



# BERWICKSHIRE HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

May 2014

## PARENT COUNCIL

Thanks to all who supported the recent Authors' Evening and May Fayre. Although attendance at the events was lower than we hoped, not helped by the miserable weather on the day of the Fayre, we managed to raise over £600 which has gone towards the "Want to Work" scheme put on for school leavers over the last few weeks

### FUTURE FUNDRAISER - SWISHING PARTY WITH CATWALK SHOW!

Swishing is shopping without spending so that makes it ethical, sociable and fun!

The idea is that over the summer you find 5 really cool items of clothing {it could be jeans, skirts, prom dress, handbag, jewellery etc} - make sure they are clean and presentable and then the fun begins!

On a date to be decided in September we will have our party one evening at school with a catwalk, {models needed please}, refreshments and lots of swishing.

So this is what happens,

You bring 5 items, you pay £5 and you take 5 items home, good eh?

WATCH THIS SPACE!

## NEWS

### Message from The Headteacher

May has been a month full of a real variety of pupil activity as you will read in the following pages. My thanks go to all concerned in the organisation that goes into the running of these various events and also to the young people who have taken part and made each and every one of the activities so enjoyable with their enthusiasm and excellent behaviour.

My thanks also go to our team of invigilators, readers and scribes who have now completed the supervision of the diet of exams for this year. We have had a largely problem free diet and we now look forward to getting the results in early August.

The asymmetric week will be upon us in August. Behind the scenes there is an enormous amount of work going on to ensure that the region is ready and prepared for the changes and all the signs are looking good for a positive start.

For Berwickshire HS, the changes to timings will be as follows:

	<b>Monday – Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
School starts:	8.50am	8.50am
Breaktime:	10.30am	10.30am (Brunch)
Lunchtime:	1.15pm	
School finish:	3.45pm	1.20pm

We have now started our courses for next year and will have a full four weeks dedicated to this. The extra week at this point will hopefully be to the advantage of our young people in ensuring that there is more than enough time throughout the courses to overcome the relevant work and assessment required in our senior phase classes.

John Clarke

## ACTIVITIES WEEK

### S1 Residential 2014 - Whithaugh Park

Most of the S1 boarded the bus last Monday morning heading for an action packed few days at the centre in Newcastleton. The annual trip didn't disappoint and apart from midges and a few luke warm showers all went to plan. With lots of positive comments like 'best trip I have ever been on' 'all the activities were brilliant' and 'it was amazing' 'the trip brought us all closer together' 'we were so busy that there was no time to get bored' I think we could say it was a success! They took part in 14 different activities during the 3 days (archery, capture the flag eggburt, adventure course, gorge walk,



kayaking, mountain biking, climbing, rafting etc) and night time ones too eg mini Olympics and bingo there was definitely no time to get bored! The pupils have been planning and making their own food since coming back after the Easter holidays so when they sat down to a hearty meal at night you could see the pride in their faces as it disappeared from the plate. One of the main aims of the trip is to

get to know each other better and from the chat this week that has been achieved. Many of the staff on the trip have been many times and commented on the positive attitude of the pupils and their willingness to try new things which is great to hear. It will be an experience that will not be forgotten. If you as parents/guardians have any comments about the trip or your son/daughters experience please pass to the office. We will be shortly planning next years trip and are always looking to improve.

Miss Mackay



The winning scarecrow (Mrs Lawson)

### York Trip 2014



A very successful and enjoyable trip to York was had by all 48 S2 pupils, and the 4 staff that accompanied them, it was made extra enjoyable as there was great weather in York. We all had a very interesting and informative time at Beamish on the way to York, we all enjoyed the 1911 taste of life - not to mention the homemade sweets that were consumed.

The Ace Hotel York was very comfortable and we all enjoyed the fabulous food. In the evenings the pupils enjoyed a Ghost Walk around the spooky streets of York, listening to the ghoulish tales of the tour guide and a trip to the Reel Cinema on Wednesday night.

During the day we all visited many of the top tourist spots - York Castle Museum, Jorvik, National Railway Museum, an open top bus tour and the York Dungeons. There was plenty of tired and weary souls on the trip home with a stopover in Richmond to end our splendid trip for 2014.



Congratulations to all the pupils as they all conducted themselves fantastically well and demonstrated that they were interested and entertaining through out the trip. Thank you also goes to the Berwickshire Connect staff – Susie Hopewell & Steve Wright for coming on the trip and volunteering to help out. Grateful thanks to Mr Drummond for organising this trip.



We hope you enjoy some of the photographs of the pupils in various spots all over York – included are some of the York Castle Museum, National Railway Museum and the Horrible Histories tour of York that we went on.

Well done to all the S2's, fantastic trip guys - Ms Milford & Mr Huffman

## London Trip 2014



Thorpe Park

Recently a group of S2 and S3 pupils went to London for their activities week. The group were involved in a variety of different activities such as Thorpe park, BBC broadcasting studios and a visit to the Olympic Park. They even managed to have a quick look inside the London Aquatics centre which holds the Olympic Pool. While we were in London we were luck enough to see a few famous



At the BBC studios

people such as Jake Bugg and Beth Tweddle who at the time had her Olympic medal with her! To finish this amazing experience the pupils went to the theatre on the Wednesday night to see Wicked followed by some shopping on the Thursday. Overall the pupils and teachers involved all had an amazing time and are now left with great memories.

Miss Greig



Beth Tweddle and her Olympic medal

## SPORTS NEWS

### Hockey Tour Match - The Berwickshire HS v Dunfermline HS

Wednesday May 28th saw The Berwickshire HS host Dunfermline HS on their annual Hockey Tour match of the Borders. Both teams were made up of S2/S3 girls and in wet and windy conditions both teams contributed well to a competitive game. Berwickshire had most of the first half after Dunfermline had missed some early chances. However, on half time Berwickshire completed an excellent move down the left hand side to go 1 nil up through Lucy Runciman.

The second half was just as competitive with the game settling down due to the introduction and experience of some of the S3 girls. Again, Dunfermline missed out on some early chances mainly due to excellent Berwickshire defending led by Captain, Claudia Watson. As the match entered the closing stages, Emily Redpath made an excellent save to keep the score 1-0 and hand victory to the home team. Man of the Match went to Katie Watson who had an excellent all round game.

Thanks should go to all the girls for a game played in excellent spirit. Also, to Miss Rachel Robson & Miss Mary Murray, the Dunfermline coaches and Ms Mackay, who put on tea and cakes after the game! Mr Gracey



S2 Girls - Claudia Watson (Captain), Eve Barker, Sophie Anderson, Megan Hay, Katie Watson, Rachel Denholm, Kirsty Bell, Lucy Runciman, Emily Redpath, Daisy McCann, Rosie Browne and Morven Stanforth.

S3 Girls - Eilidh Smith, Lucy Ferguson, Ally Vallance, Katie Scott, Rachel Scott and Rebekah Herbert.

### Golf



During the recent Easter holidays Annabel Hosie (S2) won a Girls' Under-18s golf tournament over the championship links at Elie near St Andrews in Fife. Played in wet and windy conditions over the three rounds Annabel, a low-handicap member at Dunbar Golf Club, scored 77, 88 and 76 to lift the trophy which she now holds for a year. This goes alongside a pair's trophy she won at the local course here in Duns last summer.

Following the win at Elie, Annabel was selected for the East of Scotland Girls' Under-18s golf squad for a match against the current Scottish district champions, West of Scotland. Annabel was the youngest member of that squad at just fourteen years old and lined up alongside a number of Scottish Girls' internationalists in the match. She also became the first girl representing The Open qualifying course at Dunbar in the recent past and she's photographed here at the historic Dunbar clubhouse with her coach, PGA Professional Golfer Philip Sadler, himself an ex-BHS pupil of the mid-1990s. Her next step will be to join the Scottish Golf Union's elite Golf Academy set-up later this year.



In the meantime, Annabel is hoping to build upon her recent successes as she competes in a number of national tournaments across Scotland and the north of England over the next few months and she looks well-placed to represent both the East Lothian county side and the East of Scotland district side over the next couple of years.

## Athletics

Berwickshire High School is gearing itself up for its summer of athletics. The Schools sport day is pencilled in for Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June, starting at 1.30. Our athletes are busy preparing to take part in the field event finals which will take place Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> to Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June. Let's hope for dry and warm weather to help some of the School records, (some of which were set in the 1970's) to be broken.

Those athletes that perform well will move forward to represent the School at the Borders Schools Athletics Competition at Tweedbank on the 17<sup>th</sup> June.

All at the School would like to wish Katie Brown and Freddie Rooke well in their National Schools Athletics Event on the 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> June. This event will be the first to use the Commonwealth Games athletics track and field venue at Hampden Park in Glasgow. Katie will compete in the 100 & 200m, with Freddie competing in the 100M and Long Jump events.

## Commonwealth Games



The Queens Baton relay will be visiting Duns on Wednesday June 18<sup>th</sup>. As part of its visit to the town it will spend 20 minutes on the School site. Duns Primary School will be joining the High School pupils in welcoming the Baton around the School. We will have a number of pupils who will be in 'house' groups running alongside the baton. There will be music being played to escort the baton around. We have a number of pupils who are baton bearers and we are pleased to welcome back Mr Douglas who will carry the baton on the school site.



When the baton has left the School both the Duns Primary and High School students will embark on a Commonwealth Festival of Sport. This will be followed up in the afternoon by a series of Commonwealth topics in other departments and faculties. We very much hope that the visit will be inspirational and leave a lasting memory for all involved.

### Message from Mrs Gumbrell

I am retiring in the Summer and will be very sad to leave Berwickshire High School. Over the years the parents and carers of the children have really supported the various initiatives which I have been involved in. I would like to thank these parents who: waited till beyond midnight to collect their children from our cultural visits to the theatre; the parents who had to comfort the traumatised children after "The Woman in Black" and "Lord of the Rings"; the parents who brought in the TESCO vouchers having spent like mad so that we could get new equipment and our baby hat knitters who have made such a difference for the new parents at the BGH and ERI. Thank you again I have really appreciated your support. J. Gumbrell

## SCIENCE FACULTY

### S3 CfE: Zoo Trip Report



In third year Biology we are currently studying animal adaptations and so we went to the zoo in Edinburgh to do a course on primate adaptations. The Zoo trip was a successful

“When we went to the zoo I didn’t really enjoy it that much as I thought the animals were bored and were not acting as they do in the wild, but apart from that the information we learned about the primates was interesting.” – Rachael.

event enjoyed by all. The day began with the pupils getting a chance to explore the zoo, and see all the interesting animals. Some of our favourites were: the pandas, big cats, koalas and the penguins. There was a new addition to the koala enclosure – a newborn joey! A male named Yooranah that means ‘loving’ in indigenous Australian. The mother and joey were perfectly happy to pose for photos. Another photogenic animal was the sleeping jaguar – and there were some photos of the baboons that were “unsuitable” for this

newsletter! After the morning excursion round the zoo, we had lunch on the penguin green. One of the pupils had an unfortunate incident with bird poo in her hair, and mistook it for mayonnaise. In the afternoon we went to the education centre to begin the primate course. It consisted of a riveting lecture on behavioural adaptations, really inspiring us to learn more



about primate behaviour. The day was rounded off with the traditional visit to the gift shop to pick up some delicious vanilla fudge.

“It was a great experience, as it wasn’t just a trip to the zoo, it was educational. We learned about the primates, the animal habits, and their behaviour.” – Lucy and Rachel.

Ellenor, Sophie and Lillian

“We really liked the zoo as we got to see most of the animals; we really liked seeing the pandas because they were really cute.” – Ellenor.

### BHS Students ... Responsible Citizens/Confident Individuals

On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> of May, the Science Faculty welcomed our “new starts” from the local primaries and beyond (sunny Berwick upon Tweed) to a Science Investigations Day. We provided three workshops and each pupils experienced two of these activities.

In Biology...we considered what conditions earthworms preferred. Yuck!

In Chemistry...we thought about the best way to blow stuff up! Yea☺

In Physics...we investigated who was fast and how to measure speed. We even coaxed the Headmaster to race too. (20m in 4.16s...you do the maths!)

Some of the S3 science students volunteered to help. They were a fab team and an invaluable help to the P7s and the science teachers. We were all full on from 9 till 2.30 with a food pit stop for 20mins. Exhausting but fun!!! A great day was had by all, pupils and teachers too. You probably heard the P7s raising the roof with their cheers before they left.

So many thanks to the science teachers and our technician, the S3 helpers, the P7 staff, and the teachers who took our classes to let it all happen.



## Argentinian Visit



On the morning of Thursday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May, a group of Argentinian school pupils aged 14-16 came to Berwickshire High School. The morning was filled with various activities both Scottish and Argentinian, from Scottish poetry, Highland dancing and singing to Argentinian presentations, Tango dancing and communal tea tasting!

There were two recitations of famous Scottish poetry. The first poem was called "A Red, Red Rose" by Robert Burns, recited by S2 students Bonnie Bain and Morven Stanforth then sung by Madeline Cawthorn. The second poem was called "History of Desire" and was recited Morgan Carnall and Seyi Adeosun, also 2<sup>nd</sup> year pupils.

There was also an exhibition of Scottish Country Dancing, Katie Watson started with "The Highland Fling" and Kirsty Bell joined in with "The Sailor's Hornpipe", Kirsty and Katie are also 2<sup>nd</sup> year pupils.

We treated the Argentinians to some traditional Scottish music, the pupils who participated were Rory Hamilton, Madeline Cawthorn, Amy Clarke and Molly Adcock. The visitors heard Bagpipes, Fiddles and traditional Scottish songs, they seemed to really enjoy it. We enjoyed their company because they seemed genuinely interested in our way of life.

The Argentinian pupils also gave three presentations. The first on how they make a popular, traditional communal drink which we all had a chance to taste, a drink which is very common in Argentina. The second was about Argentinian phrases and words and the third, a short video about tourist attractions in Argentina, facts about Argentina and a bit about their school. This was enjoyed by pupils and staff, who some got to try Tango Dancing!

The morning proved to be an excellent, informative experience for all pupils and staff and would be well worth repeating in the future.

Bonnie Bain, Madeline Cawthorn and Morven Stanforth



## Primary 7 Activity Day



All the Primary 7 pupils who will be joining The Berwickshire High School were given the opportunity to join in an activity day at Ford Castle just south of Berwick upon Tweed on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May. One hundred and three pupils attended and had a wonderful time. The pupils took part in a variety of activities which gave them the chance to meet and get to know pupils from the other Primary schools. It was great to see them enjoying themselves and mixing with the pupils from other schools. The children went from being shy and awkward with one another to being chatty, confident and joking around. It is hoped we can build on the success of this day to make it easier for the pupils to meet their peers from the other schools in an informal setting.

**Breaking!!! news...we have chicks and more on the way.**



### **Rag Bag Collection**

The next Rag Bag collection of Textile Recycling will take place on **Thursday 12 June**. All good quality clean and dry clothing, paired shoes, handbags, wallets, ties, etc are welcome. The company no longer accept pillows, cushions, duvets, or rugs. This has been an extremely successful fundraiser in the past as the school receives money for each kilogram of clothing donated. Please feel free to contact Kathy Huffman at the school with any questions.



### **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Information</b>
Wednesday 5 June	Parent Council Meeting	7pm – everyone welcome
Friday 6 June	S6 Prom	
Tuesday 10 June	School Sports Day	
Wednesday 11 June	P& Induction Days	
Thursday 12 June		
Thursday 19 June – Tuesday 24 June	New S6 students team building trip	
Fri 27 June	Last day of term	