22nd April 2025

Portobello High School Snippets

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

Dates for the diary

April
22nd - All resume
24th - S4-6 pupils begin study leave. S4 pupils will receive a personalised study leave timetable Some S4 pupils will not receive the full study leave allocation and will attend school as normal during May. Full details will be emailed to S4 parents.
25th - SQA Exams begin.
May
2nd May - all finish
5th May - Holiday
7th May - pupils resume
9th May - S1-3 reports to parents/carers
19th May - Holiday
Save the date - S4-6 Leavers graduation ceremony - 2nd June 6.30pm.

THE WEEK

1. S4-6 study leave begins on Thursday 24th April. Full details inside including study arrangements and the immersion programme.
2. The Spring concert was a huge success. Thanks to all parents/carers, staff and young people who were involved.
3. Further to our previous communications regarding our new mobile phone strategy, we can now confirm that this will launch on Wednesday 7th May for S1-3 pupils and 2nd June for S4-6 Full details inside.
4. Staff update - Congratulations to Mr McCulloch who was successful at interview for the post of National Adviser for Modern Languages. Mr McCulloch will begin this secondment opportunity at the start of May for an initial period of one year.
5. School uniform is available to purchase online or via the school office **https://portobellohighschool.imagescotland.com/**

Message for young people - Good Luck in your exams!

As you approach your final exams, we want to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you the very best of luck. Over the past year, your incredible commitment, dedication, and resilience have been clear to see. You've engaged fully with every support opportunity available from our Navigator Programme and study support sessions, to study skills workshops and our Easter School programme.
We would also like to commend our S6 students, who will enjoy their last day of teaching at Portobello High School on Wednesday. Your dedication, maturity, and outstanding levels of commitment throughout your school journey have been truly impressive, and you have set an inspiring example for younger pupils. We look forward to celebrating with you on your last day at school on the 2nd June.
Finally, your hard work and determination have set you up brilliantly for success, and we have every confidence in your ability to achieve great things. Please remember that we are available throughout the study leave period to provide any support you may require. Best of luck!

Music Success

Congratulations to Emily Crump who won the City of Edinburgh Young Musician Competition with her performance of "Filutek's Adfventure" by Ryszard Paciorkiewicz. She will now proceed to the National Final to be held at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland on Sunday 25th May, 2025. The competition was of an exceptionally high standard but Emily shone through with her outstanding performance and her deep connection to the piece of music she performed.

Developing the Young Workforce update

For the latest DYW newsletter visit https://bit.ly/4IJl6kb

Study Leave arrangements

Study leave for S4-6 pupils begins on Thursday 24th April with all young people returning on Monday 2nd June to begin their new timetables. All young people should have now received their personalised exam timetables with details of any additional assessment arrangements including room allocations.

- Some S4 pupils will attend school as normal during the exam leave. They have been informed of this and parents/carers will receive a letter to confirm the arrangements for their child.
- All S5/6 pupils will receive full study leave.
- Below is the immersion timetable for young people to provide pre-exam support prior to the final exam. Teachers will be on-hand to answer any questions and provide any last minute support.
- The school will be open to young people throughout the study leave period and dedicated quiet and group study spaces will be available including classroom G51, the library, and school canteen. The school library will be open until 4pm Mon-Thu.
- New school timetables will be available for senior pupils w/b 19th May and will be available for collection from the school office.

Day	Date	9-11am	1-3pm
Thursday	24th April	Comp N5 Psychology H	Comp H/AH
Friday	25th April	Music N5/H/AH Media N5	
Monday	28th April	Geography H	Geography N5
Tuesday	29th April	Admin N5/H	Graphic Comm N5/H
Wednesday	30th April	Chemistry H/AH	Chemistry N5
Thursday	1st May	Practical Cake Craft N5 Photography H English AH	English N5
Friday	2nd May	English H Practical Woodworking N5	
Wednesday	7th May	-	Drama N5/H PE H
Thursday	8th May	History N5	History H
Friday	9th May	Maths H/AH Practical Electronics N5	
Monday	12th May	Media H	Design and Manufacture N5/H/AH
Tuesday	13th May	Maths N5	Music Technology N5/H
Wednesday	14th May	Physics N5/H	Spanish N5/H/AH Dance N5/H
Thursday	15th May	Applications of Maths N5/H	Engineering Science N5/H French N5
Friday	16th May	French H Practical Metalworking	
Wednesday	21st May	Business Management N5/H	
Thursday	22nd May	Modern Studies H	Health and Food Tech N5/H Biology H Modern Studies N5
Friday	23rd May	Art & Design N5/H	
Monday	26th May	Biology N5/H	Human Biology H
Wednesday	28th May	Italian N5/H	Fashion & Textiles N5/H
Thursday	29th May	RMPS N5	RMPS H

Future Chef success

Congratulations to Taylor Guilfoyle (S3), who recently won the Scottish regional final of the FutureChef competition, held in Glasgow. Taylor's outstanding performance earned him a place in the UK national final in London on 24th March, where he competed against the top 12 young chefs selected from over 13,000 entries across the country. Although Taylor didn't take home the national title this year, reaching the final is a remarkable achievement—especially considering he is only 14 years old and this was his first ever competition. The judges praised Taylor's dish, describing it as "cooked to perfection", and we couldn't be prouder of how he represented both himself and the school. This marks the second year in a row that a Portobello High School student has reached the FutureChef UK final. Last year, Eva Brodie brought home the national title, showing just how much talent and dedication exists within our school community.

Please see the behind-the-scenes video of Taylor preparing for the competition—a glimpse into the skill, focus, and passion that got him to this stage https://porty-pathways.squarespace.com/h-health-and-food-tech

Well done, Taylor—your future as a chef looks very bright indeed!

Sports Personality Nominations 2025

New Dance Club!

Mountain Biking Event

The inaugural Edinburgh Schools Mountain Biking competition will be held on Wednesday the 11th June in Balerno and we are hoping to take a large group of young people to represent Portobello High School at the event. We have had a lot of interest in Mountain Biking through our outdoor education programme over the past few months and will be encouraging young people to take part in the competition. If you would like to enter then please email greg.mcdowall@portobello.edin.sch.uk
If any parents/carers would like to get involved and support out participation at the event then please get in touch using the same email address above. The event is open to P7 pupils also so please pass this on to any P7 parents.

S6 Update - Last day arrangements and Leavers ceremony

As our senior students begin their exam leave on Wed 23rd April, we'd like to invite our S6 students back to school at the end of the exam period on Monday **2nd of June** for their official last day of high school.
The S6 Leadership Team will be in touch soon with a more detailed plan, but in the meantime, please see a rough outline of the day below:

9:30am	iPad & Charger return, Optional Blazer return
	Shirt signing – collection of prom ticket & yearbook
11am	S6 Awards
12:30pm	Beach party to be arranged by the S6 leadership team, including Beach BBQ & Pizza Party

SAVE THE DATE - On Tuesday 2nd June there will be a graduation ceremony for parents/carers of young people in s6 and S4/5 who are leaving school. We will be in touch with more details via email.

Mobile Phone Policy

As you may be aware, we are now in the final stages of launching our new mobile phone policy and can inform you that Yondr has been awarded the contract to supply our mobile phone pouches www.overyondr.com
We have held extensive consultation sessions with young people, staff, and parents/carers, and have addressed a wide range of questions and concerns. Our plan is to implement the new policy from Wednesday 7th May for s1-3 pupil and 3rd June for current S4/5 pupils*.
Over the coming weeks, we will be sharing further information with young people and supporting them in preparing for the introduction of the new arrangements. All pouches will be distributed prior to the launch dates.
We greatly appreciate your continued support as we work towards the successful implementation of this policy. The key points of the policy are outlined below, along with a link to our FAQ document. We will provide further updates over the coming weeks as we work towards the launch date.

At Portobello High School, we aim to create a focused, engaging, and safe learning environment where students can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. To support this, we have introduced a mobile phone use policy that incorporates the innovative **Yondr Pouch** system. https://www.overyondr.com/

As you may be aware, the use of mobile phones in schools has been a significant topic of discussion in recent months, receiving attention both in the media and in parliament. Backed by the Scottish government, schools are being encouraged to review their current mobile phone policies to address challenges arising from phone use during the school day.

In response to this and following various consultation exercises, we are getting ready to introduce an innovative Pouch system to securely store mobile phones throughout the school day. **Launch date - 7th May 2025**

How It Will Work

Bringing Phones to School: Students will still be permitted to bring their mobile phones to school, recognising the importance of staying connected for safety reasons, particularly during travel to and from school.

Secure Storage: Upon arrival at school, students will place their phones into a lockable Pouch. Each student will keep the locked pouch with them at all times throughout the school day.

End of Day: At the end of the day, students will unlock the pouches at one of our unlocking stations and regain full access to their phones as they leave school. Students leaving the building at lunch will be able to unlock their pouch and access their phone.

The policy will be published in full next week. In the meantime, please make use of our FAQs page which we hope will provide further guidance and reassurance - https://portobellohighschool.org.uk/mobile-phone-policy-faqs-2/

*S6 pupils will be allowed access to their phones during their study periods in a designated area of the school.

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