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Weekly Update – 15<sup>th</sup> September 2017

### **Contacting the School**

Please remember to include your young person's name and class in correspondence with the school. This enables us to respond to enquiries efficiently. Please also ensure that the school office is kept informed of any changes to contact details such as mobile phone numbers and email addresses.

### **Safety in the Car Park**

All parents are reminded that CEC policy does not allow for pick up and drop off in school car parks. Encouraging young people to enter the car park area on foot increases the risk of an accident, especially at times when there is a lot of traffic moving. Parents are asked to arrange a safe meeting point away from school grounds. In addition, we ask all car park users to leave the disabled parking bays clear for those who need them.

### **Holidays During Term Time**

We have seen a rise in the number of young people who are being taken out of school during term time for family holidays. While we appreciate that there can be occasional circumstances which mean that this is unavoidable, we ask that parents and carers consider the impact that this has on young people's learning. As well as the impact on those who have been out of school, there can be disruption for others when those who have been off return and require additional help to catch up.

In common with all schools in Scotland, we are required to follow the Scottish Government's guidance on attendance. This means that holidays in term time can only be authorised where there are exceptional circumstances, or where a parent's employment means that this is unavoidable, such as when a parent is in the armed services or the emergency services.

### **The Hunter Foundation**

It was great to see the essays by Joe Cassidy (S4) and Jack Sinclair (last year's S6) published alongside the rest of the competition entries – you can access these and the other competition entries at the link below. The following message comes from Sir Tom Hunter:

On May 26<sup>th</sup> 2017 we had the honour and privilege of hosting President Barack Obama here in Scotland. To celebrate and mark that occasion we invited pupils in secondary schools across Scotland to submit an essay outlining their priorities if they had the opportunity to rule Scotland. Over two hundred schools submitted their thoughts – they were humbling, uplifting, challenging and often seriously funny. They made me pause for thought and ask myself - do we really listen to their young voices enough? The submissions from all over Scotland have some incredibly consistent themes; if you will a community of young Scots unknown to one another yet articulating the same vision; an anonymous, collective voice of hope.

Through this e-book <http://www.thehunterfoundation.co.uk/if-i-ruled-scotland/> we hope that voice is heard and that all of Scotland listens, particularly our policy makers and politicians.

Their voices tell us they care about our communities, our environment, equality for all, embracing our differences, caring for those who can't care for themselves, mental health, ambition and reaching for the stars. And having a laugh. Theirs is a message of hope, that same message President Obama offered us on that incredible night when our winning poet, Mila Stricevic from Hyndland Secondary School stole the show. The standing ovation on the night was hers, but all our entries deserve ovation and our sincere thanks for caring for this great nation we call home. We are a small nation that can so easily punch above its weight, enabling young voices is one small way in which we will achieve so much more for Scotland. I truly hope you enjoy this book

Yours aye, Sir Tom Hunter

### Book Fair 2-6 October 2017

The school library will be hosting a book fair all week. Pupils can browse and buy books in the library, or pick up a leaflet to bring home.

Watch this space for details of visiting authors, who will be selling signed copies of their books...

And don't forget it's Portobello Book Festival – all events are free! More details at <https://portobellobookfestival.wordpress.com/>

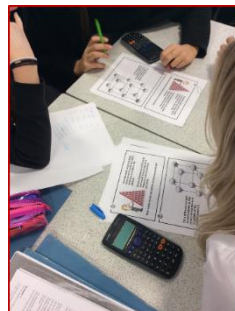


### Maths Week Photos

#### S1 Logos



#### Maths wi nae borders



#### S2 Maths Relay



#### Mathematical Designs



#### Maths Roadshow





### APP of the WEEK!

This week we would like to recommend a great app for studying, especially useful close to exams!

The SQA “My Study Plan” app is a free app which constructs a personal study timetable based on your priorities and free time. It notifies you when you need to start revising and times the study period as well so you know when you can finally put down your books and relax!

*Rose Tully*

### Residential Trips 2018

All parents please note that a letter was sent home about this year’s residential trips this week via email.

### An Inspiring Week of Maths

This week the Maths department had the school participating in Maths Week! Aimed at the whole school, many year groups took part in different mathematical activities. S1 pupils competed to design a new logo for the Maths department. They also took part in a fun maths roadshow and completed some fantastic mathematical designs. S2 took part in the very first Porty Maths relay in the hall (winners below), whilst pupils in S1-S3 enjoyed participating in a Sumdog competition.

Many classes enjoyed “Maths wi nae borders” puzzles. We also enjoyed an inspiring assembly about Alan Turing. He was the lead mathematician on a team which cracked codes during WW2. Ultimately, their work ended the war 2 years earlier than expected, helping to save the lives of many British and German soldiers. His story highlights the importance of learning, LGBT rights and equality. Further photos from Maths week can be found on the Maths Department Twitter page @phsmathematics.

*Kirsten Fordyce*



*Tommy Hurrell, S1, with his winning logo*

### S2 Maths Relay Winners

<b>Abercorn and Brustane</b>	<b>Crichton and Duddingston</b>
<b>Team 1:</b> Sarah Brown, Robert Bryson and Callan McLean	<b>Team 1:</b> Max Hannah, Violet Charlton, Zenab Akhtar, Connor Balfour
<b>Team 3:</b> Lily Mansbridge, Zoe MacDonald and Bryden Scott	<b>Team 9:</b> Jessica Lorimer, David Hardie, Levi Sbiera and Aimili Troup.
<b>Team 8:</b> Orla Moffat, Dilan Fedakar, Laura Hogg and Nicholas Zayachkivsky	

## **Men Should Weep, but Teenagers Might Sleep**

Last Friday night a group of S5s, lowering the average age of the audience by ten years, gathered in the Brunton Theatre to see a production of 'Men Should Weep' by Ena Lamont Stewart. The play is set in 1930s Glasgow, and is being studied in several Higher English classes this year. Our young faces stuck out in the crowd of more senior members of the community, however we seemed to be a refreshing sight for many.

Those who didn't know the play perhaps expected a theatrical production full of dramatic twists and turns, with loud sound effects and crazy backdrops. What we experienced was slightly more nuanced and slow paced than the blockbuster movies we are used to. The play was set in one room and, through a group of actors ranging in age from seven to seventy, explored the struggles that Scots faced during the Great Depression in the early mid-1900s. Although the performance dealt with many interesting, and complex themes, the lack of events and change in scenery might have sent a few of the pupils to sleep. Thank you to Ms Wells, Ms Kirkwood and Ms Sinclair for organizing the trip.

*Rose Tully*

## **Council Catering Vacancies**

City of Edinburgh Council Catering have a number of vacancies in local schools for the delivery of school meals. These are mostly 8, 10 or 16 hour posts over lunch times, there are some with longer hours.

If you are interested you can apply via the myjobscotland website or if you do not have access the internet you can call Val on 0131 529 2771 for an application form (Tuesday – Thursday only).

## **This Week's Sporting Results**

U13s Football: Portobello 4 - 8 Craigmount

U14s Football: Portobello 4 - 5 Leith

U15s Football: Portobello 6 - 2 Royal High

U16s Football: Portobello 2 - 5 Gracemount

Girls Open Basketball: Portobello 78- 32 Dunbar

Well done to all who took part or supported our teams!