



VIEWFORTH HIGH SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

December 2022



Head Teacher's Welcome

Welcome to Viewforth High School's Winter Newsletter 2022. We have had a very busy year in Viewforth HS and I'm delighted to share a selection of our many successes and achievements as well as wider curricular activities that have taken place. I'm sure you'll agree that the following pages demonstrate the hard work and commitment of our staff and partners and I'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you to them. They have gone above and beyond to provide our young people with engaging learning experiences and wider achievement opportunities – thank you.

As ever, I am incredibly proud of our young people. Viewforth is a very caring community and our House Captains have been working hard to promote charitable donations as we move towards the Christmas holidays. On Wednesday 21st December we have our non-uniform 'Dress Up for Christmas' day where pupils can wear Christmas jumpers, Santa hats, tinsel etc etc for a small donation towards our chosen charity: Kirkcaldy Foodbank. We are also collecting donations of non-perishable food items which will be delivered to the local Foodbank on Wednesday. House points will be awarded for every item donated – we wait excitedly to hear which of the House groups will win this competition!



Head Teachers welcome continued

Senior Pupils

Our senior pupils have been preparing for their prelim exams which begin when we return to school in January. A reminder that you can find the timetable for these assessments along with the supported study timetable on our school website. I would encourage all pupils sitting these assessments in January to spend some time revising over the holiday period to ensure they are in a strong position to achieve success.



Parents/Carers

Viewforth is dependent upon the support of parents and carers in working with us to promote and maintain our high standards of behaviour, attendance, punctuality and school uniform; all of which help us to create a positive environment for learning and achievement. VHS is a school to be proud of and we want our public image to reflect the values staff and parents promote. Your ongoing support is very much needed and appreciated, thank you.

Many of our pupils achieve in lots of ways that are not connected to the school. If your child achieves something that we as a school can recognise and celebrate, please let us know.



Head Teachers welcome continued

This session we have welcomed the following staff:

Leanne Campbell	Transition Teacher
Claire Christie	Music
David Dow	Business Education
Rebecca Feeney	Modern Languages
Yvonne Gilfillan	YMCA Mentor
Kirstin Gourlay	Biology
Maggie Grant	Music
Scott Jamieson	PTC
Monica Korabiowska	Geography / Modern Studies
Michelle Lawrie	YMCA Mentor
Sarah Loudon	Technical
Katie MacMillan	Physical Education
Lisa Robertson	Pupil Support Assistant
Vivienne Smith	Biology
Kellie Wallace	Pupil Support Assistant
Wendy Wallace	Attendance Co-ordinator (maternity cover)
Angela Wilson	Pupil Support Assistant
Humera Zia	Modern Languages (return from maternity leave)



We also bid a fond farewell to:

Deborah Bridgehouse	Pupil Support Assistant
Rebecca Dillon	English
Jessie McNeil	Pupil Support Assistant
Gwen Paterson	Business Education
Joe Pitcaithly	Pupil Support Assistant
Ellenor Waddell	Music



At the beginning of next term we look forward to welcoming:

Jill MacKay	English
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I would like to wish all pupils, parents, carers, partners and staff a very Merry Christmas. Take care, stay safe and I look forward to what 2023 brings!

Lisa Moore
Head Teacher

Active Schools

Extra-Curricular

Over terms 1 and 2, 16 extra-curricular sport clubs have taken place, covering 9 different activities. There has been a fantastic uptake, with a total of 200 pupils attending at least one session between August – December.

As part of our extra-curricular programme, we have been delighted to work with Fife Steel Basketball Club, who have been leading our lunchtime and after-school Basketball sessions, supporting our school Basketball teams at competitive matches, and also our School of Basketball programme. Pupils have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in sessions led by the club's qualified coaches, and we look forward to continuing to work with the club after Christmas.

Extra Curricular Sport Activities

2022-23



Activity	Location	Time	Coach
Badminton	Games Hall	1.10pm-1.40pm	
S1-3	Tuesday	Spores Leaders	
Games Hall	3.15pm-4.15pm		
S1-6	Thursday	Active Schools	
Basketball	Games Hall	3.15pm-4.15pm	
S2-3	Tuesday	Fife Steel Basketball Club	
Games Hall	1.10pm-1.40pm		
S2-3	Wednesday	Mr Easton	
S1	Thursday	Fife Steel Basketball Club	
Couch to 5K	Rugby Field	3.15pm-4.15pm	
S1-6	Wednesday	Lt Adams	
Dance	Gym Hall	1.10pm-1.40pm	
S1-3	Tuesday	Mrs Bessley	
Fitness	Fitness Suite	1.10pm-1.40pm	
S1-3	Thursday	Mr Brown	
Fitness Suite	3.15pm-4.15pm		
S1-3	Tuesday	Active Schools	
S1-6	Thursday	Active Schools	
Girls Fitness	Fitness Suite	1.10pm-1.40pm	
S1-3	Tuesday	Mr Brown	
Football	Astro	3.15pm-4.15pm	
S3	Monday	Sports Leaders	
S1-2	Tuesday	Mr Learmonth	
S4	Wednesday	Mr Wilson	
Netball	Games Hall	3.15pm-4.15pm	
S1-3	Monday	Young Ambassadors	
Table Tennis	Games Hall	1.10pm-1.40pm	
S1-3	Friday	Sports Leaders	

www.activeschools.fife.org.uk | FifeActiveSch | FifeActiveSchools | Fife Active Schools | Fife Active Schools



Regional Young Ambassador Conference

In September, Sandy Coutts and Rebecca Renwick attended the sportscotland regional Young Ambassador Conference, held at the Stirling Court Hotel. Sandy and Rebecca attended on behalf of the Young Ambassadors at Viewforth and had a fantastic day meeting other young people from schools across Central Scotland.

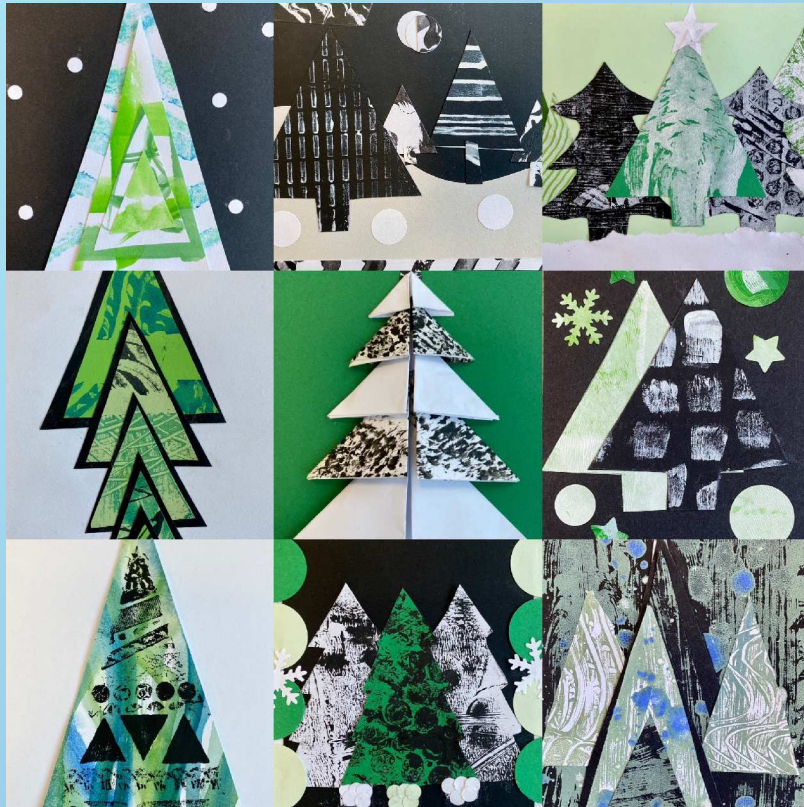
The conference was hosted by former athlete and broadcaster Rhona McLeod, who spoke to the young people on the role sport can play in developing leadership skills, as well as the importance of inclusion and the impact this can have. Leanne Crichton, a Scottish Internationalist in Football, also spoke about her journey to professional sport and helped prepare the young people to act as role models in their schools.

Young Ambassadors took part in a variety of workshops on the day to equip them with the skills and knowledge to support them in their role.

Art

Christmas Card Competition

S1/2 have been busy this term taking part in the annual Christmas card competition. This year the theme was Christmas Tree and pupils have been experimenting with mark-making, mono-printing, collagraphy and collage to create their mixed media entries. This years winners were S1, Kaya Loudon, Adam Kasprzyk, Rubi Grace Fraser, Raya Vasileva and S2 Courtney Childs, Sophia Kay, Zoe Crombie, Andrew Mackay and Millie Murdoch.



Congratulations everyone. The hundreds of entries are on display around the school.

Art

S3 Pupils

A selection of S3 pupils had the opportunity to take part in a creative workshop with Scottish artist Leon Anderson. They enjoyed a morning of drawing and painting portraits and learning about Leon's creative process and business model as a working artist in Scotland.



S6 pupils

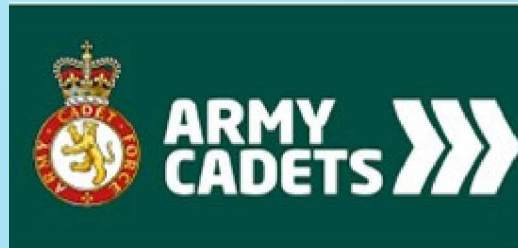
Five of our S6 pupils have been attending a 10-week life drawing class at DJCAD as part of the widening access programme. These pupils have had the opportunity to work in the art college studio's, gaining a flavour of what art college life is like while also developing new skills and producing artwork that will support their art college application.

Business Education

S3 Business Administration classes all participated in a competition to design the promotional materials for the school Christmas show - A Viewforth Christmas Carol. There were some fantastic designs from our talented pupils, but it was Joel Gálvez-Brown who created the winning design. Well done to all the pupils who took part!



Cadets



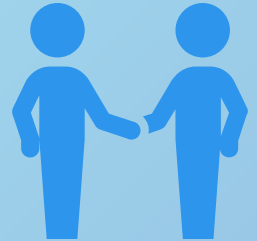
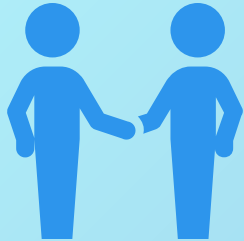
In September, 25 cadets from S2 - S5 attended weekend camps in Glenrothes. This was a first for many cadets. The focus for our senior cadets was leadership and teambuilding. All proudly represented the school, learned new skills and made new friends.

Our S3 Cadets have now completed their Recruit Signals Course and are working towards achieving their Uniformed and Emergency Services National 4 along with their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award. Our S4 Cadets are working towards their bronze and silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards alongside their Level 1 in Sign Language, while our Seniors are working towards their silver and gold Duke of Edinburgh awards.

During the October break, 4 of our cadets (LCpl Dullely, LCpl Mackie, L/Cpl Foley and LCpl Nenova) went overseas to take part in a tour of the WW1 Battlefields. All thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity and what they saw and learned will leave a lasting impression on them. On her return, Cpl Nenova headed towards Inverness where she played with the Pipes and Drums band in a week-long 'Beat and Retreat' event.

We also run a '5K' after-school club on a Wednesday, where a number of our pupils (cadets and non-cadets) are aiming towards running a 5k. Times and distance covered are improving and our pupils are enjoying the challenge.

Career Ready



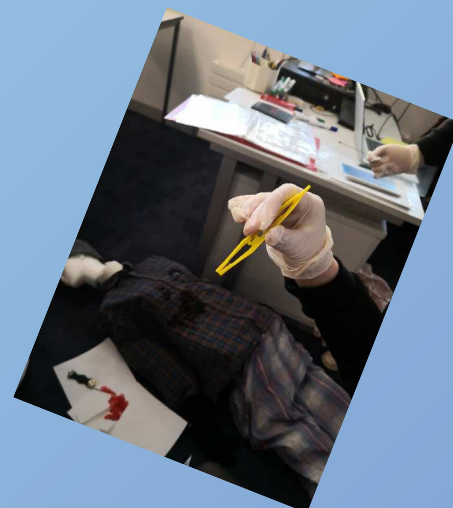
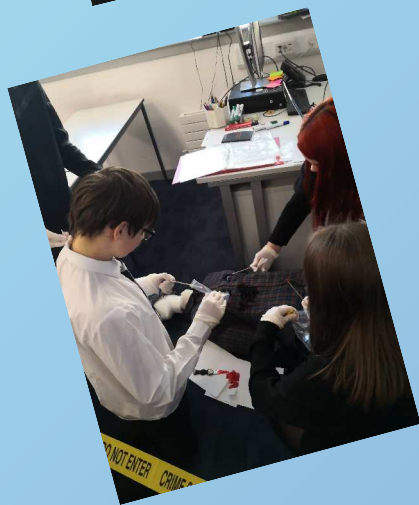
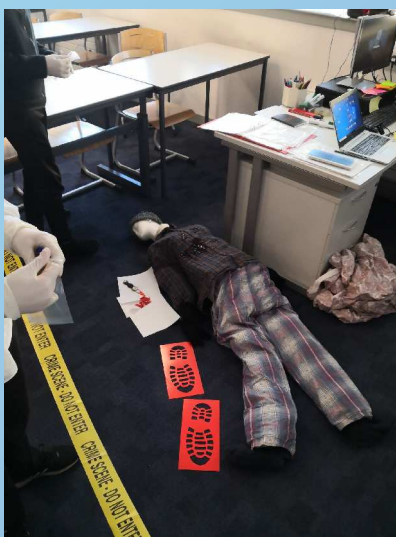
Our new 2022 cohort has been selected for career ready. The two-year programme empowers young people in S5/S6 to kick-start their chosen career through a series of authentic workplace experiences and a network of support. As part of the programme, they have several masterclasses to attend, a mentor from the world of work as well as a 4-week work placement. We attended the 2022 launch event at the Carnegie Conference Centre in Dunfermline where students met their mentors for the first time. It was fantastic to attend the event with all 18 high schools in Fife present. The students were a credit to themselves and the school. Well done to Alix Walton, Finlay More, Maddison Hildersley, Megan Stewart Andi Dunsmuir and Eva Wotherspoon.



Criminology



Our S3 Criminology classes were involved in a hands on Crime Scene Investigation task recently. There had been a murder in B113! Pupils had to apply their knowledge about the work of a CSI to preserve the crime scene, record the scene by being a crime photographer, gather evidence such as footprints, fingerprints, hair and blood samples. Finally, they had to then try and solve the murder by using extra evidence from the crime lab to eliminate a number of suspects. Fortunately, our lead detectives and their teams were able to successfully solve who the perpetrator was and apprehended them. Apologies to any of the other pupils/staff who were disturbed by the body in the room! The cleaning team have been in and removed all traces and normal lessons can resume!



Department of Additional Support

The Department of Additional Support have been working on a huge project over the past two terms in Drama. They have created their own idea for a short film about what it means to be a good friend. They have created the storyline, agreed on locations around the school where to film each scene and have taken on roles both in front and behind the camera. Everyone has had an important role in creating this short film. Pupils have particularly enjoyed using the camera! Now the footage is off to be edited together. We are all looking forward to see it in the New Year.



Developing The Young Workforce

We are working hard organising events and activities to help our young people explore the world of work and discover rewarding future careers, apprenticeships and study opportunities.

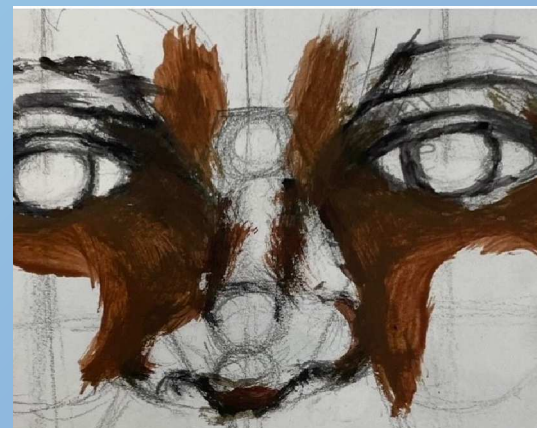
- All DYW opportunities and activities are posted on our new padlet.
- Scan here to see all current opportunities.
- Don't miss out on an opportunity which could help kickstart you or your child's career.



There has been a huge number of DYW (Developing the Young Workforce) activities recently across the school. This culminated in a career focused 2 weeks in November where nearly all departments partnered with local and national employers such as Babcock, Kingdom FM, the RAF and CR Smith to ensure that all departments offered at least one event highlighting opportunities in a relevant field. Activities were aimed at general sector and careers awareness for S1 – S3 and more targeted activities for senior pupils. Here is a small insight into some of the events which were offered during our career's fortnight.

Art – Leon Anderson is a Queensferry based artist who specialises in portrait and landscaping pieces. He ran a workshop for a group of S3 students who have recently started a block on portrait work. He demonstrated the techniques used in creating a piece of artwork. Our young people were given the opportunity to ask questions and were supported to create their own piece of work during the workshop.

Drama - SAS Rogue Hero's star, Alex Mason, was welcomed into our drama studio for an industry talk and a Question & Answer session. Alex spoke to our young people about his career journey in the acting world. Alex also delivered workshops on characterisation techniques, steps to approaching a role, audition techniques, top tips for learning lines, improving performance on stage and for camera work.

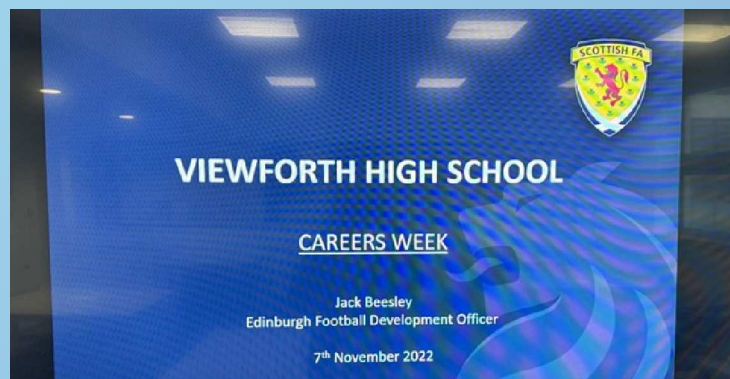


Developing The Young Workforce

Other DYW projects

PE – An SFA Football Development Officer visited Viewforth High School to discuss his career in sport. Jack Beesley spoke to the Higher PE students about university life in Edinburgh, building relationships through sports teams and creating life-long friends, Coach Education and the different coaching badges that you can gain paid work from. Jack also spoke about volunteering work in Rwanda through the SFA and discussed various opportunities through sports, not just football Science - Three classes are participating in a pathway of activities to give insight into careers in Science. In November graduates and apprentices who have recently started with Babcock visited and gave insight to different career opportunities at Babcock. The same classes will have follow-up STEM activities culminating in a site visit to the Babcock site in Rosyth. This growing relationship with one of the region's leading employers will increase students' awareness of high-quality careers in the field of science.

Music - Vanessa Motion, a professional DJ from local radio station "Kingdom FM" and resident DJ at Society in Kirkcaldy, spent time with our S3 and Senior Music Technology classes to provide an insight to her career and the art of being a radio DJ. Pupils had the opportunity to try out their skills on the decks and discovered it wasn't as easy as it looks or sounds.



Developing The Young Workforce

Civils Project – 3 senior students participated in a building work experience with Raeburn training. This involved the pupils participating in the building of a bridge which involved measuring, setting out, laying concrete foundations, working with drawings, assessing risks, health and safety training and constructing an end product. Student also took their CSCS tests to obtain their green card. The feedback from the trainers involved were that the participants took to opportunity extremely well and those involved successfully applied themselves to the task of building a bridge as they would in a work environment.

Handpicked CR Smith – All S5 students have been participating in a series of employability workshops learning about employer expectations and job application skills to help build confidence and maximise success in the job market. The sessions have been delivered by local employers from CR Smith, Haines Watts, Fife Council Employability & Fife Council Childcare Services. Kirsty Martin from Fife Council Employability says – “it is very important for student to have access to the world of employability while still at school and this program and the engagement of students is an important first step in their employability journey”

If you wish to find out about these or any other DYW related opportunity please contact our DYW coordinators Joanne Stewart or Carrie Beesley



Drama



S3 Sky Skills

At the start of this term, a group of our S3 Drama students went to the Sky Up Academy in Livingston to create, film and edit their own trailer for a fantasy film. Pupils were split into two groups and were tasked with coming up with an idea for a film. Both groups decided on a Halloween inspired trailer, seeing as it was near this holiday. After deciding on a storyline, students used the latest in filming and editing technology to create their final piece, including green screen, a touchscreen editing board and camera. Everyone took on a specific role that allowed them to work effectively as a team towards achieving the final product. While their trailers were being pieced together, we were given a tour of the Sky workplace. Pupils were in awe at the facilities on site, with many stating that they wanted to work there when they were old enough to apply. This was an amazing experience enjoyed by all. Our young people were particularly delighted to receive a copy of all their hard work at the end of the workshop.



Drama

We have had a very busy term with trips, visits and a Winter show. Here are some of our highlights. Be sure to follow us on twitter @Dramadept_vhs to stay up to date on all our news.

Q&A Session

On Tuesday 8th November, some of our students were able to take part in a Q&A session with professional actor Alex Mason, who is currently starring in BBC SAS Rogue Heros. We learned about Mason's unconventional route to becoming a professional actor and were able to ask his advice on auditions and what we would need to succeed in the Tv/film industry. Pupils really enjoyed the session and asked a lot of interesting questions. They were over the moon to receive an autograph and selfie with Mason at the end of the session. We are very grateful that Mason was able to take the time to speak to our students and inspire them with his first hand account of his experience within the performance industry.



Drama

On the last week of Term 1, some of our Higher and N4 students went to go and see "James IV: Queen of the Fight" at the Festival theatre in Edinburgh as part of their course. It was a fantastic performance that our students could not stop talking about for the rest of the week! The show itself was a brilliant example of how versatile actors needed to be with fight scenes, on stage costume changes, singing folk songs, as well as speaking multiple languages (English, French, Spanish, Scots and Gaelic). It was our first theatre visit in two years due to the pandemic and what a show to welcome us back into the theatre!



First Aid

Level 6 Emergency First Aid Qualification

The school works in partnership with F.A.S.T – First Aid Training School. F.A.S.T delivered the Level 6 Emergency First Aid at Work qualification to our S4/5/6 pupils.

A total of 133 pupils took part across a week in October and successfully gained their qualification in this course! This is an amazing result for the school and the pupils are quite rightly very proud of their achievements.



S1/S2 Football



This year has seen great participation and enthusiasm from our S1/2 footballers. There has been high numbers of players at the Tuesday afterschool sessions and those involved have shown great improvement. The highlight so far was the football tournament at Glenwood, with the team achieving 8 points from their round robin fixtures. They will be looking forward to multiple tournaments in the new year.



Music

Music and Art Social Media pages

We launched our social media pages in August to promote and celebrate the fantastic work that takes place in our faculty. With over 100 posts we are showcasing the talented work of pupils across the faculty, as well as a weekly throwback to certificate class work from the last few years. Use these links to follow us on Instagram and Twitter.



Music Technology DYW Event

Vanessa Motion from Kingdom FM visited the S3 and Senior Music Technology classes to provide an insight to her career and the world of being a radio DJ. She talked to the class about her journey to the career that she's in just now and the skills and experiences she learned along the way. Vanessa brought in her DJ decks and demonstrated how they work and the art of being a great DJ. Pupils had the opportunity to try these themselves and discovered it wasn't as easy as it looks or sounds! It was a fantastic experience for the classes with many inspired to learn more about it and they asked lots of interesting questions to Vanessa.




We look forward to working more with Vanessa and giving more opportunities like this to others in the school.



Music

Music Extra-Curricular Groups

We have lots of lunchtime groups taking place in the Music department. Watch this space for upcoming performances!



Viewforth High School
Extra Curricular Music Activities

Monday

Music Tech Club
@ 1.10pm in A2.05

S1 Music Club
@ 1.10pm in A2.01

Tuesday

S2/3 Class Band
@ 1.10pm in A2.01

Wednesday

Viewforth Choir
@ 1.10pm in A2.01

Thursday

String Group
@ 1.10pm in A2.01

Friday

Wind Band
@ 1.10pm in A2.01

Science



We have started a positive recognition scheme in the Science department known as '**Super Scientist**'. Each Science teacher is nominating a pupil from BGE and Senior phase every fortnight who have excelled in their class. There is a display board outside A1.03 showcasing the pupil names.

The pupils nominated so far are listed below:

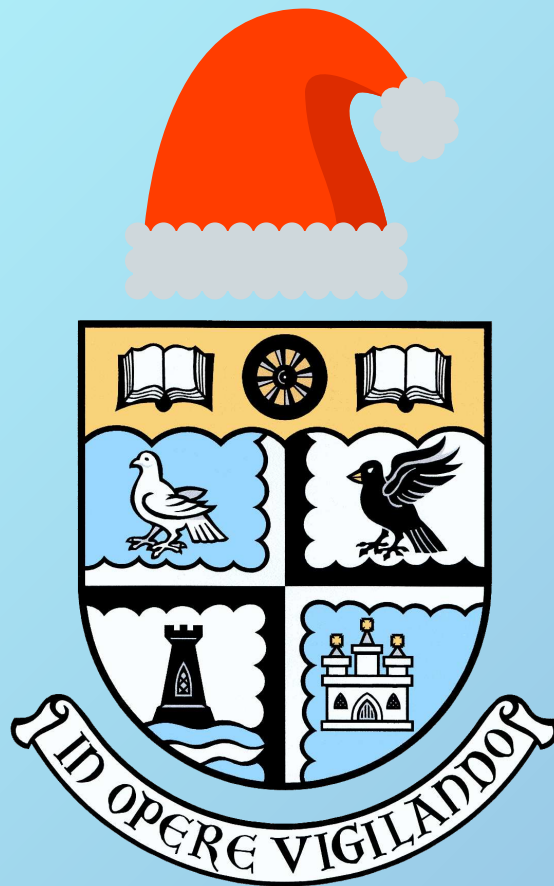
Juniors

Joel Galvez-Brown
Zainab Mehmood
Levi Tait
Alfy Kemp
Emma Brown
Chloe Nicholson

Seniors

Olivia Trebbi
Grace Wilson
Amy Hunter
Charlie Douglas
Caitlin Smith
Liam Murray





We hope you enjoyed reading our Christmas newsletter.

**Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, from all at
Viewforth High School.**