



Brechin High School Newsletter April 2016

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

New campus

They say that moving house, getting married and dealing with bereavement are the most stressful things we can experience in life. I think I need to add moving school to that list. However, now that the dust has settled, and the snagging list is finally beginning to reduce, it feels like we have always been here. Actually within an hour and a half of moving into the campus pupils were in classes learning as if nothing had happened. The fact that we were able to carry out such a colossal move with so little disruption to the life of the school (and in such a short time – effectively one day!) is a tremendous credit to everyone within the Brechin High community. It reveals the true quality that exists here and shows that if we can work together we can achieve so much more.

Parking

Parking continues to be a problem and will continue to be so until October 2016 when the car park is finished on the site of the old building. In the meantime we continue to lay out the cones on Duke Street and advise all campus staff to be considerate to our neighbours. If you have an issue with parking please continue to contact us and we will try our best to help. If a particular car is blocking a drive or something similar passing on the registration number is helpful as it will allow us to find the individual involved.

In the interests of safety and maintaining good relationships with our neighbours it would be helpful if pupils being driven to school can be dropped off at the junction with North Latch Road and allowed to walk the remainder of the journey up Duke Street.

SQA Exams

SQA exams begin on 4th May and run through to the first week in June. We wish every pupil success in their forthcoming exams. There is no study leave for S4 pupils although some are allowed the day before an exam for preparation. Study leave for S5/6 pupils runs from Monday 9 May to Friday 20 May, for any exam after 20th May the pupils will be allowed the day prior to the exam for preparation. However, in an attempt to provide additional support we are offering the day immediately before an exam as a study day in school for pupils. Pupils will have the opportunity to work in class with their subject teachers covering revision material and past papers. Pupils who participate in this find that they gain a better grade in the external exam.

For those who find exams stressful we have provided 'soft start' again this year. Soft

start provides the pupils with a quiet space before the exam with water, juice or a light breakfast so they can prepare themselves for entering the exam room.

Uniform

Academy Uniforms (our blazer supplier) were on site Friday 29th April to measure every pupil. This is just to allow them to have each young person's size on record in case you want to order a blazer for your child. Blazers cost £29.50 which is good value for a smart, machine washable jacket for school that usually lasts up to two years.

Outdoor Learning

Alex Colquhoun, one of our English teachers has been developing Outdoor Learning with one of his classes this year. The purpose of outdoor learning is to use the school's immediate environment to enhance pupil learning. This is reflected in the status given to OL – Government investment; its place in improvement planning and the importance placed on it during HMLe inspections.

Benefits include general health and wellbeing, pupil-engagement, teamwork, inclusion, relationships, depth of learning, resilience, problem solving and, ultimately raising attainment. Mr Colquhoun has involved pupils in language and Viking runes, a group discussion task on survival, looking in the car park for examples of non-verbal communication, a languages treasure hunt, creation of a map after going for a walk, use of coordinates, calculation of average walking speed, how to make a legend, report writing...and so much more. Following on from the success of this pilot we are looking to spread this to more classes next year.

Survey

The annual parent survey was opened on 19th April and closes on Friday 27th May. It is a good opportunity to share your views and can be accessed on:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/schools2016parents>

Prizegiving

Following comments and requests from parents we are making changes to our annual prizegiving ceremony. Instead of one single event we are having separate ceremonies for S1-3 and S4-6 incorporating more recognition of wider achievement in addition to academic awards. See below for dates.

Key Dates

30th May – In-service day 14th, 15th & 16th June – P7 transition days

28th June S1-3 Prizegiving 30th June S4-6 Prizegiving

1st July – last day of term (3pm finish)