Celebrating Success In
Beeslack Community High School

Higher Photography Final Portfolios
Dear Parent/Carer,

I can’t quite believe that the end of the school session is here already, another action packed and successful year in Beeslack! There have been a wide variety of achievements, trips, learning experiences in and out of school and the introduction of a number of new courses. We have refined our curriculum further for session 2017-18 and again we are introducing a number of new courses e.g. Higher Psychology and Creative Cake Craft, which offer additional opportunities for our pupils. We will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of our curriculum and seek to further improve as the new session progresses.

Our self-evaluation processes have guided us in identifying the many successes of the year but also the areas for improvement going forward. We will publish our annual standards and quality report in September and this will include our areas of strength and improvement. During term two we had a mini-inspection and a number of Midlothian Education staff visited the school to meet with pupils, staff and parents and visit classes. The focus of the visit was learning and teaching and the final report was very positive. The visiting team agreed with our evaluation of good and highlighted the strength of relationships in school, the improvements in reporting and tracking pupil progress, as well as agreeing with our areas of focus for next session. The school improvement plan will be posted on the school website at the start of the new session.

The S6 pupils have now left for pastures new and I am delighted to announce our new senior pupil leadership team for next session. Following a rigorous recruitment process Emily Ross and Ian Sargison are head Girl and Boy respectively. Asim Iqbal, Robbie Wallace, Alistair Baines and Rachael Fraser will complete the team as Deputy Head Boys and Girl. We are very much looking forward to working with them next year.

We also welcomed the new S1 on the transition days at the beginning of June, they had a great few days and we are really looking forward to getting to know them better in August, when they start with us officially. As we welcome our new S1 we also see a positive increase in our school roll for next session.

There are a number of staffing updates as we say farewell to some members of Staff on Friday. Ms Bocian teacher of Biology begins her maternity leave, Mr Anderson and Miss McKernan (both Technologies) take up new posts in Aberdeen and Carluke and Miss Finnie (Art) leaves us as her contract comes to an end.

This term we welcomed back Mrs Heavon-Jones and Mrs Richards from leave and we have spent a considerable time recruiting new staff for the start of the new term. The following staff will be joining us in August;

- Miss Forrest—Modern Languages
- Mr Kelly—Technologies
- Miss Grigor—Music
- Miss Kennedy—History
- Ms Sevachko—English
- Miss Marshall—Biology
- Mrs Shorthouse—Acting DHT Support for Pupils

Hot off the press—Mrs Gess has been successful at interview and has been appointed as Principal Teacher of Guidance at Peebles High School. We are absolutely delighted for her on this well deserved promotion. Mrs Gess will return in August for a short period of time and we will advertise her post and the permanent DHT post in the new term. We also have two members of staff retiring from Beeslack on Friday—more about them on the opposite page!

Many of our pupils will be receiving their SQA exam results on the 8th of August, for those pupils returning to school who wish to change course, all re-coursing will take place on the first Wednesday of term (23rd of August) where guidance staff will be available to discuss and make any potential changes.

Most importantly this newsletter is about celebrating the many successes of our pupils, giving you a glimpse of the variety of activities that have taken place in school this term and sharing other school news.

I hope you all have a relaxing and enjoyable summer break, school resumes for pupils on the 22nd of August at 8.40am and I look forward to seeing everyone then.

L Black

Headteacher

Higher Photography work: (Clockwise from top right) Ellen Beskow, Heather Anderson, Beth Morning and Beth McFarlane
Mr Hepburn

Mr Hepburn joined Beeslack Community High School in 1986 as a teacher of PE. During his time here he has held a variety of posts ranging from Assistant Principal Teacher Guidance to DHT Pupil Support. Mr Hepburn has made an outstanding contribution to the life and ethos of Beeslack, he is passionate about the young people, health and wellbeing and cycling as well as positive destinations!! Throughout his career he has been the driving force behind many school initiatives including the sponsored walk, cycle path, school uniform, developing skills for life, employability and the nurture programme to name but a few.

Mr Hepburn’s knowledge of the local community, families and partner agencies has been invaluable, as well as his support of staff and pupils in all their endeavours. There is no doubt that he will be greatly missed by students, staff and parents. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Hepburn for his contribution to Beeslack CHS and wish him a long, healthy and happy retirement.

Mrs Jardine

Mrs Jardine joined the Beeslack community in 1993 and had a variety of part-time temporary contracts until 1998 when she became a permanent member of staff. Since then she has shared the PT Modern Languages post with Ms Okasha.

Mrs Jardine is an exemplary classroom practitioner and her passion for languages is evident the minute you walk through her classroom door. She is a highly regarded colleague and a much loved teacher, with many pupils citing her as the reason they love languages.

Throughout her career here she has led many foreign trips and provided encouragement to pupils keen to try out their language skills in a new environment. She is also known for going above and beyond for our pupils and always puts the pupils at the centre of everything she does. We would like to say a huge thank you to her for all her hard work, support and encouragement over the years and wish her a very happy retirement spending time here and in France!
Music Department News

It has been a busy time in the Music Department, with a fundraising Music for Malawi concert in April and our Summer Concert at the start of June. Featuring the Wind Band, Jazz Band, Samba, Ukuleles, Junior Voices and a series of wonderful solo items from our talented musicians, the latter was a great way to finish another great year, with the Chamber Choir rounding off the evening, as we bid an emotional goodbye to our S6.

We are also delighted that Sophie McDonald (S4) has been accepted into the junior programme at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland to study clarinet. This is a fantastic opportunity for one of our most committed and gifted musicians – well done Sophie, you really deserve it!

Dance News

Earlier this session in April we held our annual dance show—it was another splendid evening showcasing the dedication and hardwork of our pupils in a huge variety of dance styles.

The following pupils performed:

Christie Lukas, Ruby Quinn, Lauren Frankish, Holly Russell, Sommer Martin, Collette Dance, Lauren Westwood, Madeline Hulton, Zoe Briggs, Erin Divine, Demi Heeps, Mairi Wighton, Isabel Phillips, Niamh Flynn, Faye Cameron, Helena Newton, Alix McKay, Sally Keith, Emma Westwood, Niamh Coogan, Danielle Old, Nell Mowbray, Caitlin Meir, Hollie Peden, Millie Tweedie, Thea Thomson, Rachel Marsh, Elisha Grace, Lauren Marr, Erin Shanks, Kirsty Black, Claire Johnston, Kate Main, Eve Holmes, Lily Mowbray, Taylor Dunlop, Rachael Fraser, Heather Anderson, Caitlin Craig and Toni Pryde.

Erin Shanks was awarded the S4 Evelyn Handley Award for her contribution to Dance. Erin has given up a huge amount of her time to support younger dancers in the school and had also been nominated for a Midlothian Sport Award for her volunteering and contribution to the extra-curricular programme.

Pupil Personal Profiles

This term, pupils from S1, S2 and S3 have been using the school iPads to celebrate their most recent and best pieces of work. Beeslack have been profiling on paper in the past but the new online profiling system launched this term, allows students to take photos, videos, audio and text to capture the great work they have been doing in lessons.

One S3 student said “Profiling on the iPad is much better than folders because it brings some fun into learning and is easier to use than having lots of paperwork.”

Profiles can be accessed from the ‘Pupils’ section of the school website, and makes use of Microsoft OneNote via the glow system from Education Scotland.

It should also now be easier for your child to show you what they have been doing in lessons and celebrate their achievements.
Salters Festival of Chemistry
On Wednesday 31st May 2017, four students from S1 thoroughly enjoyed a visit to Heriot-Watt University. They carried out a series of Forensic style experiments, a temperature changing experiment then watched a lecture involving experiments with liquid nitrogen and dry ice.

Left to right
Aniela Milcarz (1H2), Lauren Soutar (1H1), Abby Davidson (1S2) and Dale Hardman (1S2).

YPI Scotland National Event #makeadifference

We arrived at Perth Concert Hall a wee bit overwhelmed at first, as we were surrounded by enthusiastic people with music by Calum Mackenzie Jones filling the foyer, five years ago the young up and coming musician was a man few had heard of... Ed Sheeran! First we made sure that we completed a very important task - collecting our lunch! Next we had our official photograph taken, as well as some extra ones for the @Beeslack_RME of course. As we entered the auditorium we saw hundreds of people, all groups who worked together to create outstanding presentations as that is how we all got here. The presentations and speakers were inspirational and many were very moving. Tissues were a requirement. Each presentation was different in their own way; every group used the skills and strengths that they had to make us realise how many social issues there are across Scotland. All of the presentations made us think about how we can make a difference with the smallest things. There was a wide variety of talent amongst the groups such as dancing, singing, drama and the use of musical instruments. The moving speeches showed that there are people that you can talk to and they can help.

Part two opened with lots of famous faces. There was a recent performer on The Voice UK, Ciara Harvie. YPI Impact was hosted by Andrea Brymer from STV. Dame Katherine Grainger was the keynote speaker and she talked about her motivation, what success is and what it means.

Overall this was an inspiring day from the Wood Foundation that left us wanting to take up more opportunities and help more in our local community. We hope that the current S3 make the best of this amazing opportunity to really make a difference.

Rachel Cowan, Kate Main, Mhairi Ross and Sinead Timoney
S6 Mind, Body and Soul Conference

On 1st June, the S6 pupils experienced the Mind, Body and Soul Conference organised by Ms Carrie in RME. The first session was led by the Chaplaincy team who challenged the group to think about a variety of ethical issues. We were introduced to mindfulness and given an insight into topics such as stress and the ways to combat it; this was an especially captivating talk as it was presented in a very entertaining and accessible way. Ethical shopping, run by Mrs Roberts, considered what products we should choose and why (and included chocolate tasting and rat-ings!). Dr McDonald from the Science, Religion and Technology Project, discussed ethics in science and the idea of designer babies and artificial wombs. Pupils were encouraged to engage with the talks and discuss issues, which many had never thought of before. One S6 pupil commented that the session run by Edinburgh City Mission was particularly challenging, as logic could not be applied to the situations they were asked to discuss. The conference provided an entertaining, engaging and useful introduction to S6, filled with spirited debates, self-investigation and most importantly the development of ideas and viewpoints.

Lochie Murray S6

Science News

On the 18th May 15 S2 girls, accompanied by Mr Jones and Mr Stewart visited the local biomedical research labs of Ingenza, based in the Roslin BioCentre. The aim was to encourage girls to consider the options open to them in Science related careers. The girls had a series of short talks from 5 female members of the staff team at Ingenza ranging from research scientists to administrative support roles. This was followed by a tour of the lab facilities. The girls had a great time and were hopefully inspired to consider a future in a scientific field.

Psychology Course Starts at Beeslack!

We have started teaching Higher Psychology at Beeslack! The course has proven extremely popular and we currently have a mix of S5 and S6 pupils. We started in June by looking at some approaches to Psychology e.g. biological, cognitive and behaviourist. We have now moved on to the fascinating ‘sleep, dreams and sleep disorders’ unit - this is providing lots of scope for interesting discussions. We will then go onto look at stress, research methods, conformity and obedience and prejudice. Pupils will be doing an assignment as part of the course – this is worth 40% of the final grade. In October we are going to Leith Academy for a Higher Psychology conference with pupils from the surrounding area – we will update you on this after the event.

Dr Wilson
School Uniform

As we approach the start of the holidays it’s the time of year when we see all the retailers promoting offers on school uniform. In general the dress of the pupils in Beeslack is exemplary. However, there are a number of items of dress which we continually need to address, primarily skinny jeans, leggings and trainers. Whilst it is difficult to win the battle with fashion, there are still ways in which our young people can dress in the latest styles, whilst still adhering to the school uniform policy.

The school uniform is very straightforward for both girls and boys and a reminder of our expectations is included below. We hope that you will continue to support us in maintaining the high standard we have and discourage your child from wearing skinny jeans, leggings, hooded tops and clothing with logos etc and any other items not included in the uniform.

As a result of many requests from junior pupils we carried out a consultation on the introduction of blazers for all pupils. The response was particularly positive and blazers for all pupils are now included in our school uniform policy. Blazers are very reasonably priced at £33 for S1-S5 and £35 for S6. Blazers (S1-6) are available to buy directly from Aitken and Niven in their Edinburgh stores. Alternatively if you require further information please contact the school.

School uniform Details

- White shirt/Blouse
- Black Skirt/trousers (no jeans/leggings)
- Plain black jumper/cardigan (no hooded tops)
- Black Shoes (no trainers)
- School House tie or S6 tie
- Blazer (S1-6)

Garments associated with leisure wear should not be worn to school.
Jewellery should be kept to a minimum and facial jewellery should not be worn.

Many thanks for your support with this.
L Black

Sports Ambassadors

The PE department have recently appointed a number of new sports ambassadors; Kara Stewart, Hannah Cathcart and Erine Devine. After a vigorous application process and interview all three demonstrated a real passion and enthusiasm for developing school sport and increasing participation. We have also three new members of the sports council, Skye McLeod, John Sturgeon and Collette Dance.
Edinburgh University - Easter Bush Campus Business Insights

Edinburgh University - Easter Bush Campus welcomed 3 S3 Beeslack Community High School pupils for a week long work programme from 8-12 May 2017. Twelve Beeslack pupils applied for places on the programme, with 3 being given the opportunity to spend a week at the Campus.

The Business Insights programme is thought to be the first of its kind in Scotland, offering an integrated and holistic approach for local secondary school pupils to learn more about the world of business.

The programme was designed to introduce high school pupils to the wide range of roles that are available to support a large organisation, such as The University of Edinburgh. It seeks to provide first-hand experience of working in a real business environment, with the young people learning directly from those who are doing the job.

Across the week, sessions were offered by many of the functional areas on the campus, including Finance, Marketing and Communications, Health and Safety, Human Resources, IT and Facilities. The pupils were also taken on tours of the many buildings on the campus, so they could directly link their learning to an actual business environment.

As well as talks and tours, pupils took part in critical thinking and group work tasks.

The week was organised and run by HR Manager, Cat Eastwood and Marketing Communications Officer, Tom Mortimer, who were on hand at all times to mentor the pupils.

The pupils were given the chance to tour one of the buildings currently under construction on the Campus, visiting the Campus Hub and Roslin Innovation Centre, with representatives from the Facilities team and McLaughlin and Harvey, who are constructing the new building.

As well as presentations, there were sessions on team building, with tasks designed to promote critical thinking, while also having fun. The pupils carried out team tasks, which included building platforms and learning actual clinical skills in the Dick Vet’s clinical skills laboratory. There were also sessions to teach core development skills, such as writing personal statements, to assist the pupils when applying for future study or training opportunities.

The final day of the programme focused on presenting future opportunities for study and development. The pupils received talks from The University of Edinburgh’s Widening Participation team about applying to university, from Edinburgh Colleges to discuss current and future College opportunities and from representatives of Skills Development Scotland, to talk about Modern Apprenticeships.

To show what they had learned, the pupils were given time to prepare a presentation in groups. They made their presentation to the staff who had mentored them throughout the week and each received a certificate to recognise their successful completion of the programme.
Modern Languages Transition

It was *Bonjour!* and *Bienvenue!* to Primary 7 pupils on Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th June. The aims of the visit were to meet the teachers, make new friends and practise talking French as much as possible.

A conversation of eight questions and answers had been prepared in the primaries beforehand, then on the Wednesday many pupils showed off their creative skills by deftly making paper fortune tellers to use as prompts. Thereafter, the target was to talk to at least 4 people in French, 2 of whom were to be people they had never spoken to before that day. Starting a conversation with a stranger in a foreign language seemed like such a difficult thing to do, but before long many forgot their nerves and got stuck in.

On Thursday we revised the information in French we had shared the day before and created profile posters in French. These will go up in the Languages corridor ready to welcome the pupils back as S1 in August!

S3 French Etwinning Partnership

Through the Etwinning website, we now have a partnership with a school in Epernay in the beautiful Châlons-en-Champagne region of France. Many of our S3 (new S4) have been communicating with French pupils and so far they have exchanged information about hobbies and where they live. It is always exciting hearing from our partners and we hope to continue this project in S4.

S4/S5 Penpals:

Last week we welcomed the German penfriends of Alex Mason and Katie Lynch to Beeslack. The German girls were visiting their Scottish partners for a week and were looking forward to visiting the families and our school. They spent their first afternoon in Scotland seeing the sights of Edinburgh and then their first morning in school practising the spoken language with our new Higher class. We hope they had a fantastic week!

S1 Living Pictures

RME classes have had the opportunity to be dramatic this term as they engaged with Creation Stories. Pupils had to work with others to read the story and choose significant parts. Next they had to create new texts in the form of notes and story boards to decide which parts would make the best pictures. Groups were then being creative and performed their ‘living pictures’ for their class, including some imaginative use of props! An important part of the process was the friendly, supportive and helpful feedback that they gave each other to help them improve and know what to do better next time.
Timing of the School Day: Consultation Results

As many of you are aware we carried out an extensive consultation on the timing of our school day. The consultation ran from February until June and involved pupils, staff and parents.

There were a number of reasons behind the consultation which included;
- Length of lunchtimes
- Ability to travel home safely in the winter
- Easier alignment of timetables with other Midlothian schools
- Ability of staff to attend professional learning events in Midlothian (in the main these start at 4pm making it problematic for Beeslack staff to attend)
- More time for extra-curricular activities at the end of the day

The result of the consultation indicated 70% overall support for the proposal to start the school day at 8.30am with 50 minutes for lunch and finishing the school day at 3.35pm. However, given the timescale and the proximity to the end of term we have taken the decision to delay the implementation of the changes until Session 2018-19. This will allow parents, pupils and staff a year to plan and put in place necessary arrangements for travel.

The timings of the school day for Session 2017—18 are detailed below and the changes for session 2018-19 are detailed on the page opposite.

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**Session 2017-18**

*Lunchtime now 50mins and school finishes at 3.45pm*

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Timing of the School Day

Session 2018-19

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Art Department News

This session we offered two courses in Photography to our pupils—Level 5 National Progression Award and Higher. Part of the courses require pupils to develop their skills in camera technique and building up a portfolio of photographs to a given theme.

Some samples of the work pupils produced are on the front cover and below—I am sure you will agree we have some really talented pupils!
Key Dates

Tuesday 8th August: SQA Exam results

Tuesday 22nd August: School resumes at 8.40am

Wednesday 23rd of August: Senior Phase Re-coursing

Wednesday 14th September: UCAS Parents’ Evening

Wednesday 13th September: Sponsored Walk

Friday 15th/ Monday 18th September: Holiday weekend

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School News App