

KHS Newsletter



September 2011

May I take the opportunity of this Newsletter to welcome everyone to Kelso High School for session 2011/2012 - especially those pupils, parents and staff who are new to the school.

In the interests of the environment and in response to feedback from parents we are looking at communicating school news more regularly by email. This avoids things getting lost in the bottom of school bags and will allow us to keep parents up to date. Please ensure you let the school know if your email address changes.

In addition, further information about the school and the activities going on in it can be found on our website. The website address is www.kelso.scotborders.sch.uk and I would encourage you to use it.

Rugby - We need your help!

KHS has a number of Rugby teams at different levels and our students really benefit from the opportunity to improve their game.

We have become victims of our own success and staff are struggling to cover all the matches in the season.

If you could help out by helping supervise students on the way to and from matches we would love to hear from you. A few volunteering for a couple of matches through the year would make a real difference.

In addition, we have a shortage of registered Referees. If you would be interested in looking out your boots and training as a Referee we would be able to put you through the appropriate qualification, in partnership with Kelso Rugby Football Club.

Contact Tom Angus at the school (224444) for details.



KHS Head Boy, Head Girl & Deputes



"Congratulations" to this year's Head Boy, Head Girl and their Deputes who are :

Head Boy	Alexander Stephen
Head Girl	Becky Thomson
Depute Head Girl	Bonnie Bruce
Depute Head Boy	James Murdoch

Celebration of Achievement Evening

The High School Celebration of Achievement Evening took place on Thursday 1st September 2011. The recipient of the Freedom of Kelso High School Award was Mr Charles Robertson. Dux of the School was Rose Hadshar and Proxime Accessit, Hannah Girriety.

Buildings

During the summer holidays building work was carried out to improve Fire Safety & Disabled Access. This included widening doors to allow wheelchair access, highlighting ramps and steps and the creation of a disabled access toilet in the New Block.

Preparation work for additional fire doors within the school building was also carried out and will be completed during the October holidays.

Staffing

We are happy to welcome a number of new staff to the school at the start of the session.

*Following the early retirement of **Mrs Marjorie Ker**, we welcome **Mrs Louise Turner** to the post of Teacher in the Support for Learning Department.*

***Ms Suzanne Blake** takes up the post of History Teacher, covering **Ms Curran's** maternity leave.*

***Ms Alimay Wilson** takes up the post of RME Teacher, covering **Mrs Tansey's** maternity leave.*

***Ms Jennifer McHale** takes up a full-time post in the PE Department following the departure of **Mr Andrew Rutherford**.*

***Ms Ingrid Rutherford** takes up a post in the Biology Department following the departure of **Mr Keith Inglis**.*

*We are also joined by 3 newly qualified teachers. **Miss Gabriella Milione** will join the Business Studies Department. **Mr Niall Shannon** will join the Mathematics Department and **Miss Sara Lambard** will join the Chemistry Department. We wish all 3 of them well in their year of placement in Kelso High School.*

***Mrs Ailsa Atkinson**, Teacher in the Mathematics Department is currently on maternity leave and her post is covered by Mr Niall Shannon.*

***Mr William Pratt** takes up the post of Janitor, a post which was created by the retirement of our Head Janitor, Mr William Johnston, earlier in the year, when **Mr Richard Robertson** was promoted to the post of Head Janitor.*

Internet Safety for Parents

Do you want to know more about how to keep your children safe on the internet?

Are you worried that they know more than you do?

Want to know what you can do if you are worried, who to talk to?



If the answer to any of the above is "yes", then come along to the "lunch and learn" Parent Internet Safety Sessions - bring your lunch!

Facilitators: Lothian and Borders Police, Locality Integration Officers

Dates/Venue

30 September - Lecture Theatre, Education Centre, Borders General Hospital

24 November - Committee Room 2, Scottish Borders Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells

Time: All sessions 12.30pm - 1.30pm

To register a place on any of the above courses, please contact NHS Training and Development Department on training.office@borders.scot.nhs.uk

These courses are supported by the Violence Against Women Partnership, Safer Communities.

Mobile Phones & Electronic Devices

Please note the extract below from the school's policy on use of mobile phones and electronic devices, which conforms with current Scottish Borders Council policy and also prepares pupils for Scottish Qualifications Authority assessment regulations. This information has been reinforced with pupils at the start of term and each pupil should have a copy in his/her homework diary. If you have an urgent message for your child during the school day which will not wait until the next break, please contact the school office, where someone will arrange for your message to be passed on.

Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices

Please remember that all mobile phones must be switched off at all times during the school day (8.50am – 3.40pm), except break time and lunchtime.

Also, apart from break and lunchtime, MP3 players, iPods and similar devices may be used only if the teacher in charge of the class has given permission during that particular lesson and must be switched off and put away out of sight before the pupil leaves the room. (This includes earphones.)

If any pupil is caught breaking these rules, the offending item will be confiscated, Senior Management will be informed and parents/guardians will be contacted.

GROUPCALL

The Groupcall system is now fully operational and is in use for all pupils in the school with the exception of S6. In practice, this means that on any day that a pupil does not arrive in school at Registration in the morning and we have not been informed about it beforehand, you will be contacted with a text message to your mobile or an automated voicemail message to your landline requesting a reason for the pupil's absence. The purpose of this is to alert the parents and the school to any occasion where the child is not where they are expected to be. On any day that your child is going to be absent from school, you are asked to telephone the school office to inform us of the absence. The school office is open from 8.15am each school morning and available to receive calls.

This session it is hoped to make more use of Groupcall by emailing parents with information such as school newsletters. If you have not included a current email address on the Pupil Update Forms that were recently sent home with pupils, please telephone the school office to have your email address added to the contact information held on our pupil database.

We Will Rock You

**KHS School Show – 1st, 2nd & 3rd November 2011
Tickets available from the school office
and Browns Newsagents - £5.00 / £3.00 concessions**



SCHOOL DRESS

As always, at the start of the session, the standard of pupil dress has been very impressive with almost all pupils adhering fully to the school guidelines in dress. We greatly appreciate the help and support of parents in encouraging all our young people to adhere to the school dress guidelines. If any parent has any issues they wish to discuss about school dress or wish to see the school dress guidelines, please contact the school.

We would urge parents to label clothes with pupil names as the amount of lost property is increasing all the time and if a garment is labelled it can be returned to its owner.

SCHOOL ROLL

At the start of the session, the school roll stood at 673 pupils. This is much the same as the school roll at the start of last session.

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

EMA is a payment which may be made to pupils who stay on at school beyond their leaving date and is in addition to other support and benefits paid by the government.

For applicants applying and qualifying for the first time in 2011/12, eligibility depends on date of birth and household income (up to £20,351 with 1 child in full-time education or up to £22,403 with more than 1 child in full-time education).

Successful applicants will receive £30 per week.

Pupils who are eligible must sign a Learning Agreement, which will set out what is expected in terms of attendance, progress and behaviour, and a school contract which confirms that they understand the procedures for recording absence information.

If you think your child may be eligible and has not yet applied, he/she should collect an application form from the school office.

Please note that a new application must be made each year.

ACCESS TO SCHOOL GROUNDS DURING THE DAY

Please may we remind everyone that, even if the bollards are down, no unauthorised vehicles are allowed in the front playground between 8.30 am and 4.00pm. This is to allow for use of the playground by pupils during the school day and for authorised taxis and minibuses to drop off and collect before and after school.

During the day, if you are coming in to school, please park out on Bowmont Street (but not on the zigzags!) or come round via Orchard Park to the back and park in one of the visitor spaces just to the left inside the gate, but please be aware that there is no access immediately before and after school or during break and lunchtime.

If you are picking a pupil up at the end of the day, it would be appreciated if you did not come into the car park at the back of the school, as this area is very congested and large numbers of pupils are exiting at this time.

Thank you

S3 EXAMS

Because of the very early start to SQA exams this session (25 April 2012), we will have to reschedule our S3 exams. Some of these will now take place *before the Easter holidays, between Wednesday 28 and Friday 30 March*. A full timetable will be distributed nearer the time.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The full programme of Extra-Curricular Activities and Study Support Sessions has begun and is advertised throughout the school.



FORTHCOMING DATES

<i>Friday 7 October 2011</i>	<i>School Holiday</i>
<i>Monday 10 – Friday 14 October 2011</i>	<i>October Holidays</i>
<i>Monday 17 – Friday 21 October 2011</i>	<i>Leavers' Work Experience</i>
<i>Tuesday 25 October 2011</i>	<i>S4 Parents' Evening</i>
<i>Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 1/2/3 November</i>	<i>School Show</i>
<i>Thursday 10 November 2011</i>	<i>In-Service Day</i>
<i>Friday 11 November 2011</i>	<i>In-Service Day</i>
<i>Wednesday 16 November 2011</i>	<i>S1 Parents Information Evening</i>
<i>Monday 21 November – Wednesday 7 December 2011</i>	<i>S4 Prelims</i>
<i>Monday 28 November 2011</i>	<i>St Andrew's Day Holiday</i>
<i>Wednesday 30 November 2011</i>	<i>S3 Parents' Evening</i>
<i>Monday 12 December 2011</i>	<i>Junior Dance</i>
<i>Wednesday 14 December 2011</i>	<i>Senior Dance</i>
<i>Tuesday 20 December 2011</i>	<i>Christmas Concert</i>
<i>Wednesday 21 December 2011</i>	<i>End of Term</i>
<i>Thursday 5 January 2012</i>	<i>School restarts</i>