



email: admin@portobello.edin.sch.uk
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Portobello High School

Snippets



S6 Dalguise Residential 2026

Dyslexia Support Evening

 You are invited to:

DYSLEXIA SUPPORT EVE

For S1 dyslexic pupils and their parents



Tues 29th Sept, 7pm

Find out about how to support dyslexic learners and connect with others who share your experience.

Come along to hear from

- Senior pupils
- Parents with experience supporting dyslexic children
- Teaching staff



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 S4 will be receiving new ipads this week. In preparation they have all been asked to backup any apps that they use. All S4 have received an email regarding this.
- 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

September

Fri 11th - All Finish - Dress Down Day
Tue 15th - All return
Wed 16th - Community Event - Balisong - see inside
Tue 29th - Dyslexia Support Evening
Tue 29th - P7 Open Evening 5.30-7pm
Wed 30th - ASN Transition Information session

Key dates in the calendar on last page of this newsletter - this has now been amended as there was an error with the dates in the summer term

Developing the Young Workforce update

[Latest DYW update available here](#)



Community Event

SIGN UP
NOW

Community Performance of Balisong

To coincide with the arrival of the Knife Angel in Leith, Portobello High School is hosting a special community performance of Balisong by Strange Town Theatre.

Wednesday 16 September 2026

7.00–8.00pm

Portobello High School

The Knife Angel, created from 100,000 seized and surrendered blades, highlights the devastating impact of knife crime and encourages communities to unite against violence. It will be displayed at the Kirkgate on Leith Walk throughout September.

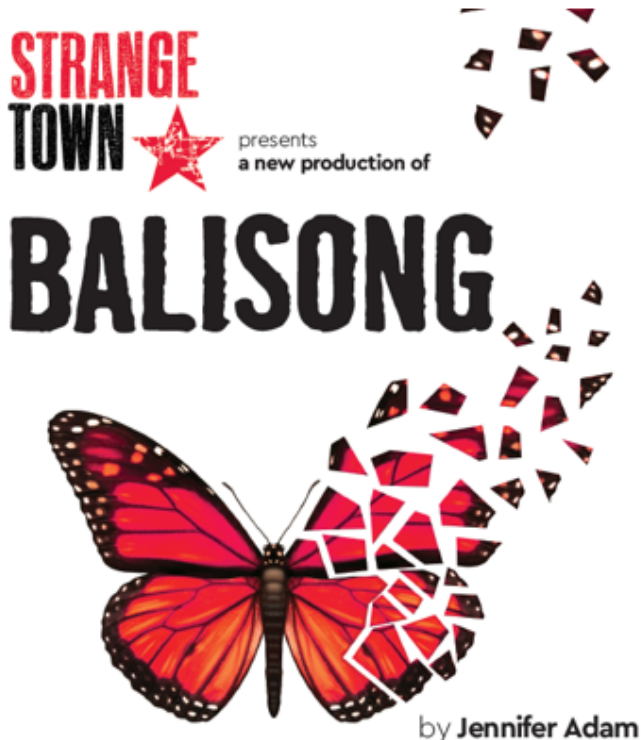
On the morning of 16 September, the school will also host a national practitioner event delivered by No Knives, Better Lives. Delegates from across Scotland and our S6 pupils will hear from people affected by knife crime and consider how communities can respond.

Balisong explores the choices young people face when they become aware that someone is carrying a knife. All our S4 and S5 pupils will also have the opportunity to see the play on 17 September.

We hope these events will raise awareness and encourage discussion about how we can work together to keep our young people and community safe.

Tea, coffee and juice will be available throughout the evening. Parents, carers and members of the wider community are warmly invited to attend.

SIGN UP HERE <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/N8k1kmw3AR>



“ And we watch American men play
with knives on the internet.
For entertainment...
Flicking, spinning, twisting... they say,
That, is a thing of beauty... ”

BALISONG

BALISONG is a story about Finlay Richards. A name that everyone at school knows. An average fifteen-year old boy who just wants to be seen. But you won't see Fin. You won't ever meet him.

Originally written for schools as part of the No Knives Better Lives Programme promoting positive and active citizenship among young people when they become aware of a pupil carrying a knife, and recommissioned twice before, **BALISONG** has toured schools in every local authority in Scotland.

'In the 13 years that I have delivered sessions to classes and groups at this school, that is the most engaged I have ever seen the pupils in any inputrelatable and seemed real.'

'It showed me how you can change and do something better - this play really made me think.'

'It was good to use theatre instead of someone talking, because it was interesting, relatable and seemed real.'

This new production of **BALISONG** is **FREE TO ALL SCHOOLS** and is brought to you by **STRANGE TOWN**, the same team who produced **STORM LANTERN**, **HER** and **AND...AND...AND**.

Dates available: September Tues 15th, Wed 16th, Thurs 17th, Fri 18th Mon 21st, Tues 22nd, Wed 23rd, Thurs 24th & Fri 25th

To book a performance or for further info contact Steve Small on steve@strangetown.org.uk

Supported by City of Edinburgh Council, Police Scotland, Forth Ports & Places for People, Scotland.

Opportunities

SIGN UP
NOW

Creativity Programme

CASHBACK HUBS EDINBURGH

Free creative programme for young people aged 14-19

You'll have the chance to learn photography, filmmaking, printmaking, creative writing & digital storytelling while discovering hidden stories, historic places, and the lives of people from the past.

Make new friends, learn new skills, build your confidence, go on field trips & much more!

Starting 16th September 2026

Wednesdays 10am-3pm

The Crannie Community Hub, 9 Cranston Street, Edinburgh EH8 8BE

Starting 17th September 2026

Thursdays 4-6pm

Southside Community Centre, 117 Nicolson Street, Edinburgh, EH8 9ER

CASH
BACK
TO THE FUTURE

IMPACT
ARTS



CASH
BACK
FOR COMMUNITIES

EDINBURGH
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

Walter Scott
Community Development

CREATION
AND
SCOTT
ALBA COMMUNITARIAL

Youth Employability Programme

IMPACT
ARTS

GREEN STARTS YOUTH EMPLOYABILITY PROGRAMME

A 12-WEEK PROGRAMME IN EDINBURGH FOR 16-24 YEAR OLDS NOT CURRENTLY IN WORK, EDUCATION OR TRAINING.

LEARN ABOUT CONSERVATION | MAKE NEW FRIENDS |
BE CREATIVE | GAIN A QUALIFICATION | DEVELOP NEW
SKILLS

The Crannie, 9 Cranston St,
Edinburgh & Holyrood Park

Mondays & Tuesdays | 10am-3pm
28 September - 15 December

COMPLETELY FREE
TRAINING ALLOWANCE & TRAVEL
EXPENSES PAID



SCAN FOR INFO



WALTER SCOTT

JOJO FOUNDATION

BAIRD

Edinburgh Airport

Post-School Transitions event

SIGN UP
NOW

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 METROPOLITAN
& EAST LOTHIAN
Developing the
Young Workforce

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), Riley Willis (S1), and Leyla Cameron (S1) also earned individual medals. Our pupils enjoyed further success in the team competition, with Lily, Drew, Julia and Leyla 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!

Physics Teachers Partnership with the University of Edinburgh School of Engineering Facilitated by DYW

Portobello High School Physics Department is delighted to continue its partnership with the School of Engineering at the University of Edinburgh, helping to pilot the use of the University's innovative Remote Labs in schools. [Remote Labs](#) | [School of Engineering](#) | [School of Engineering](#)

The Remote Labs programme allows students to access and control real scientific and engineering equipment at the University's Kings Buildings campus through a web browser. Using live cameras, sensors and data-collection systems, pupils can carry out genuine experiments remotely and observe results in real time. During the 2025/26 academic year, our Physics teachers worked closely with University staff to trial the technology in school settings. This successful collaboration will continue throughout 2026/27, with free access to a range of experiments supporting learning across the physics curriculum.

A particular highlight is the use of remote ripple tanks, which are currently being accessed exclusively by Portobello High School. These allow pupils to investigate wave behaviour in small groups, giving more students hands-on experience than is possible with the school's single traditional ripple tank. Teachers are also exploring how other Remote Lab experiments could support Advanced Higher Physics projects in the future.

This exciting partnership gives our pupils access to world-class facilities, enriches classroom learning and provides a valuable insight into university-level science and engineering.



Remote Labs in the Nucleus Building

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.

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

STARTS BACK
Friday 4th September

Fridays 6.30pm - 8.30pm
Powerleague Portobello

S1 - S6

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

matthew.mclachlan@ea.edin.sch.uk

FUNDING BY 2026 SUMMER OF SPORT

PORTOBELLO POLICE SCOTLAND LOTHIAN

Mountain Bike Training, Lochore

Following the huge success of the Edinburgh Schools mountain biking championships in June and seeing the level of enthusiasm of our team, we want to offer all those who took part (and any other keen mountain bikers) a regular opportunity to practise and improve their skills. We will be running MTB training sessions at Lochore Meadows, Fife every Tuesday for the rest of the academic year, taking 12 pupils each week, meaning your child will have the chance to take part once a term. We will have a rolling register and pupils will be notified via Teams and individual emails the week before they are due to come along.

The Tuesday sessions will be run by Linda McLean (MTB coach) and Ruth Moghadam (MTB trail leader) and will be tailored to an appropriate level of challenge for the pupils attending that week. We will leave school at 08:30 and return by 15:30. To cover transport, lunch and coaching, we are asking for £40 per session per pupil which will be available to pay via ParentPay. We do not want this to be a barrier, so please get in touch with the school office if this is not going to be possible.

If your child is interested in getting involved, please speak to Mrs Moghadam in the Science department (F26) and complete the Microsoft form using this QR code:

Portobello Mountain Bike Team
Tuesday Training :)

QR code linking to the Microsoft form.

Extra Curricular Sports Programme

Sport programme

Extra-Curricular Sport & Activity Programme 2026/27 Launched

The programme is now live and can be booked by scanning the **QR Code** below. Hard copies of the programme

are available from the PE Department. Pupils can book on to as many clubs as they want and are completely **free of charge**!

All clubs begin the week beginning **31st August**.



Portobello High School Extra-Curricular Programme 2026 - 2027



Day	Activity	Pupils	Time	Venue
Monday	Dance – Open Dance Practice	S1 - 6	1.10 – 1.40	Studio
	Pickleball	S1 – 6	1.10 – 1.40	Games Hall
	Lacrosse	S1 – 6	1.10 – 1.40	Pitch 2
	Dance – Lyrical Competition Class	S1 - 6	3.30 – 4.30	Studio
	Netball	S1-3	3.30 – 4.30	Games Hall
	Netball	S4-6	4.30 – 5.30	Games Hall
Tuesday	Club Swimming*	S1 – 6	07.00 – 08.00	Pool
	Running Club	S1 - 6	07.15 – 08.00	PE Dept
	Basketball	S1 Girls	3.30 – 4.30	Gym Hall
	Dance – Commercial Competition Class	S1 - 6	3.30 – 4.30	Studio
	Judo	S1 - 6	3.30 – 4.15	Gym Hall
	Swimming	S1-3	3.30 – 4.30	Pool
	Volleyball	S1 6	3.30 4.30	Games Hall
Wednesday	Well-Being Club	S1-6	07.15 – 08.00	PE Dept
	Girls Rugby	S1-6	3.30 – 4.30	Rugby Pitch
	Dance – Open Performance Class	S1 - 6	3.30 – 4.30	Studio
	Basketball	S1 Boys	3.30 – 4.30	Games Hall
	Cycle Club	S1 - 6	3.30 – 5.00	Meet in PE
	Basketball	S2-3 Girls	4.30 – 5.30	Games Hall
Thursday	Darts Club	S1 – 6	1.10 – 1.40	G16
	Badminton	S1-6	1.10 – 1.40	Games Hall
	Girls Football	S1 – 3	3.30 – 4.30	3G Pitch
	Spin Cycling	S1-6	3.30 – 4.15	Studio
	Badminton	S1 – 6	3.30 – 4.30	Games Hall
	Karate	S1 - 6	3.30 – 4.30	Gym Hall
Friday	Club Swimming*	S1-6	07.00 – 08.00	Pool
	Basketball	S4-6 Girls	12.30 – 1.30	Games Hall
	Basketball	S2 -3 Boys	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

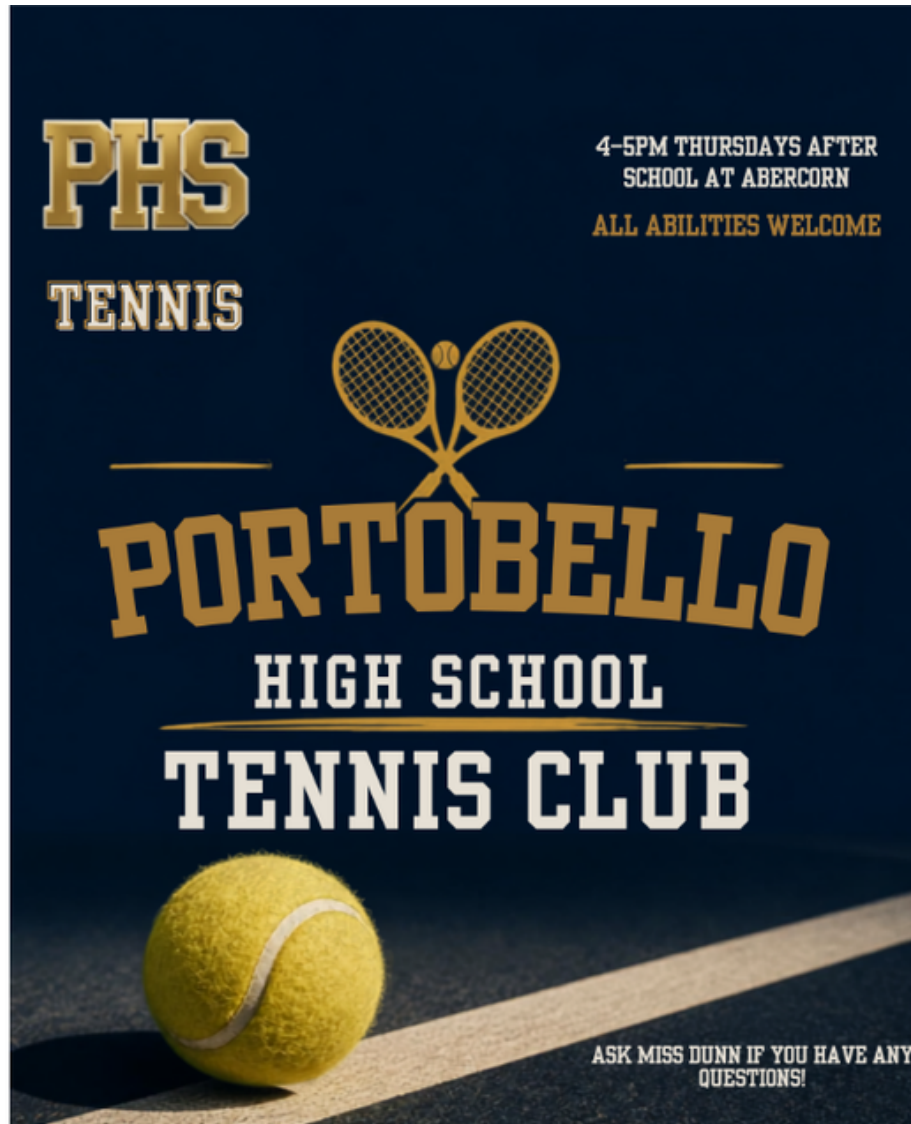


Scan QR Code to Sign Up

Extra Curricular Sports Programme

Tennis Programme

Our new Tennis programme starts this Thursday at Abercorn Tennis Club. Come along to the tennis club for free and enjoy meeting new people and learning a new sport. This is a social session and all abilities are welcome. Thanks to Abercorn tennis club for supporting this programme



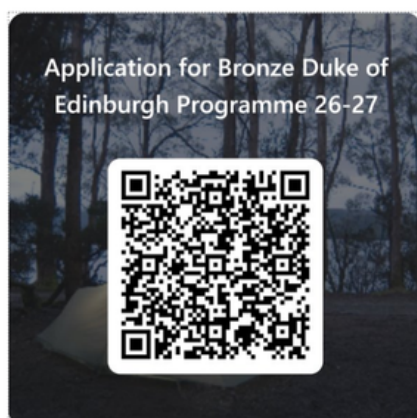
Portobello High School Tennis Club is a growing community of young players developing their skills, confidence and teamwork through tennis. We are seeking support from local businesses to help fund coaching, court hire, transport and team kit. Companies can donate £100-£200 to have their logo displayed on our club kit, demonstrating their support for young people and accessible local sport. If you would like to sponsor the club, please contact Rachael Dunn at Rachael.2.dunn@portobello.edin.sch.uk.

Extra Curricular Clubs and Activities

Extra Curricular Clubs

Day	Activity	Pupils	Time	Venue	Staff Member
Monday	Card Games Club	S1-6	13:05 - 13:40	F21	Mrs Malley
	Senior & Staff Choir	S4-6	13:05 - 13:40	Small Hall	Mr Cuthbertson
	Eco Club (One Planet Party)	S1-6	13:05-13:40	G19	Mrs McDonald
	Bronze Duke of Edinburgh	S3	15:30-16:30 every second week		Miss Dunn
	Silver Duke of Edinburgh	S4/5	15:30-16:30 every second week	G13/G19	Mrs McDonald
Tuesday	Comic Book Club	S1-6	13:05 - 13:40	G38	Mr Lecomte
	String Orchestra	S1-S6	13:05 - 13:40	Dance Studio	Mr Horvath
	Portonova Folk Band	S1-6	15:30-16:30	Small Hall	Mr Horvath
	Bronze Duke of Edinburgh	S3	15:30-16:30 every second week	G13/G19	Ms McCutcheon/Mr Murphy
	Warhammer Club	S1-3	15:30-16:30	G35	Bruce Alighieri
	School Show	S1-6	15:30-17:00	Main School Hall/ Dance Studio	Ms Beynon/Ms Grandison
Wednesday	Junior Choir	S1-3	13:05-13:40	LG84	Mr Cuthbertson
	Jazz Band	S1-6	13:05-13:40	Main School Hall	Mr Barker
	Bronze Duke of Edinburgh	S3	15:30-16:30 every second week		Mrs Munro/Mrs Taylor
	Silver Duke of Edinburgh	S4/5	15:30-16:30 every second week	G19	Mrs McDonald
	Craft Club	S1-S6	13:05-13:40	F06	Miss Faust
	Movie Club	S1-6	13:05-13:40	G48	Mrs Kustra
	Senior Wind Ensemble	S4-6	15:30-16:30	Main School Hall	Mr Barker/Mrs Barker
Thursday	Calligraphy Club	S1-6	13:05-13:40	F20	Ms Rezende
	Junior Wind Band	S1-3	13:05-13:40	Main School Hall	Mrs Barker
	Chess Club	S1-6	13:05-13:40	LG28	Mr Richardson
	Guitar Ensemble	S1-6	15:30-16:30	Main School Hall	Mr Knowles
	Darts Club	S1-6	15:30-16:30	G16	Mr Swan
Friday	Percussion Ensemble	S1-6	12:15-13:00	LG79	Ms Morrison

Duke of Edinburgh -see school website for more information



S3 Pupils should follow this QR code to apply for Bronze D of E this year.

You must have applied by Friday 11th September to ensure you have a space.

Update

Karate Update

8 of our Chris Ewing Karate Athletes of Porty High travelled to Sheffield at the weekend - 29th & 30th Aug to compete at the British Karate Federation International Open. This is the highest level of National Competition. It was a very successful weekend. Results are as follows: Layla Cameron S1 - just missed out on a podium position. Zachery Winter S1 - Bronze in individual & Gold in Teams. Riley Willis S1 - Silver in Teams. Lily Burton S2 - Bronze in Individual. Ben Walker S2 - sadly had to withdraw due to injury. Olivia Archibald S3 - Bronze in Individual & Gold in Teams. Drew Riddell S3 - Bronze in Individual. George Burnham S4 - Silver in Individual & Gold in Teams. A busy few months ahead for our team. Lots of hard work taking place at the dojo.

S1 School of Outdoor Learning

So far in Outdoor Learning we have been looking at the principles of Leave No Trace and how these can be enacted within our local environments. We have learned how to adequately plan and prepare for trips to maximise both fun and sustainability. We then thought about how we use natural materials for activities such as den building while preserving ecosystems especially dead wood! 🪵

Throughout all our adventures there has been excellent communication, teamwork and a growing appreciation for our wonderful natural world 🌳.

Mrs McDonald!



AH PE visit to Edinburgh University

The Advanced Higher PE class visited the Sport and Exercise Science labs at Edinburgh Napier University.

They were taken through tests to measure jump height, speed, agility, flexibility, reaction time and anaerobic power output.

The results from the testing will be used to help the pupils inform their Advanced Higher Project. Some of the pupils are thinking of studying Sports Science when they finish school, so this was a great experience for them to get a glimpse into what a Sports Scientist does.

All pupils were a credit to Portobello High School.



Book Festival Trip

S1 BOOK FESTIVAL TRIP

Our S1s headed to the Edinburgh International Book Festival on Friday, August 28th to hear Katherine Rundell discuss her 'Impossible Creatures' series.

At the festival we got to hear about some of Katherine Rundell's experiences in writing her books. She said that she gets her ideas from places she goes like the Amazon rainforest and adds in the food she has tried, like tarantulas.

At the end of the book festival, we got a free book and we got them signed. We got to have a little look around the bookshop and time to buy some books. Everyone that went was really happy to have been to the book festival!



PUPIL EXPERIENCE

"I really enjoyed meeting Katherine Rundell, partly because how friendly she was, as well as how fun it was to listen to all of her experiences."

Galiya Daniels Grouse

"It was really fun. I'm really glad I got a free book and I think Katherine Rundell is a great author."

Kaira Gautam

"My favourite part was the book shop because I got to look at lots of books I haven't read."

Isaac Wiseman



By S1 School of Journalism

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

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 & Tue 4 th May Pupils resume - 5 th May
S1-3 report issued	7 th May
Holiday	Mon 24 th May
New Timetable (S1-3)	Tue 25 th May
New Timetable (S4/5)	Mon 31 st May
All Finish	Tue 29 th June