report
			26 <sup>th</sup> February 2015	S5/6 contact evening

**Please note that a full version of the school calendar is available on the school website.**