

BANNOCKBURN HIGH SCHOOL



Newsletter

APRIL 2008

Dear Parent/Carer

This newsletter is timed to reach you during the week before the school closes for the Spring Holiday.

For pupils in Fourth year this holiday period needs to be a time for study and preparation for the SQA examinations which begin, for them, on Thursday 1st May. This means that after the Spring Holiday there are only 8 school days before the start of these examinations. Clearly revision and earnest application by pupils in preparing themselves for the examinations should be the single greatest priority over the next few weeks.

Pupils in Fifth and Sixth Years start their examinations two weeks later. For these pupils preparing to undertake SQA Higher and Intermediate examinations, this is also a time where serious study, revision and effort is needed in order to come fully prepared for these very important examinations.

I would like to wish all of these pupils success and hope that their effort and application will achieve the results deserved.



J D McAlpine
Headteacher

SECOND YEAR CURRICULUM

We are planning to introduce a change to the way in which the curriculum and timetable is organised for pupils moving from First Year into Second Year. This will provide a degree of choice within Art, Design Technology, Music and Home Economics. A detailed letter is in the process of being prepared for parents of current First Year pupils.

EXTENSION

The new Extension is expected to be formally handed over to Stirling Council by the contractors, Hadden Construction, during the two week Spring Holiday. This will allow us to get rooms and facilities ready for use on return from the May Weekend Holiday.

The new Gymnasium and Changing Rooms will come into use along with the new Music Department.

The new Car Park should be in use immediately after the Spring Holiday.

CAR PARKING

My last newsletter provided details of the altered arrangements for Car Parking from April 21st 2008.

These are:-

1. The existing Car Parking area will normally be closed.
2. All Car Parking during the school day will be provided in the new Car Park beside the Extension for staff and visitors to the school.
3. Access to the Car Park will be via the new road along the front (North Face) of the building.
4. Disabled Car parking Facilities are provided near the Main Entrance.
5. NO PARKING is allowed at any time in the BUS TURNING CIRCLE OR Access Road.
6. Parents arriving to Pick-up at the end of the school day will be provided access to part of the old car park by the lowering of BOLLARDS.
7. The Old Car Park will be opened for use at Evening Events/Awards Ceremonies/Parents Evenings.
8. No through access will be possible from the OLD to the New Car Park at any time - Bollards in Place.

ALTERED ACCOMMODATION

As a result of us moving the Music Department into the extension we are planning to make some changes to how our existing accommodation is used.

The History Department will move to the first floor to the rooms that have been used by Music up until now. This then means that Geography, History and Modern Studies will all be sited much closer together making more sense for pupils and staff.

The Learning Support and Behaviour Support staff will move into the accommodation on the ground floor currently occupied by History. This will provide us with a unified Additional Support Needs facility with much improved accommodation.

These moves will be completed by early June for the new timetable start on 4th June.

We are also planning to extend the Dining Facilities into the old Gym Area by opening this up with the existing Social Area. This should enable us to provide a new area for Pupil Lockers.

Improved provision for S6 with a more suitable common room is also being planned for August.

Toilets are being refurbished over the next few months to provide improvements for pupils.

HEAD JANITOR

Our new Head Janitor, Mr W Stuart, starts work in the school on Monday 31 March 2008. We all wish him well in his new post.

FAIR TRADE

The school has been raising awareness of fair-trade during March. Various events were organised during the month. Taster stalls were setup in the social/dining area at morning interval allowing pupils to sample Fairtrade products including bananas, exotic fruits and chocolate. A raffle was held with Fairtrade goodie bags for pupils and a hamper of Fairtrade produce for staff. Furthermore a Fairtrade producer visited the school and met with a number of S6 pupils and staff, where he outlined the benefits of growing and selling Fairtrade products.

S4XL FIELD TRIP TO ERSKINE MILITARY HOSPITAL

As part of their Prince's Trust XL programme a group of 4th Year pupils recently visited Erskine Military Hospital. The pupils are currently working on their Enterprise and Community activity section of the course and had decided to manufacture some wooden banks to sell with a view to raising money for the hospital. Production of the money banks has started with the assistance of the technical department in the school. It was, however, important for the pupils to visit the hospital to enable them to see the organisation they were raising the money for and to meet some of the residents and staff who would benefit from their efforts. The pupils were taken on a tour of the facilities and introduced to a number of the residents. During the course of the day the pupils had a number of fascinating conversations with veterans from a number of conflicts who were happy to share their experiences with an eager audience. The group will be selling their products within the school and will be making a return visit to Erskine to make a formal presentation of the money that they raise. In addition, the visit has facilitated a positive link between the school and the hospital with a number of future events being planned.

PSA PRIZE DRAW

The PSA February Prize Draw took place on 21st February. The winners were Mrs McNie and Miss Allardyce who both received £50.

The PSA March Draw took place on Friday 28th March. The winners were Mrs T Cannon and Mr Colin Wales who both received £50

SENIOR FOOTBALL

The Senior Boys Football team played away to Denny High recently and netted a 7-0 victory. Congratulations to all who took part, especially the goal scorers - Thomas McCallum, Frankie Cane, Garry Currie (2) and Jordan Traynor, Gavin Nicol .

STORYTELLER VISIT

Primary 7 pupils from our associated Primary Schools were enthralled at a storytelling event led by Ewan McVicar, a renowned storyteller who writes songs and stories. This event was held in the school for those pupils joining the school in August. The theme of the event was 'Into the Dragon's Cave' because coming in to high school could feel like entering a Dragon's Cave - full of myths and scary stories yet a place that also holds treasure and adventure! After entertaining the pupils with a song and a few stories with a local flavour, the pupils were encouraged to break into small groups to write their own story. Each group had a teacher from the secondary school and a present S1 pupil to help and scribe for them. All the stories written on the day will be collated into a book. Along with a copy of Ewan McVicar's latest book and CD, this collection will be given to each attending primary school. The event was organised by the English and Library departments with a lovely backdrop created in the Art Department. It was great fun, a great success and many thanks go out to all who attended.

SCHOOL CAPTAINS

As a result of the interviews held earlier this month the following pupils have been appointed as office-bearers for Session 2008-2009.

Head Boy : Fraser Reynolds

Head Girl : Amber Brown

HOUSE CAPTAINS

Bruce : Kevin Keane
Ellie Macfarlane

Stuart : Paul Barbour
Eilidh Gilfillan

Wallace : Fraser Anderson
Gillian Kingsley

SENIOR RUGBY

Bannockburn High played a fantastic game of rugby away to Denny High in the Cup on Wednesday 12th March, winning by a score of 33-7. Three tries were scored by Kyle Dalziel and two by Andrew Kimmitt. Robert Kimmit added the conversions, based the pack well, set up the back-line and was, in all areas of the game, the epitome of an excellent scrum-half, for which he won Man of the Match in a game full of excellent performances. David Heggie and Scott Headley also excelled in their new positions of full-back and stand-off respectively, both running with power and purpose.

SAINSBURY'S VOUCHERS

The PE department continues to collect Sainsbury's vouchers. Any vouchers will be gratefully received and should be handed into the PE Base or into the communications folders during registration.

TESCO COMPUTER VOUCHERS

The Computing Department will be collecting Tesco vouchers between now and the middle of May.