



Beaconhurst E-news

THE SCHOOL'S LATEST NEWS ON LINE

From the Headmaster

Welcome to our first e-news bulletin of the new session, which aims to update parents and pupils on some of the key things that have taken place over the summer holidays and at the start of term. The Governors and I are currently working on distilling information from the marketing exercise that took place last term and hope to feed this back to parents in the second half of this term. A strategy group met during the summer holidays to progress some of the initiatives announced by the Chairman at Prizegiving and its findings will be considered at the full meeting of the Board in early October. With this in mind, I am delighted to announce that Mrs Sheona Mathewson has been appointed to the post of Business Development Manager and I am hoping to announce the appointment of a Director of Sport in the next couple of weeks.

It is fair to say that introduction of the new uniform has been like the curate's egg – good and bad in parts! Pupils wearing the new uniform look very smart, however, the quality of certain items, most notably the new blazer, together with being let down with supply dates, have made for a frustrating experience for all. As detailed in recent communication from LogoXpress, any blazer purchased will be replaced with a new one once we are satisfied that the specification and quality is of the required standard. I am most grateful to parents for their forbearance and hope that we can resolve all the issues associated with the new uniform as soon as possible.

I look forward to meeting parents at the many events arranged throughout the term and can be contacted via the school office on any school-related matters. If your child has been involved in any activities that you think would be of interest to the school community, we are keen to know so that we can include it in the next e-news bulletin.

IWK

SCHOOL AUTHORITY 2011-2012

Head Boy - **Sandy Scott**

Head Girl - **Holly Wilkinson**

Deputies - **Joe Gil, Flora Hogg**

Prefects - **Thomas Barker, Alex Finlay, Sam Kerr, Oliver Lowrie, Michael Taylor**

HOUSE PREFECTS

Brown House – Michael Taylor (Captain), Miller Clelland, Flora Hogg, Louise Paul, Monica Pryde, Amy Sutherland

Cameron House – Jenson More (Captain), Jena Crossan, Sam Kerr, Kirsty Shaw, Holly Wilkinson

Morton House – Casey Crooks (Captain), Vivien Anderson, Alex Finlay, Ben Laing, Paula Wright

Plant House – Thomas Barker (Captain), Fiona Begley, Joe Gil



Kirsty Shaw (S6), Thomas Barker (S6) and Vivien Anderson (S5)



A selection of pupils from across the school wearing the new school uniform.
(Photo courtesy of Whyler Photos)



Roselle Robertson (S5) and Louise Paul (S5)

Top Grades

This summer's SQA examinations saw our pupils achieve some excellent results. In particular, three of our pupils achieved the highest grades possible - **Thomas Barker** achieved five As at Higher and **Vivien Anderson** and **Kirsty Shaw** both achieved a mixture of grade 1s in Standard Grade and As in their Intermediate examinations. Congratulations to them on their excellent achievements and we wish them and all our pupils best of luck in the SQA examinations next summer.

New Uniform

The start of the new school term brought a sea of blue with a cross section of pupils wearing the new blazers and uniform across the Junior and Senior Schools. We are aware that there have been supply problems for some pinafores, the junior school skirts and senior ties and we are working with LogoXpress to resolve these issues with their suppliers. We are also looking in to the Junior School tie lengths. We will continue to update parents as soon as we can on this. A full list of the new and or existing uniform is available both from the school office and also from the Swap Shop if you would like further clarity however please remember that whilst the school is delighted to see so many of the pupils in the new uniform, we are also embracing the transition period and it is still very much understood that the older uniform is also acceptable. School photographs will still go ahead later this term .

Top Marks

Congratulations to Intermediate Two candidates **Roselle Robertson** and **Louise Paul** who were awarded a commendable 100% in their SQA Art and Design studies last session. To gain 100% in this subject is a rare and remarkable achievement.

Angus and **Bruce Baillie-Hamilton** achieved extremely high grades in their foreign language exams. Angus achieved an A grade in Russian (97.5%), an A* grade in Chinese (100% overall) and an A grade on the full Arabic GCSE course. Bruce also got an A grade in Russian (82.5%), an A* grade on Chinese (98.5% overall) and an A* grade in the spoken and listening short GCSE course in Arabic. Their younger sister **Lucy Baillie-Hamilton** is also making great progress in these languages and hopes to be as successful as her siblings.



Sheona Mathewson, John Newsom and
Veronica Blue

Mr John Newsom has a BA (Hons) Sports Studies graduate from the University of Stirling, who has joined our PE and Games Department as a Teaching Assistant. John has a keen interest in all sports and is a member of Central Athletics club and competes for Scotland in endurance running events.

John is hoping to continue helping with our running club and we are delighted to have him onboard and look forward to his valuable contribution to the children's Physical Education learning.

We are pleased to welcome Mrs Sheona Mathewson into the role of Business Development Manager at Beaconsbury School. This is an exciting new post which will enhance the existing marketing, communications and brand awareness strategy within the school whilst seeking to further engage with parents, pupils, staff and relevant stakeholders to raise and clarify our profile within the marketplace. Sheona brings to the role a wealth of experience in business development roles across private, public and not for profit sectors and is keen to hear from parents, staff and pupils alike as to your views on what could be improved, whilst leading the development of the marketing and business development strategy for the school. She would welcome your views and can be contacted on s.mathewson@beaconsbury.stirling.sch.

Miss Veronica Blue has joined the Junior School this term for her teaching placement. She is part of the *Educators Abroad* program which aims to educate students in different cultural settings so that a global perspective is integrated into their practice.

"I am excited to be working in the Junior School at Beaconsbury! I am an American university student at North Central College in Naperville, Illinois. I have studied teaching for the past four years and am excited to put my knowledge to use in J5 for the Autumn term, as I am on placement. I look forward to working with, teaching, and learning from the children throughout this term".

Campus Improvements

Following the completion of the Cameron Hall and the unprecedented harsh winter, we have over the summer, had to undertake a significant amount of maintenance around the campus including repairing the sandstone steps at the entrance to the main building, tarmacking the main drive, car park steps and the quadrant in the upper playground.

Recognising the importance of maintaining the facilities and providing a stimulating learning environment we have also, working in partnership with Mitie, commenced a painting programme which will ensure that the external and heavily used internal areas are painted and that this is maintained for the next six years with the cost spread evenly over the same period. This programme has started over the summer and the initial paint will hopefully (weather permitting) be completed over the October half term break.

Sodexo has very kindly offered to invest a sum of £30k in the catering and dining facilities including revising the flow of the serving areas to improve the service and allow more pupils to wait within the comfort of the building. The dining furniture will also be replaced, allowing more flexible use of the facilities. This project will be implemented during the October half term break.

Finally, we are commencing the planning process for the installation of an all-weather play zone in the barked area in front of the Cameron hall. This will be part funded by the school and part by the PTA and donations received. It is intended that this facility will be fully fenced, include a rubber pour surface marked out for various sports, football nets and basketball nets. There will be much activity over the year to raise funds for this facility and it is hoped that we will be in a position to commence construction at the end of the Summer term.

Kirstine Hyde, Bursar

After School Club and Prep

The **After School Club** is open to those children from Junior Start 1 – Junior 2 and the main purpose of this club is to provide care for pupils in a friendly, stable, secure and relaxed environment. Pupils are offered a variety of activities, for example: Arts and Crafts, Games, Baking, Construction, Jigsaws and Outdoor Play (weather permitting). There is also the opportunity to relax in a quiet area. The After School Club is situated in the Junior Start building (in the Red Room) and runs Monday to Friday from **3.15pm until 5.30pm** except Wednesday's which runs from **1.45pm until 5.30pm** to accommodate the Junior 1 and 2 pupils who finish class at 12.30pm. Parents are required to register their child on the day by telephoning the school office. The After School Club provides a healthy snack i.e. fruit, biscuit, breadsticks and milk and water. A copy of charges is available from the school office.

Prep for Junior School is available from **4.00pm until 5.30pm** for pupils in Junior 3 to Junior 6. The 25 minute interval between end of school at 3.35pm and start of Prep at 4.00pm is where children should eat their snack if they have brought one, and weather permitting, allows some outdoor play. There is a rota in Junior School advising which classroom Prep is in each day. Children are required to tell their teacher at registration if they are staying to Prep and until what time. Parents are encouraged to have a note for teacher to this effect or to email the school office to advise.

Senior School Prep is now a compulsory after school club for those in Transition to S5 staying at school after 4:00pm and not participating in an after school activity. It begins at **4.00pm and runs until 5.30pm** and is supervised by a Senior School member of staff. This additional provision provides the pupils an environment in which they can consolidate and enrich their knowledge and understanding from the day's teaching and learning. Transition pupils should be collected from the Prep classroom by parents.

A rota of the teachers who are on Senior Prep and the corresponding classroom will be placed on the office door each evening after school. There is no charge for Junior or Senior Prep.

Key Dates for this Half of Term

Wed 21 September	Higher Geography Field 3-day Trip departs 09:00
Thu 22 September	Duke of Edinburgh Introductory Talk – Dining Hall 17:15 – 18:00
Tue 27 September	S5/6 Higher Education Information Convention – University of Stirling 13:45 – 14:45
Fri 30 September	MacMillan Cancer Relief – World's Biggest Coffee Morning – Dining Hall 08:30 – 10:00
Sat 1 October	Former Pupils Reunion, Dining Hall 12:30
Mon 3 October	S3/4 Introductory Evening, Dining Hall 18:00 S4 Introduction to Futurewise – Parents Evening (ISCO) 19:00
Fri 7 October	Open House 09:00 – 12:30
Fri 14 October	Junior Start Drop in Session 08:30 – 09:30 Half Term begins 15:35

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