



Parent Newsletter

Friday 30th September 2022

A note from our Depute!



It's been very good to welcome our children and young people back to school after the Summer holidays. It has been a very busy time at the school for everyone, but especially our Seniors who have all started to engage with local colleges.

The School is currently working with three colleges: Dundee and Angus, Perth UHI and Fife; all on different days, times and start dates. After working in further education myself for over twenty years, I know how different the ethos is at a college as it is Post 16 non compulsory education. Sometimes classes will have self study or classes being less ridged on the duration each class lasts.

With this in mind we have started to build strategies with the Support for Learning Assistants (SLA) for the young people to find

safe spaces; places they can go to study and wait for their next class.

All young people are being provided with a Support for Learning Assistant and we will continue to monitor this scaffolding and will have this on the Post School Transition Planning meeting agendas to monitor this support and look at reducing the scaffolding when appropriate.

All the young people are loving their time so far at college and experiencing new opportunities and making new friends.

I would like to thank all our SLA's for their hard work and extra commitment to traveling across Tayside and Fife to provide our young people with extremely high levels of support.

A reminder to all Parents and Carers that last academic year we amended our academic calendar to reflect other schools in the local authority area and our partners in colleges. The School's academic year is from June to May each year. This year we have four Seniors who will be moving on to Further Education or meaningful activities at the end of May.

Thank you,
Craig Martin

Student Council Update



The Student Council continues to support the children and young people making decisions at MHA Butterstone. They've had a voice in how to host upcoming events, the school dress code and what we can do to support the local community. As always, any new ideas bring them to the meeting!

PSI Update - Robert Davidson



The team continues to work across the organisation in supporting children, young people and families. Jo and Natalie joined the team over the recent months and have settled in really well with both young people and staff.

English Update - Jane Jones



It's wonderful to be back at Butterstone! The English department is happy to report excellent engagement with topical discussion and written work across a multitude of literary tasks so far this term. We have covered reading, writing, listening and speaking activities at all levels. For externally assessed courses, we've embarked on discursive portfolio work, Scottish set texts and 'free choice' literature. Young people are showing enthusiasm for the work of George Orwell, Norman MacCaig and William Shakespeare. Additionally, we are dipping into genre classifications, literary techniques and terminology, close reading skills and background research to our texts.

Young people are showing their commitment by reading independently outside of class, bringing additional information to lessons and displaying critical and independent thinking which is delightful to witness.

As I get to know each learner more personally, I will continue to tailor written work to suit their interests, for example, in football, dance, mythology or politics. We have a great deal of talent in this subject and it's super to teach English at Butterstone.

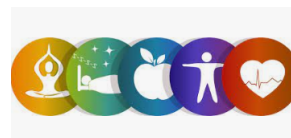
Physical Education Update - Roz Rattary



The children and young people have been learning a new Sport called Pickleball. Well, it's actually not that new, it was first played in 1965.

Pickleball is an indoor or outdoor racket/paddle sport where two players, or four players hit a perforated hollow ball over a net using solid wooden paddles. The children and young people have really taken to this sport and any age or ability can participate. Competition is coming soon.

Health & Wellbeing Update - Aleksandra Gora



S is for **September** and for **Safe!**

This month the children and young people have been looking at the Shanarri Indicator 'Safe' and have been really keen to participate in lessons aimed at developing skills to make informed choices. We asked ourselves a

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question ? Who or what influences my life ?
And explored the topics of media, relationships and peer pressure. The CYP are becoming more and more confident in being able to identify the impact of risk taking behaviours on life choices.

The young people in our Senior Phase have been exploring the idea of Wellbeing and - being well! ? What does it actually mean to each one of us and how can we define it ? We wanted to ask others what they do to feel happier and healthier so we created a survey for our whole school community. Watch this space for the results very soon!

And last but not least - our Home Economic classes have been super busy learning about Health and Safety rules in the kitchen, creating new classroom posters and displays and preparing treats for our Macmillan Coffee Morning! ☕ 🍪 The engagement has been marvellous and, as always, we are all looking forward to creating even more wonderful dishes in the Autumn. 🍎 🍋 🍂



Science Update - Pam Bicocchi



We have had a busy start in science this session and have undertaken numerous practical activities so far. Our National 4 Biology students have been studying reproduction, propagation and growth, meaning our science room currently looks like a garden centre. However, we are growing broad beans, cress, carrots, peas, potatoes and spider plants and so far our efforts are going (growing?) well.

Our BGE scientists are trying to survive a Zombie Apocalypse and have been conducting experiments to filter, boil and distill water to make it drinkable since we are trapped and unable to access clean water. At the moment, it is very cold in the post-apocalyptic world and so they are studying energy transfer to enable us to stay warm.

Our senior phase students are also studying different types of energy and have undertaken numerous practical activities. Unfortunately they were disappointed when I wouldn't let them push me off the roof to explore gravitational potential energy so we had to make do with a basketball instead. They are now undertaking the role of Town Councillors, trying to determine which source of energy will be safe, cheap, environmentally friendly and reliable to power their town.

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Care Team Update - Callum McKenzie



We have had a new child join our service. His peers welcomed him with a party on the Saturday as it was his birthday too!

Our children and young people have enjoyed being back at school and enjoyed participating in the various activities on offer, for example Go Karting, Foot Golf and Golf.

We also paid our own respects following the death of our Majesty The Queen by watching her procession down from Scotland to England and viewing her funeral on the tv.

We have welcomed Isla and William to our home as new staff members. We are very much looking forward to the October holidays where we are looking to possibly go abroad on holiday!



Introducing the Moore House Academy - Butterstone, Board Members

As you all know there is much work that goes on behind the scenes of any organisation as part of the journey that we all know as continuous improvement. Since MHA- Butterstone opened in May 2019 we have been working hard to ensure we design and deliver top quality personalised experiences for all our children and young people both in school and also in terms of achieving positive post school destinations.

Behind the scenes we have a number of Board Members who support our work, who challenge our thinking and who help us to continually strive towards our goal of excellence in all that

we do, to be an organisation with both integrity and vision.

MHA - Butterstone is part of the wider Jane Moore Trust which is a Scottish Registered Charity, an organisation which has a commitment to be sector leading in delivering not only the entitlements of the children and young people but also their individual aspirations whether that be academic, artistic or environmental to name but a few.

Our Board consists of:



Patricia Sheridan
Founder & Managing
Director/Trustee



Lee Sheridan
Director/Trustee



Tracie Callaghan
Director/Trustee



Dr Stephen Drysdale
Director of Children's
Services/Trustee



Coral Bell
Director/Trustee



Danya Millar
Director/Trustee

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Win Wood
Director/Trustee

Each of our Board Members brings very significant experience and knowledge to our work. Each has specialisms that ensures discussions are broad, informed and always in the best interests of our children and young people. As a parent it is perhaps of interest to know that our Board Members are frequently in and around school and are well known faces to our children and young people as well as to some of you as parents. If you would like to know more or indeed meet the Board then please do let me know

Events dates for your calendars:



As mentioned in our events update that we previously sent out, we will be participating in this year's STV Children's Appeal! Sean Batty & Laura Boyd's Coast To Coast Fundraising Challenge will be stopping at our wonderful campus on the morning of Wednesday 5th October. Our children & young people, supported by staff, will be setting up specific challenges for Sean & Laura to participate in.

We will also be doing a number of fundraising activities prior to Sean & Laura visiting us activities include:

- Gunge Blaster the Head Teacher - Wednesday 28 September

- Hamper raffle (if we could please ask that any kind donations for the hamper be sent in **by Friday 30th September** - thank you) Raffle will be drawn at The Big Scottish Breakfast event
- Name the Butterstone Teddy Bear - completed
- Big Scottish Breakfast - Thursday 6 October

We are all very excited about participating in this and contributing to such an amazing cause. We hope you all get behind our children and young people and help us make this an amazing fundraising success!

Parents Forum (online)



The next online Parents Forum is due to take place on Tuesday 25 October at 6pm. We look forward to welcoming you to the meeting. The link for this meeting will be sent out to you; if you have any issues accessing this, please contact our Admin Team on the following email address:

butterstone_admin@moorehouse.org.uk

Upcoming Parents Evening:



Parents Evening for Year Groups **S1 to S5** are currently scheduled to be held on **Monday 21st & Tuesday 22nd of November** - HOLD the date, further information to follow.

'Where We At?'



A couple of our children and young people have adopted some of our school teddy bears and named them 'Nancy' and 'Ronald'! Nancy and Ronald will be popping up from time to time in various locations and our children and young people thought it would be a great idea to see if we can guess where their bears have been! It would be fantastic if we could have some emails in from you all to see if you can guess correctly, which of course we will update and share in our monthly newsletters - just a bit of fun to keep us all on our toes ;-) Where do you think Nancy & Ronald are here.....



School Autumn Holidays:



Commence as from **Monday 10 October** until **Friday 21 October (inclusive)**. School starts again on **Monday 24 October**.

Warm regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tracey'.

Tracey Ford-McNicol
Head of Education