

Boclair News

MARCH 2017



Dear Parent / Guardian

Welcome to our March edition of Boclair News. Yet again it has been a busy few weeks for our young people and staff and it is set to get busier over the coming weeks as we approach the exam period for senior pupils.

At the start of January our Senior pupils undertook Preliminary Examinations across all subjects. While there were some disappointments for individuals the overall performance of the year groups involved was extremely positive. A lot of hard work is now required from all young people in S4, S5 and S6 in order to ensure they build on their current performance levels. Final presentation levels for all pupils in the senior phase have been issued to parents and I would encourage you to contact your child's guidance teacher if there are issues with the levels. I would also remind you that revision classes will run for most subjects on the first four mornings of the Spring Holiday.

It has also been a busy period for S3 pupils who have completed S3 assessments across their nine subjects in the lead up to course planning. This is the first year young people have been able to make changes at the end of S3 and all pupils have engaged well with the process. At the same time they have been contributing well to the wider life of the school through extracurricular events. Their energy levels, enthusiasm and commitment are to be commended at this busy time.

S2 pupils have also been focussing recently on important decisions on their courses for next year. We are delighted with the maturity and responsibility they have demonstrated during the various events organised to support them in their decision making. This is an ongoing process and parents can still discuss decisions about courses with the appropriate guidance teachers or Year Head. They have also continued to make excellent contributions to the wider community through their work with local food banks.

Our S1 cohort continues to contribute well to the life of Boclair Academy. Over the last few weeks they have been taking part in our inter-disciplinary Solar Aid project and have also taken part in the first lessons of the S1 John Muir Project. We are very proud of the way in which this year group are developing and look forward to hearing of their continuing successes.

Our P7 transition programme continues to gather pace with a number of visits from Boclair staff already having taken place. Our Head Boys and Girls have recently visited all Primary and there will be further visits from senior members of staff. Plans are also in place to welcome P7 pupils to Boclair for a number of different activities over the next few months. We are all looking forward to welcoming them to their new school.

The articles included in this month's Boclair News provide a description of some of the various successes and events which have been part of Boclair Academy over the last few weeks. I hope you find the following information helpful and as ever we welcome your comments and new information which we can share in future newsletters.

I wish you a relaxing and enjoyable Spring Holiday when it arrives.

Best wishes

Douglas Brown
Head Teacher

Wisdom

Justice

Compassion

Integrity

Dunbartonshire Badminton Championships

On Saturday 28th January six pupils from Boclair Academy competed in the Dunbartonshire schools badminton competition at Douglas Academy. Glen Hornby (S2), Gaelen Marshall (S3), Robert Fleming (S3), Ewan McBride (S6), Euan Jackson (S6) and Zoe MacDonald (S5) competed in singles, doubles and mixed doubles events. This was a successful day for our Boclair pupils with Euan Jackson becoming the U19s boys singles champion for the second year running, qualifying for the Scottish Schools Finals. Euan Jackson and his partner Zoe MacDonald also finished in 2nd place in the U19s Mixed Doubles event. A great day was had by all. Well done to all participants!



Art Exhibition

An exhibition of last year's S4 and S5 and the current S6 Art and Design work will be part of the "Class Acts" East Dunbartonshire Council's Lillie Art Gallery exhibition.

It runs from Saturday 1st April to Thursday 20th April. The gallery is open from Tuesday to Saturday. Feel free to pop in and have a look!

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Netball Trip

On Tuesday 21st February Boclair's netball club members went to see The Sirens play at the Emirates Arena. Sixty pupils regularly attend the netball club on Wednesdays after school in the PE department. This was a fantastic opportunity for pupils to see world class athletes at Glasgow's Emirates Arena. There were 40 tickets up for grabs on a first come, first served basis.



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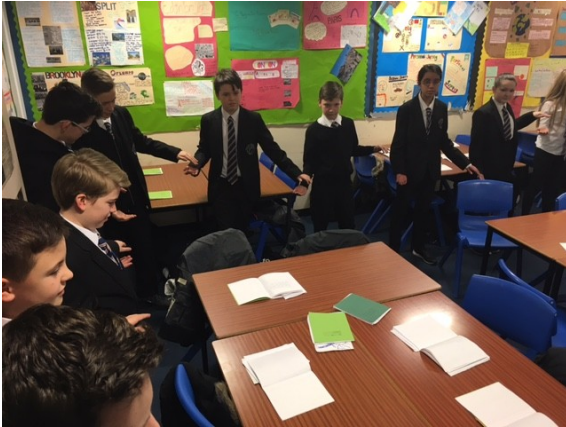
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S1 John Muir Award

The S1 John Muir Award has now been launched through the Geography Department. Pupils have been learning all about John Muir's life and what they will be doing over the next few months to achieve their awards. Lots of outdoor learning coming up, let's hope the weather gets a little warmer soon! Our first trip was to Mugdock Country Park on Thursday 23rd March and Friday 24th March! Look out for our report in the next newsletter!



Scottish Schools Pipe Band Championship

Four of our pipers have had extra tuition recently in preparation for playing at the East Dunbartonshire Council's Christmas Concert in the Royal Concert Hall.

Cameron MacLeod S5, Angus Camplejohn S4 and Andrew Moore S2 are preparing to enter the Scottish Schools Pipe Band Championships (SSPBC) as a quartet at the national event in Edinburgh in March with their instructor, Andrew Wallace of the Piping School, Glasgow. We wish the boys the very best of luck being the first entry from Boclair Academy to enter this prestigious national event.

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Scottish Schools Swimming Competition

Boclair Academy had three pupils who reached the finals of the Scottish Schools Swimming Championships. These took place on Friday 27th January at the Dollan Aqua Centre in East Kilbride. Blair Johnstone in S2 competed in the 13-14yrs boys 100m Backstroke achieving a new personal best time. Graham Baird in S2 took two bronze medals in the 13-14yrs boys 100m freestyle and the 13-14yrs boys 200m freestyle. Zoe MacDonald in S5 finished in 2nd place in the girls 17-19yrs 100m Breaststroke, finishing just 0.03 seconds behind the champion.

An excellent day for all 3 swimmers, well done!

Christmas Concert—"Sounds of the Season"

Our annual Christmas Concert on the 15th December was once again a sell out show, full of outstanding performances from our pupils in a range of ensembles.

The Windband performed a great movie medley of "Christmas at the Movies", the Orchestra an ambitious performance of Beethoven's "5th Symphony", and the orchestra and choir performed excerpts from Karl Jenkins, "The Armed Man".

Proceeds from ticket sales on the night started a new fundraising initiative to purchase new stage lighting for the Assembly Hall. All of the Extra Curricular groups are starting again this month and will be preparing for the Cultural Evening in June.

MONDAY	Windband – Ms Black M1 Gospel Choir
TUESDAY	Vocal Workshop
WEDNESDAY	String Ensemble – Mrs Leitch M2
THURSDAY	Jazz Band
FRIDAY	S3 Performance Group – Mrs Dunford

Cultural Evening June 2016 dvds have been professionally produced and a limited number are on sale now, priced £10.00.

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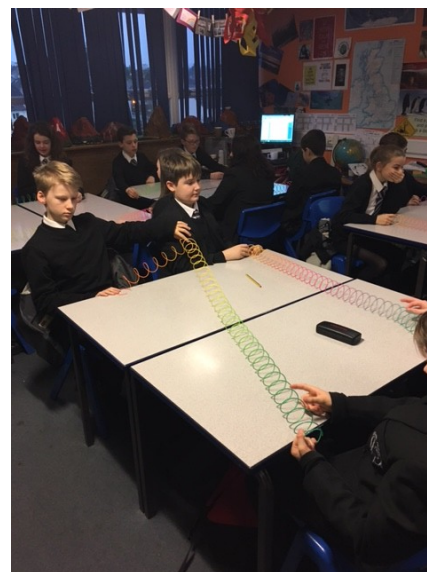
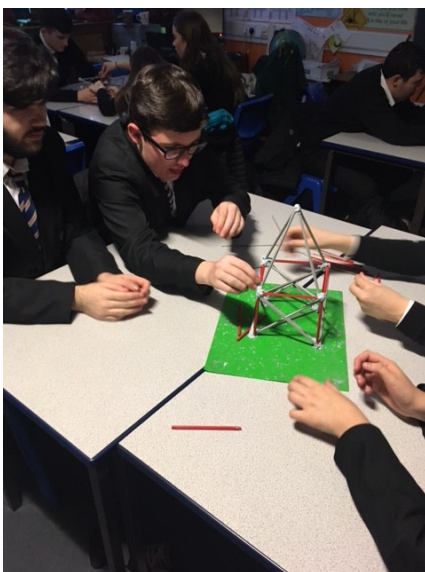
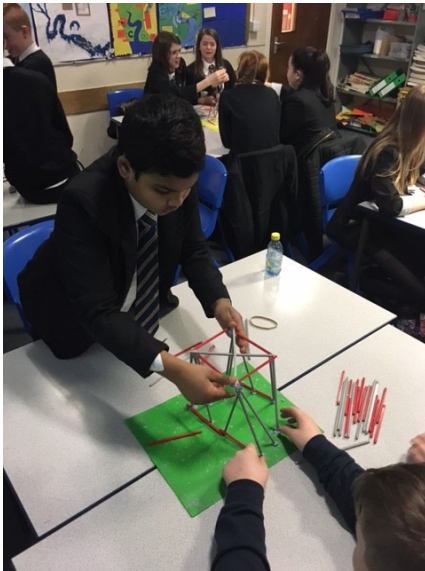
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Geobus

The Geobus was back in the Geography department this time running a fantastic workshop on earthquakes, seismic waves and how we can build houses to withstand the surface waves! As you can see pupils were fully engaged and had a great time.



Some of the constructions were excellent! Engineers in the making!

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Holocaust Memorial Performance

Bishopbriggs Academy 26th January 2017

East Dunbartonshire Council hosted the national Holocaust memorial events for schools in January in conjunction with Interfaith Scotland.

Our pupils were invited to perform at the main event in Bishopbriggs Academy on Thursday 26th January.



A Creative Arts group involving singers, dancers and poets performed a piece to the music of "*Benedictus*" by Karl Jenkins.

Nic Dow, S6 played solo cello and dancers choreographed their dance to the words of a Holocaust poem.

Their performance was absolutely stunning and received great reviews which described their talents as very powerful and extremely moving.

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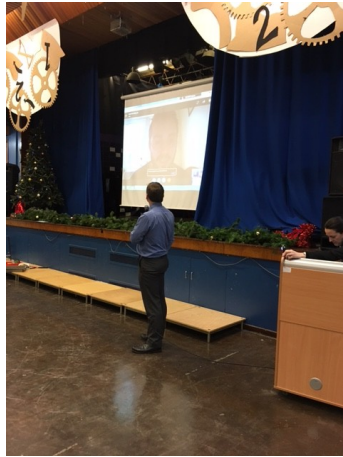
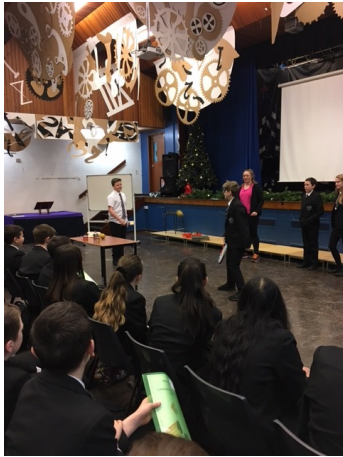
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Solar Aid

The fantastic Solar Aid interdisciplinary learning project has been launched with S1. We had a fantastic interactive assembly with a solar aid worker skyping us to tell us all about solar aid. Pupils will now be learning all about the work Solar Aid do and why it is so important but also different to many other charities. On the 29th of March we held a fundraising day. Follow our report in the next newsletter!



SolarAid is an international charity that combats poverty and climate change. They provide access to solar lights in some of the most remote regions of Malawi, Uganda and Zambia. To find out more visit www.solar-aid.org

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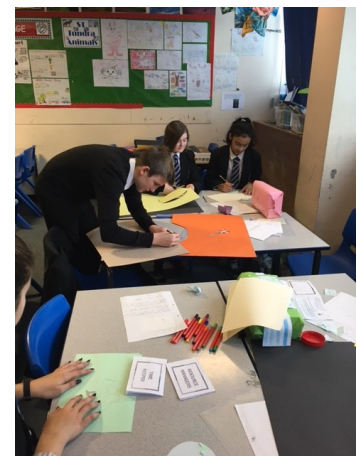
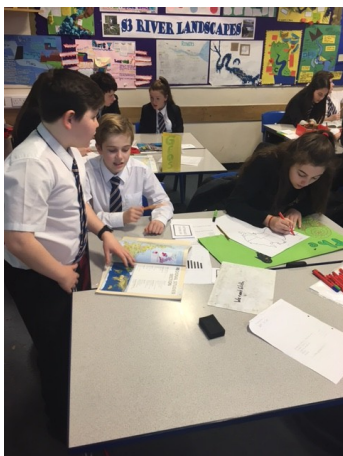
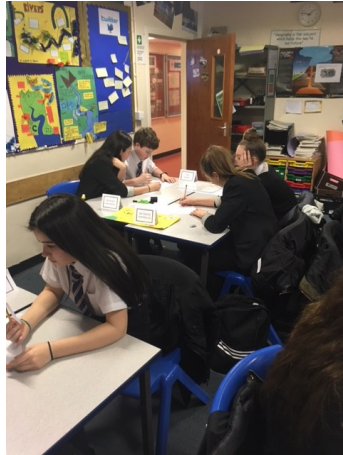
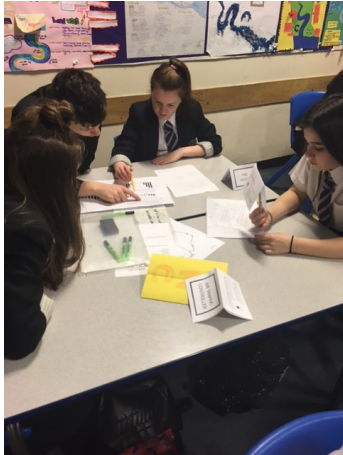
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Co op Learning

The Geography department have been participating in several group tasks this term, teaching pupils about social skills, effective teams and importantly, time management. A vital part of our group work is peer and self assessment to improve each period.



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Bearsden Choral Project

On the 31st October, ten pupils from Boclair Academy Choir took part in an ambitious but very successful choral education project led by Andrew Nunn of Bearsden Choir. This project involved schools from across the wider Glasgow area working in partnership with the Bearsden Choir to perform the *Haydn Nelson Mass* at Glasgow City Halls, backed by an orchestra and soloists from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.



The experience of singing in a mass choir in such a prestigious venue was a rare opportunity for our vocalists who thoroughly enjoyed the experience, as did the staff singers!

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BBC School Report

In November, all of S2 completed a BBC School Report unit and learned how to record and edit sound files using ProTools in Music Technology.



They learned key facts about journalism and gathering information for scriptwriting. All pupils wrote their own report which they used in a radio podcast during which they learned basic recording skills and audio editing skills using sound clips for BBC School Report.



There is now a smaller focussed group working as part of an extra curricular activity to prepare for the National News Day In March. They have a page on our School Report blog, BBC@Boclair, and have just uploaded stories and podcasts covering the Holocaust event and a Geography project on the Great Barrier Reef. They are now writing stories about Mental Health and Wellbeing.

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“Mind That Song”

Third year Music Performance students are visiting a local dementia group once a month to perform music for the Dementia Friends Charity. “*Mind That Song*” is organised on a monthly basis and provides an afternoon of entertainment and participation to those suffering from Dementia. The Music students went out to Bearsden Cross Church on Friday 13th January and performed a variety of Scottish songs, which was followed by a sing-along session run by the charity, of which all present enjoyed. It was a very successful event with many more to come.



At the start, there was an opportunity to talk to the group while they had their tea and cakes and for our students to get to know the people that they will be performing to over the course of the next few months. The Music students sang and performed a variety of Burns Songs, to tie in with Burns Night, like “*Charlie is my Darling*” and an instrumental arrangement of “*Ye Banks and Braes*”. The fiddlers played a set of reels and to end the performance everyone joined in with “*Caledonia*” finishing with “*Auld Lang Syne*”. The students had a great performance and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

On Friday 10th February there was a Love Song theme to tie in with Valentine’s Day. The girls sang a lovely version of “*Can’t Help Falling In Love*” and Leonard Cohen’s “*Hallelujah*” accompanied by the ukulele. Once again it was a lovely afternoon and the Music students did a very professional performance. You can see their confidence growing each time. We have already started preparing for next month where the theme is Movies.

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Westerton Care Home

Senior musicians took time out of their busy schedule to entertain the residents at Westerton Care Home in November. The residents were treated to solos from singers, guitars, cello and trumpet, as well as an old-fashioned sing-a-long at the end when everyone – including the care home staff – got involved. A fantastic performance given by all - well done!



Absence Reporting Line

Can we please remind parents/carers that absences can be reported between 7.00 a.m. and 8.30 a.m. in the morning by calling the Absence Line on 0141 955 2361. After 8.30 a.m., please report any absences by phoning 0141 955 2358.

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East Dunbartonshire Rugby Competition

On Wednesday the 1st March the Boclair Academy S1/2 rugby team played in the 3rd round of the East Dunbartonshire Rugby competition. The Boclair team were delighted to be wearing their new strips sponsored by Arnold Clark.

Tournament points are awarded according to the number of players in each school's team so Boclair stretched their lead by bringing 17 boys. This was almost double the number of players brought by the other school teams.



The final round of the competition will be held at Boclair Academy at the end of March where the tournament trophy will be presented. Well done boys!

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S1 Eco Assembly

The amazing Eco group here at Boclair presented to all S1 on the topical issue of litter.

Pupils created a quiz to see what pupils knew about litter. For example, did you know it takes over 450 years for a plastic bag to biodegrade? All pupils involved spent a huge amount of time preparing and it really paid off .



It was an excellent assembly. You were all fabulous! The Geography department is very proud of you. Well done.

S6 Magic Show

S6 Enterprise & Employability students organised a magic show for S1 pupils on 17th March.



Our resident S6 magician Scott Baird gave a wonderful performance which delighted and amazed pupils and staff alike. Look out for Scott in the future!

Mackenzie Stephenson (1F) and Tazim Pookayil (1E) also demonstrated their skills with some clever card tricks of their own. Our S1 magicians are eager to take over from Scott when he leaves Boclair Academy.



The audience were very enthusiastic and everyone was completely baffled as to how the tricks were done. Over £70 was raised from the Show and this will be donated to the Emma Cameron Foundation

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Let's Get Cooking Scotland



Mr. Brown forwarded information from 'Let's Get Cooking Scotland' about an exciting opportunity for the Home Economics department. We were invited to apply to take part in a Scottish Government run initiative, via the 'Children's Food Trust' who had been awarded a grant from The Big Lottery Scotland Young Start Fund. We duly applied and are delighted to announce that we were successful along with 19 other schools across Glasgow City, Edinburgh City, West Dunbartonshire, East Dunbartonshire and North Lanarkshire to help get children and young people cooking.

The programme that we are involved with aims to teach young people about the importance of nutrition and cooking healthily from scratch. It will

- Provide them with the confidence and skills to cook for themselves and others.
- Support them in gaining leadership, organisation and presentation skills.
- Empower them to organise cooking activities and become cooking mentors.

So what's in it for our school?

- Free Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH) accredited cookery training for a young person (aged 14-16) and a school staff member.
- Funding for two selected trainees to receive a REHIS Elementary Food Hygiene qualification.
- £400 funding – funds will be provided to help buy ingredients and essential equipment for our cookery club.
- Free resources including lesson plans, activity ideas and access to over 400 online recipes.
- Participating young people will collect Young Scot Rewards points for taking part. They can exchange points for one-off exclusive rewards and exciting experiences.

Mrs Kane from the Technical department and Sally Henry from S4 were selected as the chosen trainees to represent Boclair Academy at a two day event run by the Children's Food Trust at the Gaelic School in Glasgow. Both Mrs Kane and Sally returned from the training sessions having fully enjoyed their time, ready and fired up to go. They will both lead an after school cookery club, within Boclair, using the skills and expertise that they learned from the Children's Trust event.



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Let's Get Cooking Scotland (cont)



Their first cookery class is planned to take place during the month of May. Information about how you can register to take part will be published in the school bulletin, website and in posters up and around the school. So keep an eye out for information and register your interest in taking part ASAP.

For those of you with an interest in cooking and food why not visit www.letsgetcookingathome.org.uk. Whether you're just getting started in the kitchen or a keen cook, Let's Get Cooking at Home is your free one-stop-shop for recipes, ideas and step-by-step guides to making healthy family meals from scratch.

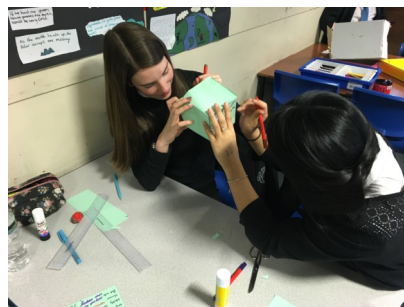
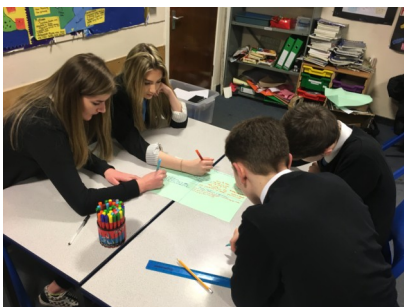
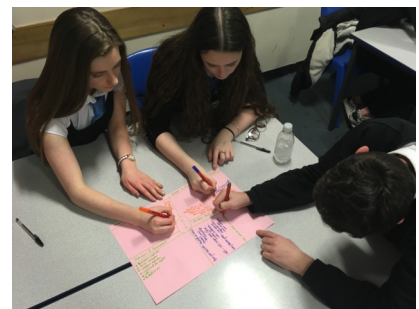
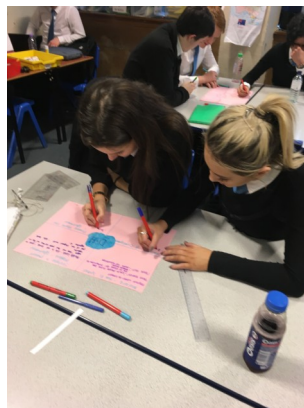


Higher Geographers

Higher Geographers are getting ready to sit their final exam. Pupils were revising the Development and Health topic.

Pupils were told to come up with a creative way of presenting a model answer. All pupils were excellent and had some amazing ideas.

Some of the excellent ideas were a dice game with named examples and strategies to control Malaria on a mosquito. Pupils created bed nets and eucalyptus trees as named examples to obtain marks in the Higher Geography exam and even a comic strip.



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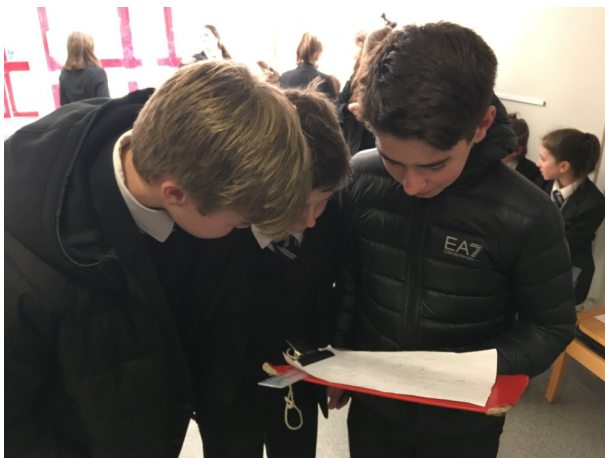
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S1 Learning in the Outdoors

In Geography S1 pupils have been learning about maps and scale and how to create maps to scale.

Pupils were working outside to measure the school buildings to return to class and create their own maps of the school. All pupils worked very well and enjoyed being outside of the classroom.



Over the next few months S1 Geographers will be outside on a number of occasions as part of their John Muir Award.

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S2 Co op learning

S2 Geographers are doing a brand new topic on the Great Barrier Reef. Pupils are working in co operative groups to learn essential social skills such as deadlines, communicating and working as a team.



Pupils had to create an informative poster on Australia which included a map of Australia and then pupils created a mobile about the Great Barrier Reef.



We are looking forward to the projects that pupils will be working over the next few weeks.



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Youth & Philanthropy Initiative School Final 2017

On 13th March 2017 three S5 teams represented their chosen local charity in the YPI school final hoping to win a £3000 grant.

The teams presented to a panel of judges, telling the story of their charity, the work they carry out and how £3000 could make a difference.

The charities represented were –

Funny Lumps – Clara Evans, Erin Smart, Greg Morris

Touched by Suicide – Helen Cunningham, Fraser Tennent, Cara Silverstein and Ailsa McLaughlin

Yogability – Heather Hamilton, Georgia Leitch, Ellie Paterson, Sophie McKinley and Cara Birse



After difficult deliberation the judging panel awarded the £3000 grant to Touched By Suicide.

The team have now been invited to the National YPI event in June to showcase their fantastic presentation.

Congratulations to all our S5 pupils who took part in YPI this year but especially to our final 3 teams for their dedication, commitment and hard work on behalf of their charity.



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East Dunbartonshire Gymnastic Competition

A number of pupils attended the East Dunbartonshire Gymnastics competition on 23rd February 2017. The competition took place at St Ninians High school in Kirkintilloch. All pupils took part in a floor and vault competition.



Girls who won medals in the pictures below,

- Janie Evans individual vault level 2 2nd
 - Lucy Kilgour individual vault level 2 1st
 - Ellie Stirling, Scott Roberts, Janie Evans and Lucy Kilgour, 1st in level 2 team vault
 - Abbi Brown and Lara Gilmour joint 1st individual vault level 1
- Well done to all the competitors!!!



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Step Into Springtime

S3 cake elective have been very busy and creative. Here are some examples of their great work. Here's hoping that their cakes help put us all in the holiday mood. From beautiful butterflies to fantastic Easter bunnies I am sure you will agree that they are a breath of spring air. Welcome Easter!

Beautiful butterflies



Easter Bunnies



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EDC Netball League

Well done to the S1/2 netball team who finished in joint 5th place at the end of season netball tournament at the Leisuredrome. Thank you to all of the girls who have represented the team this season and for your continued commitment and enthusiasm.



A huge congratulations to the S3/4 netball team who have won the EDC League trophy for the first time in the 10 year league history. The girls only lost one game all season and we are very proud of this amazing achievement. The team also finished in 1st place at the end of season netball tournament, winning every game played.



Miss Rankine would also like to thank all parents and carers for their continued support throughout all Scottish Cup and League games this year. It is greatly appreciated.

Senior Netball Team

The Senior netball team travelled all the way to Nairn Academy to play in round 2 of the Scottish Cup Gold Knock out rounds.

The netball was played to an excellent standard and Boclair Academy won with an impressive score of 51-29. This winning result makes this Senior Netball team the most successful in the history of Boclair Academy.

Round 3 will be a home game against Peebles High School and we wish the girls the best of luck. Congratulations girls!



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School Uniform

Thank you for all your support with school uniform this session. The vast majority of our young people are setting high standards and they have been looking fantastic over the last few weeks. As you know school uniform must be worn every day by all pupils.

School Uniform consists of :

School blazer

White blouse or shirt

Black jumper or cardigan

School tie

Black trousers or skirt



Please note that hooded tops, coloured tops, leggings and jeans are not part of the school uniform. Over the next few weeks we will be working with the young people and families on this important area of school life and we would ask for your continued support in ensuring young people dress appropriately for school every day.

Twitter @BoclairAcademy



Boclair Academy is on twitter. With almost 1000 followers this is a terrific way to share good practice within the classroom, wider school life and to promote the fantastic work of our pupils and staff. Follow @BoclairAcademy for daily news and updates.

Please note that pupil photos will be used occasionally to showcase good work. If you would not like your child's photo on twitter for educational purposes then please contact your child's Guidance Teacher.

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Boclair Academy
Spring Revision Programme 2017
Monday 3rd- Thursday 6th April 2017
10am until 12 noon

Subject	Level	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Administration	Higher			X	
Art	N5/Higher/A Higher	X	X	X	X
Biology	N5			X	X
Human Biology	Higher	X	X		
Business Management	N5				
Business Management	Higher		X		
Chemistry	N5	X			
Chemistry	Higher		X		
English	N5	X	X		X
English	Higher	X	X		
French	N5	X		X	
French	Higher		X		X
Geography	N5/Higher		X		
HFT	N5				X
History	N5			X	
History	Higher				X
Maths	N5/Higher/A Higher	X	X		X
Modern Studies	N5/Higher/A Higher	X	X	X	X
P.E	Higher			X	
Physics	N5			X	

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Finally - some dates for your diary....

Friday	31 March	School closes for Easter (2.30 p.m.)
Tuesday	18 April	School opens at 8.50 a.m.
Monday	24 April	Parent Council Meeting (7.15 p.m.)
Monday	1st May	May Day Holiday
Tuesday	2nd May	SQA Exams commence
Week commencing	8th May	S3 Reports issued
Monday– Wednesday	22nd - 24th May	S1-S3 Athletics Championships
Monday	22nd May	Parent Council Meeting (7.15 p.m.)
Thursday	25th May	In-service (Staff only)
Friday—Monday	26th - 29th May	Mid-term holiday
Week commencing	5th June	S1 Reports issued
Monday-Tuesday	12th - 13th June	Primary Induction Days
Monday	12th June	Academy Uniforms (6.30 p.m.- 8.00 p.m.) Fit/order blazers for S1 –S6 pupils
Tuesday	13th June	P7 Parents' Information Evening (7.00 p.m.)
Wednesday	14th June	Academy Uniforms (6.30 p.m.- 8.00 p.m.) Fit/order blazers for S1 –S6 pupils
Thursday	22nd June	Cultural Evening
Friday	23rd June	Junior Awards Ceremony (p.m.)
Wednesday	28th June	School closes (1.00p.m.)