



Viewforth High School

Newsletter - 24th November 2023

Head Teacher Update

UPDATE



I hope this weekly update finds you and your families well.

We have decided to move towards sending the weekly update on a Friday rather than a Monday to allow families more time to plan for any events or activities taking place the following week.

It's hard to believe that we only have three and a half weeks left of this term and that means it isn't long until our S4, S5 and S6 pupils will be sitting their prelim exams. The prelims begin on Friday 5 January and all young people and parents / carers will receive a copy of the prelim timetable in the coming weeks.

There are lots of events taking place over the next few weeks including our Christmas Concert which takes place on Wednesday 6 December beginning at 7pm. Tickets are on sale from the school office and cost £3 each (all school pupils must be accompanied by an adult). There will be opportunities on the evening to support school funds by buying raffle tickets, Christmas cards and 2024 calendars.

Our S1 Parents' Evening takes place on Thursday 7 December beginning at 4.30pm and the booking system for the evening is now live. This is an excellent opportunity to meet teachers, discuss your child's progress and learn more about how you can support them with their learning. If you haven't already made appointments and are having difficulty doing so, please contact the school office who will be happy to help.

Study Skills Evening



On Wednesday of last week we held our first study skills evening. The evening was designed to support young people and parents / carers to understand more about the most effective ways to study at home. Two of our senior pupils Alix and Charlie spoke of their own experiences and shared hints, tips and tricks of what works well for them. Parents and carers were then welcome to speak to subject specialists to hear more about how to prepare for assessments and exams in specific subject areas. The feedback from those who attended was very positive and we plan to offer something similar at the next senior phase parents' evening and we hope to see more parents and carers at this event.

Vision and Values



Last week I shared that our pupils would be learning in assemblies about our revised school vision and values. Our previous school vision and values were created back in 2016 in preparation for the move to Windmill Community Campus. We felt strongly that it was time to revisit the vision and values as the school has changed significantly since 2016.

Following consultation with staff and pupils we have agreed that our school vision will now be **Work Together, Achieve Together** and our school values will be **Respect, Equity, Ambition, Community, Health (REACH)**.

There will be further work taking place over the coming weeks and months to ensure the school vision and values are evident across the school and all pupils and staff are clear of what they mean for them as well as the wider Viewforth HS community.

As part of this, we are working in partnership with a professional design team who we have engaged to support us to consider how we can use graphics around the building to promote our vision and values. We are hopeful there will be opportunities for pupils to work with the design team to gain some work related experience.

Young Carers



Next week, team members from Fife Young Carers will be presenting to each year group during morning assemblies. The assemblies are designed to raise awareness of the support available to young people who have caring responsibilities. This is the starting point of a range of activities taking place this session to encourage young people to understand and feel able to take up the support Fife Young Carers offer.

More information can be found on the Fife Young Carers website <https://www.fifeyoungcarers.co.uk/>

Extended Learning Partnership

Next week Viewforth HS will welcome a team of partners from across the local authority and further afield to support work in the ongoing evaluation of the work here at the school. The focus of this work will be on how the school supports young people in their wellbeing, how they are included and how we as a school community are promoting equality.

The team will meet with a small group of parents, young people and staff as well as observing learning across the school. Their findings will support the ongoing work of the school and commitment to continuous improvement.

School Meal Information



The Fife Council Catering Team has shared some key dates for school lunches which pupils may wish to get involved in.

- Wednesday 13 December 2023 – Christmas Lunch – All settings
- Thursday 25 January 2024 – Burns Day – All settings

- Thursday 14 March 2024 – International School Meal Day– All settings

Mobile Phones

We are working to reduce the amount of time young people are spending on their mobile phones during lessons. To support us with this, it would be very helpful if parents / carers could refrain from messaging your child(ren) during lessons. If there is an emergency, please call the school office who will arrange for your child to be contacted. If it isn't an emergency, please limit the communications to interval (10.25am - 10.40am) and lunchtimes (12.55pm - 1.40pm).

Viewforth HS Parent Council



The Parent Council meeting dates for this session have been confirmed and you can find these below. If you would like to attend a meeting either online or in person, please contact viewforthparentcouncil@gmail.com¹ The meetings begin at 6pm.

Monday 4th December

Monday 15th January

Monday 11th March

Monday 22nd April

Monday 10th June

¹<mailto:viewforthparentcouncil@gmail.com>

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

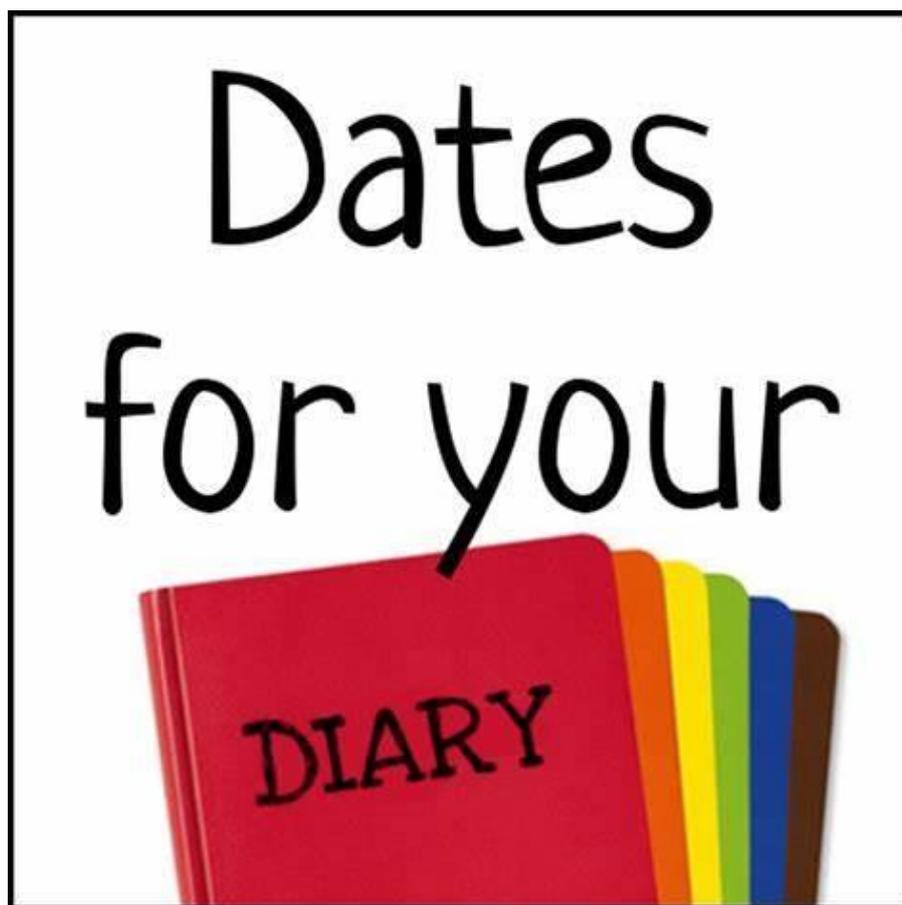


There are a variety of ways you can contact the school and we would encourage you to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

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

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)

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

Respect - Equity - Ambition - Community - Health