



Broxburn Academy

Nurturing Ambition & Creativity

Message from the Headteacher - October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers of Broxburn Academy, I hope this message finds you and your families well,

As always, a very busy time and lots of great things happening:

News and Events

S6 Leadership team 2025-26



We are pleased to introduce our 2025-26 S6 Leadership Team:

Our School Captains are **Gracie Young & Alexander Barnett**

School Vice-Captains: **Kaya Matuszek & Holly Stevens**

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And our House Teams:

Almondell House

House Captain: **Grace Devine**

Vice House Captain: **Sarah Duncan**

Buchan House

House Captain: **Ayaan Iftikhar**

Vice House Captain: **Isla Geekie**

Strathbrock House

House Captain: **Lara Toptas**

Vice House Captain: **Murron Ullathorne**

Published Writers

Broxburn Academy continues with publishing success!

Lauren Blyth (S3) and Teigan Thomson (S5) have had their work published in the Young Writers' most recent anthology "Grim Tales".

“I'm also pleased to say that Broxburn Academy was the only Scottish school published in this national anthology. Having their work published has been a great confidence booster for many of our young people - I believe this is the 3rd time this year alone that pupils from this school have had their work published”.

Mrs Moore (English Dept)

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Enterprising Maths Competition



On Wednesday 15th of October, four of our young people from S3 took part in the regional heat of the Enterprising Maths Competition held this year at West Calder High School.

The team worked extremely well together, solving lots of complicated maths problems. We achieved our best finish for 3 years, coming fifth out of twelve.

Well done, Christina, Katy, Franc and Omer!

(Mr Ainslie Maths Dept)

Sporting Success

Congratulations to Ciara Howard and Rose Martin S4 for being selected to the U18 Girl's County football team for West Lothian.

They won 5-2 against Fife and Rose scored a goal. Their next fixture is against Forth Valley on the 28th of October.

Congratulations also to Cain Young and Max McKendrick S3 for being selected to the U15 Boys County team for West Lothian.

Their first game is an away fixture against against Edinburgh also on Tuesday 28th October.

(Mr Baird & Mr Howley, PE Dept)

One Act 15 Tuesday 14th – Thursday 16th October 2025

Another fabulous evening showcasing the many talents of our Drama students (and staff!)



Thank you to everyone involved!

How to Succeed Evening

Thank you to everyone who attended our 'How to Succeed Evening' and to all the staff who supported the event.

We also had representation from several of our partners including:

Edinburgh Napier University
Glasgow Caledonian University
Queen Margaret University
University of West of Scotland
Stirling University
Heriot Watt University
Bright Red Publishing
West Lothian College

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Feedback from Parents/carers

“A really useful evening, thank you to everyone who was involved in organising this and for giving up their time on the night”.

“All teachers gave a good presentation. It was good to see what is involved in getting to the exams”.

“Fantastic evening with loads of great information.”

“Very good info for my S3 child to hear what the expectations are for S4/S5 and 6th year.”

“Good resource info given for revision too.”

“Thank you for organising a very useful evening. The staff, as always were helpful, and your student helpers were amazing”.

(Mrs Winton DHT)

Debating Success

Debating is back in full swing this year at Broxburn Academy. Two of our S6 pupils, Sarah and Lena, attended the qualifier for the Scottish Mace in Edinburgh this month. They had debates against schools like Dollar Academy, Fettes, Heriot's, Currie High School, and Hyndland Secondary School.

Debate topics included undercover policing, the use of influencers in government policy, and the education system.

They performed brilliantly and finished in 2nd place to qualify for the grand final in February of next year.

Senior training is on Tuesdays after school in T7 and is open to anyone in S4 and up.

Keep an eye out for the annual S1 competition for any new pupils who may be interested!

(Mr McDonald, PTC Social Subjects, Business and Admin)

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E-Sgoil's Evening Study Support 2025/26 (No cost - It's free!)

Registration for e-Sgoil's 2025/26 Evening Study Support programme is now open.

This Scottish Government funded provision is focussed on delivering equitable access to all Senior Phase learners and is **completely free**.

Study Support comprises live, interactive webinars and are delivered online by experienced, GTCS registered teachers. 55 different webinars are on offer each week during term time, covering the most popular curricular areas as well as an extensive range of other subjects. Webinars are due to begin on Monday 27th October.

MONDAY	
5pm	Maths NS
	Health & Food Technology NS/Higher
	Biology NS/Higher
	Maths N4
	Physics Higher
	Human Biology Adv Higher
6pm	Business Management Higher
	Applications of Maths NS
	BWPS NS/Higher
	Practical Cookery NS
	Politics HI
7pm	Applications of Maths Higher
	Biology Higher
	Computing Science Higher

TUESDAY	
5pm	Music NS
	Maths Higher
	Modern Studies Higher
4pm	Spanish Higher
	Maths Adv Higher
	Business Management Higher
	Music Higher
7pm	English Higher
	Chemistry Adv Higher
	English (I) NS

THURSDAY	
4pm	Admin & IT (Theory only) * Higher
	German NS
	Latin NS
	Art & Design NS
	English N4
6pm	Physics NS
	Chemistry Higher
	Design & Manufacture NS/Higher
	Biology NS
	Art & Design * Higher
	German Higher
7pm	Graphic Communication NS
	PE Higher
	Computing Science NS

WEDNESDAY	
5pm	ESOL NS
	French NS
	Engineering Science NS
	Geography Higher
	History Adv Higher
	Graphic Communication Higher
4pm	Geography NS
	Engineering Science Higher
	French Higher
	English (2) NS
	History NS
7pm	Chemistry NS
	Orkney NS/Higher
	English Adv Higher
	History Higher

55
webinars
per week

30
subjects

covering
National 4 -
Advanced Higher
levels



Visit the Study Support
page on the e-Sgoil website
or use the QR code

www.e-sgoil.com



Keeping your young people safe online

As parents, there are steps you can take to be sure that your children are 'surfing' the internet safely and to ensure that they continue to have fun whilst they find the information they are looking for.

For more information:

<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/44931/Computer-On-Line-Safety-Advice>

In addition, please see particular guidance for **Roblox** and **Minecraft** at the end of the update.

Cluster Quality Improvement visit – morning of 24/09/25

“High quality teaching promotes high quality learning which ensures that our pupils are nurtured, empowered and supported to achieve their best.”

(Broxburn Academy, our vision)

We were pleased to welcome Headteacher and Depute Head colleagues from our four cluster primaries who visited some lessons in English and Maths and took part in pupil focus groups.

Here is what our young people said about their school:

Q- How well do your teachers and other staff know you and your needs as a learner?

There is information on the walls of classrooms to help us with adding and takeaways.

Teachers ask us what we need

Yes, they know me, and they know how to help, and I would ask for help.

Teachers listen to us, sometimes though it depends on how comfortable you feel with your teacher

They don't just know our name; they get to know us and you can have banter with them

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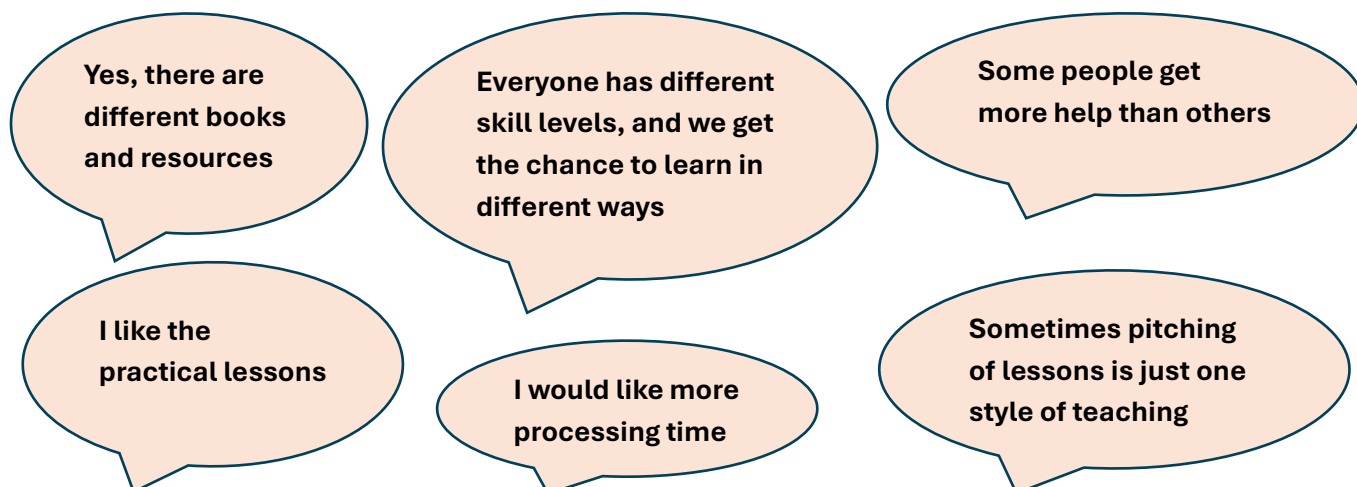
Q – Do you know where to go in school to get help?



Q - S1 – Are you enjoying being at High School?

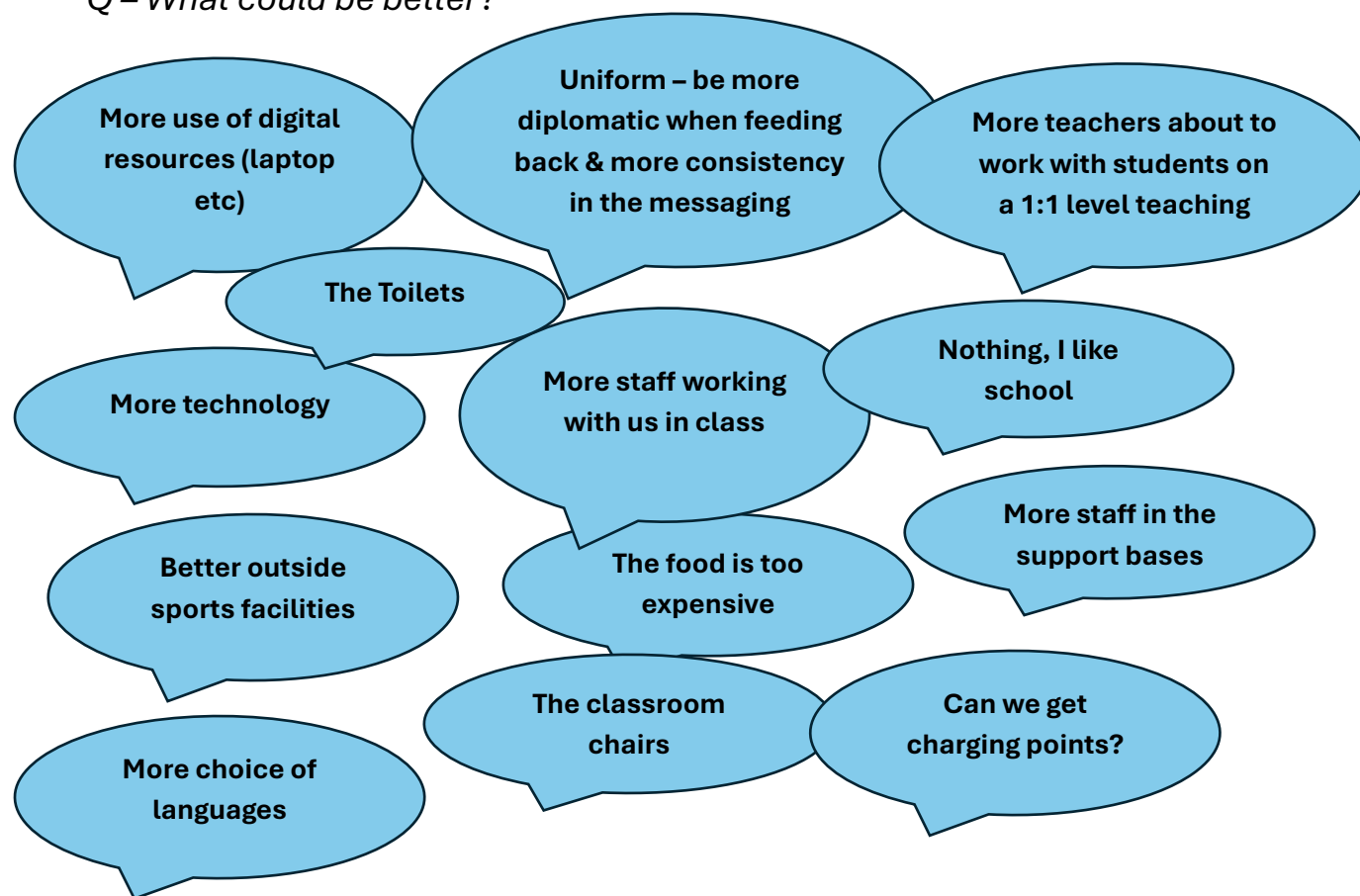


Q – Are we all able to learn in ways that suit our needs?



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Q – What could be better?



Plenty of positive feedback and of course areas for us to work on and we welcome these opportunities to share good practice and to learn from each other as part of a larger Broxburn learning community.

Staffing Updates

Mr Anthony Sansom-Parnell has been appointed as our new Admin Assistant and will start with us on Monday 27th October.

Upcoming events

30th October – S3 Parents/carers Evening

4th November – S1 Parents/carers Evening

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6th November – S6 Prom Fashion Show



N.B Tickets for the S6 Prom Fashion Show are on sale for pupils to purchase in school at the Office and Library Booths (at breaks and lunchtimes)

19th November – S5/6 Parents/carers Evening

26th November - S4 Parents/carers Evening

8th December – Prelims (Mrs Winton will send out information after the holidays)

18th December – Xmas Concert

19th December – Santa Dash

End of Term – 19th December 2025

Half term

Finally, as we head into the October holidays, a reminder that the school is **closed to pupils from Monday 20th October** and we look forward to welcoming them back when **we re-open on Tuesday 28th October 2025**.

Staff return to school on Monday 27th October 2025.

Have a lovely time,

Kind regards



S Wallace
Headteacher

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ROBLOX Child Safety Settings

To set up parental controls on Roblox and ensure your child has a safe and age-appropriate experience, follow these steps:

Step 1: Link Your Parent Account

1. Log into your child's Roblox account (Has to be a child's D.O.B).
2. Navigate to **Settings** (gear icon).
3. Select **Parental Controls**.
4. Click **Add Parent Account**.
5. Follow the prompts to create or link your parent account.

Step 2: Set Up Parental Controls

Once your parent account is linked, you can manage various settings:

1. Communication Settings

- Go to **Parental Controls > Communication**.
- Adjust who can chat with your child in experiences and via direct messages.
Options include:
 - **Everyone**
 - **Friends**
 - **No one**
- For users under 13, default settings are more restrictive.

2. Content Restrictions

- Navigate to **Parental Controls > Content Restrictions**.
- Set the **Content Maturity** level appropriate for your child:
 - **Minimal**
 - **Mild**
 - **Moderate**
 - **Restricted**
- You can also block specific experiences by adding them to the **Blocked Experiences** list.

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3. Friends Management

- In **Parental Controls**, scroll to **Friends** and select **Manage**.
- View your child's friends list, and block or report users as necessary.

4. Spending Controls

- Under **Parental Controls**, go to **Spending Restrictions**.
- Set a monthly spending limit for Robux and subscriptions.
- Choose to receive notifications for every transaction or only for high spending thresholds.

5. Screen Time Management

- Access **Parental Controls > Screen Time**.
- Set daily time limits for your child's Roblox usage.
- View the top 20 experiences your child has played in the past week.



Minecraft Child Safety Settings

Minecraft itself doesn't have a big built-in "parental control" menu but depending on how your child plays (Java Edition, Bedrock/Windows, or console), you can manage what they can do through a mix of Microsoft account family settings, platform parental controls, and server/world settings.

Bedrock Edition (Windows, iOS, Android, Xbox, PlayStation, Switch)

- **Microsoft Family Safety**

- Log into your child's Microsoft account via family.microsoft.com.
- You can set:
 - Screen time limits.
 - Spending limits (requires adult approval for purchases).
 - Restrictions on joining multiplayer/Realms.
 - Restrictions on adding friends.

- **Xbox/Console Parental Controls**

- Each console (Xbox, PlayStation, Switch) has its own parental settings that allow you to:
 - Restrict online play.
 - Control voice/text chat.
 - Block joining servers or Realms.
 - Limit age-rated content.

Java Edition (PC/Mac)

Java doesn't have built-in parental settings, so you'll need to manage through:

- **Server settings:** If your child plays on your own hosted server, you can whitelist who's allowed to join, disable chat, or use plugins/mods to filter messages.
- **Launcher account:** Java Edition is tied to a Microsoft account now, so you can still apply Microsoft Family Safety rules (e.g. screen time, purchase approval).
- **Chat reporting:** Mojang added reporting and chat filters—strong language and personal info can be filtered automatically if enabled in account settings.

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General Safety Options

- **Mute Chat / Toggle Chat** (both editions): You can turn chat off in settings to stop interaction with strangers.
- **Realms vs Servers:** Realms are invite-only (safer). Public servers often have less control over content and players.
- **Resource Packs / Add-ons:** Keep an eye on downloads; use only trusted sources (Marketplace or well-known modding sites).
- **Play Together Locally:** On consoles or LAN, kids can play with just friends/family without internet strangers.

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