

Weekly Update 2nd October 2020

As you will know, we have had our first positive cases of Covid 19 in the school community over the last week. We wish those who are unwell a speedy recovery and look forward to having everyone back with us.

While we all hope that we do not see more cases, we would like to share the following information with parents so that we can continue to do our best to keep our school community as safe as possible.

- If your young person gets a positive test result for Covid 19, please let us know as soon as possible by emailing admin@portobello.edin.sch.uk This allows us to begin contact tracing.
- When notifying us of a positive case, it would be helpful if you could also supply the names of anyone in school who might have been a close contact outside of class time e.g. at break or lunch
- Please help to keep our community safe, by discouraging your young person from gathering with groups of other young people. We know that this is hard, especially after so many months of lockdown, but we are advised that this really does make a difference.

Some of you have asked about how we determine close contacts. Close contacts are people who have had direct contact with a positive case, or who have been in the proximity (2m) of a positive case within a specified timeframe. We follow NHS advice on these definitions and use our seating plans and other information to identify those who need to isolate.

During the period of isolation, you should request a test only if your young person develops symptoms. Unfortunately, a negative test result during the period of isolation does not mean that young people can return to school.

Young people who are self-isolating can access work on Teams (for S3 – S6) or on the school website (for S1 – S2).

Finally, a big thank you to all of you for your fantastic support of our school. We are very grateful for all the messages of support and appreciation!

Important Message for Parents of S4/5/6 re SQA Survey

The Scottish Government are finalising plans for senior phase pupils (S4/5/6) regarding the SQA exam diet for 2021. The National Parent Forum have been asked some key questions in advance of the publication of the Priestly Review (the academic research relevant to the cancellation of the 2020 exam diet) and the decisions of the Scottish Government as to how senior pupils attainment will be measured for this academic session.

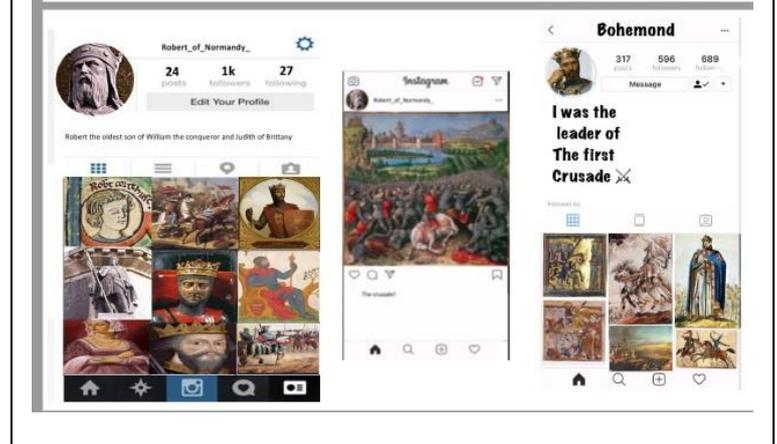
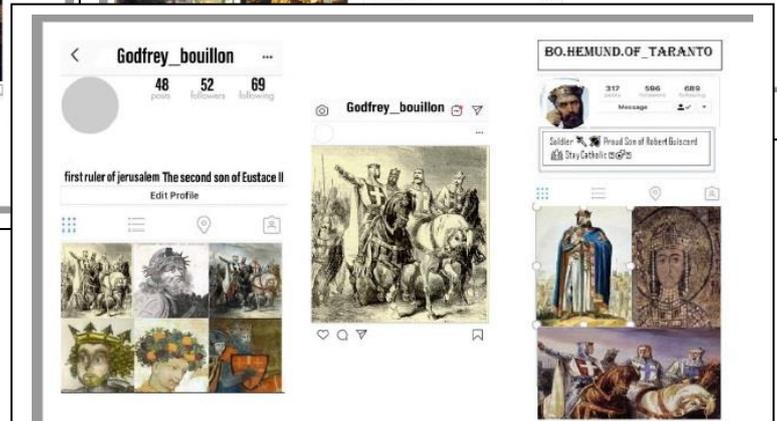
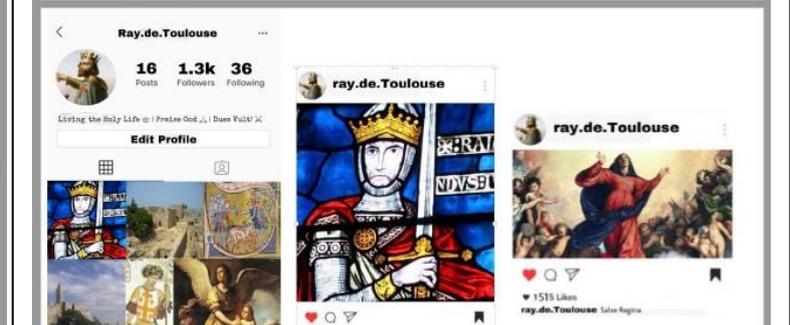
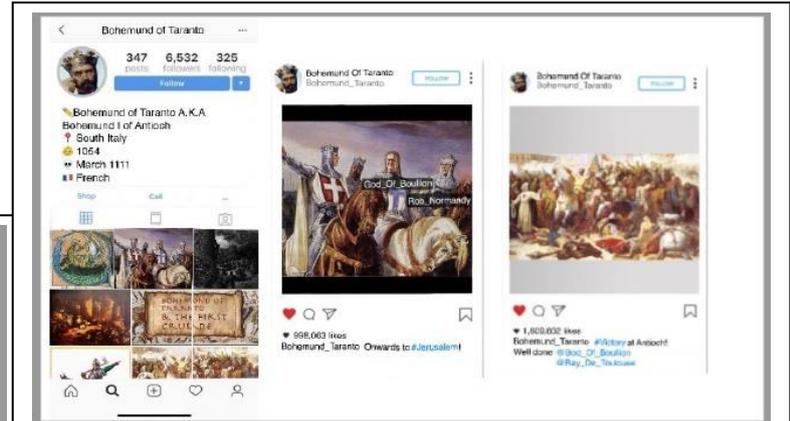
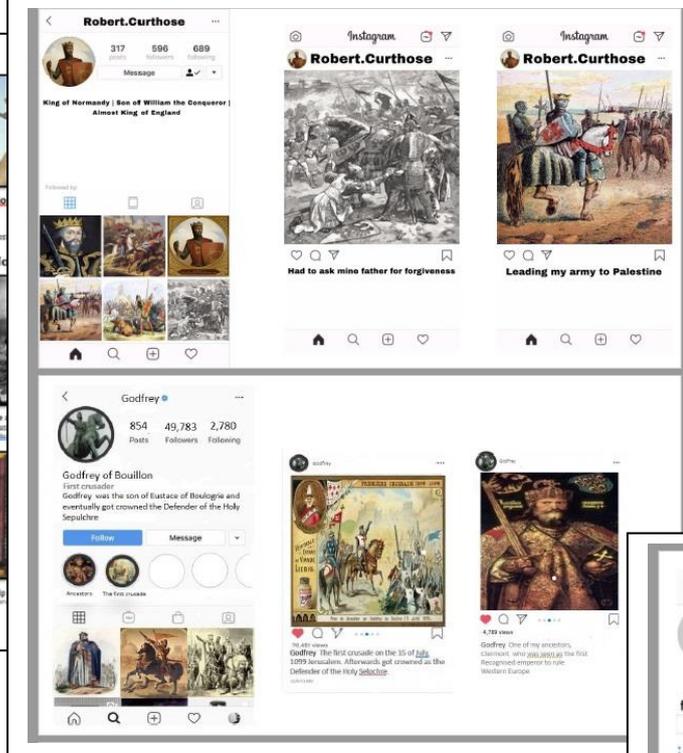
We want to underline that no decision has been finalised by the Scottish Government, but they have asked for the views of Parent Councils regarding some of the options being considered.

Portobello Parent Council would like to capture the views of as many Parents and carers as we can regarding some of the potential avenues open to the Scottish Government. We will use these responses to create an overall response which will allow NPFS to quickly establish the consensus view amongst senior phase parents/carers and will inform further decision making and outputs of the NPFS.

Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions. A quick response to NPFS is required. The survey responses will be gathered on Sunday at 12 noon, responses submitted after this will not be included.

<https://forms.gle/7iTvFX85nDBLvZ3B7>

S4 History



In order to tie our work in with the European Modern Languages Celebration Week, the History Department set our S4 Historians the challenge of working with European Crusader Vocabulary, and as you can see from the images above, they have aced it! The Instagram pages reflect some of the changes we have made in delivering tasks in our new environment, but once again our S4 historians have risen to the challenge. Congratulations on all your hard work, ability to problem solve and demonstration of creative thinking! We hope you enjoy imagining how people in the Middle Ages might have used Instagram

PE Department

Can we urge all pupils to bring appropriate clothing with them when changing for PE even if they have a note excusing them from participating fully in the lesson. The weather is getting a little colder and it is likely to be wet more often. Please bring a jumper (not the one you are wearing to school) and/or a waterproof jacket (again, not the one you are wearing to school). We don't want you being too cold or wet when outside and then going to your next class soaking wet! Thank you, The PE Dept.

Congratulations to **Lily Mayers S4** and **Sylvie Torrie S4** who have been selected as our new **Active School's Young Ambassadors**. As a Department we are looking forward to working with both girls in their role which will involve them promoting sport and motivating young people to get involved in sport.

Congratulations also to the following S4 pupils have been successful in their selection to the **Edinburgh Active Schools Leadership Academy**. Their involvement in this opportunity will be to organise, lead and promote Sports and Physical Activity and will subsequently develop their leadership and employability skills:

James Boyack Callum Crowe Rachel Fleming Lily Graham Angus Lynn Robyn McCarthy Heather Taylor

FTT

The bakery classes have been making scones this week.



Remember if you are timetabled to cook to bring in your own apron. Our bakery classes are already doing this.

