

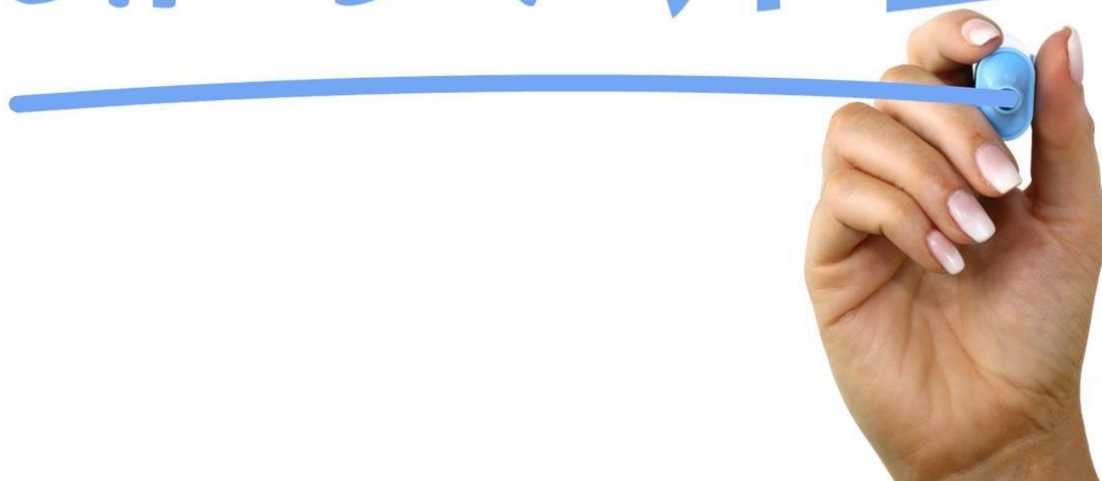


Viewforth High School

Newsletter - 12 January 2024

Head Teacher Update

UPDATE



I hope this update finds you and your families well.

Our prelim examinations are well underway and the invigilator team are reporting that our young people are displaying excellent attitudes, respect and behaviour. Some pupils are beginning to receive results and feedback and this process will continue over the next couple of weeks. All parents and carers of pupils in S4, S5 and S6 will receive a report prior to the February break which will detail pupil progress and individual results. This will be followed by the Senior Phase parent's evening on Thursday 22 February which is a great opportunity to discuss progress, next steps and strategies for success with teachers (more information will follow in due course regarding this evening). Please see the item below with regards making appointments to speak to Mrs Robertson, Principal Teacher of Guidance for S5 and S6.

Parents and carers of all S2 pupils have today been sent information on how to book appointments for the S2 Parents' Evening which takes place on Wednesday 24 January. As you will see below, all S2 pupils are about to begin Curriculum Pathway discussions and this evening is a great opportunity for parents / carers to speak with teachers to find out more about the courses on offer next session. It will allow you to ask questions and identify which pathways will lead to greatest success. Appointments with class teachers will last a period of 5 minutes and it is good practice to allow a 5 minute window between appointments if possible. If you have any difficulties making appointments, please contact the school office who will be happy to help.

Prelim Examinations



A reminder that 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!

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Parents' evening (S5/6) appointments with Mrs Robertson

We recognise, following the last senior phase parents evening, that given all of S5/6 report to one Principal Teacher of Guidance that appointment times were limited. Therefore, we are providing some additional opportunities to book an appointment.

Book a Day-Time Appointment You can contact the school office who have a note of Mrs Robertson's availability. They will provide you with a time slot to meet with Mrs Robertson during the day. You can book one of these appointments ahead of the parents' evening if you wish.

Book a Follow-Up Appointment If on the night of parents' evening you feel you would like an appointment but haven't previously booked one there will be an opportunity to complete an appointment slip. This will then allow Mrs Robertson to get back to you with an appointment at a mutually convenient time.

S2/S4/S5 Curriculum Pathways



All young people in S2, S4 and S5 will be taking part in the next stage of their educational journey by making their curriculum choices (or Curriculum Pathway) over the course of this term. Below is a timeline of what this will look like and the key points in the year.

- S3 Tracking Reports issued - November 2023
- S2 Tracking Reports issued - December 2023
- 'Trial Run' of Curriculum Pathway at Assembly - December 2023
- S2 Parents' Evening - 24 January 2024
- Introduction to S2 Curriculum Pathway in PSE - week beginning 29 January 2024
- S3 Parents' Evening - 6 February 2024
- Curriculum Pathway Assemblies - 13 February 2024
- S4-S6 Parents' Evening - 22 February 2024
- Curriculum Pathway Dialogue with pupil, parents/carers, guidance teacher and Careers Advisor - 19 February 2024
- Curriculum Pathway Interviews with Guidance Staff (*for Pupils*) -19 February 2024 (over two weeks)

S3 will also have a Curriculum Pathway dialogue but their process is slightly altered and the young people will pick a 'droption'. This will be the subject that they don't want to continue with in S4 (please note, all pupils will continue with English and Maths). These discussions will take place in PSE with final choices also taking place during the week beginning 19 Feb.

DYW Careers Event



Our Developing the Young Workforce Careers' Event will take place on Tuesday 13 February. Young people will be invited to the event during the school day and parents / carers and families are invited to attend the event in the evening. The timeslots are as follows:

1.40pm - 3.10pm - S2, S4-S6 young people to attend with classroom teachers.

4.00pm - 5.30pm - Parents/Carers/Young People and members of the local community invited to attend to speak with guests.

This is an amazing opportunity to ask any questions regarding future pathways or even look at the best possible routes into employment and/or education. We will have representatives from employers such as Diageo, Babcock, as well as educational providers such as Napier University, Heriot Watt and Fife College. There are also some National companies such as British Gas and Exxon Mobil. The British Army and RAF will be there too. We look forward to seeing you there.

P7 - S1 Transition



Transition planning continues for the 2024 intake with several events taking place in Viewforth High School over the coming months to support the Primary 7 pupils as they prepare to take the next step in their education. In addition, there are a number of key dates for parents / carers to be aware of. All the information can be found listed below. If you have any questions, please contact Mr Kowbel (Depute Head Teacher) who will be happy to assist.

January 2024 - Literacy 'Project'. This is a joint project between the High School and Primary Schools and will run until June 2024.

Tuesday 23 January - Cluster Ceilidh in Viewforth HS 10am – 12pm

Thursday 8 February - Primary 7 Maths Challenge 1:30pm – 2:45pm

Monday 20 May - Extra-Curricular Taster Morning 10am – 12pm

Wednesday 12 & Thursday 13 June - Transition Day Visits 8:45am – 3:10pm

Wednesday 12 June - Primary7 Parent/Carers Evening 5pm – 6.30pm

Fife College Applications



College Applications for full time courses starting after the Summer Holidays

College applications will be open via the Fife College website from Monday 15 January.

Places on construction courses are very competitive with a high number of applicants. To ensure all young people from Viewforth HS, interested in a construction course are supported to complete and submit an application promptly, Mrs Robertson will be the key contact. Mrs Robertson will support them to complete their applications in school on Monday of next week. Any young person who has not already discussed this with Mrs Robertson should report to her during registration to ensure they can access the support available.

All other college applications will be supported throughout the week during Personal and Social Education (PSE) classes. Brian McKenna, our careers advisor will be prioritising college applications throughout this week and will be supporting classes as well.

Any pupil who has a prelim and will miss PSE will still have an opportunity to access support the following week.

School Uniform

It's great to see so many of our young people have returned from the holidays wearing full school uniform. A reminder that hooded tops, outdoor jackets and hats should not be worn in classrooms. Pupils in S4, S5 and S6 should continue to wear their school blazers in and around the school, however we appreciate that they may prefer to wear coats to and from school given the colder temperatures.

Fife College Applications



Applications for Fife College courses beginning in August will open on Monday 15 January. If your child is considering applying for College, they will be supported by their Guidance Teacher to do so. Please ask them to speak to their Guidance Teacher soon to make them aware of their intentions. You can find out about the courses on offer by exploring the Fife College website

<https://www.fife.ac.uk/>

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.com¹ The meetings begin at 6pm.

Monday 15th January

Monday 11th March

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

¹<mailto:viewforthparentcouncil@gmail.com>

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

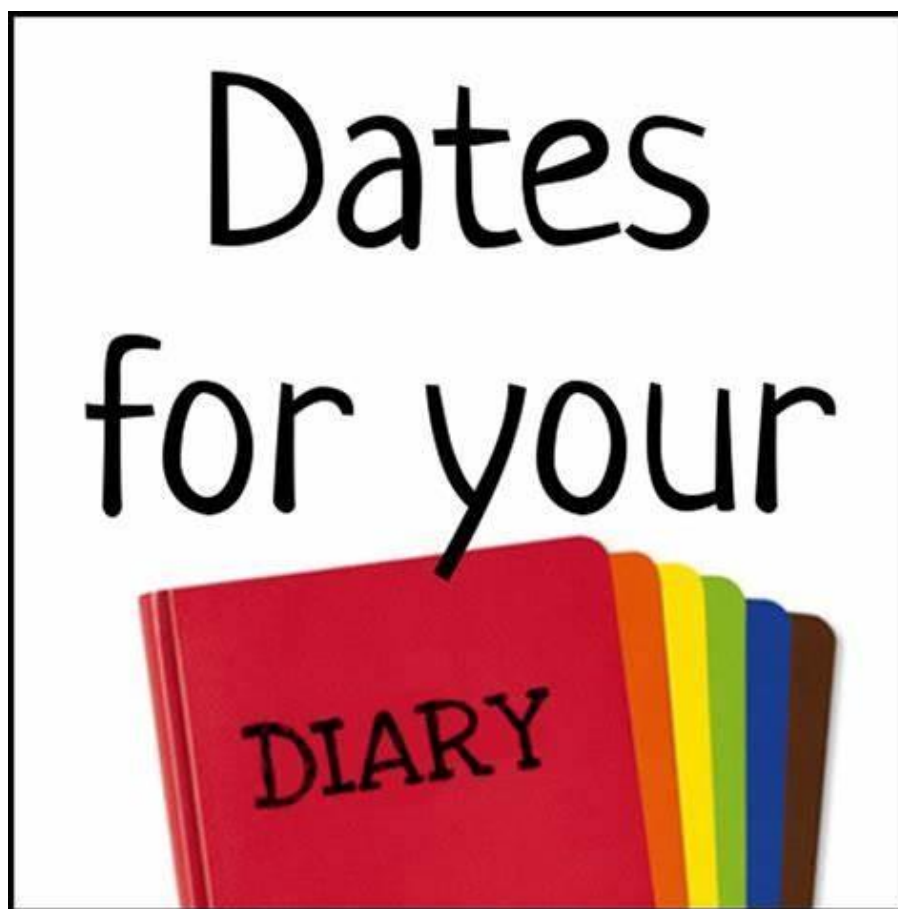


There are a variety of ways you can contact the school and we would encourage you to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

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