

## Weekly Update – 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020

### End of Session Message from Mrs McKay

Today marks the end of a session like no other. It is now three months since we had our young people here with us in school, but it feels like much longer. So much has happened, so much has changed.

Our staff team have risen to the challenges and worked tirelessly to find ways to overcome them. They have kept learning going using a digital curriculum platform (which didn't even exist on 18 March!), undertaken a huge new exercise in relation to SQA estimates, made thousands of phone calls to check in on the wellbeing of young people and families, delivered hundreds of food parcels, iPads and home learning packs, become proficient in running and attending virtual meetings, found creative solutions to working remotely without access to core systems, staffed our local Childcare Hub at Holy Rood High School, shown resilience in the face of their own lockdown experiences and supported each other brilliantly. They really have tried to do their best for everyone. I am both humbled by their efforts and inspired by their determination. Most of all, I am grateful to have such a strong team working so hard to support our young people – and I know many of you feel the same. The many messages of thanks which families have sent over the past few weeks have been deeply appreciated by us all. So in closing, I'd like to extend the thanks of our staff team to our families for their support, patience and understanding over the last three months.

Portobello High School is a very special place. We look forward to being back together with our young people after the summer. Until then, stay safe.



### Return to School in August

As you know, we are planning for all pupils to return to school on 12 August. We await further information from the Scottish Government and will share this with you when it becomes available, over the summer holidays.

## Session 2020 Awards

Portobello High School is proud to announce our Award Winners for session 2019-2020. Well done to all pupils for their hard work and efforts throughout the last year. A special congratulations to our Dux Medal Winner Alice McIntosh.



**Portobello High School**

### **Dux Medal Winner 2020**

**Alice McIntosh**

First in Biology, Chemistry, Maths, French (equal)

### **Proxime Accessit**

**Rachel Taylor**

First in Drama and Music and placed in Biology

### **Academic Achievement Award**

**Holly Ugolini**

First in Art and History

### **Academic Achievement Award**

**Grace Bickmore**

First in Human Biology and placed in Maths and French

### **S5 Awards 2020**

<b>Computing</b> Matthew Somrid	<b>Drama (1<sup>st</sup> equal)</b> Joe Gill	<b>English</b> Maddy Ford
<b>Fashion / Textiles</b> Gemma Allen	<b>French (1<sup>st</sup> equal)</b> Karys McIntyre	<b>Photography</b> Elliot Telfer
<b>Physical Education</b> Kitty McTernan	<b>Physics</b> Finn Taylor	<b>R.M.P.S.</b> Ellen Stone
<b>Spanish</b> Alison Russell	<b>Sports Leader</b> Jamie Smith	

### **S6 Awards 2020**

<b>Administration</b> Erin Crawford	<b>Art</b> Molly Mavers	<b>Biology</b> Alexander Marriott
<b>Business Management</b> Wiktor Wojdyla	<b>Chemistry</b> Zoe Ferguson	<b>Computing</b> Robert Craigie
<b>English Creative Writing</b> Orla Troup	<b>English</b> Solly Mayers	<b>Engineering</b> Eva Kennedy
<b>Geography</b> Erin Crawford	<b>Health and Food Tech</b> Lucy Laing	<b>Modern Studies</b> Zoe Wilson
<b>Media</b> Erin Menelaws-McCrie	<b>Music</b> Finlay Mayers	<b>Physics</b> Hermes Siran
<b>Physical Education</b> Megan McCarthy	<b>R.M.P.S.</b> Gregor Hogg	<b>Spanish</b> Eva Bernabeu-Fletcher

**The Professor Balfour Prize for Mathematics** Alexander Marriott

**The Cyril Reddington Prize for Languages** Anya Bell

## Staff Update

As ever at the end of the school year, we say goodbye to a number of staff who are leaving us:

- Mrs Sandra Banks, Pupil Support Leader for Crichton House over the last year leaves us following Mrs Thomson's return to full time duties after maternity leave.
- Ms Di Barry leaves our Support for Learning Department at the end of her temporary contract.

Congratulations to the following staff who have successfully completed their NQT year and are now fully registered teachers:

- Ms Jessica Graham (Art & Design)
- Mr Finlay MacArtney (History & Modern Studies)
- Mr Neil Cuthbertson (Music)
- Mr Victor Marbach (French)
- Ms Imogen Lansley (Maths)
- Mr Hadley Hoyles (English)

Best wishes to Mrs Gaynor Davies (Art & Design) who is going on maternity leave over the summer and Mr Colin Troost (Physics) who is taking a career break to teach in Portugal.

We also say farewell to two very well-known faces who are retiring over the summer holiday:

- Mrs Ann Stewart-Kmicha, Teacher of Computing
- Mrs Margaret Williamson, DHT for Crichton House and 'school mum' for everyone!

We wish them both a long, happy and healthy retirement and hope to be able to give them a proper send off after the holiday.

## Summer Holidays

The school is now on holiday for the summer and will re-open to pupils on 12 August, following staff in service on 10 and 11 August. Please note that the school office is closed until 3 August. Any families needing to make contact should use email via [admin@portobello.edin.sch.uk](mailto:admin@portobello.edin.sch.uk) We wish all families a happy summer holiday!

## SQA Results and Re-coursing

Whilst we always hope our young people do well in their qualifications, sometimes things don't turn out quite as everyone hoped when the results arrive. To support pupils at this time, we offer the chance to come and review course choices after the results come out. This opportunity is aimed at pupils who have not done as well as they hoped and have not met the entry requirements for the courses they have chosen. Alternatively, they may have done better than they anticipated and need to go up a level in a course. Appointments can be made on Thursday 6 and Friday 7 August after the results are published on 4 August. Further details will be sent out nearer the time. This service is only applicable to pupils who need to change courses as a result of SQA results.

On 4 August, SQA results day, Skills Development Scotland will once again open its Results Helpline.

Whatever their results, pupils (and their parents or carers) can speak to our expert career advisers, who will be ready to provide reassurance and support with the next steps.

The Helpline will be open 8am-8pm on 4 and 5 August and 9am-5pm on 6-7, 10-12 August. More details including the Helpline number will be available on My World of Work.

[We're still here to help](#)

SDS careers advisers are available to offer support to pupils throughout the summer and can be reached on 0800 917 8000.

Enhanced resources for school leavers including our current webinar series are also available on My World of Work.

## Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Summer Information for Young People and Parents

Parents/carers in Edinburgh, Midlothian and East Lothian and young people aged 16 and over are invited to find out more about Developing the Young Workforce's summer opportunities.

The Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) team delivers Scotland's youth employment strategy and works with industry partners to better prepare young people for the world of work.

Now more than ever it's vital that we work together to give young people the best chance of success for their futures.



Over the summer, young people will be able to tap into a range of virtual activities and employability experiences that will enhance their understanding of the world of work and help them get industry ready. There are activities and resources suitable for young people of all ages from Primary pupils to College students.

To find out how you can access these exciting industry offers sign up [here](#) to receive our exclusive summer bulletins.

### Support your child to gain a qualification at home

Youth Scotland have made 1000 free resources available to parents and carers to help them to support their child to gain a qualification at home. The Hi5 and Dynamic Youth Awards (DYA) are wider achievement awards that follow an engaging and fun plan-do-review format. Hi5 Awards are aimed at children aged 5+ and DYA at age 10+.

All completed awards receive a certificate. Both awards are nationally recognised and are credit rated and levelled by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) on the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF).

The resources will be made available to the first 1000 applicants on a first come first served basis. [Click here](#) for further information and to access this free resource.

### ACES Summer School S4-S6



ACES Summer School 2020:  
'The Art of... Art at a Distance'

Two vintage black and white photographs. On the left, a man in a suit and bowler hat is talking on a rotary telephone. On the right, a woman in a 1940s-style dress and hat is also talking on a rotary telephone.

**Free Online Creative Course!**  
Live sessions / practical activities /  
interactive tasks / artist research

**For new S4 – 6**  
Register with ACES to apply

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July**  
Flexible timings: 3 hours per day

Contact us to sign up / for more information

Vintage Images via Getty Images

e: [aces@ed.ac.uk](mailto:aces@ed.ac.uk)

w: [edin.ac/aces](http://edin.ac/aces)

[aces\\_edinburgh](https://www.instagram.com/aces_edinburgh)



## Supporting Parents and Teens

The City of Edinburgh Council Parent and Carer Support Team are keen to help families access support during this challenging time, they have been working with Cyrenians Support and Mediation Service and Scottish Centre of Conflict Resolution Centre (SCCR) on a number of supports to help parents and teenagers who may be struggling.

There is an online **Conflict Workshop** being run by **Scottish Centre of Conflict Resolution** on **Thursday 2nd July at 7.30pm**, details below:

## Recognise, Reflect and Apply

Family life can be stressful at times, particularly just now when the future is uncertain, and all family members are competing for space and independence. Many families are finding things challenging and it's hard to know what to do in difficult family situations. Parents and carers in Edinburgh are welcome to attend a free online workshop with the Cyrenian's Scottish Centre for Conflict Resolution (SCCR) on Thursday 2nd July at 7.30pm on Zoom.

This workshop has been developed to support you during this stressful time with practical advice from SCCR followed by a friendly open discussion. This short online session gives parents and carers of teenagers the opportunity to recognise and reflect on some of the dynamics of conflict in their family and consider more effective approaches that could be used to improve relationships and wellbeing.

Grab your space by signing up for free here <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/recognise-reflect-apply-an-sccr-goodtrees-workshop-tickets-109818907308>

#SCCR #OnlineWorkshop

Finally, Cyrenians has also produced a helpful leaflet for families which can be downloaded here <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/download/14513/sccr-leaflet-conflict-top-tips>

This leaflet includes the SCCR's 5 Top Tips for avoiding arguments, resolving conflict and rebuilding relationships within families and includes a list of support for parents, carers and young people.

## Art

Here are some amazing examples of pupil's political art work:





\*\*\*\*STOP PRESS – NEWS JUST IN!!\*\*\*\*

Following last night's fantastic Paolozzi Prize Ceremony, we are delighted to congratulate the following young people!

Elise French - Highly commended for Talent and Creativity

Erin Menelaws-McCrie - Highly commended for Overcoming Barriers

Molly Mavor - Highly Commended for New Directions

Aaron Singh - Winner of the Spirit of Paolozzi category

## FTT

Hospitality Students were recognised for their entries in the Food and Drink Federation Scotland Lockdown Lunch Challenge.





Also, many more examples of cooking/baking/needlework

