

Weekly Update – 17th August 2018

Welcome!

It was lovely to see everyone return to school after the summer holiday and especially to welcome our new S1 students to the high school. Our first day involved a variety of activities in Key Adult Groups, the launch of our new Positive Behaviour policy and a guest speaker, Richard McCann, who created a real buzz in the school by sharing his incredible story and his 'I can, I will' philosophy. All parents and carers should have received a letter from Mrs McKay giving further details of this – please contact our school office if you did not get a copy.

Staffing Update

We were delighted to welcome a number of new staff to the school at the beginning of the week:

- Ms Jennifer Hepburn Kerr will join us as a Teacher of Craft Design and Technology from the beginning of September. She has previously taught at Leith Academy and is herself a Porty FP.
- Ms Lorna Tugman has joined us as a Teacher of Food and Textiles Technology. Ms Tugman spent last year on a sabbatical in Australia and was previously a teacher at Craigmount High School.
- Ms Natasha Jacobs has joined us as Pupil Support Leader for Brunstane House. Ms Jacobs was previously employed at Liberton HS where she taught PE and spent a year as an Acting PSL.
- Ms Amy Cunningham has joined our Maths department, having completed her NQT year at Currie HS last session.
- Ms Anna Beynon will be our new Curriculum Leader for Expressive Arts (Art, Drama & Music) and takes up her post in mid-September. Ms Beynon returns to Edinburgh from Dumfries and Galloway where she has been a CL Expressive Arts for some time. (Following the retirement of Mrs Sumerling and Mr Roy, we undertook a restructuring exercise to achieve a better fit of subject groupings. The Art & Design department has joined Drama and Music and the Craft, Design and Technology Department has joined Food and Textile Technology under the leadership of Mrs Linda Bradley, our existing CL FTT.)
- Ms Eilidh McPherson has joined us as a Temporary Teacher of Art & Design to cover for Mrs Davis' maternity leave. Ms McPherson completed her NQT year at Liberton HS last session.
- Ms Claire Wilson has joined us from Falkirk Council as a Teacher of Religious, Moral and Philosophical Education.
- Mr Gary Boyd has joined us as Acting Support for Learning Leader. Most recently, Mr Boyd has been working with the ASL Service in Edinburgh, and brings a wealth of experience from a variety of posts.

We have also welcomed a number of Newly Qualified Teachers to the school this year:

- Ms Catriona Crawford – Food and Textile Technology
- Ms Harriet Henderson - Religious, Moral and Philosophical Education
- Mr Anis Saleh - Biology
- Mr Sam Scott – Physical Education
- Mr Ruaridh Stewart – Music

Wedding Bells!

Congratulations to the following staff who were married over the summer holiday:

- Miss Laura Harrison (Administrative Assistant) is now Mrs McWhinnie.
- Miss Emily Willis (Teacher of Art) is now Mrs Munro.
- Miss Angela McLoone (Teacher of Music) is now Mrs Docherty.
- Ms Gillian Alexander (Pupil Support Assistant) is now Mrs Davidson.

Portobello High School Extra-Curricular Sport & Activity Programme 2018-19

Letters will be sent out in the coming week about our new extra-curricular programme, which is due to start the week beginning 3rd September. We have 14 different sports and activities on offer throughout the week. We have a number of teachers, club coaches and senior pupils on our delivery team – which also boasts a Scottish Judo Champion, Great Britain Basketball Coach and hopefully (fingers crossed) the Hibs Ladies captain and Scotland International amongst its numbers. To book a place for your child please visit <https://www.joininedinburgh.org/venue/419/> - the different memberships are explained in the letter. **Please note that all those registered for Free School Meals will receive a free membership.**

School of Basketball

Information about our S1 and S2 School of Basketball trials will be sent out in the coming week. The sessions are open to all those in S1 and S2 and will be conducted outside of the main curriculum with one early morning session and one after school session. This is in addition to the after school team training session provided as part of the Active Schools programme. The sessions will focus on individual skills development. A trial will take place on Tuesday 28th August at 4-5pm for S1 and 5-5.45pm for S2. Please return the slip to Mrs Inkster in the PE department by Friday 24th August.

Scientific Calculators

Scientific Calculators are still available to purchase using ParentPay for the cost of £4.50. These can be used by any pupil in S1-6 and are acceptable for use in SQA examinations. To purchase, please login to your ParentPay account and process for payment. We will run payment reports in school and calculators will be given to pupils during their KA time.

Book Return

Every year we issue books to students to support them with their studies. It is very important that the books are returned to us to allow the next cohort to benefit being able to take them home to help with their preparations for exams. Any pupils who haven't yet returned resources from last session please return to the appropriate departments as soon as possible.

FP News - University of Aberdeen Graduates

Congratulation to the following former pupils, who have graduated from the University of Aberdeen:

- John Ballantine – Bachelor of Laws,
- Lauren Davies – BSc Neuroscience with Psychology
- Anemay Jack – MA Archeology
- Suzanne Mackay Lloyd – Bachelor of Laws
- James Alexander McGregor – MA Politics and International Relations
- Alistair Ian Murphy – Bachelor of Laws
- Rowan Kay Simpson – BSc Geography and Geoscience

