17th February 2025

Portobello High School Snippets

email: admin@portobello.edin.sch.uk
Phone: 0131 6692324

Dates for the diary

February
17th - all return
17th - S4-6 Navigator programme launch
26th - S3 Parent/Carer evening

March
6th- S2 Parent/Carer evening
21st - Edinburgh 900 Exhibition- Save the date - more details to follow - all welcome
26/27th - Teenage Booster Vaccinations

April
2nd - Spring Concert
24th - S6 pupils final day - study leave begins
25th - SQA Exams begin

THE WEEK

1. The North East locality careers fair will be held on 18th February from 4.30-6.30pm at Holyrood HS. All parents/carers and young people welcome.
2. Apprenticeship & Traineeship Information Evening on Tuesday 4 March 2025 from 5-6.30pm
3. The new Porty Pathways website is now live - visit www.portypathways.co.uk. The virtual online drop-in session for parents/carers will be held on the 19th Feb from 6-7pm
4. The S6 final day has now been finalised following changes to the SQA exam diet. The S6 final day will be 24th April.
5. School uniform is available to purchase online or via the school office **https://portobellohighschool.imagescotland.com/**

Introducing Porty Pathways: Your Guide to Course Choices and Future Destinations

We're excited to launch Porty Pathways, a brand-new website designed to support students and families through the course choice process at Portobello High School. Since launching on the 7th February we've already had over 5000 visits to the website and I'm sure this will continue to grow over the coming weeks.

Choosing subjects and planning for the future can feel overwhelming, but Porty Pathways brings everything together in one place making it easier to explore the options available. Whether you're considering different school subjects, college and university routes, apprenticeships, or employment opportunities, the website provides clear guidance, key dates, and useful resources to help you make informed decisions.

To further support families, we have also created a series of short videos for each year group, giving an overview of the course choice process and what to expect. Over the next few weeks we will also include real-life case studies from current pupils, sharing their experiences and insights on shaping their own pathways through school and beyond.

A huge thanks to everyone involved in the creation of the website. We had many pupils involved throughout but a special thanks has to go to Archie Broom (S6) and Michael Heron (S6) who have led the project from the outset.

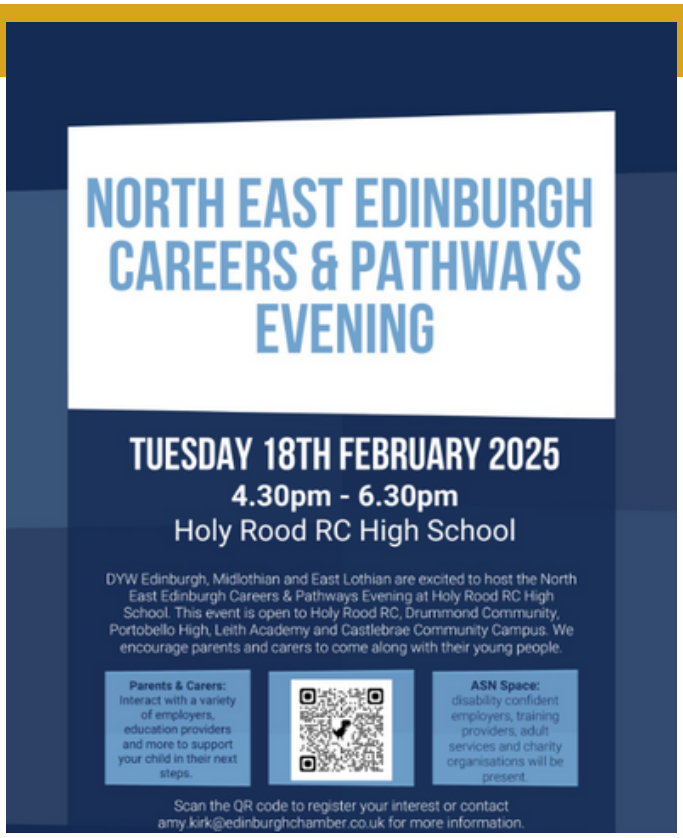
Developing the Young Workforce update

We are running an Apprenticeship & Traineeship Information Evening on Tuesday 4 March 2025 and would like to invite parents/carers and any young people from S4/S5/S6 that may wish to consider this career pathway.
The evening will include workshops from various sectors including banking, construction and childcare.
In addition to the many apprenticeship providers speaking on the night, our partners at Skills Development Scotland and Developing the Young Workforce, will also be available to offer advice and support.
Please use the link below to see full details and to book your place.

https://portobellohighschool.org.uk/apprenticeship-information-evening/
For the latest DYW newsletter visit https://bit.ly/4hDho9B

Pathways - Careers evening

As we prepare for the launch of the pathways programme we would like to invite you to the North East locality careers evening. This event is open to all parents/carers and young people at PHS.



PHS Pathways Programme

Latest update on Pathways Programme...

- **The virtual drop-in session for parents/carers will be held on Wednesday 19th Feb from 6-7pm online. This session is open to all S2-S5 parents/carers. Join link will be emailed on Wednesday morning.**
- **Pre-recorded videos for each year group are now available on the porty pathways website.**
- **Support from pupil support team, curriculum leaders and senior leadership team will be available throughout the pathways programme in Feb/Mar**
- **All course choice forms should be returned before the Easter break at the latest.**

S4 Navigator programme update

The Navigator Programme officially launched today, beginning with the Wider Achievement Award for S4 pupils. This year, all S4 pupils will have the opportunity to earn a First Aid Award, with the first cohort successfully completing their training today. Over the coming days, a further 200 pupils will take part.

Next week marks the launch of the study skills programme, featuring a special session with a guest speaker from Live N' Learn, who will work with our S4 pupils to motivate and inspire them as they prepare for their exams.

Full details of the Navigator Programme will be shared in the coming weeks, including additional study skills workshops, study support sessions, study late opportunities, and Easter School information. Stay tuned for updates!

The S5/ 6 programme will launch at the start of March.

Serving Up Success: Inspiring the Next Generation of Hospitality Professionals!

Portobello's Young Chef Triumphs in FutureChef Regional Final!

We are delighted to share the fantastic news that Taylor Guilfoyle, an S3 pupil at Portobello High School, has won the FutureChef Regional Final for Scotland! Competing in Glasgow on Wednesday, Taylor impressed the judges with his exceptional culinary skills, earning high praise for his perfectly cooked dishes. At just 14 years old, and in his first ever competition, Taylor showed remarkable talent and composure in what was a highly competitive event. His achievement means he will now go on to represent Scotland in the FutureChef National Final in London on 24th March, where he will compete against 11 other young chefs from across the UK.

This marks the second consecutive year that a Portobello pupil has reached the national final—following in the footsteps of Eva Brodie, last year's winner. It is a testament to the incredible dedication and talent of our young chefs, and we could not be prouder!

We wish Taylor the very best of luck as he prepares for the final—watch this space for updates!

Celebrating Chinese New Year with Jiaozi!

To mark the Chinese New Year, the FTT department hosted its much-anticipated annual Jiaozi Pop-Up Club. After school, pupils and staff came together to learn the art of making these delicious Chinese dumplings, enjoying a hands-on experience of traditional pleating techniques to ensure each Jiaozi held its shape perfectly.

The event was a wonderful opportunity for our school community to celebrate cultural traditions through food, while also developing practical cooking skills. A fantastic time was had by all, and we look forward to continuing this tradition next year!

Happy Chinese New Year! 新年快乐! 🎉🥟

National 5 Hospitality Pupils Take Over the Sheraton!

On 29th January, our National 5 Skills for Work Hospitality pupils enjoyed a fantastic Hospitality Takeover Event at the Sheraton Hotel, Edinburgh, in partnership with DYW and the FTT Department. Thanks to the support of HR Manager Claire Dickie, a Portobello parent, pupils gained hands-on experience in key hospitality skills.

Activities included mocktail making, five-star bed preparation, a spa station, a tray race, banqueting table setting, and pastry decorating in the hotel kitchen. The event was a huge success, with 100% of pupils finding it fun and helpful. Staff praised it as an engaging and immersive experience.

A big thank you to the Sheraton Hotel for their support—we look forward to continuing this valuable partnership!

SHERATON GRAND
Hotel & Spa Edinburgh

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	Tue 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