



# BALERNO HIGH SCHOOL

5 Bridge Road, Balerno, EH14 7AQ

Headteacher: Neil McCallum B.Ed (Hons), SQH

**Balerno Parent council**

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018 18.30 – 20.30**

## **Staffing Update**

### **New Staff**

Mrs Kirsty Duncan – Food and Health Technology Teacher – starting 17<sup>th</sup> April.

## **Edinburgh Leisure**

An email last week to indicate that all remaining school will be fully transferred to Edinburgh leisure by the summer term.

## **Events and News update**

**S5/6 Prelims** – The prelims went well and all exams went as scheduled.

**Cashless Catering** – 300 pupils have taken up the Biometric option. Another session will be available to those that missed the first uptake. The system went live in the Riverside today.

**Snow Days** – The snow days brought challenges for all and communication for parents and pupils was sent out as quickly as we could. We also sent out email and used social media to support pupils with work and revision at home; this was mainly focused on pupils in senior phase ahead of their exam diet.

## **Successes / News**

**Raising Teens with Confidence** – V Wright and S Ferguson will run another six-week course starting on Wednesday 18 April. An email went out to parents today to advertise it today.

**Tree of Knowledge** – Worked with all of S5/6 on their “Laugh in the face of exams” course. This was to help prepare pupils to deal with the upcoming exam diet in May.

**February Study weekend** – We had 25 pupils who have taken advantage of the study weekend at Ardentenny Outdoor Centre on the weekend of 23 -25 February. Ms Wright, Mr Ferguson and Ms Davie led this. Some very positive feedback from pupils

## **Commonwealth Games**

S5 pupil Lucas Thomson has been selected as a member of the Team Scotland Diving team. He will take part at the games on the Gold Coast in Australia next Month. Everyone from the school community wishes him every success.

## **Music**

S5 pupil Alex Braggins has won the Currie and Balerno Rotary Young Musician of the year award. Alex is a very talented young man and we are all very proud of his achievements.

## **School of Rugby**

We are delighted to working in partnership with the Currie RFC and the SRU to introduce an inclusive programme for S1 and S2 pupils. Fergus Scott Currie RFC development officer will lead this. It is a programme for developing young people's self-esteem, confidence and life skills through rugby. A mixture of S1/2 boys and girls will take part in the project and it will be launched on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

## **Mind Mapping**

Parent Craig Hall delivered a successful CPD session to 16 members of staff on mind mapping. This was how to use this technique to support their own work and to share with pupils. Craig has also been in to give two assemblies to the S5 and S6 in regard to using mind mapping to support their studies. A huge thank you to Craig for giving of his time.

## **S4 Prince's Trust Achieve group – Coffee Morning**

Our S4 group held a coffee morning in the green room on the 21<sup>st</sup> February and raised £50 for the school nominated charity 'Teenage Cancer Trust' A great effort by all involved.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **March**

15<sup>th</sup> – S2 Parents evening (coursing information evening)

21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> – Dance Show

27<sup>th</sup> – Spring Concert

29<sup>th</sup> – End of Term (15.30)

### **April**

17<sup>th</sup> – All Return

30<sup>th</sup> – Last day of formal classes for S4/5/6

### **May**

2<sup>nd</sup> – Start of SQA exam diet and study leave.

7<sup>th</sup> – Holiday

8<sup>th</sup> – In – service day