

BANNOCKBURN HIGH SCHOOL



Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2008

Dear Parent/Carer

I am pleased to issue the February newsletter to you. You will find it full of useful information about activities in the school this term.

There is news about the progress being made on the building and completion of our new extension. I am also able to inform you that the first phase of our refurbishment will commence during the summer. This will involve the replacement of all the windows in the school - a much need improvement and the installation of a new All-weather Floodlit Sports Facility that will provide the school and community with first class facilities for year round use.

Once we have moved into the extension I will provide you with details of the dates/times for you to come along and visit the new extension to see the excellent facilities being provided.

J D McAlpine
Headteacher

HEALTH PROMOTING SCHOOL

We have gained Level 2 accreditation as a Health Promoting School. We achieved this success following an intensive scrutiny visit on 14 December 2007 by a team of professionals including representatives from the Health Service.

This award is the highest level that can be achieved at the first attempt. The scrutiny team met with different groups of pupils as well as groups of parents. They also analysed our curricular provision and undertook an in-depth scrutiny of arrangements/procedures in place for the Care and Welfare of pupils.

EXTENSION

The work on our new extension continues to proceed at a brisk pace. It should be completed on schedule at the beginning of April. Once staff return after the two week holiday period in April preparations will be made to move the PE and Music Departments across into the extension to allow classes to be reallocated at the end of April/beginning of May.

The Car Parking arrangements for the school will also change quite significantly. I have detailed the changes below.

CAR PARKING ARRANGEMENTS FROM APRIL 2008 (see schematic drawing)

- 1 Existing Car Parking (1 & 2) CLOSED - NEW BOLLARDS IN SITU.
- 2 BUS TURNING AREA - NO CAR PARKING AT ANY TIME
BUS ACCESS ONLY AT ALL TIMES.
- 3 PICK UP FOR PARENTS COLLECTING YOUNG PEOPLE - (1)
Parents who arrive by car to pick up young people at the close
of school will be able to access the west section of the existing
CAR PARK from 3.15pm (Bollards Lowered).
- 4 ALL STAFF/DAY-TIME VISITORS will access the NEW
EASTERN CAR PARK (4) by using the widened access road
along the NORTH FACE (front) of the school. (5)
Disabled parking clearly marked. (6)
- 4 PARENTS' PARKING DURING PARENTS' EVENINGS/SCHOOL
EVENTS - access to the existing car park opened - Bollards
lowered. (1, 2)

These arrangements should greatly improve parking facilities for everyone. It is essential that NO PARKING in the BUS CIRCLE and ACCESS Road is fully observed at all times. (8)

RETIRAL

Mr Owen Cullen our Head Janitor retired on Friday 15 February 2008 having worked in the school for almost 27 years. We wish him a long and happy retirement and thank him for those many years of dedicated service to the school.

The new Head Janitor should be appointed later this month.

STAFFING NEWS

We have now secured the services of 3 new members of staff to fill temporary vacancies that have arisen due to staff illness or maternity leave of absence.

- 1 Miss K Greffin in the Modern Languages Department to cover for Mrs F Moffat's maternity leave.
- 2 Mr H Brown in History to cover for Mrs Smith's maternity leave.
- 3 Mr Paling in Mathematics to cover for Mrs Davidson

HIGH PROFILE VISIT

Two Sports Journalists Mr Jim Traynor and Mr Ian Scott from the Daily Record visited the school last week to speak to all S5/6 pupils about journalism. The visit had been organised by the Literacy Group to promote literacy in school and provide valuable careers advice.

SECOND YEAR ENTERPRISE ACTIVITY: ADVANCE NOTICE

The Second Year will be involved in an Enterprise Activity run by Mindvision on Tuesday 4 March. This activity will involve each S2 class for a double period.

M+ TOP PERFORMERS

Congratulations to all pupils who were awarded an M & D's voucher for the period October - December. The current period lasts from January - March. If things continue to go as well, it looks as if we are going to have a large fleet of coaches heading to M & D's in May. Well done to everyone. Keep up the high standard!

INTERHOUSE NEWS

Congratulations to the Cross Country Team who participated in the Stirling District event run by Active Stirling. Bannockburn High managed to pick up one medal which was won by Conor Donegan of Bruce House. Conor wins fifty points for his house. The other participants also receive 10 points each for their house. They are:

Fraser Mills	-	Stuart House
Alistair McKinlay	-	Wallace House
Ryan Russell	-	Stuart House
Lee Miller	-	Stuart house
Jack Walker	-	Wallace House
Stewart Parmley	-	Bruce House

The current total for the Interhouse events are:

Stuart House on 610 points

Wallace House on 490 points

and in the lead with 650 points is Bruce House.

S3 EXAMINATIONS

S3 pupils experience their first formal examination diet from 10th to 14th March 2008. Pupils attend school as normal during these dates.

S2 REPORTS

The S2 Reports have now been completed by staff and will be discussed with pupils in the coming weeks. This is ahead of the S2 Parents' Evening which takes place on 5th March and the forthcoming choices that S2 will make prior to entering S3.

LONDON TRIP MAY 2008

A reminder to parents and carers that pupils taking part in the trip, can make payments, at any time between now and the end of March to Miss Allardyce in the Modern Studies Department.

Further information regarding a Parents Night will be issued in due course.

SKI TRIP - MARCH 2009

Pupils intending to take part in the Ski Trip to Pila in March 2009 should have returned their deposits and consent forms by 15 February 2008.

VILLAREAL TRIP - EASTER 2009

Any pupil who collected forms for this trip must return them to Mr Timmons as soon as possible as the places on the trip are allocated on a first come first served basis.

GIVE US YOUR VOTE!

The PE department has been entered into a national competition run by Norwich Union for the work they have been doing to improve girls' participation within PE. To win a prize they need as many votes as possible. To give them your vote all you have to do is register at www.joinourteam.com and vote for 'Get going Girls'.

COCA COLA 7s

Bannockburn High School boys S1 football team have successfully made it through the first round of the Coca Cola soccer 7s tournament. The first round was held at Forthbank stadium and comprised several teams from the local area. The Bannockburn team won all 3 group games beating Falkirk A, Queen Victoria and Grangemouth B. They did this in some style scoring over 20 goals in the 3 games to progress to the semi-final where they came back from a goal down against Grangemouth A to secure a place in the next round. It was a great team effort with all 10 of the squad playing well. However Jamal Farid in attack and Jonathan Murphy in defence played particularly well.

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT VISIT

The S4 Modern Studies pupils travelled to Edinburgh recently to visit the Scottish Parliament. The pupils were met by the researcher of Richard Simpson MSP before being taken on a tour of the entire building visiting the MSP office block, where a number of pupils sat in the 'contemplation pods'. The pupils returned to the debating chamber in the afternoon to watch Question Time and then held their own Question and Answer session, with Bruce Crawford MSP and Claire Baker MSP. Finally the pupils met with the Education Officer who provided important information regarding the workings and principles of the Scottish Parliament. A fantastic experience for all!

OUTDOOR PE

January was a particularly wet month. For the time being we do not have an all weather area to work on, so our only choice is the grass pitches. This is not always ideal as the parks are very wet and muddy.

The PE staff ask that every pupil come prepared for his/her lesson. Indoor shoes are always handy as teachers can then teach inside. If this is not possible, pupils should come prepared to go outside. This would mean a total change of kit including a change of underwear, socks and a towel. A tracksuit/rain jacket is a better alternative to shorts and T shirt. Also football boots to stop sliding about on the pitch.

If it is deemed dangerous then classes may be taken to a classroom. PE Staff will make the decision. Please help staff by asking your son or daughter to come prepared.

DIARY

February/early April

S2 Pupil Support Interviews	18 - 22 February
S4 Work Experience - Block 2	18 - 22 February
S2 Assembly	18 February
Parent Council Meeting	20 February 7.30pm
S1 Assembly	27 February
S4 Assembly	29 February
Readathon 2008 for S1 - S2	3 - 7 March
S3 Assembly	5 March
S2 Parents' Evening	5 March 4.15 - 6.45pm
Book Sale	6 - 7 March
S3 Examinations	10 - 14 March
Interviews for Head Boy/Girl	14 March
Interviews for House Captains	17 - 19 March
Easter Assembly	20 March
Good Friday Holiday	21 March
Easter Monday Holiday	24 March
Readathon 2008 for S3	25 - 28 March
Charities Events	2 - 4 April
End of Term	4 April 3.35pm

