23rd November 2026

Portobello High School Snippets

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Dates for the diary

November
23rd - Parent Forum 7pm
24th - S1 reports issued online
25th - S2/3 reports issued online
24th - Study Late session 4-7pm S4-6
26th - S1 Parents Evening
30th - S4 prelims begin

December
2nd - Study Late session 4-7pm S4-6

THE WEEK

1. Flu vaccines will take place on 23rd and 24th November. Most of these will be nasal sprays. If your young person needs support with this, please let us know.
2. New ipads have now been distributed to all young people. If you have any issues with your new device plese speak to Mr Hardwick
3. Check out the latest job/career/work experience opportunities using the link at the bottom of the page. Updated weekly.
4. S1-3 reports will be issued this week - please check your emails. S1 reports will be issued on Monday and S2/3 on Wednesday.
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.

Porty 150 Documentaries and highlights from the 150 lunch

It was lovely to welcome so many people to our Porty 150 documentary night. Our Film and Screen class brought the school's history to life through interviews with former pupils, re-enactments and animation. It was great to see people taking the time to browse the old photographs and school logbooks and share their own memories of Porty. Thanks to everyone who came along and helped make it such a lovely evening. If you missed the celebration lunch in August or would like to watch it again, you can watch the full Porty 150 celebration lunch video on YouTube.



Developing the Young Workforce update

Latest DYW update available here

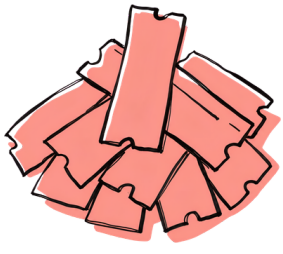
News

Porty's Warmer Winter



Raffle Prizes Needed

The Parent Council will be running an online Christmas Raffle again this year as a fundraiser for the school, and are looking for prizes. Do you work somewhere that could offer a prize or have a product, service or unwanted gift that you could donate? We usually have a variety of prizes of differing values
to try to appeal to as many people as possible. If you can help, please contact Portyhighparents@gmail.com and we can arrange to collect it. We also host in school raffles at events - eg school concerts - so need prizes throughout the year. Thanks.



Christmas Appeal



News

Family Engagement Meetings

The dates for our online family engagement meetings for families of young people with additional support needs are as follows:
Weds 2nd December 5.15-6.15
Thursday 18th March 5.15-6.15
Tuesday 8th June 5.15-6.15
We look forward to collaborating with families during these meetings to strengthen our inclusion work.

Cycle Parking

Our new covered cycle bays at the front of the school are now open, and we'd love to see more young people cycling to school. Please bring a lock and use it to secure your bike in the bays. If you need a lock, just speak to Alistair in the Bike Workshop.

Commonwealth Karate success

Congratulations to Julia Duff (S5), who represented Scotland at the Elite Commonwealth Karate Championships on 5–6 November. Julia won gold in her individual category, becoming Commonwealth Champion. At the Club Commonwealth Karate Championships on 7–8 November, Julia and Ben Walker (S2) both won gold in their individual categories, while George Burnham (S4) won bronze. Well done to all three!
Pictured: Julia Duff at the medal ceremony of the Elite Commonwealth Karate Championships



RAFFLE PRIZES

We're still looking for raffle prizes and would be grateful for any donations from families or local businesses. Every penny raised goes back into funding school projects for our young people. If you can donate a prize, please get in touch with the school office. Thank you for your support.



News

UKMT Senior Maths Challenge



Congratulations to everyone who took part in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge. Well done to Lina Yu, who achieved the highest score in her year group, and to Carlos Andre Castoldi, who achieved the highest score in the school. Carlos, Sam Telford and Sandy Wood all qualified for the next round on 18 November. Well done to all three on making it through!

Rowing Success - If you would like to get involved then please speak to one of the PE staff

Congratulations to Lily Henderson (S4), who competed at the Inverness Head on 7–8 November with St Andrews Boat Club. Lily and her crews finished first in the J15 double sculls (J15x2), second in the J15 coxed four (J15x4+) and fourth in the J16 double sculls (J16x2). Well done, Lily!

Porty 150 video

On Tuesday 11 August, former pupils, staff, families and friends came home to Portobello High School to celebrate 150 years of our school (1876–2026). I'm delighted to share Coming Home, the film of that day, which is now on YouTube.
It captures the archive exhibition, old friends finding each other again, memories of school life across the decades, the speeches and tributes, the MacIntyre Award, and our pupils' music and the school song. Thank you to everyone who helped make the day happen, and to all the former pupils and staff who shared their stories.
Please help us share it – it takes two minutes: Watch the film: youtu.be/nbH5JPtTpxM. It runs 1 hour 15 minutes, and the chapters under the video let you jump straight to the speeches, the music or the school song.
Share the link with former pupils, families and friends.
Enjoy the film!

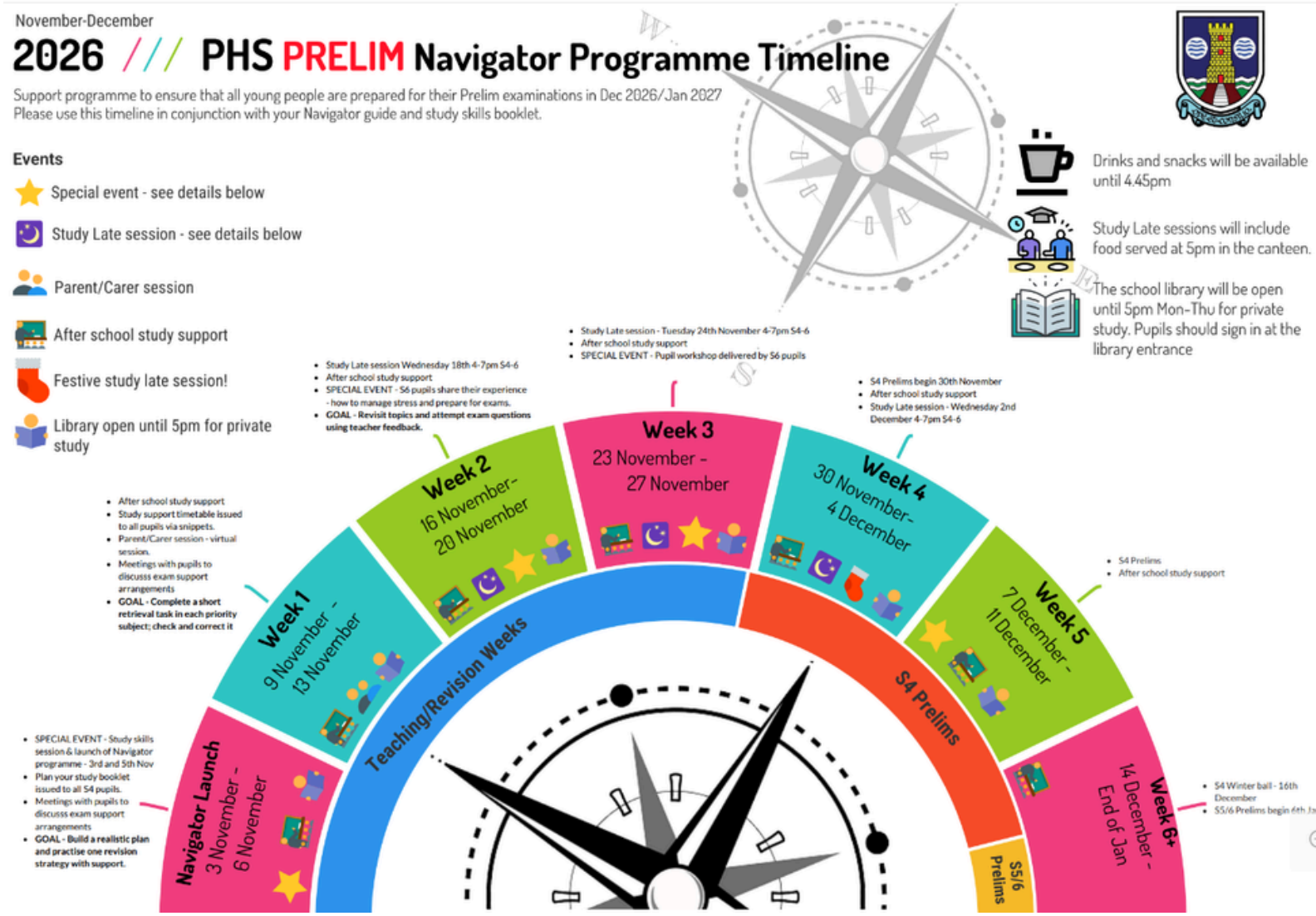


Porty 150: Coming Home – Portobello High School Celebrates 150 Years

Navigator Programme

Navigator schedule

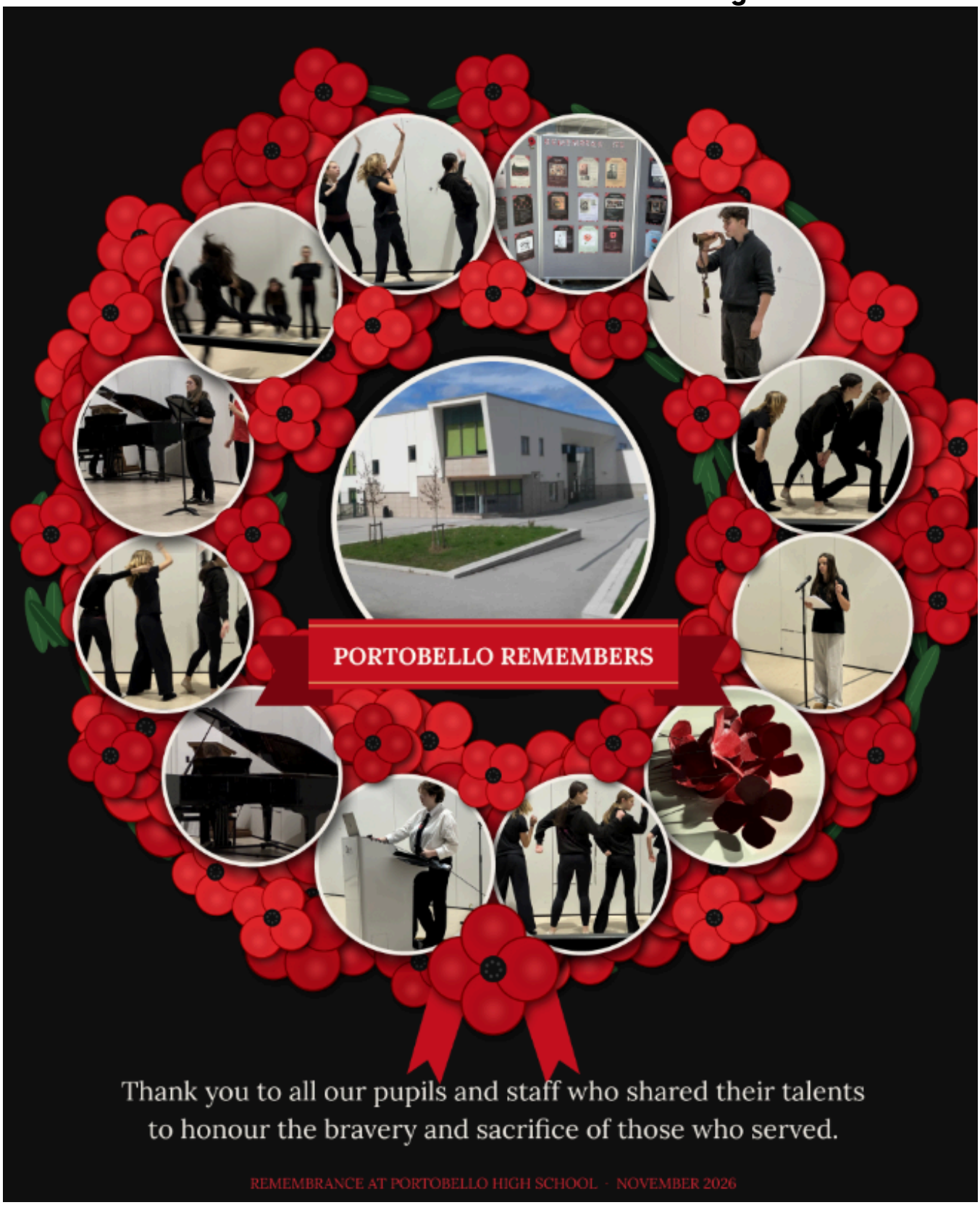
Navigator is our study support programme for all pupils in S4–S6. We know the run-up to prelims can feel stressful, so we offer after-school study sessions and Study Lates where pupils can revise, practise exam questions and get help from staff.
All senior pupils have received the study support schedule and our new study skills booklet. We'd encourage them to use the booklet to plan their revision and choose the sessions that would help them most.
All S4 pupils who require additional assessment arrangements have also met with our ASN Lead and received a letter confirming what will be in place for their prelims in each subject.



News

Remembrance assemblies

Two weeks ago, our Remembrance assemblies and Remembrance evening gave our school community time to reflect and remember those who lost their lives in conflict. Gregor (S3) led the speakers into the assemblies on the bagpipes.
A huge thank you to all the young people and staff who took part and helped behind the scenes, and to Mrs Sinclair for organising both the assemblies and the Remembrance evening.



News

Girls Basketball







It's been great to see girls' basketball grow at Porty over the past few months, with more girls taking to the court, enjoying the game and representing the school. A big thank you to Mrs Inkster and our new coach, Grant Gibson, for supporting the teams, and to senior pupils Alishba Naaz and Amani Raza for helping Grant with coaching. Our S1, U15 and Open Girls teams are competing in the Scottish Schools Basketball Cup. Well done to all the players for their hard work so far.

S1 Girls
Portobello HS 43 – Broughton HS 6
James Gillespie's HS 28 - Portobello HS 20

U15 Girls
James Gillespie's HS 33 - Portobello HS 31
Erskine Stewart Melville 27 – Portobello HS 105

Open Girls
Portobello HS 26 – Broughton HS 30
Erskine Stewart Melville 18 – Portobello HS 43
Portobello HS 16 – St Margaret's Academy 74
George Heriots School 28 – Portobello HS 49

Developing the Young Workforce

Trades Trainee/Apprenticeship Speed Networking Event Wed 11th November 2026



A huge thank you to all the employers who supported the Trades Traineeship & Apprenticeship Speed Networking Event at Portobello High School organised by DYW in partnership with CDT at Portobello HS!

Special thanks to:Marzena D'Arcy and David Cadger Dales Marine Services Ltd Lewis Miller | Compass Roofing | @Niall Petrie | The City of Edinburgh Council | Ali Adams| Don & Low Ltd | Edinburgh Leadcraft Ltd | Ben Letham | Saucer Solutions Ltd | SP Energy Networks | @Laura Miller Project Manager at | Mitie | @National Federation of Roofing Contractors @david wilson Advance Construction Scotland

It was a slightly bumpy start to the morning with a school evacuation interrupting our plans, but thanks to the flexibility and positivity of everyone involved, we quickly got things back on track! Around 40 young people took part in a speed networking format, spending 10 minutes with each employer to explore careers, apprenticeships and traineeships across a wide range of sectors. Like many young people, a lot of participants arrived convinced that joinery or electrical work were the only trades worth considering with the odd plumber thrown in – often from lack of exposure to other options.

The aim of this event was to challenge that perception and showcase the huge variety of career opportunities available across Scotland's skilled trades and infrastructure sectors. From safety rigging and overhead power networks, to painting and decorating, groundworks, roofing, roofing membranes, facilities maintenance, manufacturing and traditional leadcraft, young people discovered careers that surround them every day but are often overlooked.

The feedback was fantastic. Several pupils told the DYW team they were planning to research employers they had met and explore career pathways they had never previously considered. One even admitted they might now consider a trade other than joinery! Employers also praised the speed networking format, which ensured every young person engaged in meaningful conversations and had the opportunity to ask questions directly to industry professionals.

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 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 Porty)	S1-6	13:05-13:40	G19	Mrs Mcdonald
	Bronze Duke of Edinburgh	S3	15:30-16:30 every second week	Language corridor	Mrs Taylor, Mrs Munro and 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
	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	Maths	Mr Murphy
	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
	Manga Club	S1-6	13:05-13:40	G43	Ms Wards
	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

Key dates 2026/27

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

Event	Day/Date
Senior Phase report (S5/6 issued	Fri 5th Feb
S4-6 Exam Navigator programme launch	Mon 8th Feb
All Finish - Non-uniform day	Fri 12th Feb
All resume	Mon 22nd Feb
S3 Parents Evening	Wed 3rd March
S2 Parents Evening	Thu 11th March
Senior Phase report issued	Fri 19th March
All Finish	Thu 25th March
All Resume	Tue 30th March
All Finish	Fri 2nd April
All Resume	Tue 20th April
Qualifications Scotland Exams	tbc
Holiday	Mon 3rd & Tue 4th May Pupils resume - 5th May
S1-3 report issued	7th May
Holiday	Mon 24th May
New Timetable (S1-3)	Tue 25th May
New Timetable (S4/5)	Mon 31st May
All Finish	Tue 29th June