

Weekly Update – 16 August 2019

Welcome back!

This week we welcomed our young people back to school and say hello to our new S1 pupils. It has been a busy but enjoyable week and it is clear that our learners have made a huge effort to start their year off on a really positive footing. We would also like to thank our young people as well as our parents and carers for supporting our focus on improving school uniform. Our young people looked fantastic this week, with a real sense of belonging and pride in our school community. Any families who would like assistance with school dress are encouraged to contact us in confidence – we are always happy to help.

The photos below give a flavour of our S1's first experience at Portobello High School:





Staff Update

We are delighted to welcome a number of new staff to Portobello High School this August:

- Mrs Magda Lotecka, Ms Sarah Stein and Mrs Naomi Williams have all joined the Mathematics Department.
- Mrs Sandra Banks has taken up post as Acting Pupil Support Leader for Crichton House.
- Ms Caroline Hulson will join us shortly as a Teacher of FTT.

We are fortunate to have several Newly Qualified Teachers joining us for their probationary years:

- Mr Neil Cuthbertson (Music)
- Ms Sarah Foster (Modern Studies)
- Ms Jessica Graham (Art and Design)
- Mr Hadley-James Hoyles (English)
- Ms Imogen Lansley (Mathematics)
- Mr Victor Marbach (French)
- Mr Finlay MacArtney (History / Modern Studies)

We have also said hello again to some familiar faces:

- Ms Cat Crawford (FTT) and Mr Ruaridh Stewart (Music), who were both NQTs last year, have taken up permanent positions with the school.
- Ms Kate Ford (RME) and Ms Louise Allan (Chemistry) have returned from maternity leave.
- Dr Linda Craig, Mrs Caroline Gillies and Ms Katherine Norfolk all continue to provide valuable supply cover.
- Congratulations to Ms Diana Barry who has been appointed Acting Support for Learning Leader.

Ms Sarah Redman joins our office staff as a Clerical Assistant.

At the end of last year we said goodbye to a number of staff who left Portobello High School:

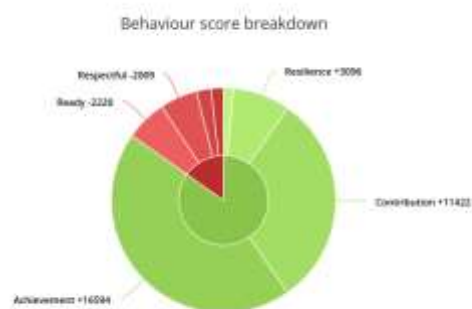
- Mr Anis Saleh (NQT) left our Science Department to take up a post elsewhere.
- Mr Sam Scott (NQT) left our PE Department to take up a position in Falkirk.
- Ms Harriet Henderson (NQT) left our RME Department to take up a post elsewhere in the city.
- Ms Stephanie MacDonald transferred from our school support team to another school in the city.

Mr Pawel Begjer has returned to us briefly this August before he returns to Poland next month. We wish him all the very best for the future.

Mrs Margaret Williamson, DHT, will retire at the end of this session. Mrs Williamson is a long-established member of TeamPorty and we look forward to making her final year with us one to remember. To ensure a smooth handover, we brought forward the appointment of Mrs Williamson’s successor – congratulations to Mr Luke McAllister, previously our Support for Learning Leader and Senior Development Officer. Mr McAllister took up his post as Depute Head Teacher this week. This additional capacity in our Senior Leadership Team for the next year will allow us to review aspects of our work and accelerate school improvement.

Class Charts

Class Charts will be up and running from next week, so we are looking forward to communicating lots of positive feedback very shortly. In the meantime, if you need help logging in to classcharts then please just contact the school and we will be able to help you see how your child is getting on.



Pupil Achievement

A big well done to Elspeth Kemp of S2, who 'Braved the Shave' in aid of Macmillan Cancer, raising £750 to date. Anyone who would like to contribute can do so at the following link;

<https://bravetheshave.macmillan.org.uk/Shavers/elspeth-kemp/>



Before



After

Car Park

We have had some difficulty with access recently, caused by non-disabled users parking in our disabled parking spaces. Please be aware that these spaces are in daily use and must not be blocked.

Parents and carers are also asked to refrain from dropping young people off and picking them up in the school car park. Multiple vehicles manoeuvring and mixing with pedestrians presents a risk to our young people. Please find a safe place near to the school for pick up / drop off.