

Weekly Update – 10th November 2017

Remembrance Evening

Last night we held our Remembrance Evening in the small hall. Guests were moved by a range of very thought-provoking and poignant contributions including dance, drama, music and song. We also heard reflections on the theme of remembrance and sacrifice.

This photo was taken by our War Memorial in the entrance corridor. The photo includes the members of our S1 drama group and our Royal British Legion colour bearers.



Thanks to all those who worked hard to make this such a special event.

Porty Chief Invigilator Recognised at SQA Awards

We were delighted that our Chief Invigilator, Alex Laird, was recognised in the annual SQA Star Awards ceremony last Friday night. Invigilators are all too often the unsung heroes of the examination process and Alex has been ensuring that young people in Portobello have a well-organised and positive experience at a time which can be otherwise anxious and daunting. Alex has also been a leading light in the training of other invigilators so it was lovely see her contribution recognised with as Highly Commended in the category of SQA Appointee.

Staffing Update

Staff and learners bid farewell to Mr Bracewell of our Chemistry department last week and we wish him well in his new post at James Gillespie's High School. A new teacher of Chemistry has been appointed and will join us in December. In the meantime, thanks to all of our Science staff who are working hard to ensure that learners continue to progress until our new colleague arrives.

Along with other schools, Portobello HS continues to experience difficulty in recruiting staff in key shortage areas. We are very grateful to staff in Business Education and Mathematics for all they are doing to support learners at this time. We have just been able to source some part time Business Education supply and will share details of this in due course.

Fire Alarm

We were very disappointed to experience another malicious activation of our fire alarm today. Such behaviour disrupts learning and teaching and could delay the emergency services in reaching a genuine emergency. We all need to work together to put a stop to this disruption. If any parent, young person or member of the wider community has information which might assist our enquiries, we would be grateful if you would pass this on to a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Modern Languages – S5/6 Cinema Trip

On Tuesday 7th November, 39 of our French Higher and Advanced Higher students visited the Filmhouse cinema on Lothian Road to watch the film "Les Grands Esprits" (literally "Great Minds" – or "The Teacher" as it was imaginatively translated for its real English release title). The film was about a French ministry of

education project to take the best teachers from the selective schools and let them work in schools with students from more diverse backgrounds and socio-economic circumstances. The film was told from the perspective of one teacher, who transferred from an elite school in Paris to a school in the suburbs (les banlieues) of the city, and the challenges he faced. Everyone really enjoyed the film – especially the teachers, perhaps given the subject matter! This film was shown as part of the Filmhouse’s French Film Festival and tied in very nicely with the theme of Learning which we are about to study at both Higher and Advanced Higher level.

A McCulloch - CL Modern Languages

Edinburgh College Open Days

Edinburgh College is hosting a range of Open Days, inviting you to join them on a campus of your choice at your preferred time.

They want to ensure all pupils have the opportunity to explore the range of options and curriculum that are on offer to support future choices and find out more about life at College.

The Open Days are taking place on the following dates:

Date	Campus	Times
Thursday 7 December	Granton	4:00pm-6.30pm
Tuesday 12 December	Milton Road	4:00pm-6.30pm
Thursday 14 December	Sighthill	4:00pm-6.30pm

Each campus will have information points for pupils to discuss their areas of interest with presentations and tours of the facilities.

Should you have any questions please contact: events@edinburghcollege.ac.uk

Sports Results

Basketball

U15 Boys (S3): Broxburn 18 – 33 Portobello

U15 Girls (S2): Portobello 44 – 49 Dunbar

S1 Boys Scottish Cup: Holy Rood 12 – 32 Portobello

S1 Girls Scottish Cup: Portobello 22 – 12 Mary Erskine’s

Football

Seniors: Dalkeith 0 – 5 Portobello

U14s: Portobello 5 – 3 Broughton

Rugby

Our U16s played in the Emerging Schools League Tournament and won every game! Well done boys!

Sports Achievements

A huge well done to a few of our senior pupils who been involved in great sporting success outside of school!

Congratulations to Esme McGregor (S6) and Ben Scott (S6) who have both been selected for the Scotland U21s Water Polo Team. They are currently training with the team in preparation for the EU Nations competition which will be held in Manchester 17th- 19th of November.

A huge well done to Natasha Nicholson (S5) and her dance group 'Legacy' who came 1st place in the Xtreme Dance Champs held in Paisley last weekend.

If you have been involved in any sporting success outside of school, come and let the PE department know so we can share your success!

Scottish Schools Athletics Indoor Championship

Any pupils who would be interested in entering the Scottish Schools Athletics Indoor Championships on Wednesday 7th/ Thursday 8th February please come and speak to Paddy in PE!