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Portobello High School

Snippets



Celebrating 100 Years of Sir David Attenborough

Friday 8th May marked a very special occasion as Sir David Attenborough celebrated his 100th birthday. To celebrate the life and work of one of the world's most inspiring naturalists and broadcasters, pupils across the school took part in a range of activities linked to nature, conservation and creativity. S1 and S2 pupils created birthday cards and watched Attenborough documentaries, while FTT classes held a birthday cake baking competition. The English department also delivered a fantastic nature writing workshop. Our S3 pupils visited the beach to film their own Attenborough-inspired nature documentaries and take part in a wildlife photography competition. It was a wonderful celebration and we are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and engagement shown by our young people throughout the day. A huge thank you to all staff who helped support the activities.

THE WEEK

- 1 S1-3 reports have now been issued. If you any questions or queries regarding your child's report then please get in touch.
- 2 The new school timetable will begin for current S1-3 pupils on the 25th May. New timetables will be issued to young people this week.
- 3 Current S1 pupils and parents/carers will receive information regarding the new 'School Of' options available in June. Details will be emailed later this week.
- 4 Current S6 pupils and any S4/5 pupils who are planning on leaving school will be invited to the graduation event on 1st June. Further details will be emailed to young people and parents/carers.
- 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

May

Monday 18th - Holiday
Monday 25th - New timetable for current S1-3
Wednesday 27th - Parent forum

June

Monday 1st - New timetable for current S4-5
Monday 1st - Leavers graduation ceremony
Wednesday 3rd June - Sports personality of the year

Developing the Young Workforce update

Latest DYW update available here <https://bit.ly/4t4dtro>

Remembering Rusty: A Conversation with Joyce Peacock

As part of our Party 150 celebrations, our Journalism class sat down with Joyce Peacock to talk about her husband, Graham “Rusty” Peacock - someone who poured his heart into Portobello High School for so many years. Joyce shares the passions that drove Rusty, the journey that first brought him to Porty in 1981, and what it means to see his legacy live on through the school cafeteria that bears his name.

Click here to read the interview: [Portobello Journal – PHS Pupil Magazine](#)

Hospitality Connect Celebration at the Sheraton Grand Hotel & Spa Edinburgh

Pupils from Portobello High School celebrated the culmination of the 2025/26 Hospitality Connect partnership with the Sheraton Grand Hotel & Spa Edinburgh through a fantastic canapé reception event.

Throughout the year, S4 pupils working towards their National 5 Skills for Work Hospitality qualification have worked closely with the Sheraton team, taking part in mock interviews, speed networking activities and hands-on hospitality experiences designed to bring learning to life. The final celebration event gave pupils the opportunity to showcase the skills they have developed across the year. Working alongside Sheraton chefs and staff, pupils prepared canapés for over 60 guests, helped stage the event space and welcomed and served guests throughout the evening with confidence and professionalism.

Feedback from attendees was incredibly positive, with many commenting on the maturity, organisation and professionalism shown by the young people.

The partnership continues to provide invaluable real-world experiences for pupils, helping them develop skills in teamwork, communication, problem-solving and customer service while gaining insight into careers within the hospitality industry.

A huge thank you to the team at the Sheraton Grand Hotel & Spa Edinburgh for their continued support, encouragement and commitment to supporting our young people. Congratulations to all pupils involved for representing the school so brilliantly



Edinburgh Schools Mountain Biking Championships

We will be taking part in the Edinburgh Schools Mountain Biking Competition on 10th June at the trail event around Harburn School in Balerno.

The event is open to young people who are able to cycle a bike and is a great opportunity to get involved in mountain biking, develop confidence and enjoy riding in a supportive environment. Transport, bikes and helmets can all be provided if required. Please indicate on the form if your child needs to borrow a bike for the event.

Any young people taking part for the first time will also receive a coaching session in school prior to the competition to help prepare them for the course and build confidence. If we feel that this event might be too much for them then we will support them throughout the year to develop their skills and enter next year.

If your child would like to take part or find out more information about the event, please complete the form below

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=af6sSGo3tUKfacnke7-5xNrTL4Bf-GNALZVwEF5saYJUMKYOTjQ3MUVYSVBSUEdNWEoOUVRMSzJVWC4u>

Karate Success

It has been another hugely successful period for our Portobello High School karate pupils, with outstanding performances at both the Swedish Karate Open and the North East Open in Sunderland.

At the Swedish Karate Open, pupils competed as part of the Chris Ewing Karate Squad against high-quality international opposition, with George Burnham winning gold, Olivia Archibald silver, and Julia Duff, Lily Burton and Drew Riddell all securing bronze medals. The squad also finished top of the medal table on the final day.

Success continued at the North East Open, where Ben Walker won gold individually and bronze in the team event alongside Drew Riddell. Lily Burton won gold individually and team gold with Olivia Archibald, who also achieved silver individually. George Burnham won double gold in his individual and team events, while Julia Duff secured gold individually and bronze in the team competition.

Congratulations to all competitors for their fantastic achievements and for representing both their club and school so brilliantly. If you'd like to get involved in karate, please speak to a member of the PE department.



Portobello High School Achieves SCQF Silver Award

We are delighted to share that Portobello High School has achieved Silver recognition through the SCQF School Ambassador Recognition Programme.

This national award recognises the school's commitment to providing a wide range of learner pathways and qualifications that meet the diverse needs, interests and aspirations of our young people.

The award reflects the work taking place across the school to ensure all learners can access meaningful and personalised pathways. Thank you and congratulations to all staff, pupils, partners and families who contribute to these opportunities, and a special thank you to Ms Myles for leading this accreditation work on behalf of the school.



Young Voices Shape the Political Conversation

A huge congratulations to S5 pupils Sira Johnston and Joy Grisewood, whose reflections on a recent sustainability hustings event have now been published in the Edinburgh Evening News. Alongside other senior pupils, Sira and Joy attended the event and had the opportunity to shadow Ian Swanson, Political Editor of the Edinburgh Evening News. They represented the school brilliantly throughout the evening, asking thoughtful questions and engaging in discussions around sustainability, AI, politics and the future.

Well done also to Mairi Melvin, who questioned candidates on AI and the environment during the event.

Below are excerpts from Sira and Joy's published reflections:

Sira Johnston (S5)

"All in all, I found the hustings profoundly captivating and incredibly engaging. The candidates answered the thoughtful questions of the young people honestly, which is very important for those of us voting at the next election for whom climate change and sustainability is a primary concern."

"It gave me hope for politics. Despite having vastly different views on nearly every topic, the candidates present were able to agree and disagree respectfully."

"I believe it is events like this that will empower young people with the knowledge of politics needed to make well-informed voting decisions at the next election."

Joy Grisewood (S5)

"The event gave an insight into the world of politics that so many of us teenagers will be entering soon via voting."

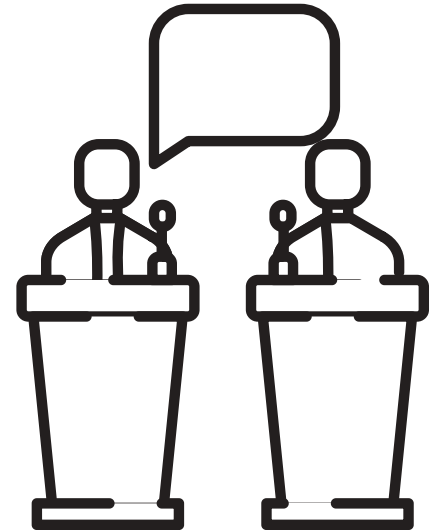
"I found it most helpful to gain an understanding of each party not only through their answers, but through the way they approached the questions."

"Perhaps my favourite part of the experience was witnessing how people with wildly different opinions could happily mingle prior to the meeting commencing, finding something in common regardless of their opposing lifestyles."

A fantastic achievement and a brilliant example of young people engaging thoughtfully with journalism, politics and current affairs.

I am also very grateful to our Advanced Higher Modern Studies class, who recently delivered a presentation to the whole school on the upcoming election and the importance of voting. I am delighted that we have a very high number of young people aged 16 and over registered to vote across our school community, and events like this play an important role in helping young people become more politically engaged and informed about the world around them.

A fantastic achievement and a brilliant example of young people engaging thoughtfully with journalism, politics and current affairs



World Champion Success for Porty Pupil

A huge congratulations to Cara, who has returned from Orlando after helping her team, Fahrenheit from Rain Allstars Edinburgh, achieve an incredible success at the Cheerleading World Championships.

Competing against teams from across the world, Fahrenheit were crowned World Champions in their division, bringing home gold medals after an outstanding performance on the international stage.

This is an exceptional achievement and reflects the enormous dedication, commitment and hard work involved in competing at such a high level. Representing both her team and school with pride, Cara should be incredibly proud of what she has accomplished.

After an overnight flight back from Orlando, Cara returns to school this week no doubt slightly jet lagged, but proudly wearing her world championship medal.

We look forward to celebrating this fantastic achievement further at our upcoming Sports Awards.

Well done, Cara – a truly remarkable achievement!



Reading Schools Update



There has been lots happening across Portobello High School as part of our ongoing work towards achieving the Silver Reading Schools Award.

Last term, we celebrated World Book Day by distributing free books to all S1 and S2 classes, alongside book vouchers for pupils across the school. A huge thank you goes to the team at Portobello Book Shop for supporting the initiative and helping organise the books.

Our Reading Leadership Team also organised a successful lunchtime book raffle and giveaway, while the English department ran a Readathon which raised over £200 for the charity Read for Good, supporting children in hospital through books and storytelling.

Pupils have also been engaging with a range of reading activities and events, including participation in the Scottish Book Trust's Authors Live programme and a graphic novel workshop delivered in partnership with Portobello Library and local writer Edward Ross. The workshop gave pupils the opportunity to create their own characters and storylines, with plans already underway for a longer session during Activities Week.

Meanwhile, our Staff Book Club continues to grow, bringing staff together through shared reading and discussion.

Well done to Mrs Wards and everyone involved in continuing to build such a positive reading culture across the school community.

Scotland Football Trip

Fifty one pupils from S1 to S3 travelled to Liverpool in April for a fantastic day out packed with football activities and experiences. The trip started with a tour of Anfield Stadium, where pupils got the chance to sit in the famous Kop End before visiting the Liverpool FC Museum and club shop.

The group then headed to Everton FC's newly built Hill Dickinson Stadium for a Scotland World Cup warm up match. Although Scotland could not find the result we were all hoping for, the pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience and atmosphere.

With just one month to go until the start of the World Cup, Scotland's first appearance since 1998, this was a really special occasion for many of our young people who have never seen Scotland compete at a World Cup before.

As part of our Porty 150 celebrations, we will also be marking the tournament in school, with match highlights shown on the big screen alongside a few special treats and activities during the competition. A huge thank you to all pupils for their excellent behaviour throughout the trip and to the staff who supported the visit and helped make it such an enjoyable experience

Success for PYRA at East Lothian 7s



Congratulations to our Portobello Youth Rugby Academy (PYRA) players who enjoyed another successful tournament at the East Lothian 7s competition. The U14 team finished an impressive second overall after a series of strong performances against tough opposition, including North Berwick, Lasswade and eventual winners Dunbar, who Porty drew with during the tournament. There were some outstanding individual performances throughout the day from Lewis Buckley, Danny Letham, Rory Thomas, Dylan Butcher and Hamish Black. Congratulations also to the U15 team, who capped off an excellent tournament by finishing as overall winners in their age group. A fantastic achievement for all involved and another excellent example of the strength of rugby across the school and wider PYRA community

Card Games Club

CARD GAMES CLUB

Bring your lunch, learn new games and socialise!

Monday lunchtimes F21

See Mrs Malley in F21 for more info / if you have questions

FREE STUDY SPACE
27TH APRIL - 29TH MAY

MON - 3:30 - 7:30PM TUES - 3:30 - 7:30PM THURS - 3:30 - 7:30PM
FRIDAY - 1:00 - 7:30PM

Looking for a comfortable place to study?
Our study space is 100% free, with Wi-Fi, plug sockets, and plenty of room to focus.

The Jack Kane Community Centre will have this space available to young people to use on the days and times listed above throughout the month of May!

Open to all individuals & groups who are currently sitting exams!

All that is required is a message on social media to let us know how many people will be there & the time that you require the space

JKC

Portobello Moonlight Revue - new date confirmed

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



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. . .

ART
projects
WALK



Friday 22nd May

Departing Portobello High School 10.15am

Circular Route of the Prom est. arrival 10.45am

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

Inclusive Learning Estates Consultation

Edinburgh's Vision for Inclusion: Inclusive Learning Estates

As part of Edinburgh's Vision for Inclusion, we are gathering views on our learning estates and how well the school building environments can support the Scottish Government's Key Features of Inclusion, and the Learning Estates vision: *"to improve the spaces and places where learning happens"* and *"environments evolving to meet the needs of learners today and tomorrow"*. (Scotland's Learning Estate Strategy: Connecting People, Places and Learning 2025)

We want to hear your thoughts of our school buildings and wider facilities- what are the strengths, what improvements could be made, and how we can involve our communities?

We want a range of views to support the review of our school buildings and to determine priorities in line with local and Scottish Government guidelines.

There are three ways you can share your views and get involved.

1. Complete the Inclusive Learning Estates Survey

Complete the survey by using this QR code to take you to the form.



2. Attend an Inclusive Learning Estates locality event

Locality Event

For parents and carers:

- Mon 11 May 2026 1.30pm to 2.30pm @ Broughton High School
- Tues 12 May 2026 1.30pm to 2.30pm @ Portobello High School
- Thurs 14 May 2026 4.00pm to 5.00pm @ South Morningside Primary School
- Wed 27 May 2026 10.30am to 11.30am @ Clovenstone Primary School



To register to one of the events please use this QR code to take you to the registration form.

3. Attend an online event

Online Events

For parents and carers:

- Tues 19th May 2026 10am to 11am
- Wed 20th May 2026 5pm to 6pm



To register to one of the events please use this QR code to take you to the registration form.

Online Event: Tues 19th May 2026 10am to 11am

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/378260185911635?p=ALaShEzoZnidxfPLOZ>

Meeting ID: 378 260 185 911 635

Passcode: j5wE2oM6



Online Event: Wed 20th May 2026 5pm to 6pm

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/359430154291339?p=w3vEweQSNFvmPL88XX>

Meeting ID: 359 430 154 291 339

Passcode: ja6Js6KZ



If you have any questions or suggestions, please email: inclusive-learning-estate-review@edinburgh.gov.uk



Please email the Interpretation and Translation Service at its@edinburgh.gov.uk

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