

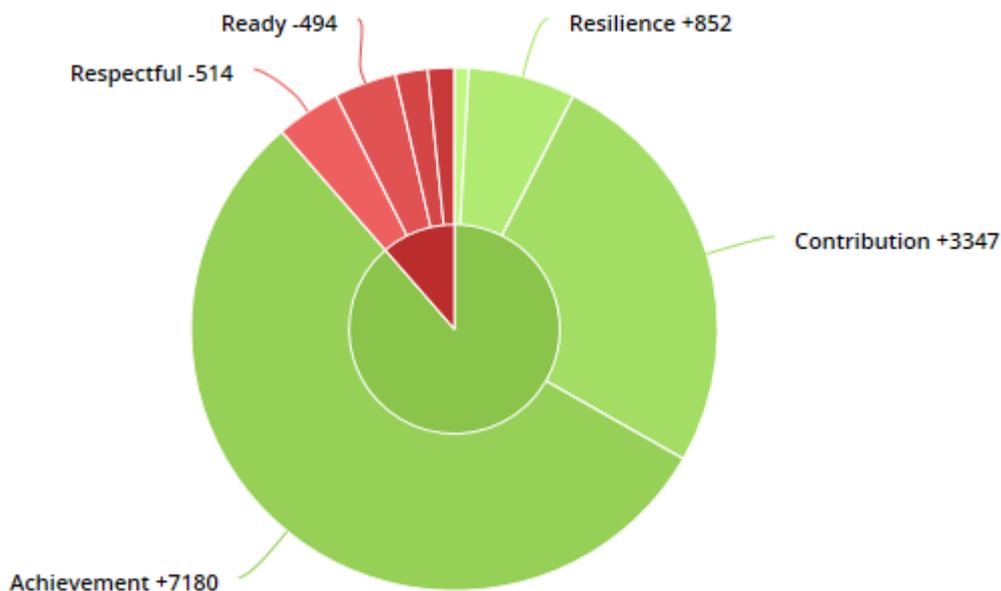
Weekly Update 9th October 2020

Two Week Timetable

Thanks to all the parents and carers who took part in our consultation on moving to a timetable based on double periods. 75% of families supported this approach to reducing the number of contacts our young people and staff have each day. Most of our staff team were also in favour of this approach. In order to give our staff more time to prepare for this move, we will implement this after the October break. Further information will be shared with young people next week. Please be assured that this represents no difference in teaching time – just the way it is distributed - and still means that all young people have full time education.

Class Charts

A reminder 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' as well as communicate with parents when things haven't gone as planned. Since the start of term, **over 11,000 'greens'** have now 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 **89% green** (see below).



Please remember to download the Class Charts app or go to www.classcharts.com and log in regularly to see how your young person's individual pie chart and how they are getting on in their lessons. We are currently looking at how we can expand our use of Class Charts and do more to highlight the many hundreds of Porty students who consistently go above and beyond!

If any parent/carer of learners in S1-6 has misplaced their log in details for Class Charts, they should contact Mr McCulloch (andrew.mcculloch@portobello.edin.sch.uk), stating their child's name and their year group, and these details will be emailed to them.

All pupils can get their log in details from their Key Adult each morning.

Staff Update

We welcomed Mr Martin Ferrier as Acting CL Business and Computing Studies recently. He is enjoying getting to know our young people, and previously taught both Computing and Business Education in Leith Academy.

From Monday we welcome Ms Laura Bulloch as our new Curriculum Leader Social Subjects. Ms Bulloch joins us from Bearsden Academy where she has been Principal Teacher of History and Psychology.

We said goodbye to Mrs Judi Mellor of our FTT team last week and wished her well in her new post which is much nearer home. She tells us she will miss being part of #TeamPorty and we thank her for all she has done during her time with us.

We also said au revoir to Mrs Brenda Thomas, School Support Assistant, who has retired after many years in Portobello and will be beginning a new life in France.

Best wishes also to Mrs Louise Ferguson from our school office as she begins her maternity leave.

Self Isolation and Learning from Home

A big well done to all those young people who have been learning from home while self isolating as a result of being a close contact of a positive case. This was the first test of our systems for home learning and we have valued the feedback some of you have shared. We would also like to say a big thank you to our staff team. The number of staff self isolating presented quite a challenge for us and we're grateful to CEC colleagues for all that was done to support us, including the deployment of a small army of supply staff! It is lovely to have everyone back with us today.

We are pleased to know that the public health advice is that there is no evidence of in school transmission of the virus – we can continue to keep everyone safe by following the protocols around hand hygiene, wearing face coverings and keeping 2m distance from each other where possible.

SQA

Our senior pupils along with their teachers have been working hard on their National Qualifications (NQs) since the summer holidays. On Wednesday the Deputy First Minister announced a number of measures for the awarding of National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher in 2020-21. There will be no external assessment of National 5 courses this year, either by exam or course work. National 5 courses will instead be assessed on teacher judgement supported by assessment resources and quality assurance. Higher and Advanced Higher will have externally assessed exams in May and where appropriate course work will be assessed by the SQA. The exams in May this session will run from the 13 of May to the 4 of June inclusive.

More information on what this means for our pupils will be communicated over the coming weeks. We are working with the City of Edinburgh Council and taking advice on how best we manage this to ensure the best possible outcomes for all our young people.

Parent Council – Save the Date

The next meeting of our Parent Council will be held on Wednesday 28 October at 7pm on our virtual platform Microsoft Teams. Further details will be shared nearer the time.



Sports Ambassadors

Congratulations to Lily Mayers S4 and Sylvie Torrie S4 who have been selected as our new Active School's Young Ambassadors. The PE 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 initiative will be to organise, lead and promote Sports and Physical Activity with opportunities to further develop their leadership and employability skills: James Boyack Callum Crowe Rachel Fleming Lily Graham Angus Lynn Robyn McCarthy Heather Taylor

FTT

It's been a baking week in FTT with scones, scotch pancakes and empire biscuits making everyone hungry in the department. S3 Hospitality are back cooking again and produced some fantastic wedge scones understanding raising agents and the rubbing in technique.



