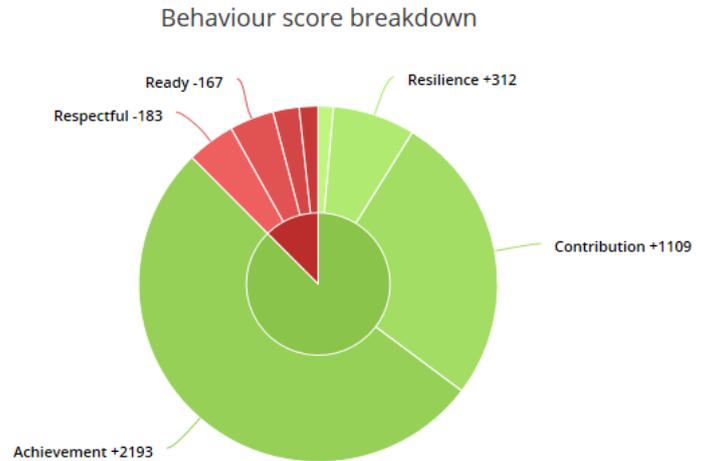


Weekly Update 18th September 2020

Class Charts 2020/21

We are pleased to let you know that Class Charts for all classes from S1-6 is now fully operational and our staff are using this to provide feedback on learners' engagement and to celebrate instances where they have gone 'above and beyond'. Since the start of term, nearly **4000 'greens'** have been awarded by staff to our pupils for Achievement, Contribution or Resilience and the school's overall pie chart is currently sitting at an impressive **88% green** (see below). Please remember to download the Class Charts app or go to www.classcharts.com and log in regularly to see how young person's individual pie chart and how they are getting on in their lessons.



If any parent has misplaced their log in details for Class Charts, they should contact Mr McCulloch, Curriculum Leader for Modern Languages (andrew.mcculloch@portobello.edin.sch.uk), stating their child's name and their year group, and these details will be emailed to them.

Parent Council Meeting



There was a healthy attendance at our first Parent Council meeting of the new session on Wednesday night. Due to Covid restrictions, these meetings will be happening virtually for the foreseeable future. We are very grateful for the work done by our office bearers to collate questions ahead of the meeting – especially helpful given the fact that the virtual environment makes our usual level of discussion difficult.

While a minute of the meeting will be shared in due course, a flavour of the topics covered is given below.

- *Reporting on Pupil Progress* – staff are currently finalising details of a new approach to monitoring young people's progress. This will see all year groups receive a tracking report twice this year, the first before Christmas.
- *Parent's Evenings* – these will take place on a virtual basis this year, with our usual booking system adapted to allow a video meeting.
- *School Calendar* – this is almost ready to share and should be with parents next week. It will include dates for reports being sent home and parent evenings.
- *School Catering* – work in underway in the catering service to develop an online ordering facility which will allow parents to see menus, order and pay for school meals in advance.
- *Learning and Teaching* – Mr Ziltener outlined the way in which departments are adapting teaching approaches to class bubbles in S1 and 2. The school will keep this under review as we move forward.
- *Fundraising* – outside shelter and an expansion of digital technology were discussed as potential areas of focus.
- *SQA 2021 Exams* – Mrs McKay outlined the fact that contingency plans are now being developed at national level and undertook to share further information as soon as it became available.
- *Homework* – concerns about too much homework creating pressure for young people, or insufficient homework should be address to Curriculum Leaders if they relate to one subject or PSLs if they relate to several.

Long Weekend

Please remember that Monday 21 September is a holiday! Enjoy the long weekend, especially as it looks set to be sunny and we look forward to seeing all our young people back in school on Tuesday.

Tuesday Newsday

The results from our first 'Tuesday Newsday' are in! 88% of our young people thought that Donald Trump is wrong to ban TikTok. The issue clearly prompted some excellent discussions across our Key Adult groups about social media and data privacy, as shown by some of the comments below that were submitted to our survey:

"TikTok has been used to hold America to account in the past and the only reason America want to get rid of it is because they have been humiliated by the app in the past." 5C02

"It's not a real reason as other companies steal our data too - why isn't he banning those apps?" 3A01

"If you're silly enough to download and use it then you have agreed to give them this information." 3A03

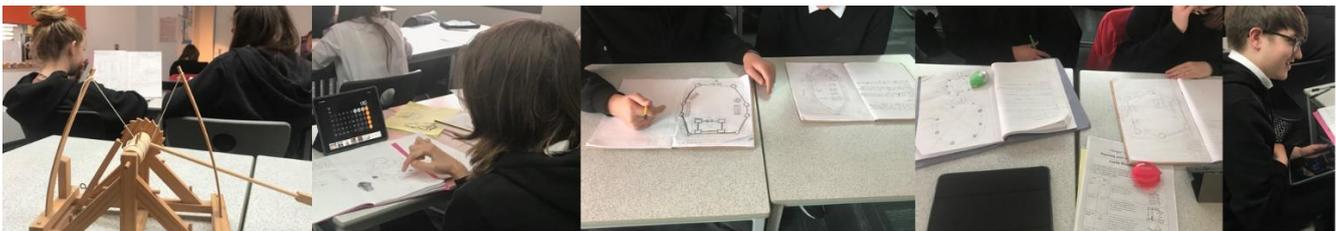
"We don't know if it's technically true or not [that China could misuse this data] – we don't have enough information to ban it." 2A02

Do you agree with the results of our vote? Keep the debate going at home!

Next week we will begin looking at the issue of the suspected poisoning of an important critic of the Russian government



Our S4 Historians have spent some time this week working on the cross-curricular topic of Castle building and attacking! This has allowed us to make comparisons across the time periods, identify and describe a range of different features of castles, and apply knowledge from other subject areas. These activities focused on thinking skills whilst also involving communication, working with others, and problem-solving. After creating the curtain walls of their castles, students investigated what a castle was like in terms of the different parts and rooms within the walls. And then went on to make and attach the specific features of their designs – all to a tight budget – before watching their castles being aggressively attacked!



Spurtle Folk Band

'Portobello High's very own Spurtle Folk Band had their first jamming together since lockdown and enjoyed playing some American fiddle tunes outside the school on Wednesday lunchtime.

Let's hope for more sunshine in the next coming weeks to continue their traditional music sessions.'



FTT Department

This week, after the long-awaited release of new Covid guidelines for practical classes for Education Scotland, FTT were delighted to begin practical work again.

We recognise that many of our students are very keen to get back in the kitchen. We thank them for their patience while we have not been allowed to cook, and we are working as hard as we can to meet the demands of the new regulations.

We will be working towards a phased return, beginning with our certificated senior classes from next week. To support us in doing this we need to remind students and parents that their continued efforts and compliance are essential in enabling us to work within the new guidelines and continue practical work.

Senior students who are in National 5 Practical Cookery, Cake or NPA Bakery will need to bring an apron and a container to transport their food.

The class teacher will advise on the type of container.

It is great to be back doing knife skills with National 5 Hospitality



Finished plaques from Mrs Sladen's bakery class



Photos of S2's great cable tidies



National 4 Practical Woodwork

Sticking to the guidelines the S4 PWW class are busy constructing tool boxes

