

Weekly Update – 8th September 2017

Singalonga Grease

Portobello High School Parent Council invite you to an evening of 'Singalonga Grease' - the musical film where the audience join in with the singing. More information on ticket sales will be issued shortly. In the meantime, save the date- Friday 29 September at 7.00pm in the school hall. Please note this is a change of date, previously published as Friday 6th October.

iPad Appeal

As a school, we have embraced digital technologies and are working hard to support the use of these to enhance learning and teaching. We are fortunate to have been able to provide iPads on a one to one basis for all those in S3 and above and would like to appeal to parents to support us by ensuring that their young people bring these to school every day charged and ready for use. It is frustrating for young people and staff when lessons are delayed and disrupted by pupils who have not brought their iPad in, or haven't charged it. Thanks for your support.

My World of Work Ambassadors

This week eight of our S6 pupils spent a morning at Holyrood High School training to be MWW Ambassadors. Seventeen schools from across the city were represented at the event delivered by a team from Skills Development Scotland. MWW is a career website used by schools to support the delivery of the new Career Standard. The Ambassadors role in school will be to promote and support the use of the website to pupils, teachers and parents. e.g. demonstrations at parents evenings, presentation to teachers, promoting the website at assemblies, presence at the Careers Convention, possible drop in sessions for pupils etc.



This role offers the chance to develop skills and qualities such as :
planning, organising, showing, initiative, working in a team ,taking responsibility, being punctual and reliable - all skills desired by future employers!

Staffing Update

We said goodbye and thank you to Ms Ruth Cox, Acting Curriculum Leader Music and Drama, today. At the same time, we said welcome back to Mrs Sumerling who has returned to work following her absence.

As you may be aware from recent media coverage, schools across Scotland are experiencing significant difficulty with recruitment at present. Unfortunately, this has affected us in Portobello, where we have been unsuccessful in recruiting a Teacher of Business Education and also a Teacher of Maths. Staff in school are working very hard to find solutions to this and to minimise disruption for our young people. Once arrangements are finalised, we will write to parents with further information.

The D of E @ Party needs your help!!

We are on the lookout for parents/carers/relatives who might be interested in helping out with the Duke of Edinburgh award at the school.

If you are interested in hillwalking and could spare the odd weekend we would LOVE to hear from you. If you have any qualifications (such as ML/LLA etc) we would be DELIGHTED to hear from you! Please contact hazel.taylor@portobello.edin.sch.uk if you think you might be able to help out (training/PVG can be provided).

Art Walk Success



Congratulations to S1 pupil Greta McMillan, who had her art work included in Art Walk Party!

Inch by Inch For Scotland

The “Inch by Inch” National Campaign, aimed at improving health and reducing obesity in Scotland, was launched in our school on Thursday 7th September. Guests included representatives from Education Scotland, Scottish Government, Action for Children and catering services joined all our S2 pupils to introduce a range of videos, exercises and cookery demonstrations.

Jordan Docherty, a young ambassador for the programme, delivered a clear message on how to make easy, inexpensive and enjoyable changes to eating patterns. A report by Rose Tully features below:

On Thursday 7th of September, an assembly full of curious pupils listened to an inspiring talk about a brand new campaign backed by the Scottish Government’s Chief Medical Officer. “Inch by Inch for Scotland” is a vibrant, tech savvy initiative which challenges school children across the country to make healthy choices from a young age. Pupils were given a preview of YouTube videos demonstrating how to make things like healthy pot noodle and hula hoop competitions. Inch by Inch aims to enable people from a range of economic backgrounds to make small changes which will improve their wellbeing in the long-term. Jordan Docherty is the face of the campaign. As a former young offender, he turned to cooking with the Yes Chef programme, going on to head up the social media aspect of Inch By Inch. His own story proves that in your choices, you have power over your own life. S2 pupil Cameron Grieve saw the presentation and spoke for many when he told us, *“I thought it was really helpful and interesting.”*

Rose Tully

Higher and Further Education Evening – Amended Date

Calling all parents of young people in S4, S5 and S6! Come along to the Assembly Hall at 6pm on Tuesday 12 September to hear representatives from Edinburgh University, Edinburgh College and the Student Awards Agency Scotland. This is a really valuable opportunity to make sure that you have all of the information which will help you to support your young person making informed choices about their next steps after school. Even if your young person is not planning on leaving school this year, you may find some of the information helpful in thinking about future pathways.

Porty Pupils Showcase Their Creative Talents

Pictured here is an exhibition in Rusty's, featuring inspirational pupil work from the Higher Photography course. Teacher Mr Hayes says he is very proud of the students whose work is on display. The photos were taken by our former sixth year and we are proud to report that many of them have went on to pursue either media or photography courses at university or college. Congratulations to Emily Collins, who has secured a place on a competitive Moving Image Arts course run by Screen Education Scotland. She follows in the footsteps of Eve Allan who worked with Screen Education last year on a film that went on to be nominated for an award at the Edinburgh Schools Film Competition.



Watch out for work from current Photography and Media pupils which will be exhibited in school throughout the year.

Christy Graham and Issy Butt