

## Weekly Update 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021



We were delighted to be able to take our S6 year group photo for the Class of 2021 yesterday with the appropriate Covid mitigations in place. It represented the first time that we have been able to get a whole year group together since before the pandemic began and felt like a significant moment after such a long period of restrictions – so much so that Ms McKay took a quick snap before she took her own seat for the formal picture!

### Session Date Change Christmas Holidays 2021

At its March meeting, the Education, Children and Families Committee agreed to change the scheduled Christmas holiday dates from **Friday 24 December 2021 - Monday 10 January 2022** to **Monday 20 December 2021 - Tuesday 4 January 2022**.

The change was based on a similar amendment to the previous year's holiday dates. The reasons for the change are set out in this committee report:

<https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/documents/s31995/7.10%20School%20Session%20Dates%20Amendment%202021-22.pdf>

The report did not include consideration of the in-service day after the holidays. This will be Wednesday 5 January 2022. To ensure that pupils are in school for the required 190 days, the summer term will be amended to finish on **Friday 1 July 2022** instead of **Thursday 30 June**.

The agreed changes are now on the Council website, along with dates for dates for 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25.

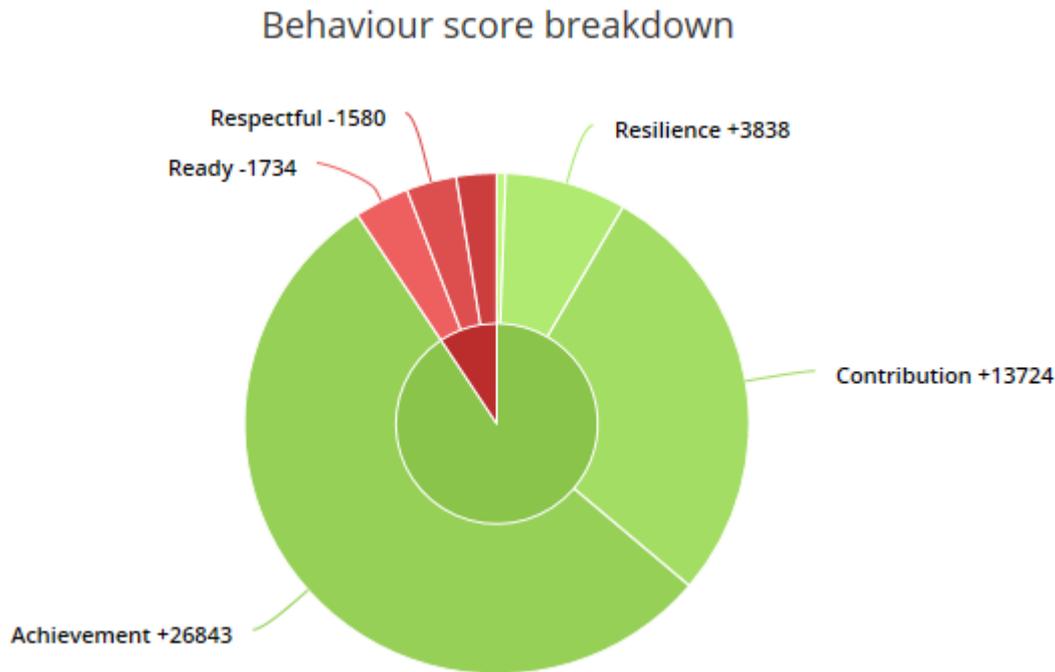
### Parent Council

The next meeting of our Parent Council will take place on Tuesday 1 June from 7.00 – 8.15pm in Teams. A link will be shared via email nearer the time. Please remember that you can get in touch with the Parent Council either via the FaceBook page or their dedicated email address [portyhighparents@gmail.com](mailto:portyhighparents@gmail.com)



## 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'. Since August, over **40,000 '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 **90% green** (see below).



Please remember to download the Class Charts app or go to [www.classcharts.com](http://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.

If any student or parent/carer of learners in S2-6 has misplaced their log in details for Class Charts, they should contact Mr McCulloch ([andrew.mcculloch@portobello.edin.sch.uk](mailto:andrew.mcculloch@portobello.edin.sch.uk)), stating their child's name and their year group, and these details will be emailed to them.



### **Deadline for application for the EU Settlement Scheme EUSS 30 June 2021**

You may be aware that the deadline for application to the EUSS is 30<sup>th</sup> June.

EU citizens currently living in the UK who **arrived before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020**, must apply for settled or pre-settled status before the deadline.

If they do not do so, they risk not being lawfully resident in the UK, with implications for access to work, housing, healthcare etc.

It has become apparent that, in many cases, parents who have applied did not realise that separate, individual applications must be made for children. In other words, every member of a family must apply in their own right. This organisation offers support: <https://citizensrightsproject.org/>

The Home Office has produced an EUSS children's [leaflet](#), in partnership with the University of Liverpool. It has been designed with children in mind and is intended to support children and parents with information to help them apply to the EUSS.

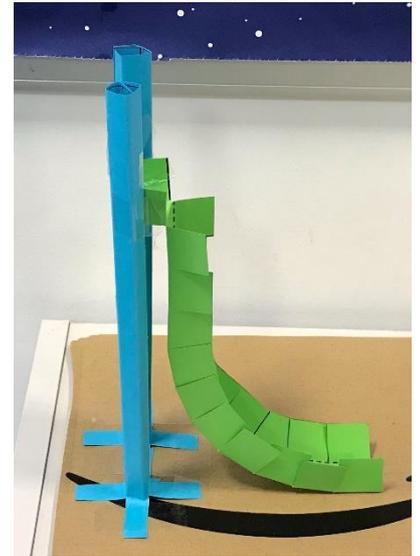
## Ups and downs

**Key Adult Group 1B03** were tasked with designing and building a paper rollercoaster.

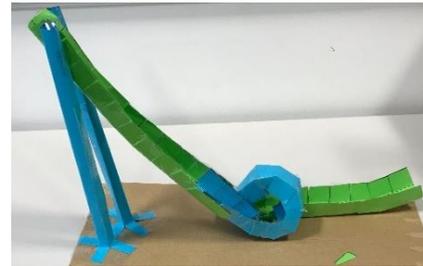
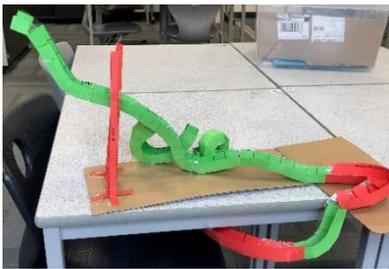
Working in friendship groups, they cut, folded, taped, and trialled their creations.

The activity was described as: 'exciting', 'fun', 'creative', 'excellent', 'enjoyable', 'challenging', 'good', 'hard', 'chaotic', 'confusing', 'chill', 'nice', and 'rewarding'.

The good things about making the rollercoaster included: doing something different, team-working with friends, and discussing ideas and resolving problems. For most groups, the highlight was rolling the marble at the end and watching it all come together as a finished product.



The pictures show the finished roller coasters:



While doing the challenge, there were ups and downs (as might be expected with rollercoasters). Some groups had to rush to finish their models. From their evaluations, the class identified planning and time management as being critical to accomplishing the task.

Inspired by their collective successes, there was a suggestion that the whole class works together to create one massive rollercoaster. With such creativity and enthusiasm, there are no limits to what might be achieved.

