26th May 2025

Portobello High School Snippets

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Dates for the diary

June
2nd June - new timetable for S5/6
2nd June - S6 leavers day
2nd June - S4/5/6 Leavers event - 6.30pm
3rd June - Sports Awards
4th June- S6 Prom
5th June - P7 parent/carer session - 7pm - online
11-13th June - School show -see inside
12th June - Parent/carer survey issued.
17-19th June - P7 Transition

THE WEEK

1. All young people have received an email regarding the activities week events at the end of term. Please ask your child to check the information and select the activities they wish to take part in.
2. Arrangements for pupils returning on Monday 2nd June
   S5 Induction: 8:40am (Period 1) in the Assembly Hall
   S6 Induction: 9:30am (Period 2) in the Assembly Hall
   Outgoing S6: 10:35am (after break) in the Large Games Hall
   New S5 pupils on work experience next week will attend an assembly when they return on the 9th June
3. The school will close at 1pm on the last day of term, Thursday 26th June.
4. School uniform is available to purchase online or via the school office **https://portobellohighschool.imagescotland.com/**

Activities Week

We are currently planning activities week (last week of term) and young people are being encouraged to sign up for different activities. All pupils received an email with full details and we will continue to work with the young people who have yet to select any activities. More details to follow next week.

Mobile Phone Policy

I want to extend a huge thank you to all parents, carers, and young people for your support and effort in making the introduction of our new mobile phone policy such a success.
The level of media interest has sparked important national conversations about mobile phones in schools, and I am incredibly proud that our school is at the forefront of this work. Already, our staff and pupils are reporting positive outcomes, including improved focus in lessons and a significant reduction in time spent managing phones during class.
Our senior phase pupils will receive their pouches when they return from study leave during the week beginning 2nd June, allowing us to implement the policy consistently across all year groups. Young people who are on work experience next week will receive their pouches on the 9th.
Thank you again for your support.

Developing the Young Workforce update

DYW Opportunities Update 13.05.2025...sign up to Applying to Medicine Talk in school and trip to QMU Healthfest in June; Summer Beach Wheelchair attendant role; Staged for Life FREE technical theatre training

Mobile Phone Update

We are pleased to provide an update on the progress of our new mobile phone policy, which launched on 7th May and marked Portobello High School as the first school in Scotland to create a truly mobile phone-free learning zone.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all young people and families for your continued support in establishing this positive and focused learning environment. Your backing has been invaluable in helping us implement the new policy smoothly and in creating the best possible conditions for learning and wellbeing.

The rollout of our policy has attracted a great deal of interest, not just from local media but also from other schools—across Edinburgh, Scotland, the wider UK, and even in Germany and Spain. Many schools have reached out to learn more about our approach, demonstrating a growing recognition of the benefits of reducing mobile phone distractions in schools.

Initial feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Staff have noted calmer classrooms, fewer distractions, reduced corridor traffic and toilet visits during lessons, and an increase in young people's focus and engagement. These early signs affirm our belief that this policy is a crucial step towards creating a better learning environment.

Next Steps:
On Monday 2nd June, we look forward to welcoming our new S5 and S6 students back to school following the exam period. Please note the staggered start times to help manage the busy morning:

· S5 Induction: 8:40am (Period 1) in the Assembly Hall
· S6 Induction: 9:30am (Period 2) in the Assembly Hall
· Outgoing S6: 10:35am (after break) in the Large Games Hall

The link below will take you to our mobile phone policy and launch assembly:
https://portobellohighschool.org.uk/mobile-phone-policy/

Interested in swimming or water-polo?

Portobello Swimming and Water Polo Club is our local swimming and water polo club who run sessions at Portobello Swim Centre and at Portobello High School. Parents and carers should contact Sally at Portobello if they are interested in finding out more about the clubs - portyascjuniorwp@gmail.com

Letter from Police Scotland

POLICE SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe

Dear Parent/Guardian

Portobello beach/promenade and other open spaces within Edinburgh are there to be enjoyed by local residents and visitors. During the summer holiday period last year these areas were subject to Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), predominantly committed by younger people.

Police Scotland and partners want to make the beach, the promenade and other open spaces within Edinburgh inviting and enjoyable for everyone; residents and visitors alike.

Understandably, large groups of children/young people congregating on pathways and causing annoyance can be very intimidating.Whilst we understand not every child/young person attending these areas are participating in ASB, the majority are standing around in large gatherings.

I write today to ask that you discuss attendance at Portobello with your child/young person and ensure they are not involved in ASB which includes large gatherings, drinking alcohol, urinating in public and other general disturbances.

Over the Summer holiday period this year, Police presence in the area is being increased and any child/young person found to be engaging in ASB will be dealt with robustly and if required, be brought home to yourself or in more serious circumstances arrested and dealt with appropriately.

Those children/young people who wish to enjoy the benefits that Portobello beach/promenade brings to the local community, in an appropriate manner, will be more than welcome.

Please have the discussion with your child/young person and help us make Portobello and other areas in Edinburgh a pleasant place to visit this summer.

Your assistance on the matter is greatly appreciated.

Dale Ketchen
Community Policing Inspector
Craigmillar Police Station
Edinburgh

Reader of the Year Awards - Mrs Wards

We are delighted to have achieved our 'Core Reading Schools Award' from the Scottish Book Trust, which is an accreditation to support the work schools do in promoting reading for enjoyment. As part of this project, this past week one pupil from every S1-2 English class was nominated as a 'Reader of the Year' and was rewarded with a certificate, £10 book token from Portobello Book Shop and a reading party organised by our S1 'School of Library' group. Well done to everyone involved!

Timetable update - Mr Dalgleish

Over the past week many of our pupils will have seen a preview of their timetables as we approach the start of the new timetable on Monday 2nd June, welcoming back our new S5 and S6 pupils from exam leave. We are currently updating the teaching names on the timetables and new copies will be issued later this week. Pupils returning from exam leave will be issued with a new copy when they return.

The start of the new timetable brings with it the recoursing process, particularly for pupils whose desired options are unable to be timetabled. Pupils requiring a coursing discussion can book an appointment. Information on how to book appointments will be available on Mr Dalgleish's office door (G81). Pupils wishing to be recoursed should follow their issued timetable until they've had a coursing discussion. We are currently working our way through the correspondence received over the past few days and will respond to all enquiries as quickly as we can.

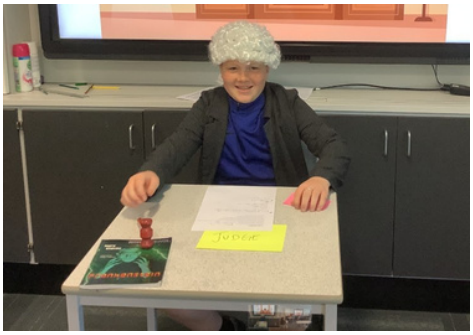
Duke of Edinburgh - Curriculum group achieve bronze awards.

Congratulations to our Curriculum Group who have completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award and received their certificates this week! They have worked really hard all year on their Volunteering, Physical and Skill sections, so we were delighted to award them with their certificates and badges to recognise this huge achievement.

Gymnastics success!

A massive well done to Phoebe, Carly, Dixie and Olivia who competed in the Edinburgh Schools Gymnastics Competition on 21/5/25.
Portobello High School won 1st place in the Level 3 Teams category.
Pheobe won 2nd place in the Level 3 individual category.
Incredible effort from all the team after putting in some extra practice and time to their routines.

Frankenstein trial - Mrs Gardner



Class 2AB3 completed their study of 'Frankenstein' in English by running a trial to see if the monster was a villain or a victim. The class volunteered to be part of the prosecution or defence team, the jury, a key witness or the accused. After the trial, the jury found the monster guilty on all counts!

Message from YoungScot

We're excited to announce the launch of the new Young Scot app, developed with direct input from young people to ensure it meets their needs. This app provides an easy and accessible way for young people to enjoy the benefits of Young Scot national services on the go.

The app gives young people access to Membership Services (Discounts, Rewards and Entitlements) as well as new exciting features including:

- **The ability to order a replacement Young Scot National Entitlement Card through the app.**
- **A digital card within the app that allows young people to access show and go discounts in stores (young people will continue to use their physical Young Scot National Entitlement Card for free bus travel and proof of age).**
- **A 'Near me' interactive map of discounts in their local area and beyond.**

The app can now be downloaded from IOS and Android app stores.

S6 Update - Last day arrangements and Leavers ceremony

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.
All parents/carers of young people who are leaving school have received an email with an invitation to the graduation ceremony.

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

PHS at the Edinburgh Festival - Something Blue

We are delighted to share the exciting news that, for the very first time, our school will be taking part in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe this August. Our senior pupils will be performing an original production titled Something Blue, which has been officially accepted into the Festival programme and will go on sale from 7th May.
This is a significant achievement for our school's performing arts department and a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to experience the excitement and professionalism of performing at one of the world's largest arts festivals.
Something Blue is a gripping drama set on the day of a wedding that begins to unravel when the bride suddenly disappears. As emotions run high and secrets begin to surface, those closest to her are forced to face some uncomfortable truths. The play offers a compelling mix of mystery, emotion, and sharp dialogue, all brought to life by a talented and dedicated cast of young performers.

Performance Details:
Venue: theSpace @ Venue 45, Old St Paul's Church, Jeffrey Street, Edinburgh
Dates: 8th, 9th, 11th–16th August
Time: 2:25pm (50-minute performance)
Ticket Prices:

- General Admission – £8.50
- Concession – £6.00
- Family Ticket (2 adults and 2 children / 1 adult and 3 children) – £20.00

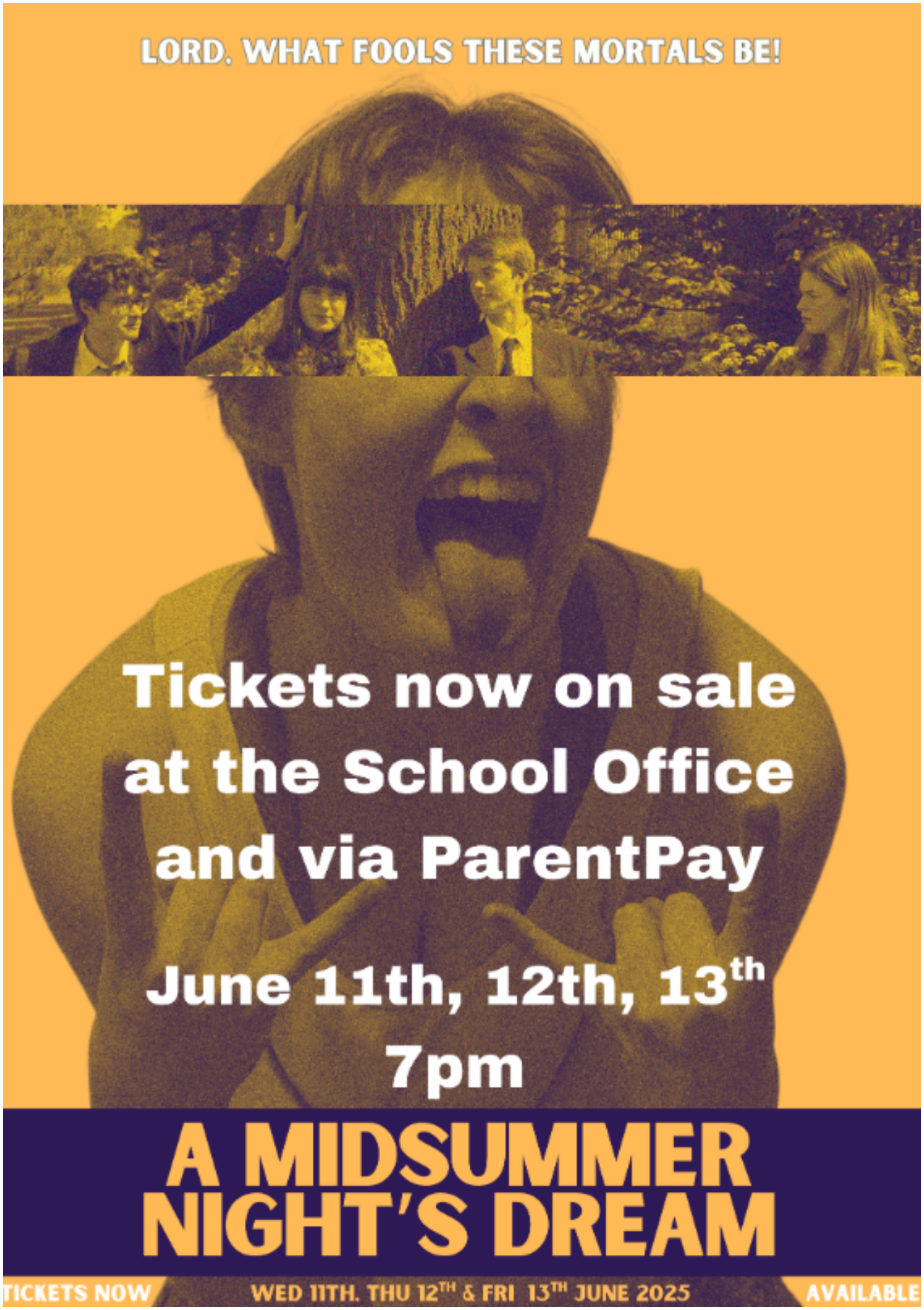
Cast Members:
Abi Harrison-Teig
Fraser Cochran
Jasper MacAninch
Lucy McFadyen
Molly Roberts

This is a remarkable opportunity for our pupils to develop their confidence, creativity, and collaborative skills on a professional stage. We are incredibly proud of all involved and look forward to seeing them shine this summer.
We warmly invite families, friends, and members of our wider school community to come along and support the production. Your encouragement means the world to our young performers!

We will post the ticket link when it is available.

Running club for pupils

Ticket now available for the school show -email admin@portobello.edin.sch.uk
Please share with friends and family - all welcome



Running club for pupils

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 - 1pm