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Head Teacher: Neil McCallum

## **Headteacher Update 3.10.22**

### **Building works**

The contractors have now left site and the swimming pool carpark has been reinstated.

### **BBC Share your story with JJ Chalmers 7<sup>th</sup> September**

As part of a nationwide share your story initiative we were delighted to welcome JJ Chalmers into school to speak to our S1, S2 and S3 pupils. JJ Chalmers spoke very fondly of his time as a CDT teacher here at Balerno.

### **Academic Awards Ceremony 14<sup>th</sup> September**

We were thrilled to have an in school Academic Awards ceremony this year with our parents/carers and invited guests.

Chris Duncan, a former Dean Park Primary pupil, was our guest speaker on the night.

### **Let's talk about Scottish Education**

Following the publication of 'Putting Learners at the Centre: Towards a Future Vision for Scottish Education' the Scottish Government will be replacing SQA and reviewing Education Scotland.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/putting-learners-centre-towards-future-vision-scottish-education/pages/14/>

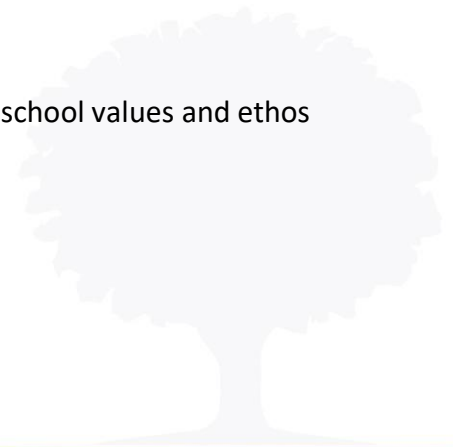
Parents and carers are invited to be part of the consultation progress which closes on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022. I will work with Alison on the best way to gather parental/carer views.

<https://consult.gov.scot/national-discussion-scottish-education/>

### **Parent/carer feedback from recent school events**

S1 and S2 Welcome Event 24<sup>th</sup> August 2022

- 12 responses (6 x S1 and 6 x S2)
- Rating of information shared prior to the event. 4.58/5.00
- 100% of parents/carers said they received a warm welcome
- 92% of parents/carers said they had a better understanding of the school values and ethos following the event
- Overall, the information shared was rated at 4.58/5.00
- The most useful information was:





- Support available for children/on-line and in school
- Curricular updates
- Meeting the staff/staff enthusiasm
- Raising Teen with Confidence is running again
- iPad update
- How parents can be involved e.g. RRSA
- How the event could be improved:
  - Information on homework
  - Add links for Maths and English in the handout
  - A tour of the school
  - Opportunity to interact with other parents/discussions groups
  - Concerns around literacy and reading, might have been better to combine SfL and Literacy presentation
  - More notice about the date
  - Follow up sessions with less sitting and listening

Our next steps going forward:

To share electronic version of the handout with hyperlinks

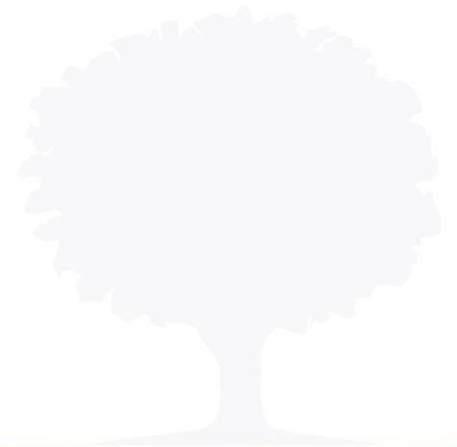
Share FAQ information at P7 event in June

Ensure consistency with content of literacy and numeracy presentations

Consider promoting Parent Council as a possible follow up to information parents/carers on the school curriculum

S4-S6 Senior Phase Curriculum evening 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022

- 27 returns (16 x S4, 10 x S5, 2 x S6)
- Attendance in rank order:
  - Maths/Apps of Maths
  - English, Media and Drama
  - History, Modern Studies, Geography and Classics
  - SCHOLAR/e-Sgoil
  - Business, Admin & IT, Economics
  - PE
  - Graphic Communication, Design & Manufacture
  - Computing
  - Pathways





- Music
- French, Spanish
- Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Human Biology
- Art & Design, Photography
- HFT
- 4.33/5.00 rating for subject sessions being useful to support their child's learning
- 4.48/5.00 rating for the event being at the right time in the academic calendar
- 4.63/5.00 rating for the event developing stronger home-school links
- Key strengths of the evening:
  - Really useful links to resources
  - Staff have clear open-door policies
  - Carousel approach to the evening/ability to ask questions
  - Face to face format/meeting staff
  - Staff were friendly, warm and very engaging
  - Being met at the door/maps
  - Information being made available to the website
- Comments on future improvements:
  - It was too hot
  - Can parents access SCHOLAR
  - Too many people in some sessions and we had to stand in the corridor
  - Could this be prior to course choice?
  - It would be helpful to keep staff to time as some started sessions early
  - No Drama information
  - Would be good if all subjects could email out prior to key assessments
  - Bigger rooms for Maths and English
  - Could there be sessions for individual subjects rather than faculty based

#### Our next steps going forward:

- Provide more slots for busier sessions like English and Maths
- In English/Maths, provide discreet sessions for N5 and Higher
- English and Maths to be in larger spaces
- Look at how we communicate dates/times of formal class assessments consistently across faculties



# Balerno High School

A community built on strong relationships  
and a commitment to success



respect inclusion excellence resilience honesty