



## **Spring Concert**

Our Spring Concert will be held on the evening of Thursday 23 March at 7pm. To avoid disappointment, please purchase tickets in advance from the school office as entry on the night is not guaranteed. The programme includes a varied selection of items and, as always, it promises to be a very enjoyable night.

## **Lessons from Auschwitz Assembly**

Back in November, S6 students Rory Ferguson 6D04 and Eva Baikie 6B04, visited Auschwitz-Birkenau as part of the school's participation in the Holocaust Education Trust's, Lessons From Auschwitz programme. This week, Rory spoke very powerfully in assemblies about his experience and what he had learned. The following short film, produced by the HET was shown and Mrs McKay spoke social courage and how small everyday acts contribute to making our society fairer and more inclusive.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q\\_cYxuS4emc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q_cYxuS4emc)

## **Safety – School Car Park**

Please could we ask for your support in ensuring that our car park operates safely? Recently, we have had a number of concerns raised about parents dropping off or picking up children in the school car park. There have been some very near misses and we are genuinely concerned for the safety of our learners and others. City of Edinburgh Council policy is that school car parks should not be used in this way and it is recognised that pedestrians, especially young people, and vehicles mixing heightens the risk of an accident. Please support us by finding a safe place within walking distance to set down and collect children. Work is ongoing at council level to review car park safety.

## **JET Academy – Parent's Evening**

The Edinburgh JET Academy offers our pupils in S4 the opportunity to gain employability qualifications and skills through courses in school and extended work experience. Pupils opting to undertake this course in S4 are matched to a placement with an employer in an area of interest and attend their placement on a Friday. On Thursday evening this week we held an information evening for S3 parents and pupils interested in the programme. It was a lovely, informative evening and our thanks go to Clare Gibson from the JET Academy for her presentation and to three of our S3 pupils who were wonderful hosts and guides to the parents and pupils. If you would like further information on the JET programme, please contact Ms Fotheringham.

## **Basketball Success**

TeamParty has had quite a week on the court with four teams competing in the Scottish Basketball Cup Finals which were held at the Oriam National Performance Centre. Both S1 Boys' and Girls' Teams were runners up in hard-fought finals and we are sure that there will be lots more excellent basketball from them. Our Open Boys' Team had a convincing 48-24 defeat of Fortrose to win the Plate and our Open Girls' Team won a very closely-contested match 87-75 against St. Thomas of Aquins to become Cup Winners. Congratulations to all our players, coaches and supporters!

### **NHS Blood Donation March 2017**

S6 pupils and staff signed up to give blood in the school on 1 March 2017. As a result, we had 45 people attending the session and 34 were successful in giving blood. 28 of the donors were new, which is very encouraging.

Thanks to all who contributed to this very worthwhile cause.

### **S5/6 Voter Registration Assembly**

All S5 and S6 pupils are asked to come to an extra assembly on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March in the hall to find out about registering your vote for the upcoming council elections in May. This will be the first time that they can use their right to vote (how exciting!), so we look forward to telling them all about how to register. Students should register with their Key Adult first and need to remember and bring their iPad.

### **School Dress**

School dress was reviewed ahead of our move to the new building and we re-stated our commitment to white shirts and ties, along with black trousers or skirts. All learners are given a school tie when they join Portobello High School and we feel that our school dress is both easily available and keeps cost to a minimum. Please note that leggings are not acceptable for school on their own, though they may be worn under a skirt. Similarly, please purchase plain black shoes when you replace school footwear. Anyone having difficulty with the cost of school clothing, is invited to contact their child's Pupil Support Leader as we are able to provide assistance in confidence.