

Weekly Update 10th December 2021

Christmas Appeal

A huge thank you to everyone that has supported our Christmas Appeal this year. We have had such a positive response for our community which we know will make a big difference to many families this year. If you would still like to donate a small gift or donation to the appeal, we will continue collecting through Key Adult Groups until Tuesday morning. On Wednesday of this week, everyone in Team Party was invited to Wear Something Christmassy. As you can see, there was much enthusiastic participation...! Well done to young people in S6 for organising this event!



Covid-19 Update

In light of the latest news about the Omicron variant, we would like to encourage all our young people and families to follow guidance on face coverings, hand hygiene and regular LFD testing. We would also like to encourage families who have not yet taken up the offer of a vaccine to

consider doing so. Recent rates of infection have demonstrated that the number of young people of secondary age becoming infected has decreased due to vaccines.

In today's briefing by the First Minister, changes to the rules, including those on self-isolation, were announced. Further information will be shared with parents and carers next week.

Meantime we would like to draw your attention to the fact that from Saturday 11 December, **household contacts of all Covid cases**, regardless of which variant is suspected, **must isolate for 10 days**. This applies to everyone in the household, irrespective of age, testing negative or being vaccinated. In order to assist with timely contact tracing beyond the immediate household, we would ask that any positive Covid cases are reported to covidcasemanagement@edinburgh.gov.uk as soon as possible. A rota system is in place at council level to provide cover this mailbox over evenings and weekends.

Next week in school we will be reinforcing the importance of all our Covid mitigations. As good levels of natural ventilation are a key aspect of this, bringing extra layers to school next week is a good plan! We will be doing all we can to make sure that young people, staff and families get to the Christmas holidays safely!

Parent Council Xmas Raffle 2021

Roll up, roll up, roll up! The Portobello High School Parent Council has another fantastic Christmas Raffle. The raffle prizes are fabby and will add to your Christmas festivities! The prizes include a top drinks hamper (containing 10 bottles), a beauty hamper, a crate of beer, a voucher for Anna Thai, and lots and lots of other fantastic prizes!!!! All proceeds go towards Parent Council Funds which support the school.



Please enter at the link below:

[Enter Raffle to Win Portie PC Xmas Raffle Hosted By Portobello High School Parent Council \(raffall.com\)](https://raffall.com)

Under 22 Travel Survey

Do you have a child aged 5-16, or are you a young person aged 12-21? If so, please complete our short travel survey for a chance to win up to £250 in Love2Shop vouchers.

The Scottish Government will soon be launching the Free Bus Travel Scheme for young people between the ages of 5 and 21. This aims to encourage greener travel patterns, and increase opportunities for young people to engage in employment, education and social activities and not be excluded due to travel costs. Transport Scotland will monitor the scheme as it progresses to check on use and impact. The first step is to try and understand current travel patterns so that any changes after the scheme is introduced can be identified.

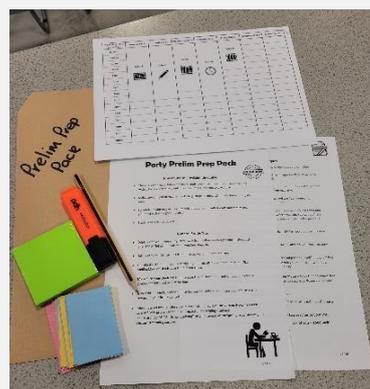
We would be grateful if parents/carers of younger children (i.e. those aged 5-16), or young people aged 12-21 themselves, could complete this short travel survey. The questionnaire asks about current travel behaviour, and your thoughts about bus travel generally and the free bus travel. This should take no more than 10 minutes to do.

Contact Us: If you have any questions about the work or problems completing the questionnaire, please contact our Project Manager, Elaine Wilson-Smith, at elaine@wellsideresearch.co.uk or on 0131 677 5522.

online1.snapsurveys.com/under22travelsurvey

Prelim Revision Prep

All S4 to S6 pupils have been given a supportive package in Key Adult this week to help guide them through studying for the upcoming prelims. If you didn't get an envelope or would like any additional advice, please see Miss Kaur in F18.



How Maths Can Save The Planet

On November 10th during COP26, Matt Parker (Standup Mathematician) was joined by a group of leading experts for a live interactive hour online, to reveal the maths that professionals use to help them to deal with climate change.

- **What's happening now?** Chris Budd (University of Bath)
- **Predicting the future** Sammie Buzzard (Cardiff university)
- **How likely are extreme events?** Victoria Stephenson (University of Bath)
- **Designing for low carbon** Mel Allwood (Arup Engineers)

○ **What will make the biggest difference?** Hugh Hunt (Trinity College Cambridge)

A recording of the show can be watched online here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3L6VwpBwJH0> . This link will be live until December 17th.

The final presenter in the show was **Hugh Hunt**, who was broadcasting live from a foyer in Glasgow (venue of Cop26). If you would prefer to see a version of Hugh's talk that he prerecorded in his Cambridge office, you can watch it here: <https://youtu.be/4AHsQCIVpS4>
Christmas Concert - 16th December 2021



The stream will be **live from 6.00pm**

with the actual **Concert**

starting at 6.30pm.

The link to watch the concert is: <https://youtu.be/c42nfofDEc>

OR you can simply search **Portobello High School**
Christmas Concert 2021 on YouTube.

Tickets would usually be **£5.00/£3.00 (full/concession)**, but
this year we are asking that you pay what you can.

If you **can** afford more, please feel free to do so. Alternatively, just **pay what you** can.

All contributions are most welcome!

ParentPay will be up and running from Monday 13th December and will close at lunchtime on Friday 17th December.

Breakfast Club



A reminder that our new Breakfast Club is up and running. Pupils can come along to the canteen from 8.00am every morning for some breakfast to start the day right way. This is open to all pupils and is free of charge. Entry via the side door or pupil entrance only.

Biology

S6 Biology superstars: Grace Campbell and Flora Henry were busy this week dissecting hearts and lungs in two different Science classes! They performed a heart dissection for Mrs Moghadam's Higher Human Biology class and dissected a heart and set of lungs for Miss Scott's S1 class. Their enthusiasm was contagious and knowledge inspirational.

A huge thanks to Grace and Flora for being Biology ambassadors, the Science department is incredibly proud of you 😊

