

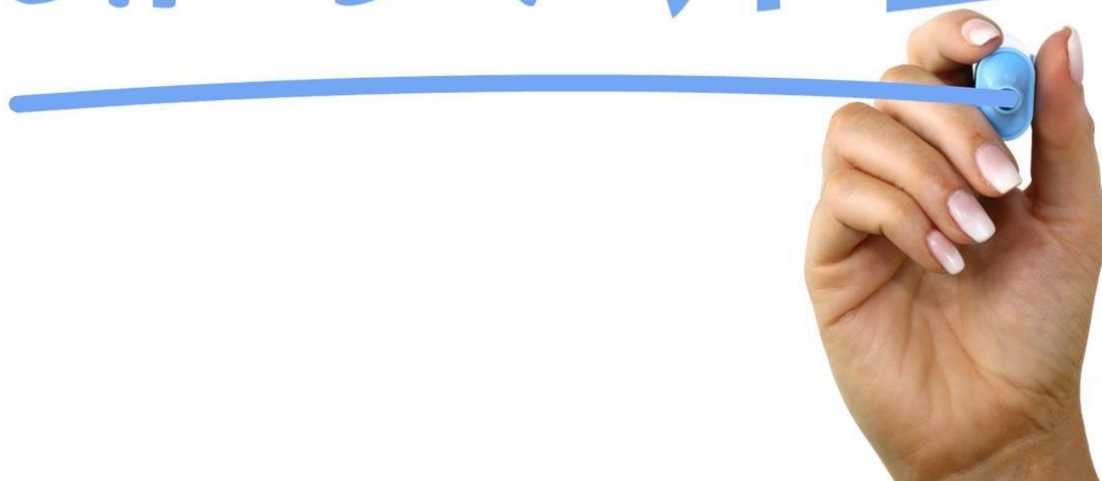


Viewforth High School

Newsletter - 15th December 2023

Head Teacher Update

UPDATE



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

It's hard to believe that this is the final weekly update of 2023, where does the time go. Next week we will share our Winter Newsletter with parents / carers and the wider community and this newsletter will showcase the work that has taken place across the school during term 1 and term 2 of this session.

This week myself and the Depute Head Teachers had the pleasure of listening to our S5 pupils who are following the Youth Philanthropy Initiative as part of their Religious and Moral Education curriculum, deliver presentations in support of their chosen local charity. The standard of presentations was excellent and it was difficult to select which groups will progress to the final which will be held in the new year with the winning charity receiving £3000. The young people will find out soon who has progressed to the final. Well done to everyone involved.

Below you will find a reminder 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). The Kirkcaldy Foodbank are also appealing for carrier bags, so if you have any of these lying around at home that you don't need, please encourage your young person to bring them into school. All of the food items should be passed to registration teachers or the school office, stating clearly which House group the young person is in as

each item will equal one house point. Please give generously if you can and thank you in advance for your support.

A reminder that the term ends at 3.10pm on Wednesday 20th December and the new term begins on Thursday 4th January 2024. Our Prelim Examinations begin on Friday 5th January and you can find further information regarding the expectations during the prelims and a copy of the timetable below. If you have any questions regarding the prelims, please contact Miss McNamee (Depute Head Teacher).

Primary 7 Ceilidh

Due to very wet weather earlier this week, we had to take the difficult decision to postpone our Primary 7 Ceilidh. We are already planning to reschedule the event for the new year and plan to tie the event in with Burns Day.

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 today. 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 today.

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 have been on sale this week and we have a large number of seniors and staff attending the

event on Tuesday evening. 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.

Prelim Examinations



The Prelim Exams begin on Friday 5th of January and end on Friday 19th January. Young people should look carefully at their prelim timetables and highlight the days and times of their exams, being aware that they may have more than one exam per day. All young people should be ready to enter the exam hall 10 minutes prior to the start time of their exam and have noted their seat number (the seat number is likely to be different for each exam). If their exam begins during lunchtime, they will be entitled to an early lunch. If a young person has assessment arrangements, Mrs Hill will provide them with an individual timetable which will state the start and end time of their exam and which room this will take place in.

No mobile phones or smart watches should be taken into the exam hall. These can either be handed to a member of staff or locked in the classroom where bags and jackets will be stored.

Pupils should follow their normal timetable when not in an exam and registers will be taken both at the beginning of exams and in classes as normal. School uniform should be worn as normal.

Good luck to all pupils in S4, S5 and S6!

<iframe

src="https://onedrive.live.com/embed?cid=F15A3199E2E1A848&resid=F15A3199E2E1A848%211987&authkey=AMXtd6jIq9sn4t0&em=2" width="476" height="288" frameborder="0" scrolling="no"></iframe>

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 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 here 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 phonenumber 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

¹<https://our.fife.scot/gethelp>

School Meal Information



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

- 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

²<mailto:viewforthparentcouncil@gmail.com>

Monday 22nd April

Monday 10th June

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

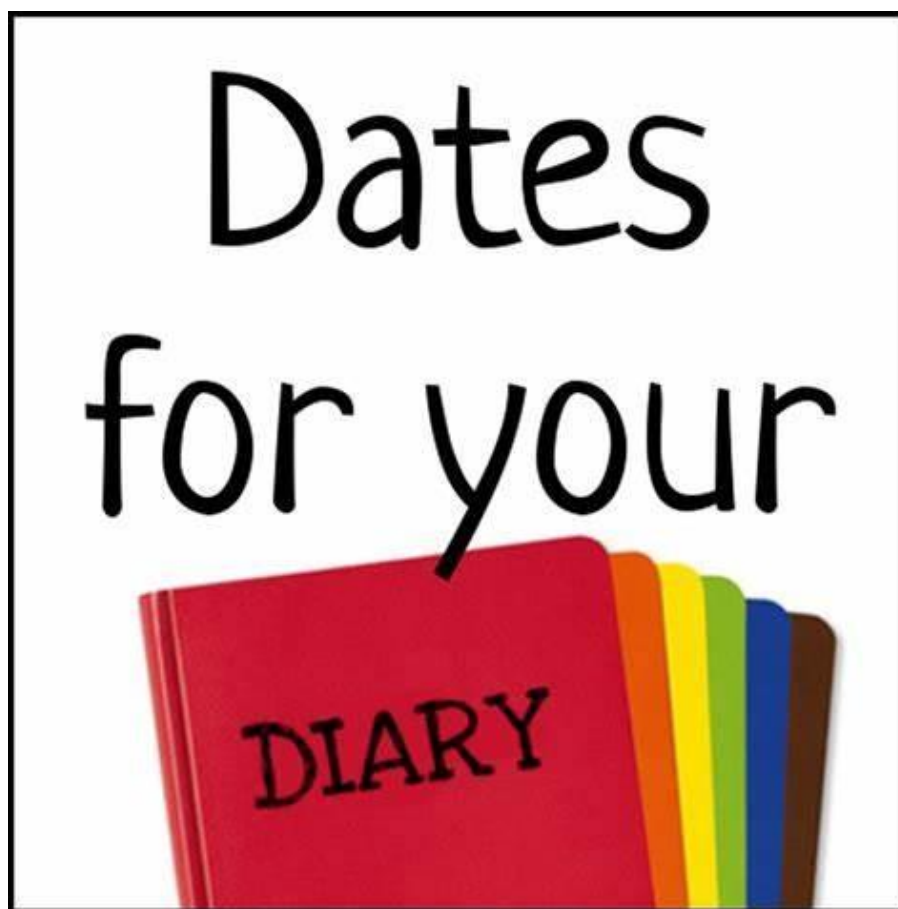


There are a variety of ways you can contact the school and we would encourage you to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

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