

Weekly Update – 02.06.2017

Change of Timetable

Our new timetable begins on Monday 5 June. Key Adult Time will be extended on Monday to allow timetables to be issued to learners. Special thanks to our timetabler extraordinaire Mr Cotter, for all his work on this. Thanks to his ingenuity we have been able to meet an even wider range of learner requests than usual. Thanks also to Miss Livingstone, Miss Urquhart and our Admin Assistant Laura Harrison for their work in supporting what is a very complex piece of work.

S5 and S6 Induction

Induction Days will be held for our new S5 and S6 pupils on Monday 5 June. S5 should go to the Hall for 8.50am and S6 should report to the Hall at 9.40 am.

P7 Parent Information Evening

A reminder that our annual Information Evening for parents of next year's S1 cohort will be held on Tuesday 6 June at 7pm. Information about this and the forthcoming P7 three day visit was sent out by letter.

Staff Update

Staff and pupils said farewell to two of our Pupil Support Assistants today. Mrs Kath Lynch is well known figure in the local community and has enjoyed a very long association with Portobello High School, having attended as pupil herself. We wish her a long and happy retirement. Mrs Jennie Moracen has also become a well known face in the school community after fourteen years of service and we wish her all the best in her new job.

We also said cheerio to Miss Mari Baxter of Modern Languages who takes up a new post in Broughton High School on Monday.

Next week we look forward to welcoming our new Maths teacher, Miss Kirsty Gunstone. Miss Gunstone joins us from North Berwick High School where she has been teaching for several years.

SQA Exams

Our 2017 diet of examinations is now complete. Special thanks to our Invigilation team, led by Ms Alex Laird, for their hard work. Thanks also to subject staff who have provided Exam Booster sessions for N5 for the first time and to our very able pupil support team who have provided first class support for candidates with additional arrangements.

iPad Return

A reminder to our outgoing S6 that they must return their iPad to Mr Russell, our ICT Technician, as soon as possible.

Community Litter Pick

Today saw our S2 John Muir group team up with some S4 students to carry out a community litter pick in collaboration with Macdonalds Seafield branch. This session the group targeted the perimeter of golf course and school garden and collected twelve bags of rubbish. They were also successful in getting the ragwort out of the school garden ready for a successful growing season next year! Thanks to Mrs Coates for organising.

S6 Leavers' Evening

Wednesday evening saw our very first S6 Leavers' Evening. This new event has been introduced to the school calendar to offer us an opportunity to mark what is a significant milestone with S6 students and their families. As well as reflecting on their time at school and wishing them well for the future, guests enjoyed a delicious buffet prepared and served by our S3 Hospitality students who looked very professional in their whites! Our best wishes to all our outgoing S6 in their next steps.



Special Visitor to Drama

Former pupil, Ewen Bremner, returned to Portobello High School on Wednesday 31st May to meet some of our learners including the S4 group engaged in Meaningful May activities.

Ewen, well known for his portrayal of Spud in the *Trainspotting* films, gave an inspirational talk on his journey and experiences as an actor and answered questions from the audience.

Thanks to Miss Rose from the drama department for organising this.

S1 and S2 Sports Day - Wednesday 24th May

A big well done to all S1 and S2 pupils, who took part in Sports Day on Wednesday 24th May. Pupils were given a choice of 8 activities, from team sports such as basketball and volleyball, to individual events such as frisbee golf and sports day races, which included traditional egg and spoon and wheelbarrow races! Designing and making a healthy smoothie for competitors was also on offer, with Portobello's Scotmid generously providing fruit and other smoothie ingredients. The smoothie makers also got a chance to stretch their legs on a smoothie bike provided by Sustrans, which used pupil power to blend the smoothie ingredients. The activities were led by enthusiastic staff, who along with pupils got into the spirit of the event by wearing their house colours.

The day saw a lot of friendly competition between our four houses, but with Abercorn ultimately winning gold and Brunstane and Crichton achieving joint runner-up position. The event was one of several inter-house competitions introduced this session to encourage house identity.

