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# Portobello High School

## Snippets



### Portobello Moonlight Revue

Last Friday morning, our Portobello Moonlight Revue was a huge success! The weather was fantastic and it was great to see so many families and members of the community enjoying the performances from our talented young people at Portobello High School.

The event featured music, dance, drama and art as part of Big Stew's Tidal Circus and Marine Marvels, creating a brilliant atmosphere throughout the morning. A huge thank you to all pupils, staff, artists and volunteers who helped make the event so special.

All photos from the event are available on our Facebook page.



### THE WEEK

- 1 The new timetable for S1-3 started on Monday. New timetables for S4/5 are available from the school office.
- 2 The new S6 induction day is on Friday - pupils should meet in the school canteen at 9am. Please dress down as we will be going to the beach for some games!
- 3 We look forward to welcoming the current S6 pupils back in on Monday for their final day at school. The day will begin at 9am with shirt signing and ipad return followed by a Pizza part on the beach. In the evening we have the graduation ceremony from 6pm in the school.
- 4 Transition support meetings are currently underway. If your child would benefit from any additional support in moving to their new timetable, you will be invited to a meeting to discuss how we can work together to ensure a positive and successful transition.
- 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 25<sup>th</sup> - New timetable for current S1-3

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> - Parent forum - 7pm

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> - New S6 induction day

#### June

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> - New timetable for current S4-5

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> - Leavers graduation ceremony

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June - Sports personality of the year

### Developing the Young Workforce update

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

# School Show

## School Show Tickets

Tickets are now on sale for this year's Portobello High School Summer Show 2026!

This year's production is Twelfth Night, but not quite as you know it! Shakespeare's Illyria has been swapped for 1990s Ibiza, bringing together music, dance, comedy and plenty of laughter in what promises to be a brilliant show.

Performances take place on Wednesday 10th, Thursday 11th and Friday 12th June at 7pm. Tickets are available now via ParentPay and the school office.



**Portobello High School  
Summer show June 2026**

**TWELFTH NIGHT**  
By William Shakespeare

**Wed 10th, Thurs 11th, Fri 12th June  
7.00pm**  
Tickets available on ParentPay  
& school office

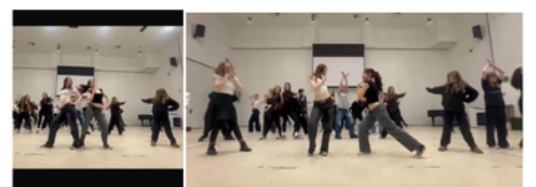
## Behind the scenes...

Preparations are well underway for this year's school show and there is a real buzz around the building!

The cast have been rehearsing dance routines and fight scenes, the band is hard at work learning the music, and pupils are busy creating props, costumes and set designs behind the scenes.

It's fantastic to see so many young people from across the school working together creatively to bring the production to life. We can't wait for audiences to see the final performance in June!

Slow-motion fight rehearsals ...!





# Cycling News



**S1 Girls Group - Fife Cycle Circuit**

## Portobello High School Girls Road Cycling Team

We are proud to announce the launch of our new Girls Road Cycling Team at Portobello High School, an exciting new initiative aimed at encouraging more girls and young women to get involved in cycling, build confidence and experience the many benefits of sport and physical activity.

The team forms part of our growing **Pedal Power Party HS** cycling strategy and comes at an exciting time for the city as Edinburgh prepares to host the Grand Départ of the Tour de France in 2027. We hope the team will play an active role in some of the events and activities linked to this historic event.

Already, over 40 girls from S1-S6 have signed up to take part, with the first sessions at the Fife Cycle Circuit proving hugely successful. The energy, enthusiasm and positivity shown by the girls has been brilliant to see and really highlights the appetite for girls cycling opportunities within our school community.

As part of the programme, the girls will regularly attend the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome in Glasgow where they will receive track coaching from some of Scotland's top female cycling coaches. They will also have opportunities to meet professional female riders and gain insight into pathways within the sport.

The programme will also include girls-specific training and wellbeing sessions supported by Hannah Miley, former Team GB and Olympic swimmer, focusing on confidence, resilience, mindset and some of the barriers that girls and young women can experience within sport and physical activity.

The programme aims to provide girls with opportunities to:

- develop confidence on the bike
- improve fitness and wellbeing
- learn road cycling and group riding skills
- participate in road and cyclocross events
- build friendships and resilience
- challenge stereotypes around girls and sport

Over the coming year, the school hopes to invest in:

- cycling kit and equipment
- bikes and maintenance support
- indoor spin bikes
- coaching and race support
- girls-specific coaching sessions
- education around the barriers women face in sport
- team-building opportunities and training camps

The programme will be led by two fantastic members of staff:

**Miss Niven**, an experienced road cyclist from the PE department

**Mrs Moghadam**, an experienced trail rider and mountain biking coach

Both are passionate about supporting young people through cycling and creating opportunities that build confidence, ambition and belonging.





# Cycling Update



## How you can support our girls cycling programme...

We are currently seeking sponsorship from local businesses and organisations who would like to support girls participation in sport and become part of this exciting new initiative.

Sponsorship packages will range from:

sponsorship logos on team kit through to sponsoring a rider or sponsoring a bike

Sponsors will support a programme that is focused on:

- girls participation in sport
- confidence and wellbeing
- active lifestyles
- teamwork and resilience
- community engagement

This is a fantastic opportunity for businesses to invest directly in young people and help create lasting opportunities for girls within sport and cycling.

Interested in Supporting the Programme?

If you or your organisation would be interested in supporting the team through sponsorship, equipment, coaching or partnership opportunities, please get in touch with the Headteacher at [greg.mcdowall@portobello.edin.sch.uk](mailto:greg.mcdowall@portobello.edin.sch.uk).

If you would like to find out more about the programme please contact

[holly.1.niven@portobello.edin.sch.uk](mailto:holly.1.niven@portobello.edin.sch.uk)

[ruth.moghadam@portobello.edin.sch.uk](mailto:ruth.moghadam@portobello.edin.sch.uk)

**We also still have spaces available within the girls team. If you think your child would be interested in joining the programme or would like to find out more, please complete the sign-up form via the link below.**

**<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/AUQkUDYjsN>**



## Edinburgh Schools Mountain Biking Championships

A huge thank you to everyone who has signed up to enter the Edinburgh Schools MTB Championships and represent Portobello High School. The event continues to grow year on year and we are delighted to have over 70 young people taking part this time round!

The championships will take place in Balerno and it promises to be another fantastic day of competition, challenge and fun for our riders.

With such a large number of participants from Portobello, our biggest challenge will be transporting bikes to and from the event. If any parents/carers or members of the school community are able to help with transport, particularly if you have a bike carrier, trailer or van, we would love to hear from you. Please contact me at [greg.mcdowall@portobello.edin.sch.uk](mailto:greg.mcdowall@portobello.edin.sch.uk) I try and keep the cost of these events to an absolute minimum so if you can do anything to help it would be much appreciated.

Thanks again for all of the support. It's brilliant to see cycling continuing to grow in the school.

# Sports News

## Senior boys football team win Lothian Cup

A fantastic result for our Senior Boys' Football Team, who lifted the Lothians Cup after an excellent 2-0 victory over Firrhill.

This was a brilliant achievement from the whole squad and a very proud moment for Portobello High School. It was made even more special for our Curriculum Leader of PE, Mr Stewart, who played in the Portobello High School team the last time the school won the trophy, 20 years ago.

A huge well done to all the players, coaches and staff involved. Thank you also to the staff, parents/carers, relatives and young people who came along to support the team and cheer on the school.

A memorable day and a fantastic achievement for everyone connected with Portobello High School



## Scottish Schools Open Waterpolo championships 2026

Our water polo team won the Open Schools Championship last Friday. It was brilliant to see a squad made up of S1-S6 girls and boys competing together and working as a team to secure overall victory. This is a fantastic achievement by everyone involved and another proud moment for the school. A huge well done to all of the players, and many thanks to our coaches and parents/carers for their support. A special thank you also to Mrs Inkster, who has gone above and beyond by putting on additional swimming sessions every Tuesday and Friday morning from 7am in school. This commitment has made a real difference in supporting the development of our swimmers and water polo players, and is a great example of the dedication of our staff to supporting young people.



## Duke of Edinburgh update

Last week our extracurricular Bronze D of E S3 pupils, all 116 of them, attended their two-day training expedition. This was a very successful experience, and all pupils have now had the necessary training to confidently head out on their final qualifying expeditions which start this week. We wish them all luck in this tough but fulfilling experience. Huge thanks go to all staff that helped to make this such a success.



## School Of Ceramics

After two successful rotations of the ceramics curriculum, students at the School of Ceramics have been exploring both traditional and contemporary pottery techniques through functional pieces including candle burners, mugs and sculptural ceramics. The course also connects closely with the rich pottery heritage of Portobello, once recognised for its thriving ceramic production industry in Scotland.

To culminate their learning, students have been introduced to throwing on the pottery wheel, offering many their first experience of this unique and challenging process. The response has been overwhelmingly positive, with several students returning during lunchtime sessions to continue practising their wheel-throwing skills and deepen their understanding of ceramics."



## S2/3 Guitar Playday

On Wednesday 20th May nine of our guitarists took place in a city-wide S2/3 Guitar Playday event at Meadowbank Stadium. The Party pupils below took part, had a great time and played superbly. This was supported by our wonderful IMS (Instrumental Music Service) which we are so lucky to still have in such strong force in Edinburgh. Well done to:

- Oskari Tapaninaho
- Joseph Morrison
- Arran Macleod
- Sam Hunt
- Murdo Sinclair
- Leo McCutcheon
- Clara Evans
- Cameron Webster
- Alfie Vale



## IOP Girls into Physics and Engineering

A group of our S2 girls attended a series of workshops at the University of Edinburgh to promote girls into physics and engineering. The workshops, run by industry and university departments, involved programming robotic vehicles, exploring interference patterns and spectra of stars and other sources of light, building and programming practical electronic circuits, learning about atomic structure using games and problem-solving construction skill



## S3 Geography - Isle of Arran 2026

# S3 GEOGRAPHY ISLE OF ARRAN 2026



### LOCHRANZA OUTDOOR CENTRE



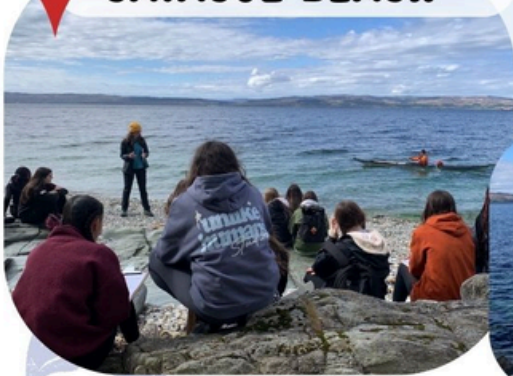
Our S3s headed to the Isle of Arran from the 6-8<sup>th</sup> of May to experience some real life geography. We focused on consolidating prior learning through coastal long-shore drift studies and exploring the spectacular U-shaped valley Glen Rosa!



### GLEN ROSA



### CATACOL BEACH



We were incredibly grateful to be welcomed by the local wildlife including a pod of dolphins only metres away from our beach study location. During our stay we also came across adders, seals, red squirrels and golden eagles. We learned how humans and animals have created a sustainable island community.

## S3 Geography - Isle of Arran 2026

# PUPIL EXPERIENCE



### Class feedback

"Overall, the trip was educational and really fun, we most enjoyed spending time with our friends, meeting new people and were surprised at how much we learned not just educationally but also socially."

"The trip allowed me to meet new people who I wouldn't normally have spoken to and have made new friendships" - **Lexie Crowther.**

"We did things that would normally be really scary when we were abseiling, afterwards I felt more confident in my ability to do hard things" - **Caitlin Cowie.**



"I really enjoyed being outdoors, it inspired me to spend more time adventuring and seeing new places in the future" - **Fred Lawrence.**

"Gorge walking was really fun but also out of my comfort zone, afterwards I felt really accomplished. I didn't realise I would be able to do it so I was really proud of myself" - **Ayda Alcorn.**

"It was an absolute joy to take such awesome pupils away, they represented themselves and the school wonderfully. I am exceptionally proud of all of them for stepping outside their comfort zone and jumping into new experiences- **Mrs McDonald.**

"This was one of the most enjoyable trips I have taken part in during my time at Portobello. The young people were a phenomenal group to work with: polite, enthusiastic and fantastic representatives of the school. Well done to everyone" - **Mr McCreath.**

