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Portobello High School Snippets

Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) Winners 2025



Dates for the diary

March

21st - Edinburgh 900 Exhibition- Full details inside
26/27th - Teenage Booster Vaccinations

April

2nd - Spring Concert
23rd April - S6 leavers day (changed from the 24th due to exams starting on the 25th)
25th - SQA Exams begin

THE WEEK

- 1 The Navigator programme information including study support and study late schedule was shared with young people and parents last week via email.
- 2 We have made changes to Free School Meals. Young people can now use their money at interval and are no longer required to purchase a full meal at lunchtime. Please visit <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/schoolgrants> to claim free school meals.
- 3 The new Party Pathways website is now live - visit www.partypathways.co.uk. The virtual online drop-in session for parents/carers will be held on the 19th Feb from 6-7pm
- 4 Over the next 5 weeks we will be sharing information to help you to support your child online. Please keep an eye on Snippets
- 5 School uniform is available to purchase online or via the school office <https://portobellohighschool.imagescotland.com/>

Empowering Change: S3 Students Shine in Youth Philanthropy Initiative Grand Final

This week marked the conclusion of our Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) with our S3 cohort with our Grand Final. The YPI project is where learners work alongside a charity as a representative they present on their behalf all with the aim of winning £3,000. Six teams progressed through their class finals, semi-final and then onto our YPI Final. These charities involved Edinburgh Women Aid, Fighting Against Cancer Edinburgh (FACE), Action for Children, the Rock Trust Charity, Bethany Christian Trust and Alzheimer's Scotland. We had the privilege of hosting a best practice event which was attended by a variety of different schools across Scotland all were so impressed by our finalists including the judges who came to a very difficult decision deliberating for over 40 minutes. They decided that the 2025 winner as the Bethany Christian Trust with the following learners being involved Matilda Michel, Lily Cairns, Lily Reid, Martha Hepburn, Tara Thacker and Laiba Islam. Well done to all S3 who have been involved in a fantastic year of the programme from the charity fair where we raised £2,300 to the YPI presentations all learners should be really proud. We look forward to the YPI programme next year with our current S2 year group.

Developing the Young Workforce update

For the latest DYW newsletter visit <https://bit.ly/3DhyGKw>

Gearing Up for the Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel: Promoting Active Travel and Wellbeing!

For the next month we will be focusing on active transport in preparation for the Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel event beginning on the 24th of March! During the competition week we will be logging the number of people travelling by foot or wheel and competing with our local schools both secondary and primary, the schools who are recording a minimum of 15% of all pupils and teacher taking active transport will be entered into daily prize draws! Prizes include lots of exciting gifts and sporting equipment to improve health and wellbeing in our school community 🚲. Over the next few weeks we will be holding assemblies, fundraising and participating in one off lessons to increase our knowledge of how being in the outdoors can benefit us all!

Exploring Careers in Media: Neil Braidwood Inspires Students with Industry Insights

We were excited to have Neil Braidwood visit our school last week. As the Creative and Publishing Manager at Connect Communications, a lecturer, a drummer, and a writer and subeditor at The Portobello Reporter, he had plenty of insight and experience to share with our students. Neil talked about his career journey, from starting out in design to working in publishing, writing, and editing. He gave our Journalism and Media students a real sense of the different paths available in the industry and what it takes to succeed. He also ran an interesting workshop, which they found both inspiring and fun. It was a brilliant session, and we're looking forward to working with Neil again in the future.



Inspiring the Next Generation: Geology Workshop Highlights Women's Impact in STEM



Today we had an amazing guest workshop by Kay Turanski from The University of Edinburgh. She talked to us about her career so far in geology and showed how she got into STEM. We had an awesome game of geoscience jeopardy which highlighted the achievements and inventions by women in STEM throughout history which had been forgotten or undervalued. It was so inspiring to see a group of S1 and S2 young women who are passionate about making the world a better and more equal place for all, discussing the successes of their predecessors and how they would build on them in the future. From seatbelts to medical research, we discussed how women have often been left out of the picture and most importantly how we can create a new one with the voices of all represented!! If you would like to be involved in future workshops see Mrs McDonald in G19

Celebrating Burns Night: Portobello High Joins Rotary Club for a Night of Tradition and Talent

For auld lang syne.....
Portobello Rotary Club welcomed staff and pupils to their annual Burns Night, further strengthening our Good Connections programme of activities in partnership with community organisations. Highlights of the evening included performances by our S6 String Quartet, four of the School Captains and Pupil Support Officer, Emilio Lima. Excellent contributions by all. The special guest was Dr Donald Smith, founding Director of the Scottish Storytelling Centre who delivered his acclaimed and much loved rendition of Tam O' Shanter, captivating all present. Our thanks go to Norman Ireland, President of Portobello Rotary, for arranging the School's participation and for steering us through a thoroughly enjoyable evening. We must do this again next year !

Marseum 900: A Stellar Celebration of Edinburgh's Storytelling and Creativity

We are delighted to invite you to Marseum 900, an exciting project launched by our team of S6 Astronauts for our children and young people across our learning community. This interdisciplinary initiative, will showcase the work of over 300 young people from across our learning community and aims to develop learners' literacy and meta-skills through storytelling and visual display. Our theme for this year is "Edinburgh 900", challenging students to creatively depict Edinburgh as a city of leisure, culture, and celebration. The culmination of their incredible work will be showcased at a special public exhibition on:

Friday, 21st March

6:00 – 9:00 pm

Portobello High School

This is a ticketed event, ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience for all. Tickets are completely free, and you can secure yours via the QR code on the attached invitation or by clicking the link below. While attendance is free, any donations on the evening would be greatly appreciated to help support future exhibitions of this kind.

For those who wish to fully immerse themselves in the experience, fancy dress is optional but encouraged—come as a space explorer or an alien! Costume accessories will also be available to borrow upon arrival.

We would love for you to join us in celebrating the creativity and hard work of our children and young people. We look forward to seeing you there!

<https://bit.ly/43joLhX>

YOU'RE INVITED

IN CELEBRATION OF 900 YEARS OF EDINBURGH

JOIN US FOR THE
FIRST EVER MARSEUM900
EXHIBITION.

Are you an alien or a space explorer? For the full immersive experience fancy dress is optional but encouraged

BOOK YOUR SLOT

FRIDAY, MARCH 21
18:00 - 21:00
PORTOBELLO HIGH
(REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE)

Museums Galleries Scotland
EDINBURGH
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL
daydream believers
EDINBURGH 900

Portobello High Celebrates World Book Day with Free Books and a Love for Reading

World Book Day is always a highlight in the school calendar, and this year was no exception. Thanks to the dedication of our librarian, who described the event as their 'Christmas', young people across the school were encouraged to celebrate reading in all its forms.

To mark the occasion, free World Book Day tokens were distributed to all Key Adult classes from S3-S5, allowing pupils to exchange them for a free book at participating bookshops and supermarkets such as Asda.

Meanwhile, our S1 and S2 young people received a special treat, with every pupil receiving a free book during their English class. This was made possible thanks to the generosity of the Portobello Bookshop, ensuring that all our younger learners had the opportunity to take home and enjoy a book of their own.

This year's World Book Day theme, "Read Your Way," highlighted the many different ways people engage with reading—whether through books, magazines, newspapers, or audiobooks. Staff and young people were encouraged to take time to read during Key Adult classes or to spark conversations about their current reads.

Whatever way you read, we hope everyone had a fantastic World Book Day and continues to find joy in stories all year round!

Portobello Young Musician Competition: Celebrating Outstanding Talent

Congratulations to Emily Crump (S4) on winning our recent Portobello Young Musician Competition and Aldyth Tierney-Hynes (S2) who came runner up. The competition was judged by a panel of external guests who were highly impressed by the standard of music making from all the pupils involved. Emily was presented with a trophy made by Ms Bell in the CDT department and later this month represents Portobello in the Edinburgh-wide Young Musician of the Year, competing against pupils from other schools. Well done to all those who took part in the competition.



Portobello Pupils March to the Beat with the Band of the Royal Regiment of Scotland



This week we welcomed musicians from the Band of the Royal Regiment of Scotland who gave pupils an insight into the world of Army Music. The day started off with a careers presentation followed by side by side rehearsals with our junior and senior bands. Later pupils headed outside to have a lesson with the band's drum major, learning Army drill and marching skills. The day finished with a short concert showcasing the music pupils had rehearsed during the day.

SPRING CONCERT TICKETS

Tickets will be on sale via ParentPay from Monday 17th for everyone who is performing in the concert. One ticket will be available per performer. The remaining tickets will go on sale for anyone to buy on Monday 24th March, with a maximum of 2 per family/household.

Drama performance dates

As part of the preparation for the upcoming practical exams the Advanced Higher Drama class will be performing their work on Wednesday 12th March, starting at 4.00pm. Similarly, the Higher Drama class will be performing their work on Wednesday 19th March, starting at 4.00pm. Both events will be in the Drama Studio.

Key dates 2024/25

Event	Day/Date
Maths Week Scotland	Mon 23rd Sep
S1 Parent/Carer evening	Tue 24th Sep
DYW Roadshow for S4-6 - Apprenticeships, Employers etc...	Wed 2nd Oct
S2 Sustainability Event	Mon 7th Oct
All Finish	Fri 11th Oct
Pupils Resume	Tue 22nd Oct
Senior Phase Report 1	Wed 30th Oct
S4 Parent/Carer evening	Wed 6th Nov
Cabaret Concert 7pm	Fri 8th Nov
S4-6 Prelim Navigator programme launch	Mon 18th Nov
S4-6 Music Practical Prelims	w/b 25th Nov
S1-3 Report 1	Wed 4th Dec
S5/6 Parent/Carer evening	Thu 5th Dec
S4 Prelims	6-18th Dec
All Finish	Friday 20th Dec
Pupils resume	Tue 7th Jan
S5/6 Prelims	7th-21st Jan
Senior Phase Report 2(S4)	Fri 10th Jan

Event	Day/Date
All Finish	Fri 7th Feb
All Resume	Mon 17th Feb
S4-6 Exam Navigator programme launch	Mon 17th Feb
S3 Parent/Carer evening	Wed 26th Feb
S2 Parent/Carer evening	Thu 6th March
Senior Phase Report 3	Wed 26th March
Parent Council Forum	Thu 27th March
All Finish	Fri 4th April
All Resume	Tue 22nd April
Holiday	Mon 5th May
Pupils resume	Wed 7th May
S1-3 Report 2	Fri 9th May
Holiday	19th May
New Timetable (S1-3)	Mon 26th May
Parent Council Forum (AGM)	Tue 27th May
New Timetable (S4-6)	Mon 2nd June
P7 Transition	17-19th June
Activities Week	23-26th June
All Finish	26th June