

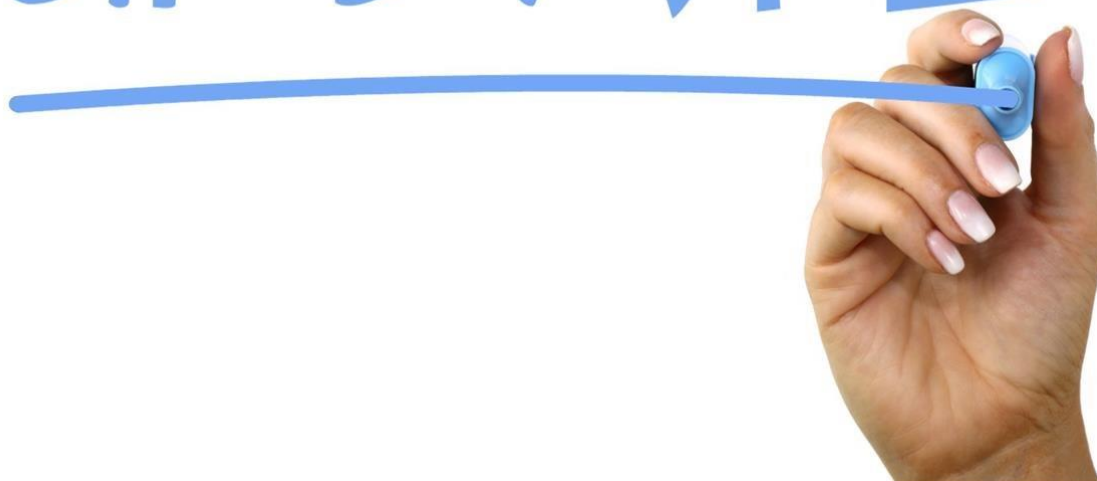


Viewforth High School

## Newsletter - 21st August 2023

### Head Teacher Update

# UPDATE



Our first week back to school was a great week with lots going on. The Viewforth HS staff were working hard on the 2 in-service days, involved in staff training with a focus on Child Protection, Learning, Teaching and Assessment and reviewing the SQA exam results.

One of our key improvement priorities this session is to review our Vision and Values. These were created back in 2016, prior to the move to Windmill Campus. All staff, pupils and parents will have an opportunity to participate in a consultation regarding the Vision and Values and the staff begun this process on the in-service days.

I have been so impressed by our pupils this week and I would like to thank you again for supporting us in working to ensure that all pupils are wearing full school uniform. There are a very small number of pupils not in school uniform and the guidance team and the DHTs will work with home to arrange uniform next week. If you haven't yet ordered a school blazer for pupils in S4 - S6, please do so via the school office.

It's been wonderful to see our new S1 learners make a very positive start to their secondary schooling. They are adjusting well to their new environment and enjoying making new friends and building positive relationships with their teachers.

We will soon be publishing the programme of wider-curricular experiences and activities and would ask that you encourage your child to participate in any that interest them. This is a great way to meet new people with similar interests and to build confidence and self-esteem.

## S1 Cognitive Ability Tests (C.A.T)



In the coming weeks our S1 learners will be completing the online, Cognitive Ability Test which assesses literacy, numeracy and problem solving and provides data to plan individual learning targets. A letter explaining the process in more detail will be shared with S1 parents and carers this week.

## Osiris - Learning, Teaching and Assessment



Over the coming session, and as part of our ongoing commitment to deliver consistently high quality learning, teaching and assessment, a number of staff will be engaging in two exciting and internationally renowned continued professional development programmes. The teaching intervention and leadership of learning programmes will support staff to develop all aspects of learning and teaching and I look forward to providing updates in the coming weeks and months.

## Education Maintenance Allowance

### What is it?

- The Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is a weekly payment of £30 for young people who are in full time education and are over 16.
- All payments are made direct to the young person's bank account and it is them who must apply, with the parent's help.

- Parent's income is taken into account as part of the application. **How do I Apply?** Applications can be made online via the Fife Council website Education Maintenance Allowance | Fife Council<sup>1</sup> However, to complete the process the young person will need a **mygovscot** account. Which can be registered for here: Register for a mygovscot Account<sup>2</sup> As part of this application you will need some personal information to hand, including:
  - the parent or carer's income
  - the young person's bank account details
  - the young person's birth certificate or passport

evidence you might need to hand for this might also include:

- evidence of residency status
- an award letter (if receiving Universal Credit)
- parent or carer's Tax Credit award notice or Universal Credit letter
- parent or carer's P60 or payslip

### **What happened after I have applied?**

The young person will be sent a letter granting the award. This will include a Learning Agreement which they must sign and hand in. This learning agreement puts conditions on payments, which must be met or they may be stopped.

### **What are the conditions?**

The pupil will sign to agree that they:

- must ensure that the requirements of the study programme are met
- will support the school's aims and standards of conduct
- they understand the EMA may be withdrawn without warning should my attendance in any class fall below the 100% minimum requirement.
- If they are late more than 2 times in any one week the EMAA will be withdrawn for that week. It may also be withdrawn for persistent lateness over the course of a few weeks.

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/education2/schools-in-fife/funding/educational-maintenance-allowance>

<sup>2</sup><https://signin.mygovscot.org/home/?entityId=https://www.fife.gov.uk/account&sp=register/FIFVD>

## Key Staff



Your child's Guidance Teacher plays a key role in supporting them to achieve success throughout their school career. They will monitor attendance, time keeping, behaviour and progress and will liaise closely with both your young person and the family home. If you have any questions or concerns, please get in touch with the relevant Guidance Teacher below.

### **S1 and S2**

Mr Simpson for classes 1C1, 1C2 and 2C1

Mrs Stewart for classes 1F1, 2F1 and 2F2

Mrs Hughes for classes 1F2, 1M1, 2M1 and 2M2

The Depute Head Teacher with responsibility for S1 and S2 is Mr Kowbel.

### **S3 and S4**

Mrs Beesley for classes 3F1, 4C2 and 4F2

Mrs Edwards for classes 3C1, 3C2, 3F2, 4C1, 4F1 and 4M1

Mr Bowman for classes 3M1, 3M2 and 4M2

The Depute Head Teacher with responsibility for S3 and S4 is Ms McNamee.

### **S5 and S6**

Mrs Lara Robertson

The Depute Head Teacher with responsibility for S5 and S6 is Mr Wilson.

## Contact details

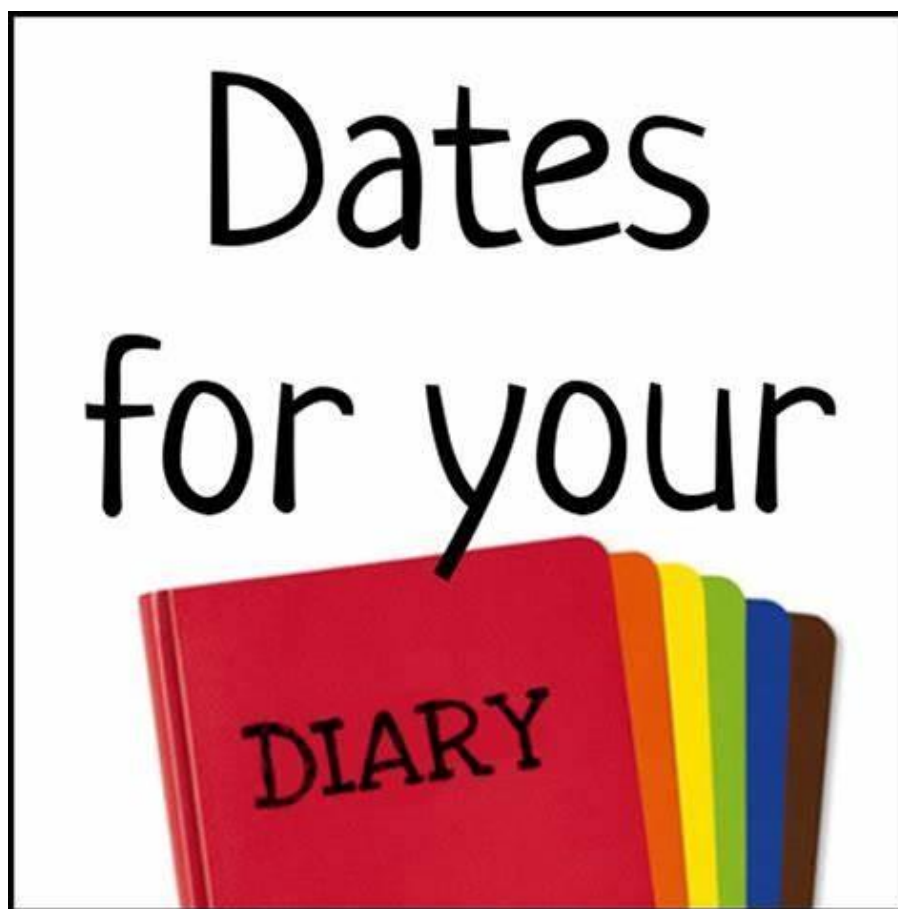


There are a variety of ways you can contact the school and we would encourage you to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns. We are working to improve the ways in which you can contact your child's Guidance Teacher and more information will follow in the near future....watch this space.

As we continue to work to improve pupil attendance at school, a reminder that if your child is unwell or has an appointment and is unable to attend school, please telephone the school office on **01592 583408** and select **option 1** for the attendance line. If the line is engaged, there is the facility to leave a message. Alternatively, you can send a text message to **07860 030879**, stating your child's name and the reason for the absence. If your child does not arrive to class, you will receive a Groupcall message informing you of their absence.

If you require support with your child's attendance, please contact your child's guidance teacher who will be happy to provide support and advice.

Dates for your diary...



### **Parents' Evenings**

Wednesday 25th October 2023 - Senior Phase Parents' Evening (1)

Tuesday 31st October 2023 - Senior Phase Parents' Evening (2)

Thursday 16th November 2023 - Primary 7 Open Evening

Thursday 7th December 2023 - S1 Parents' Evening

Wednesday 24th January 2024 - S2 Parents' Evening

Tuesday 6th February 2024 - S3 Parents' Evening

Thursday 22nd February 2024 - Senior Phase Parents' Evening

\*Please note that our parents' evening are face-to-face in the school building. These will run between 4.30pm and 7pm and further information will be shared in advance of each evening.

### **Term Dates 2023/24 (all dates are inclusive)**

Autumn      Wednesday 16th August 2023 - Friday 6th October 2023

Winter        Monday 23rd October 2023 - Wednesday 20th December 2023

Spring        Thursday 4th January 2024 - Thursday 28th March 2024

Summer Monday 15th April 2024 - Friday 28th June 2024

**Care - Ambition - Respect - Equity**