



# Balerno High School

A community built on strong relationships  
and a commitment to success

5 Bridge Road,  
Balerno, EH14 7AQ  
T: 0131 477 7788

E: [info@balernochs.edin.sch.uk](mailto:info@balernochs.edin.sch.uk)  
[www.balernochs.edin.sch.uk](http://www.balernochs.edin.sch.uk)

Head Teacher: Ros Ranger

## Headteacher update – 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024

### Marion Milne

I would like to start by expressing how very sad we were to hear about Marion's untimely passing. Marion was a dedicated member of the Balerno High School Parent Council for a long number of years and her unwavering commitment to serving the local community was evident in today's memorial service. Our heartfelt thoughts are with her family and friends at this difficult time.

### Staffing

Cher Rutherford will be our new Pupil Support Officer in the Hub and starts on 29<sup>th</sup> January.

Stephanie Bates will also be starting with us on 29<sup>th</sup> January as a PSA.

We are currently advertising for a Health and Food Technology teacher and recruiting a PSA for The Bridge.

**Faculty changes:** As from the start of term Modern Languages has joined the English and Media faculty and Jill Nitsche is their CL.

As part of this restructuring Drama has now moved to be part of Creative Technologies with Heather Arnold CL.

Cara Prot has made the decision to return to be full time CL Maths and Business after the February break and are currently recruiting an acting DHT Curriculum on a Tuesday as from 20<sup>th</sup> February. We thank Cara for her support over the last 18<sup>th</sup> months and all she has taken driven forward during this time.

### Recent School Events

#### *Winter Festival.*

Thank you to the senior pupils who organised this event the last week of term before the holidays. It was very successful and enjoyed by those who attended.

Continued overleaf/



## *Christmas Concert.*

The annual Christmas concert on 19<sup>th</sup> December showcased the wonderful talents of our musicians and we thank our staff and Instrumental Music teachers for all they do to support our young people for such events.

## *January INSET day.*

As part of the INSET day teaching staff were reviewing the support on offer to young people in their classes. The Head Teacher updated staff on progress with the 2023/24 School Improvement Plan. Staff also had collegiate time to work on faculty priorities.

In addition, our PE staff worked with staff from Ratho and Dean Park Primary School to support them in relation to the Curriculum for Excellence HWB benchmarks. The feedback from the session was extremely positive.

## **Upcoming Events**

### *Holocaust Memorial Day.*

Luke Foster and Rebecca Montgomery in S6 will contribute towards Friday's assembly, this will include sharing their experience at Auschwitz.

### *Mental Health Week - w/b 5<sup>th</sup> February.*

The Health and Wellbeing School Improvement Group will lead on activities to raise awareness around mental health and how to access support.

### *The Balerno Learning Community Digital Conference follow up session – 7<sup>th</sup> February.*

Staff from Balerno High School, Ratho Primary School, Dean Park Primary School and Kirknewton Primary School will meet to share ideas and teacher practice in relation to digital learning.

## **Other information**

### *International excursions*

We are delighted that our first international excursion to New York and Washington, June 2025, has been shared with pupils and parents/carers.

This excursion is for young people taking Modern Studies and/or Business session 24-25.



# Balerno High School

A community built on strong relationships  
and a commitment to success



respect inclusion excellence resilience honesty



GOLD – RIGHTS RESPECTING