



Viewforth High School

Newsletter - 19 January 2024

## Head Teacher Update

# UPDATE



I hope this update finds you and your families well.

Today is the final day of our prelim examinations for S4, S5 and S6 pupils. If your child has been absent and has missed an exam, they will be able to reschedule this by speaking with the head of department. Class teachers are in the process of writing reports for pupils in S4, S5 and S6 and these will be shared with parents / carers prior to the February holiday.

A reminder that our S2 Parents' Evening takes place on Wednesday next week (24th January) and the booking system is open to allow parents / carers to make appointments. The final day that you can book appointments is Monday 22 January. If you require help to access the system or make appointments, please contact the school office who will be happy to help.

The S3 Parents' Evening takes place on Tuesday 6 February and the booking system for this evening will soon go live. Please keep an eye out for further information on how to make appointments.

During the week beginning 29 January, we have a range of Interhouse sports events taking place in the PE department for pupils in S1, S2 and S3. Pupils have the opportunity to sign up to participate via their registration teacher or via the PE department directly. Please encourage your young person to get involved and win points for their House group.

Finally, a reminder that the consultation on proposed changes to our curriculum and school week is now open. I shared a document with all parents / carers last Monday and the details of the changes can be found within this document. The consultation closes on Friday 2 February and all parents / carers are invited to share their thoughts via the Microsoft Form which can be found within the

presentation. A reminder that there is also a drop in session on Tuesday 23 January at 4pm should you have any questions. Please tick the box on the Microsoft Form if you wish to attend.

## Prelim Examinations and Attainment



As the prelim diet comes to an end, we hope your young person/people have made the most of this experience. However, we are aware that some young people may feel a bit disheartened due to results not being as positive as they had hoped. It's important to remember that this is only January and there is still time for pupils to work to improve their results in advance of the final exams. Please accept the prelim results as a part of the process as they give a real insight into the gaps that young people may have in their learning and areas that they should focus their studies. At this time, we are supporting young people to continue with their studies in their chosen subjects to allow continuity and to show continuous improvement. Discussion will take place with departments, the Senior Leadership Team and families before informing any young person of a change of level/course if this is required, and this would be a final decision only based on the best for the young person and their qualifications.

## Supporting your young person with study skills



You will be aware, we had a study skills evening in November 2023 for parents / carers and young people. A lot of the feedback from parents / carers was around how families find it tricky to support their young person with studying. On our school website, within the parents' tab, we have added some presentations and documents to help support your young person to study for assessments and exams. Please feel free to use these attachments and if you have any questions, please get in touch with your young person's Guidance Teacher.

In addition, we have also added the same documents to the pupil tab so that the young people can access these directly themselves.

We have a range of study materials in school free of charge to all young people. If your child would like to access these resources, they can ask any member of the Senior Leadership Team or their Guidance Teacher who will be happy to help.

## 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



A reminder that our Developing the Young Workforce Careers' Event will take place on Tuesday 13 February from 4pm - 5.30pm.

This is an opportunity to meet directly with employers such as Babcock, MOWI and British Gas, as well The University of Strathclyde and Fife College, amongst many more. These stalls and workshops will provide you with the chance to speak to people in the roles and jobs and find out entry requirements for specific courses and guidance in how to apply. This is a once a year opportunity to meet these people and ask all of your questions. We hope to see you there.

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## Apprenticeships and Fife College Applications



A number of Apprenticeships opened in January. Attached are a list of those. If your young person would like some help to apply for these please get in touch with Brian McKenna (Careers' Advisor) or your young person's Guidance Teacher.

In addition, Fife College applications opened this week (Wednesday 17.01.2024) and there can be a high number of applicants, so please let the Guidance Team or Brian McKenna know if your young person would like to apply. The full list is also available on our school website.

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## Cost of the school day



As a school we work to ensure that all young people can attend without having to worry about the cost of anything in school. This also includes things that they might need to help them attend school. There are a range of services we offer that all young people are welcome to use.

- Breakfast Club – open from 8.20 – 8.40 daily in the school café
- Sanitary Products – our Support Hub have a range of sanitary products that are free to take if needed. Many classrooms have these in class as well for young people to help themselves. These are signposted in the classes.
- School uniform – the Support Hub has a range of uniform that young people are welcome to have if needed. This includes shirts, trousers, tights, socks and jerseys among other items. Whilst pupils can ask themselves, if parents would prefer, they can phone and ask for this support on their young person's behalf.
- Toiletries – we also hold a stock of toiletries for anyone who may need them this includes shampoo, shower gel, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes.

- All families who are eligible, are encouraged to apply for free school meals. You can check your eligibility and to apply via this link: [Free school meals and school clothing grants | Fife Council](#)<sup>1</sup>
- Also, your child may be eligible to apply for Educational Maintenance Allowance if they are over 16. You can check eligibility and apply via this link: [Education Maintenance Allowance | Fife Council](#)<sup>2</sup>
- S4-6 students are also reminded that there is a stock of study materials held in the Depute Head Teachers' office that they are welcome to use. This includes cue cards, post-it notes, highlighters and resource guides.
- Whilst all young people are encouraged to come equipped for school with their own pens and pencils, if they need anything like this they can be provided at school.

If you, or your child, have any concerns around costs associated with school you are welcome to contact the school and speak with their Principal Teacher of Guidance.

Fife Council provides a range of supports related to cost of living. More information can be found about this here: [Benefits and money advice | Fife Council](#)<sup>3</sup>

Alternatively, the our Fife Council website has a range of advice and links to support available for families.

## 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

<sup>1</sup><https://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/education2/schools-in-fife/free-school-meals-and-school-clothing-grants>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/education2/schools-in-fife/funding/educational-maintenance-allowance>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/welfare,-benefits-and-money-advice>

## 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.com](mailto:viewforthparentcouncil@gmail.com)<sup>4</sup> The meetings begin at 6pm.

Monday 11th March

Monday 22nd April

Monday 10th June

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<sup>4</sup><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

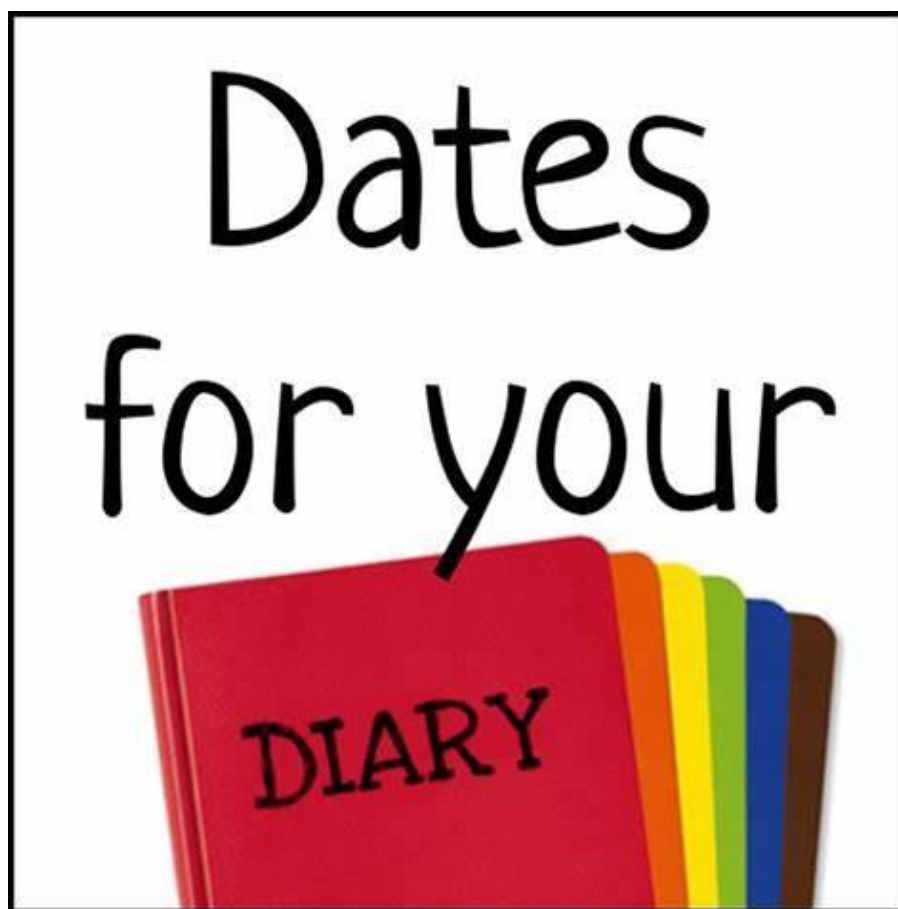


There are a variety of ways you can contact the school and we would encourage you to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

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**