

Weekly Update 10th November 2023

Parent Council

The next Parent Council / Parent Forum meeting will be on **Tuesday 21 November**, 7.00-8.30 pm. This will be an online meeting, so look out for the link which will be issued nearer the date. Dial in to hear about the updated approach the school and staff team are taking to anti-bullying, and about some of the opportunities and activities that the school offer pupils. The Head Teacher will also cover current issues affecting the school.



If there are any questions or issues you would like us to raise with the school or hear about at the meeting, please drop us a note either through our Facebook page or at portyhighparents@gmail.com

Save The Date - Post-16 Transition Event for Young People with Additional Support Needs

For the first time, the Support for Learning team at Portobello High School is hosting an event for families of young people with additional support needs to help navigate post-16 transition.

This event is for families of S3-S6 pupils with significant additional support needs or disabilities who will require support with the transition into further education or the workplace when they are ready to leave school.

The event will take place on Wednesday 7th February 2024 from 5-7pm in the Assembly Hall

Please use this link <https://forms.office.com/e/jmmX28PJ6D> to register your initial interest in the event.

Karate

Many of our pupils were representing Scotland in Belgium last weekend at the 48th Federation of European Wadokai Karate Championships and there were some fantastic achievements:

Lottie Burnham 6A05 secured two Gold medals in her Individual and Team category.
Julia Duff 2C08 secured two Gold medals in her Individual and Team category. **Lujayn Elshawi 5C10** won a Silver and a Gold and **Sam Mills 6A01** secured two Silver Medals. **George Burnham 1A15** one of our new S1 pupils secured a Bronze medal, see photograph. Well done to all of these pupils on their amazing achievements!



Elite Sport Performers

The PE department are currently collating a list of all pupils who represent their sport at either district or international level, we think we know most of them but perhaps not them all and especially our new S1 pupils. It would be greatly appreciated if pupils or parent/carers could support us in celebrating our pupils sporting success by emailing the Admin@portobello.edin.sch.uk with any relevant information.

Choreography Competition

A massive well done to all pupils who took part in PHS first ever Choreography Competition! Special shout out to Anzhelika Yussupova in S5 for receiving Best Performance with her outstanding hip hop choreography, Lily Reid in S2 for Best Technique in her beautiful lyrical dance and Summer Patterson, Emily Vipond, Isla Veitch, Morven Regan and Ciara Rose Glass for Best Choreography with their awesome commercial dance!



Duke of Edinburgh Update

Things are **very** busy this year for DofE, we have a record number of applicants and so have been spending the last few weeks getting things up and running and all of the admin associated with that.

All communication to pupils for DofE (Bronze and Silver) is done via their **DofE Team**. We expect pupils to have notifications switched on for this and to check it regularly. Resources such as training schedules and information from meetings can be found in the Files section of their Team. It is imperative that pupils take the initiative with their award and ensure they attend all training sessions. At Bronze in particular, we will not be allowing pupils who have missed more than 2 training sessions to go on Expedition, as it is not safe for them to do so without having received the full training programme.

Gold Open Group

If anyone is interested in doing their Gold Award this year they should scan the QR code below and send in their details. This is an open group and so can be continued beyond school.



Debating

Congratulations to the Junior Portobello Debate Team (S1-S3) who competed at the national Debate competition at Edinburgh University on Saturday 4th November. Our Debaters competed against schools from across Scotland and England.

We are so proud of our students who competed on Debates such as should school teachers wear a School Uniform, should a Poet Laureate be an elected position and finally this house regrets the cultural dominance of America culture (TV, Film). The students thrived and all teams placed second in at least one debate. We are so proud of Amanda Greig (S3), Amelie Hutchinson (S2), Bettie Webster (S2), Ibukun Ojo (S2), Clary Garcia-Sancho (S2), Kai Potter (S2) and Summer Williamson (S2). A special shout-out must go to Ibukun, Kai, Summer and Clary who attended their first debate. Well Done!!

We would also like to praise and say a special thanks to Robert Mylne and Miya Turner who led the Junior Debate team. They have done an exceptional and outstanding job this year. They also played an integral part in the day in judging the Junior debate competition at University of Edinburgh. We are really lucky to have them. Thank you both.

As always Debate Club is open to everyone it is a really fun club where friendships are made, we also debate current affairs and it is a great opportunity to build speaking and listening skills as well as confidence.



S1-S3 join debate club in Mr Murphy's room (G17) after school on Tuesday and S4-S6 join debate club in Mrs Cambell's (G18) room after school on a Monday. We would love to welcome you then.

Higher English and Journalism

On Monday 6th Nov a group of Higher English and Journalism pupils took part in a conference on "Language in Parliament" at the Scottish Parliament alongside other schools from across Scotland. Porty pupils had a tour of the chamber and enjoyed workshops from Holyrood staff including lawyers, speech writers and official reporters. Many of the pupils said they could see themselves doing these jobs in future and we all learned skills we can apply to our academic work.

Our Porty seniors represented the school admirably.

Next step from this will be a leadership opportunity for those who attended to create their own presentation to peers.





English Department - Readers of the Month

Well done to the following pupils who have been selected by their English teachers as 'Readers of the Month' for October! These pupils have set the standard for enthusiasm and engagement during their personal reading time in class last month.

FTT

Last week was Halloween Week in FTT with a crazy amount of spooky baking and sugar dough modelling and some scarily enormous pumpkins arriving for spiced muffins!



S2 had their first taste of Sugar Craft making fondant pumpkins and witches hats while S3 made and decorated pumpkin muffins



S3 Iced Pumpkin Muffins

S4 and S5 Practical Cookery iced spiders webs onto Chocolate Brownies and Cheesecakes



and it was the annual Halloween Battenburg Challenge for National 5 Cake Craft.



40 students also enjoyed an afterschool pop up Halloween bakery club.



40 students came for an afterschool pop up bakery club

Our new NPA Barista Class also hosted their first event. A dozen lucky members of staff were invited along to FTT for breaktime where they were treated to homemade cakes and biscuits and where the pupils showed off their Barista skills making artisan coffees to order.



Social Subjects Stars

This week, the Social Subjects and RMPS faculty celebrated our Social Subjects Stars for October! Once a month, each member of our Social Subjects team nominates a pupil from the BGE and Senior Phase who have gone over and above in their classes in terms of achievement, contribution or resilience. To celebrate their achievement, some of our stars were able to enjoy us for a hot chocolate and certificate ceremony in Social Subjects on Monday. Congratulations to them all and look out for our next set of stars at the beginning of December!



DYW Update

Find out about Portobello pupils touring Edinburgh and exciting apprenticeships at Historic Scotland!

<https://sway.office.com/xcdW4aawxRrR5ULc?ref=Link>



DYW Weekly Opportunities and Update 8/11/2023

DYW Weekly Opportunities Listing

[Go to this Sway](#)

Newhailes Squared

Newhailes Squared is back after a successful first year in 2023. We are asking for all budding artists, professionals or anyone that wants to just have a go at creating a piece of art. The only rule is that it is 10 x 10 inches square in size, no bigger, no smaller. The theme for 2024 is Family. Newhailes was a family home for hundreds of years and is still loved by many families, and the memories in all different ways, still resonate here. What is family to you? It could be siblings, parents, home, pets, portraits, mealtimes, holidays, feelings. Whatever it is put this into art. The exhibition is open to everyone, visitors, students, the local community, and all ages. All entries will be exhibited, and it doesn't matter what medium you choose to use, pencil, paint, sculpture, photography, just have a go! And remember 10 x 10 inches. The finished artwork will be exhibited in our stables 20th January to 11th February 2024. Enjoy getting creative!



For more information and to register contact dsudron@nts.org (Newhailes Squared organiser)

Newhailes Squared is a great opportunity to have a piece your work displayed to the public and to create a piece of art following a brief. Your art must be 10 x 10 inches and be on the theme of family. The deadline for submissions is early January (date tbc). If you need space or materials to work on your submission, please come and speak to Mrs Davis in art.

EL Swim Trainee Advert

Swim Teacher Trainee Programme - No experience required.

Salary – £10.50 per hour

Part-time permanent role, 25 hours per week

Location – multiple venues across Edinburgh

Join our free swim teaching trainee program and kick-start your swimming career.

Do you love swimming so much that you would love to make a career out of it? We will help you jump in at the deep end by giving you all the training and support you need **to become a qualified Swim Teacher**. And pay you to do it! We will even pay your training costs and exam fees!

We are looking for approachable, positive, and friendly individuals that have:

- Passion for swimming
- Eagerness to teach such an important lifesaving skill.
- A warm and welcoming personality

So, whether you are about to leave school or uni, a parent or just someone looking for a change of career, we are here to help you make a big splash.

In addition, we offer:

- FREE membership across all our centres with access to fitness classes, gyms, and swimming pools
- Opportunities for further training, career growth and development
- Generous holiday allowance
- Cycle-to-work scheme
- Paid sick leave
- Company pension
- Access to discounts with a huge number of retailers (saving money in cinemas, restaurants, clothing, and electronics shops, on insurance and healthcare and much more)

If you would like the opportunity to gain the qualifications and training needed to become a swim teacher, follow the link, and register your application. <https://vacancies.edinburghleisure.co.uk/>

Compulsory Training dates/times:

- Mon 8th & Tue 9th Jan 09:00 – 16:00 - Royal Commonwealth Pool - Welcome & Induction
- Fri 12th Jan 13:00 – 21:00, Sat 13th & Sun 14th Jan 09:00-17:00 - Portobello Swim Centre – SSTQ
- Fri 19th Jan 13:00 – 21:00, Sat 20th & Sun 21st Jan 09:00-17:00 - Portobello Swim Centre – SSTQ
- Fri 2nd Feb 13:00 – 21:00 & Sat 3rd Feb 09:00-17:00 - Portobello Swim Centre – SSTQ
- Mon 12th to Fri 16th Feb 08:00-17:00 - Portobello Swim Centre- National Pool Lifeguard qualification

Other hours are negotiable (to a certain extent) and will be confirmed prior to acceptance onto the Programme.

For informal enquiries and to chat about what might be available just now please contact Marie Kneeshaw, Aquatics Development Officer: mariekneeshaw@edinburghleisure.co.uk

Closing date: Sunday 26th of November

Assessment date: Wednesday, 6th and Thursday, 7th of December 2023

Assessment Location : Royal Commonwealth Pool

Registered Scottish Charity No: SC027450

