

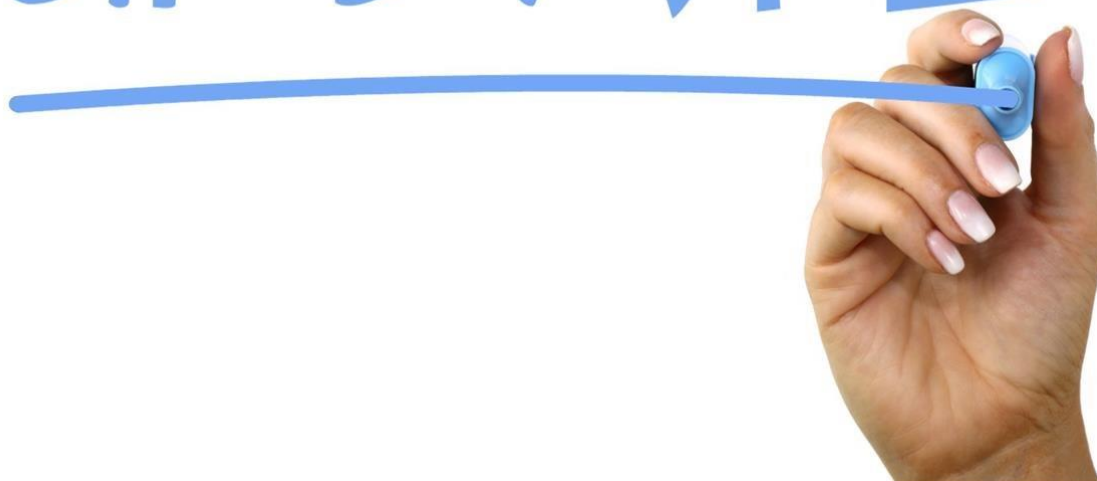


Viewforth High School

**Newsletter - 26 January 2024**

## **Head Teacher Update**

# UPDATE



I hope this update finds you and your families well.

As we move into the last week in January, a reminder that the parent / carer consultation on the proposed changes to the number of learning hours and school week closes on Friday 2 February. If you haven't yet responded, via the Microsoft Form, there is still time. You can find the link to the form in the paper I shared with all parents / carers on Monday 15 January.

On Monday of this week I presented the proposed changes to all pupils via year group assemblies. The Depute Head Teachers are now meeting with focus groups of pupils to hear their views and to answer any questions they may have.

The coming weeks are an important time for young people who will be making choices about the courses they wish to study next year. Young people and families will receive lots of support to help them make informed choices about the best pathway for them and you find out more information about our Curriculum Pathway process below.

## **ParentWise Survey 2024**

All parents / carers across Fife are invited to share their thoughts about the school that their child / children attend. The feedback from parents / carers is incredibly important to us as it enable us to listen to your views and plan improvements accordingly. We would be very grateful if you could take

a few minutes to answer the questions in the survey. You can access the survey via the QR code in the attached poster.

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## Good news stories

Some of our pupils attended the Fife School Badminton tournament last week and I'm delighted to share that Archie Paterson won the Senior Boys Singles. Robbie Stewart and Archie Paterson were runners up in the Senior Boys Doubles and Navrag Singh and Jonasz Szczepanski both played really well and were highly competitive in all of their matches. Archie and Robbie have now qualified for the Scottish Schools Championship in Glasgow. Well done to everyone involved.

Before Christmas, I shared with you the success of some of our very talented musicians. The band Permacrisis (*band members Rowan Docherty (Viewforth HS), Alex Harrower (Viewforth HS), Ashton Lee McIndoe (Kirkcaldy HS) and Jason Simms (former Kirkcaldy HS)*) continue to go from strength to strength. They have recently been invited to perform at Bonfest, an international AC/DC tribute weekend in May. There are approximately 50 bands lined up to play in the annual festival in Kirriemuir. What a great achievement for Permacrisis.

## S3 Parents' Evening



S3 Parents' Evening appointments opened on Wednesday 24 January at 1pm and will close on Friday 2 Feb at 1pm. Please ensure that you make as many appointments as you can as this is a crucial part of your young person's education. If you are struggling to make appointments, please get in touch with the school office who will be happy to help you.

## S4, S5 and S6 Reports

Senior Phase (S4-S6) reports will be issued to young people on Friday 9 February. If your young person is absent, there will be another opportunity to get them on the Monday or Tuesday of the

following week. These reports will contain information regarding recent prelims and working grades which are key in preparation for coursework and final exams.

## 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.

We are planning to replicate the study skills evening during the Senior Phase Parents' Evening. We will have these at allocated times during the Parents' Evening on 22 February 2024 and you will hear more about this over the coming weeks.

## 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)
- Final deadline for Curriculum Pathway choices is Friday 1 March

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.

**As part of the Curriculum Pathway preparation, we will be holding an information evening for parents and young people to attend. This is for families of S2 moving into S3, S3 into S4 and S5 into S6. On the evening, you will hear information regarding subjects, careers and pathways. If you are interested in attending, there will be a link in next week's update to sign up.**

## 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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## Primary 7 Ceilidh

The Primary 7 pupils finally had the opportunity to showcase their ceilidh dancing talents on Tuesday. It was a wonderful morning full of enthusiasm and positivity which saw the pupils perform three traditional Scottish dances, showing high levels of respect and cooperation as they did so. After a performance from the S3 Dance class and some crisps and juice to refuel, the pupils then engaged in a 'four corners' game and six fun dance competitions! All schools received a certificate to display as recognition for their hard work in preparation for the event and individual dance competition winners also left with prizes. Our primary colleagues confirmed that Tuesday afternoon saw some very quiet and tired young people and the 'Cha, Cha, Slide' was a particular highlight!

We look forward to the next transition event, February's 'Maths Challenge'. Special thanks go to Hazel Mezetti, Kayla Watson-Glen, Angel Brockie-Moir and Chantelle Jack for showcasing their talents, leading the pupils through the fun dance competitions and handing out refreshments and certificates. Their efforts are greatly appreciated!

## Child Protection Training

As Child Protection Co-ordinators for the School, Mr Wilson and Mrs Hill attend regular training sessions. The most recent training session included elements on identifying child abuse and neglect and supporting young people who need help. There was an input from Police Scotland on identifying threats to young people from extreme, misogynistic and "Incel" ideologies. This included raising awareness of how extreme groups use online gaming as an opportunity to engage with young people, spread their beliefs and ultimately encourage them to become members of their criminal groups. The key messages from the training will be incorporated into PSHE lessons as part of the ongoing work to keep PSHE lessons in line with current developments.

## Cost of the school day

# THE 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>

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<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>

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

## School Meal Information



### SAVE UP TO £456 PER CHILD IN 2024

Free school meals are available for ALL children in P1-P5 automatically, with no criteria to meet and no need to apply. If your child normally takes a packed lunch, why not encourage them to try a school lunch? It could free up valuable time for you and help you save up to £456 per child over the whole school year.

If you have children in P1-P5 who normally bring their lunch to school, why not earn yourself a break from making packed lunches. It could be one way to save on the cost of the school day. At this time of year, everything helps.

During 2024, we'll be aiming to raise awareness about the kind of food options available and help you convince your children to try a school meal – there really is something for all tastes, textures and dietary needs.

As well as a range of cooked meals, there are healthy packed-lunch options too – filled rolls, sandwiches and wraps. We try to provide something for everyone, whether that be for plainer eaters or children with special dietary requirements. We are always striving to improve the quality and variety of what we provide.

Our menus provide a balanced diet over the week and at least one third of the daily nutritional requirements of pupils. You can download the Fife school meals menu and read more about school meals including menu information, ingredients and allergens at [www.fife.gov.uk/schoolmeals](http://www.fife.gov.uk/schoolmeals)<sup>4</sup>

Parents and carers of children in Primary 6 and 7, and those with a young person in high school may also be eligible for Free School Meal Entitlement, but you must apply for this. To see if you qualify for this or other benefits go to [www.fife.gov.uk/educationbenefits](http://www.fife.gov.uk/educationbenefits).<sup>5</sup>

This time of year can increase money worries for everyone. Make sure you're getting the help you're entitled to. There's also help available for those who aren't eligible for any benefits - some support is universal, meaning anyone can get it. Check if there's anything that might ease the winter

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

<sup>4</sup><https://www.fife.gov.uk/schoolmeals>

<sup>5</sup>[http://www.fife.gov.uk/educationbenefits?fbclid=IwAR0xdZCSBhOKEWye1Y4njxYnxhpHwyhFMfNfBj61tW-8gjsplhx6n\\_v7IC0](http://www.fife.gov.uk/educationbenefits?fbclid=IwAR0xdZCSBhOKEWye1Y4njxYnxhpHwyhFMfNfBj61tW-8gjsplhx6n_v7IC0)



pressures for you at [our.fife.scot/gethelp](http://our.fife.scot/gethelp)<sup>6</sup>. You can see what other benefits you might be entitled to by using the Fife Benefits Calculator, which you'll also find there.

## 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>7</sup> The meetings begin at 6pm.

Monday 11th March

Monday 22nd April

Monday 10th June

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<sup>6</sup><http://our.fife.scot/gethelp?fbclid=IwAR3rS7Fu2HnHNFOY3hNUvsXiEffJyEFuFMeBt8Z2XXprYGIIx1y5iwo2Jx4>

<sup>7</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

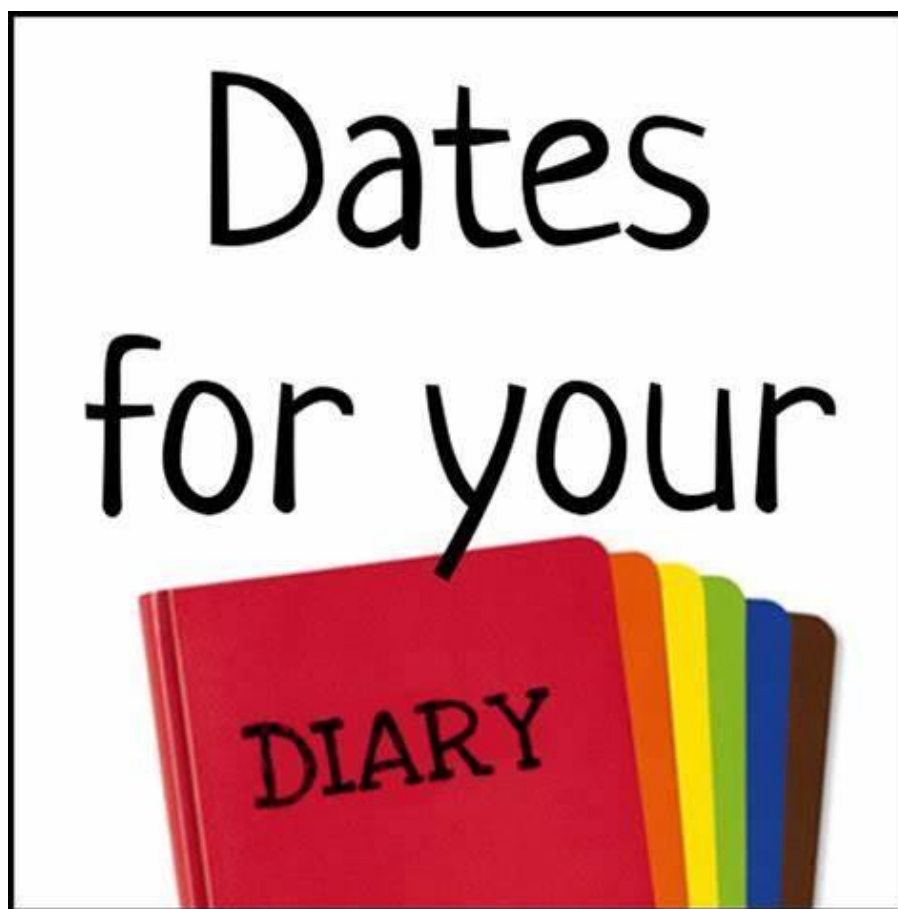


There are a variety of ways you can contact the school and we would encourage you to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

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**

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**