



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



Portobello High School

Snippets



150yr anniversary celebrations

Our Porty 150 celebrations are now well underway following the fantastic anniversary lunch held on 11 August. A huge thank you to everyone who came along and helped make the occasion so special, and to the staff, pupils, former pupils and partners whose hard work made the event possible.

We are continuing to add photographs, memories and archive materials to the Porty 150 section of our website. Further events are also being planned for the coming months, including opportunities to visit the school and explore our archive collection. Please keep an eye on our website and social media channels for updates.



THE WEEK

- 1 Flu vaccines will take place on 23rd and 24th November. Forms went home at the end of last week. Most of these will be nasal sprays. If your young person needs support with this, please let us know.
- 2 Over the coming weeks we will be sharing some of the highlights from our recent Qualifications Scotland exam results. We've seen improvement across a number of areas and we look forward to sharing this with you in due course.
- 3  **EDINBURGH, MIDLOTHIAN & EAST LOTHIAN**
Developing the Young Workforce
Check out the latest job/career/work experience opportunities using the link at the bottom of the page. Updated weekly.
- 4  Look out for the 'sign up now' graphic highlighting opportunities for young people to get involved.
- 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

Aug

Tue 25th - S2/3 Glenlude camping programme begins.
Thu 26th - S5 Trip to the Edinburgh Festival to see CODE

September

Wed 2nd - S6 trip to Dalguise
Fri 11th - All Finish - Dress Down Day
Tue 15th - All return

Key dates in the calendar on last page of this newsletter

Developing the Young Workforce update

Latest DYW update available [here](#)



EDINBURGH, MIDLOTHIAN & EAST LOTHIAN
Developing the Young Workforce

Opportunities

**SIGN UP
NOW**

Junior Choir



SYP



**SIGN UP
NOW**

Sport Clubs Launch

Our sports clubs will be launched on Tuesday 25 August, when young people will have the opportunity to find out more and sign up for a wide range of activities. With an incredible 33 different clubs available this year, we hope there will be something for everyone! Full details of the clubs and how to register will also be shared through Snippets.

We encourage all young people to get involved. Joining a sports club is a fantastic way to develop new skills, stay active, build confidence and meet new people. Whether pupils already enjoy sport or would like to try something completely new, everyone will be made very welcome.

Sports Update

Karate Update

Congratulations to our Porty pupils who travelled to Sunderland with CEK to compete in the North East Open. The team delivered an outstanding series of performances, securing an impressive collection of individual and team medals.

Gold medals were won by Lily Burton (S2), Zachary Winter (S1) and Julia Duff in their individual events, while Drew Riddell (S3), Ben Walker (S2) and Riley Willis (S1) also earned individual medals. Our pupils enjoyed further success in the team competition, with Lily, Drew and Julia winning gold, Ben taking silver, and Zachary and Skye Smith (S1) securing bronze.

A fantastic achievement by everyone involved—well done to all our pupils!

S1 Football Trials

The trials for the S1 school football team will take place after school on Tuesday (25th August). Any pupils looking to attend should come to the PE department to sign up during break and lunch before Tuesday. Pupils will not be able to sign up during class time.

This information has already been shared with S1 through their registration class.

Summer of Sport



The summer holidays were filled with activity, friendship and new experiences through our Summer of Sport programme. Young people took part in cycling, dance, netball, basketball, Friday Night Lights football, cookery classes and targeted day trips.

Highlights included a cycling trip around the Isle of Cumbrae for 25 girls, sessions at Fife Cycle Park and six pupils attending Edinburgh Road Club's Youth Camp. Across all activities, pupils developed new skills, built confidence and enjoyed spending time together.

Our commitment to inclusion remained at the heart of the programme, with transport, coaching, equipment and other support provided to remove barriers wherever possible. We are extremely grateful to the staff, coaches, volunteers, partners and pupil leaders who made these opportunities possible.



Summer Dance Programme

Our Summer Dance Intensive gave pupils an exciting week of dance training, creativity and performance preparation, culminating in a fantastic 45-minute show attended by around 40 parents and carers.

Throughout the week, pupils learned six complete dances alongside daily warm-ups, stretches, games and acrobatics sessions. They also participated in workshops covering choreography, stage make-up, costume and performance skills. Each pupil decorated part of their costume before wearing it in the final performance and taking it home as a reminder of the experience.

The programme required an incredible amount of preparation, from choreographing routines and planning workshops to sourcing costumes, organising the performance and preparing certificates. We are extremely grateful to everyone involved in creating such a memorable and rewarding experience for our young dancers.

Sports Update

Friday Night Lights



Friday Night Lights provides a safe, welcoming space for more than 50 young people to enjoy football, stay active and spend time with friends at the end of the school week.

The programme is about much more than football. It promotes teamwork, builds positive relationships and helps young people feel connected to their school and community. We would love to see even more young people coming along this year, everyone is welcome, regardless of their experience or ability.



Beyond the podium

Eleven young people from four Scottish secondary schools enjoyed a unique behind-the-scenes experience at the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games through the new Beyond the Podium programme.

Developed by Portobello High School, Commonwealth Games Scotland representatives and the Collaboration for Impact Headteacher network, the pilot introduced pupils to careers in sports medicine, physiotherapy, psychology, nutrition, logistics, events and athlete support.

At Team Scotland House, the group met leading figures from Scottish sport, including Maree Todd MSP and Olympic gold medallist Dame Katherine Grainger. They also met Scottish athletes and attended the netball and athletics competitions.

Portobello S6 pupil Lily Carroll said the experience had revealed the wide range of careers available in sport and given her lots to consider for the future.

Following the success of the pilot, partners are exploring plans to expand Beyond the Podium nationally through mentoring, careers guidance and access to professional networks.



Year Group Update - S1

S1 Update

Year Head - Caroline Bannon

Pupil Support Leader - Chris Aitken

The S1 team are looking forward to an action-packed year with lots of opportunities for our young people.

The S1 team will be running weekly online and in person surgeries to meet with parents and carers to discuss any issues and also as a chance to raise ideas for the year. We really value your skills and support and look forward to working together so that young people have the best experience as they start high school. Slots of 15 minutes will be offered for conversation- we will vary the days and times to help accommodate different schedules. More information to follow shortly.

We will hold a Halloween disco for our S1 pupils, this will be a chance to dress up or dress down in casual clothes and join together for dancing and snacks. The provisional date is Thursday 29th October.

Flu vaccines will take place on 23rd and 24th November. Forms went home at the end of last week. Most of these will be nasal sprays. If your young person needs support with this, please let us know.

Later in the year, normally April, our S1 pupils will also be offered the HPV vaccine to protect against certain cancers. There are leaflets and more detailed information which will be offered closer to the time to ensure that we support young people and families through this process.

All S1 pupils will also have the opportunity to participate in our Friday fun days in the lead up to the Christmas holidays. These involve a chance to choose from a range of trips. In the past this has included FunParx, a private cinema screening, bowling and crazy golf amongst others.

Many other opportunities for excursions and outdoor learning will be advertised through The Snippets- there will be a premiership football experience, skiing lessons and iceskating! There are even chances to be involved during school holiday periods.

We are finalising plans to provide our S1s with the opportunity to gain a lifesaving qualification. This will be done with the support of Ms Lovell in the PE department.

Mrs Bannon

Year Group Update - S2 & 3

S2 Update

Year Head - Laura Bulloch & Carol Livingston

Pupil Support Leader - Stuart Murphy

It has been lovely to welcome S2 back after the holiday. Over the coming months, there will be a range of activities and opportunities for them. The school ofs programme continues and runs on a Monday and Wednesday afternoon; offering a range of options including football, basketball, cookery, music, drama, archaeology, art, ceramics, film making, cycling, psychology, British Sign Language and golf. This session, S2 will be offered the opportunity to take part in an overnight camping trip over the course of the year during camping season. This aims to increase skills and confidence in the great outdoors. There is also the opportunity to get involved in the pupil parliament and we will be organising a fun day for S2. As the year progresses, we will begin preparing young people for their course choices and they will learn more about the different pathways available to them. There are opportunities for S2 to get involved in extra-curricular activities, including sports and expressive arts. There is lots to look forward to and we are excited about the year ahead - Mrs Bulloch

S3 Update

Year Head - Adam McFarlane

Pupil Support Leader - Allan Doak

It has been lovely to welcome S3 pupils back to school. A key priority this year will be supporting the transition from S3 into S4 and ensuring that every young person is well prepared for the next stage of their learning and qualifications.

Pupils will be encouraged to think carefully about their learner journey, future course choices and the qualifications and pathways that will help them achieve their goals. Individual discussions will take place with S3 pupils to support this planning, while regular learner conversations in class will identify clear, achievable actions to help them make progress. Parents and carers will also play an important role in supporting young people to work towards their targets.

Where appropriate, pupils will have opportunities to begin working towards qualifications in S3. We will seek to expand this across a wider range of subjects while ensuring that all pupils experience important elements of the courses they are likely to undertake in S4. Workshops, guest speakers and insights from pupils who have previously made this transition will also help prepare them for the expectations ahead.

Pupil voice will be central to our work, helping us understand what young people feel they need to succeed in S3 and beyond. We will also continue to celebrate the achievements and contributions of S3 pupils, both in and beyond the classroom, using Class Charts and other pupil-led approaches to recognise their hard work.

There will also be opportunities to take part in Fun Fridays and a wide range of extracurricular activities throughout the year. We are looking forward to an exciting and successful year for S3.

Mr McFarlane

Year Group Update - S4

S4 Update

Year Head - Greg McDowall & Linda Bradley

Pupil Support Leader - Angela McGhee

Learning and assessment will be a major focus for S4 as pupils work towards their National Qualifications. Over the past two years, we have seen S4 outcomes improve significantly, and I am determined that we continue to build on this progress together.

I have been particularly impressed by this year group's high standards of behaviour, motivation and commitment. It was lovely to speak to them at our first S4 assembly in June and share some of the outcomes we hope to achieve together. They have made a very positive start, and I am excited to see what they can accomplish over the coming year.

Regular learner conversations, assessment information and tracking will help pupils understand their progress and identify clear next steps. Prelim examinations will begin in December, and preparation will be an important focus over the coming months. Study support is already beginning in some departments, with the full programme launching in October alongside our Navigator programme. This will provide structured support, revision guidance and practical strategies to help pupils manage their learning and prepare effectively for assessments.

Parents and carers also have an important role in encouraging good attendance, regular study and positive routines at home. We will host an online session offering practical advice on how you can support your child throughout the Senior Phase. Further details about the session will be shared soon.

It is important that young people feel included in shaping the approaches we take to support them. Pupils will therefore be encouraged to join our S4 Leadership Group, where they can share their views, represent their year group and help influence their S4 experience.

Throughout the year, pupils will begin planning for S5 and beyond. We pride ourselves on providing pathways that meet the needs, interests and aspirations of every young person. We have been delighted by the significant rise in the number of pupils choosing to remain at school from S4 into S5, reflecting the growing range of opportunities available across our Senior Phase. I am confident that this year group will be no different.

S4 pupils will also participate in a range of personal development and contextual safeguarding activities. These will include work on healthy relationships, positive masculinity, community safety and the choices young people may encounter beyond school. Pupils will have opportunities to develop valuable life skills through Emergency First Aid at Work, while some will train as Mentors in Violence Prevention and help support younger pupils.

This will undoubtedly be a busy and important year, but it will also provide many opportunities for pupils to learn, develop and achieve. Mrs McGhee, Mrs Bradley and I are very much looking forward to working with your children and supporting them throughout the year. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, queries or concerns.

Year Group Update - S5

S5 Update

Year Head - Luke McAllister

Pupil Support Leader - Claire Thomson

S5 – The Year Ahead

It is great to welcome our S5 young people back for what promises to be a busy and exciting year.

Learning & Qualifications

S5 is an important year academically, with young people studying towards a mixture of National 5 and Higher qualifications.

We know that the step up in pace and expectations can sometimes feel challenging, particularly for those taking Highers for the first time. Our teaching staff will be there to support young people every step of the way, helping them to stay on track, develop good study habits and prepare confidently for assessments and final examinations.

Our message from the outset is simple: work consistently, make the most of the support available and ask for help when you need it.

Navigator & Study Lates

We are delighted to be running our Navigator programme again this year, providing additional support to help young people navigate the demands of S5 and achieve their potential.

As part of Navigator, our popular Study Lates will return. These give young people the opportunity to stay after school and study in a supportive environment, with teaching staff on hand to provide help and guidance.

And because studying requires energy, there will once again be juice and hot dogs on offer to keep everyone going!

More information about Navigator and dates for our Study Lates will be shared with young people and families as the year progresses.

Experiences Beyond the Classroom

While qualifications are a significant part of S5, we also want the year to provide young people with opportunities to enjoy new experiences and make memories together.

Last year, our S5 young people had the opportunity to choose from trips to London, Paris or Lagganlia Outdoor Centre. We will be looking to offer the same opportunities again this year and we know that, for many, these will be one of the highlights of S5.

More information about this year's trips will follow.

Looking Ahead

S5 is also an important time for young people to begin thinking about what comes next.

Throughout the year, we will encourage them to explore the different pathways available to them, whether that means returning for S6 or beginning to consider opportunities in college, university, apprenticeships, training or employment.

There is lots to look forward to over the coming months. With hard work, good attendance and a willingness to make the most of the opportunities and support available, we are confident our S5 young people can have a successful, enjoyable and memorable year. Mr McAllister

Year Group Update - S6

S6 Update

Year Head - Luke McAllister

Pupil Support Leader - Lauren Jeans

S6 – The Year Ahead

It is fantastic to welcome our S6 young people back for what will be their final year at Portobello High School.

There is a huge amount to look forward to this year – continuing their academic success, taking on leadership roles, preparing for life beyond school and, importantly, enjoying the opportunities that come with being part of S6.

Building on an Excellent S5

Our S6 had a fantastic year last year and we are particularly proud of their academic achievements in S5.

They demonstrated an excellent level of commitment to their studies and we are confident they will bring that same determination into S6 and once again excel in this regard.

As ever, our teaching staff will be there to support young people throughout the year as they work towards their qualifications and final examinations.

Our S6 Space

We are delighted to have further developed the S6 space within the school and it has been great to see the area already being enjoyed and well used.

We have also been really pleased with the way our S6 have taken ownership of the space and are looking after it. We hope it will continue to provide somewhere for young people to study, socialise and enjoy some independence during their final year at Portobello.

Leadership & Porty Action Groups

As the most senior group of young people in the school, S6 have an important role to play in shaping and contributing to our school community.

This year, our S6 Captains will lead our Porty Action Groups, providing opportunities for young people across S6 to get involved, take on responsibility and make a positive difference.

Our six Porty Action Groups will focus on:

Learning | Achievement | Wellbeing | Relationships | Inclusion | Community

Each group has a team of S6 young people who will work together to develop ideas and take action within their particular area.

We are delighted to see so many of our S6 already putting themselves forward to contribute and are excited to see what our Captains and Porty Action Groups achieve over the course of the year.

There is a huge amount ahead for our S6 – academically, socially, through leadership and in preparing for life beyond school. We are incredibly excited about the year ahead and look forward to supporting them to make the very most of their final year at Portobello.



Year Group Update - S6

continued....

Preparing for Life Beyond Portobello

A huge focus of S6 will be helping every young person to explore and prepare for their next steps beyond school, whether that is employment, an apprenticeship, college or university. Our S6 PSE curriculum has been designed around supporting positive destinations, with a fantastic programme of sessions, workshops and events planned throughout the year.

In the coming weeks and months, young people will have opportunities to take part in:

- No Wrong Path Careers Panel – hearing from professionals about the different routes they have taken into their careers.
- Alternative Routes to University – exploring routes from college into university and highlighting that UCAS is not the only pathway to a degree.
- Apprenticeship Panels – hearing directly from Modern and Graduate Apprentices working across a range of sectors.
- CV, Application & Interview Skills – practical advice from experienced recruitment professionals.
- UCAS & Personal Statement Support – including input from universities and individual support from UCAS mentors.
- UCAS Discovery – exploring university, college, apprenticeship and career options.
- Your Professional Brand – considering how young people present themselves to future employers and education providers.
- Trade Apprenticeship Speed Networking – meeting professionals from a wide variety of trades and learning about different careers and entry routes.
- ASN Positive Transitions – connecting young people with services and organisations that can support their transition beyond school.
- FE/HE Evening – providing young people and families with further information about college and university pathways.
- Employer Workshops – developing an understanding of recruitment, assessment and selection processes.
- Generative AI – exploring this rapidly developing technology and how it may feature in future study and employment.

One of the most important messages we want our young people to hear is that there is no single 'right' route after school. University will be right for some; others will move into college, apprenticeships, training or directly into employment.

Our aim is that every young person leaves Portobello with a destination that is positive, ambitious and right for them.

S6 Dalguise Residential

Another exciting part of the year ahead will be our upcoming S6 residential trip to Dalguise.

The residential is a great opportunity for the year group to spend time together away from school, take part in a range of activities and enjoy a shared experience during their final year at Portobello. For many, it will be one of the highlights of S6 and a great chance to strengthen friendships, build confidence and make some lasting memories together.

We are really looking forward to the trip and will share further information with young people and families as it approaches.

Making Memories Along the Way!

While S6 is an important academic year with some big decisions to make, we also want it to be a year our young people really enjoy and remember.

Our S6 Social Committee is already underway and discussions have begun about the S6 Prom. There will be plenty to look forward to before then, with ideas currently including a Movie Night,

Halloween Dance and Winter Ball.

First up will be the Halloween Dance – and yes, dressing up will be mandatory!!!

There will be lots of opportunities throughout the year for S6 to come together, socialise and make some great memories before their time at Portobello comes to an end.

Does your young person have
an additional support need?

Would you like to know more
about support to transition
into university, work, college
or other support services?

If so please attend our



ASN Post-school Transition Information Evening

For families of S3-S6 pupils

Wednesday 30th September
Portobello High School
Main Hall

5-7pm

Book your free ticket here



**PORTOBELLO
HIGH SCHOOL**

DYW

EDINBURGH, MIDLOTHIAN
& EAST LOTHIAN
Developing the
Young Workforce

Pupil Leadership

Portobello High School – Introducing Our New S6 Leadership Model

Portobello High School is excited to introduce a refreshed and collaborative approach to student leadership for the 2026–2027 session. This new model is built around Portobello Action Groups — senior pupils who will be trained to lead improvements across our school community.

This involves:

- Collaborative groups based on school themes: Community, Learning, Achievement, Wellbeing, Relationships and Inclusion.
- Training: All Captains will receive training in teamwork, communication, and project leadership to help them deliver real change.
- Student-Led Improvement: Action Groups will design and lead initiatives that strengthen learning, wellbeing, inclusion, community engagement, and achievement.

We look forward to launching these groups in the coming weeks.

Porty Action Groups: Empowering all in our community

 Inclusion	 Our Relationships	 Our Learning and Teaching	 Our School & Community	 Our Health & Wellbeing	 Our Successes & Achievements
• Ensuring Equal Access • Valuing Differences • Inclusion Across School Life	• Relationships Amongst Pupils • Positive Interactions • Equity & Respect	• How We Learn • Quality of Resources • Range of Activities	• Facilities & Resources • Partnerships with Community	• Healthy Choices • Mental & Emotional Wellbeing	• Developing Skills • Recognising Achievement • Future jobs / world
 • Collaborating with Other Schools & Staff • Leading Improvement Initiatives & Policies • Training for Pupils & Staff • Lesson Observations					

Pupil Leadership in Construction

Our young people have been developing valuable practical skills through a range of construction projects, including building log stores, bike sheds and other large items. It is fantastic to see the quality of their work and, even better, to see what they have created being put to good use across the school. These projects give pupils a real sense of achievement while allowing them to make a lasting contribution to our school community.



Adult Learning

Adult Education Programme *Courses available to book now!*

The Adult Education Programme has a wide range of courses for **students aged 16+**.

- Build confidence in **speaking languages** before sitting exams
- Build your **portfolio** with our **art courses**
- Learn a new skill for **Duke of Edinburgh**

Browse our **evening** & **weekend** courses outwith school hours, in **schools around Edinburgh**.

Our website has all the information you need!



adulthoodeducationedinburgh.spydus.co.uk



0131 556 7978



adult.education@edinburgh.gov.uk

• EDINBURGH •
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

Key dates 2026/27

Event	Day/Date
Parent Forum	Tue 29 th Sep
Senior Awards Ceremony	Thu 8 th October
All Finish - Non-uniform day	Fri 9 th October
Pupils resume	Tue 20 th October
Senior Phase Reports issued	Wed 28 th October
S4-6 Prelim Navigator programme launch (exam support for senior pupils)	Tue 3 rd Nov
S4 Parents Evening	Tue 3 rd November
Cabaret Concert/Art Exhibition	Thu 5 th November
S1-3 Report issued	Tue 24 th November
Parent Forum	Wed 25 th Nov
S1 Parents Evening	Thu 26 th November
S4 Prelims	1st-16 th Dec
S5/6 Parents Evening	Thu 10 th December
All Finish - Non-uniform day	Friday 18 th Dec
Pupils resume	Wed 6 th Jan
S5/6 Prelims	7 th -20 th Jan
Senior Phase Report 2(S4)	Wed 13 th Jan
Parent Forum	Mon 25 th Jan

Event	Day/Date
Senior Phase report (S5/6 issued)	Fri 5 th Feb
S4-6 Exam Navigator programme launch	Mon 8 th Feb
All Finish - Non-uniform day	Fri 12 th Feb
All resume	Mon 22 nd Feb
S3 Parents Evening	Wed 3 rd March
S2 Parents Evening	Thu 11 th March
Senior Phase report issued	Fri 19 th March
All Finish	Thu 25 th March
All Resume	Tue 30 th March
All Finish	Fri 2 nd April
All Resume	Tue 20 th April
Qualifications Scotland Exams	tbc
Holiday	Mon 3 rd May
S1-3 report issued	7 th May
Holiday	Mon 17 th May
New Timetable (S1-3)	Mon 24 th May
New Timetable (S4/5)	Mon 31 st May
All Finish	Fri 25 th June