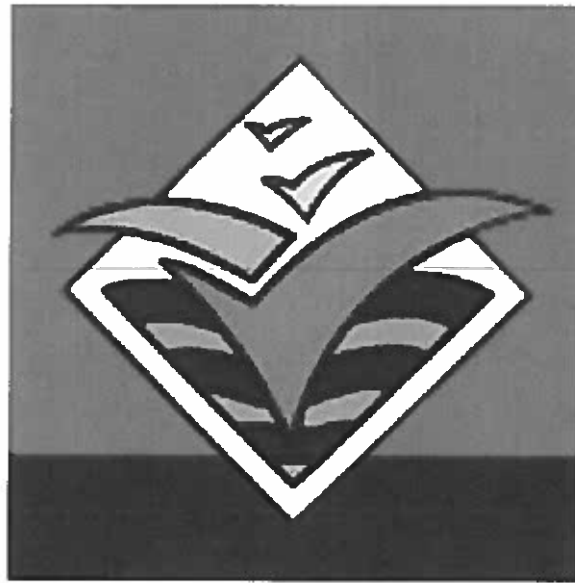


# **Brae High School**



**Term 1 Newsletter  
October 2017**

## **Head Teacher Message**

Welcome to our October newsletter.

In August, alongside our returning pupils we also welcomed our new S1 and we have been very pleased with how they have settled into the life of the school. Our senior classes are also now settled into their classes and are working with their teachers towards gaining a range of qualifications and awards.

We were very pleased with our SQA results this year and we are proud that Brae High School continues to be a place where all pupils are supported in gaining the qualifications and experiences that they need in order to secure a positive destination for themselves when the time comes for them to move on.

It has been a busy term for all of us and our staff have been working hard to support pupils, co-ordinating activities and developing a range of experiences.

We hope that you will find our newsletter to be an enjoyable read!

Thank you for your continuing support and I hope that you all have a pleasant October break.

**Kirsty Mackenzie**  
**Head Teacher**

# Term Dates

2017 / 2018	First day of term	Last day of term
Term 1	Wednesday 16th August 2017	Friday 6th October 2017
Term 2	Wednesday 25th October 2017	Friday 22nd December 2017
Term 3	Tuesday 9th January 2018	Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> March 2018
Term 4	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2018

## Local Holiday:

- Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018
- Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018
- Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018
- Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018
- Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2018

## Important Dates for your Diaries – Next Term



25 <sup>th</sup> October 2017	Pupils Return to School
31 <sup>st</sup> October – 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	University Trip
9 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	S2 Talk from The Samaritans
22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2017	S5/6 Parents Night
30 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	S4 Parents Night
22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2017	Last Day of Term

## Staffing News

There have been a number of changes to staffing this term.

- Mr Fraser Cluness has taken up the post as Head Janitor. A janitor vacancy is currently going through the recruitment and selection process.
- This term welcomed new music instructors - Kirsten Hendry and Debbie Scott are our new fiddle instructors, Annalie Irvine is violin and lower strings
- Mrs Kari Hamilton has joined us this term as our student Business Education teacher, she will be returning for her second placement in term 2.
- Mrs Dorcas Johnson has returned from maternity leave in our maths department.

## SCHOLAR Parent Information 2017-18

Is your son or daughter studying N5, H, or AH?  
Are some of their subjects "beyond you"?  
Are you wondering how to help them?  
We might be able to help – for free!



Students and Parents go to SCHOLAR via

Parents  
can access SCHOLAR using:  
**Username:** schparents2018  
**Password:** week73city

Students have their own personal username & password. Log-in details are available from:

- Subject teachers
- School SCHOLAR coordinator

<https://courses.scholar.hw.ac.uk/vle/scholar/>

**What is SCHOLAR?** SCHOLAR provides high quality interactive, online material at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher level for over thirty SQA courses.

Students can:

- Study independently, anytime, anywhere.
- Access notes, summaries, animations and simulations
- Achieve instant feedback from a variety of valuable quizzes, activities, end of topic tests for every topic in a unit and end of unit tests for every unit
- Take part in live homework sessions with experienced teachers in English, Maths, Modern Languages, Computing Science and Physics.
- View recordings of previous homework sessions
- Monitor their progress with the reporting system.
- Use SCHOLAR to help catch up if on missed class work (e.g. through illness)

Independent evaluation of SCHOLAR has shown that pupils who use SCHOLAR most often do better in their SQA exams.

### What Subjects are covered?

The courses currently covered by SCHOLAR are:

- **National 5** – English, ESOL, French, Gaelic, German, Spanish, Mandarin and Mathematics.
- **Higher:** Accounting, Art and Design (Textile option only) Biology, Business Management, Chemistry, Computing Science, Economics, English, ESOL, French, Gaelic, German, Human Biology, Mathematics, Physics, Psychology and Spanish.
- **Advanced Higher:** Accounting, Biology, Business Management, Chemistry, Computing Science, Economics, English, French, German, Mathematics, Physics, and Spanish.

### SCHOLAR on the go

Students can access SCHOLAR anywhere there is an internet connection. To make full use of SCHOLAR on phones or tablets, download the free Puffin Academy app from the Android Play or Apple App store. Enter the app then search for Scholar. Puffin Academy helps the device present any Flash based pages.



## Young Ambassadors for Brae High School

Astri Balfour and Niamh Batty have had a very busy sporting term, recently travelling away to take part in the Young Ambassador Conference in Aberdeen's AECC with 12 other pupils from Shetland's Secondary schools. As well as meeting lots of top class athletes and actively taking part in various workshops, the pair got time to look at the year ahead and make some plans for Brae High School. Niamh and Astri had a great day and came back with lots of fantastic ideas which they, along with the other Young Ambassadors, will be hoping to roll out over the course of this school year...watch this space!!

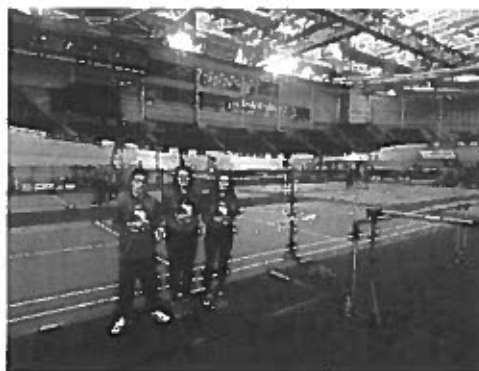


"A Young Ambassador is a person who promotes a healthy, active lifestyle to all ages. In our workshop, Gemma Fay, the International Scottish Football Goalie told us about her story and her athletes journey. We had to come up with a plan that we were going to pursue to get young people involved in sports. We are hoping to start new clubs and organise events for all ages. If you have any questions or ideas, come and speak to us around the school." **Niamh Batty S4**

## World Badminton Championships 2017

S4 pupils, Astri Balfour, Niamh Batty and Owen Robertson, who are all working through a Level 5 Award in Sports Leadership, recently travelled to Inverness and onwards to Glasgow to represent Shetland as volunteers at the World Badminton Championships, held at the Emirates Arena in Glasgow. The trio were part of a Highlands and Islands volunteer group tasked with delivering badminton sessions to 500 primary pupils from the Glasgow area. With the early departure time from Inverness to factor in before their delivery, it was a tough day for the pupils, who proved themselves to be fantastic deliverers and ambassadors for not only Brae High School, but for Shetland and the North of Scotland too.

*"We were staying in the youth hostel in Inverness and we had to travel to Glasgow Emirates Arena. In the Arena we had to deliver two hit sessions to over 250 children. Our sessions were "clear the court" and "crazy madness". We also got the opportunity to see the Queens Baton Relay for the Gold Coast in 2018. At the end of the day we got to go watch some badminton games. Overall it was a good trip and we made some good friends."* **Niamh Batty S4**



## Level 5 Award in Sports Leadership

The Vocational Pathway in Sports Leadership has recently begun for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row. Sophie Jamieson from Brae High School is attending the sessions along with 18 other pupils from across Shetland, working towards her Level 5 Award. Sophie will be hoping to follow Peter Johnson, Connor Taylor, Niamh Batty, Astri Balfour and Owen Robertson who have completed, or are in the process of completing the award, from Brae, in the previous 2 years.

## Success in the Shetland Young Writer Competition.

James Johnson, S4, won the Shetland Dialect Prize for the 13-18 age group for his story 'A Fine Night fur a Yarn'. The judges liked his story because "hit truly does feel laek a yarn atween twa characters."

Ashley Hay won the Young Writer prize for the 10-12 age group with her story 'Da Trowie Knowe'. The judges said her story keeps "the reader spell-bound and keen to hear what happens next."

Aimee Ruddick won the Junior dialect Prize. The judges said her piece was "powerful", "haunting" and "sophisticated."

Well done to all three writers!

A further 15 Brae High School pupils were runners-up or had their work commended or praised by the judges. Look out for their great work displayed in the Red Area.

By Spencer Johnson, Rhona Clark and Andrew Leach.



## BHS Film Critics Review Screenplay

Pupils in S1-3 English classes enjoyed trips to Mareel as part of the Screenplay film festival run by Shetland Arts. Screenplay encourages viewers to watch films from a broader range of cultures and languages than mainstream cinema usually offers.

S1-2 saw 'Secrets of War,' a Dutch film set in the Netherlands under Nazi occupation. It examined the influence Nazi occupation had on a friendship group of three twelve year old children.

Ola Balfour described it as "a journey with two best friends Tuur and Lambert who have to go through the struggles of dealing with World War Two, including sheltering from bombs and keeping secrets which in the wrong hands could potentially kill someone".

Nathan Grains wrote "The director of this film Denis Bots made a spectacular job creating this film, making the viewer sit right on the edge of their seat."

S2 were very much in agreement that the action packed film had an intriguing plot with many twists making the ending difficult to predict. Jason Bryant described the film as "unique" as it really made him relate to the characters and almost "feel like I was one of the characters".

S3 watched 'The Eagle Huntress' and were quite opinionated about the director's decision to bill the film as a documentary. It was about a young Kazakh girl who follows in her father's footsteps to train an eagle to hunt for her. Phillip Barker claimed "They should leave documentary making to the professionals like David Attenborough". Although he did feel that the heavy editing of lengthy eagle training did save the viewer from some boring footage.

Oliver Wood argued that the film "constantly shoves down your throat the fact that Aislopan is good at literally everything. Throughout the movie it reminds you that she is smart, strong, healthy, brave, popular, independent and compassionate." Surely a realistic person would have some flaws?

Rhona Clark pointed out the greatest flaw of the documentary was the fact that "Regardless of her gender, Aislopan should not have won the Golden Eagle Festival competition as she was only 13 year old and had been training... for a short length of time compared to the experienced eagle hunters." Many felt her victory was not easy to accept when the competition was clearly very tough.

Both films certainly stirred up reactions from pupils enabling them to review the films with enthusiasm and passion.

The logo for 'SCREENPLAY' is displayed in a bold, sans-serif font. The word 'SCREEN' is in a solid white font, while 'PLAY' is in a white outline font. The text is set against a dark, rectangular background.

## Brae High School on Facebook

Earlier this term, a team of staff got together and set up a **Brae High School – Secondary Department** Facebook page. The purpose of this page is to enable us to share information and celebrate achievements for everyone connected to our school. Search for us and like the page for notifications.

So far, we have shared:

- Books in Bags Policy
- Netball/Hockey Tournament
- Peat Project
- Jeans for Genes Fundraiser
- MacMillan Coffee Morning
- Berlin Exchange Trip



Our page has received positive feedback in its short life so far and we hope this continues into the future. A team of teachers are currently reviewing and planning a new school webpage. Thank you to all involved.

## Debating Society

Brae High School Debating Society has organised a number of events for next term. On the 3rd November 16 pupils will attend the Shetland Arts' Wordplay festival to hear journalist and broadcaster Polly Toynbee discuss the political situation in Britain. Ms Toynbee is a regular columnist with the Guardian newspaper and frequently appears on current affairs television programmes. Meanwhile, on the 9th November local MP Alistair Carmichael will visit BHS for a question and answer session with pupils. This is part of the UK Parliament Week initiative which aims to highlight the work and history of Parliament to schools. Finally, on the 15th December Tavish Scott MSP, SIC leader Malcolm Bell and two local members of the Scottish Youth Parliament, will be in Brae for a whole-school question and answer session with pupils on a variety of local, national and international issues.

Of course, if there is another general election anytime soon, BHS will organise the usual hustings event which has become a regular part of the local political scene during elections.



## **The Geobus visit to Brae 6th September 2017**

On the 6th September we were joined by the S3 and 4 Geography students from Mid Yell and Baltasound schools for the visit of the Geobus. It is a van full of equipment for different activities with Jen, Sean and Lauren from the school of Earth and Environmental Studies department at the University of St Andrews.

In the morning we looked at plate tectonics and the results of plate movement. One activity was the stress test where a brick is dragged along sandpaper, to show rocks react when they are stressed. Great fun was had when we used old film canisters to show how gas builds up within a volcano. They would suddenly explode hitting the walls and ceiling making everyone jump and head for cover.

The logo for Geobus features the word "Geobus" in a stylized, rounded font. The letter 'o' is replaced by a globe showing the Americas.

After break we had a session using the flume tanks which are large trays filled with wet sand and water is pumped through. We were split into 2 groups and created a river landscape with the sand using our hands. We watched the water erode and deposit the material. We were given small plastic houses and had to put them where we thought they would be safe from flooding. The water flowed and we watched houses, villages and even a city float away in the flood.

In the afternoon we had a shorter session on Global Warming where we used plasticene to make land in a plastic tray, put some water in and then put chunks of ice onto the 'land' to see how ice melting would affect sea level.

It was a fun day. We did things we had never done before where the activities backed up what we had studied in class.

**The S4 Geography Group**

## **BERLIN – REFLECTIONS OF A VERY DIFFERENT SCHOOL, CITY AND WAY OF LIFE**

Nine pupils and two staff have returned today (Wed 4th Oct) from complete immersion in the history, culture and language of Germany's capital city Berlin. The group were there as guests of pupils, their parents and the staff of the 850 strong Heinrich-Schleimann Gymnasium.

Berlin is a city of many healing divisions and open scars such as the East side gallery – a wall used to divide the city which now has expressive art stretching nearly a mile along the length of the River Spree. Eilidh Gifford from S5, who was hosted by Marika Apostoloff, thought the art allowed the story of the wall to be expressed through the unique imagery and fusion of colours.

Katie Wink, who is also a fifth year and was hosted by Mira Mertens and her family, commented that the art illustrated perfectly the freedom of expression people felt in the new united city. Matthew Johnson (S5 hosted by Mono Jacobi) thought it very inventive that the wall was now used as a positive area for art to be expressed.

New freedom to express your emotions and political views and the lack of boundaries where once the Stasi ruled was also noted again by Katie. The DDR museum reinforced the views held by the group that the eastern sector was starved of cultural opportunities and material desires, although Herr Speckmann the organising German teacher, was quick to point out that happiness was relative!

Language is a large part of their school and many of the pupils take up to four languages. We spent two days of our trip accompanying our hosts to their classes to get a feel of how German schools are managed. Their school gave a brand new perspective into how other educational systems work, especially due to its contrast from Brae High School. Along with the size difference between the schools, the teachers in Germany offered a uniquely laid-back schooling style in comparison to Brae. In comparison to the institutional and militaristic image of the building with its colourless corridors, the pupils provided a vast lively energy.

By the time the farewell evening came around it was obvious many friendships and permanent memories had been formed. Pupils took many tries to part from their new families and the separation was very emotional.

The group is very grateful for the funding received from the ZET (Zetland Educational Trust) and Northlink sponsorship and excitement for the return visit of the pupils from the Gymnasium next June is already mounting and hopefully it will be as successful as this trip was.

**Written by The Berlin Exchange Group**

The Berlin exchange group pictured outside Berlin's Natural History Museum, home to 'Tristan' one of the best preserved T-Rex skeletons in the world.



Arianda Biczuk and Enya Spence reflect amongst the 'stelae' or concrete plinths at the Memorial to the murdered Jews of Europe



## Free School Meals – did you know?

- The Clothing Grant allowance has been increased to £70 – Early Years, Primary and Secondary.
- The deadline for backdating applications is 31 October 2017, however we recommend applications are submitted by 31 July 2017 to ensure continuation of Free School Meals after the summer. Any applications received after 31 October 2017 will only receive Free School Meals from the date we receive the application.
- All pupils in Primary 1 to 3 will receive Free School Meals. However, these pupils should still be included on application forms if they wish to apply for Free School Milk and/or a Clothing Grant.
- Application forms are available on our website at [www.shetland.gov.uk/education/ClothingGrants.asp](http://www.shetland.gov.uk/education/ClothingGrants.asp). Paper application forms are also available on request from Children's Services, Hayfield House on 01595 743845. Completed application forms can be e-mailed to [childrensservices-finance@shetland.gov.uk](mailto:childrensservices-finance@shetland.gov.uk) or posted to: Children's Services, Hayfield House, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0QD.
- Families may be eligible to receive a Clothing Grant & Free School Meals/Milk if you meet one of the following criteria:

<b>Benefit(s) Received</b>	<b>Acceptable Supporting Evidence</b>	<b>Award</b>
Income Support	All pages of your current Tax Credit Award Notice (TCAN) or your most recent Income Support letter	Free School Meals/Milk & Clothing Grant
Job Seekers Allowance (Income related element only)	All pages of your current Tax Credit Award Notice (TCAN) or your most recent Job Seekers Allowance letter	Free School Meals/Milk & Clothing Grant
Employment & Support Allowance (Income related element only)	All pages of your current Tax Credit Award Notice (TCAN) or your most recent Employment & Support Allowance letter	Free School Meals/Milk & Clothing Grant
Universal Credit – less than £610 per month	All pages of your current Tax Credit Award Notice (TCAN) or your most recent Universal Credit letter	Free School Meals/Milk & Clothing Grant
Support under Park IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999	Letter of confirmation from Home Office	Free School Meals/Milk & Clothing Grant
Child Tax Credit only with an annual income of less than £16,105 (not working Tax Credit)	All pages of your current Tax Credit Award Notice (TCAN).	Free School Meals/Milk & Clothing Grant
Both Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit, with an annual income of less than £6,420	All pages of your current Tax Credit Award Notice (TCAN).	Free School Meals/Milk & Clothing Grant
Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit with an income greater than £6,420 but less than £16,105.	All pages of your current Tax Credit Award Notice (TCAN).	Clothing Grant