

Weekly Update – 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018

### Happy Holidays!

We wish all of our young people and families well for the summer and look forward to seeing you all again in August! The school office will be staffed though the holidays, though it may not be possible for us to respond to all enquires during the holiday period.

### Staff Update

As ever at the end of the school year, we say goodbye to a number of colleagues who are retiring:

- Mr Roy (CL CDT & Art)
- Ms Skedd (PSL Brunstane House)
- Mrs Summerling (CL Music & Drama)
- Mr Matthews (Teacher of Art)

We wish them all a long and happy retirement and thank them for all they have done for Portobello High School.

We are delighted that all of our Newly Qualified Teachers have secured permanent teaching posts. Mr McCreath (Geography) and Mrs Hand (Maths) will stay with us in Portobello and Ms McGarrigle (Music), Miss Neilson (PE) and Mr Alexander (Maths) all move on to school in and around Edinburgh. We wish them all the best!

We also wish Ms Sinclair Ford (RME) well as she begins her maternity leave.

### Pupil Return – 15<sup>th</sup> August 2018

We look forward to welcoming our pupils to the start of their new school year on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> August at 8.30am**. Pupils in S2 – S6 should make their way as usual to their Key Adult Group. Pupils starting S1 should make their way to the areas shown in the table below.

Abercorn Pupils (classes 1A and 1B)	Large assembly hall
Brunstane Pupils (classes 1C and 1D)	Library
Crichton Pupils (classes 1E, 1F and 1I)	Small assembly hall
Duddingston Pupils (classes 1G and 1H)	Dining Room

### SQA Exams

#### Results

SQA results will be published on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> August. SQA operates a secure online service called MySQA that allows candidates to receive their results by text or email from 8.00am on 7 August, in addition to a paper certificate. To get your results by text or email, please sign up at [www.mysqa.org.uk](http://www.mysqa.org.uk) by 5.00pm on 17 July.

#### Post Results Service

Portobello High School can submit a Post Results Service request where we hold clear and compelling evidence that there is a reasonable probability that an error has occurred with the marking or the totalling of marks of an examination script. That is, if a student's final grade is markedly at odds with the totality of assessment evidence gathered during the course and out of line with the performance of other candidates with similar profiles.

Post Results Service requests are submitted by the school with the permission of candidates and the Headteacher. The service opens on results day and can take the form of a clerical check or a marking review. A clerical check makes sure that all parts of an exam have been marked and that the marks given for each answer have been totalled correctly. A marking review makes sure that all parts of an exam have been marked, that the marking is in line with the national

standard and that the marks for each answer have been totalled and entered correctly. A priority marking review can be requested before 17 August if you require a result to secure a conditional place at university or college.

Whilst curriculum leaders will check candidates' results in August, please see your subject teachers if you think we should request a clerical check, marking review or priority marking review for you. You should be aware that the Post Results Service cannot be requested where your final grade is in line with or exceeds the estimate submitted to the SQA or where your mark is simply near a grade boundary.

J. Ziltener, SQA Co-ordinator

### **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 9 and Friday 10 August between 09:00 and 15:30** each day. It should be noted that some classes will be full and that the range of available courses may be restricted. Appointments can be made by phoning the school office 0131 669 2324 or emailing [admin@portobello.edin.sch.uk](mailto:admin@portobello.edin.sch.uk)

Edinburgh College - Granton Campus will also be holding a drop-in surgery on **9 August from 12:00 to 16:00** 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 2018.

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### **Bright Light**

Please find attached information on a new free Family Therapy service available for families who have been affected by alcohol. For more information contact Bright Light Relationship Counselling, email: [admin@bright-light.org.uk](mailto:admin@bright-light.org.uk)

Tel: 0131 556 1527 [www.bright-light.org.uk](http://www.bright-light.org.uk)

### **Good Luck**

We are bidding a fond farewell to Chloe Lynch (S4) as she will be taking up a place at The Dance School of Scotland in August. Whilst we are sorry to see her go we are extremely proud of her success and wish her all the best for the future.