



# Balerno High School

A community built on strong relationships  
and a commitment to success

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Head Teacher: Ros Ranger

## **Headteacher Update 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

### **Staffing**

Three new staff have joined us since our last meeting:

- Laura Anderson, teacher of Health & Food Technology
- Elaine Choudry, teacher of Biology
- Madeline MacGregor, PSA

### **Recent School Events**

#### *CEC Literacy Review*

Two Head Teachers came in to conduct a literacy review which involved observing lessons, and focus groups with parents, pupils and staff. Though we do not receive formal feedback the verbal feedback was very positive and the two CEC staff shared they had observed high quality learning and teaching.

#### *Silver Duke of Edinburgh Event.*

S5 young people who had undertaken their Silver Duke of Edinburgh expeditions presented their videos to parent, carers and family members on 5<sup>th</sup> October. There were a lot of goats!

#### *Show Racism the Red Card*

Thank you to all parents, carers and pupils who helped to raise £450 for Show Racism the Red Card on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

#### *The Lord Provost's Annual Academic Ceremony at St Giles' Cathedral*

Our Head Pupils, Ella and Sophie, along with myself, attended this event at the City Chambers and St Giles' Cathedral yesterday.

It was wonderful to be part of this service which recognised and celebrated educational achievement in Edinburgh. We all thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to attend.



## Upcoming Events

### *Learning Community Digital Conference*

Mrs Anderson, along with Miss Binnie from Dean Park Primary and Miss Smith from Ratho Primary, have organised a Digital Conference for all our Learning Community staff. Dave McKee, Quality Improvement Education Officer for Digital Learning will start our professional learning session on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. We will be hosting a follow up digital conference in February 2024, when staff across our primaries and Balerno High School will share their learning and teaching experiences to develop their understanding and expertise. Dave McKee has identified this as sector leading within City of Edinburgh Council.

### *Rights Week*

The RRSA group will be leading on our rights week activities in mid-November. This has become an annual event where UNCRC Articles are promoted and celebrated within the school.

### *Wider Achievement Evening*

Mrs O'Doherty has been leading on the planning for this event on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November. Pupils, parents, carers and staff have had the opportunity to nominate our young people under our school values, as well as representation at school, local, national and international level.

The evening will include a wider achievement village, showcasing a range of activities happening within the school.

We hope everyone who has been nominated will be able to attend.

### *S2 and S3 Consultation Evening*

Our first consultation evenings of the year take place in November, these include S3 on 22<sup>nd</sup> November and S2 on 30<sup>th</sup> November.

### *Flu vaccinations*

All young people who returned the flu vaccination paperwork will receive their vaccine on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

### *Senior Phase Assessment Weeks*

The three weeks of assessments starts on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November and concludes by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December. The assessment timetable will be issued, with detailed information, by Mrs Anderson by 3<sup>rd</sup> November.



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## ***Other information***

### *International excursions*

We currently have two excursions sitting with the Overseas team and hope to hear from them shortly. Many thanks for your ongoing patience.

### *Opportunities Fund*

The paperwork to enable parents/carers to apply for up to £150 per year to support with club fees and excursions is now available on the school padlet. Our annual sponsored walk with top up this fund on an annual basis.