9th June 2025

Portobello High School Snippets

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

Leavers Graduation 2025

Dates for the diary

June

11-13th June - School show -see inside
12th June - Parent/carer survey issued.
17-19th June - P7 Transition
23-25th June - Activities Week
26th June - All break -1pm finish.

THE WEEK

1. Please look our for the annual parent/carer survey which will be issued later this week via email.
2. Almost all young people S2-6 (1200+) have signed up to an activity as part of the activities week from 23-25th June. All activity fees have been added to parent pay and young people have been added to a Microsoft Team for each of the activities to receive any updates and info.
3. The school will close at 1pm on the last day of term, Thursday 26th June.
4. Work experience - Well done to all the young people who participated in work experience last week. We will look to improve the communication around work experience for S4/5 next year so that more young people can participate.
5. School uniform is available to purchase online or via the school office **https://portobellohighschool.imagescotland.com/**

Leavers Graduation Ceremony 2025

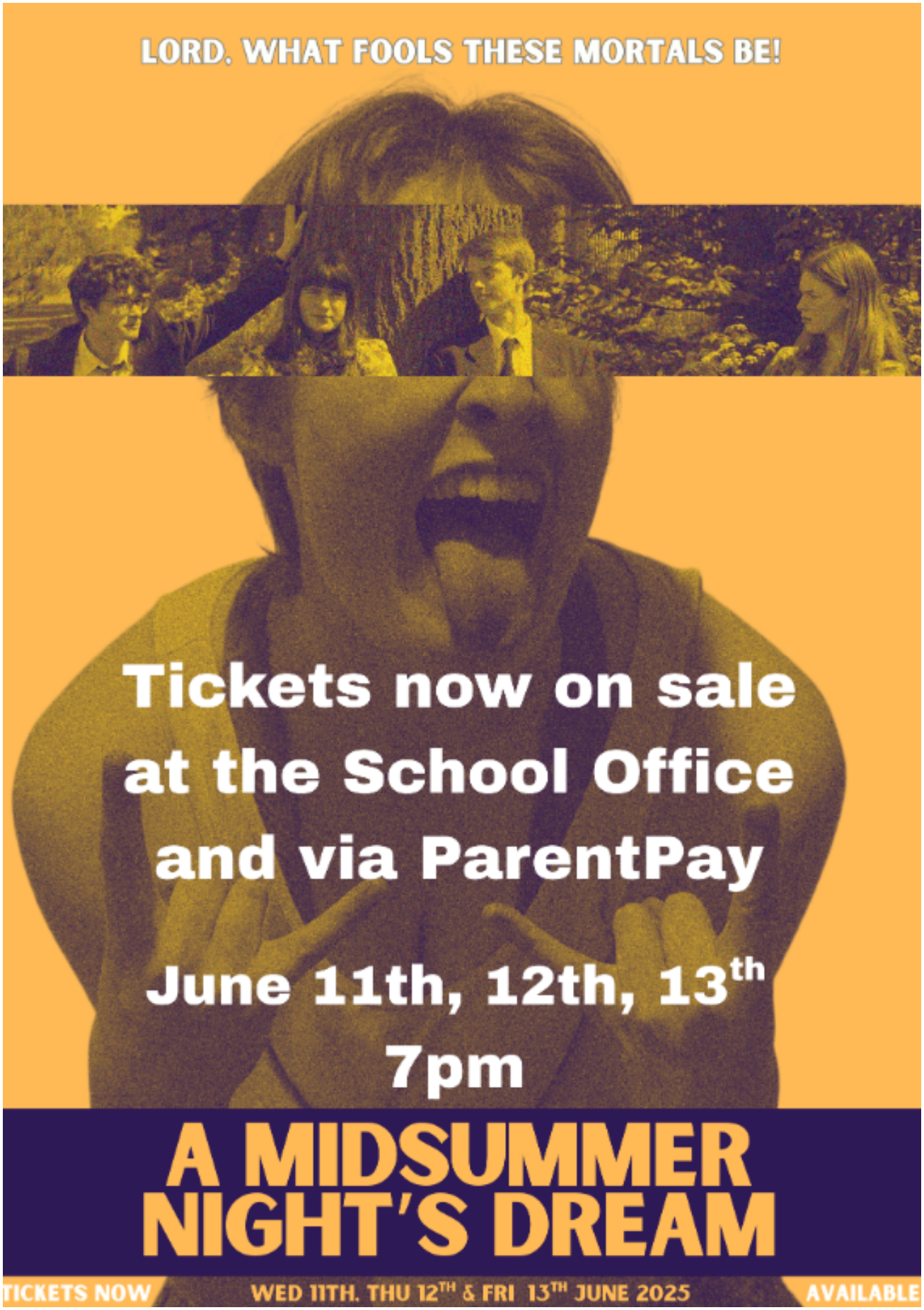
Last week, we had the pleasure of celebrating and saying farewell to our S4–S6 leavers.
On Monday, our S6 pupils marked their final day with shirt signing and pizza on the beach, followed by our inaugural graduation ceremony in the evening. It was a fantastic event, with a full house of parents, carers, and staff coming together to recognise the achievements and contributions of our young people.
On Wednesday evening, we continued the celebrations at the S6 Prom, held at the Sheraton Hotel in Edinburgh. It was wonderful to see our young people and staff enjoying such a memorable evening together.
As Headteacher, I felt extremely proud to have worked with this exceptional group of young people in my first year at the school. They are a credit to our community and have set a high standard for others to follow. We look forward to welcoming them back next year as we celebrate 150 years of Portobello HS.
A huge thank you to all parents and carers who are leaving us this year, your support over the years has been greatly appreciated. We wish all of our leavers every success and happiness in the future.

Developing the Young Workforce update

DYW Opportunities Update https://bit.ly/44apuSA

School Show

Ticket now available for the school show -email admin@portobello.edin.sch.uk
Please share with friends and family - all welcome.
P7 parents/carers and young people - please feel free to come along.
Just email admin@portobello.edin.sch.uk to book tickets.



Book Donations Wanted - Not English Language

Portobello High School's bilingual learners would love to read books, magazines, and newspapers in their first language.
If you have any unwanted books, newspapers, or magazines in a language other than English then please drop them in to the main office

School Show refreshments 11-13th June

Refreshments will be available before the performance and during the interval, provided by the Parent Council. For the first time, we will be able to provide CHILLED soft drinks to help you stay cool. Also available will be ice lollies, tea and coffee, crisps, biscuits, popcorn and sweets. Look out for the raffle too - only £1 per strip and lots of great prizes. Card or cash accepted.
All funds raised from the raffle and refreshments will go to the Parent Council to support activities within the school.

P7 after school dance class

This week brought us to the end of the P7 after school dance transition. We had so much fun learning and practicing different styles of dance and making new friends. Miss Reid is very proud of every pupil involved whether it was the primary 7's or the S2/3 helpers, you were all amazing! There is so much talent and creativity coming to Porty and we are so excited for it!

Portobello Pupils Triumph at the NXP Drone Challenge

We are delighted to share the fantastic news that Portobello High School entered two teams into the NXP Drone Challenge yesterday — and both teams emerged victorious!
The competition saw pupils tackling a range of exciting and technically demanding challenges. These included programming a drone to navigate an obstacle course, completing a simulated rescue mission involving the retrieval of LEGO figures, and delivering a presentation to a panel of judges on how they overcame each task.
One of our teams, The Blunderbirds — comprised of Leon Jarman, Lewis Clark, Cameron Elliot and Katam Saouter-Deraps — impressed the judges with their excellent communication skills and won the award for Best Presentation.
Our second team, The Flying Guineapigs — made up of Odile Hannah, Tilly Holmes, Luke MacLeod and Alejandro Bernabeu-Fletcher — were crowned the Overall Champions of the day!
All of the pupils performed superbly and were outstanding ambassadors for Portobello High School. Their teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving skills were on full display throughout the competition. We are incredibly proud of their achievements.
In recognition of their success, the school was generously gifted both drones used in the event, along with a £100 Amazon voucher. The pupils are eager to share their success and are looking forward to showing off their well-earned trophy!
We are also thrilled to announce that both teams have been invited to take part in the Scottish finals next week, which will be held at the NXP offices in East Kilbride. We wish them the very best of luck as they prepare for the next stage of the competition.
To get involved in Engineering speak to Miss Jackson in the CDT dept

Water Polo Success

Water Polo – Portobello High School retained the Scottish Schools Open Water Polo Championship for a second year running. They won all their matches and clinched the trophy with a tight 5-4 win against James Gillespie High School in the Final. Congratulations to Esther Robinson, Sophie Bell-Stephenson, Alexander Scott-Watson, Ethan Cole, Dominic Moodie, Lorcan McNally, Joe Mathieson, Michael Moodie and Alex Hurd. Thanks to Keith Anderson for coaching the team on the day.

Alexander Scott-Watson, Ethan Cole, Dominic Moodie, Lorcan McNally, Joe Mathieson, Michael Moodie and Alex Hurd were also part of the U19 Boys Portobello Water Polo club team who won the Scottish Cup on Saturday with a 24-14 win against Stirling. This is the first time Portobello have won the U19 Boys Scottish Cup since 1985; the team was coached by former pupil and former Sports Personality winner Ben Scott.
Lorcan McNally and Joe Mathieson went one step further and were part of Portobello Men's Water Polo team who also won the Scottish Cup on Saturday with a 15-8 win against Dunfermline, this team was coached by former pupil Keith Anderson.

What a week for Portobello in the Water Polo!
To get involved speak to Mrs Inkster in PE

Football update

Two of our former pupils, Andy and Josh, made their Scotland debut together this evening coming on at the same time to represent their country on the biggest stage. A truly incredible achievement!
From the same primary school, through the same high school, to walking out side by side. Andy was a year above Josh and left school at the end of S4 to go full-time with Hearts, already representing Scotland at youth level. Josh stayed on to S5, captained the Scottish Schools team in 2019, then signed full-time with Hibs.
Both lads were a credit to the school, grounded, determined, and full of potential. They've taken different paths in pursuit of their dreams: Andy now at West Ham and Josh playing in Italy.
We're so proud of them – what a moment for their families and their former teammates.

Tennis Update

Congratulations to the young people who participated in the Scottish Schools Tennis Tournament. Some great tennis played and a huge thanks to the coach Iona Senew (S6) for her efforts over the years in promoting tennis in our school.
To get involved speak to Mrs Inkster in PE

Basketball success - Ayla McFarlane S5

Ayla McFarlane (S5) successfully made it through to the final 14 girls selected throughout the whole of Scotland to represent her country at the Four Nations Basketball Tournament 2025, held in Manchester last weekend. The U15W Team went up against Wales, England & Ireland in a highly competitive & professional, televised event - the dedication from the Team has been inspiring & the girls fought hard in every single game on Court. Ayla was selected to play in all games & thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of playing at such a high level. The Team brought home bronze & we are all exceptionally proud of their success.
To get involved in basketball then speak to Ayla or Mrs Inkster in the PE dept.

Dance Till Dawn!

Miss Reid went to see the Diversidance dance performance by Dance till Dawn on Saturday 31st of May. It was a wonderful performance with lots of Porty pupils, they all performed with incredible energy, confidence and talent! Special shout out to some of the P7's who are coming up to Portobello after the summer - you were amazing! And a big thanks for inviting Miss Reid! Another mention to Cali Ross, who performed in her final show with her dance school before she goes on to new horizons after being offered spaces at multiple prestigious schools!
To get involved in dance then speak to Miss Reid in the PE dept.

Celebrating Emily Crump's Performance at the Scottish Young Musicians National Final

We are incredibly proud to share that Emily Crump represented the City of Edinburgh at the Scottish Young Musicians Solo Performer of the Year National Final.
Emily was one of 33 outstanding young musicians selected from across Scotland, with each finalist representing a local authority, alongside a representative from the independent schools sector. The standard of performance throughout the day was truly remarkable, showcasing the breadth and depth of musical talent among Scotland's young people.
Although Emily did not win the overall title, she gave a beautiful and poised performance of Filutek's Adventure by Ryszard Paciorkiewicz. Her musicality, confidence, and dedication were evident on stage and she represented both Portobello High School and the City of Edinburgh with great distinction.
We extend our warmest congratulations to Emily on reaching the national final a tremendous achievement in itself and thank her for inspiring our school community through her passion for music.
If you would like to get involved in playing music then speak to your music teacher.

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!

Tickets now availbale to purchase
https://www.thespaceuk.com/shows/2025/something-blue

Running club for pupils

mindroom

Summer 2025 Creative Workshops

We are delighted to be working with the following partners to offer another series fully funded creative workshops for neurodivergent* young people aged 14+ over the summer break. Workshops are free of charge to participants. Please contact andrew@mindroom.org or andrea@mindroom.org for more information or to register.

Green Team x Mindroom Summer Programme

4 days outdoors, learning more about ecology and environment, and participating in conservation work to help improve wild spaces for people, nature and wildlife.

1, 3, 8 & 10 July • 10.30 - 3.00 • Pick up in Chesser, Edinburgh
Must be able to attend all 4 sessions

Friday Comic Club with Out of the Blueprint

Join us for an afternoon where you can unleash your creativity, connect with fellow artists, create your own comics and print them using the specialist RISO printing process.

4 July • 2.00-4.00 • Out of the Blue Drill Hall, Leith

Filmmaking with Screen Education Edinburgh

A taster session for those interested in learning about different aspects of filmmaking – whether camera, sound, directing, editing or screenwriting with the potential to access ongoing sessions in the Autumn.

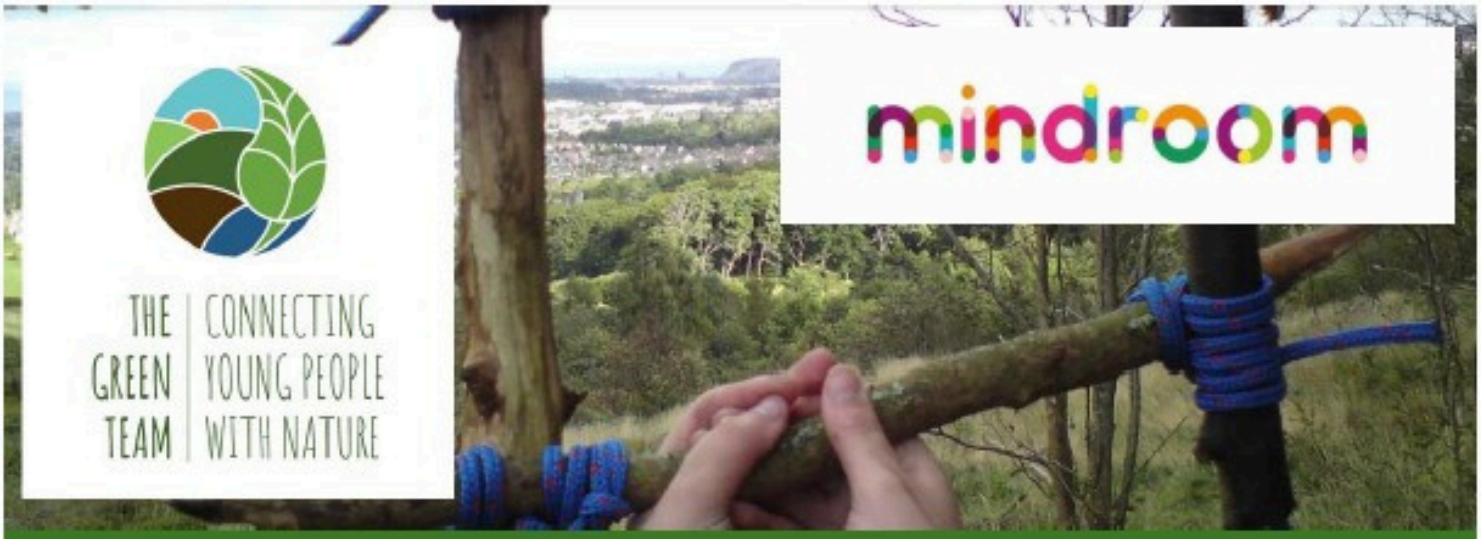
14 July • 10.30-1.00 • Screen Education Edinburgh, Ferry Rd.

Games Development Taster with Tinderbox

Join us for this creative session to develop your own working computer game! All necessary resources provided and there will be opportunity to work collaboratively for those who prefer it.

24 July • 1.00-2.30 • Mindroom Office, Leith

Mindroom - Summer 2025 Creative workshops



Green Team x Mindroom Summer Programme

Tue, 1 Jul '25 10:30am – 3pm • Thu, 3 Jul '25 10:30am – 3pm
Tue, 8 Jul '25 10:30am – 3pm • Thu, 10 Jul '25 10:30am – 3pm

The Green Team in collaboration with Mindroom are running this 4-day programme over the summer holidays. We will spend our days outdoors, learning more about ecology and environment, and participate in conservation work to help improve wild spaces for people, nature and wildlife. We will learn naturalist skills like species identification and animal tracking, cook on an open fire and spend time lazing in hammocks beneath summer leaves. We ask that you attend all four sessions so that we can build on our skills and learn more as a group.

This programme is suitable for young people aged 14+ and is offered free of charge.

Pickup at Green Team HQ at the Risk Factory at 10:30, back for 15:00. You will need to bring your own packed lunch and something to drink, as well as some clothes suitable for the outdoors. The Green Team can provide waterproofs and wellies if you need to borrow kit.

The structure of our day will be:

- 10:30 - meet at Green Team HQ, depart in the minibus
- 11:15 - arrive at our work site (within a short drive of Edinburgh city centre)
- 11:30 - introduction to day, introduction to our task, tool safety talk
- 11:45 - conservation work
- 13:00 – lunch
- 13:30 - nature connection activity (e.g. animal tracking, outdoor cooking, hammock time)
- 14:15 - review of the day
- 14:30 -depart site, drive back to Green Team HQ
- 15:00 – pickup

For more details and registration please contact andrew@mindroom.org, andrea@mindroom.org or sarah.waterfield@greenteam.org.uk.

mindroom

Filmmaking with Screen Education Edinburgh

14 July 2025 – 10.30am-1.00pm

A relaxed and fun intro to filmmaking, where you'll get a taste of what it's like to create your film!

We'll start off with watching short films and chatting about what makes a great scene. You'll learn how to frame shots like a pro, capture clear sound, and then work together to make your own mini film scene. Whether you want to direct, act, do sound or camera, there's something for everyone, no experience needed, just curiosity and a want to get creative.

In person at Screen Education Edinburgh studios on Ferry Road & open to any neurodivergent young person aged 14+ with an Edinburgh postcode.

More details / Registration:
Contact andrew@mindroom.org
or andrea@mindroom.org

mindroom

Games Development Taster with Tinderbox

24 July 2025 – 1.00-2.30pm

We are delighted to be working with Tinderbox Lab to offer this creative opportunity to experience games design.

Tinderbox Lab is the digital arts programme of Tinderbox Collective. They bring together artists across disciplines with an interest in creative technology, electronics, interactive media, digital arts, games design, youth & community, and more; and run a range of projects, events and opportunities.

To learn more about them visit tinderboxcollective.org/digital

Creative & Collaborative

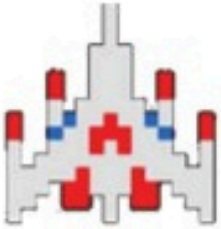
Open to all neurodivergent young people aged 14 and over

Design & make a working game!

FREE OF CHARGE

in-person session at the Mindroom Office in Leith

Please contact andrew@mindroom.org or andrea@mindroom.org for more information or to register. No diagnosis required,



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