

Brae High School



**Term 1 Newsletter
October 2019**

Contact Details



BRAE HIGH SCHOOL
"Wirk tagidder wi ean anidder"

Address

Brae High School
Brae
Shetland
ZE2 9QG

Telephone

Primary Department Tel: 01595 745601
Secondary Department Tel: 01595 745600

E-mail

brae.school@shetland.gov.uk

Senior Leadership Team

Head Teacher

Depute Head (Primary)

Depute Head (Secondary)

Mr Logan Nicolson

Mr Billy Forsyth

Mrs Laehann Johnson

Head Teacher Message

I can hardly believe that we have reached the end of the term already. This term I have been delighted to see the enthusiasm for, commitment to, and engagement in learning, as well as a very high standard of behaviour across Early Years, Primary and Secondary.

We have had a number of events such as Screenplay, theatre in the Brae Hall, debates, Mentors in Violence Prevention, Wider Experiences, John Muir days, European Day of Languages, Maths Week, visits from Royal Observatory of Scotland and Women's Aid, as well as many other excellent events, with many more lined up for the year ahead. The commitment and hard work from staff and pupils are essential for the many successful events to take place, so thank you all for that.

We have also been hugely appreciative of the excellent support we have had from our learners and their families at our primary open day and S1 open evening. Our primary parent's afternoon was really successful and had a huge turnout. Our first S1 open night went really well too, also with a good turnout. Thank you all for coming along and supporting the school and also for contributing your ideas to our curriculum rationale.

Our school improvement plan is now almost complete, and takes account of the views of the whole school community. Our improvement priorities are:

1. Working as a 3-18 school
2. Refresh of the curriculum
3. Closing the attainment gap
4. Tracking and monitoring

Copies will be made available early next term.

As term 1 comes to an end, I would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a well rested break and look forward to seeing you next term.

Mr L Nicolson
Head Teacher

Parent Council Meeting

Look out for a letter early in the new term from the Parent Council to hear about some exciting ideas and events that will be happening in the school.

Please save the date for the next Parent Council meeting and AGM...

**Wednesday 13th November
6pm Secondary Department**



Join us on Facebook “Brae High School Parent Council” or be in touch by email: braepc@gmail.com

Parent Council Fundraising

Parents - We Need Your Help!

If you shop online, please could you sign up to easyfundraising to support Brae High School Parent Council?

It's a really easy way to raise money for us – you just use the easyfundraising site to shop online with more than 3,600 well known online stores like Amazon, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com, eBay, Boden, and M&S and when you make a purchase, the retailer sends us a free donation, at no extra cost to you.

We want to raise as much as possible, so please visit our new easyfundraising page at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/braehspc/> and click ‘support us’.

Thank you!



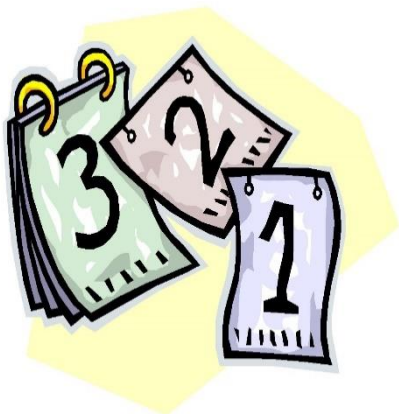
Term Dates

2019/2020	First Day of Term for Pupils	Last Day of Term
Term 1	Wednesday 21 st August 2019	Friday 11 th October 2019
Term 2	Wednesday 30 th October 2019	Friday 20 th December 2019
Term 3	Wednesday 8 th January 2020	Friday 27 th March 2020
Term 4	Monday 14 th April 2020	Friday 3 rd July 2020

Local Holiday:

- Wednesday 29th January 2020
- Friday 21st February 2020
- Monday 24th February 2020
- Monday 13th April 2020
- **One other to be confirmed**

Important Dates for your Diaries – Next Term



29 th October 2019	University Trip Departs
30 th October 2019	Pupils Return to School
2 nd November 2019	University Trip Returns
13 th November 2019	Parent Council
21 st November 2019	Secondary Winter Ball
28 th November 2019	S1 Parents Evening
4 th December 2019	S2 Parents Evening
10 th & 11 th December 2019	Primary Christmas Concert

Primary & Early Years News

Term 1 has been a successful term and we are delighted with our newly appointed staff members who have come in to post and are doing fantastic jobs.

Our Nursery department is an extremely busy area and again we are delighted with how well that is going and also to have Mrs Stove back helping our youngest pupils. It is fantastic to see 3 and 4 year old children “working” with the P1s and all learning from each other with lots of fun learning going on every day.

Joy Duncan has been in for 4 weeks and will be in all next term teaching African drumming to children from P1-P7 and again this has been excellent in helping our younger children to listen closely and respond appropriately as well as having lots of fun.

A number of parent events have been organised already this term with the most recent being our primary open afternoon and I want to say a big thank you to all those parents who were able to attend and took part actively in the activity to help with our values vision and aims. I am fully aware that some parents are unable to attend these events in school hours and we have started discussions in school to see how we can best support this situation. Certainly any feedback from parents would be welcome.

We now have 2 pupil councils in the primary department – one for P1-P3 and one for P4 – P7. These have also been renamed as the “kids council” thanks to a great suggestion from Callum Aitken in P2 (Thanks Callum!) These committees will meet a couple of times each term to allow pupils across the school to raise questions and put forward ideas to improve our school.

Mr B Forsyth
Depute Head Primary

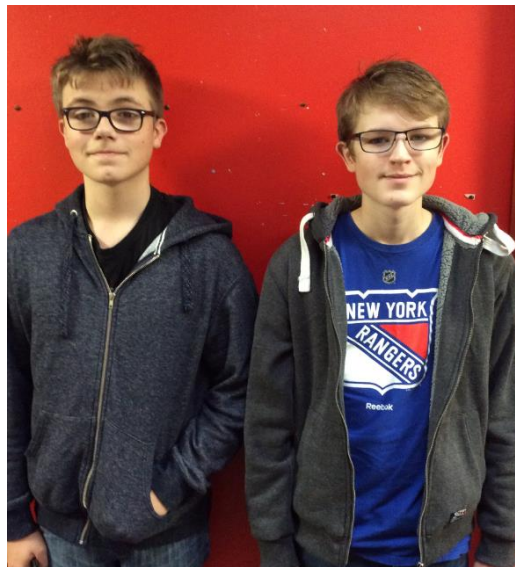
Secondary Pupil Council

Our 2019-2020 pupil council has begun with elections at the start of term. The office bearers selected after a very close result was:

Chairperson: Scott Moncrieff
Vice Chair: Blayne Ratter
Secretary: Erin Doull

At the start of October, Youth Services ran a training day for all members of pupil councils throughout Shetland to participate in workshops contributing towards hours for the Participative Democracy Certificate. Each council member will have the opportunity to complete this certificate through their selected project based work including ideas of recycling.

Our secondary pupil council aim to work in partnership with our parent council and primary pupil council, as well as encouraging pupil voice and leadership in our school.



Breakfast Club

At the beginning of the school year, the secondary department and the Brae Co-op have started working in partnership through a scheme called Foodshare to provide breakfast for our young people. Loren Manson our schools Youth Development Worker says there are three main aims that this programme hopes to achieve

- Providing breakfasts for any pupil – improving mood, focus and learning levels (Health and Wellbeing)
- Reducing food waste – (Sustainability)
- Allowing pupils to volunteer time to prepare the breakfasts which add hours to their saltire award. (Wider accreditations)

Currently we have mainly S1 and 2 volunteers and 20-25 pupils choosing to eat breakfasts regularly. For some pupils this is their first food of the day, for others it is a top up before period 1 after a long bus journey. Whatever the reason the benefits of the programme are beginning to show and we look forward to the continuation of breakfasts and partnership work with our local co-op store



Ocean Wild Day

On the 30th of September we went coasteering for a part of our John Muir Award. We went to Neap which is in Nesting. First we went to the outdoor education stores in Lerwick to get into our equipment for going into the sea. We were given a wetsuit, shoes, gloves, a hat, a helmet and a life jacket.

Once we got to Nesting we had something to eat before we went into the sea. It was very windy and cold but it was dry so that was good. Before we actually went into the sea we were given all of the instructions, what to do and what not to do.

When I got into the water it gave me a shock because it was quite cold at first but then I got used to it although my fingers felt as though they might have fallen off. We would slide in and swim round to bits of rock. Then we got to jump off a small piece, I screamed because I didn't want my head going under the water but it was fine. We then swam to a cave, they called it the Walrus cave – it was really fun because the swell of the water made you go up and down and my helmet was touching the roof of the entrance of the cave. Once you got into the cave it was really big and at the far corner there was a little hole and the water went in and then it would splash back out making a really loud noise. We had to swim round one of the instructors, Pete and the swim back out. Then we started making our way back and we got back to the piece we jumped off of and we got the choice to jump off the small one (about 2 meters) and the taller one (about 5 meters). I went off the taller one, it took me a while to actually jump but I eventually did it. I screamed and then there was a lot of water that went up my nose but it was fun. Then we went back the way we came and back to the bus.

When we got back to the stores it felt so good to take off my wetsuit and get on my dry clothes and to eat something because I was starving!

I thought coasteering was really fun and I would definitely do it again.

Erin Robertson (S2)

Wider Experiences

Many S1/S2 pupils have been experiencing a wider, more varied curriculum this term, with the introduction of our wider experiences on Friday afternoons. They have many choices, including, gardening, visiting North Haven Care Centre, First Aid Training and Photography. This first 10 week block finishes in November, when their next options start. Block 2 options are North Haven Care Centre, Debating, Knitting and the introduction of the Sports Leadership Award.



FRONT GARDEN



Wider Experience Photography

A group of 16 pupils from S1 and S2 have been taking part in a photography class as part of the Wider Experience programme. The pupils, led by Ms Storey, have been taking photographs on three themes: portraits, nature, and shadows.

Each week the group have been taught about a different aspect of photography and what makes a great picture as well as having time to take photos in and around the school themselves. Most pupils are using their mobile phones to take the pictures and couple have digital cameras to use as well. Focusing on composition, lighting and basic editing techniques has allowed the pupils to take some impressive shots and quickly improve their skills and confidence.

Ms Storey has been impressed with focus and commitment of the group to getting the images right and their willingness to experiment with new techniques. “Taking great photos is harder than it looks and the group have been really keen to improve their skills and work together to capture the images they want. Working in black and white is something new for most of the pupils and I’ve been pleased to see how much they’ve enjoyed experimenting and looking at their photos in a new way.”

S2 pupil, Neve Christie, commented that she’s enjoying the class, especially “taking photos with other people instead of just by yourself like you normally do”.

Look out for a display of the pupils’ photography in the school very soon.

Photo by Inis McIntosh, S2.



Wider Experience at North Haven

As part of our Wider Experience programme, six S1 and S2 pupils have been visiting the day care clients of North Haven Care Centre every Friday. We are having a great time playing games and sharing memories, hobbies and music.

A range of social activities has enabled pupils to relax in the company of the clients and get to know them. We have played bingo and hoopla, shared memories about school life and have taken in belongings to do with our hobbies to share and discuss. Our musical entertainment went down so well we invited senior pupil Scott Moncrieff to come along with his guitar. Scott's songs were recognised by everyone and were warmly received.



Monica Hurson is a client of the day care services and she commented, "I love the young folk visiting and seeing their smiling faces." She added that young people are "still the same as when I was young". Loren Robertson volunteered to be a visitor as she "just wanted to see the old people and make them happy." Loren particularly enjoyed the conversational activities such as discussing hobbies and comparing schools.

Our current group of visitors have two more visits to the care centre and then a new group will get to know the day care clients in November. We will look forward to some festive activities we can share. Mrs Watt has been accompanying the pupils and has found the visits are beneficial to everyone involved. "This is learning for sustainability as our pupils are making a positive contribution to our local community whilst developing communication skills and confidence they will benefit from in later life."



John Muir Trust Day 3 - Rockwild



S2 pupils headed to Tingon, Eshaness Tuesday 1 October, as part of their John Muir Trust Award. “We clambered through very narrow gaps in the rocks and played on massive stepping stones” said one pupil. “We had a great time: John and Pete (Outdoor Education, Shetland) showed us many coastal features, including caves, stacks and different types of rock. The volcanic rock was quite easy to climb on as it was very rough and ‘sticky’.”



Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award

Some S3 pupils will be starting their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award next term. All of S3 were given a presentation earlier this term and then attended a meeting to discuss what this involves. Interested pupils then received a letter to take home, along with information sheets and enrolment forms to be completed and returned to the school. The award involves commitment of time (3-6 months) for 3 sections: Volunteering, Physical Activity and Skills. Pupils also attend camp craft classes once a week, to prepare them for the expedition, which involves an overnight camp, in June. It is such a worthwhile experience and helps improve pupils' self-esteem, determination and enthusiasm for the outside world and beyond It is a wonderful opportunity to improve on pupils' wider achievement.



Young Scots Speaker Nomination for Hannah-Lisa



Congratulations to Hannah-Lisa Laurensen in S5 who was nominated for the 'Young Scots Speaker o the Year' prize at the inaugural Scots Language Awards.

The awards were started "with the aim of heightening the profile and promoting the Scots language to the public and media".

Hannah-Lisa was nominated after her short story, 'Da Maa's Eggs', won the Senior Dialect Award in the Shetland Young Writer competition 2018.

"As a bairn my nana telt me a story about a man wha geed doon da dramatic cliffs at da Ham o Roe in da nort o Shetland tae get maas eggs wi his bairn on his back. I elaborated on dis memory tae allow da story tae develop tae be about a grandfaider telling da story tae his grandbairns. Da use o speech allowed me tae tell da story but also express da feelings felt by da grandfaider and grandbairns."

Senior Dialect Award for Holly

Congratulations to Holly Stephen in S2 who has won the Dialect Prize in the Shetland Young Writer competition for the 13-18 age group for her story 'Da Selkie's Pirse'.

The judges Mary Blance, James Sinclair and Jim Mainland commented "There is an excellent use of expressive dialect throughout which gives authenticity to the story. For example, 'slester', 'Skroil', 'plepsed'. I very much liked the expression 'shilpit sea air'. There is a real accurate account of the mixture of bruck often found on a Shetland beach and the selkie's 'pirse' itself is memorably described. You use speech very effectively to emphasise different characters and to move the story on. I also like the way you use the sounds of nature and the weather to add to the overall atmosphere of the piece."

Well done Holly who not only wrote a great dialect story but also read it confidently to the audience at the award ceremony.



Drummond Education Award



For a number of years the British Nutrition Foundation (BNF) has run The Drummond Education Award scheme for N5 to Advanced Higher to promote interest in, and awareness of good practice in food and nutrition and to recognise and reward the achievements of outstanding students and their teachers in this subject area.

Huge congratulations to former pupil Jenna Mowat, who has been chosen this year for the award for Advanced Higher Health and Food Technology!

The award will consist of a certificate presented at the BNF Annual Day, which this year will take place in Central London in November, as well as a £100 prize to Jenna and a £200 prize to the school.

An excellent achievement Jenna and very well deserved.

Screenplay Review Winners

Congratulations to all our winners in the English department's Screenplay Film Review competition. All of S1-3 entered the competition after attending the Screenplay Film Festival.

S1 and S2 reviewed 'Supa Modo' and in S1 Lilybell Wood was the winner and Mia Wright and Layla Todd were runners up. Lilybell commented she found the film “happy, sad and heart warming” and liked how the film how “Jo’s death wasn’t just a horrible moment. It was a moment for everyone to remember what a wonderful, Brave girl Jo was.”

In S2 Sophie Gilbertson was the winner and Grace Frankel and Inis McIntosh were runners up. Sophie’s review included many insightful comments on the film and showed her opinions clearly. She concluded, “Supa Modo” is a heavy-hearted and remarkable film directed by Likarion Wainaina. This feature is portrayed exceedingly well and is about a young girl who simply wants to live a normal life. As her illness gets in the way you can see the pain that people can go through, and for that, I can see how lucky we are to be able to live well and to make the most of life as some people can’t.”

After S3 reviewed the documentary 'Science Fair' Irvin Sandison was the winner with Adele Bennett and Anna McDowall the runners up. Irvin was critical of the director and clearly defended his view. “The problem lies in the sheer abundance of characters... people, who I am sure are fascinating people, are portrayed as bland, flat and uninteresting people... and I struggle to remember even the vaguest details of most of their projects, keeping in mind that this is the entire point of the documentary.”

The winners were all awarded a £20 Amazon voucher and the runners up won sweets. Well done to the prize winners and to everyone who entered. Thanks also to Mr Tait and Mr Johnson for judging. They commented that a number of entries were close to winning prizes.



Record Number of New Achievements

The S3 English class have worked hard to research and record twenty new achievements for the wall since the change of timetable in June. This a record number of new entries on the wall in one term.

Ashley Hay remarked that the wall is “Good for publicising what pupils are doing well in and letting pupils and staff know about achievements they might not hear about.” Robbie Sutherland agreed, “Some of these achievements I had no idea about”. Ross Hunter added, “Some of these achievements might go under the radar if we weren’t putting them up on the wall.”

If any pupils, staff or parents have suggestions for the Achievement Wall, contact an S3 pupil or Mrs Watt.



Physical Education News

Pupils from S1 – S4 took part in the Secondary Netball and Football Inter Schools Tournament at the Clickimin Centre on Monday 9th September. Trials were held in the week before the event. One football team and two netball teams were entered into the competitions.



Footballers

Back row:

Ethan MacPherson, Finlay Laurenson, Marc Hunter (S5 helper), Erland Laurenson, Ross Hunter, Nathan Grains.

Middle:

Connor Doull, Josie Leask, Robbie Sutherland, Jack McShane, Joe Carter, Tom Nicolson, Will MacPherson, James Anderson.

Front:

Chris Thomson.

Congratulations to the Brae High School S1 to S4 Football Team who equip themselves very well at the inter-school football tournament.

The team finished 5th with a record of 3 wins, 1 draw and 3 losses - narrowly missing out on a 3rd place play-off on goal difference. This was especially encouraging given the larger number of younger pupils participating. If these pupils show the same effort and desire the school team has a great chance of improving even further next year.

All the pupils in attendance displayed great sportsmanship and team spirit. They should be very proud, not only with their performances but also at how well they represented the school.

Special thanks to Spencer Johnson (S5) who assisted with coaching duties despite clearly wishing to play himself.

Netballers

Rhona Clark (S5 helper), Vilte Hunter, Kaitlyn Johnson, Kailee Tait, Aimee Ruddick, Caitlyn Johnson, Erin Doull, Ashleigh Charlton, Lily Rendall, Hannah Lisa Laurenson (S5 helper).

Middle: Brogan Ratter, Erin Hunter, Ola Balfour, Emma Hunter, Ashley Hay, Marianne Jamieson.

Front: Holly Stephen, Jenni Leask, Lilybell Wood, Inis McIntosh, Erin Robertson.



Thanks are extended to our senior helpers, Rhona and Hannah Lisa for running the lunchtime training sessions in preparation for the event. We were able to enter 2 teams for the Netball with a large number of pupils turning up for trials. A total of 10 teams took part from 7 schools. The Brae girls, with some very young players, came up against some tough opposition from established teams and showed great determination and resilience throughout. They demonstrated great sporting conduct and encouraged each other throughout, enjoying the experience of playing against teams from other schools. The Brae teams finished in 8th and 10th place overall. Delting Netball club training continues on Mondays: 6-7 p.m. for Primary 5-7 and 7-8 p.m. for S1-6.

Hockey – after School Club Thursdays

The afterschool hockey club has continued to run successfully throughout the term with 51 pupils across the age range 4 – 13 turning up. The club offers fun warm ups, drill practises and game time for all and is proving popular with pupils attending from a variety of different areas in Shetland. Well done everyone.

Lunchtime clubs

Mr Tait is starting up a Table Tennis Club on a Tuesday lunchtime and Mrs Hibbert is offering a Volleyball lunchtime club on Wednesdays. Times for these clubs are: 12.40 – 1.05 p.m. Pupils and staff welcome.

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

On Thursday 26th September, we celebrated the European Day of Languages at Brae High School. Students had the opportunity to engage in a range of fun activities during their weekly French, Spanish and German lessons and even during their PE lessons when they were introduced to the Greek ball game 'Episkyros'! Some of our older pupils were delighted to be presented with some Spanish delicacies prepared by their teacher as part of a food tasting session; they were keen to discover more about famous dishes that are popular in Spain. Students also enjoyed taking part in a fun and interactive cultural and linguistic quiz involving scanning QR codes that were strategically placed around the school.



This activity proved to be popular with everyone and what a fun and creative way to learn about other cultures! Looking at maps of Europe and engaging in a series of interactive activities about countries' populations and demographics was also one of the main highlights of our European Day of Languages.

Numerous members of staff commented that there was a real 'buzz' throughout the day in school and the continued level of commitment shown by both pupils and staff alike is yet another example of our enthusiasm towards all things international. Pupils were keen to discover more about famous dishes that are popular in Spain. Students also enjoyed taking part in a fun and interactive cultural and linguistic quiz involving scanning QR codes that were strategically placed around the school. This activity proved to be popular with everyone and what a fun and creative way to learn about other cultures! Looking at maps of Europe and engaging in a series of interactive activities about countries' populations and demographics was also one of the main highlights of our European Day of Languages.



Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) became available nationally from August 2004 to provide financial support to 16 to 19 year olds from low income households, who are attending non advanced education in school, college, community or voluntary provision, or who are home educated.

The EMA scheme has been extended to **include part-time students** studying non-advanced courses.

Your date of birth should fall into one of the following categories:

Eligibility

Academic Year	Date of Birth	Payable
2019/20	Born between 1st Mar 2000 and 30th Sept 2003	August 2019
2019/20	Born between 1st Oct 2003 and 29th Feb 2004	January 2020

EMA is an allowance of up to £30 per week, depending on household income. The income thresholds for the EMA Programme for Academic Year 2019/20 are as follows:

Income	No of dependent children	Award
£0 - £24,421	1	£30 per week
£0 - £26,884	2+	£30 per week

An EMA is an allowance of £30 per week (not paid during holiday periods), which can be paid to eligible students who stay on in education between the ages of 16 and 19.

Pupils who received an EMA award for session 2018/19 must complete an application form for session 2019/20 if they wish to continue receiving the award.

The household income of the young person will determine their eligibility for an EMA.

For further information or to apply, use the web address:

<https://www.shetland.gov.uk/education/EMA.asp>

Clothing Grants, Free School Meals and Free School Milk

What is a Clothing Grant?

A Clothing Grant is a grant awarded to children from families on a low income to help towards the cost of clothing and footwear.

What are Free School Meals?

A free School Meal is a school lunch provided free of charge by Shetland Islands Council to children from families on a low income. All pupils in Primary 1 to Primary 3 are now eligible for free School meals, however these pupils should still be included on your application form if you wish to apply for Free School Milk and / or a Clothing Grant. Children attending Early Learning and Childcare Settings as part of the expanded provision are also eligible for Free School Meals and families should apply as detailed below.

How much is the school clothing grant?

The grant is £100 per pupil. Payments are made by BACS to your nominated bank account, or by cheque, where necessary.

Where can I apply for a clothing grant and /or free school meals / free school milk?

You can apply for a clothing grant and/or free school meals by following the below link:

<https://www.shetland.gov.uk/education/ClothingGrants.asp>