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Portobello High School

Snippets



Portobello Boys Win Scottish National Cross Country Championship!

The Scottish National Cross Country Championships on 4th March brought together hundreds of athletes from schools across the country. In some of the brightest and driest weather the event has seen in years and across a challenging, hilly course, our school squad put in some great performances. Portobello was well represented across the younger age groups, with a standout performance from Laurence Scott-Watson, who finished 28th out of 197 runners in the Under 14 Boys category. But the headline moment came in the last race of the day, the Boys Under 20 event, where the Porty squad went toe-to-toe with the best teams in Scotland – and won. For the first time in the championship's history, Portobello lifted the team trophy. Our winning four were: Joe Smith (4th place – an exceptional individual finish); Charlie Copp, Louis Michel and James Barrett. A brilliant result for the school and for volunteer coach Rob Henry, who has quietly and consistently built a culture of running at Portobello High School – pictured here with all the Boys Under 20 runners and the coveted trophy. Congratulations to the winners and to everyone who competed on the day. For anyone who wants to be part of the next winning team, or who wants to run for fun, Rob's running club is at 7.15 am every Tuesday – meet at the PE department.

THE WEEK

- 1 The Navigator programme for S4-6 pupils launches on Wednesday 11th March. Full details will be shared with on Friday via email to parents and pupils.
- 2 Study leave for S4-6 pupils begins on Thursday 23rd April (For young people sitting Spanish N5/H, they will begin study leave on Tuesday 21st April). Full details inside
- 3 The first study late session will be held on Wednesday 11th March from 4-7pm in the school.
- 4 Come and join us on the prom on the 13th March at 1pm for the Portobello Moonlight Revue! - Full details inside
- 5 School uniform is available to purchase online <https://portobellohighschool.imagescotland.com/> Plain black hoodies or sweatshirts can also be purchased from various local retailers.

Dates for the diary

March

Tuesday 10th - S5>S6 Course Choice Day
Wednesday 11th - S4>S5 Course Choice Day
Wednesday 11th - DofE Awards Ceremony
Wednesday 11th - Study Late session S4-6
Wednesday 18th - S3>S4 Course Choice Day
Thursday 19th - S2>S3 Course Choice Day

April

Wednesday 1st - Spring Concert

Developing the Young Workforce update

Latest DYW update available here <https://bit.ly/4szaS8L>

Party 150 update

Expressive Arts project - Portobello Moonlight Revue

The talented artists and dancers from PHS in collaboration with Gretchen Maynard-Hahn proudly present...

Portobello Moonlight Revue ft. Big Stew's Tidal Circus and Marine Marvels



Art
Walk

ECA

THE CLOCK STRIKES MIDNIGHT.
THE TIDE RISES.
THE LAST ARCADE LIGHTS GO OUT.
A SPELL FALLS OVER THE TOWN.
THE SEA CREATURES RISE OUT OF THE OCEAN. . .



Friday 13th March

Departing Portobello High School 12.15

Circular Route of the Prom est. arrival 13.00

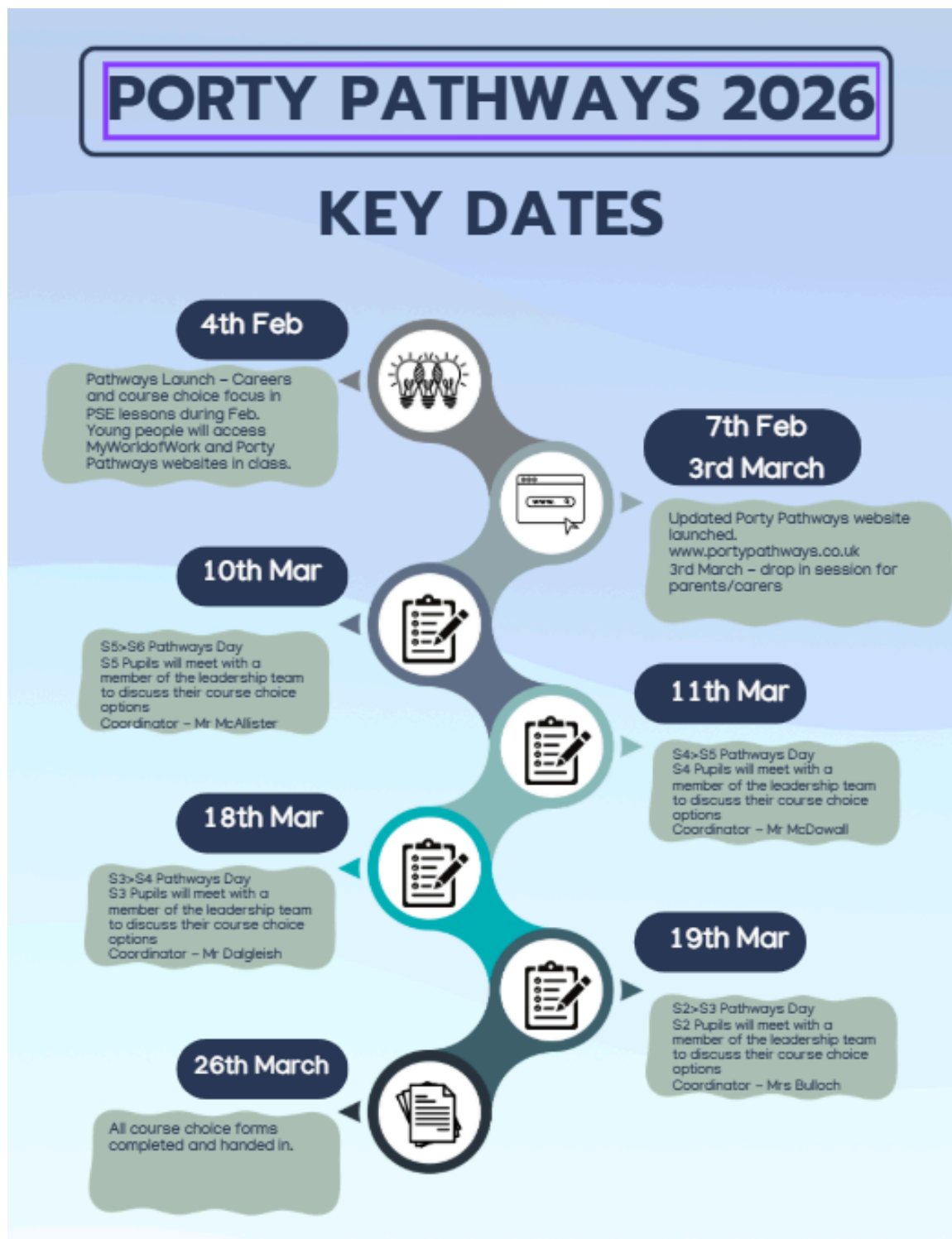
Brighton Place - Bath Street - Prom - Baths - Straiton Park - Nobles - Tumbles

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 launched 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.

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



Senior Phase News

Study Leave Information

As we approach the SQA examination period, we would like to share our arrangements for study leave this year.

The formal exam diet begins on Wednesday 22 April, with study leave beginning from Thursday 23 April (Young people sitting Spanish will have study leave from 21st April)

Arrangements will vary depending on the number of exams a learner has.

- S4 learners with four or more exams may be on study leave for most of the exam period, returning to school on 1st June. Learners with three or fewer exams may have a mix of study leave days and days when they are expected to attend school. These learners will receive a timetable of allocated study days and days to attend school.
- S5 and S6 learners will be on study leave for the entire exam period.

During this time, young people are encouraged to attend school if they need support, including access to teachers, study spaces and IT facilities. Some learners may also need to attend school, college or work placements to complete coursework or other qualifications.

Our Progress Pathways Centre and Satellite provision will run as normal throughout the examination period. If you have any questions, please contact your child's year head.

Navigator Programme

The S4–S6 Navigator Study Support Programme will launch on Wednesday 11 March, with our first Study Late session of the term.

Full details will be shared with parents/carers and young people by email, and the weekly study support timetable will also be published in Snippets.

This year's programme is our biggest ever, with a wide range of subject-specific study sessions available before school, after school and during study late evenings. We expect many young people to take advantage of the support on offer.

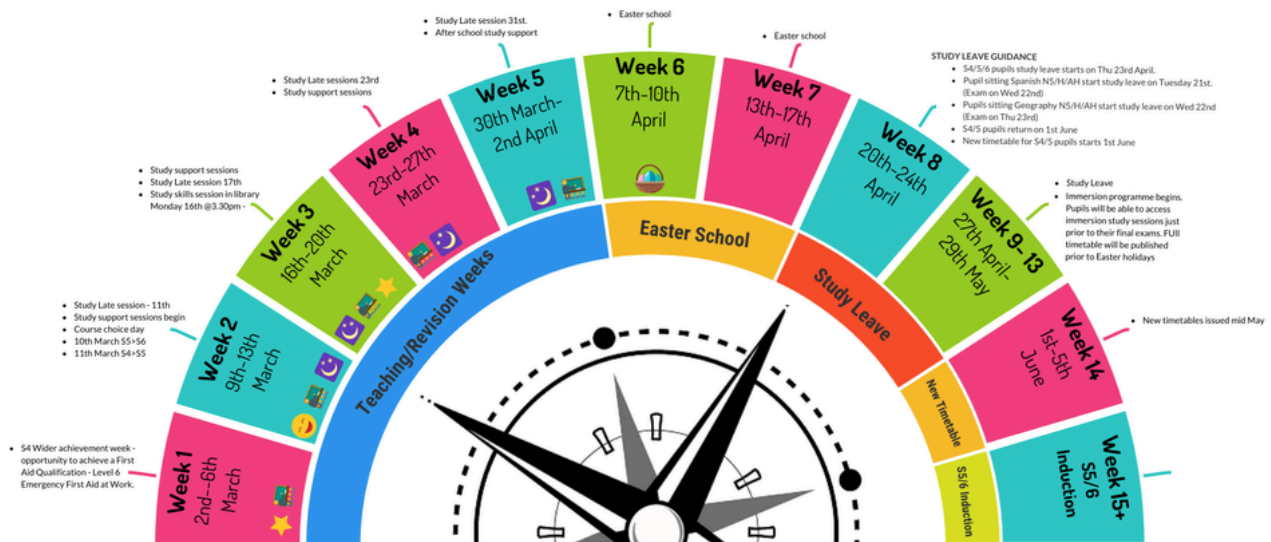
We would strongly encourage parents and carers to encourage their child to attend these sessions, as they can make a significant difference to coursework completion, revision and preparation for final examinations. The sessions also provide valuable opportunities for learners to receive additional support from their teachers and to study in a focused environment alongside their peers.

2nd March 2026 /// PHS Navigator Programme Timeline

Support programme to ensure that all young people are prepared for their National Qualifications in April/May 2026.

Events

- ★ Special event
- 😊 Wellbeing session
- 🌙 Study Late session - see week notes
- 🏫 Easter school - dates and times tbc
- 📖 After school study support



S3 Health Sector Programme

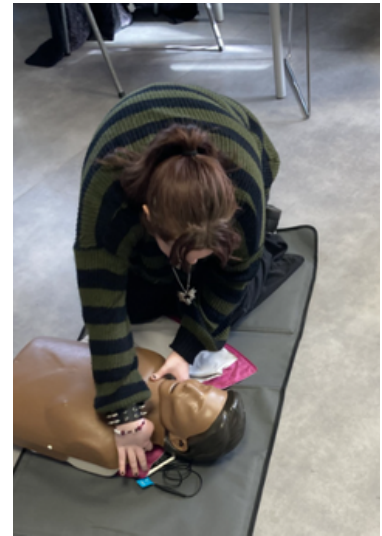
Today a group of S3 Health Sector pupils had the opportunity to take part in a hands-on learning experience at Edinburgh College, exploring a range of careers and skills linked to the healthcare sector.

During the visit, young people took part in several practical workshops led by college staff. One of the highlights of the day was learning and practising CPR, where pupils developed their understanding of emergency first aid and the importance of quick action in life-saving situations.

Pupils also learned about infection prevention and control, gaining insight into the procedures healthcare professionals follow to keep patients and staff safe in clinical environments. In addition, they had the chance to handle specialist equipment used in neurosurgery, giving them a fascinating glimpse into the technology and precision involved in modern medical care.

The experience provided an excellent opportunity for pupils to develop practical skills, ask questions and explore potential career pathways in health and social care. It was fantastic to see such high levels of engagement and curiosity throughout the day.

Opportunities like this play an important role in helping our young people connect their learning in school with real-world careers and further education pathways.



S5/6 Languages conversation practice at George Heriots school.

On 11th and 25th February, the Modern Languages department had the pleasure of taking Higher and Advanced Higher pupils to George Heriots school for 2 afternoons of Talking practice. French, Spanish and Italian learners overcame nerves and natural shyness, and demonstrated sound communication skills, high levels of linguistic knowledge, and a notable willingness to push themselves beyond their comfort zone. The camaraderie they displayed in coming together to prepare for their QS Talking exam, in what is a crucial year in their academic life, was admirable and they made their teachers very proud indeed. We wish them all every success!



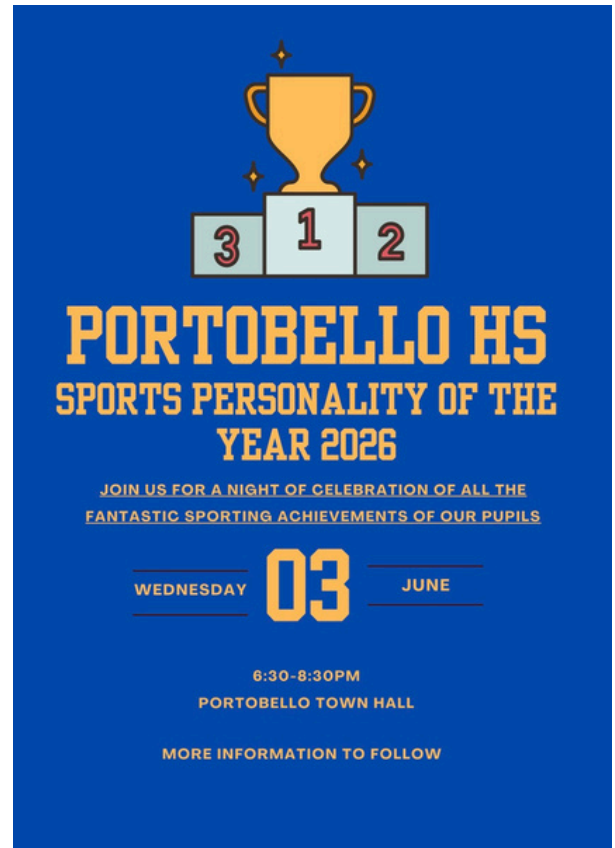
Sustainability in Fashion - Higher Fashion & Technology

Higher Fashion and Textile Technology learners have been exploring the theme of sustainability in fashion through a creative classroom challenge. Working in teams, pupils were tasked with designing and creating a children's fancy dress outfit using only items sourced from a charity shop, alongside a selection of trimmings from the FTT department store. With just 60 minutes to complete the challenge, teams had to think creatively about how to reuse and repurpose materials while producing a fun and imaginative costume. The results were fantastic, with pupils producing a range of inventive designs. After careful judging, the Unicorn Group were named the winners. However, it was a very close decision, as the Cheshire Cat and Angelina Ballerina costumes were also incredibly impressive. This activity provided a great opportunity for learners to think about the environmental impact of fashion, while developing their design, teamwork and practical textile skills.



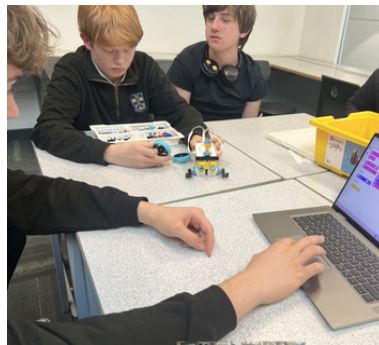
Portobello HS Sports Personality of the Year 2026

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.



Digital Innovation Workshop

The Heart of Midlothian Digital Innovation Centre came in to run a LEGO Spike Robotics workshop with the S2 School of Computing classes. Pupils had to consider what is, and what is not a robot then build and code their own robots in small groups and race them against each other. Everyone had an absolute blast learning about using biomimicry to design the most efficient robot they could within the rules of the contest.



News

Debate Club



Future Vets Talk



Interested in becoming a VET?

Join an online talk on Wed evening from 6-8.30pm
Sign up here
<https://bit.ly/4sGr5ZX>

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 Dalglish
S4	Mrs McGhee	Mr McDowall
S5	Mrs Thomson	Mr McAllister
S6	-	Mr McAllister

Developing the Young Workforce

STEP INTO OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY INSIGHT DAY

WHEN: FRIDAY 20TH MARCH
AFTERNOON

WHERE: ASTLEY AINSLEY HOSPITAL

WHO: SCHOOL-AGE STUDENTS, PLUS
COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY STUDENT
INTERESTED IN OR CURRENTLY
STUDYING OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

INTERESTED? Sign up via MS Form here:

Limited places available, booking is essential
Sign up closes Friday 6th March



Want to find out more before the event...check out these sites:

www.rcot.co.uk/learn-about-occupational-therapy/become-an-ot/routes
www.careers.nhslothian.scot

Step into Allied Health Professions Work Experience Week



Monday 15th - Thursday 18th June 2026



**Aged 14-18 and in 4th-6th year?
Study in Edinburgh or the Lothians?**
Join us for a unique work experience week!
Hospital visits • Hands-on workshops • Q&A
• Career insights • Explore NHS specialities
• Healthfest day at Queen Margaret University

Discover the Allied Health Professions (AHPs)!

Explore AHP careers – scan the QR code to learn more

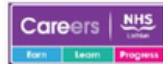
- Physiotherapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Prosthetics & Orthotics
- Therapeutic Radiography
- Paramedicine
- Orthoptics
- Dietetics
- Podiatry
- Diagnostic Radiography
- Speech & Language Therapy



**Spaces are limited so sign up now!
Scan the QR code here to sign up**



Further information is available on **NHS Lothian careers website**
at <https://careers.nhslothian.scot/work-experience/step-into-healthcare/>



Paid Law Work Experience Opportunity – S5 & S6

Morton Fraser MacRoberts are offering a one-week paid work experience opportunity through the PRIME programme, which aims to improve socio-economic diversity within the legal profession and inspire young people to consider careers in law.

The placement will take place in the firm's Edinburgh or Glasgow offices, giving pupils an opportunity to gain real insight into working in a Scottish law firm.

Key information:

Who can apply: Pupils who will be in S5 or S6 in July 2026 and who attend a state school.

Payment: £175 for the week, with travel costs covered and lunch provided.

Dates:

Glasgow: 29 June – 3 July 2026

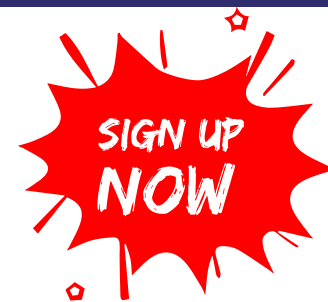
Edinburgh: 6 – 10 July 2026

Application deadline: 5 May

Applicants must meet the PRIME eligibility criteria, which support young people from backgrounds currently under-represented in the legal profession.

To apply, pupils should complete the application form on the Morton Fraser MacRoberts website and email it before the closing date.

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



Extra Curricular Craft Club

CRAFT CLUB

KNITTING • CROCHET • CROSS-STITCH



MONDAY LUNCHTIMES
ROOM G40

All crafts and levels welcome

Key dates 2025/26

Event	Day/Date
Parent Forum	Tue 30 th Sep
Senior Awards Ceremony	Thu 9 th October
All Finish - Non-uniform day	Fri 10 th October
Pupils resume	Tue 21 st 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 7 th November
S1-3 Report issued	Tue 25th November
Parent Forum	Wed 26 th 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 6 th Jan
S5/6 Prelims	7th-20th Jan
Senior Phase Report 2(S4)	Wed 14th Jan
Parent Forum	Mon 26 th Jan

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