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## Weekly Update – 30th November

### Promoting Good Attendance and Punctuality

As you will hopefully be aware, we are working hard to ensure we have a positive culture for learning within our school. In August, we launched our new approach to promoting positive relationships and we are seeing some encouraging signs that this focus is having a beneficial impact, not only on relationships within our school community but also on learner engagement.

One of our aims this session was to create the opportunity for better communication with parents and carers, so that we can work in closer partnership with families. We are encouraged by the initial impact this is having and are pleased to be able to report that since launching this approach in August, more than 17,000 pieces of positive feedback has been communicated home via Class Charts, with more than 250 praise calls or Praise Post Cards being sent home. We also know that where we have communicated concerns around behaviour, the support from our families has been key in getting things back on track and we thank you for this support.

Another area for improvement that we would like to focus on is promoting excellent attendance and punctuality, an aspect of school life that we know links directly with attainment and positive outcomes for young people. To support this aspiration for all of our young people, from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, we will be alerting parents/carers through a text message system to advise if their child is late in the morning, which results in them missing Key Adult Group.

We hope that you will agree that excellent attendance and punctuality is a worthwhile pursuit and that you will see this as a positive development. We thank you in advance for your support and look forward to working in even closer partnership with you to reinforce the positive ethos we have here at Portobello High School and ensure that we are all #AchievingTogether.

### Staff Update

We bid farewell to two members of our Maths department this week. Mr Chris Morgan has secured a post closer to home in North Lanarkshire and Mrs Karen McRoberts has retired from teaching. We thank them for all they have done for our young people during their time here and wish them all the best.

As parents will be aware there is a national shortage of Maths teachers at present. We feel very fortunate, therefore, to have appointed Mr Abdallah Serhani, who is an experienced Maths teacher. Mr Serhani will take up his new post in mid-December. With some re-timetabling, we are hopeful that we will be able to ensure all of our young people have maths teachers from this point. Until then interim arrangements will be in place as necessary.

### Curriculum Review – Parent Information Evening

Thank you to all who noted interest in our Curriculum Review Information Evening which is being held on Tuesday 4 December. This event is now full and we are unable to accommodate any further applications. I am pleased to let you know that we are able to accommodate all parents of pupils at Portobello who expressed an interest in attending. Please note the following information ahead of this event:

- The start time has been made a **little later at 7:00pm** to allow extra time for the hall to be reset following the Primary School Christmas concert, and the event will finish at approximately 8pm.
- Our seating capacity is limited and we will have table plans. It is important that only those who expressed an interest attend as we will not have capacity to accommodate anyone who arrives unexpectedly on the night. Please note we will not have the capacity to accommodate young people.

- The evening will be run in the format of a presentation followed by small group discussions. For this reason, numbers need to be limited.
- If you signed up for the event you will have received a text message to confirm this.

Further information events will be held later in the session where we will be able to use our hall to full capacity and increase the number of attendees.

### Staff Success



We would like to congratulate Gemma Banks (Modern Studies), John Campbell (Modern Studies), Neil Goodfellow (Geography), Alister Hayes (Art & Design), Dianne Luty (History), Kirstie Malley (Chemistry), Ben Pilfold (Maths), Hayley Richards (Business Education), Josu Stevenson (Maths) and Ruth Wells (English) on successfully completing the OSIRIS Outstanding Teacher Programme.

The programme focuses on developing engagement, feedback and challenge in classrooms through bespoke training opportunities, classroom visits and feedback discussions with teachers. All those who took part thoroughly enjoyed the experience and shared lots of inspirational new teaching ideas with each other at a celebration event held on Wednesday. Participants had to overcome their apprehension about being filmed in the classroom but have learnt so much about their teaching style from watching themselves at work. Mr Pilfold, for example, has realised that he dances through maths lessons! Many thanks to everyone who has taken part in OSIRIS including young people who agreed to be filmed for the benefit of their teachers. We look forward to welcoming our second cohort of teachers onto the programme next Easter.

## Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS).

The Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey is part of an important and long established series of national surveys on smoking, drinking and drug use. The survey is undertaken every two years gathering data from secondary school pupils.

The Scottish Government has commissioned Ipsos MORI to undertake the data collection for 2018. They will collect responses from over 30 000 young people. The data will be collected and stored securely and no young person will be identified.

If your child's PSE class has been identified as one of the groups participating in the study they will be issued with a letter, a copy of which is attached. You will be notified through group call if your child's PSE class was selected.

**Participation is voluntary** and you child will be asked if they wish to take part. If you **do not** want your child to participate, please make sure you complete the tear off slip on the letter and return it to the teacher who issued your child with the letter.

## Christmas Concert 2018

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018 7.00pm**

Entry fee is payable via your ParentPay account. No paper tickets will be issued this year, instead we will be marking off names at the door on the evening.

**Payment will remain open until Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December. Entry must be paid in advance as cash payments will not be accepted on the night.**

For even more festive fun there is also a school Art Exhibition in the library on the same night from 5.30-6.30pm. This is free, but donations would be very welcome. Looking forward to seeing you there!



## PE UPDATE

### Football

U13s- Porty 1-9 Royal High, Another very tough much against an excellent Royal High team. Goal from Leslie!

U16- Porty 0-0 Braidhurst, Braidhurst win 6-5 on penalties. An excellent game in awful conditions! Our boys put up a great fight against an SFA Performance School! Good luck to Braidhurst in the next round.

### Rugby

U18- Porty 12 - 17 Boroughmuir, A tough game in even tougher conditions. The boys put up a great fight against a strong Boroughmuir team. Well done to Boroughmuir, and good luck in the final.

Well done to the u14s who won against Balfron High School at the weekend.

### Basketball

Congratulations to the u15 girls (s3) basketball team who defeated St Augustine's High School 64-13 in the Scottish cup. Well done to both teams for getting the match played despite a few obstacles in the way. A great game of basketball



## Netball

Well done to the s1 netball team who narrowly beat holrood 5-4 on Monday. A very close game between two very good teams. A special mention to Amy Longstaff for her brilliant performance at goal attack and Eva Beveridge for her energetic performance at centre.



## Sports Council's Gift of Giving

The Sports Council will be launching their Gift of Giving campaign for 2018 on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December – fellow pupils are asked to bring in any good quality but unwanted Sports Equipment/clothing to the PE classroom just prior to Key Adult time. From Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December (after school) we will have the equipment/clothing available for pupils to collect again from the PE classroom. This will run up until the Christmas holidays.

**SPORTS COUNCIL'S  
GIFT OF GIVING**



## Inter-House Swimming Competition

Congratulations to all those pupils who attended the Inter House Swimming Competition on Tuesday. Thanks to members of the Sports Council who organised and ran the event – special thanks to Erin Crawford, Darcey Whalen, Connor Ulferts Kilpatrick and Eilidh Smith. The results were... 1<sup>st</sup> Crichton, 2<sup>nd</sup> Abercorn, 3<sup>rd</sup> Duddingston, 4<sup>th</sup> Brunstane

## Active Schools Day of Dance – 24<sup>th</sup> November

Congratulations to our S1 and S2+ Dance groups who performed magnificently at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre on



Saturday. Both groups were outstanding and made a big impression on the 650 members of the audience. Thank you to



Kirsty Hamilton, Sarah Walker and Leah Whitson from Live It Dance for their hard work putting the routines together and for their support on Saturday.

## Fencing

Massive congratulations to Nye Ulferts Kilpatrick who won gold at the Scottish Schools Championships in the u14 boys foil category!

## Achievements

If there are any other further achievements that the School is unaware of please contact us with information at [admin@portobello.edin.sch.uk](mailto:admin@portobello.edin.sch.uk).

**For the latest PE news, follow @PortobelloPE on Twitter**

