

Weekly Update – 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017

### **Autumn Fayre**

We are delighted to be holding an Autumn Fayre on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November from 10am until 1pm. The Fayre, organised by Parent Council, will offer members of the community the chance to shop from 28 stalls, many offering handcrafted and homemade gifts ideal for Christmas! We look forward to welcoming you to school tomorrow for this annual event.

### **Parent Council**

Our Parent Council are meeting on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00pm to discuss how we can continue to build a strong working relationship between the school and its community. If you have not attended a Parent Council previously, this is a great opportunity to find out more about the school and to get involved in a range of activities to support its development. The meeting will take place in the Library and everyone is welcome.

### **Fire Alarm**

Families will be aware that the fire alarm sounded on a number of occasions this week. Whilst one evacuation was caused by a Science experiment that triggered the alarm system, there does appear to have been some malicious misuse of the fire alarm. We would like to reassure the community that all such cases are thoroughly investigated by the school and police and that any deliberate attempts to set off the fire alarm system are dealt with very seriously. If any members of the community have information which might assist our enquiries, we would be grateful if you would pass this on to your House Head.

### **National Sumdog Competition**

All S1-S3 pupils have been enrolled in National Sumdog Competition – the competition runs from Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov to Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> Nov. At least 10 pupils from each class must participate in order to qualify, classes are ranked on the average number of correct answers. Each pupil who answers 100 questions will receive an item for their Sumdog House, the maximum amount of questions that can be answered by each pupil is 1000 questions. Pupils do not need to complete 1000 questions however the more correctly answered questions the higher the class score.

Good Luck everyone!!

M Yeoman

### **Kids Lit Quiz**

Four of our keen S1 readers won the coveted 2nd prize in the East Scotland Heat of the Kids' Lit Quiz held at Liberton High School on Wednesday. Hari Bhandari, Emily Graham, Elin Jones and Lily Mayers answered over 100 questions, displaying their extensive knowledge of children's literature. Their fantastic efforts were rewarded with books and a book token. Well-done!



### **AH/H Biology Trip, National Museum of Scotland.**

A huge well done to the 21 senior students who were taken to the Museum on Wed 1<sup>st</sup> Nov. They worked hard and followed instructions carefully to successfully complete an experiment into their own genetic capability to taste bitterness.

The students were well spoken of by both the lecturers who ran the workshop and Museum staff who commended them for their politeness, consideration for other visitors and enthusiasm.

We are absolutely delighted with how they conducted themselves, both as students of PHS and scientists and thank them for an interesting and informative experience for everyone involved.

Miss Kaur & Mrs Epton.

### **Trinity College London, Achievers' Showcase Concert**

Congratulations to Eilidh Riddell in S6 who performed in a concert last Sunday held to showcase the talents of students who had achieved high distinction marks in their Music exams. Eilidh sang one of the songs she had performed in her exam last summer; the concert, given to a large audience, also featured other outstanding musicians from Edinburgh and the Lothians.

### **S6 Halloween Party**

Ghost, ghouls, unicorns, cartoon characters and many other creatures attended our annual S6 Halloween Party on Tuesday evening. S6 had fun dancing the night away and eating their way through a mound of sugar!

Roll on the Christmas party.

### **Weekly Sports Update**

#### **Football Results**

**U15s** Portobello 0 – 1 Deans

**Seniors** Portobello 1 – 2 Balerno HS

#### **Basketball Results**

**U15 Boys** Portobello HS 52 – 57 Lasswade HS

**U15 Boys** George Heriots 58 – 16 Portobello HS

**Open Girls** George Heriots 24 – 71 Portobello HS



**U15 Girls** Lasswade HS 16 – 19 Portobello HS

**U15 Boys** Musselburgh Grammar 34 – 60 Portobello

### **Achievements**

A huge well done to all pupils who competed in a variety of athletics events last weekend!

A special well done to Zoe MacDonald who was recently recognised as the overall girls champion (across all age categories!!) for the year at Musselburgh Athletics Club. Zoe now runs for Team East Lothian and her team recently achieved 5<sup>th</sup> place at the National Cross Country Relays. Team East Lothian had more success with Lucy Brand (S2) who came 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the High Jump event at the Scottish Indoor League last weekend. Well done to all involved!

If you also competed in these events or have any other sporting achievements come and let the PE Department know so we can share your success!

### **Girls 'Big Day Out'**

Three of our S3 Girls attended the SportsScotland Big Day Out, held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November at Castlebrae Community High School. Margaret Mitchell, Sophie Sinclair and Eleanor Noble represented the school at the event which introduced pupils to some different activities which included Boot Camp, Step, Dance Fitness, Yoga and Clubbing! The girls also got their hair styled from the team at the Beauty Salon at Castlebrae which included a number of Portobello Pupils. Inspired by the day, the girls have already joined the Sports Council and have put a plan in place to introduce new girl focused activities to the High School'

### **Parent and Carer Support and Information Sessions on**

### **Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Issues**

These Support and Information Sessions are for Parents and Carers who are concerned about their pre-teen or teenager's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health. Each monthly session has a different topic focus. There is also an opportunity for parents and carers to meet other parents and supportive professionals in a safe relaxed environment. Parents and carers of 11-18 year olds from in and around Edinburgh are welcome to attend any of the sessions.

Please find flyer attached for further information and dates





## APP of the WEEK!

This week I am recommending Socrative, a great app which has really spiced up my learning. It's a competitive quiz app where you compete against your fellow classmates by answering questions correctly.

It's a great way to make learning necessary (maybe dull!) facts more fun and exciting!

Rose Tully

## Talent vs Cancer

Talent VS cancer is calling all students to help organise and take part in a fundraising event. The first meeting on the 2nd of November had an overwhelming amount of support. The talent show will raise money for teen cancer. The event will run on the 16th March 2018. So get involved! Teacher and students are welcome to take part in the talent show. We are also looking for a Simon Cowell-esque teacher to judge along with 3 others. If anyone is interested in taking part feel free to ask Kieran in S6.

*Kirstin Fordyce*



## Preparing for Prelims

It's a fact many are none too happy about -prelims are coming up- and it may come as a surprise but now is the best time to start revising. Trust me, you will thank yourself in the future as it means less work and cramming during exam time. December and January are the dates for prelims, for more information visit the school website.

The first recommendation I have is to buy the "How to Pass" textbooks. These books specify in most subjects at National 5 and Higher and include complete course notes, tips to get your best grade and hints to help you through the course. They have personally helped me improve my grades and I would highly encourage these purchases as they are completely worth the money.

The most easily accessible and effective revision materials are past papers. They give you an idea of the structure of your final paper and make you feel more relaxed for your exam as you are more familiar with the style of questions. These can be accessed on the SQA website linked below.

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm>

The third is a revision tactic for when you don't have enough time to do a past paper but want to memorise parts of a course. Flash cards are a cheap, quick and easy method of revising that you can take anywhere and use whenever you like. You can also make them specific to the areas you feel you need work on.

The fourth tip I have is to make use of the resources your teachers provide you with. Revision classes are essential if you are stuck on something, missed a class or want a quiet place to study. The teachers running these classes are more than happy to answer any questions on the subject and are extremely helpful.

If you are taking your first set of exams and are unsure of anything, ask a teacher or a pupil you know who has been through exams and they should be able to clear up most questions. The SQA website is also a useful resource for clearing up any confusion around exam time.

*Issy Butt*