

Weekly Update – 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018

### **February Holiday**

A reminder that the school will be closed until Monday 19 February for the half term break.

### **Curriculum Review**

Our parent consultation is open until 12 Noon on Wednesday 21 February. All parents and carers have been sent a link and information is also on the school website.

### **Staffing Update**

Mr Chris Morgan will join us as a Teacher of Maths following the February break. Mr Morgan is an experienced teacher relocating to Scotland. Given the national shortage of Maths teachers, we are delighted to have secured his services!

Best wishes to Ms Verity Sinclair of our English department as she begins her maternity leave. Ms Sinclair's classes will be taught by colleagues within our English department.

### **S4 Parents' Evening**

Our S4 Parents' Evening is Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March 4.30-7.00pm. Once again, we will be using our online booking system. The system will be live for parents from Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> until Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February. A letter regarding the evening and booking instructions will be sent to S4 parents when we return on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

### **Portobello High School Careers Convention 2018**

Our annual Careers Convention will take place on Thursday 22 February in the school hall. During the afternoon, all S2, S4, S5 and S6 learners will have the opportunity to visit the many stalls covering employment and training, The Forces, apprenticeships and college and University provision. Contributors will be able to give detailed information on provision offered and entry requirements into their own field of work /education pathway and will be available to answer questions and offer advice.

In the evening between 1800hrs and 1945hrs the Careers Convention remains open to any parents / carers and we would welcome you to come along.

Further information on those who are supporting this venture is available on the website. Hope to see you there!

### **Pathways Information Evening Thursday 22 February**

We will be holding an information evening explaining how our course choice system works and also how we are developing the range of pathways available to pupils as they move through the school.

- 6:00-7:00 Session aimed primarily at parents of S2 pupils explaining the background and the process around choosing courses for S3/4
- 7:00-8:00 Session aimed at parents of pupils in S3 to S6. This will provide some background about the curriculum review we are undertaking just now and help explain the options open to pupils. Whilst the focus will be on current S4 and S5 pupils and their choices for next year, parents of S3 pupils may find it useful to find out more about what is on offer to help them think about future plans and aspirations.

There will be opportunities for questions and answer sessions and informal conversations with staff.

### Secondary Autism Parent Information Sessions

ASL Service together with NHS partners are coordinating a series of 6 Secondary Autism Parent Information Sessions for parents of current S1-S6 pupils with autism, attending City of Edinburgh mainstream schools. The sessions are appropriate for parents, grandparents or carers. Young people themselves should not attend. There will not be a crèche for younger children. Interested parents should book a place by contacting the number or email address on the flier attached. The venue will be shared at the point of booking.

### Scottish Schools' Young Writer of the Year 2017

Congratulations to Hamish Martin in 4<sup>th</sup> year whose competition entry was "Highly Commended" in Scottish Schools' Young Writer of the Year 2017.

### S3 Modern Languages Business Brunch

On Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January, 10 S3 languages learners were accompanied by Miss Taylor and Mr McCulloch to Dynamic Earth for SCILT's annual Business Brunch. The event was aimed at promoting the importance of languages to dozens of Scottish businesses or organisations who were present at the event and who had



stalls to talk to learners from schools across Edinburgh and the Lothians about careers using Modern Languages. There were some excellent speakers who gave personal accounts of the importance of languages in their lives. It was a very worthwhile event and our learners enjoyed the opportunity to hear about different ways languages could be useful in their lives and careers.

Follow events happening in the Modern Languages on Twitter: @phsmodlangs

Mr McCulloch



### S3 Visit from Madrid School

On Monday 29<sup>th</sup> February, we welcomed 4 teachers and 15 pupils from a school in Madrid to our Modern Languages department. Our Spanish visitors joined Miss Long and Miss Taylor's S3 Spanish classes during period 1 to get a taste of language learning in a Scottish school. During period 2, a number of our S3 Spanish learners gave them a tour of the school before finishing in FTT where Mrs Bradley had prepared a selection of Scottish specialities to try (haggis, Irn Bru, shortbread, etc). They were amazed and perhaps a little jealous (!) at the quality of school we have at Portobello. It was great to welcome them to the school and there is already talk of a return trip to their school when we take 40 S1-3 learners to Madrid during suspended timetable in May.



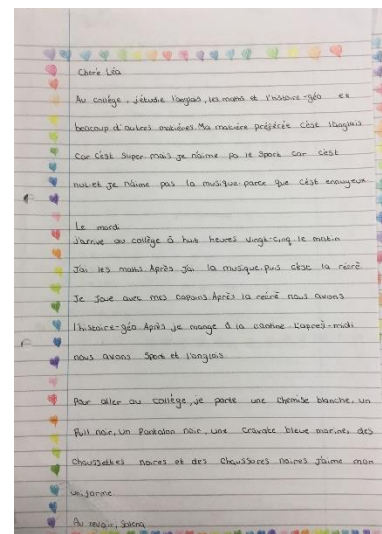
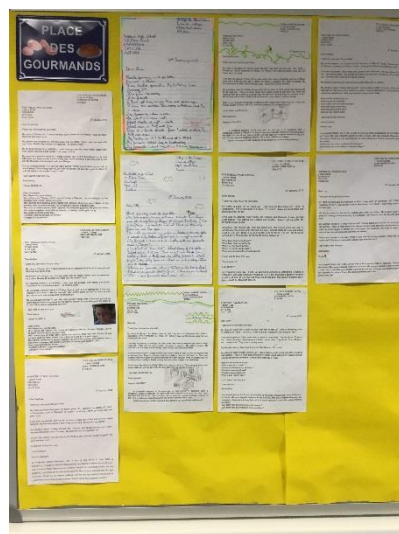
Mr McCulloch



### S1 French Penpals

This year, Mr Meyer's 1E class have been sending penpal letters in French to pupils a 'sixième' class at Collège de Herrlisheim in Alsace, France. They've also received letters from them in English, telling us about their lives in Alsace. Learners in 1E are really enjoying this opportunity to make links with a school in France to give their learning a real context and, as a department, we are looking of ways of creating more opportunities like this for learners across S1-6.

Mr McCulloch



## RePortobello Feedback Survey

The student written section of the weekly update is always planned and created by the RePortobello team of fifth years during their minority period. We are always eager to better our contributions. To help us to improve our writing and to make sure we respond to your interests, we've put together a feedback survey. We would be very grateful if you could take a moment to complete this survey by clicking the link below. Thank you!

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/KFB623Z>

*Issy Butt*



On Friday the 2nd February the Eco team organised a charity day. Mr Campbell and his team decided to raise awareness of endangered animals and make a difference with the money they collected. Pupils wore green as a nature and eco theme to show their support for the cause. Collectively they raised a fantastic amount of over £500! The money will be donated to WWF and used to support their work on behalf of snow leopards, leopards and polar bears. The eco team have successfully made a difference, helping to protect the welfare of these endangered animals.

*Kirsten Fordyce*

<p><b>Spotlight on Sport</b> <i>by Gregor Turner</i></p>	A photograph of a young girl with blonde hair tied back, wearing a white short-sleeved shirt and a dark blue tie. She is standing in front of a display board with various papers and a sign that says 'SNP8'. The background is a wall with a stone-like pattern.	<p><b>Name: Tabitha Tulloch</b> <b>Age: 12 yrs</b> <b>Sport: Ballet</b></p>
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### **Who or what is your inspiration in playing your sport and why?**

Probably a professional dancer called Darcey Bussell because she is a dancer and she really inspires me. I've watched lots of videos of her. She has hyperextension in her legs and so do I. She makes videos to help people with hyperextension with their legs.

### **How often do you train and what does it involve?**

I train six times a week and I do bar exercises, floor work, stretching and core.

### **What has been the highlight of your career so far?**

Probably getting into the Royal Conservatoire Scotland because that's a really good opportunity. I'll hopefully get into it another year and it'll help me as a dancer.

### **Have there been any challenging moments in your time of doing this sport If so what were they?**

Well I started quite late on and a year after I started I auditioned for Scottish ballet. I didn't get in and that was quite challenging but I just continued doing it. The next year I got into the conservatoire! So now I just try to work really hard.

### **What are your aspirations for the future for you in your sport?**

I'd love to become a professional dancer but I know I need to work really hard. I'll just keep on working.

### **Finally, what advice would you give to someone interested in taking up that sport?**

I'd probably just say to start and just work really hard.

## PE Weekly Update

### Football

U16s Lothian Cup Result          Preston Lodge 1-1 Portobello

Preston Lodge win 6-5 on penalties. Good luck to PL in the next round

### Basketball

S1 Boys: Falkirk High School 45 – 43 Portobello

\*\*\* KEY DATES \*\*\*

All girls competing in the Schools Scottish Cup should note the following key dates. The games will be played at Oriam, however times have still to be confirmed.

**Semi-finals:** Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March          **Finals:** Tues 13<sup>th</sup> March

### Rugby

Congratulations to our U13s and U14s rugby teams who both won their matches against Knox Academy. Well done to all involved!

### Netball

Well done to our S3 netball team who played their first game against St Augustine HS this week. The girls showed fantastic energy and enthusiasm throughout the game and it was a great first performance from the team!



Well done to our S1/2 teams who competed against Ross High School this week. Both teams worked extremely hard and we came away with one win and one loss. Well done to all involved!



### National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Performances

A massive well done to all of our S5/6 pupils who participated in their National 5, Higher & Advanced Higher performance assessments this week! The day was a fantastic success and the department was really impressed with the high skill level and great effort put in to each of the activities. Well done to all involved!

### Change of Block

As we return from the February break all classes will begin a new block of activities. Pupils have been made aware of what activity they are moving on to next therefore it is important that our students remember to bring appropriate kit during our first week back.

Thank you for your support!

### Telford College Students

Congratulations to our two former pupils, Lorne Russell and Shannon Kidd, who have completed a successful work experience placement in the PE department. We wish you the best of luck in the future!

### Athletics

Well done to all pupils who competed in the Scottish Schools Indoor Athletics this week!  
Special mention to Kate Johnstone who finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the final of the 60m sprint!

