



Viewforth High School

Newsletter - 8th December 2023

Head Teacher Update

UPDATE



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

On Monday of this week we had our first face-to-face Parent Council meeting in school, whilst still providing an opportunity for parents to connect virtually. This hybrid meeting worked very well and it was great to see some new faces at the meeting. The next meeting takes place on Monday 15 January and more information will follow early in the new year.

Our Christmas Concert took place on Wednesday evening and it was a wonderfully festive showcase of our talented musicians and dancers from S1 - S6. The assembly hall was full and everyone had a lovely evening singing along to Christmas classics. Keep an eye out for our Winter Newsletter where I'm hopeful that some photographs of the event will be shared.

Last night was our S1 Parents' Evening and I'd like to thank all S1 parents and carers who attended despite the terrible weather. The S2 Parents' Evening takes place on Wednesday 24 January and information will be sent directly to S2 parents and carers in the new year.

Below you will find further details about our end of term events. On the last day of term (Wednesday 20 December) our young people are invited to either dress down in non-uniform or dress up for Christmas by wearing Christmas jumpers, tinsel etc. We are hoping to make a large donation to the Kirkcaldy Foodbank on the 20 December and ask that in exchange for either 'dressing down' or 'dressing up for Christmas', young people bring an item of non-perishable food, toiletries or a monetary donation of £1 (or whatever they can afford). All of the food items should be passed to

either their registration teacher or the school office, stating clearly which House group they are in as each item will equal one house point. Please give generously if you can.

S2 - S5 Mock Curriculum Pathway

All S2, S3, S4 and S5 pupils will take part in a mock Curriculum Pathway next week (wb 11 December). This is to help to give departments an idea of which subjects the young people would like to follow in their Curriculum Pathway choices. The information will be shared at the following times:

S2 Assembly Monday 11.12.2023

S3 Assembly Wednesday 13.12.2023

S4 Assembly Thursday 14.12.2023

S5 Assembly Friday 15.12.2023

Pupils will then take part in the mock Curriculum Pathway at the following times.

S2 Period 1 Monday 11.12.2023

S3 Period 2 Wednesday 13.12.2023

S4 Period 3 Thursday 14.12.2023

S5 Period 1 Friday 15.12.2023

Please note that these are not final choices, but it gives us a real idea of what our young people would like to continue to study next session.

Primary 7 Ceilidh

As part of our cluster transition programme we will be welcoming pupils and staff from our associated primary schools to showcase and celebrate their learning of traditional Scottish dance which they have been learning this term. The ceilidh will take place on Tuesday 12 December. We will also enjoy a wee bit of a disco and some fun prizes will be up for grabs!

Celebrating Success Assemblies

On Monday 18th December we will be holding our termly celebrating success assemblies. This will see us celebrate our young people's successes over the last term. This includes successes both in school and / or out of school. We will be celebrating all kinds of achievements including academic, sporting, personal, community engagement and acts of leadership. Last term our celebrating success assembly included academic awards, local football team achievements as well as acts of bravery. If you have any items you would like to be included as part of the assembly please do email the school enquiries address viewforthhs.enquiries@fife.gov.uk for the attention of your young person's Principal Teacher of Guidance.

S1 and S2 Merit Party

As we approach the end of term we will be hosting an end of term party for S1 and S2 pupils who have consistently displayed the vision and values of the school through their accumulation of merits. Pupils who have accumulated the required number of merits will be informed toward the end of next week. The party will take place during periods 6 & 7 on Tuesday 19th December.

S3 and S4 Christmas Movie

As we approach the end of term, our S3 and S4 pupils who have consistently displayed the vision and values of the school through their accumulation of merits will be invited to watch a Christmas movie. This will take place during periods 3, 4 and 5 on Wednesday 20 December and pupils who have accumulated the required number of merits will be informed towards the end of next week.

S5 and S6 Ceilidh

On Tuesday 19 December we will be holding our annual senior ceilidh from 6pm - 8pm. This has been a very well attended event each year, enjoyed by all who attended. We are looking forward to the same again this year. As in previous years, this will be with live band and refreshments included. Tickets for the event will be on sale at the school office from Tuesday 12th December. Dress code is formal, with footwear suitable for a ceilidh. We do have our Viewforth Vinted clothing collection for anyone who might prefer to borrow a suit or dress rather than buy brand new. Anyone wishing to make use of this can speak to Mrs Robertson or Mr Wilson to arrange access.

Flu Vaccine Drop In

If your young person has not yet had their flu vaccination, there are drop in clinics across Fife as listed below. You can drop in to any of these over the next two weeks.

Saturday 09.12.23 Dunfermline Lynebank Hospital Vaccination Centre Time - 09.00 - 14.00

Saturday 16.12.23 Dunfermline Lynebank Hospital Vaccination Centre Glenrothes Argos Vaccination Centre Time 10.00-15.00

Sunday 17.12.23 St Andrews Community Hospital Vaccination Centre Kirkcaldy Templehall Vaccination Centre Time 10.00 - 15.00

Support over the school holidays

The Christmas holidays can be a challenging time for many families, especially given the current Cost of Living Crisis. There are, however, a number of supports that are out there which can help and we've listed some of these below for your information.

Our Fife - Support with the Cost of Living

This team provide help for those who aren't eligible for any benefits. Some of the support which is offered is universal, meaning anyone can get it. You can reach them at this webpage Cost of Living Support ¹ (our.fife.scot/gethelp) or on this number 0800 9520330.

Cosy Kingdom

This team provide specific help for those who need support heating their home. You can call 01592 807930 or text "Cosy" to 88440.

Food Bank Availability

The Link Living Foodbank is open every day, 10 am to 4.30pm during the holidays apart from the 25th and 26th December. It is referral only, so you will need a support worker to make a referral on your behalf. This can include a social worker, housing officer or our Family Support Worker her at Viewforth. Viewforth Church Foodbank is also available and accepts walk ins without a referral. It is open 27th and 28th December 10am - 3pm.

Mental Health Supports

Samaritans

They are available on 116123 and they provide phonline support for anyone needing to speak about their mental health who may be in crisis. Shout Crisis Provide a text line on 85258 for anyone needing to speak about their mental health who may be in crisis. If you are under 19 and wish to use the service text "YM" as there is a specific team which deals with this age group.LGBT+ There is also an LGBT+ specific helpline to provide mental health support on 0800 4647000.

Fife Alcohol Support Service

This team provide support for those who might be struggling with alcohol over the holiday period. They are available on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday both weeks of the holiday period and can be reached on 01592 206200

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

¹<https://our.fife.scot/gethelp>

- 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.com² The meetings begin at 6pm.

Monday 15th January

Monday 11th March

Monday 22nd April

Monday 10th June

²<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

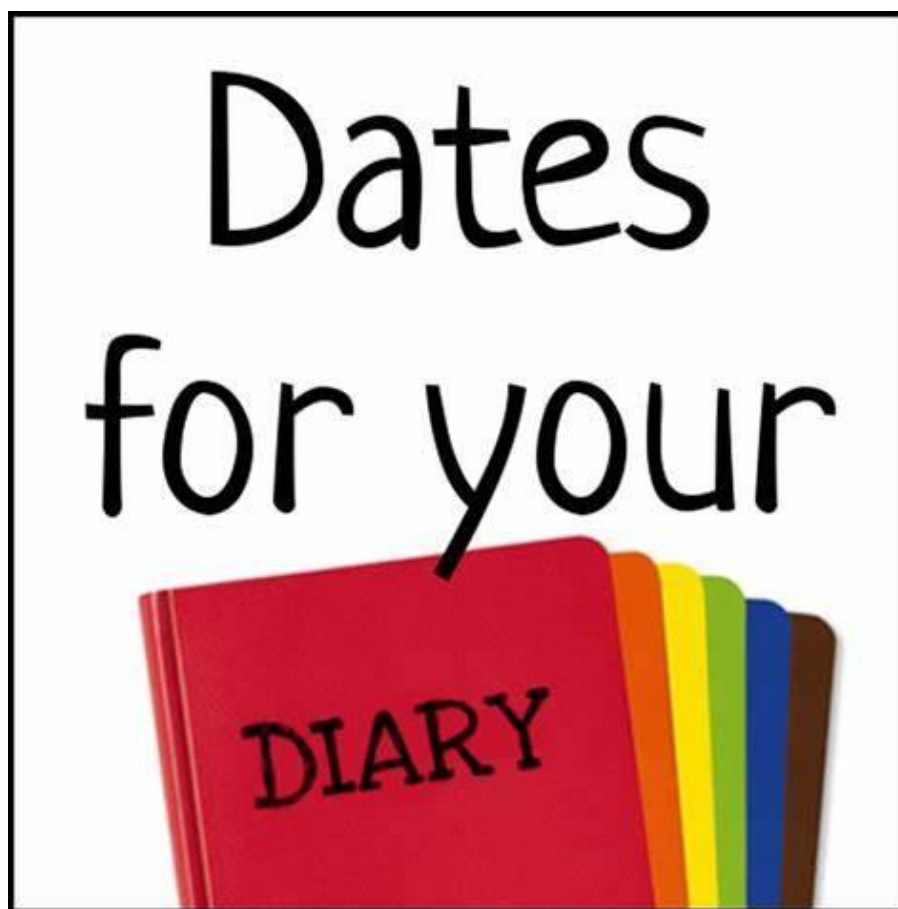


There are a variety of ways you can contact the school and we would encourage you to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

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

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