



Weekly Update 23 June 2017

Portobello HS Head Team 2017/18

Following staff and pupil voting and an exceptionally high standard of interviews, we are delighted to announce that the following young people have been selected as our Head Team for 2017/18:

Head Boy - Stefan Ormsby-Peacock

Head Girl - Beth Ballantine

Depute Head Boys - Fergal Herron and Lewis McColm

Depute Head Girls - Jennifer Cassidy and Zoe Gibson

We wish them every success in the year ahead!

L- R Jennifer, Fergal, Beth, Stefan, Zoe and Lewis



Award Ceremony

Our annual award ceremony was held on Monday evening. We were delighted that Professor Alex Balfour, long-time supporter of our Mathematics prize was able to join us in person this year.

Our special guest was Maggie Vaughan. A former pupil of the school, Maggie was in the first S1 year group to go up to the Duddingston Road building in 1964, so it was especially fitting that she spoke to us in our first year in our new building. In a warm and inspiring address, Maggie reflected on her experiences at Porty High and later as a successful journalist and emphasised the importance of curiosity and imagination, encouraging our learners to question the world around them.

Primary 7 Visit

We were delighted to welcome our soon-to-be-S1 students this week for their three day visit. This allows them to get a feel for secondary school and helps them to feel confident ahead of joining us in the new session. Special thanks to our S6 student helpers who were a huge hit with the P7s!

Re-coursing after exams

Whilst we hope all goes well with the SQA exams, we realise this isn't always the case for everyone and that sometimes pupils need to reconsider the courses they are taking next year. There will be the opportunity to meet with school staff by appointment on Thursday 10 and Friday 11 August between 09:30 and 14:30 each day. Appointments can be made by phoning the school office from Tuesday 8 August. It should be noted that some classes will be full and that the range of available courses may be restricted. These appointments are for pupils whose exam results are not as expected. All other pupils are expected to continue studying the courses they chose in March.

Edinburgh College will also be holding a drop-in surgery on 10 August from 14:00 to 18:30 where pupils can look at college options following their exam results. They will have a team on hand to provide information on courses with places available and to support applications on the day for courses starting in August 2017.

Foundation Apprenticeships

Edinburgh College still has places available for new S5 pupils on a range of Foundation Apprenticeship Courses. If your child is interested in applying for one of these courses, they should see Mr Cotter.

Foundation Apprenticeships offer a great opportunity for developing the skills employers really value as well as a qualification that is equivalent to 'Higher'. Please [click here for further information](#) or download FA prospectuses, using the links below.

Foundation Apprenticeship	Duration	Campus	SCQF Level
Business Skills	2 years	Sighthill	6
Civil Engineering	2 years	Construction & Technology Centre – Musselburgh	6
Engineering	2 years	Midlothian	6
IT Software Development	2 years	Granton	6
Creative & Digital Media	2 years	Sighthill	6
Social Services – Children & Young People	2 years	Granton	6
Social Services and Healthcare	2 years	Sighthill	6

Prom 2017

Our annual S6 Prom was held last night at The Balmoral Hotel. Our recent leavers all looked very stylish and staff scrubbed up pretty well, too!

A Royal Audience

Congratulations to Kiku Konishi Gaffney (S2), who attended the opening of the New Cumnock Swimming Pool last week as part of the Edinburgh Synchronised Swimming Team and performed in front of and met Prince Charles.



Women In Construction Event

Please note that Edinburgh College have let us know that this event, advertised in a previous update, has been postponed.