

Weekly Update – 14th December

Thanks

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all those who got in touch to express their sympathies and offer support following the tragic death of Mhari O’Neill of S5. The closeness of the Portobello HS community has been in evidence this week and has been a comfort and support to many young people and staff.

S6 Languages Ambassadors – Primary Visits

Last week our S6 Language Ambassadors visited our cluster primaries (Towerbank PS, Duddingston PS, Royal High PS, Brunstane PS, Parsons Green PS) to help promote the 1+2 Language Learning policy.

Pupils from the Advanced Higher classes ran French and Spanish storytelling sessions for P2, 4, 5 and 7 classes. They also played many games to practise their language skills and learn new vocabulary.

P2 heard ‘La chenille qui fait des trous’ (‘The Hungry Caterpillar’) and learnt lots of new words for different foods in French. They enjoyed holding the different flashcards of the food and saying the words in loud and quiet voices!

P4 heard ‘Cher Zoo’ (‘Dear Zoo’) and learnt lots of animal vocabulary in French. They really liked playing the game ‘Beat the Teacher’ and we saw some great drawings in the Pictionary game!

P5 heard ‘Oso Pardo, Oso Pardo ¿Qué ves ahí?’ (‘Brown Bear, Brown Bear, what do you see?’) and learnt how to say different animals and colours in Spanish. They also really enjoyed playing Pictionary, among other games, and pronouncing all of the new Spanish words.

Finally, P7 learnt some useful classroom vocabulary for stationery, and enjoyed the ‘Shout Out’ game, which got quite competitive at times!

A huge merci and gracias to all of the enthusiastic and inspiring AH students and all the teachers involved from Portobello High School and our cluster primaries.

A particularly HUGE thanks to Miss Taylor in Modern Languages for brilliantly coordinating the events.

Mr McCulloch - Curriculum Leader of Modern Languages



Lawrence Frame Memorial Cup

A football tournament took place in school today in memory of Lawrence Frame (S3) who sadly passed away in October. This was organised by Lawrence's friends with the support of staff. The event, which was very well-supported, took place in crisp but sunny conditions and has raised in excess of £500 for the Teenage Cancer Trust. Very well done to all those who took part.

The Scottish Space School

Every summer 100 successful S5 Scottish school pupils attend a week-long residential summer school with Strathclyde University. The programme for the week is made up of a mix of lectures, labs, and workshops on a space theme and it's delivered by academics and researchers from the Faculty of Engineering, as well as visiting NASA representatives.

Following the week, 10 of the students are chosen for a once in a lifetime visit to Houston, Texas. Now in its 16th year at the University, the Scottish Space School continues to inspire the next generation of engineers and scientists and is aimed at S5 pupils in Scotland currently studying Maths and Science subjects at Higher level. The summer school will be held at the University of Strathclyde from 9-14 June 2019 and applications are now being invited via the online application system.

To find out more about this programme or apply, visit the link below:

<http://www.strath.ac.uk/engineering/scottishspaceschool/>

Work Readiness Survey

Developing the Young Workforce, Edinburgh, Midlothian and East Lothian Group (DYW) has commissioned Rocket Science to carry out independent research into the perceptions of work readiness among pupils, teachers, parents and employers. This survey forms part of the research. It will be used to help DYW understand current perceptions of work readiness and how it can help pupils gain enhanced insights into the world of work. The survey will take about 10 minutes to complete and the closing date is Friday 21st December. You can access the survey here:

<https://tinyurl.com/y8rnwift>.

Aspiring Professionals Programme

The Aspiring Professionals Programme (APP) is carefully designed to open up professions for those with the ability to join them in the future, but without the means or networks to get there.

Delivered by the Social Mobility foundation, the aim is to give young people a real insight into top professions and to provide them with the skills needed to achieve their aspirations. Support is offered through four pillars:

- Mentoring by a professional via email
- Tailored skills sessions and career workshops
- University application support and guidance
- Internships with top employers

The programme is open to pupils in S5 who

- have at least 4 A/B grades at National 5
- Are predicted to get at least ABBB in Highers
- Are currently or have previously been eligible for Free School Meals (you don't have to have claimed them)

More information can be found at the Social Mobility Foundation web site at : <http://www.socialmobility.org.uk/programmes/>

Student guidance can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/ybm5m8nw>

Application form here: <http://www.socialmobility.org.uk/apply/>

The closing date for application is noon on Wednesday 19 December.