

**THE BERWICKSHIRE HIGH SCHOOL  
AUTUMN NEWSLETTER**



Dear Parent/Guardian

Our return to school on 18<sup>th</sup> August now seems to be a very distant memory! Once again, there has been a very quick start to the session, driven along by a whole series of events.

Although the winter is still ahead of us, the weather has already left its mark on our calendar. Our planned Autumn Fête had to be cancelled – a victim of the deluge that descended upon us all in September. More recently, our proposal to have a whole-school photograph taken has had to be delayed until Spring due to problems with scaffolding, soft ground and high winds. As we go to press we are still hopeful that our “Big Bang” bonfire evening will go ahead on – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November – details to follow.

By now I am sure you will all be aware that the move to the new school will take place in mid-February. As a result, various calendar ‘adjustments’ have been necessary and those affected have been fully informed. I am hopeful that we can minimise any disruption due to the revised entry date and at the moment it seems that we will be able to dovetail the new arrangements with our existing mid-February break. Details will follow as soon as we have a firm date for entry to the new school.

The period leading up to moving to the new school will be exceptionally busy. Detailed discussions have been underway for some time now over how to move an estimated 4,000 – 5,000 packing boxes and crates as well as other more awkward items ranging from our grand piano to the hazardous chemicals in the Science store!

We have been receiving excellent support from the Local Authority to address these matters and I have every confidence that the move to the new Berwickshire High School will be as smooth as possible. Further information on this subject will follow.

At the end of the newsletter you will find a list of holiday dates, teacher in-service days and date of Parents’ Evenings as well as issue dates for reports. I hope you will find this information to be of use.

Yours sincerely

*Rob Kelly*



## STAFFING NEWS

We have been joined by several new members of staff this session. We welcomed the following colleagues:-

Mr M Walker – Maths  
Mrs L Dorricott – English  
Mr H Playfair – Music



We have also said farewell to four colleagues who left us in the Autumn term to take up promoted posts elsewhere i.e.

Mrs J Casey – Principal Teacher of Modern Languages in North Berwick High School

Mr J Grant – Principal Teacher of Chemistry in St Augustine's Secondary School in Edinburgh

Mr S Haugh – has assumed the seconded post of Principal Teacher at Howdenburn School

Mr R Smith – has assumed the seconded post of Principal Teacher at Chirnside Primary School

We wish these former colleagues every success in their new appointments. I would like to thank all four for their major contribution to the school over many years. To compensate for the departure of Mr Haugh and Mr Smith, we welcome two new colleagues:-

Mrs J Budd (already a well-known face in the school ) and Mrs K Huffman.

In addition, Mrs M Thompson and Mrs P Jones have assumed joint responsibility – as Principal Teacher – for running the Modern Languages Department.

Finally, we welcomed Mrs Philippa Smith to our School Office from the start of the session.

## THE BHS PARENT COUNCIL

The Parent Council is now very much part of the life of the school. Members have already met on two occasions this session and have discussed items as diverse as the new school building, attainment, teaching and learning practices, and SBC proposals for Transforming Children's Services (TCS). There has also been a particular focus on the Council's constitution with proposals for amendments currently under discussion. The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November** with a special meeting to discuss the constitution on **Wednesday 3 December**. The constitution and the proposed amendments are featured on the school website.

Remember – Parent Council meeting are open to **all** parents of pupils at the school

## UPPER SCHOOL NEWS

The 'new look' Upper School (S4-S6) is off to a productive start. Blazers and ties in S5/S6 are distinctive and much admired in the community. The challenge will be to keep the 'look' for S5/S6 in the face of interest in it from Lower School! The smart impression has been matched by a focussed approach to learning, kick started by enhanced efforts in May to ensure students entering S5 were pursuing appropriate Courses, in line with Entry Requirements. Thanks must go to Principal Guidance Teachers, Principal Teachers and Curriculum Leaders for their assistance in this regard. Looking ahead, in October we consulted staff and students in preparation for the construction of the 2009-2010 S5/S6 Curriculum Plan. It is hoped that as a result of this dialogue choices will broaden further, building on progress made in 2008-2009.

There is no rest for the wicked, of course, and S4 students encounter the 'prelim experience' in November, whilst for all on NQ courses the NAB season is upon us. The Assessment Calendar issued to all NQ students should assist students (and parents) in planning revision.

Indeed, the attainment agenda is centre stage, with workshops planned for AH students, following a 'Study Skills Workshop Week' involving all on NQ courses. The monitoring and Tracking system continues to inform House and Stage Meetings, at which the progress of individuals is monitored weekly.

Outwith the formal curriculum, the S6 Trip was an enormous success engaging as it did most of the cohort proving that it is not necessary to spend two night on a bus (en route to the continent at great expense, to have fun and team build. Hopefully a local (cheaper) venue will help us achieve 100% up-take in due course.

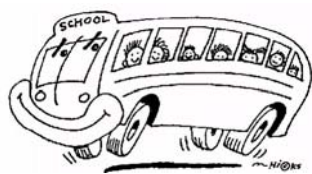
S6 buddies are doing a sterling job in supporting S1 charges and S5 students are gainfully employed in the Working With Others programme to develop community service and organisational skills. On the volunteering front a number of students are involved in supporting Support Base students and others 'in-house', whilst others are fundraising for opportunities to volunteer in Ghana and Peru. Thirty of our S5 pupils attended 'Safe T in the Park' this year at the beginning of September. The day was much enjoyed by Mrs Tasker and Mr Fleming plus our thirty eager pupils. This is a yearly event and much anticipated each session. The pupils always have a fun and informative day with the different workshops that they take part in. We are now currently looking for volunteers for the 'audio' summary they now need to produce for the competition – all parental help greatly received.

S4, new to Upper School, are rising to the challenges afforded, we are approaching our Work Experience week (Dec 8) when the local business community and parents work in partnership with Mrs Tasker to organise placements. We hope that we can count on your continued support with accommodating our pupils in local businesses, etc. We rely each year on our parents and extended community to provide valuable experiences for our S4 pupils. We appreciate this very much and hope we can continue to work with you all well into the future. Preparation for college/employment was enhanced by attendance of some S4 students at 'Grab The Chance', whilst those in S5/S6 aspiring to Higher Education had the change to attend the Higher Education Convention all hosted by Careers Scotland in Kelso.

All are catered for, all are expected to contribute and most are rising to the challenges and opportunities afforded by 'Upper School', as we have come to expect of students in The Berwickshire High School

*Mrs Duncan*  
*Head of Upper School*

## LOWER SCHOOL NEWS



### **WHITHAUGH PARK**

S1 Students will again be going to Whithaugh Park, Newcastleton on our annual Team Building week. This year the dates of the trip are Monday 18 May to Thursday 21 May and the usual activities, where S1 students get wet and very dirty, will take place. A letter regarding this trip has already been sent home with students.

### **RISK FACTORY**

S1 Students will visit the Risk Factory on 10<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December. This is an excellent facility in Edinburgh which highlights all of the risks children face as part of their daily routine. It is run by professionals and has been much enjoyed by previous S1 students.

### **SHOE BOX APPEAL**

The Lower school is organising a Shoe Box Appeal to send gifts to Third World countries for Christmas. This will be done on a Form Class basis and gifts will be collected and packed into boxes. Mrs Paulin, Lower School Co-ordinator, will be sending details around the form classes and will be outlining the kinds of gifts which will be appropriate. Please help to support this very worthwhile venture.

### **DRUG & ALCOHOL EDUCATION**

Visits from Kenny Houston, have been arranged for all S2 classes in the near future. Visits have also been organised from Alcoholics Anonymous. It is hope to organise visits from the Red Cross to work on basic First Aid with Lower School classes.

*Mr Christie  
Head of Lower School*

## PILOT PROJECT IN S3 REPORTING

There is a new development in S3 Report writing. Instead of receiving an S3 Report near the end of term in May 2009, I have, with my colleagues, established a pilot project whereby pupils and parents will receive a department update three times a year. This pilot project runs only in S3 and with a limited number of departments, namely: Business Education; Computing; and Geography. Each pupil update will come with a tear-off slip offering you the opportunity to make comment about the quality of the report and we encourage constructive feedback so that, together, we can ensure the service we offer our community is one of quality.

More information will follow.

*Mr Steele  
Depute Rector*

## S1 WELCOME

I am delighted to get this chance to formally welcome all our S1 pupils to The Berwickshire High School. Everybody has their own favourite time of the year but I particularly like the start of this term because it is so nice to see all the first year pupils eager to come to school to meet up with their new friends.

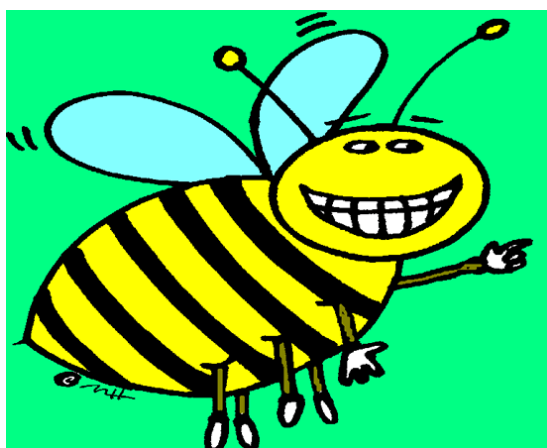
Having visited the Primary schools and spent many hours answering questions from anxious pupils worried about the move to High School it is very pleasing to see how they have been transformed. Gone are the scared, nervous pupils we had at the beginning of the Summer term to be replaced by happy, confident pupils who feel part of this school.

It has been a busy, exciting time for everyone, making new friends, meeting new teachers and getting to grips with lots of new subjects. The pupils have all coped remarkably well and the feedback from staff is very positive. The pupils seem keen to learn and make the most of the opportunities The Berwickshire High School has to offer. This was reflected in the number of certificates awarded at positive points assembly at the end of last term.

Already, lots of pupils have become involved in some of the many extra curricular activities and sports in the school. They have taken part in The Health Day impressing everyone with their enthusiasm and willingness to join in, having fun while learning important lifestyle messages and the cookery evening for parents (or grandparents) was also enjoyed by all who took part.

There are many more fun learning experiences lined up for this coming term with a visit to The Risk Factory in Edinburgh, a presentation on road safety from The Baldy Bain Theatre Group and hopefully a presentation from David Graham of Natural High. From what we have seen of the first year pupils we are sure they will approach all these activities with the same energy and commitment we have seen so far.

*Mrs Paulin*  
*Lower School Co-ordinator*



## S1 SOUTH AMERICA WEEK

Plans are well underway for the S1 South America week to take place from the 19th to the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2009. All experience a week of themed lessons based on South ranging from making Mardi Gras masks in Art, learning Incas in History, speaking some Spanish in Modern performing the samba in Music.



which is going S1 pupils will America, about the Languages and

The week will also build on High School's existing links with Berwickshire Christian Youth Trust. Pupils will be making sketches in Design & Technology of the Vine Trust Hostel which twelve S5/S6 pupils and two members of staff will be helping to construct in Peru in the summer of 2009. Pupils will be learning about street children in Peru in Religious Studies and discussing The United Nations Convention on The Rights of the Child in Social Education.

Berwickshire Peru through and The Vine



In addition, various themed activities will be taking place around the school, including the Library being decorated for Mardi Gras and some South American food being served in the canteen.

At the end of the week, all S1 pupils will take part in an Assembly, giving pupils a chance to display some of their work/new skills, and reflect on what they have learnt.

If you have any South American memorabilia which you would be prepared to lend to the school for display in the Library or the canteen, please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Mrs Marchand  
Principal Teacher Computing*

## PROMOTING POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

This system has now been going on in school for some time now and is a great incentive for pupils in Years 1 - 4 to do well in many respects: Bringing the correct equipment, being ready to start the lesson promptly, politeness towards others, helping others in the class, carrying out instructions willingly are just a few which can be rewarded with Positive Points for pupils in First and Second year and a Positive referral for pupils in Third and Fourth year.

We had our first Positive Points Assembly for all pupils in S1 and S2. These have been very well received and we look forward to the next one on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December. The Assembly for Third and Fourth year Positive Points make Positive Pupils.

*R Drummond  
Principal Teacher Pastoral*

## THE SCHOOL BANK – Money Sense

The Berwickshire High School is the first Secondary School in Scottish Borders to instigate this scheme, something which will allow our Third Year pupils to be part of Enterprise and offer a service for all pupils in First year, should they wish to be part of it. Applications for the three posts available were sought from S3 pupils – Customer Service Manager/Marketing Executive/Teller. Of the thirteen pupils who applied, six turned up for interview and we have been able to offer these respective posts to them, which they have accepted.

The Royal Bank of Scotland Manager, Mrs Carol Austin has been most impressed by what she has seen so far from our S3 pupils and is very much looking forward to the training session which will be offered to our six successful applicants.



However, this can only work if our S1 pupils are willing to 'buy into' this scheme. This is an opportunity for all our S1 pupils to save money in school, being issued with a Pay In Book, however, money can only be withdrawn from the actual Bank in Market Square, Duns. More information will be issued for all our First Year pupils soon.

*Mr Drummond  
Principal Teacher*

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH

In spite of the wet weather in September, several groups completed their bronze walking expeditions. They followed their planned routes in the Lammermuir Hills, camped out overnight and all successfully completed this part of the award. Most of these students have completed all of the requirements to gain their Bronze Award and are in a position now to begin the Silver Award, if they choose to do so.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is run on a voluntary basis. In the past we have relied on Mr A Wishart to organise the training and assessment of expeditions. As you will be aware all three outdoor education teachers in the Scottish Borders were made redundant at the end of last term and at the moment we are unsure how we will be able to organise this important part of the Award. Mr Wishart is willing to help train the students working towards their Gold Award, but it is still to be resolved how this will be funded. As there are also students working towards their silver award, training is going to be a problem in the short term and we will have to limit the new bronze entrants to a group of twenty. Mr M Walker, a Maths teacher in the school, has volunteered to begin the training to gain the necessary qualifications required to be able to organise the training and assessment of expeditions in the future and Mr S Tait, who is a qualified outdoor activity first-aider, will be attending the mountain leader (summer) course next year.

The most recent recipients of Bronze awards are Laura Cockburn, Rebecca Fleming and Jade Hebdon – Well Done.

*Mrs McAlpine  
Teacher - Geography*

## NEWS FROM THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

- **THEATRE VISIT**; Fifty two of our senior Higher pupils attended the performance of Macbeth by the Nottingham Theatre Company at the Lyceum in Edinburgh. All agreed that, although some of the performances left a lot to be desired, it had been a very enjoyable experience and would help when we study the play later in the year. Many pupils were surprised and delighted by the rudeness of the Porter scene and the comedy asides from Macbeth. The pupils were a credit to the school as always.
- **THE LYCEUM** also carried out three workshops at the school which were both interesting and entertaining.
- **THE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER**; Connor Davidson and Cameron Home have positively slaved over the creation of a new website for the BHS Observer. They have overcome tremendous setbacks by sheer hard work and determination. The site is still under construction but we would welcome contributions from within the school and the wider community. In view of the fact that we are about to move across the road it would be interesting to have stories about the old school.

We would welcome information about clubs or events as well as stories, poems, reviews and cartoons – all must be original work. Please send any contributions by e-mail to

[bhsobserver@gmail.com](mailto:bhsobserver@gmail.com) Information about the new website

(which will feature games and competitions as well as articles and stories) will be in the next newsletter and the paper version of the paper will appear in the New Year.



### SCHOOL LINK BOOKS

Thank you to everyone who supports our School link catalogue. £340 worth of books were ordered in October. There will be a new Christmas catalogue issued at the beginning of November with bargains for the whole family. The school receives £1 for every £10 spent and many departments have benefited from your continued support.

*Mrs Gumbrell - English Department*

The Times and Sunday Times newspaper group is starting a FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS scheme in the near future.

The Berwickshire High School will register for this scheme if you parents and families can collect the tokens which will appear in the papers over the next few months. The list of books looks very good and we feel that the new school library would benefit from this venture.

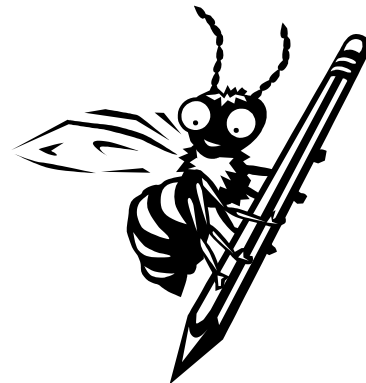
*Mrs Gumbrell - English Department/Mrs Corbett - Librarian*

## SECOND YEAR LITERATI

It would seem that we have some budding writers (and critics) in our current S3.

Last May we received news that there would be a competition run by ASLS (Association for Scottish Language Studies) that our S2 could enter if they wished.

The task that they were given was that they had to produce a short story that included usage of the Scots language in any form. 2EN1 were very keen to get involved (until they found out that they were restricted to ONLY six hundred words) and took up the challenge instantly. After a few lessons on Scots and a large amount of research they set off on their task.



The second catch of the competition was that each school was only allowed six entries from a class of twenty eight. I decided that this would be a bit of nightmare to judge as the standard of all the possible entries was so high. At this point the students own knowledge of the standards required kicked in as they peer assessed each others' work and then created a short list of possible entries. They then voted (anonymously) on which entries they thought we should send off.

After four months of silence, we finally got a letter through confirming that Penny Osborne had won third place, fifty pounds in prize money and would have her short story published. The other entries from the school (Mhairi Deuchar, Robin Gillie, Chelsea Mitchell, Eilidh Bell and Josephine Taylor) were also highly commended. It would seem that 2EN1 know a good short story when they see one! Penny was invited to a presentation at the Scottish Language Conference at Glasgow University where she received her prize and met the other prize winners.

Well done Penny and thank you to 2EN1 for their efforts and expert judging.

*Miss Currie - English Department*

## NEWS FROM THE SOCIAL SUBJECTS FACULTY

Earlier in the term Mr Clancey took the Higher Modern Studies class to the Scottish parliament in Edinburgh. They were shown round the building and met with the Local Area MSP John Lamont. Thanks go to Mrs Paulin for helping out on the day.

S3/4 History students going on the Battlefields trip to France and Belgium in February attended a meeting with the tour guide, Des Brogan of 'Mercat Tours' recently. He gave a very enthusiastic and informative presentation which left us all looking forward to the experience.

### WAR REMEMBRANCE PROJECT

In the run up to Remembrance Day on 11 November, all pupils and staff are invited to ask anybody they know (friends and relatives) in the local community who has experienced war and conflict, whether as a member of the armed forces or as a civilian, for information about their experiences.



Please record this information and pass to Mr Clancey by 7 November, or email the information to: [berwickshire.remembrance@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:berwickshire.remembrance@yahoo.co.uk)

The information will be used to create a community history resource of local stories of war remembrance.

Many thanks for any contribution you can make!

## HIGHER GEOGRAPHY TRIP

The Higher Geography class travelled to the Lake District on 10 September to begin their residential fieldwork course. The first afternoon was spent in Keswick, gathering information about the importance of tourism to the town. We then continued to Grasmere Youth Hostel, our accommodation for the next two nights. Thursday began with a presentation about the National park at Brockhole on Lake Windermere and continued with a visit to White Scar Cave and a detailed look at other limestone features in the Yorkshire Dales. Friday saw us walking from the youth hostel to Easdale Tarn, looking at glacial features as we went.

The trip was enjoyed by all, and staff at all the places we visited were impressed by the attitude and behaviour of the BHS students. Special thanks are due to our adult volunteers, Mr Dickson and Mrs Bryans, without whom the trip would not have been possible. We missed the expertise of Mr Wishart, who has been a valued colleague on these trips for a number of years. His absence necessitated a special trip from Newtown St Boswells on Friday morning by a qualified mountain leader.

*G Bryans*

*Principal Teacher Geography*

## FIELDWORK PROGRAMME

The Geography Department is continuing and developing its fieldwork programme.

In September six Advanced Higher Geography students spent three days at Kindrogan Field Centre near Pitlochry. In bright, dry weather they investigated soils, rivers and practised morphological mapping and measuring slopes and then had to analyse their data in the evenings. They were part of a group of forty Advanced Higher Geography students from all over Scotland and all had a very enjoyable and productive time.

Also in September the Intermediate 2 class, as part of the Physical Environments Unit, visited the Berwickshire Coast. Accompanied by the Ranger from St Abbs Head and were able to see many of the coastal features they had been studying in class.

## RELIGIOUS STUDIES

S3 are studying Animal Rights and had a visit from the SSPCA. Pupils were asked to write a report on the charity. Here is an example of that:

### **Scottish S.P.C.A**

The Scottish S.P.C.A is Scotland's animal welfare charity. Their aim is to prevent cruelty to animals, encourage kindness and humanity in their treatment. They receive no government funding and rely on public donations to continue their work. They rescue and care for Scotland's abandoned, hurt and defenceless animals. The inspectors save thousands of domestic, farm and wild animals from hurt and danger. While helping all of these animals they are also in schools educating as young as primary school children. But without the help and support of the public none of this could have ever happened. So why don't you volunteer or better yet adopt because if we don't help we can't save the animals.

By Robin Gillie 3H2

## BERWICKSHIRE HIGH SCHOOL OLYMPIAN



We are all very proud of the fact the Graeme Paterson has just returned from Beijing where he represented Great Britain in the Paralympics. Graeme was a member of the seven-a-side football team which completed for the first time since 1992. He was one of four Scots in the twelve man squad who played their games at the Olympic Green Hockey Field.

Unfortunately, Graeme picked up an injury in the training camp before the Games and was unfit for the first two games. However, he came back strongly and scored a goal in the last game against China. The tournament was won by Ukraine who successfully defended their previous Gold medal.

Graeme has presented his Great Britain Strip to The Berwickshire High School and it will hang in a prominent place in the new school. He is also coming to speak to pupils in assemblies where his experiences of top level competition in Beijing will be shared.

## NEWS FROM THE PE DEPARTMENT

### RUGBY

The rugby season is now well under way with the S1, S2, and under15 each having played four Saturday morning games against Kelso, Earlston, Eyemouth and Hawick. The under15 and under18 teams have both been beaten in their respective first round ties to Kelso and Hawick High Schools. The under15 side were then narrowly beaten in the bowl competition by Jedburgh Grammar School. The under18 side await their opponents in their bowl competition.

Training is going well with an average of 60 boys turning up on a Wednesday evening to use Duns RFC facilities at Todlaw. There is also an extra days training on Monday lunchtime although numbers are lower we could do to see more turning up for this session. We are grateful to the many helpers who give their time to help to coach as every game at all age groups sees an improvement in the playing standard.

A special thanks to Border Construction, the builders of our new school, who are sponsoring a new strip for our S2 team. Three parents have kindly agreed to sponsor a first year strip and we are grateful to Mr. Turnbull, Mr. Brunning and Mr. Redpath. Once the new strips arrive team photographs will be taken for publicity purposes. A&EJ Robertson have just announced that they are again willing to sponsor travel jackets for our hockey and rugby teams, we thank them for this their fourth successive year of sponsorship. S1 players will hear soon of the details.

Finally we look forward to our first visit to Murrayfield on 8th. November to see Scotland play the All Blacks. This will be an excellent opportunity to see top class rugby. A letter with all the details will be coming out to parents soon.

## **BERWICKSHIRE SPORTS COUNCIL AWARDS**

Several pupils and teams were recognised for their talents at the recent awards ceremony

The junior personality of the year award was made jointly to Holly Millar and Lucy Nevin for their representative honours and success in national competition in hockey and badminton respectively. The BHS first eleven hockey team were also given a special award for their success last season.

## **BADMINTON**

Five representatives of Peter Hardie's Badminton Club have begun their first steps for international honours. They are Mhari Deuchar, Andrew McQuarrie, Grant McWilliam, Adam Don and Jed Purves. The School is very grateful to Pete for all his hard work with our students.

## **RIDING FOR THE DISABLED**

Christopher Lyons (1H2) has kept up the school tradition of participating in Riding for the Disabled. Christopher is a member of the vaulting team.

## **EXTRA CURRICULAR HOCKEY**

Hockey at The Berwickshire High School is once again thriving. So far this season we have seen over 100 girls attend weekly training sessions.

The S1 squad has recently moved from playing 8 a-side to 11 a-side games. The girls are keen, enthusiastic and have displayed some great hockey.

S2 are beginning to play with more structure and results are reflecting this as they have won all their games so far this season.

A large number of S3 girls have not returned to hockey this season, mainly due to most of them starting weekend jobs. As a result of this, they have at times struggled to field a team on a Saturday morning and their results have been mixed. In the U-16 Border Schools Knockout Cup the S3/4 team are away to Galashiels Academy or Earlston High School in their first match.

The seniors are managing to field two teams this year. The 1st X1 are undefeated so far this season and the 2nd X1 has had a mixed set of results. In the U-18 Border Schools Knockout Cup the 1st X1 face Galashiels Academy in the first round which is to be played on Monday 3rd November. The girls will travel to Tweedbank on 28th October for the Senior Schools 1st X1 Tournament where they face a difficult section of Selkirk, Peebles and Gala.

With district trials past, we are delighted that some of our girls are included in the final South selections. The squads will train regularly in preparation for the inter-district tournament to be held at Peffermill on 8th and 9th November. The girls involved are:

South U-18 squad- Michelle Stewart and Holly Millar

South U-16 squad- Cara Powner and Siobhan Murphy

Good luck to you all.

Thanks go to Moira Anderson, Jill Hodge, Hazel Millar, Clair Fitzgerald and Keith Wilson, who are once again heavily involved on a regular basis. Anyone willing to give up some free time to support extra-curricular hockey or help contribute to the organising of our tour, please contact me at the school.

## HOCKEY TOUR FUND RAISING CHRISTMAS RECIPE BOOK

### **Calling all parents, Aunts, Uncles, Grannies etc.**

It has been proposed that we produce a recipe book for sale this Christmas to raise further funds for the next Berwickshire High School Hockey Tour. We therefore need your help to bring in recipes for the following sections:-

1. Starters
2. Main Courses
3. Puddings
4. Vegetarian
5. Quick & easy student meals
6. Cakes, biscuits, breads etc.



Please hand in all recipes to Frances Turnbull in the school office. If any parents would like to help with this project please let Frances or Moira know. More details to follow later.

Frances Turnbull (01361 883556)  
& Moira Anderson (01361 883212)

## SQA EXAMS: May-June Diet 2008 Attainment Information

The two key measures for publication purposes are:

1. Pupils obtaining five or more level 5 awards (Int II at A-C, Standard Grade at 1-2) by the end of S4
2. Pupils obtaining three or more level 6 awards (Higher at A-C) by the end of S5. These figures are given for the past two years:-

### 5 % + level 5

2008	36%
2007	33%

### 3 + level 6

2008	16%
2007	17%

The figures for 5+ level 5 are pre-appeal and show a substantial gain for the second year running

The figures for 3+ level 6 show a slight drop which is naturally disappointing.

Attainment is a major issue for the school and a whole raft of measures has been introduced over the past two years to raise levels at every stage. The rise in attainment at Standard Grade level from 29% in 2006 to 36% in 2008 is particularly gratifying but clearly more work remains to be done at Higher.

## REPORTING 2008-09

Report cards/letters will be issued as follows:

### *During week beginning*

First Year	Settling-in report	3	November 2008
Second Year	Full Reports	2	February 2009
Fourth Year	Full Reports	12	January 2009
Fifth & Sixth Year	Full Reports	26	January 2009
Second Year	Recommendations	16	February 2009
First Year	Full Reports	20	April 2009
Third Year	Full Reports	18	May 2009

## HOLIDAYS AND IN-SERVICE DAYS 2008-09

### Regional in-service days

Thursday 13 and Friday 14 November School breaks up at 3.45 pm on Wednesday 12 November and resumes at 9.00 am on Monday 17 November

### Christmas holidays 2008-2009

School breaks up at 3.45 pm on Friday 19 December 2008 and resumes at 9.00 am on Monday 5 January 2009

### February mid-term holiday 2009

(**NB** Friday 13 February 2009 is an in-service day)

School breaks up at 3.45 pm on Thursday 12 February. School resumes for pupils on Thursday 19 February at 9.00 am

### Easter Holidays 2009

School breaks up at 3.45 pm on Friday 3 April and resumes at 9.00 am on Monday 26 April

### May Holiday 2009

School breaks up at 3.45 pm on Friday 1 May and resumes at 9.00 am on Wed 6 May (Tuesday 5 May is an in-service day)

### Summer Holiday 2009

School breaks up at 3.45 pm on Thursday 25 June and resumes on Monday 17 August 2009 at 9.00 am for staff and on Tuesday 18 August at 9.00 am for pupils

## **PARENTS EVENINGS 2007-08**

Tuesday	21 October 2008	for Parents of Fourth Year pupils
Wednesday	5 November 2008	for Parents of Third Year pupils
Tuesday	13 January 2009	for Parents of First Year pupils
Wednesday	25 February 2009	for parents of Second Year pupils (course choice evening)
Thursday	29 January 2009	for parents of Fifth & Sixth year pupils

## School Session and Holiday Dates 2009-2010

### SCHOOL SESSION

Term		Dates	
Autumn Term	Start - Staff only	Monday 17 August 2009	In service day
	Start - Pupils	Tuesday 18 August 2009	
	End	Friday 9 October 2009	40
Winter Term	Start	Monday 19 October 2009	
	End	Friday 18 December 2009	44
Spring Term	Start	Tuesday 5 January 2010	
	End	Thursday 1 April 2010	60
Summer Term	Start	Monday 19 April 2010	
	End	Friday 2 July 2010**	54

### HOLIDAY DATES

Autumn Holiday	Start	Monday 12 October 2009	
	End	Friday 16 October 2009	5
<i>**Possible holiday St Andrews' Day</i>	<i>Start</i>	<i>Monday 30 November 2009</i>	<i>1</i>
	<i>End</i>	<i>Monday 30 November 2009</i>	
Christmas Holiday	Start	Monday 21 December 2009	
	End	Monday 4 January 2010	11
February Holiday**	Start	Monday 15 February 2010	3
	End	Wednesday 17 February 2010	
	Start	Thursday 18 February 2010	2 casual holidays
	End	Friday 19 February 2010	
Easter Holiday	Start	Friday 2 April 2010 (Good Friday)	
	End	Friday 16 April 2010	11
May Holiday	Start	Monday 3 May 2010	1
	End	Monday 3 May 2010	

