

Weekly Update 20th August 2021

Welcome Back

It has been lovely to see all of our young people back with us for the start of a new school year. It's always amazing to see how much some young people have grown over the summer!

We would like to say a special welcome to our new S1s who have made a great start with us, showing lots of resilience and maturity in their first week. It has been encouraging to see them helping each other to work things out and find their way round and to see new friendships being forged. There was lots of excitement in Key Adult Time this morning as they got their school ties and thanks to our Parent Council for funding these again this year.



Staff Update

As always, the beginning of session sees us welcome a number of new staff. We have a larger than usual number of new colleagues this year, which is partly a reflection of the growing size of the school and the creation of new posts. A warm welcome to;

- Ms Akther, Ms Harker and Ms Weiss all take up teaching posts in our Mathematics team.
- Mrs Barr is be our new Teacher of Food and Textiles Technology.
- Ms Boule and Mr Norville join us as Pupil Support Assistants.
- Ms Brown joins us as a Teacher of French and Spanish
- Ms Collins joins us as our new Teacher of Drama
- Mr Cuthbertson, also one of our session 2019/20 NQTs, returns as a Teacher of Music.
- Mr Doak, (a former pupil!) is the new Pupil Support Leader for Brunstane House.
- Mr Hoyles re-joins us as a Teacher of English having completed his NQT year with us in 2019/20.
- Ms McKay and Ms Stear are our new Pupil Support Officers
- Ms O'Connell joins us as a Teacher of Support for Learning

We have also welcomed another cohort of Newly Qualified Teachers, who will be with us as they complete their post-qualification year;

- Mr Corsar – Mathematics
- M Lecompte – Modern Languages
- Ms Marziban – Physical Education
- Ms McIntosh – Business Education
- Dr Mitchell – Chemistry with Science
- Ms Naumova – Music

Ms Davis has returned to our Art and Design team following her maternity leave and Dr Kaushall joins us to complete this student placement in the English department.



Drop-In Vaccination Bus for 16- and 17-year olds

Any young person aged 16 or 17 who would like to take up the offer of a vaccination against Covid 19 can access this at the NHS Lothian Vaccination Bus which can be found at the following locations over the next few days:

- 21/22 August – Waverley Bridge – 11am – 8pm
- 23-25 August – Cameron Toll – 11am – 7pm
- 28/29 August – Fort Kinnaird – 11am – 7pm

School Catering

While Covid mitigations means we are not yet able to have indoor dining, we are pleased to say that our school catering team are offering both breaktime and lunchtime service to all year groups from next week. Menus will be sent home separately and next week will be week 2 in the menu rotation.

DofE Parent Volunteers wanted!



Are you interested in helping out with the Duke of Edinburgh Award at Portobello? Maybe you did a DofE award yourself and would like to give something back?

We have lots of areas in which family members could help out, such as:

- Fundraising
- Managing the kit store
- Supporting expeditions or helping with other sections (physical, skill, volunteering).

If you think you might be interested, please contact Ms Hazel Taylor. If you had expressed an interest before the pandemic and are still interested, please get in touch again.

S1 Science

S1 Scientists having their first shot with Bunsen burners...!

Couple of quotes:

"I have high expectations of Science if that was the first lesson considering how much fun that was."

"Amazing!"

