

BERWICKSHIRE HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

News

Message from the Headteacher

What a great term! It has been busy and stressful at times but exciting as well as we have navigated our way through the penultimate parts of courses whilst still engaging in all sorts of other activities. I believe that everyone will be delighted to have finally reached the holidays though as there have been some very tired looking pupils and staff in the last week or so. When we reflect on what has been achieved, I think everyone can take a great deal of credit for all the hard work that has been put in during the month of March.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge public 'Thank You' to the staff. In the last few years they have been working constantly on writing new courses in line with Curriculum for Excellence and of course this year we have been working on and delivering the new Higher courses for the first time. These Higher courses remain the most demanded and most respected of the courses that we deliver and our staff have worked diligently to ensure that our young people are well prepared for them. It has come with stress and anxiety on the way though and I am very grateful for the resilience and persistence that the staff have shown.

The Easter holidays have arrived now and I expect that a good amount of time will be spent by senior school students revising for their exams. I wish them all the best in their preparations but suggest that they make sure of getting some rest and relaxation as well.

I hope that all of you have an enjoyable Easter break and look forward to working together during what will be another very busy summer term.

John Clarke
Headteacher



As of this month BHS is on Facebook and Twitter.

To date we have had 394 likes on Facebook and our posts have been seen by 2309 people. We are delighted to join the social media world in the hope that we will be able to reach and engage with our parents more easily. Please take the time to 'like' or 'follow' us.

FB: Berwickshire High School

Twitter: Berwickshire HS;
@BHSDuns



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Parent Council News

At the March meeting of the Parent Council, we discussed a number of issues affecting the school including the continuing push to improve communications within and outwith the school. The introduction of the school's new Facebook page and Twitter feed will provide further means of communication and we would encourage you to use these to find out what's happening in the school. Please also spread the word to family, friends, colleagues and anyone in the area who you think might be interested in reading about the school, its events and achievements.

We also had a short discussion on the new "Named Person Legislation" which has recently been enacted in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. This is a wide-ranging piece of legislation, containing 18 parts and spanning policies that have developed over a number of years in relation to kinship care, care leavers, integrated services, pre-school education and GIRFEC (Get It Right For Every Child). The Scottish government has launched a consultation on the statutory guidance for the Act – this includes Named Person, the Child's Plan and the definition of 'wellbeing'. The consultation closes on 1 May 2015. If you are interested in finding out more about this, or in responding to the consultation, you can access more information at:

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/02/1851/0>

Finally, we have had three interesting presentations from staff over the last two meetings of the Parent Council - one from Mrs Lawson on the "Grow It, Cook It, Eat It" project, one from Mr Steele on the Senior Phase, where we learned more about the new Choices system that has been introduced and the third from Mr Harvey on what's going on in the Health & Wellbeing department.

The next meeting of the Parent Council will take place on **Wednesday 6th May at 7pm** in the school. Donna Manson, the new Service Director, Children and Young People at SBC, will be attending the meeting and will be sharing with us some of her ideas / plans for schools in the region. All parents are welcome to attend.

Fundraising Group

The Fundraising Group is working with the school on plans for a Summer Fun Day, to coincide with Sports Day in June. This will comprise a number of outdoor fun activities for all pupils and aims to encourage the whole school to be involved in the day. More details will be in the next newsletter. We are always looking for volunteers to help with the organising as well as helpers on the day, so if you would like to be involved please let us know by emailing the school, or direct to:

avrilhamilton@ramrigblondes.co.uk or audreymgaston@hotmail.com

News from around the School

Art Department

Travelling Gallery:

'Design in Motion' is the theme for this years Travelling Gallery that paid a visit to Berwickshire High School this Thursday. The purpose of the gallery is as part of the pre opening programme for the new V&A in Dundee. The works in the bus are by designers who use "digital technology to push the boundaries" in the field in which they work. Pupils were able to see dresses by fashion designer Holly Fulton, lighting by Geoffrey Mann and 3D modelling software called Cloud9 developed by the Edinburgh based design company Anarkik3D. Being able to see these designs is an invaluable experience for pupils from all years - from S1 to S6, and the fact that



the gallery came to the school, instead of us having to travel to Dundee was a definite added bonus! **Mrs Bertram**

Art work that has been on show at the recent Parents' Evenings:



Music Department

Easter Concert



The school Easter Concert was held on Wednesday 1st April. The concert featured a programme of film music, introduced by Berwickshire High School's very own Blues Brothers, Rory Hamilton and Ewan Steady. The concert opened with a scintillating performance of "Star Wars" from the orchestra and included some of the biggest hits from the world of cinema: Indiana Jones, Ghostbusters, Les Miserables, Oliver! and more.

Our soloists were all on top form. Heather Hughes, in her last appearance at a BHS concert, performed a very difficult arrangement of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" with consummate ease. Xenia Garden, Amy Clarke and Anna Mulvey gave breathtaking performances of contrasting songs from musicals, and Scott Turnbull dazzled the audience with his incredible rendition of a virtuoso jazz waltz on guitar. The concert also featured a sneak preview of our Summer musical, Oliver! - the cast giving a performance of the show's opening number, "Food Glorious Food".

At 11am the same day, the entire S1 joined the orchestra and choir to perform in a concert for local primary schools. Wearing T-shirts they had designed in Art lessons, they really got into the spirit and gave fantastic performances of "We Will Rock You" and "Let Me Entertain You".

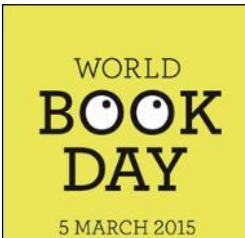
The evening concert was preceded by an Art and Photography exhibition which gave parents the chance to see some of the work produced by pupils over the past four years. There was a huge range of styles and media on display, including work that is to be submitted for this year's Higher and National 5 courses.

Oliver!

The school production of Oliver! will take place in the last week of June. Pupils involved will be hard at work over the next three months getting the show ready. Rehearsals will take place on Friday afternoons and at other times during the school day. In addition, there are several rehearsals on Sundays. The first of these are during the Easter holidays, on Sunday 12th and Sunday 19th April (2-5pm).



Library



World Book Day a celebration of all things “book” and all actions that can be performed with a book (within reason). This year we had a rolling programme of visits to the BHS Library to puzzle, pose and participate in a range of sessions, serious and not-so-serious.

We were lucky to have a visit from Alan Bissett whose novels have done so much to wake up the Scottish fiction world. His yen to become a novelist came from Spiderman comics so it was natural that he took an enthusiastic S3 class through a history of the graphic novel from “The Broons” to “Watchmen.” This tied in nicely with a new batch of graphic novels coming to the Library which did not stay on our shelves very long!



Alan Bissett



“Shelfie” fiends

During the day classes came to the Library for fun and frolic, spent some time pouring over quizzes and word searches but the “hot ticket” was “shelfies.” To complete a “shelfie” all you needed was your favourite book, a strategically placed bookshelf and a cameraphone. There were a few lucky winners of books who successfully strained their brains or posed to the max. **Mr Bain**

Afternoon Tea

Following on from the successful ‘Afternoon Tea’ for National Kindness Day in November 2014, Class 1C1 decided to have another one on Wednesday 25th March, this time with an Easter theme. They prepared all the cakes etc. and provided the Raffle prizes for the actual event and very much looked forward to welcoming local Senior Citizens to The Berwickshire High School. Around 80 Senior Citizens turned up. Many thanks also to Eric Robertson for providing the complementary transport to and from school.



A very enjoyable afternoon was had by all. Entertainment was provided by Bonnie and Poppy Bain and Maddie Cawthorne, able accompanied by Mr Mabon.

The class has already received their Saltire Awards at the Ceremony on Friday 20th March at the Volunteer Hall in Galashiels for their November event. Well Done and Thank You to 1C1 for their tremendous and much appreciated efforts. **Mr R. D. Drummond**



Sports Round-Up

South Schools Rugby 7's Tournament

On Friday 20th March the S1, S2 and U15 rugby teams took part in the annual South School 7's tournament. This event brings all the Borders High Schools together in the end of season finale at Netherdale. All 3 teams had tough pool matches and they were competitive in all games. The S1 team had a good win against Kelso and the U15's won against Gala. The S2's had a number of very tight matches and were unlucky not to win their last encounter



with Earlston who scored a last second break away try. Although we did not reach the knock out stages of the competition it was a very encouraging display by the Berwickshire boys.

The coaches would like to thank all the boys for their hard work and commitment shown over the season. We will have one more match and a presentation after the Easter holidays. The School would like to thank all the coaches and parent helpers for their support this season and thanks also to Duns RC and in particular the work of Bert Grigg, the Rugby Development Officer.

Berwickshire 7's Hockey Tournament

The girls endured 4 seasons in one day on Wednesday 1st April in the annual Berwickshire 7's tournament. Eight teams competed for the trophy this year with last year's winners George Watson's College the team to beat. All teams competed in pool matches before 2 semi-finals and a final. There was bad luck for the Berwickshire girls who had won 1, drawn 1 and lost 1 match in their pool, going out on goal difference (by 1 goal). It was a shame as the girls had performed well as a team. The final was competed by George Watson's and Kelso High School, with the Kelso girls coming out on top 2-1. Congratulations to them for winning the trophy.



Winners - Kelso High School

Many thanks must go to all the support the School has had from the parent helpers and coaches over the season. The School are indebted to Julie Abbott and her team of coaches for all their hard work.

Sports Round-Up (cont)

Athletics

In typical blustery cross country weather the Berwickshire High School team headed across to Netherdale in Gala for the annual event. There was a strong contingent of runners who braved the course with some very good performances from the Berwickshire students. Three of our athletes came away with individual medals in very strong fields, these were:

S1 Boys: Rory Williams 2nd place (silver medal)
 Jamie Kinghorn 3rd place (bronze medal)

S3 Boys: Callum Tharme 2nd place (silver medal)

Congratulation to all our runners who performed well on the day, especially the S1 boys who came 2nd in the team event, dominated by runners from Peebles High School.



Jamie Kinghorn and Rory Williams



Callum Tharme

Berwickshire 7's Hockey Tournament



The under 15A team made it to the plate final of the Aitkin Turnbull Border League. This was held at the Gytes in Peebles against Hawick U15A. The girls played a great match with a huge improvement in performance and team work. However they were beaten on the day by Hawick. The girls were presented with their silver medals at the end of the day which was a great achievement for the season.

Sports Round-Up (cont)

Rugby

Berwickshire Schools Under 15's took on Gala in late February. They started optimistically with plenty play in the opposition half. However an opportunistic Galashiels side managed to breach the Berwickshire defence to heap early pressure on Berwickshire, who withstood it well. Fortunately a scrum in Gala's 22 resulted in a wayward pass from Gala allowing Bruce Logan to dive over 15m in from touch for the first score. Fly-half, Rory Hamilton, comfortably slotted the conversion to make it 7-0.

For the next 10 minutes play switched back and forth with errors from both sides resulting in many a chance for the Berwickshire forwards to show their dominance in the scrum and at the lineout. Berwickshire showed great creativity in the backs with a move that allowed centre, Lewis Hall, to chip over the top from his own half before collecting the ball from a fortunate bounce before finishing over the line in much a similar position to Berwickshire's first try. Again, Rory Hamilton converted the score: 14-0.

However, Gala were quick to dust themselves down and build the phases before showing real pace and vision with quick ball to allow them under the sticks, but Berwickshire were let off when the simple conversion was missed.

Again, Gala showed good determination and were able to topple the duns defence quickly, following a succession of stupidly given away penalties. The conversion was not missed.

Duns lead at half-time 14-12.

After a confident first half Berwickshire came blasting out the blocks with several positive plays instigated through key players such as Mak Wilson, George Smith, Callum Rhind, Bruce Logan, Lewis Hall, Ciaran McEwan, Robert Bracken, Grant Maltman, Leyton Maltman and Barnaby Bevan. But play became once again disrupted by unnecessary penalties and too many unforced errors.

Responding to errors well, Rory Hamilton received a pass from scrum-half, Barnaby Bevan allowing him to throw a screaming dummy and show good strength to hold off his man before making a break on the 10m line of Gala's half. He worked his way up to the 22m line before spinning a wide pass to Grant Maltman who showed good pace to finish in the corner. Rory Hamilton converted a challenging touchline kick which landed straight between the uprights: 21-12

With 15 minutes left Berwickshire allowed Gala back into the game with more stupid penalties and knock-ons. Gala combined several phases of heavy pressure before eventually scoring on the left side of the pitch. Another missed conversion.

Berwickshire and Gala seemed to play fairly evenly and after missed opportunities for Barnaby Bevan and Lewis Hall, Berwickshire captain, Rory Hamilton cleared the ball into touch to ensure a Berwickshire Schools victory.

A special mention thanks to Gala's Jack Williamson who played the full match on the Berwickshire team and was one of the stand out performers on the pitch.

Full time 21-17

Sports Round-Up (cont)

BHS Sport Leaders P4 'Sporting Fun' Festival



As part of their course the S5 Sport Leaders class must organise and run a sporting event or competition. They decided to run a fun festival for all the P4 pupils at Duns Primary on the 19th March. The festival involved the P4's moving around the following sports:

- Netball
- Rugby
- Football
- Athletics (Running)

The pupils were split into teams and moved around the sports and at each sport there was an element of competition and scores were kept. Once all the teams had moved around all 4 sports the results were gathered and certificates for taking part and the winners of each sport were given out. The event ran smoothly and all the kids had great fun – the sun even came out to play!

and finally...



Did Christmas come early to the BHS office.....

or was it just the April Fools Day fairy??

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

Notices

Rag Bag Collection

Thank veru much you to all who contributed to our recent RagBag fundraiser? The Support for Learning department raised £18. There will be another collection in a few months



Dates for the Diary

Friday 3 - Friday 17 April	Easter Holidays - School Closed for Staff and Pupils
Monday 27 April—Friday 29 May	SQA Exams
Friday 1 May	In-Service Day - School Closed for Pupils
Monday 4 May	May Day Holiday - School Closed for Staff and Pupils
Wednesday 6 May	Parent Council Meeting - 7pm - All Welcome
Friday 15 May	S2 Reports to Parents
Tuesday 19 - Friday 22 May	Activities Week
Monday 25 May	Casual Holiday - School Closed for Staff and Pupils
Monday 1 June	Change of Timetable