



### Another Fine SQA Harvest

#### *Headteacher's Column*



Secondary staff came back to school this session with a spring in their steps, given the excellent SQA results that our pupils produced. Every year there is a tantalising wait over the summer to see if all the work put in by staff and pupils has paid off. Being in one of the highest attaining local authorities in Scotland means that we have stiff local competition, but this year we exceeded Perth and Kinross averages by a whopping 8-10% in almost all of the key indicators. For example, 51% percent of S4 achieved five National 5's or more compared to a very respectable authority average of 41%. In S5, 29% of pupils achieved 5 Highers in one sitting compared to the authority average of 20%.

Behind these tremendous statistics – the best I can find on record for the school – lie countless individual stories of commitment, perseverance and resilience on the part of pupils, staff and you, the parents. And this is not a secondary only story: we know that firm foundations for future learning are set in primary, and though primary staff may not feel so directly responsible for exam success, they too are due a good deal of the glory.

In terms of attainment, our target for this session is simply to maintain these high standards. Elsewhere, however, we continue to look at ways of enhancing the work of the school. As with previous years, I am taking the opportunity of this first newsletter to provide parents and carers with an update of progress against our targets in 17/18 and on our plans for 18/19. I hope this will give you a useful overview of some of our developments in the coming year. As with last session, we continue to see parental engagement as a key priority and I would encourage you to come along to the **first meeting of the Parent Council which takes place in the school on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 6.30pm.**

**John Devine  
Headteacher**

### Staffing Update

The primary would like to welcome the following to the school:

Katy Cochrane, Teacher of GME; Janine Lewis, Primary Probationer; Lucy Hunter, Primary Teacher; Janet Munro, Primary Supply Teacher.

Farewell to Fiona Fernie in the Nursery who is leaving us.

In the secondary, we are bidding farewell to Mr Lamont (PE). We have secured supply to cover this position — welcome to Mr Grant. Welcome also to Mr Kedra who is currently working as supply in the English department.

John Devine	Headteacher / Campus Leader
Jenda Westwood	Business Manager
Karen Gatehouse	DHT Pupils & Staff Support
Tim Woodcock	DHT School Improvement – Secondary
Vicky Marshall	Depute Headteacher – Nursery & Primary
Donna Jenkins	Acting PT Nursery & Early Years
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online at:	<a href="http://www.breadalbane.pkc.sch.uk/BA/">http://www.breadalbane.pkc.sch.uk/BA/</a>



@BreadalbaneAcad

### Please Remember:

It is important that we are able to keep in contact with you.

**If any of your contact details change, including your email address, please let the office or your child's register or guidance teacher know.**

You can email, phone or send a letter with your child. Thank you.



# Headteacher's Update on School Developments

## Setting out our Vision - Belonging, Believing... Aspiring, Achieving!

We continue to work on embedding our vision statement into the work of the school. It is, after all, a summation of what all stakeholders have said they want from the school. The statement sums up the journey our young people will make from the moment they walk into Breadalbane Academy to the point they walk out. During session 17-18 pupils presented to their peers in both primary and secondary about how they interpreted our values statements, and our values statements are increasingly woven into our discussion with young people, whether through whole school assemblies or one to one chats. Visitors to the campus will also notice that these are promoted through our new banners which are also used as a visual prompt in assemblies.

We want our young people to have a sense of belonging throughout their time at school and to use their school experience as a foundation for building self-belief and ambition. With these things in place, the scene is set for the achievement which abounds within Breadalbane Academy, and which was evident in our being shortlisted last session for the *Scottish Education Awards* and turning in the best set of SQA results in the school's recent history.

The full vision statement is now available on the school [website](#).

## Widening the Pupil Experience

Our values statement stresses that we want to turn out rounded individuals, ready for life and work, and to do so we know we need to extend the pupils' experience beyond the traditional curriculum. One key way of offering wider experiences to our pupils is through outdoor learning which is a proven means of developing both positive attitudes and skills. We are delighted to say that we have been able to maintain the services of our Outdoor Learning Instructor, Ms Emma O'Shea, who will continue to support the school in rolling out our ambitious universal outdoor learning programme, which this year should include an aspect of water sports, as well as maintaining experiences of skiing, hillwalking and orienteering.

Last session, all of our P6 and P7 pupils, as well as the GME class, accessed significant outdoor learning experiences, with most earning a *John Muir Award* as a result. There were also many other outdoor experiences across our primary classes and these were also built into our nursery pupils' experiences. The *John Muir Award* is something that we now plan to extend into S1 in session 18/19.

Our outdoor learning developments sits well with the larger Perth and Kinross Council development called the *Standard for Wider Achievement* which sets out aspirations for schools in terms of wider learning opportunities. These include the following headings: employability, leadership, outdoor learning and cultural experiences. During session 18/19 we aim to set out how our young people in secondary will experience all of the entitlements in the PKC Standard.

## Closing the Gap

Parents are also likely to be aware that the government has set out the aspiration that there should be no 'gap' in the attainment of pupils based on their background, and to support this policy has given all schools a direct grant – the Pupil Equity Fund. As research suggests that attainment gaps open up at a very early stage in education, last session we deployed additional staffing in nursery and early years primary to support pupils who may be in danger of falling behind in literacy and numeracy. We will continue to provide this additional support in session 18/19 and refine the means by which we measure the impact of such interventions on pupil outcomes.

At the whole school level, we will continue to focus more widely on ensuring that the school experience – in its entirety – is available to all pupils regardless of financial means. This will involve monitoring all activities and ensuring that measures are in place to mitigate the impact of financial hardship.



# Headteacher's Update on School Developments

## Engaging with Parents

Communication with parents and the broader area of parental engagement continues to be a key development for the school and we very much welcome the support of the Parent Council in both these areas. Parents will be aware that we are now moving to paperless communications which we feel will make communication from school to home more reliable, not relying as we have in the past on 'pupil post'. We have also now launched our new website which we believe has addressed the concerns that parents had expressed about the effectiveness of our previous website. This session we are also implementing the *Show My Homework* online programme in the secondary, which will allow parents far greater insight into their child's homework schedule and so leave them far better placed to support in this area.

The school will continue to have a rich engagement with parents and will continue to involve them either through the Parent Council or other means in the planning and evaluation of our work.

## Engaging with Pupils

Our vision statement includes the following line: *we have a strong voice in our school and our views are heard and listened to*. We believe that our pupil councils are a great vehicle for pupils' views to be aired and acted upon, and last session pupils from Breadalbane also successfully organised and led a 'pupil voice' conference for all PKC secondaries in June, which was very well received by all who attended. It was great to see our young people having the confidence to facilitate discussion between pupils across the county and local councillors and council officials on subjects which they considered important.

With a view to ensuring that pupils also have a voice in the strategic direction of the school, senior management will again be consulting on the whole school plan at the first meeting of pupil councils in October. We will also continue to engage with pupils at the level of classroom teacher and department in the evaluation and planning of learning.

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## **PRIMARY FOCUS**

Welcome to all of our new pupils; those who have started their school career in nursery this term, those who have moved upstairs or come from another nursery to start P1 at Breadalbane as well as those pupils who have joined us in our other year groups. Everyone, old and new, pupils and staff, seem to have settled in well and the building is once again abuzz with conversations, activities, learning and laughter. In addition to our usual settling in activities such as the P1 lunch we are also taking part in some interesting events this term including Maths Week Scotland and, at the end of September, Languages Day. We warmly welcome parents and carers into school - if you feel you would be able to help out in anyway with the mentioned events or generally in class, please don't hesitate to get in touch with class teachers.

### Pupil of the Week

This session our Pupil of the Week awards have been revamped to reflect our values 'Belonging, Believing, Aspiring, Achieving'. Each week in primary assemblies a pupil of the week certificate will be awarded to a pupil from each class who has exhibited one of our core values.

### Reporting

Last session, pupils, parents and staff were consulted on reporting within the primary and nursery. It was recognised that reporting takes place in many different formats throughout the year. As a result of this consultation a number of changes have been made which include bringing the November parent contact meeting forward to this term, changing the time of the nursery open sessions to be just before the primary ones and also simplifying the written reports that are issued in June. A letter has gone out to parents recently explaining these changes in more detail. As with all letters, it can also be viewed on the school website.

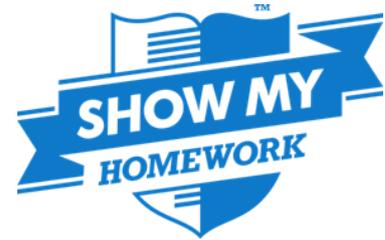
### Open Sessions

Our pupils are, quite rightly, proud of their learning and many wish to share this with their parents. We have open sessions within the primary and nursery to allow pupils to share and discuss their work with parents, including showing off their learning logs through which progress and skills development can be seen. It should be noted that these sessions are to allow learning conversations between pupils and parents/carers, if parents wish to speak to teachers they should request an appointment to allow the teacher to devote their full attention to the matter. The open sessions are roughly held once a month and the dates can be seen in the diary section of the newsletter as well as on the school website.



## Show My Homework

We have now successfully launched Show My Homework to all our pupils and parents/carers. All information on all homework tasks is now being posted on Show My Homework to improve our communication with parents/carers and to provide an organisational aid for our pupils. All pupils and parents/carers have been issued with their own individual log in details but if you are having any access issues then please don't hesitate to contact the school office who will be able to help.



## Rural Wisdom (Pupil Voice)

Rural Wisdom are looking to engage with communities to create opportunities for young people to shape their community, to make it work better for them and others who live there. There are many issues which affect older people which also affect young people. The 2 main ones in Highland Perthshire are transport and housing.

**Public Transport event-** Library on Tuesday 30th October 2018 from 2pm till 6pm

The event will look at when young people need to go where and for what purpose, and when they need to come back. We want to look at the design of the bus time tables, cost and whether young people use the service. As the whole community is invited, we would also like everyone's ideas of community transport schemes. Margaret Roy from the Public Transport Unit will be there to help with any questions.

**Housing event : Friday 5th October, from 10.30am till 4pm at Aberfeldy Parish Church.**

I am also organising a housing event in early October. In speaking to older people about their situation, it has been highlighted that there are few options for young people to move into town. Living out with connecting transport to Perth for college can mean young people have to leave the area to take up further education options.

This event, in conjunction with Housing Options Scotland and Rural Housing Scotland, will look at options for housing for all members of the community. I am hoping to have ideas for small housing units available but more than anything, it is about what young people would be looking for if they stayed in the area.

There is more information about all events from Rural Wisdom Project at [www.ruralwisdom.org](http://www.ruralwisdom.org)

## Nursery News!

This term in Nursery we have been getting to know our new friends who have joined us this year. We have been exploring treasure maps and pirates, we have used this context to explore number, rhyme and song. The children have expressed an interest in learning about what lives in the sea that the pirates sail on so we will be following this line of interest.

For Outdoor Learning we have been exploring our local surroundings, with trips to the Birks and the park. We plan to do our own treasure hunt using the maps we will make in these areas.

We are continuing our use of Loose Parts play and are extending this into our Nursery garden. This allows us to use our imagination in open ended play using natural resources. These resources also make for great art materials and we have been using them to create a variety of different pictures both outside and in the classroom.



## Rural Skills Update

### Rural skills NPA

The NPA rural skills class enjoyed a visit to the Blair Atholl International Horse Trials on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. There were a number of pupils already involved in the event and the organisers were kind enough to supply the rest of the class with tickets so that they could visit and find out more about the world of horse trials and all of the associated industries that are linked to it. They visited the stands of the SRUC (Scottish Rural Colleges) and were lucky enough to have a go at the Land Rover Experience where trained instructors took them around a purpose built course in some very expensive Range Rovers.



The class have been out to visit the community garden at Camserney where they tidied up some of the areas of the garden after a long summer of growth. They have also visited Highland Safaris to see what diversification looks like, this very successful rural business has grown massively over the years and gives the pupils a real insight into what opportunities exist in Scotland's rural areas.

All the pupils in the class are focussing on their rural business investigations and will be looking to focus on their chosen area of interest. These range from agriculture to fishing, game-keeping and equine studies.

### N4 Rural Skills

The class have a number of projects on the go at the moment. Firstly they are hoping to complete a fencing job working with the Upper Tay paths group and Jeannie Grant of the Countryside Ranger service. The path on the north bank of the Tay, heading for Kenmore, requires a couple of fences in order to protect a site of special scientific interest. With support, the plan is for our pupils to build the fences having costed, priced and helped order the materials. To help with this process we went on a quick visit to Polney Sawmill by Dunkeld.

Pupils have also been out to visit the community garden where they have prepared some beds for community use, they have harvested some of the abundant apples and plums and brought them into school where they made apple crumble.

Recently they helped out the Heart of Scotland Herb society by clearing and tidying up an area of the Garden at the back of the library. This area is for community use and people are encouraged to visit, find out more about the various herbs planted there and to take cuttings if they require. There is also a plan to develop the garden for use by people in the community suffering from Dementia. The work the pupils did was very much appreciated and will allow for further developments.





## Primary 1 News



Welcome to P1! We are looking forward to a busy year of learning and fun. P1 have already been hard at work putting up their display board announcing themselves to the school. Our first outdoor learning session was a warm and sunny expedition to the Birks where we got ideas to bring back to the classroom to add to the 'Magic Forest' we painted for our wall. We are writing and acting out our stories which are inspired by our magic forest and the magical creatures who live there. It is going to be a quick term.

## Pit Stop News

The Pit Stop children have been carefully picking the abundance of apples in the school orchard and marketing a bag of 6 cooking/ eating apples for sale for £1. So far they have been asking Primary staff and a few local groups and they will invite parents who are in next week if they would like to buy any. Soon the pupils will be able to collect pears and plums which are just about ripe.

Money raised will go into the School Fund and we hope we can then put in a request for some new resources, such as Lego sets for our Lego Club and some clothes for our toy dolls.



## Primary 6/7 News

P6/7 are doing an **Enterprise** topic. We are designing and selling reusable shopping bags. Our company is called Birks Bag Company. The Market Research team would be very grateful if you could complete our survey!

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BQ7LD9C>





## Social Media Highlights

**Breadalbane Academy - PKC**  
28 August at 20:33 · 🌐

Today our Sport and Recreation class were developing their leadership skills as they completed their Netball Leaders Course. Thanks to Tammy from Active Schools for running the course and providing this great opportunity for some of our senior pupils. #skillsforwork



Our school twitter and facebook accounts contain lots of up to date news stories as well as information for parents about on upcoming events, meetings and trips.

Find us at:



@BreadalbaneAcad



<https://facebook.com/BreadalbaneAcademy>

**Breadalbane Academy** @BreadalbaneAcad · Sep 4

No Jump, No Job!

After 4 pupils bungee jumped spectacularly well..... Beth & Althea were offered work placements. The girls gained valuable experience on the jumpdeck and in sales, media and marketing.

Well done girls and thanks to our amazing partners @bungeescotland 🙌



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## Parent Council Update

The Parent Council is a non-profit making group supporting the school's operations by representing parents, through the school's senior management team. We are seeking to support the school in many ways including; in its work with pupils, representing the views of parents and increasing their involvement in school activity, organising fundraising activities for projects such as equipment and playground development and increasing communication between pupils, school, parents and community.

At the end of last term, after two great years as chair, Emma Burtles stepped down from the role and we thank Emma for her commitment, fundraising - which ended in style with the very successful evening of music and poetry—and continuous hard work. Eleanor Laurie and Lyndsey Hurley, Breadalbane Primary parents have taken on the role of Joint Chairs of the Parent Council and will be writing to parents shortly with a Parent Council Newsletter setting out plans for the year ahead and with an invitation for one and all to have their say and get involved.

Eleanor and Lyndsey are seeking Senior Parents to support them in the role by providing a voice for issues and progression projects in the Senior school.

If you'd be interested in helping please do get in touch at [chairperson@breadalbaneparents.com](mailto:chairperson@breadalbaneparents.com)



# Cut Out & Keep — Diary Dates - Session 2018-19

## Holidays and In-Service Dates

Friday 5 October	End of Term 1
Monday 8 October— Friday 19 October inclusive	October Break
Monday 22 October	Term 2 Commences
Thursday 15 November & Friday 16 November	In-Service Days 2 & 3
Friday 21 December	End of Term 2 —12 Noon
Monday 24 December— Friday 4 January inclusive	Christmas Break
Monday 7 January	Term 3 Commences
Wednesday 13 February	In-Service Day 4
Thursday 14 February & Friday 15 February	February Break
Friday 29 March	End of Term 3
Monday 1 April — Friday 12 April inclusive	Spring Break
Monday 15 April	Term 4 Commences
Friday 19 April & Monday 22 April	Easter Holiday
Tuesday 23 April	In-Service Day 5
Friday 28 June	End of Term 4 —12 Noon
Monday 1 July — Friday 16 August inclusive	Summer Break

## Trips, Activities & Event Dates

Wednesday 12 December	Secondary Christmas Concert
Wednesday 19 December	Primary Christmas Concert
Thursday 20 December	Primary Christmas Parties
Thursday 31 January	Careers Fair/ Senior Options Evening
Wednesday 27 March	Performing Arts Review Evening
Wednesday 13 June	Secondary Sports Day
Wednesday 15 May— Friday 17 May	Comrie Croft Transition Trip
Friday 14 June	Primary Sports Day
Wednesday 19 June— Friday 21 June	School Show
Tuesday 25 June	Secondary Celebration of Success
Thursday 27 June	Primary Celebration of Success

## Primary Key Reporting Dates

Wednesday 19 September	P7 Transition Evening
Tuesday 25 September & Wednesday 26 September	Parent Contact Evenings
Thursday 1 November	Open Session for Parents
Thursday 6 December	Open Session for Parents
Wednesday 6 February	Open Session for Parents
Wednesday 6 March— Thursday 7 March	Parent Contact Evenings
Tuesday 7 May	Open Session for Parents
Wednesday 12 June	Full Reports Issued

*Nursery Parent Contact Evenings will take place in the same week as Primary Parent Contact Evenings*

## Secondary Key Reporting Dates (by Year Group/Component)

Year Group	Component	Date(s)
S1	Tracking Report Issued	Monday 22 October
	Parent Contact Evening	Wednesday 28 November
	Tracking Report Issued	Monday 18 March
S2	Tracking Report Issued	Monday 1 October
	Tracking Report Issued	Monday 7 January
	Parent Contact Evening	Tuesday 19 February
S3	Tracking Report Issued	Monday 3 September
	Tracking Report Issued	Monday 12 November
	Parent Contact Evening	Thursday 24 January
S4 -6	Tracking Report Issued	Monday 17 September
	Parent Contact Evening	Thursday 25 October
	Parent Contact Evening	Tuesday 30 October
	Full Report Issued	Monday 10 December
	Tracking Report Issued	Monday 11 February

## SQA EXAMS

The 2019 SQA Exam Diet will commence on Thursday 25 April and conclude on Friday 31 May.

Individual timetables will be issued prior to the exam diet starting.