



Balford High

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S1 Bannockburn Trips, Mr Brown

January 2016:

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Over recent weeks, our S1 cohort were given the fantastic opportunity of visiting the Bannockburn Heritage Centre as part of their Social Subjects Scottish Wars of Independence topic. The visit to the centre allowed pupils to be active in their learning; with workshops being given to all of our young people, including trying out weapons and armour from the time.

Our S1s then had a chance to head out to the monument to Robert the

Bruce and take on some training for their very own schiltrons of the Scots army! Rounding up the trip, pupils took part in a 3D re-enactment of the battle in the war-room. This was an excellent opportunity for our S1s to test their battle skills and tactics and see if they could repeat the famous outcome of 1314, or re-write history with an English victory. The trips were a massive success overall and we look forward to providing next year's S1 the same great opportunities.





Headlines

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very happy new year! I hope that you have had a restful and enjoyable break. It is great to be back to what will be a busy and productive term that should see many more improvements in our community. There are some key priorities that we will be working to overtake this term:

- **Consultation on the school day** in preparation for the 31 period week (currently 30 period) has started with discussion with the Parent Council. Our options are limited and influenced most heavily by bus service availability. Beyond that, other considerations are the associated costs that occur when extending support staff hours for catering and cleaning. We will work in partnership with Balfon Primary and Bellrock in planning for our new school week and involve young people, parent council and staff in discussions.
- Supporting the **attainment of our senior phase pupils** is high on all of our lists at the moment. Tracking information was used to identify and intervene with some pupils not on track last term. The prelim data will further help to gauge the individuals' progress. All young people will be pushed, encouraged and supported to maximise their overall attainment in the SQA. Teaching staff provide supported study outwith class time to help prepare pupils for exams and to provide additional help. Please encourage your child to attend.
- **Focus on high quality learning and teaching.** The Learning, teaching and assessment group have carried out an audit of practice and will begin planning CPL for teaching staff. There will be in-house CPL during SQA exam time and a short input on the in-service day in February.
- **Partnership working** with Larbert High and McLaren High started positively last term. Pupils from the partner schools will be experiencing a morning in Balfon High early in **February**. Our pupils and staff will visit McLaren in **March** to experience and learn about their provision.
- Teams in school have been reflecting on how we can maximise **collaboration** with other schools, partners and local employers to enhance the learning of our young people. We are keen to look outwards to identify and experience practice in other establishments in addition to developing strong links with local employers to further the Developing the Young Workforce agenda.
- **Curriculum 2016-17** - A firm commitment to offering a curriculum in 2016-17 that meets the needs of all of our learners in the Broad General Education (S1-3) and Senior Phase (S4-6). A great deal of work and consultation has been done last term in this area. We have identified gaps on our BGE provision and are keen to offer more opportunities for personalisation and choice in addition to an increase in vocational options



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- **ICT** - Our ICT Lead Learners Mrs Convery and Mr Hamilton are looking into developing a **Bring Your Own Device** policy. It is clear that with limited finances we will be unable to sustain current provision, therefore this approach is being explored. A draft will be shared with the parent council in due course.
- **RAfA** - There are a number of improvement science projects being piloted this term in support of the Raising Attainment for All programme. These are small projects aiming to improve literacy, numeracy, attendance and homework of target groups of young people. We are looking forward to feeding back the impact of these to all staff at the end of the term and if successful adopting the improvement science model as a further strategy in raising attainment.
- Our **astro-turf pitch** has come to the end of its life and through 'life-cycle' will be replaced this year. Mr Macquarrie and I have been visiting schools to review the relative pros and cons of a range of surfaces. It will be great to see the work start on this. I hope that it may be as early as the Spring break. I will let you know when that is confirmed in due course.

Mr Noon has begun his secondment as DHT at Peebles High School. We welcome Mr Shields from Hyndland Secondary to Lead Mathematics and Campsie 2 from February 15th.

As always, thank you for your support of our school.

Head Teacher

Advanced Higher Art Success

Congratulations to Jane Teed, from last year's S6, whose Advanced Higher Art work was highlighted by the SQA as outstanding and joins others from across the country at an exhibition at Scotland Street School in Glasgow. The exhibition runs until the end of the month.

Jane is pictured with Mrs Rice and Mrs McLaughlin at the exhibition opening. Jane is now at the Edinburgh College of Art. She is grateful for the support of the art team and school in helping her to fulfil her dream of studying at art school and we are extremely proud of her achievements.

This is the second consecutive year that a Balfron High pupil has had work selected for the prestigious exhibition. Last year Erin Hamilton's work was highlighted.





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Learner Voice



A pupil council representative from S1-6 from Balfron High joined peers from McLaren on a visit to Larbert High School. The pupils joined a Larbert pupil in their own year and followed their timetable for the morning. Mrs Anderson and Dr Appelquist joined colleagues from the partnership schools to discuss approaches to tracking and monitoring, reporting to parents and approaches in Modern Languages. The next stage is a visit to Balfron High – we are looking forward to sharing learning in our community. The pupils will make a short video on the experience for staff and pupils in their own schools. Much is being learned from the partnership as well as pupils and staff enjoying an interesting experience.

Micro-Tyco Winners 2015

Congratulations to 1E2 pupils, Amy, Ellie, Ewan and George, who won the Micro Tyco trophy following their presentation to the whole year group.

The group had raised £232.40 by getting sponsorship for small prizes and then selling raffle tickets. The group did gardening work in villages to add to funds raised.

Thanks to Mr Sheerin, Finlay Mann from S6, Sandy Slater from Stirling Business Park and parent Mrs Teed for organising and judging the final event.





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The Rights Respecting School, Mr Young



On Monday 21st December both the Balftron High School Senior Ambassadors and Junior Ambassadors for Rights Respecting School got together in the Theatre to collate, review and adapt the work done across a range of Form Classes throughout this session and last, towards the creation of a 'Positive Learning Charter'. As part of the school journey towards UNICEF Rights Respecting School Award recognition and level one award, a key outcome was to inform and educate the school community about the UN Convention for the Rights of the Child, as well as embodying these principles through the creation of a school based charter. The Ambassador team worked extremely well throughout the day to establish a final template for a new Balftron High – Positive Learning Charter; which will now be shared across the community for shared agreement.

3D Shapes – Maths competition

S2 pupils were tasked with collaborating in small groups to design and create snowy villages using 3D shapes. Pupils had to use maths, problem solving and creativity skills to fulfil the task successfully. Congratulations to the girls from Mr Cameron's class (pictured below) who were awarded first prize for their design.





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Developing the Young Workforce Update, Mrs Patrick (@BHSfpathways)



Future Pathways Lunchtime Drop In (above left)

Pupils applying to UCAS were able to ask any final questions regarding the application process or ask about the next steps after applications are sent when an Adviser from the University of Stirling attended one of our future pathways drop ins.

Pupils interested in applying to courses at Scotland's Rural Colleges SRUC were also able to speak directly to an adviser about the variety of courses available at Oatridge, Elmwood, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Ayr and Barony campuses.

BOCSH Conference (right)

Mrs Patrick and Cal Clark, Deputy Head Boy, attended an education conference in Glasgow where they presented to a range of staff from Schools and Colleges in Scotland. They shared information, discussed the experience and impact of Future Pathways at Balfion High School on Developing the Young Workforce.



Employability Trips (above right)

A group of pupils interested in pursuing a career in medicine attended a lecture at Canniesburn Plastic Surgery Unit by Mr Iain Taggart about Plastic surgery arranged by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons. All pupils found the talk 'Plastic Stars' extremely fascinating and relished the opportunity to put some of their questions to surgeons.



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Christmas Fayre

Our annual Christmas Fayre was a great success at the end of term. We had a wide selection of pupils and members of the community contribute to a fantastic morning. There was a huge variety of items for sale – many of us got some Christmas shopping done!

There were some fun activities on offer as well. Mr Watson and Nick got a bit competitive on the smoothie bikes and the Athletics team did a great job of organising a vertical jump competition. There was face painting and fundraising for our own poly tunnel, the expedition to Ecuador, Water Aid, the Valencia football trip and much more. It was great to have so many stalls run by members of the community.





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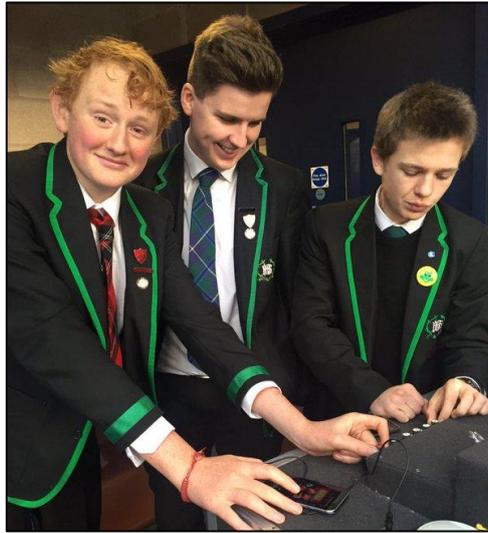
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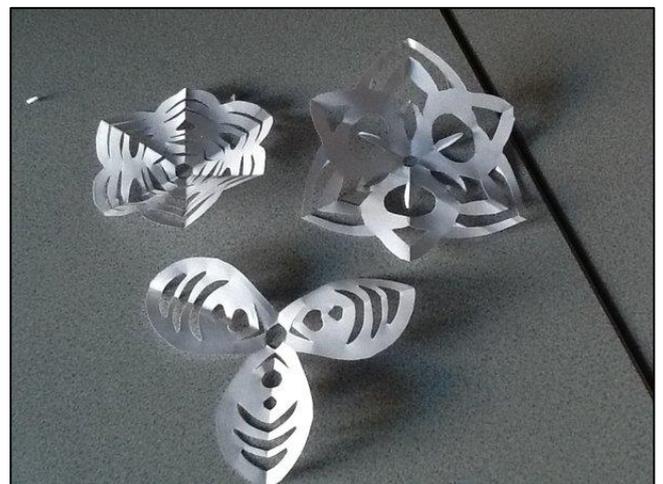
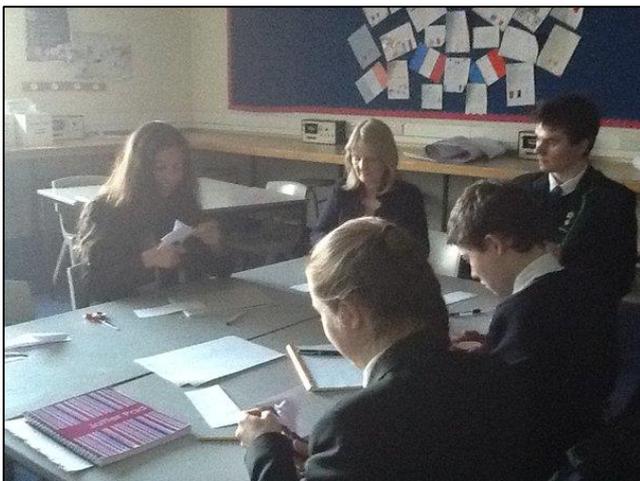
A highlight of the morning was a performance of some Christmas Carols by junior pupils from Balfon Primary school. They did a fantastic job, dressed up in festive costumes and really stole the show! Our resident DJ, Nick North kept the Christmas tunes playing, doing a great job of getting everyone in the mood for Christmas.

Thanks to everyone who came along to support the event and to Mr Sheerin for organising it!



Working with the Confucius Hub (@bhsmodlangs)

nǐ hǎo 你好- Lunchtime China Club - Balftron pupils have been enjoying an introduction to Chinese culture and language thanks to Ben Bolton in S6 who has been taking Mandarin lessons at Glasgow University, and to a Skype video link-up to the new Confucius Hub at Stirling High School. Cultural activities have included Chinese character writing and the ancient Chinese arts of paper cutting, paper folding and knotting. Ben has also been teaching us greetings, numbers and nationalities.





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Christmas Concert



Our Christmas concert was once again a great show. Mr Finnerty and his team put together a packed programme. The music team took great delight in introducing our new Man Choir (pictured in rehearsals above), showcasing music technology work and individual pupil performances. We were also treated to performances from the school orchestra, wind band, string band, rock band, guitars, flute group, junior and senior choirs and encouraged to join in with the Christmas carols. We took the opportunity to say farewell and thank you to Mrs Partridge, our upper strings teacher, who retired at the end of term. We are grateful to Mrs Partridge for her contribution to all the additional events that she helped us with. All in all, the concert was a fantastic event that got us all in the mood for Christmas!





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Charity Work



The S6 Charities Committee did a great job in the run up to Christmas collecting items for Syrian refugees. A huge thank you to everyone who sent in items. The Red Cross were delighted with the many bags of items that will contribute to the effort to support refugees. Christmas Jumper Day certainly brightened up our usual uniform and raised just over £400 for McMillan Cancer Care Support.

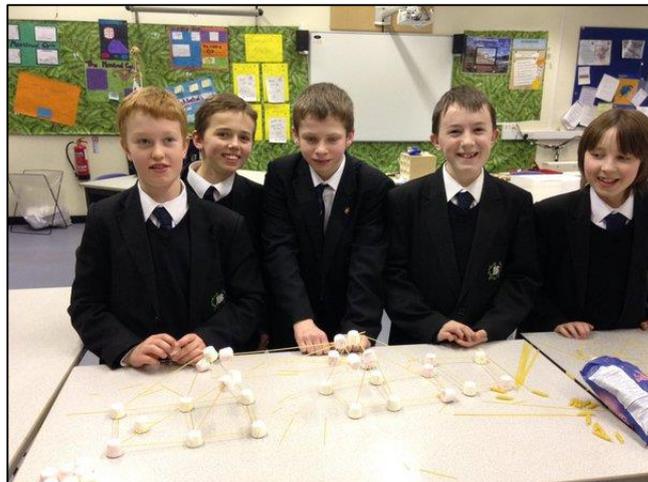
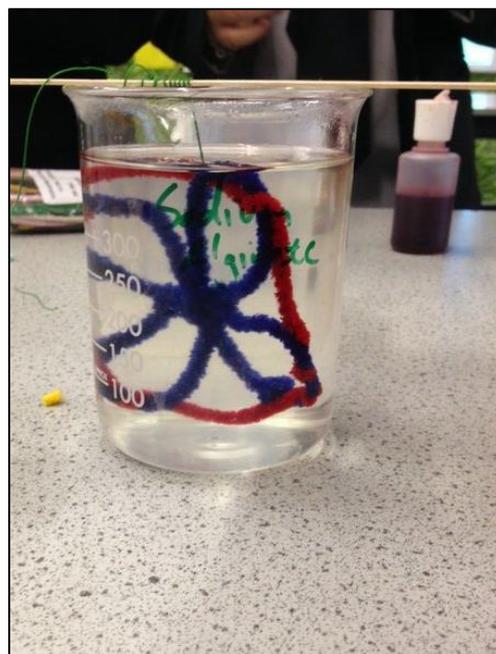


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Science Club, Miss Collins (@balfronSciClub)

Following on from our success with 'Things that go Bang!' in the first term, we explored the 'Science of Colour' in the second term. We investigated the colours of fireworks and made sparklers in November which was great fun! We experimented with inks and dyes and tie dyed some t-shirts, they looked really cool. Then, as Christmas approached we discussed how snowflakes form and even had a go at making our own, in crystal form! This term we will explore the 'Science of Food'. We kicked off with an exciting STEM challenge with our Science Club members working together to create the tallest structure they can using spaghetti and marshmallows! Check out our Twitter page @BalfronSciClub to see what we achieve.





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Balfrom High Library News (@BalfromHSLib)



The library is always a busy place. Special visitors, Santa and his elf dropped in on their way to visit the children from Balfrom Primary in the last week! Meanwhile Hamish was doing some work for the inter-house film competition using paint and pinnacle apps. More recently S3 have been using iPads to research Shakespeare in English.

Learning for Sustainability

Our ConneXions pupils have been busy. Working in partnership with SLCF, they designed and made Father Christmas logs. Louise is pictured below left. The group sold them at the Christmas Fayre to raise money for polytunnel activities.

The 4th years have been taking part in an initiative to grow and celebrate the sprout! Mrs Smith took them to an event in Stirling (right) where they linked with young people from other schools and took part in a range of activities designed around the sprout.

We hear that sprout smoothies are the way to go!





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S1 Panto



The English Team took S1 pupils to the MacRobert before Christmas to see the pantomime, The Little Mermaid.

It was great fun! George Simons (in the photo left) got a little more than he bargained for when he responded to the Dame!

Well done Ross Martin!



On the 6th of December 5C3 pupil Ross Martin was invited to attend the Autosport Awards Night at London's Grosvenor Hotel. Here's what Ross said about the event:

"I was invited thanks to winning the Formula Karts Stars Championship sponsored by F1 Management. I collected my trophy on stage that night. I was pictured with three time world champion and proud Scot, Sir Jackie Stewart.

It was an amazing experience meeting some of the most influential people in motorsport.

It was great to be able to ask them questions that will help me follow their path to success and move to the top"



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Christie Anne Shannon – British Champion!



Huge congratulations to 2C2 pupil, Christie-Anne Shannon, who won the British Ice-Skating U13 championship in Sheffield last month. Christie's hard work and determination has paid off, now making her an Olympic hopeful. Christie gets up at 5am in the morning to go to East Kilbride or Kilmarnock to train before school. She is organised, staying on top of her classwork and balancing her commitments well. She is an excellent role

model for other pupils. You can see Christie's winning performance on youtube – follow the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oGp-HNqx86s> Look out for BBC Reporting Scotland Sport's segment on Christie's progress.

Lewis Stewart – Overall Winners Hoy Future Stars Revolutionary Series



Huge congratulations to Lewis Stewart. He and Jessica Robert were crowned the HOY future stars champions for the 2015-16 season. They were the most consistent riders over the season. Lewis is part of the Olympic development programme. He has done a fantastic job of balancing the demands of national qualifications with the demands of a rigorous training and racing programme. The Balftron community wishes him well and looks forward, with great anticipation, to following his progress.



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S1/2 Christmas Ceilidh

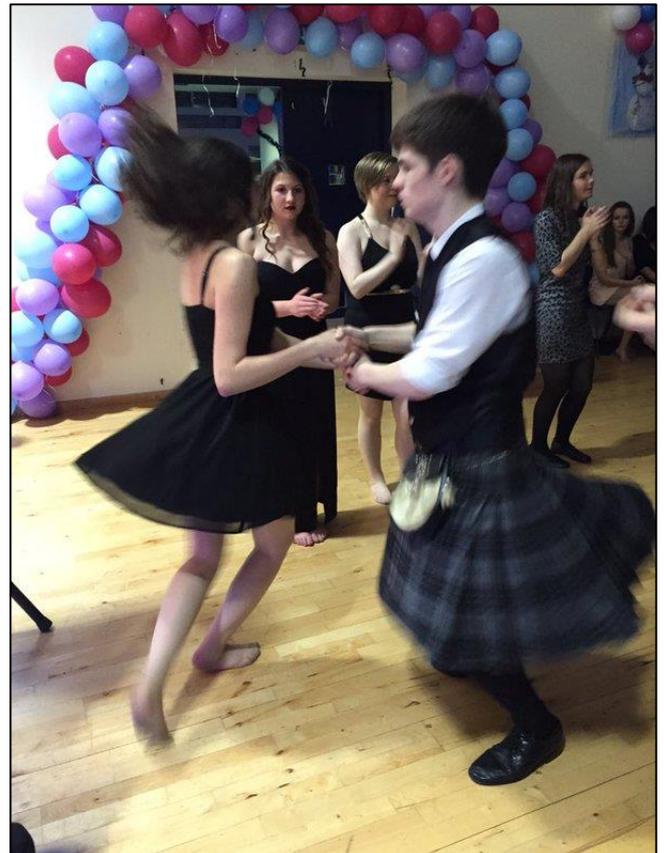
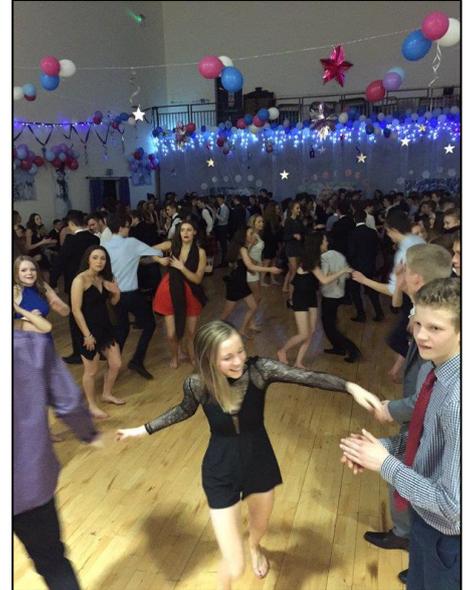
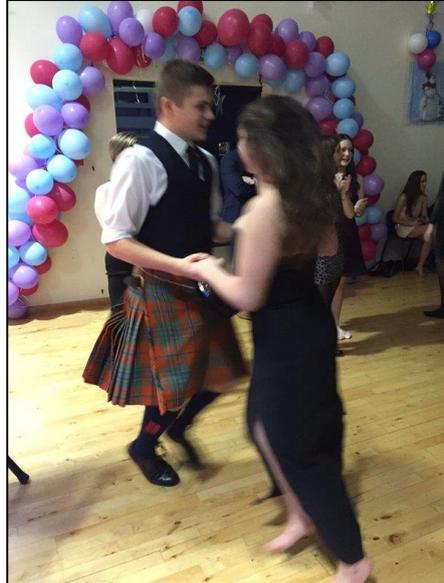




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S3/4 Christmas Ceilidh

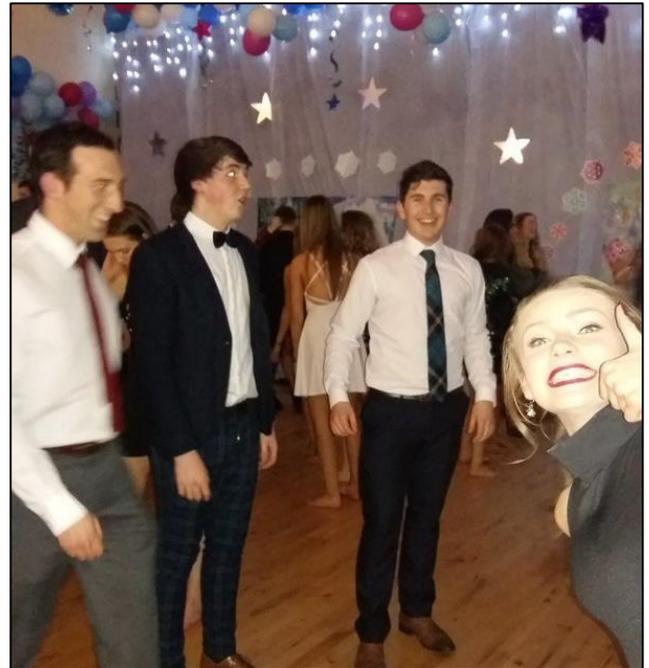




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S5/6 Christmas Ceilidh



All three of our Christmas Ceilidhs were a great success. Our young people had a fantastic time and really impressed us all with their participation, enthusiasm and general attitude. The band were fantastic and along with the PE team, did well to get everyone involved and in the party spirit! It was great to have some parents join us helping with supervision at each of the events. The inter-house competition was fiercely fought at each, this time the context was Scottish dancing. Thanks to Mrs Gannon and Mr Scott for decorating the theatre and atrium and thanks to the staff, Bellrock catering, parents and S6 pupils who helped organise and supervise.



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Pupil Leadership – S3 Monitors



Following a tough application and interview process led by the Senior Prefects, our S3 monitors are now in place and thriving in their new roles, stepping in for the S6 prefects who are busy with prelim exams. It is not a glamour job but certainly an important one. The S3 pupils ensure that food remains in the atrium, rubbish is put in the bin or recycling and they look out for younger pupils, encouraging good behaviour and responsibility across the school.

Congratulations to all those selected in each House.



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S3 Monitors 2016





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Pupil Leadership –Prefects



Our prefects continue to do a great job supporting staff and parents at Parents' Meetings. Duties include signing parents and carers in, collecting evaluations, helping with car parking, providing tea and coffee and perhaps hardest of all, keeping staff to time!

We are very proud of our prefects and grateful for their contribution to the school. Feedback from parents on their input at the Parents' meeting was great – well done everyone!



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Sunday Mail Sports Awards December 2015



For the third consecutive year, Balfroon High has been shortlisted as a Sunday Mail Sport School of the Year finalist. It was great to have David Leng, Director of Children, Families and Education join Balfroon High pupils and staff at the prestigious award ceremony. The school has been shortlisted as a result of the increasing number of activities offered to pupils at Balfroon High School, the positive impact of sports ambassadors and the newly formed Sports Council.

Highlights of the evening included meeting Jamie Murray (pictured with the Balfroon High team below), Judy Murray, and the entire Glasgow Warriors team. Leah and Nick met boxer Charlie Flynn and Nick was particularly pleased to have his picture taken with Al Kellock (above).





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Sports Round Up (@BalftronHSsport)



S2 Football – January 2016 – Stirling League Winners! Update from Mr Campbell

The S2 Football team played their final fixture in the Stirling Under 14 League this month, winning away at St Modan's High School to secure first position in the league table and a place in the play-offs.

Having begun the season in great form with a convincing win over Dunblane, the team suffered a setback, losing 5-2 against Stirling High. This was followed by a good 6-3 win over Wallace High, leaving the team well placed after 3 games. In November, the team played McLaren High School away in the Scottish Cup and although confidence was high, the boys lost on penalties after an entertaining 6-6 draw. Despite the disappointment, this proved to be a turning point in the season.

In December Balftron returned to McLaren for a league fixture and played with much greater determination and focus, resulting in a huge 12-2 win. Benji Pires put in a fantastic performance, scoring 5 goals, while Calum Murray was also superb on his first appearance of the year, scoring 3 times in the second half.

In the final game on Tuesday 12th January, the team faced a strong St Modan's team who had beaten Balftron twice last year. Despite having only 11 players for the game the boys put in an incredible performance, showing a new-found competitive spirit and will to win. After a close first half which ended 2-2, Benji Pires, Calum Murray and Lachlan Reynolds all



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produced fantastic strikes from outside the penalty area to put the team in the lead by 5 goals to 3. Sandy Carey led the team by example with his immense work-rate defensively, in addition to his normal attacking threat. The team then defended bravely under pressure, thanks largely to great organisation and leadership from Fraser Green and Jack McLaren. Benji Pires scored again at the end to give the team a much-deserved 6-3 victory, leaving them top of the league and in great form going into the play-offs.

The start of February sees the S2 team take on Larbert High School in the Forth Valley Cup, with the league play-offs also expected to take place soon after. Thanks to all of the squad for their efforts so far this year, hopefully the next couple of months will see some more memorable performances!

Well done to the U13 team who are pictured (right) celebrating their win over Alloa Academy.



Our open team netballers were narrowly defeated last month by Hermitage. Iona Campbell was player of the match.

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Dates for your Diary

4 February	S4 Parents' Meeting
8-9 February	In-service Days for staff/ Holiday for pupils
10-12 February	Holiday
15 February	School re-opens
16 February	S5/6 Parents' Meeting
22 February	Senior Phase Course Choice evening (S3-S5)
Wb 22 February	S3 Form Class Leader Interviews
24 February	Parent drop-in with HT, 4-6pm
Wb 29 February	S4 Form Class Leader interviews

If you are interested in having a flavour of the day in the life of the school, why not follow us on twitter - **@balfonhigh**

Follow our parent Council @BHS_Par_Council

The next Parent Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 15 March 2015 at 7.00 p.m. in the Strathendrick Suite, Balfon High School.



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Please join us at the Race Night on Friday 26th February. We are raising money to support the cost of hiring minibuses. We run a wide variety of activities off campus and depend on minibus hire for transport. If you can, please join us to help contribute to these considerable costs.



Balftron High School Parent Council
Fundraising



RACE NIGHT

Friday 26th February 2016



Balftron High School Theatre

7pm until 9.30pm

Tickets £5 - includes raffle ticket

Horses available to purchase for £10

For tickets e-mail: BALFRONHS@STIRLING.GOV.UK

Or contact school on 01360 440469