



Brechin High School Newsletter

April 2015

Zoolab

On Friday 13th March, Zoolab visited Brechin High School. Many S3 pupils and a selection of S2 pupils got the opportunity to learn about biodiversity and animal adaptations. Pupils got up close to many exciting animals such as snakes, millipedes, cockroaches, rats, giant African snails. The presenter, who brought the animals, commented on the excellent behaviour of our pupils and that "Brechin High School was the best school by far".

Sporting Success

Most recent successes have been the Senior Boys winning the Gold at the Angus Cross Country competition; Jack Wood in S2 also won an individual silver in the same competition and our under 16's won the Angus Rugby 7's tournament.

Values

The values we have shape the way we behave as people. We recognise the importance for this in the way we behave and act together as a school community. So the Values Group have been consulting all pupils about the values they would like to see in the new school. This follows on from whole staff consultation about values and consultation with the Parent council and other stakeholders. Some members of the Values Group also enjoyed a successful week long stay at Ardeonaig as a way of reflecting on the values we would like to see in the new community campus. Next steps are to collate the views of the different groups, identify the core values we would like to see enacted in the new campus, share this information with the different groups who have contributed so far and then begin to explore what this should look like in our behaviour and actions each day. There will be more to come on this later.

Numeracy

Our work developing numeracy has been attracting a lot of interest recently with schools from a number of regions across Scotland contacting us for information and to arrange visits to see what we do. The numeracy booklet sets out the basic techniques and together with the primary schools we are agreeing a common order for teaching numeracy from nursery all the way up to upper secondary school. However, the thing attracting most interest is our classes for parents. Once a fortnight early on a Tuesday evening Mr Funai and other secondary staff are working through the booklet teaching numeracy skills to parents. An enthusiastic group of around 12-15 parents (some accompanied by their children) attend the classes and are rediscovering an ability to tackle mathematics. They are not only better placed to help their children with homework and their studies but have been able to make use of these skills in their daily lives. We are looking to expand this to include primary parents so if you are interested please contact the school office for details.

Change of Address

Just a reminder – if your address or phone number has changed please let eth school office know. We have had a couple of situations recently when we have been trying to contact parents and the number is no longer in use or has changed and we cannot get in touch. Also, we need accurate addresses for all pupils sitting exams so they can receive their results in August.

Study Leave and Exam Support

Just a reminder that exam leave for pupils in S4-S6 sitting external examinations will run from Tuesday 5th May to Friday 15th May 2015. Pupils sitting exams outwith that period are allowed the day before an examination for additional study.

In an attempt to provide additional support we have organised the day immediately before an exam as a study day for pupils (programme attached for S4-6 pupils). Pupils will have the opportunity to work with their subject teachers covering revision material and past papers. This will be voluntary for pupils but I would urge you to make sure your child attends. In my experience, pupils who take part in this preparation immediately before an exam achieve one band higher in the external exam than in the prelim. This is definitely worth the effort.

Truancy Call

Apologies if you are one of the many parents who have received a wrong text or call informing you that your child is not in school when in fact they are sitting here and working away in class. We have fairly serious on-going issues with our IT systems and no amount of hard work on our part seems to be clearing things up at the moment. If you do return a call please be patient with the office staff, truancy call is an automatic system it is not the office staff's fault they are just answering your call.

Website

As we try to improve our communication the website is slowly becoming populated with bits and pieces of information. Please check it out at www.brechinhigh.angus.sch.uk Different groups in the school have opened Twitter accounts for example: @BHSPupilVoice and @brechinhigh_PE. The school is continuing to change and improve so it is worth keeping up to date with things.

Key Dates

Monday 20th April – first day back after the Easter break.

Tuesday 28th April – S1 Parents Evening

Monday 4th May – holiday

Monday 25th May – inservice day