9th January 2026

Portobello High School Snippets

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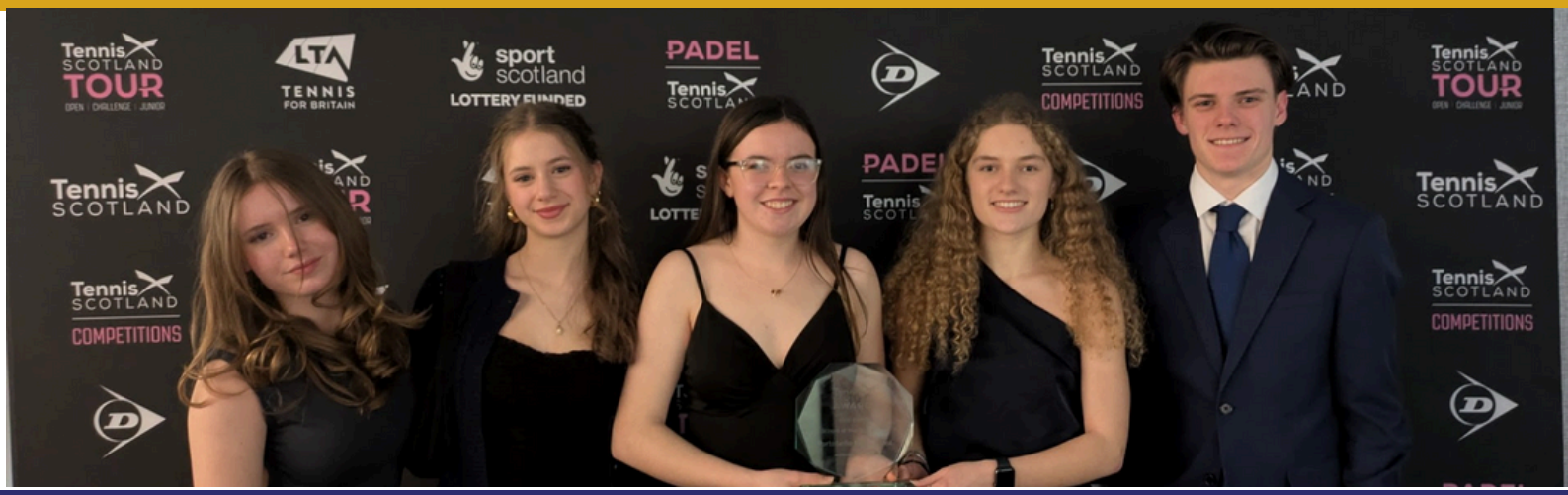


Tennis Scotland Awards 2026

On Friday evening, Portobello High School was proud to be named Tennis School of the Year at the Tennis Scotland Awards in Stirling.

The award recognises the rapid growth and inclusive nature of our tennis provision, developed in partnership with a local tennis club. Over the past year, opportunities have expanded to include lunchtime pickleball, an S1–3 tennis pathway, and our highly successful School of Tennis programme.

A key strength of the programme is pupil leadership, with former pupils and current S6 pupil-coaches supporting younger learners and helping to break down barriers to participation. Pupils recently represented the school at the Edinburgh Schools Tennis Tournament, sparking enthusiasm for future competitive opportunities.

This award reflects the commitment of our pupils, staff and partners, and our ambition to ensure high-quality, inclusive sporting opportunities for all young people.

THE WEEK

1. S5/6 reports were issued on Friday. If you any issues accessing your child's report then please contact the school office.
2. A reminder that young people will finish this Friday and return to school on Monday 23rd February
3. The updated after school programme is available in this newsletter. Young people will be encouraged to sign up through their PE class.
4. If you need to discuss anything about your child then please follow the communication guidance in this newsletter. Please note that direct email contact with classroom teachers is not available.
5. The planned ASN session for parents/carers on Wednesday 11th Feb has been rescheduled to March. The rescheduled date will be shared ASAP.

Dates for the diary

February
Friday 13th - S3 Activity Day
Friday 13th - All Finish
Monday 23rd - All resume
Wednesday 25th - S3 Parent/Carer evening

March
Wednesday 4th March - Young Musician Competition

Developing the Young Workforce update

Latest DYW update available here https://bit.ly/4aiIL6c

DYW EDINBURGH, MIDLOTHIAN & EAST LOTHIAN Developing the Young Workforce

Porty 150 update

Burns Supper & Ceilidh

Our Burns Supper & Ceilidh was a real success, and it was wonderful to see so many families coming together to celebrate with us. The evening was brought to life by the talent of our musicians and performers, whose contributions created a fantastic atmosphere throughout the night.

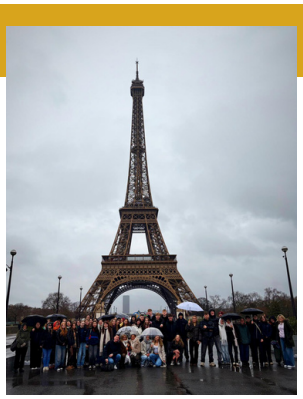
A huge thank you goes to our catering team for their hard work, and to all those involved in organising the event, especially Mrs Beynon, who coordinated the evening so brilliantly. We are delighted to have shared such a memorable event with our community and look forward to more events in the coming future.

Hospitality students host Burns Supper

Our Hospitality students organised and hosted a Burns Supper for invited guests, including parents, carers and staff. The event was a huge success, with our young people truly the stars of the afternoon as they showcased their professionalism, teamwork and hospitality skills. As part of the event, students successfully achieved their practical assessment award towards their hospitality qualification. A huge thank you to our FTT team for their support, guidance and hard work in making the event such a success.

Trips & Excursions

Well done to all pupils and staff who took part in last week's excursions to Lagganlia, London and Paris. Our young people had a fantastic time and were an absolute credit to Portobello High School, representing the school with enthusiasm and maturity throughout. A huge thank you to Mrs Ashforth, Mrs Thomson, Mrs Volpe and the other staff members for their time, care and commitment in making these trips such a success. We look forward to many more opportunities like this in the future.



News

Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards Ceremony

All 2024/5 silver Duke of Edinburgh participants are invited to their awards ceremony, presented by the Lord Provost on Wednesday 11th March from 6-7:30pm. If you still have sections to finish, then please ensure they are completely done by Wednesday the 11th February and they will be sent off in time for you to receive your certificate at the event. If you need any help with this then please speak to Mrs McDonald.'

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Extracurricular group update

Pupils should be working towards completing two of their sections for the March 2nd deadline. To complete this they should have uploaded evidence onto e d of e, and asked their assessor to complete a report. This can either be done online, where pupils need to share their d of e ID with the assessor, or on a paper form which can be collected from their leader or Mrs Munro if needed. All info on how to complete this is on the D of E team which all pupils have access to.

Inspiring the next generation of women in Physics

Thirty enthusiastic S2 girls from Portobello High School took part in a fantastic Girls into Physics workshop this week organised by DYW and the Science Department, and the excitement in the room was incredible. We were joined by five brilliant employers representing a wide range of physics-related careers:

- Danfoss (Mela Francisco and Christian Nørgård and Kanika Sharma
- Analog Devices (Frances spalding, Dario Pettinella and colleagues)
- STMicroelectronics (Priya Mathews and Nour Fassi)
- Euclid UK (James Fawcett, Lisa Goh and Naomi Robertson,)
- NHS Lothian (Lisa Robertson)

Each organisation showcased women working in physics-based roles, giving pupils the chance to meet real role models and see just how many doors physics can open.

In small groups, the girls rotated through hands-on mini-workshops, exploring:

• How optical sensors work
• What the Euclid Telescope project is aiming to achieve
• Programming and controlling a robot
• How heavy plant equipment can be made more efficient and sustainable
• Why physics is essential in healthcare, especially when using imaging equipment

The feedback from pupils was overwhelmingly positive. A few standout reflections included:

💬 "I didn't realise how much science is involved in the NHS."
💬 "There are so many different jobs you can do with physics."

Events like this make a real difference. They spark curiosity, build confidence, and help young people imagine futures they may never have considered.

A huge thank you to all the employers and role models who gave their time—and to the pupils who brought such enthusiasm and energy. The future of physics is looking bright.

News

Royal Academy Young Artists Competition

SIGN UP NOW

Now in its eighth year, the Young Artists' Summer Show is a free, open-submission exhibition for students aged 4–18 studying in the UK. Artworks are judged by a panel of passionate artists and arts professionals, with selected artworks displayed online and on-site at the Royal Academy of Arts.

For more information and to see past works, please see the link below:
All 2024/5 silver Duke of Edinburgh participants are invited to their awards ceremony, presented by the Lord Provost on Wednesday 11th March from 6-7:30pm.
If you still have sections to finish, then please ensure they are completely done by Wednesday the 11th February and they will be sent off in time for you to receive your certificate at the event. If you need any help with this then please speak to Mrs McDonald.'
Our school has supported submissions for the past 3 years and is already registered. You can ask your parent/carer to upload an artwork for you or if you need help please see Mrs Davis in the art department.
Free to enter. Deadline is Wednesday 4 March 2026 at 5pm.

Spring Concert - Save the Date

The Spring Concert will be held on Wednesday 1st April

Portobello Rotary Club

Our recent partnership with Portobello Rotary, including taking up corporate and community membership, is already creating valuable opportunities for our young people. Pupils have benefited from a range of Rotary programmes such as Challenge Enterprise and the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, as well as competitions including Young Artist and the annual Primary (P7) Schools Quiz.
Like many voluntary organisations, Portobello Rotary relies on the commitment and enthusiasm of its members, and growing a vibrant, representative membership is key to its continued impact in the local community. This partnership matters to our school, as supporting young people is central to Rotary's work.
If you are interested in finding out more about joining Portobello Rotary, please contact rotaryclubofportobello@gmail.com. Rotary is not a private members' club – it is open and welcoming to men and women, and is non-political and non-religious.

S3 Activities Day - Friday 13th February

The S3 Activities Morning will take place on Friday 13 February 2026.
The activities on offer are as follows, pupils will have received an email asking them to make their choices and submit their returns.

Activity	Venue	Approx. Cost
Cinema (Film to be confirmed)	ODEON Edinburgh Fort Kinnaird	Approx. cost £10.50 including transport.
Bowling/ Mini Golf (1 Hour of each)	Edinburgh Corn Exchange	Approx. cost £14.00 including transport
Air Hop	Newhailes Industrial Estate, Musselburgh	Approx cost £17.00 including transport and Food
Fun Parx	12 Seafield Pl, Leith, Edinburgh	Approx. cost £11.00 including transport and Food
Climbing	Edinburgh International Climbing Arena: Ratho	Approx. cost £20.00 including transport
Escape Room/Shopping at St James Quarter	Omni Centre, Greenside Row, Edinburgh	Approx. cost £25.00
Power League (Gold & Gray)	10 Westbank St, Edinburgh	Approx. cost £5.30

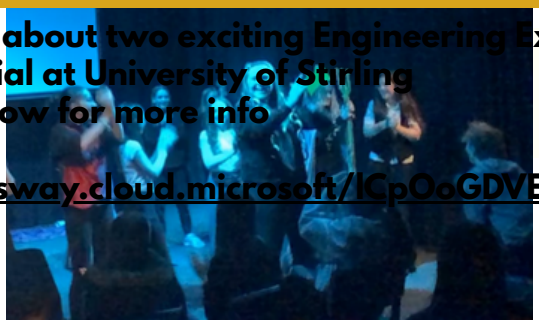
For pupils to participate in the event parent/carers must have returned the Annual KIC Form issued in August 2025, parent/ carers who have not done so have been emailed by the POR Admin account.
Any questions or concerns then please get in touch with Mrs Inkster, S3 Pupil Support Leader.

News

S1 Elective - Musical Theatre class

The S1 Musical theatre group have worked hard over their time in class to create a performance-ready production of The Little Mermaid which showcased to an invited audience last Thursday. Mr Cane worked with the S1's to create a shortened musical of The Little Mermaid. The teamwork and determination from this S1 group lead to a very successful performance and great audience feedback from their peers. The S1's rehearsed their roles thoroughly and had their lines ready for the stage in the drama studio. They even had a props and choreography team, who took time to go to art and create original props and costumes as well as original dances! Very well done to this entire class!

S2/3 Summer Programme Opportunities



Find out about two exciting Engineering Experience programmes - one virtual and one residential at University of Stirling
Click below for more info

https://sway.cloud.microsoft/ICpOoGDVETmWz58K?ref=Link

Who to contact

At Portobello High School, each year group has a dedicated Pupil Support Leader and Year Head who work closely together to support young people throughout their school journey. Your child's Pupil Support Leader S1-S5 is the first point of contact for most pastoral or wellbeing matters, while the Year Head provides overall leadership and oversight for the year group. Please see below for the relevant contacts for each year. Please use the school admin email (admin@portobello.edin.sch.uk) to contact the relevant person - state in the email subject who it is for using FAO... Please note that direct email contact with classroom teachers is not available. If you need to speak to a member of staff regarding issues relating to a specific subject then please contact via the normal channels outlined above.

	Pupil Support Leader	Year Head
S1	Mr Aitken	Mrs Bannon
S2	Mr Doak	Mrs Bulloch/Mrs Livingston
S3	Mrs Inkster	Mr Dalgleish
S4	Mrs McGhee	Mr McDowall
S5	Mrs Thomson	Mr McAllister
S6	-	Mr McAllister

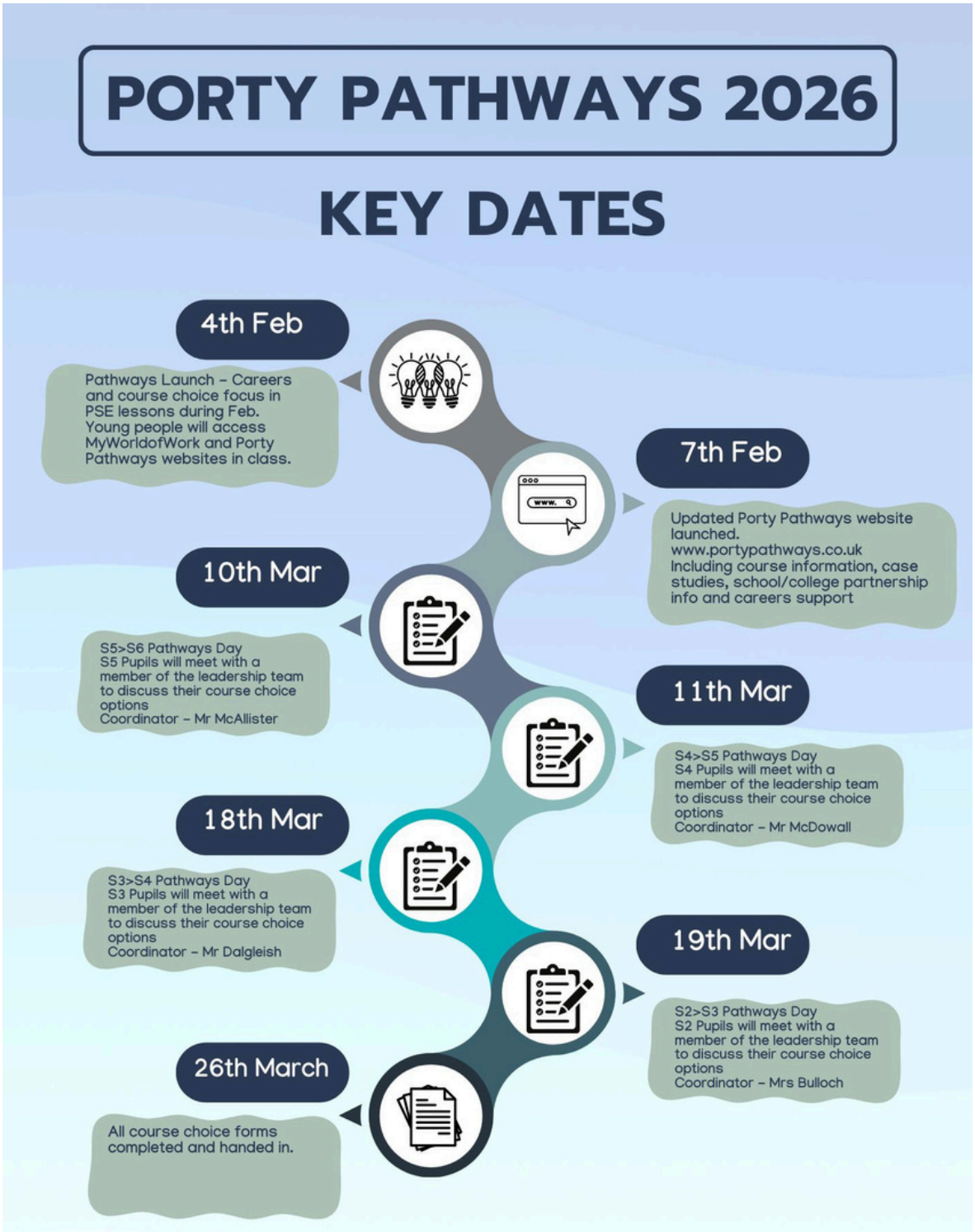
Pathways programme S2-S5

Porty Pathways programme - visit www.portypathways.co.uk

This year's Porty Pathways programme and course choice process for all S2–S5 pupils will launch at the start of February. Following the successful introduction of the Porty Pathways website last year, which saw increased engagement from young people and parents/carers, we are continuing to build on this approach in 2026.

The programme will begin at the start of February, with careers learning and discussions taking place through your child's PSE class. Young people will access their My World of Work accounts and develop their Strengths Profile to help them reflect on interests, skills and future pathways.

During March, pupils will receive their course choice forms and will be supported by staff to make informed decisions ahead of the change of timetable in June. Full details of the programme and key dates can be found below



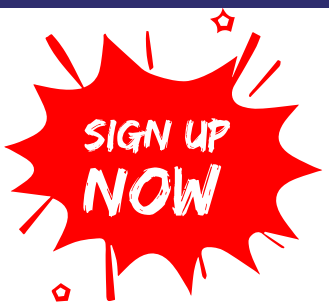
News

Young Musician Competition 2026

SIGN UP NOW

Sports Update - Extra Curricular Programme

Day	Activity	Pupils	Time	Venue
Monday	Pickleball	S1 - 6	1.10 – 1.40	Games Hall
	Dance	S1 - 2	3.30 – 4.30	Studio
	Netball	S1 - 4	3.30 – 4.30	Games Hall
	Judo	S1 - 6	3.30 – 4.15	Gym Hall
	Girls Rugby	S1 - 3	3.30 – 4.40	Ruby Pitch
Tuesday	Running Club	S1 - 6	07.15 – 08.00	PE Dept
	Boxing	S1 - 3	3.30 – 4.30	Gym
	Volleyball	S1 - 6	3.30 – 4.30	Games Hall
	Swimming	S1 - 3	3.30 – 4.30	Swimming Pool
Wednesday	Well-Being Club	S3-4	07.15 – 08.00	PE Dept/Beach
	Badminton	S1-6	1.10 – 1.40	Games Hall
	Dance	S3-4	3.30 – 4.30	Studio
	Brazilian Jui Jitsu	S1-6	3.30 – 4.30	Gym Hall
	Basketball	S1 Girls	3.30 – 4.30	Games Hall
	Basketball	S1 Boys	4.30 – 5.30	Games Hall
Thursday	Badminton	S1-6	1.10 – 1.40	Games Hall
	Badminton	S1 -6	3.30 – 4.30	Games Hall
	Cycle Club (After Oct break)	S1 – 6	3.30 – 4.30	PE Department
	Darts Club	S1 – 6	3.30 – 4.30	CDT Classroom
	Karate	S1 - 6	3.30 – 4.30	Gym Hall
Friday	Basketball	S2 -3 Boys	12.30 – 1.30	Games Hall
	Girls Football	S1-3 Girls	12.30 – 1.30	3G Pitch
	Basketball	S2 – 6 Girls	1.30 – 2.30	Games Hall
	Rugby	S1 - 2	2.00 – 3.30	3G Pitch
	Basketball	S4 – 6 Boys	2.30 – 3.30	Games Hall



To sign up scan here

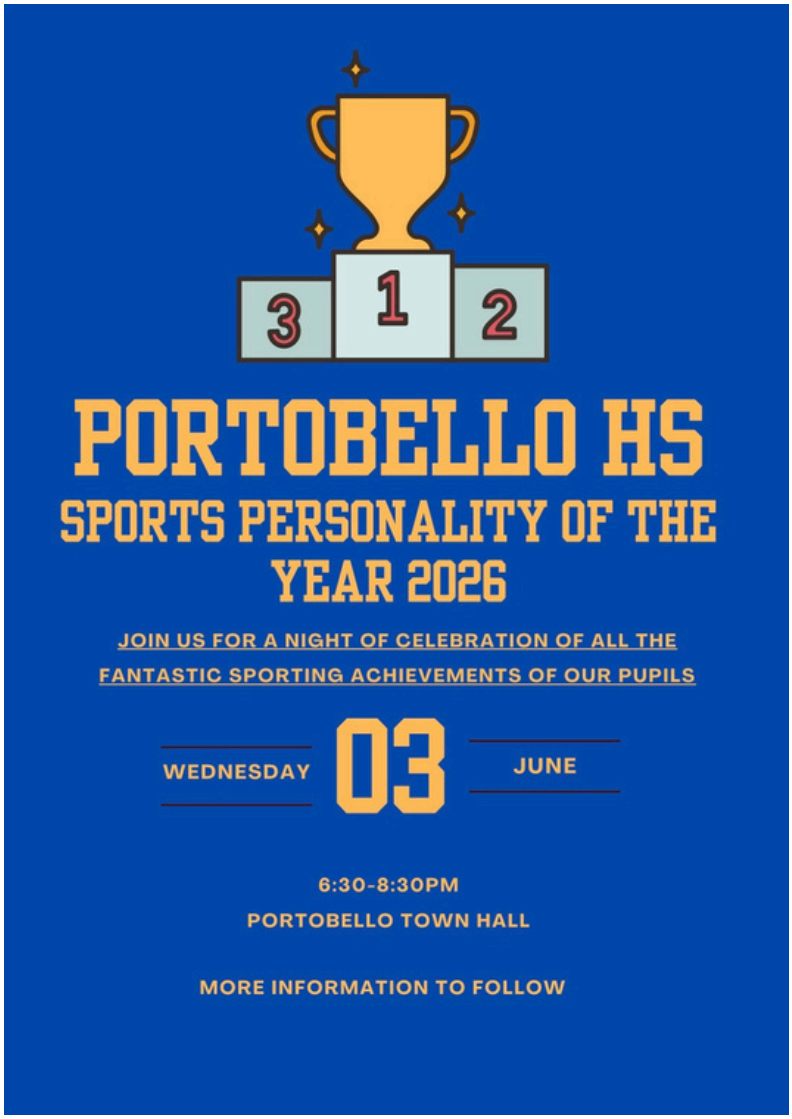
Schools Cross Country

Extra Curricular Craft Club

Sports Update

Portobello HS Sports Personality of the Year 2026

We are beginning to plan for this year's event which takes place on Wednesday 3rd June at Portobello Town Hall.
To help us start the process of collating all of your achievements, we are looking for all pupils who are competing at Regional, National or International level in your chosen sport (this includes being part of an academy team for a football club, for example), to please come to the PE department and speak to Mr Stewart or Miss Lovell for more information.



Key dates 2025/26

Event	Day/Date
Parent Forum	Tue 30th Sep
Senior Awards Ceremony	Thu 9th October
All Finish - Non-uniform day	Fri 10th October
Pupils resume	Tue 21st October
Senior Phase Reports issued	Wed 29th October
S4-6 Prelim Navigator programme launch (exam support for senior pupils)	Tue 4th Nov
S4 Parents Evening	Tue 4th November
Cabaret Concert/Art Exhibition	Fri 7th November
S1-3 Report issued	Tue 25th November
Parent Forum	Wed 26th Nov
S1 Parents Evening	Thu 27th November
S4 Prelims	1st-16th Dec
S5/6 Parents Evening	Thu 11th December
All Finish - Non-uniform day	Friday 19th Dec
Pupils resume	Tue 6th Jan
S5/6 Prelims	7th-20th Jan
Senior Phase Report 2(S4)	Wed 14th Jan
Parent Forum	Mon 26th Jan

Event	Day/Date
Senior Phase report (S5/6 issued	Wed 28th Jan
S4-6 Exam Navigator programme launch	Mon 9th Feb
All Finish - Non-uniform day	Fri 13th Feb
All resume	Mon 23rd Feb
S3 Parents Evening	Wed 25th Feb
S2 Parents Evening	Thu 5th March
Senior Phase report issued	Wed 25th March
Parent Forum	Tue 31st March
All Finish - Non-uniform day	Thu 2nd April
All Resume	Tue 21st April
SQA Exams begin	Wed 22nd April
Holiday and INSET day	Mon 4th and Tue 5th May
Pupils resume	Wed 6th May
S1-3 report issued	8th May
Holiday	Mon 18th May
New Timetable (S1-3)	Mon 25th May
New Timetable (S4/5)	Mon 1st June
All Finish	Fri 26th June