

# Brae High School



## Term 2 Newsletter December 2019

# Contact Details



**BRAE HIGH SCHOOL**  
“Wirk tagidder wi ean anidder”

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## **Senior Leadership Team**

**Head Teacher**

**Depute Head (Primary)**

**Depute Head (Secondary)**

Mr Logan Nicolson

Mr Billy Forsyth

Mrs Laehann Johnson

# Head Teacher Message

It is hard to believe that we are now at the end of term 2 and fast approaching the end of 2019. As you will see throughout our newsletter, our pupils have achieved many great things this term. It has been a brilliant term, where pupils have continued to amaze us with their skills and talents, whether that be organising the Winter Ball, becoming an Oompa Loompa, playing in the concert, excelling at sport or maths, or in the fantastic behaviour, effort and attitude we see every day.

Our S1's have shared their reflections on settling in to secondary. It is great to read over them and find out how much they are enjoying secondary, finding subjects they really love and building confidence. The pupils mention two aspects of the school that they think could be better:

1. Improve the availability of hot meals in the tuck shop.

I have been meeting with Neil Beattie, Team Leader for Catering and Cleaning, to discuss steps we could take to improve the provision of hot food in the tuck shop and we are hopeful that we will be able to offer more hot options shortly.

2. Have more opportunities to be outside and play.

Next term I will speak to pupils and we will look at different options to allow them the opportunity to get out and play at lunchtime.

## Updates

We have a number of pupils with food allergies. Known allergens are: nuts, prawns, eggs, citrus fruit, kiwi, melon and peaches. We understand it is not possible to completely eliminate all these foods from the school, however we would ask that parents exercise caution with snack and pack lunch, particularly with younger pupils.

Pupils in secondary have also requested that we set up a daily homework/study club after school. More details will follow next term.

I am delighted to let you know, that as of next term, the Anchor project will be working in partnership with the us and will be based in the school a day a week. For more information on the Anchor Project see the piece submitted by the Project Coordinator, Sandra Summers.

As you will be aware, staffing has been an issue in the ASN department over the past couple of terms. On Tuesday, we appointed a preferred candidate for the role of Principal Teacher of ASN and Pupil Support. Great news! I will share more information with you when I am in a position to do so.

Another piece of great news, as of August 2020 we will be offering year round provision in Early Years. This means that our Early Years setting will be open during the holidays, which I am sure will be a great help to many families. We will be recruiting for this in the near future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the pupils, parents and staff for everything you have done this term to make the school a great place to learn and work.

I hope you all have a brilliant Christmas and a fantastic New Year!

**Mr L Nicolson**

# Update on our School Improvement Plan

We are making good progress with our school improvement plan. We know that we will make even more progress next term when our working groups meet.

## Closing the attainment Gap

Our breakfast club is doing well and keeps pupils fuelled in the morning. Thanks to Loren Manson (Youth Development Worker) and her team of volunteers for their commitment and hard work in keeping the breakfast club going.

We have a focus on supporting improved attendance and we will continue to address this next term. We are doing this by increasing our communication with pupils and parents when attendance looks like it is starting to become a problem, and by offering a range of proactive supports.

In addition to this, we have a number of targeted supports to allow pupils to make better progress in Health and Wellbeing, Numeracy and Literacy.

## Functioning as an all-through 3-18 school

Over the last two terms, we have held workshops with our pupils to gather their views on what our vision, values and aims should be. We looked at how we want to interact with each other, how we want to feel when we are at school and how our values underpin this.



All pupils took a full and active part in the sessions and contributed excellent observations, insights and points of view. I have collated the information gathered at these sessions and have pulled out key themes, as well as the top 15 values according to our pupils:

Fun	Fairness	Respect			
Kindness	Equality	Motivation	Creativity	Determination	Responsibility
Wellbeing	Rights	Patience	Adventure	Aspiration	Cooperation

In the new year I will send out a questionnaire parents to give you all an opportunity to contribute to our school values.

## Curriculum Refresh

Over the past two terms, we have been gathering pupil and parent views on our curriculum rationale. We have been getting our pupils to identify what they feel is unique about our school and they identified the following:

debating, **musical**, talent, creative, pupils, artistic pupils, **talented sports people**, good subject choice, big social area, diversity is celebrated, achievement wall, **no uniform**, boys and girls mix, welcoming school, **not too big**, **pupils get along**, good variety of sports, pupil council, **close community**, respectful atmosphere, friendly and responsible, openly express ourselves and not get judged, **3-18 school**, rural communities, **most northern high school**, centrally located in the North Mainland, good relationships with teachers, good facilities (trees, astro, pitch, grassy areas)

This helps us to know what our pupils value about the school and how we should develop our curriculum.

In addition to this, we have been rolling out two feedback sheets at parents' evenings to get parental input to the development of our curriculum rationale. One popular idea suggested in the primary was to introduce British Sign Language, which we are keen to do and would welcome any help and advice taking this forward. In the secondary, it was suggested that we work in partnership with Ports and Harbours to introduce seamanship. From this suggestion, we organised a meeting with Ports and Harbours and in collaboration with them we drafted a partnership agreement to offer seamanship opportunities as part of our wider experiences options.

### **Tracking and Monitoring**

All staff were trained to use SEEMIS Progress and Achievement this term. This now allows all tracking of pupil progress, and reporting to be done on the same electronic programme from 3-18.

## **Mr Nicolson's Snapshots**



Primary pupils doing yoga. They were brilliant!



Ola Balfour with her two proud grannies at our community café.



Secondary pupils makkin for charity for wider achievement.



We were delighted to have Social Security Scotland join us at Parents' Evening

## 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 22<sup>nd</sup> January  
6pm Primary Department**



Join us on Facebook “Brae High School Parent Council” or be in touch by email: [braepc@gmail.com](mailto: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 3	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2020
Term 4	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2020

### Local Holidays:

- Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020
- Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020
- Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020
- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2020
- Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2020

## Important Dates for your Diaries – Next Term



Prelims	20-28 <sup>th</sup> of January
S3 Parents Night	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> February
S4 Parents Night	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> February
S5/6 Parents Night	Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> February
North Mainland Careers Event More details to follow in the New Year.	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March



# Primary & Early Years News



The Primary has had another very busy term with lots going on as usual at this time of year. We have had Joy Duncan in school throughout the term doing drumming with our younger pupils and that has been fantastic as it really helps the children with their listening but in a way that is great fun. Our thanks go to Joy!

Our pupil council has met on several occasions with some great suggestions put forward, some of which we have managed to implement – outside blackboard area in the upper playground and indoor games/activities and a drawing club for wet playtimes. I am sure there will be lots more developments from our pupil council.



Our first Christmas concert went very well and we were delighted with how well the children performed in both the little ones concert and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory performed by our P4-P7 classes.



As you are aware, we had to cancel the second night performance due to extreme weather conditions and power cuts. However, we managed to reschedule this and the children again



did a great job on Wednesday afternoon this week. A huge thankyou to all the bairns for their super efforts and to all the staff for their hard work in putting it all together.

Our Nursery department is also a hub of activity each day and we are delighted with the progress and developments that are ongoing. The linkup between nursery and P1 continues to be a hugely successful system with staff and pupils able to work closely together on a daily basis throughout the year. Nursery staff have attended a number of training sessions looking closely at how we can best support our youngest pupils in their development. We are all very pleased with how this is progressing and look forward to even more development in future.

Everybody is looking forward to the Christmas break and a well earned rest. I would like to wish all pupils, staff and parents a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.  
Kind regards

Mr Billy Forsyth  
Depute Head Teacher (Primary)



# S1 Reflect on their Transition to Secondary



**S1 have been reflecting on how they have coped with the transition from primary to secondary school through their personal writing in English. Here are some extracts to give a flavour of how they feel about life as a S1 pupil. They were encouraged to use some literary techniques. Can you spot any?**

My first week of secondary I slept like a baby and worked like a robot. What I am enjoying the most about secondary school is having different subjects every 50 minutes. My favourite subject is technical. Also, I feel like we have more freedom and can go for a walk at lunchtimes.

***Finlay Laurensen***

So far, in secondary school I have enjoyed that we have different teachers for each subject. It is better than one teacher for everything. Another thing I like about secondary is you have more independence and freedom over what you learn and do at break and lunch times. For example, you could go to Frankie's for dinner. One more thing I enjoy about it is the fact we get more homework for every subject. I personally like homework; I find it easier because I can do it in a quiet space.

***Ellie Sinclair***

The first day of secondary was quite exciting but also nerve wracking. When I got home, I was so excited for the next day. My head hit the pillow like a sack of bricks.

***Chris Thomson***

On my first day I was so scared I thought I'd miss everything from my old primary but at the end of the day I realised that the thing I missed was my teacher only because she was a friend as well as a teacher. I wasn't scared of going to school after that.

***Sophie Spillet***

One thing I would like to change is to have a playground or a multicourt because I want to play football. Dinnertime goes by so slowly, tick, tock, tick, tock because we don't have anything to do.

***Connor Doull***

I like that we get newer experiences. For example, there is a Maths Challenge happening this Thursday. In English, we wrote about 'Supa Modo' and we had a film review competition. It is a good experience to have challenges for people to show what they are good at. My favourite subjects are Maths, PE, Home Economics and Wider Experience.

**Jenni Leask**

There is more choice in food and drink. Home Economics is fun. I like cooking and making stuff.

**David Johnson**

Secondary has made me a lot more confident in a lot of ways; I can properly ask for help and I can say my opinions (that was introduced to me in P7 when we did debates about all sorts of stuff). What I enjoy about secondary is some of the newer subjects like Modern Studies. We learnt about democracies and dictatorships and about sources of fake news, bias and censorship.

**Caelan Leask**

If you could change anything in secondary, I would change it to be more of a choice range with what to eat instead of just one main thing. Get more of the main thing like croissants or sausages because when you get to the tuck shop it is run out. The lunch line goes like a snail then there is none of the food you want left. Another thing I would change is have an actual area to play out.

**Cheyenne Thomson**

I miss playing in the multicourt because I really like playing football and sometimes we did octopus. I think the secondary people should get to go in the multicourt and get our lunch at a different time than the primary so we can go in it at a different time to them.

**Josie Leask**

I have really enjoyed secondary so far but the thing I have enjoyed the most is Home Economics because I really enjoy baking and cooking new things and trying new things as well. Another thing I have enjoyed about secondary so far is English because it has been interesting learning about different techniques of writing and how I can improve my writing skills. I also enjoyed taking part in Screenplay during English because it was interesting to watch a film from another country. Having lots of different subjects makes me excited like a puppy with a new toy.

**Lilybell Wood**



# New Achievements Celebrated



This term S3 have been busy finding out about the achievements of pupils and publishing information and photos on the Achievement Wall in the Red Area.

- Irvin Sandison interviewed Scott Aitken about his fantastic achievement winning first shot on a Cadet's trip to Orkney. He was right on target shooting at an amazing distance of 200m.
- Murray Todd also did particularly well in a fencing competition on the mainland.
- Swimmers Layla Todd, Emma Hunter, Brogan Ratter, Tom Nicolson, Joe Carter and Kaila Ratter all have their swimming achievements recognised.
- Sailors Finlay Laurenson, Kaitlyn Johnson, Erin Hunter, Isaac Manson and David Abernethy also had their success on the water celebrated.
- Ashleigh Charlton was recognised for her voluntary work with Ability Shetland. She attends weekly to help at sports and swimming clubs and finds the work very rewarding.
- Pupils have also worked well in groups to organise events such as the Winter Ball and Children in Need fundraising. Congratulations to S6 pupils and the S3 Administration class.

To read more about these achievements and more see the pin board in the Red Area. If you have any suggestions for the wall please tell an S3 pupil or Mrs Watt.

# PE and Active Schools Update

We have seen another busy term at the PE Department. Alongside our normal teaching we have had many additional activities.

Brae High School Young Ambassadors attended the Shetland conference on 20 November accompanied by Danny Peterson, BHS Active Schools coordinator. Darren Jamieson, Ashley Hay and Adele Bennett looked at a Level Zero course where they considered Leadership within the school and found out a bit more about the Young Ambassador's role.

S2 Badminton interschool - Jack McShane, Isaac Duncan and Sophie Gilbertson travelled to Scalloway and enjoyed their experience. They came up against some tough opposition and were inspired by some great play from Shetland development players. Thanks for representing the school.

## **Lunchtime clubs**

- Monday – short tennis - Secondary 3 pupils recently finished a block of short tennis and were keen to start a lunchtime club. Mrs Hibbert runs this club. Games of singles and doubles are contested and pupils are more aware of the scoring system.
- Tuesday – table tennis organised by Mr Tait. Lunchtime in the Games Hall.
- Wednesday – volleyball – a popular club well attended each week. There will be an interschool volleyball tournament in Scalloway in February next term and we plan to send some teams to take part in this event. Mrs Hibbert
- Thursday – Shetland Dance – Miss Copland ran this club to hone the dancing skills of the pupils before the Winter Ball. It was a pleasure to see so many of them on the dance floor enjoying a variety of dances throughout the night at the Ball. Well done everyone.

## **After school club**

Thursday After School – Mrs Hibbert runs an indoor hockey club with Primary 1-4/ Primary 5 – Secondary 6 alternating each week. Pupils complete warm ups and practise skills developing into small fun games. This will continue next term. First week back will be for the younger age group.

It is good to see so many pupils taking part in lunchtime and afterschool clubs, hopefully this will help them to gain in confidence, learn more about an activity and perhaps continue to participate through a community group either when at school or having left.

Active Schools also advertise a number of available club opportunities for pupils on the School Facebook pages and on leaflets around the School. Please check details of contacts for the various clubs.

## **Dodgeball**

95 secondary pupils chose to take part in the end of term dodgeball tournament. 16 teams including a teacher's team were keen to dodge, duck, dip, dive to avoid being caught out. Fixtures were organised by Danny Peterson and the Young Ambassadors and PE staff helped on the day. The tournament ran throughout Thursday afternoon and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

## **NEXT TERM**

Swimming blocks for Secondary register class 1B starts on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January. Secondary 2 girls group will be starting on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January. Register classes have been informed. Please remember to have your kit each week. These blocks will run for 6 sessions.



# Maths Challenge



Brae High School had two teams competing at the Town Hall for the annual Shetland round of the UK Maths Challenge.

Our two teams were made up of two S2's and two S1's. The first team was Brogan, Holly, Layla and Jenni and the other team was Sophie, Neve, Lilybell and Connor.

There were four rounds at the maths challenge. The first round was a group round with ten questions where we worked together in our team against the clock. The second round was a cross number where we had to work in pairs. One pair answered the across clues while the other pair answered the down clues. The next round was a head to head with multiple questions and the last round was a relay round. There were eight teams, including us. Both of our teams came joint fourth with 57 points just narrowly missing 3<sup>rd</sup> place by one question.

It was a good experience and thank you to Mr Murray and Jake Rendall for taking us down.

# Christmas Boxes

This term the S2 Maths class do a cross-curricular project with Technical, Art and Home Economics to design and make Christmas boxes.

We started the project in Maths by making nets of the boxes we wished to make. We had a booklet to complete along the way with measurements, surface area, volumes, designs, materials and other data, and finally we evaluated our boxes at the end.

We then sent them to technical where we re-drew them, then cut them out.

In Art, we decorated our boxes with festive designs and constructed them using hot glue. We then took our boxes to Home Economics where we made mince pies to put in our boxes and take home to eat.

S2 really enjoyed the Project and would recommend it to anyone and everyone's boxes look amazing – well done!



## S3 Administration Pupils Reflections



### “ORGANISING AN EVENT TO HELP OTHERS”

The S3 Administration and IT class prepared for Children In Need by discussing what stalls, activities and services would need to be available throughout the week, and who would plan and staff them. This involved discussion amongst us to decide areas of responsibility.



Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November - Car Wash: The car wash went pretty well, although sometimes we were a little bit slow due to the cold weather. The teachers were elated to see their cars squeaky clean!  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November - Guess The Teacher: This involved using our communication skills to ask teachers if they would volunteer to bring in a childhood photograph of themselves. The aim was for people to guess from a list of staff, who the photos were. It was mainly the teachers themselves who were guessing (probably due

to the fact that the staff members are friends with each other, I would hope so anyway).

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November - Fancy Dress Day/Wear Something Yellow Day: I helped to plan the Fancy Dress Day/Wear Something Yellow Day. Overall, though, it went well as many were wearing yellow, Pudsey ears and Pikachu outfits on this particular day.

What Went Well: Every pupil co-operated well which gave us the confidence to try another venture later on. This taught us to work as a team and made us successful learners in that we used different skills from other subjects to make the event a success. Fortunately, this brought us together for a common goal of good and, thanks to this collaboration, we managed to raise exactly £468.53! Good work, school

**Irvin Sandison (S3)**

As part of our fundraiser for Children in Need, we held a bake sale on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> of November during our break time. To prepare for this we had to:

Arrange with Mrs Johnson and Mr Nicolson times and dates that we were able to have the bake sale. (English and Administration & IT skills)

Advertise it by making posters and putting them around the school and in local shops. (Artistic skills and working together as a team)

Send emails asking for pupils to remember to bring extra money and if they were able to bake. (Home Economics and Administration skills)

Collect and count a float from the office. (Numeracy skills)

Arrange who was doing what jobs and when. (Organisational skills)

I felt that even though it was our first bake sale we still managed to do a really good job. We all worked together and helped each other when needed and it made us all feel very proud to be striving towards a good cause. We were also very lucky to get the help from Miss Mills who gave us advice and tips on how to improve on our bake sales for the future.

**Eva Robertson (S3)**

As part of our Organising an Event unit, S3 Administration and IT pupils set up stalls, sold home bakes and washed the teacher's cars to raise money for Children in Need...but we didn't just do all this on



one day. We planned to do different fundraisers each day of the week of the 11-15<sup>th</sup> November. Tasks like the car wash required equipment we had to organise. All of the activities were planned up at the start, we discussed ideas and decided on the ones we liked, and added them to our main 'to do list'. We then drew up our own individual 'to do lists' so that we were organised for the event. We then decided on roles and jobs for different people. We all needed to make posters and used our communication skills to speak to staff, for example, to obtain floats from the office.

We decided how we would set up the stalls on the day of the bake sale and we asked primary pupils to come and try some of the stalls.

I enjoyed the experience because it gave me the opportunity to work with others in my class as a team and make use of the skills I have learned in other departments such as numeracy from the Maths department; literacy/communication skills from English; planning from Administration & IT. I felt using these skills gave me more confidence as an individual and helped to reinforce my learning in these subjects.

**Will MacPherson (S3)**



The Anchor Early Action Project is funded by the Big Lottery, Community Fund. The purpose of the project is to act as a catalyst to implement change around Early Action, specifically working towards earlier intervention for any family who requires some support, and encouraging them to set their own goals and build on their strengths before accessing additional service intervention.

The Project continues to evolve and build its understanding around engagement between families and those services supporting them. Its implementation within the Brae High School and surrounding area will help build on the information already gathered from Sound Primary School and the families who have participated with the Project Officers. This engagement is voluntary and aimed at families who are not currently accessing statutory support.

Anyone who would like to know a bit more about the Project can access further information here <https://www.shetland.gov.uk/communityplanning/AnchorProject.asp>

# UK Elections 2019 Brae Hustings

Brae High School Hustings was on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December. In the run-up to the hustings, several pupils gathered at lunchtimes to prepare questions in advance of the event. The school has hosted hustings for every election, both Westminster and Holyrood since 2003, in a long-standing tradition. The candidates who appeared were Alistair Carmichael (Lib Dem), Coilla Drake (Labour), Jennie Fairbairn (Conservative), Robert Leslie (SNP) and David Barnard (independent).



The questions asked were about trust in politicians, Brexit, Scottish Independence Referendum (which got the liveliest debate going), future of the monarchy (the audience did a poll and showed an overwhelming majority was in favour of monarchy over a republic) and freedom of speech.

Pupils confidently expressed their questions, and even engaged in face-to-face debate with the candidates, pressing them on their points. Compared to the Shetland by-election in August it lacked some excitement as the candidates did not seem to want to debate with one another directly, but rather, politely answer questions from the audience. Some of the candidates did not speak loudly or clearly, which lost the attention from most of the audience. However, David Barnard was well spoken and projected his voice clearly across the room, as did Alistair Carmichael. Jennie Fairbairn often seemed opposed to her party's official policies!

Overall my impressions of the Hustings is that it lacked real debate and fire. For people in Shetland these candidates were less inspiring compared to the August by-election.

***Ally Edwardson (S5)***



# Winter Ball 2019



Recently we attended the Winter Ball held by the S6's who planned and organised the event. They were all really proud with how the night turned out many of them commented on how they were glad to see everyone all dressed up and getting up to dance. The Winter Ball was very successful in raising £686.84. Half of this money will be donated to Cancer Research UK and the other half to the MRI Scanner Appeal. They were all very pleased as the money they earned this year was almost double the amount that was raised last year.

The S6's have very kindly given advice for the S5's so that they are able to plan a good night just as they did this year. They advise the new S6 should do fundraising, pick a decent theme, manage time well, plan well ahead and listen to everyone's input.

A huge thank you to S6 for organising a great night we all enjoyed!

***By Lara, Emily and Eva***



# UNIVERSITY and COLLEGE TRIP 2019

Brae High School recently organised for a group of S6s and S5s who are leaving school next year to visit universities and colleges across Scotland. We visited five cities allowing us to visit a total of 12 universities and colleges over the course of three days. It was very much a whistle stop tour using trains, buses, trams as well as the boat.



Different members of the group were able to select relevant universities to suit the courses they were interested in – for example, one of the S6s, Sarah Hornby, was able to visit a number of Art Schools to match in with her ambition to study Art. There was the opportunity to meet up with academic staff who were able to explain in more depth what was required in their course of study. This was beneficial as it gave an insight into what is expected and allowed us to see if the courses matched our own interests and needs. Student ambassadors from each university took us around their campuses, showing us the surroundings and buildings as well as sharing their experience of student life. We also met up with many ex pupils from Brae who are now at University and they gave us an insight into what to expect when making the big step of leaving home and going south.

The trip provided a lot of information that could not be gained by looking at a university website or by browsing through a prospectus.

I hope that this experience will help in choosing the right course and the right place to study next year. Many thanks to Northlink Ferries for providing sponsorship for the boat travel on the trip.

***Enya Spence (S6)***

# Parent council Update

- We held our AGM in November, and we were pleased there was a good turnout. Louise Wood and Sarah Johnson were re-elected as co-Chair, Vivienne Anderson was re-elected as Treasurer, and Astrid Nicolson was re-elected as Clerk.
- The next meeting of the Parent council will be on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January at 6:00pm in the Primary.
- Thank you to everybody who has supported Easy Fundraising. If you have not registered but would like to the details are in this newsletter.
- It is great to hear that more lunch time clubs will be happening in the primary in the New Year.
- Feedback on school lunches are to be a regular agenda item at Parent Council meetings following a really informative meeting with Mr Beattie
- The Parent Ocuncil are delighted to have better lighting behind the school. It is making a big difference to the safety of children and the public.
- Thank you to pupil reps for their involvement and ideas (outside blackboard, recycling moving forward). It is so important to hear and understand their voices, and this is something we are keen to see embedded at Brae High School
- We would like to invite all parents to come along and join in the Parent Council meetings, or alternately suggest ideas to the office bearers via email: [braepc@gmail.com](mailto:braepc@gmail.com)
- Join us on Facebook "Brae High School Parent Council"



# Secondary Christmas Concert

On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December, the school held our annual Secondary Christmas Concert, which was very well attended, so well attended that we needed to fetch more seats. There was a great atmosphere throughout the whole night, which was due to the fantastic music we were all treated to. Many audience members approached Mr Nicolson at the end of the night to say how high the standard of musicianship is at Brae High School. There was a donations box on the night, which raised £314 pound for the school fund.



# Free Sanitary Products



As part of the Shetland Islands Council's initiative to tackle the cost of the school day, free sanitary products are available for pupils. You may take as many products as you need. They can be taken home for using at the weekends and during the holidays

If you are interested in eco-friendly reusable sanitary products, please contact Susie Smith on 01595 744172



## 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**

<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>Date of Birth</b>	<b>Payable</b>
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:

<b>Income</b>	<b>No of dependent children</b>	<b>Award</b>
£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>

*Merry Christmas and happy  
New Year to you all!*

*From all the staff at  
Brae High School*

