

BERWICKSHIRE HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

News

Message from the Headteacher

It has been a very busy first term and there are lots of 'Good News' stories that we have been able to celebrate. I hope that you enjoy reading about a number of them within the rest of this newsletter.

As we all now begin to prepare for Christmas at home, the work of the school is heavily focussed on ensuring that our young people are well prepared for the future demands of their courses. To that end I would like to specifically thank all staff for the hard work that they are continually putting in to development work. Yet more new courses in the form of the new Highers are being finished off whilst at the same time our first run through of National 4 and 5 courses have led to them being tweaked with further improvements this year. It is great to hear this work recognised by the positive comments I am hearing from parents.

John Clarke
Headteacher

Parent Council News

New Council Policy on Dyslexia:

SBC is in the process of revising its policy on Dyslexia within schools. The consultation page on the new Draft Dyslexia Policy is now available on the SBC website:

http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/directory_record/32901/dyslexia_policy

The Council is looking for feedback from parents on this policy and there is a questionnaire on this page, where you can make your comments on the proposed new policy. The full policy document and a summary of the key points, are also available for you to read on this page. The closing date for responses is 19th December.

If you would like help reading the policy or accessing the questionnaire please contact Mrs K Huffman (Support for Learning) at the high school or visit your nearest SBC library.

Education Scotland:

Education Scotland are starting a new (termly) email update service specifically for parents and carers. If you are interested, you can visit the sign up page on the Education Scotland website and select **News for Parents and Carers**:

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/newsandevents/emailupdates/index.asp>

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Parent Council News continued.....

PC email address:

A reminder: if there is any matter you wish to bring to the Parent Council's attention or any matter of concern that you would like us to address, we now have a specific email address that you can contact us on:

berwickshirehighpc@gmail.com

Next meeting of the Parent Council:

Wednesday 3 December at 7pm in the PE Seminar room. All welcome!

Parent Council Fund Raising Group:

Do you know that you can be involved in fundraising for BHS without having to attend Parent Council meetings?! We know the thought of that puts a lot of people off, so we've established The Fundraising Group (it does what it says on the tin), which is separate from the PC. We're keen to hear from you about activities, the best way to keep in touch and especially if you'd like to help, so we'll be sending out a questionnaire soon. If you'd like to get in touch in the meantime, please contact us via:

karenlerpiniere@hotmail.co.uk.

Thanks to everyone who came to the Swishing event we held in school recently. It was great fun and made £203 for school funds. We're thinking this might be a regular event, so watch this space - a lot of great bargains to be had.

Our next venture is The Christmas Craft Fayre on Saturday 29th November. This proved so popular last year that we've decided to make it an all day affair this year - 10am-4pm. There will be a great mix of stalls and lots of lovely ideas for Christmas shopping. Please come along and bring friends, family, neighbours, anyone you know.

Of course, these things can't happen without your help in a hundred different ways, so we would like to invite you to donate items for the Raffle, Hamper and Tombola. These can be handed into the School Office any time from now.

Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you / working together with you and meeting you at fundraising events, to help support the learning opportunities for all children at BHS.

Dates for the Diary

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Thursday 13 and Friday 14 November | Staff In-Service Day |
| Saturday 29 November | Christmas Craft Fayre (10am-4pm) |
| Monday 1 December | St Andrew's Day Holiday |
| Wednesday 3 December | Parent Council Meeting |
| Thursday 4 December | S2 Parents' Evening (4.30-7pm) |
| Wednesday 10 December | BHS Christmas Concert (7.30pm) |
| Tuesday 16 December | S1/2 Christmas Dance (7-10pm) |
| Wednesday 17 December | S3/4 Christmas Dance (7-10pm) |
| Thursday 18 December | Senior Christmas Dance (7.30-10.30pm) |
| Friday 19 December | Last day of term. School re-opens on Tuesday 6 January. |

Social Subjects News

Geography Lake District Trip

A group of Higher Geography pupils headed off to the Lake District on the 24th-26th September 2014. This trip allowed the pupils to experience this unique glaciated area and at the same time collect data for course work. We were involved in a lot of different activities such as:



Visited Brockhole National Park centre which allowed the pupils to get first-hand accounts from rangers and people who work in the Lake District. This was an essential part of learning as it looked at the advantages/disadvantages and the solutions to tourism in the area.

The pupils visited the beautiful town of Keswick where they completed fieldwork. We also took a walk up to a view point to do some field sketches.

Windermere boat cruise to allow the pupils to experience the natural landscape.

White scar caves in the Yorkshire dales which is the longest and most amazing show cave in England.

On the final day we walked to Grasmere tarn to allow the pupils to see Glaciated features close up.



Pupils also worked in the evenings to create a presentation linking with the Lake District. The trip was very successful and all pupils/teachers enjoyed the trip.

Miss Greig

National 4 and 5 Geography Trip

The Geography department took the National 4 and 5 students to Eyemouth to complete their added value field work which is an essential part of the course. This trip combined an Eyemouth study and a walk from Eyemouth to St Abb's. The trip happened over two days incorporating all of the 4 Geography National classes. The Eyemouth study allowed the pupils to take part in settlement field work such as Questionnaires and car counts. We then continued the trip along the Coastline to St Abbs where pupils were looking at the Coastal features and taking pictures/field sketches. This trip was very successful and the pupils worked very hard. Miss Greig



Other News from around the School

BHS Voice

Tanya Easton from *Scottish Borders Youth Voice* has agreed to help us create a Pupil Voice Body, ensuring that young people have their voices heard on matters which affect them in school.

It is important to have a system in school that will ensure your thoughts and opinions are heard by the right people.

We now have a representative from each class to join the Pupil Voice body in The Berwickshire High School; this was someone who believes they can do a good job representing their class, their opinions, their ideas and worries; someone who is not frightened to put other people's views across even if they do not personally agree with them – we have found 35 young people that are up for the challenge ...

Each representative is a volunteer, they will be registered with Saltire and their Volunteering will be rewarded by Volunteering Hours

that are counted and certificated.

Ultimately we want young people in Berwickshire High to feel consulted by staff on the best way they learn and feel consulted about changes or additions to the school. Tanya will ensure that these young people receive training to ensure that they become an effective team and have the necessary skills to do the job. We are all very excited to be working with Tanya and have the input from Youth Voice.

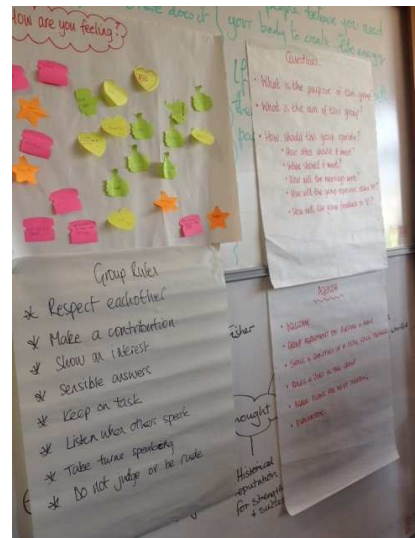
We have had our first meeting and our second meeting is timetabled for Friday 31st. October. If the enthusiasm and excitement of the first meeting are anything to go by, then we can expect some good things to come from this new group of young people.

It's the beginning of something BIG.... and that's exciting.

Ms L Milford & R. D. Drummond



“Berwickshire High School's Pupil Voice starts to take shape....”



A Visit from our Friends in Bennecourt, France

We were delighted to be able to host a number of young people from France for a day in October. Eleven young people, aged between 12 and 17, who were visiting Coldstream as part of its twinning programme with Bennecourt joined up with pupils in the school and followed their lessons. Both the BHS pupils and the young people from Bennecourt clearly enjoyed the experience and will have no doubt organised to keep in contact through their social media.

Mr Clarke



Theatre Trip



The English Department have made their annual pilgrimage to Newcastle to see The RSC perform. (We are continuing Mrs Gumbrell's legacy and plan on a few more theatrical outings throughout the year.) This year we chose to see The Two Gentlemen of Verona (a rarely staged comedy) on Thursday the 9th October.

Forty five Seniors, Miss Steel, Miss Flannigan, Miss Currie and a few really keen third years departed The BHS at 5pm and returned about 12.30pm, exhausted but still giggling. It was a marvellous (cultured) way to start the October holidays we thought. Thankfully we could manage

"... gave an informative yet humorous insight into the works of Shakespeare."

a lie in the next day. Our thanks go to the parents who collected their offspring at that late hour. Roadworks on the A1 delayed our return and we apologise for any inconvenience.

The response (as always) was very positive and a great deal seems to have been gleaned from the performance. Apparently it was ... "an amazing experi-

ence," which "... gave an informative yet humorous insight into the works of Shakespeare." We seem to have some budding thespians in the making as it was observed that, "The actors looked like every moment was a joy to them and that's what I want in my life so this trip has really helped me with my decision, to become an actor". It was also noted that, "After seeing the performance I felt I had fully understood the story and it has also helped my understanding of Shakespeare's language in class." The general consensus seems to have been that "... it was more enjoyable than I thought it would be. It was actually quite easy to understand and it was very funny at times." High praise indeed. It was certainly highly entertaining. The ice cream during the interval seemed to cause great excitement too. It was "Amazing" wasn't it Hannah!

Our thanks must also go to the students who behaved impeccably (as always). Miss Currie



Brew and Banter

Recently, some of the sixth year students of Berwickshire High School have taken the opportunity to get to know some of the older generation of Duns by visiting the residents at Mount View nursing home.

Visiting the residents roughly once a week for a cup of tea and a chat, the occasion has become widely known within the school as 'Brew and Banter'.

"It's a good idea for young people to mix in with elderly folk. We can learn a lot from each other."

Brew and Banter gives both the younger and older generations of our community the chance to get to know each other and develop an understanding of each other's lives.

Mount View resident, Eileen Hepburn, said that she thinks, "It's a good idea for young people to mix in with elderly folk. We can learn a lot from each other."



The initiative was set up in 2013 by our last sixth year students and has been carried on into this year with great success and popularity. Many of the students who have taken part in the visits find the older people to be interesting, entertaining and, overall, good company.

The idea of the visits is to encourage more integration and respect between all generations in our community.

Wear it Pink Day

Class 2S1 organised and ran several fundraising events on Thursday 30th October to raise money for Breast Cancer Research. Pupils were invited to accessorise their school uniform with pink items and pay 50p towards "Wear it Pink". This resulted in some interesting headwear, socks, jewellery and assorted items of clothing sported by staff and students.

There was a bake sale at break with lots of yummy treats baked by pupils in 2S1 and a Pink Sweepstake but the highlight of the day was the sponsored head shave in the hall at lunch time. Three members of staff and one pupil, a very brave Ms Vallance, Mr Connor, Mr Steele and S2 pupil Billy Short got up on the stage in front of hun-

dreds of staff and pupils to have all their hair shaved off. The head shave idea came from Billy himself and was a massive success with Leanne Ross a local hairdresser kindly donating her time. The atmosphere in the hall was fantastic with superb support for all the volunteers.

The class had an original target of £1000 but have overtaken that target and the projected income from sponsor money and donations looks close to double the original target.

Donations and sponsor money are still coming in so if anyone would like to donate it is not too late.
Mrs Paulin



Learning through Work Week - Modern Apprenticeships



As part of the National initiative to raise awareness of Modern Apprenticeships and local employment opportunities all pupils in S3 were given the opportunity to find out about a local employer and how a Modern Apprenticeship works.

Scotland's employers need new talent. That's why lots of the biggest, best and brightest companies are on board with Modern Apprenticeships.

Anyone aged 16 or over can become a Modern Apprentice.

Each year around 25,000 people across Scotland start a new apprenticeship, and there will be even more opportunities in years to come. On completion of your Modern Apprenticeship you will be a skilled and productive member of the workforce – just what employers are looking for!

So if you want to get started in the career of your choice find out more about a Modern Apprenticeship from your Skills Development Scotland Adviser – Ross Ryrie or you will find further information on My World of Work.

A huge Thank You to Ross Ryrie, our Careers Advisor, and Hannah Bottomley & Andrew Oliver from Farne Salmon.
Ms Milford



Berwickshire High School students visit the Large Hadron Collider at CERN in Geneva



Six students from Berwickshire High School's Sixth Year have just returned from an amazing educational trip to CERN in Geneva. CERN is the home of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), a massive 27km ring 100 metres under Switzerland and France, where particles are speeded up to almost the speed of light and then crashed together. The data collected is helping scientists to answer questions such as 'what are the basic building blocks of matter?' and 'how did the universe begin?' International collaboration on this scale has led to many other unplanned benefits such as the invention of the World Wide Web, the development of superconducting magnet technology, and the focusing of beams to make cancer treatment much more accurate.

"It was amazing to see people so passionate about science and learning more about how the world works. Going underground and seeing the sheer scale of the project and witnessing some world leading research has shown me that anything is possible when doing something that you enjoy."

There are four major experimental hubs around the 27km ring and because the LHC is currently not running while repairs are carried out the Berwickshire High School students were privileged enough

to go underground and see two of these vast machines – ATLAS and LHCb – up close. PhD student Paul Glaysher from Edinburgh University took the group to see the ATLAS control room where every detail of the machine (temperature, alignment etc) is constantly monitored. The group then went in a lift down 100m to the vast cavern, 40m high by 80m wide, where the experimental machine is situated. This is where last year the existence of the 'Higgs Boson' particle was confirmed.

In the afternoon the group had an explanatory talk by CERN scientist Mark Tyrrell, then went to visit another of the experiments, LHCb. Guide Ren explained that the scientists here were concentrating on finding out more about the beginning of the universe, the Big Bang and 'antimatter'.

"Our visit to CERN was a window into the inner workings of the world of science. The scientists and engineers at CERN kindled a new hunger for knowledge in me that I feel will have an effect on me for the rest of my life."

The scale of the engineering achievement, collaboration between scientists from 177 different universities and the organisation of such a vast international project was really impressive and the buzz in the CERN canteen where scientists and engineers from around the world meet to exchange ideas was inspiring in itself.

Contrary to expectations the students – Halcyon Hayward, Heather Hughes, Euan Matthews, Lyndsey Morris, Rowan Stanforth and Jamie Wood – are not all taking physics. Between them their current plans are to study civil engineering, biology, chemistry, veterinary medicine and to be an RAF pilot. However, they all felt that the opportunity to see cutting-edge science and engineering up close was not to be missed and they all came away inspired.

Music Department

Community Concert

On Sunday 5th October, the school played host to the Norham Brass Band, Reston Concert Band and other musicians from across Berwickshire in our annual Community Concert. The event was a huge success and featured some scintillating performances of TV and film themes, rock anthems and classical favourites. There was a brilliant set by the jazz trio of Danny Sanders, Amy Clark and Scott Turnbull, and an outstanding solo on trombone from 7-year old Eliza Bevan (Duns PS), who wowed the crowd with her mature rendition of Andrew Lloyd Webber's "I Don't Know How To Love Him".



The Berwickshire High School Christmas Concert - 10th December 2014

The Christmas Concert will take place on Wednesday 10th December at 7.30pm. The concert will feature all of the school's extra-curricular groups - choir, chamber choir, brass and wind bands, jazz band and folk band - as well as soloists and ensembles.



This year, all of the young musicians will come together to perform highlights from the immensely popular Disney hit, Frozen - guaranteed to raise a smile from audience members young and old. As well as those who participate in extra-curricular groups, it is hoped that all of the pupils studying National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher music will take part in the concert. As a result, there will be a cast of more than 120 pupils who will "Let It Go" on stage...

Tickets for the concert are £4 and will be available from Mr Mabon in school from Monday 17th November. Mr Mabon

Rotary - Young Chef of the Year

We recently held our own form of 'Chef of the Year' to identify the young people who will go on to represent the school in the Rotary competition of the same name. There was an excellent standard of cooking with the judges having a very difficult task in identifying the two people that would be put forward. In the end, Leona Rhind (S3) won the competition with Morven Stanforth (S3) a very close second although the standard of cooking was such that others could easily have been put forward.



Well done to Leona and Morven and we look forward to hearing how they get on in future rounds later in the year. Mr Clarke

Sports Round-Up

Rugby

With the season in full swing it has been home and away ties for our rugby teams against Earlston (home) and Lasswade (away). The S1' and S2's were well beaten by well organised Earlston sides. However both BHS teams are showing signs of improvement and this was evident in their away tie against Lasswade. The S1's were much more competitive despite going down by 7 tries to 5. Lasswade started the game the more lively of the two teams and ran in a couple of early tries. As the game went on the Berwickshire boys gained in confidence and improved passing and support play led to a couple of good tries scored by Rory Williams and David Cooper. Further tries from Rory made sure the tie stayed competitive to the end of the game.



The S2 game started in a similar way to that of the S1's early tries had them on the back foot. As the game commenced Berwickshire became more effective defensively restricting the Lasswade attacks and were able to mount their own. Good passing and off loads and aggressive running led to more effective Berwickshire attacks and three good tries were scored in the best period of play for the Berwickshire boys. The S2's competed to the final whistle, but just did not have enough to get level.

Next Rugby fixture will be:

Saturday 22nd November V's Peebles (Home)

The U15's were involved in an epic encounter against Earlston. Tries were traded at each end of the pitch with both teams playing an expansive game. Earlston had the better of the early exchanges and ran in 2

tries before Berwickshire replied. Both teams were going for the win and with 1 minute on the clock Berwickshire trailed 36-29. Joesph Donkin picked up a loose ball to score the try that brought them with a conversion of the opposition. With time up Rory Hamilton had the final kick of the match to draw level, the kick just slid right of the posts and the Berwickshire boys just missed out 36-34 in this thrilling encounter.

Senior Basketball

On the 23rd of October the Berwickshire High School senior boys embarked on their first Scottish Schools Cup game at Holyrood High School Edinburgh. Having only played 2 warm up games before this game, the boys were feeling pressure of the unknown. It was a hard fought game, with the boys leading the game as they entered into the final quarter. Unfortunately it was not the boys day and they walked away from the court defeated, 29-42.



Next fixtures:

Open Boys V North Berwick (Home) – Friday 14th November
U15 Boys V North Berwick (Home) – Friday 14th November
U15 Boys V Knox Acad. (Home) – Thursday 20th November
Open Boys V Gracemount (Home) – Friday 21st November
Open Girls v St Thomas (Away) – Friday 28th November

The boys showed many signs of promise as they look forward to their next Scottish Schools game. It is hoped that home court advantage against North Berwick helps the boys to their first win in the Cup.

Hockey

The senior girls recently had a tightly contested match versus Selkirk High School. There was nothing between the two teams and both cancelled each other out. Both teams were unable to fashion many chances to score and the game ended in a well-deserved tie for the Berwickshire Seniors



The Berwickshire girls hosted Mary Erskine School on Saturday 1st November. The opposition brought a number of very strong players including a number who were part of the Hockey Scotland squads. The opposition proved to be too strong with the S1's, S2's, S3's and seniors all defeated.

Netball

U13 Netball:

The U13 team started their season with a nail biting encounter, with two very evenly matched teams going head to head on Sunday 2nd of November. Earlston had the height advantage, however Berwickshire proved dominant in the mid-court through Ellie Lough, Caitlin James and Susana McEwan. Earlston had the best of the first quarter, an excellent recovery from the BHS girls meant as they moved into the last quarter they trailed by one goal down. Unfortunately lady luck was not with the BHS girls and in the last 10 seconds of the game, Earlston scored a goal make it 13-12 in favour of the visitors. A hard fought game that showed promising signs for the future contests.



U15 A Netball:

It was an explosive first game for the U15 Netball team as they took on Earlston on Sunday 2nd November. After a dominant first quarter the girls were in the lead 10-0, leading from the front, Lucy Runciman powered through the attack while Rosie Browne cleaned up the mid court. As the lead started to stretched out the girls started to pull together as a team and dominate play, coming out on top 27-1. Thank you to Ali Vallance and Sarah Allan for helping with the scoring of the games.

Results from 4th November:

Seniors

BHS 32 - 0 Berwick Academy

S3's

BHS 9 - 3 Berwick Academy

U15 B Netball:

On Sunday the 2nd of November the Berwickshire High School U15 netball team played Earlston High School. In the first two quarters the two teams were fairly even, making it a very close score line. As the game moved on Earlston grabbed a substantial lead and in the end were too strong, ending with a comfortable victory for the away team.



Football

On Friday 31st October a team of S1 pupils came from Earlston to play at Berwickshire. The S1 Berwickshire boys acquitted themselves well in the game and showed some initial signs of the making of a good team. In the end the well organised team from Earlston ran out comfortable winners 6-0.

Berwickshire Sailing Club



It has been a great season - we have had excellent numbers so have had to split into two sessions. We have sailors from each year group and a few have received RYA certificates in the Junior Sailing Scheme.

The club had the honour of being the first school club to host the Whiteadder Regatta Shield in which the sailors had to race against other schools from across the Borders and East Lothian. We hope to hold this event again many times in the future.

I would like to say well done to Euan Matthews, William Derries, Robert Bracken. Thomas Taylor, Euan Harvey, Callum Smith, Orlando Hayward, Eliza Masters and Nathan Landon.

And finally.....

Five athletes will be making their way up to Helix park in Falkirk to compete in the National Schools Road Race Championships on Saturday 8th November. Thanks must go to Leanne Ross from Chirnside Chasers for helping to supervise our athletes. We would like to wish the following the best of luck in their runs:

Jamie Kinghorn (S1), Rory Williams (S1), Ben Reynolds (S1). Harry Fuller (S1) and Joey Brown (S2)

STOP PRESS: S1 boys were placed in a magnificent 3rd place: Full report in the next newsletter.

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
www.berwickshirehighschool.org.uk

Notices

Rag Bag Collection

The next Rag Bag collection of Textile Recycling will take place on **Wednesday 26 November**. 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.

