

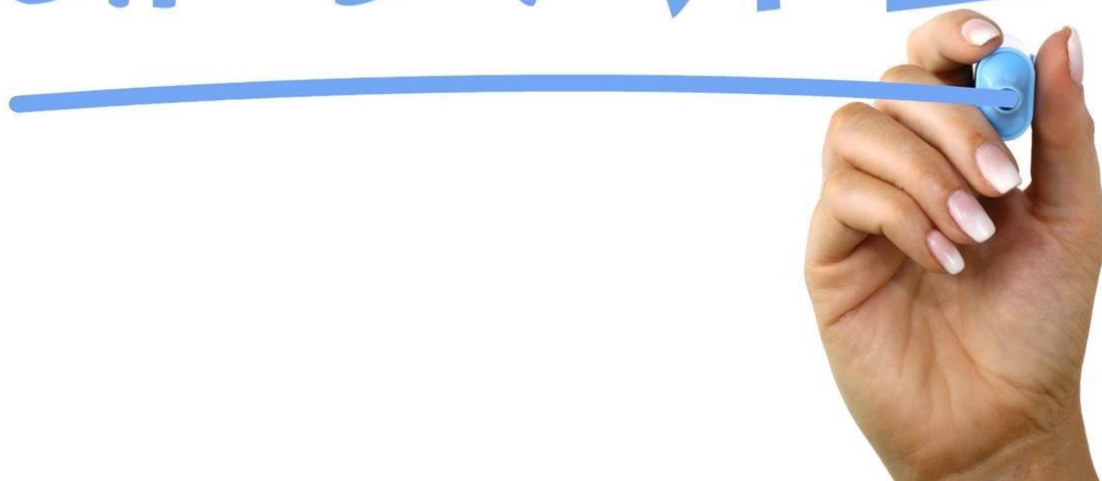


Viewforth High School

Newsletter - 28th August 2023

Head Teacher Update

UPDATE



The first full week back for pupils was a busy one and by the end of the week some of our young people were looking a bit tired. It's always a challenge getting back into the routine of school after the summer holidays but keep setting those alarms so you're arriving to school on time and we'll get there.

We had a planned fire evacuation on Friday afternoon. This drill allowed all young people to be clear on exactly what to do if and when the fire alarm sounds and I was impressed by how well the young people evacuated the building and lined up at their muster points.

Our S1 pupils will begin their Cognitive Ability Tests this week during their ICT lessons. If you have any questions about this process, please refer to the letter sent by Mr Kowbel or contact the school and ask to speak with Mr Kowbel.

This week sees the start of our extra curricular clubs and activities, please encourage your child to get involved in the clubs and activities as they are a great way to make friends and build confidence. There are a wide range of sporting clubs on offer (please see below). There is also a range of non-sporting clubs including:

Monday

S1 and S2 Music Club - 1.10pm in A2.01

Tuesday

Choir - 1.10pm in A2.01

Coding Club - 12.55pm in S2.05

Wednesday

Chess Club - 1pm in B2.03

S3 - S6 Percussion Group - 1.10pm in A2.05

Thursday

Sewing and Textile Club - 1.10pm in S2.01


String Group - 1.10pm in A2.05

Friday



Gaming Club - 1.15pm in S1.06

Wind Band - 1.10pm in A2.01


Extra Curricular Sport Activities 2023-24




Monday (Lunchtime)

-  **Basketball** • 1.05pm-1.35pm
S1 • Games Hall • Sports Leaders
-  **Dance** • 1.05pm-1.35pm
S1-3 • Gym Hall • Miss MacMillan





Tuesday (Lunchtime)

-  **Badminton** • 1.05pm-1.35pm
S1-2 • Games Hall • Sports Leaders



Friday (Lunchtime)

-  **Table Tennis** • 1.05pm-1.35pm
S1-3 • Games Hall • Sports Leaders


Tuesday (After-School)


-  **Basketball** • 3.15pm-4.15pm
S1-3 • Games Hall • Fife Steel Basketball Club
-  **Cheerleading** • 3.15pm-4pm
S1-6 • Gym Hall • Miss MacMillan
-  **Fitness** • 3.15pm-4pm
S1-3 • Fitness Suite • Mr Connelly
-  **Football** • 3.15pm-4.15pm
S1-3 • Astro • Mr Learmonth

Wednesday (After-School)

-  **Football** • 3.15pm-4pm
S4-6 • Astro • Mr Wilson
-  **Netball** • 3.15pm-4.15pm
S1 • Games Hall • Mrs Kerr

Thursday (After-School)

-  **Fitness** • 3.15pm-4pm
S4-6 • Fitness Suite • Mr Connelly



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Jessica's Story (S2 and S3)



S2 and S3 pupils will be receiving input from Police Scotland and the Youth Justice team on conflict and choices on social media and the consequences of choices made. This will see classes work through a scenario and the decisions possible for the characters involved. The scenario involves a fall out among four young people online which leads to physical violence. The scenario will see characters studied making poor choices in behaviour and language. In order to be as realistic as possible some contextual bad language will be examined. Whilst positive outcomes are possible in the scenario, the possible negative consequences for the characters involved are severe. These include criminal charges, death and suicide. The programme will run on 28/09 for S2 and 14/09 for S3. Should you wish to discuss this programme in more depth, please contact your child's Principal Teacher of Guidance to discuss.

Fitzgerald Trust (S5 and S6)



All S5 and S6 pupils who live in Kirkcaldy are eligible to apply to the Fitzgerald Trust for some additional funding to support them in their studies. Applications are possible through an electronic link.

All S5/6 pupils will be given this link during registration time. They should access the link at home and enter their details. Pupils have been asked to discuss this with their parents before applying. The deadline for applications is Friday 8th September.

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 Council¹ However, to complete the process the young person will need a **mygovscot** account. Which can be registered for here: Register for a mygovscot Account² 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.

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

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

- 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.

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

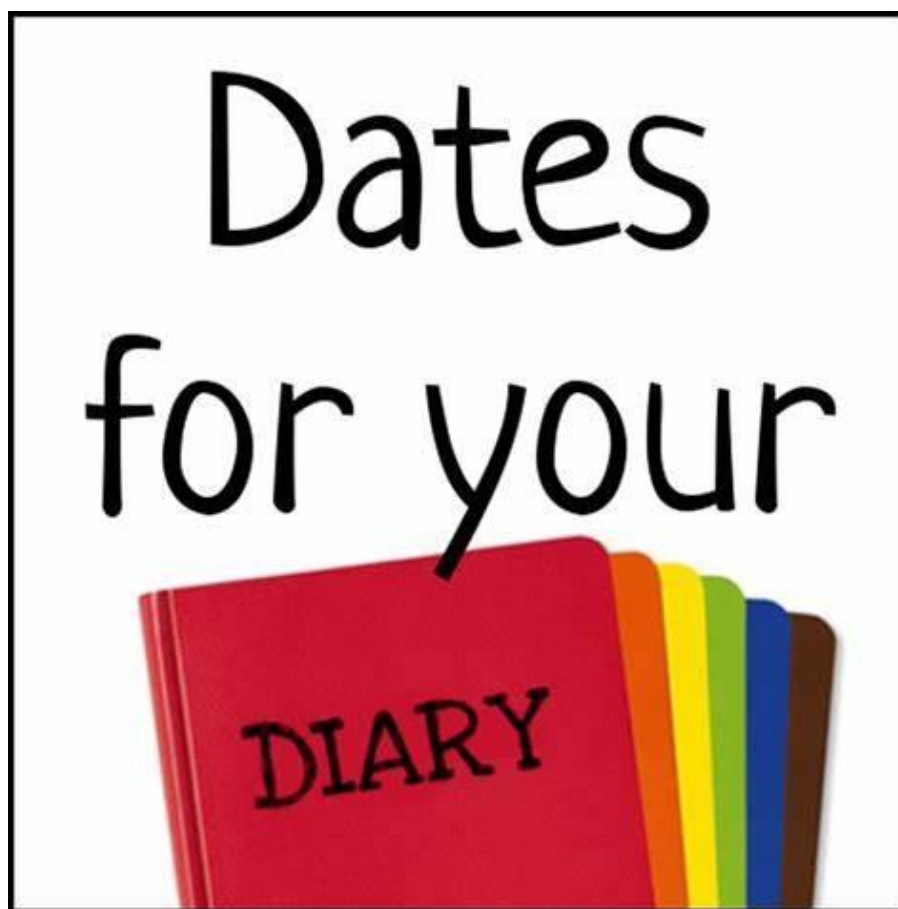


There are a variety of ways you can contact the school and we would encourage you to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns. We are working to improve the ways in which you can contact your child's Guidance Teacher and more information will follow in the near future....watch this space.

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 2013

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

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

Care - Ambition - Respect - Equity