

## Weekly Update 7<sup>th</sup> February

### FEBRUARY HOLIDAY

The school closes for the half term holiday at 12.30 today and re-opens on Monday 17 February. We wish all of our families a good holiday despite the weather forecast!

### LANGUAGES WEEK SCOTLAND

Schools across Scotland have been taking part in Languages Week this week by sharing examples of good practice and events using the Twitter hashtag #ScotlandLovesLanguages. Follow Porty's Modern Languages department @phsmodlangs to find out what's been happening here.

### LANGUAGES AMBASSADORS AT THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT!

We were delighted to be invited to the Scottish Parliament to attend an event hosted by the Deputy First Minister, John Swinney MSP, to launch Languages Week. Only a select few schools from across Scotland were represented so it was real honour to share the success of our S6 Languages Ambassadors programme with those at the event. Our Languages Ambassadors visit our cluster primaries to deliver mini-lessons in French and Spanish and provide in-class support to the majority of our S1-3 French/Spanish classes. They are a real asset to the department!

Adam Atif, Anya Bell, Lucy Laing and Sophie Murrell delivered a mini-lesson in French at the event, working with eight P5 pupils from Royal High Primary School. They also spoke passionately and articulately about their experiences of being a Languages Ambassador this year. It was a fantastic opportunity for them and they did themselves and the school proud.



### MADRID SCHOOL VISIT JANUARY 2020

On Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January, we were visited by 13 students and 3 teachers from our partner school in Madrid, Spain. This is the third time they have visited us for a morning and we have been there twice now. It was a lovely morning and the pupils from both schools interacted really confidently with each other and shared their experiences. A huge thanks to Mrs Bradley in FTT for her work in organising some delicious Scottish treats for the students to try. We are hopeful of beginning an exchange programme between the two schools, with plans underway for some Spanish students to visit us and stay with Portobello families in June 2020. If you would be interested in hosting a Spanish student at that time, please contact [andrew.mcculloch@portobello.edin.sch.uk](mailto:andrew.mcculloch@portobello.edin.sch.uk) for more information.



## Careers Convention 2020

On Tuesday afternoon over 1000 learners attended our annual careers convention. A huge thank you to all parents and contributors who supported us. Over 40 contributors attended this event and were extremely impressed with the questions being asked from pupils and interest shown in different careers. A huge thank you to Miss Richards, Mr Campbell and Mrs Hand for their help organising the day.



## S4 and S5 Pathways Information Night

We will be holding the Pathways Information Night for Current S4 and S5 pupils on Monday 17 February between 6:00pm and 7:00pm in the school hall. We will explain the various options available to pupils in S5/6 (Foundation Apprenticeships, College partnership courses, etc) for next session as well as offering advice on how to choose courses. Young people are welcome to attend but they will be getting the same information through assemblies at school.



## We are Portobello

Portobello High School welcomed Super Power Agency to work with two groups of young people in S2 and S3 last September. Over an 8-week period, they worked with learners on a creative writing project. Relationships were key to success so the first couple of sessions were spent getting to know each other. A relaxed atmosphere helped provide the base for a safe space for young people to feel confident that their ideas and opinions were valued. It didn't take them long to get stuck into their writing! Each piece started from an "I am" statement that students used to describe themselves. The atmosphere in the classroom on the final day was electric with superhero capes being worn and professional photographs taken. Smiles beaming from ear to ear all round.

"We are Portobello" has now been published and is on sale at Leith Collective, Ocean Terminal and from Super Power Agency's own website at [www.superpoweragency.com/shop/](http://www.superpoweragency.com/shop/)



"We are Portobello" was launched on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January with a palpable sense of excitement and pride. Everything you would expect from a professional book launch!

We are very proud of our young people and their accomplishments.



Photographs of book signing taken by Teigan Gibb and Joe Fraser (S3).

## NOVEL CORONAVIRUS

Please see the NHS website for the most up to date information regarding the novel coronavirus:

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>

Please also see the NHS website for information in respect of Mumps:

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/mumps>

## Basketball

Well done to our U15 Boys Basketball team who now progress to the Quarter Final stage of the Schools Scottish Cup Competition after a win against Inverkeithing HS. Thanks to Inverkeithing HS for a great game, hopefully both teams enjoyed paying their respects to Kobe Bryant and Robert Archibald with Portobello HS taking the 8 second violation and Inverkeithing HS taking the 24 second violation at the start of the match.

## Karate

Congratulations to Daniel Lyons S3 who has been selected for the Scottish National Karate Team and will be participating in the European Karate Championships in Budapest, Hungary. We are incredibly proud that he will be representing his country at this level - with only 1 person per country allowed to compete in each age/weight category, competition for a National Team place was fierce! Daniel has worked so hard in preparation for this and will certainly make the most of this amazing experience.



Congratulations to Niamh McGregor S3 who has been selected for the Scottish National Karate Team and will also be participating in the European Karate Championships in Budapest, Hungary. Niamh will compete in the Kumite Cadet category (-47kg) alongside thirty-five other competitors. Niamh's selection is a real testament to her hard work and commitment!

The European Karate Championships is a huge event with 1500 competitors from 53 countries taking part over the 3 days. Well done to Daniel and Niamh for being selected! Here is a picture of Niamh and Daniel at the airport waiting to leave for Budapest.

## Water Polo

Congratulations to the following pupils who have been selected for the subsequent Saltires Water Polo Teams:

Sam Molloy S4 – Saltires, U18 Boys Team

Alex De Gaetano S3 – U16 Boys National Squad

Oliver Henderson S2 - U16 Boys National Squad

Will Hurd S2 - U16 Boys National Squad

## Martial Arts

Maisie Ross (S1) travelled to Greece on the 31st January with her martial Arts Team (Wolfpack Kickboxing) to compete in the Athens Open. She had many tough fights over 2 days but won the Gold Trophy in her -37kgs category. With competitors travelling from all over the World to compete, this was an amazing achievement. Congratulations Maisie!

