



Shetland Islands Council

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BRAE HIGH SCHOOL
"Wirk tagidder wi ean anidder"

End of Term Newsletter – Easter 2012

Dear Parent / Carer

It has been a very busy term here at Brae High School – senior pupils and staff have been working through prelims and completing coursework for the SQA exams in May. We have been lucky this term to escape any disruption due to winter weather. As you receive this five members of staff and 39 pupils are skiing in the Italian Alps at La Thuile on the French border.

Once we return after the holidays it is only six school days before the S4 year group start their exam study leave. Therefore I would ask you to take careful note of the important dates listed below.

Easter Holidays – Reminder

The school will close for the Easter Holidays on Friday 30th March at 3.20.
School transport will leave at the normal time. School lunches will be available.
School re-opens for pupils on Tuesday 17th April.

Important Dates for your Diaries – Next Term

Monday 16th April – In-Service training day
Wednesday 25th April – S4 Study Leave begins
Monday 7th May – S5/6 Study Leave begins
Wednesday 9th May – S1 Parents Evening
Thursday 10th May – Paris Trip Leaves
Tuesday 15th May – Friday 18th May – Health and Wellbeing Week (Activities)
Saturday 19th May – Paris Trip Returns
Friday 25th / Monday 28th – Occasional Holidays
Tuesday 29th May – New timetable starts for S2 – S4
Tuesday 5th June – Occasional Holiday – Queen’s Diamond Jubilee
Wednesday 6th June – S5/6 Return from Study Leave (change due to Tuesday Holiday)
Thursday 7th June – S3 Parents Evening
Thursday 28th June – School Closes for Summer Holidays at 3.20

(School re-opens for pupils on Wednesday 15th August)

SQA Exam Timetable 2012: Exam Dates and Exam Times

The 2012 NQ Examination Timetable (<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/41619.html>) is available to view online. The PDF and Microsoft Excel files list the examinations both by date and course order. The Personal Timetable Builder service enables candidates to create and view their own personal exam timetable.

Winter Ball

February 23rd saw the rescheduled Winter Ball take place. The event was a huge success.

It was great to see the pupils having a great time – good to see the traditional Shetland Dances very much to the fore in terms of popularity with the dance floor full for every Boston and Eightsome. The pupils who attended the event deserve high praise for their immaculate behaviour and responsible attitudes which helped to make the event such a success. Thanks go to Mr Spence and the pupil organising committee and staff who helped out on the night.

Cooking for the Queen

S3 Home Economics pupils have been involved in a competition to develop a menu to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee. The menu has a picnic / garden party theme with many “ buffet style” dishes, all created using produce from local suppliers. Both classes worked with Mrs Dobson, lecturers and students from Shetland College to develop the menu and practice producing the recipes. This then led to a tasting session for pupils and staff – I can personally vouch for the tastiness of most of the dishes produced. The school has been asked to serve their menu at Holyrood Palace on 9th May for the Duchess of Cornwall and guests. Students are currently undergoing a selection process for this trip as places are limited.

Forensic Detectives – GLOW Project

Our S1A and 1C pupils worked in partnership on a science project with primary and secondary pupils from other schools in Scotland.

A crime was committed; someone broke into an art gallery and stole a precious picture. Three suspects were identified; our goal was to use data (interview) and clues (finger print, blood spatter, shoe print and hair sample) left at a crime scene to identify the culprit. During the process, we used online facilities to share ideas, discoveries and information with other pupils across Scotland. At the end we were able to collectively identify the culprit.

Pupils carried out a number of experiments, working through a variety of evidence sources to solve the case. Ideas were shared with other schools through GLOW, the Scottish Education Web Portal. This was a very successful project with good feedback from both staff and pupils.

Parent Council -Textbook Recycling

The Parent Council would like to give you the opportunity to recycle text books you no longer need, with students starting courses getting the chance to buy the books. Books will be priced depending on condition.

A small amount of the purchase money will be donated to the school fund, with the rest going to you. If you have books which would be suitable for the scheme, please hand them in to the office by 1st June, the exchange will run during the following week.

Please make sure they have clear, secure labels, as shown below.

Name

**Contact details
(e.g. class or phone no.)**

Book Title

Suggested price

Parent Council News

Hello again. The Parent Council met once this term and wrote to Councillors with our concerns over a threat to reduce Primary staffing levels. This now seems to have been resolved.

We are planning to hold a book recycle in June for any additional textbooks bought by students for any course. Students finishing courses will be able to hand in books after their exams and we will sell them on to students just starting courses. This will enable pupils to get books at a reduced cost and most of the money raised will be given to the seller, with a small amount going to the School Fund.

Our next meeting is scheduled for May 1st when we should have information on how the Blueprint is to be “refreshed”. If you have any items for the agenda please contact me or any Parent Council member. Hope you all have a good Spring Break and a Happy Easter.

Karen Heherington - Chairperson

Congratulations to –

S3 Home Economics Pupils who along with Mrs Dobson have been involved in a project with Shetland College students and lecturers called Cooking for the Queen. Using local produce they have created a menu and dishes to celebrate the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee.

To the Debating Society for their performance at the recent Althing Debating Society– there were excellent speeches from Drew Manson, Rachael Smith, Ben Raikes and Shaun Alderman. The 28 pupils who attended behaved in an exemplary fashion, contributed intelligently and were a real credit to the school. The motion, proposed by Drew and Rachael, that ‘The Coalition Government is bad for Britain’, was carried by 28-10.

Pupils in the AH English class (Patrick Mainland, Martha Morton, Peter Ratter) who were all highly commended in the T.S. Elliot Prize Shadowing Scheme. It is quite unusual for one school to get three pupils in this category.

Peter Ratter who has won the first overall prize in the 15 - 18 category of the National Galleries of Scotland Creative Writing competition. His poem entitled “Black & White”, which will be published in the Scotsman, was inspired by selecting a painting or piece of art from the National Scottish Galleries Collection. He will be attending the prize giving in Edinburgh on 19th April.

S1 for an excellent debate on Friday 10th February with well crafted speeches and a lively question and answer session. The motion – that a uniform would be good for Brae High school – was carried by 17 votes to 16.

All pupils and staff involved in making this year’s winter ball such a success.

S2 pupils who have taken part in the Skills for Work / Vocational Pathways taster days this term. The feedback from course tutors has been very positive.

Felix Gifford, Logan Jamieson and Iain Leach for their success in the recent North Districts Swimming Championships.

All those involved in the dodge ball fund raising for CLAN charity and Brae High School Fund. The final total raised was £737.50

I hope you all have a fine relaxing break with your families and we will see everyone back in school on the 17th April, ready for the term ahead.

Yours sincerely

Colin Kirkness
Head Teacher