

Weekly Update 6th March 2020

SQA Exams Count Down

Welcome to our first SQA countdown bulletin. Each week you will be informed about the progress we are making to support our pupils in their preparations for their qualifications.

After receiving results from the Prelims S4/5/6 pupils should now be clear about the levels they are being presented at. There is a lot happening in school in terms of course work. Some of the National 5 and Higher and Advanced Higher subjects are administering their assignments and pupils are completing these under controlled conditions in school. There is more information about course work in the booklet that was handed out earlier this session and can be found at the following link. <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/71526.html>

The first exam is German on Monday 27th April, so pupils have five school weeks left until the exams start. Here are some exam tips to help with preparation:

- Find a study environment that works well for you – be wary of having lots of distractions round you, like your mobile phone.
- Have a plan for your studying and take regular breaks
- Eat healthy, take some exercise and get enough sleep
- Seek help when unsure.

The SQA provide all the exam papers on their website. Using past papers is a very helpful way of checking out how well you know the subject: <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/70972.html> Another useful website to support your revision at home is BBC bitsize: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

#Achieving Together

Coursing Process

The coursing process for all year groups is now well underway. To help inform these important decisions, all learners should ensure they have downloaded the correct pathways booklet onto their school iPad.

<http://portobellohighschool.org.uk/phs/curriculum/pathways/>

Learners should also make sure they take the time to discuss their options at home and with their Key Adult. All young people will have a 1-1 meeting with their PSL ahead of the deadlines detailed below:

S3 Pathway Choices	Completed
S4 Pathway Choices	9 th March 2020
S5 Pathway Choices	20 th March 2020
S6 Pathway Choices	20 th March 2020

Activities Week 2020 Update

Over the last few years we have offered an activities week for our learners and whilst we know this has been an enjoyable experience for many of our young people, we also know that many of our young people and families opt out of this opportunity. This results in a significant number of learners being out of education during this week. Given the amount of teacher time it takes to present such an offer, the current level of engagement makes it difficult for us to continue with activities week within its current format. It is for this reason we have taken the decision not to run activities week this year but will instead engage our young people in a consultation process to ensure that our future provision meets the needs of all of our young people which we hope will in turn lead to a better level of engagement.

MODERN LANGUAGES TALKING EXAMS – MARCH 2020

Learners in S4-6 are currently preparing for their final French and Spanish Talking exams. These exams are worth 25% of the final award for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher and mostly take place* on the following date:

National 5 French – Wednesday 18th- Friday 20th March

National 5 Spanish – Monday 23rd March

Higher French – Wednesday 25th March

Higher Spanish – Monday 23rd March

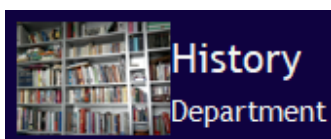
Advanced Higher French – Tuesday 17th – Wednesday 18th March

Advanced Higher Spanish – Friday 20th March

*Dates will be slightly different for learners studying two languages.

All pupils have all of their materials organised for these important exams and should be working on practising their content at home over the next two weeks.

If any parents have any questions about the Talking exams, they can contact the Curriculum Leader for Modern Languages at andrew.mcculloch@portobello.edin.sch.uk.



S4 History Revision Sessions

	<u>Technique</u>	<u>Knowledge</u>	Rooms
Week 1 - Thurs 5 th March	Evaluate the usefulness	Triangular Trade	F12 & F13
Week 2 - Thurs 12 th March	To what extent	Plantation Life	F12 & F13
Week 3- Thurs 19 th March	How fully	Abolition	F12 & F13
Week 4 - Thurs 23 th March	Explain	Medieval Life	F12 & F13
Week 5 - Thurs 2 nd April	Compare	First Crusade	F12 & F13
Week 6 - 23 rd April	Describe	Third Crusade	F12 & F13

Cross curricular results



Darren scally has built this amazing side table. His Hospitality cake box containing a lovely cake fits perfectly onto the shelf to be transported home.