

## **Welcome Back!**

It was lovely to see all of our young people back with us after the October holiday.

The term got off to a purposeful start as we welcomed a team of visitors from City of Edinburgh Communities and Families Department and Education Scotland who were here to look at our progress following our Inspection in March 2017. Following two days of discussion and observation involving staff, young people and parents, the team recognised the progress that has been made on the agreed points for action and have concluded that Education Scotland will make no further visits in connection with the inspection.

We are very pleased to have had such positive feedback which recognises a great deal of hard work by staff and young people and would like to thank all parents and carers for their support in making the changes which are improving our school. A link to a committee report will be shared in due course and further feedback will be given via our Parent Council.

## **Staff Update**

A warm welcome to...

- Mr Mark Colston, who joins us as a Temporary Teacher of Support for Learning this week, to cover for Ms Van Der Hayden's maternity leave.
- Ms Kim Ross who joins us as a School Support Assistant.

A fond farewell to...

- Mr Mike Christie, who leaves his position as Teacher of Craft, Design and Technology after 15 years to take up a similar post at Currie Community High School, much closer to home.

Best wishes to them all as they take up their new posts!

## **S1 Parent Evening**

A reminder to parents that our S1 Parent Evening takes place on Tuesday 30 October from 4.30 to 7pm. Please be aware that the car park is always very busy on such occasions as our sports facilities will also be in use. We would like to particularly request that the disabled car parking spaces are used only by those holding blue badges. We look forward to welcoming parents and carers to the school.

## **Mentors in Violence Prevention**

S5 and S6 mentors have been delivering the first of four sessions to our S1s. Portobello was one of the pilot schools in Scotland for MVP and our S6 mentors were themselves the first to receive the training in S1. MVP aims to raise awareness of different types of violence which are prevalent in our society, raise the profile of gender based violence, challenge the influence of the media on the lives of young people and encourage young people to be 'active bystanders'. We believe MVP has been so successful because it challenges young people to reflect on their own attitudes in these areas and also because sessions are delivered by other young people, with staff in a supporting role. Please feel free to ask your S1s about their introductory session and a massive well done and thank you to them and the S5/6s involved.

This short animation explains MVP in more detail: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Q1Qz3Tj7ik>

Ms Breingan

## Duke of Edinburgh Award at Portobello High School

In 2017/18 we had 30 pupils working through their Bronze Award, and 20 pupils working towards their Silver award. All pupils passed their Bronze expedition and are now finishing off their other sections. The Silver group have been somewhat hampered by the weather, with a challenging practise expedition in the heat of the last week of term and a cancelled final expedition due to high winds on Arran. They will now do their Qualifying expedition in the Spring.

This year we had an unprecedented number of S3 pupils applying to do their Bronze Award, and unfortunately, we were unable to take all of the pupils as we have a limited number of staff volunteers in the school with the correct qualifications to take pupils out on expedition.

For those S3 pupils who were not selected for their Bronze Award this year there is a meeting for the South Edinburgh Open Group on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> of October at James Gillespie's High School at 7pm – we were only informed of this today so apologise for the late notice. If your son/daughter is still interested in doing their award this open group may be an option for them.

As in previous years, we would love to hear from anyone who may be able to support us in delivering the Duke of Edinburgh at Portobello High School in a volunteer capacity. We need someone to help us with our kit store, with distributing, collecting and repairing kit. If you think you might be able to help, please email [hazel.taylor@portobello.edin.sch.uk](mailto:hazel.taylor@portobello.edin.sch.uk) for more information.

We also always welcome donations of kit, so if you are having a clear out of anything from tents to walking boots, we would be very appreciative of it!

## School Photographs

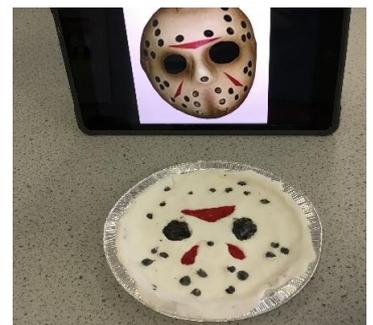
Orders for Tempest photos should be returned to the school office by Wednesday 31 October.

## Job Opportunity

Hair by JFK, in Edinburgh have an opportunity for full time assistants. They are specifically looking for school leavers up to the age of 19 with a genuine interest and the passion required to become a hairdresser. Any pupils interested in the opportunity should speak with their Pupil Support Leader. For further information the students can contact the salon directly on 0131 221 9554 or email their CV to [hairbyjfk.employment@outlook.com](mailto:hairbyjfk.employment@outlook.com)

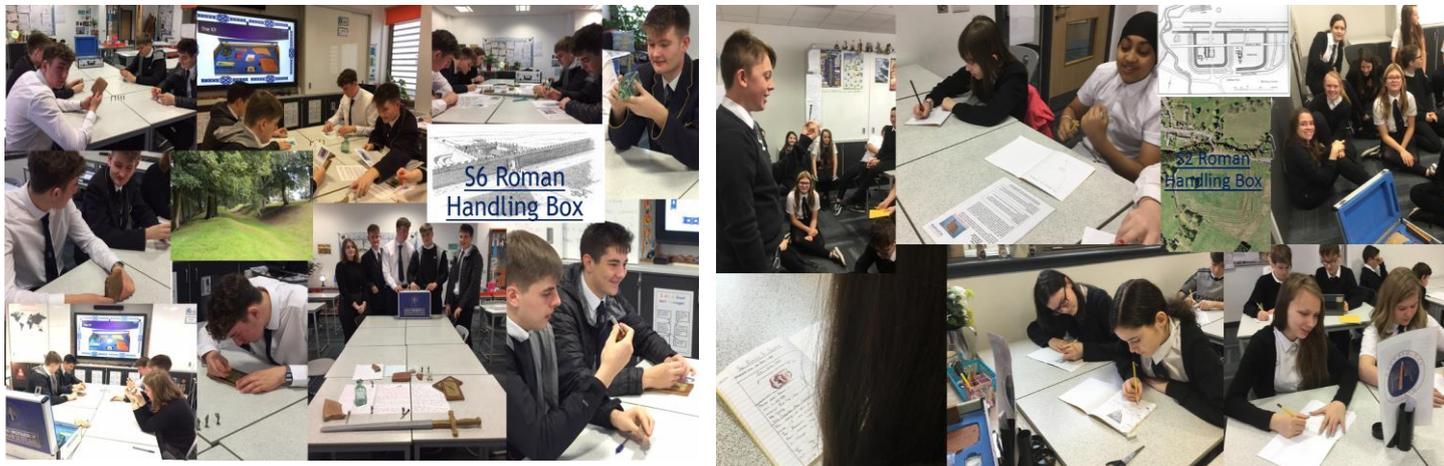
## Halloween Baking!

S2 Practical Cake Craft Enrichment class's Halloween sugar paste spooky but sweet faces.



## History Department: Archaeology Scotland Roman Artefacts Box

This week we had a chance to explore a wide range of artefacts from Roman times, kindly shared, at no cost, by Archaeology Scotland. Our S2 and S6 students could literally bring history to life and find out more about the Roman civilisation and its achievements. The collection of artefacts was rich and included original coins, pieces of pottery, bones, tools and even food. Moreover, there was a short catalogue added, full of interesting facts and colourful photographs, which we were able to use to give presentations and build a museum display. It has been a fantastic event and we look forward to contact with Archaeology Scotland once again to be able to handle more original-objects in future.



## PE UPDATE

### Football

Good luck to the only football team playing this weekend. The u15s take on Broughton HS in the Scottish Shield.

### Basketball

Well done to the open girls who were victorious against a high-spirited St Augustine's team. The final score was 73-32 but both teams put in maximum effort. Good luck to St Augustine's for the rest of the year!

Good luck to the following teams over the next week:

U15a Boys v Royal High Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October

Open Boys v Holyrood Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October

U15 s3 Girls v Boroughmuir Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October

U15 s2 v St Thomas Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October

Open Boys v Heriots Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October

U15b Boys v Leith Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November

U15a Boys v St Thomas Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

U15 s2 girls v Holyrood Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

### Netball

No Games over the next week however good luck to Margaret Mitchell and Zofia Nowak who are completing their Netball Umpire Level C Award this week.

## Gymnastics

Congratulations to Ava Russell who won the overall competition at a Scottish Gymnastics championship. Ava had a very consistent performance in the four disciplines. Her overall score of 46.30 qualifies her for her in-age Scottish championships later this year. She has said one of the keys to her success is the elite Thursday sessions after school. Well done, Ava - keep it up!



**For the latest PE news, follow [@PortobelloPE](#) on Twitter**