



## Brechin High School Newsletter December 2016

Brechin High School values are: **F**riendliness, **A**chievement, **I**nclusion, **T**rust & Respect and **H**onesty.

### Inspectors

A team of three inspectors from Education Scotland arrived in school on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November. Over the next few days they visited classes and met with pupils, staff and parents. When they delivered their report on the Thursday morning they said they saw no bad teaching, no bad behaviour and were impressed by much of what they witnessed during their stay. However, they want to come back again, perhaps in a year or two, to ensure that we continue to make progress and improve as our attainment, especially in National exams, is still too inconsistent.

Although this is the best and certainly the most positive report I have received from visitors to the school since I arrived in 2014, I am disappointed that they feel they cannot disengage from the school. However, while disappointing for me, I do recognise that they have a point; our attainment is not as good as it should be and in spite of some recent improvement it is still inconsistent. So, perhaps on reflection it is a good thing that Inspectors want to keep a close eye on our school just in case we are ever tempted to take it easy or lose sight of our goal of providing the best for each of our young people.

Education Scotland will issue a letter reporting on their visit at some point in the New Year.

### Official Opening

The official opening for Brechin Community Campus will take place on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December when John Swinney, MSP visits and unveils a commemorative plaque.

### Communication

We are trying various ways to improve our communication with parents including the school website: [www.brechinhigh.angus.sch.uk](http://www.brechinhigh.angus.sch.uk) which now has google translate on the home page allowing text to be translated into a wide variety of languages. We are also using the school Twitter page @BrechinHigh1 to share information.

### Swimming Success

Elle McMillan competed in the Tayside School's Swimming Championship held at Olympia in Dundee in November. She had two fantastic swims achieving gold in the 100m backstroke and bronze in the 200m IM. The standard of competition was extremely high with all the best swimmers in Tayside competing. Elle will now qualify for the Scottish School's in January. Kerr Morrison, Hayley Fraser, Aimee Mackie and Elle McMillan qualified to take part in the Midland District School's Swimming Championships in Dundee on 28<sup>th</sup> September. The standard of competition was again extremely high, with all the best swimmers in Tayside competing. Kerr and Hayley both managed to achieve personal best times in their 100m Freestyle races.

## **Parental Involvement**

Here in the Brechin cluster of schools, in response to the realisation that we need to involve parents more in their children's learning, we sought and gained funding from Angus Council to release Mrs Gray from classes for two days each week for the remainder of this school year. On these days Mrs Gray will work across all cluster schools looking to develop ways that we can engage parents more in the life and work of our schools. Although only recently appointed she has been really busy. For example she has organised:

- A parental training session led by the Scottish Parent Teacher Association.
- An international 'Meet & Greet' which will take place on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm in the Campus learning zone. All friends and family are also welcome.
- 'Maths Angels' and 'Reading Heroes' which will be starting after the Christmas holidays. This is an opportunity for parents to come along to see what pupils are working on within Maths and English. This opportunity will also support parents to enhance their children's learning in Numeracy and Literacy across the school.
- A Study Skills evening Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 6-8pm. More details to follow
- A Child Exploitation & Online Protection (CEOP) information evening for S1 parents after Christmas holidays. Times and Dates to be confirmed.

## **Physical Education**

- 12 hour football event will be taking place on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December from 9.00am to 9.00pm, more details will follow.
- The sporting inter-house competitions are under way and going well. We have had S1/2 Netball, S3/4 Netball and S5/6 Netball. We will be holding a junior Giant Heptathlon inter-house competition on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December, details will be given to pupils.
- The PE department ran a local climbing trip to Avertical World in Dundee this term. We are looking to run this each term.
- BHS Senior Netball team has won Pool B in Angus and will be moving forward to take part in the Scottish Cup.
- Please follow BHSPE twitter page for information about what is happening in the PE faculty.

## **Key Dates**

Concert – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 7pm.

End of this term – 21<sup>st</sup> December at 3pm

Start of next term – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017

S3 parents evening – Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017