



# Brechin High School Newsletter

February 2015

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## Headteacher's Remarks

Monday 9th February marked one full year for me as Head Teacher at Brechin High School. In some ways it hardly feels as though a year has gone by yet in other ways I feel very settled, as though I have been here for a long time. My own feelings that we are making good progress as a school were confirmed when a team from the local authority, accompanied by one of the HMle team from last March, visited the school on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> February to conduct a mini-inspection. They liked the changes we are making and agreed that the quality of learning and teaching is improving and becoming more consistent. Any suggestions for improving the school were in line with actions we are already taking, which gave further confirmation that we are moving in the right direction. The Inspector even said that he would not recognise Brechin High as the same school he visited last March. I knew we had changed as a school but did not think it was to that extent. A report from the local authority and a letter from HMle will be issued to all parents/carers at some point in the next few weeks both of which will be uploaded to our website in addition to being sent home.

## School Website

After a year of working through all kinds of problems we finally have the Brechin High website up and running. It can be accessed at [www.brechinhigh.angus.sch.uk](http://www.brechinhigh.angus.sch.uk) We will be updating it each week. If you have any suggestions for the kind of information you would like to see on the website please let us know.

## Community Campus Update.

Arriving at school each day is quite exciting just now as the new campus building takes shape. The steel work for the new leisure facilities has been completed and the tower crane should be dismantled in a couple of weeks. We are still aiming for an entry date of January/February 2016. The plans for the new campus can be viewed on the school website.

## Science Project Go4SeT.

This session a S2 science class took part in a science and engineering project called Go4SeT. The project ran for 10 weeks during which time the pupils researched what made a healthy school. They carried out practical work, interviewed other students and then produced a comprehensive report which was sent to the Go4SET assessors. In addition, 6 representatives from the class produced a display of their work which was assessed alongside other schools at Dundee and Angus College.

Our pupils did an outstanding job and narrowly missed out on an award. However, each of them secured a Silver Crest science award which is recognised by UCAS and often only given out to senior pupils.

Another group of S2 pupils have just begun their preparation for the industrial cadet Go4SET project and are linked with apprentices from GSK Montrose. So far the group have made their site visit to GSK and are now in the planning stages of their project.

## **English—Tartan Treasures**

Pupils in English are being encouraged to submit their work for the *Tartan Treasures* creative writing competition. This is an annual event run by Angus Council as part of the Tartan Day Scotland Festival. This year students are being asked to write a diary entry about a treasured memory from Scotland. Closing date is 20 Feb and further details can be found at [www.tartandayscotland.com/treasures](http://www.tartandayscotland.com/treasures)

## **Study Leave and Exam Support**

Angus Council has decided to run study leave again this year for S4-6 pupils sitting external exams at National 5 and Higher. A letter has been included with this newsletter for all S4-6 pupils. However, Brechin High would like to offer these pupils the opportunity to stay in school and to follow their normal timetable so they can spend time in class working with their subject teachers preparing for exams. We will also organise a programme of additional exam support in which staff are offering the day immediately before the exam as a study day for pupils. Pupils will have the opportunity to work with their subject teachers covering revision material and past papers. As a result of the local authority's approach to study leave this will be voluntary for pupils but in my experience pupils who engage in this support perform one grade better in the external exam than in their prelim. A programme outlining the support available will be sent home before the Easter holidays.

## **Ski Trip Report**

40 pupils and staff spent the first week of 2015 skiing in the French Alps. The following is a report written by Charlotte Allison.

*On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January at half past 2 in the morning, 35 pupils and 5 teachers set off on Brechin High's Ski Trip. After a long journey, including two coaches, and a plane ride, we arrived at Alpe D'Huez. Our rep told us that the skiing conditions would be excellent for our week at the resort.*

*We woke up on the Sunday ready for our first day skiing. Everyone was split into their groups and we were off for our first day skiing. It was a foggy start but the clouds soon disappeared and we were able to enjoy the stunning scenery of the French Alps. 5 hours skiing everyday exhausted everyone but no one ever complained about it. Once the day was over we told each other what happened in our groups. It mainly consisted of discussing who had the best fall of the day.*

*The week went past so quickly. Everyone was able to go to the top of the mountain called Pic Blanc, which was 3330ft above sea level. This was the best view of the week and you were able to see Mount Blanc from it. We had great weather the whole week, blue skies with hardly a cloud in the sky.*

*Before we knew it, it was the end of the week. We had presentations on the last afternoon and thanked our ski instructors for a great week. That evening we packed up rooms and were ready to go home.*

*The journey home was long; we finally arrived back at Brechin High School on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>. We thanked the teachers and said goodbye to our friends, then headed home after an amazing week skiing.*

## **Theatre Trip - The Strange Case of Jekyll & Hyde**

The Language & Communication Faculty are proposing to run a theatre trip in March to Dundee Rep. where a new play based on R. L. Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Jekyll & Hyde* is being performed by Lung Ha's Theatre Company and Drake Music Scotland. Look out for further details coming soon.

## Prelim Exams

We no longer have a set week of prelim exams in January but instead encourage staff to carry out prelims at an appropriate time during January or February. Teachers will give pupils plenty of warning of any assessments. The following is the Maths prelim timetable:

S4's

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February paper 1 (non calculator)

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February paper 2 (calculator)

S5/6 National 5

### **Mr Funai and Mr Gallacher's classes**

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February paper 1 (non calculator)

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February paper 2 (calculator)

S5/6 National 5

### **Miss Stewart's class**

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February paper 2 (calculator)

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February paper 1 (non calculator)

S5/6 National 5 Lifeskills

### **Miss Smith's class**

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February paper 1 (non calculator)

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February paper 2 (calculator)

S5/6 Higher

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February paper 1 (non calculator)

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February paper 2 (calculator)

Advanced Higher

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February

## Key Dates

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March – S3 Parents Evening

Easter break – last day of school Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April, first day of summer term Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April.