

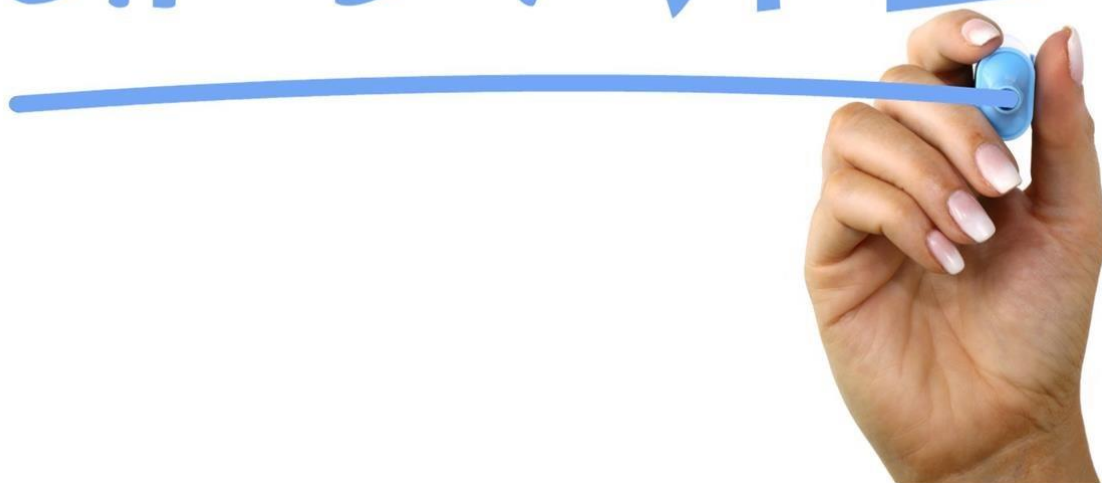


Viewforth High School

Newsletter - 12 February 2024

## Head Teacher Update

# UPDATE



I hope this update finds you and your families well.

It's hard to believe that it's the mid-term week already. A reminder that the school is closed to pupils on Wednesday of this week as it is an In-service day for staff and then we have the mid-term holiday on Thursday and Friday.

On Friday of last week, I shared a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document with all parents and carers via Groupcall. This document was created by the four Kirkcaldy Secondary School Head Teachers in response to the consultation on moving to equitable learning hours across the Kirkcaldy Secondary Schools. In Viewforth HS, we had a total of 23 parent and carer responses to the consultation and you will hopefully find the answers to your questions within this document. We will work to keep you updated in the coming weeks with regards the timings of the school week from August 2024.

I'm very excited about our first Careers Fayre and Curriculum Pathways evening which take place in school tomorrow. These events have been planned to support young people and families to make informed choices about the next stage in education and beyond. We have over 40 employers, Further Education and Higher Education representatives joining us and it would be great to have a high number of parents and carers present during the evening. You can find out more about these events below.

Last week we appointed Ms Harris (HE teacher) to the temporary Principal Teacher of Guidance post. Ms Harris will begin this post on Monday 26 February and will have responsibility for 3C1, 3C2 and

4C1. Until Monday 26 February, the classes will be looked after by 3C1 Mrs Beesley and 3C2 and 4C1 by Mrs Robertson.

Due to the mid-term holiday, the next weekly update you will receive will be on Friday 23 February.

## 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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## Groupcall Messages – Absence and Lateness

The best possible attendance is critical to the progress of all young people in school. A key aspect of our work to ensure attendance is as good as possible is by keeping families informed and giving them an up to date picture of their child's attendance on a daily basis. To support this, we make use of the Groupcall system to message parents directly. This allows us to safeguard young people and ensure their whereabouts are known and also to make families aware of non-attendance at classes. There are a number of Groupcall messages you may receive from us. Below is a table detailing the message and circumstances when they are sent.

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## S4 - 6 Reports and Parents' Evening



Senior Phase pupils received their reports on Friday 09.02.2024 during period 7. The next Senior Phase Parents' Evening takes place on Thursday 22nd February and the online booking system is now open to allow you to make appointments. This system will close on 20.02.2024. If you are struggling to make appointments, please get in touch with the school office 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)
- 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, please sign up using this link**

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKaLE4prGDRZLv6EFYa8ZafJUN0tNMjJIWDAxRUxZSIRWVTdNWDIPMzY0OC4u>

## DYW Careers Event



The Developing the Young Workforce Careers' Event will take place on Tuesday 13 February. Young people will be invited to the event during school time and there will be a period of time in the evening for parents / carers and young people to visit the Careers' Event. The timeslots will be 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.

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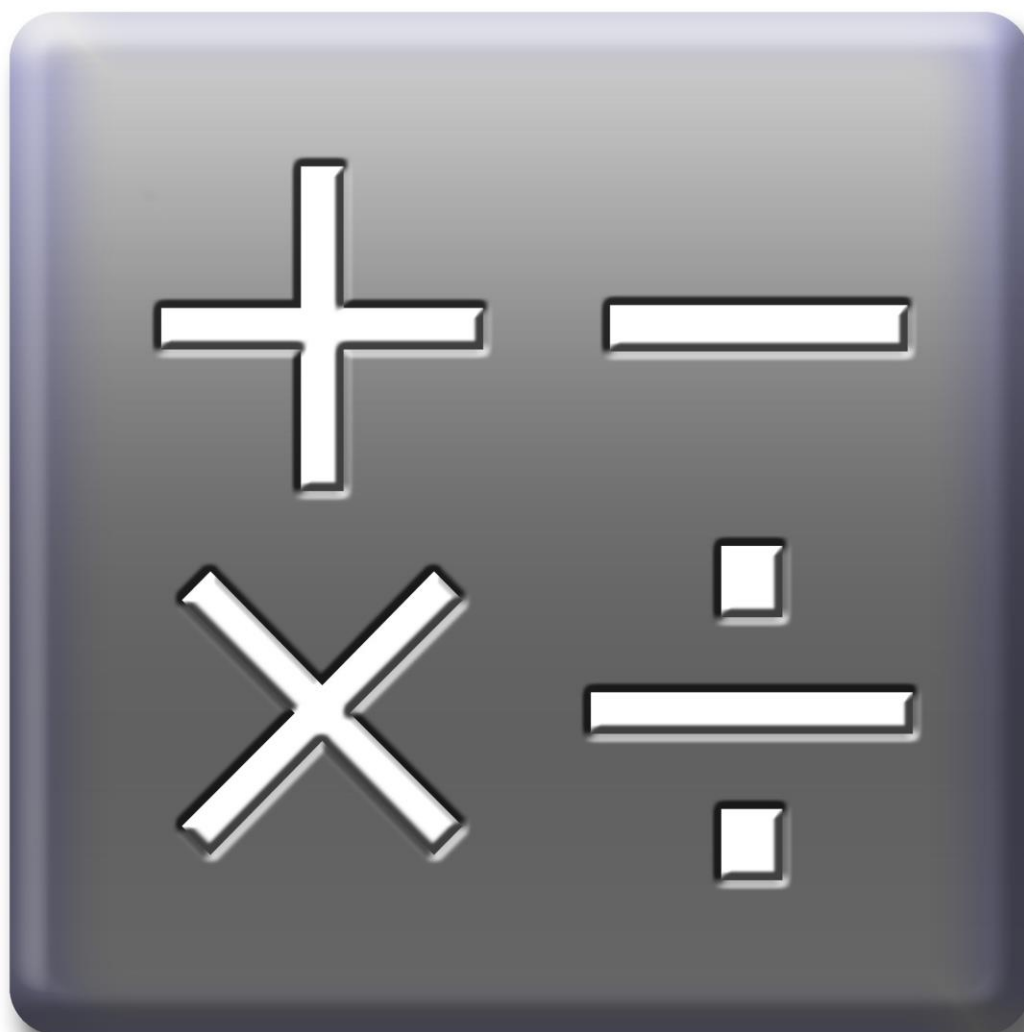
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## In-Service Day - Staff Focus



Whilst our young people will be enjoying the start of their half term holiday on Wednesday, the staff will be involved in professional learning workshops with a focus on Learning, Teaching and Assessment. The specific areas being explored will include collaborative learning, engagement strategies, differentiation and literacy resources and digital approaches to meet learners needs. The sessions will be delivered by colleagues who have particular expertise and who have benefitted from professional learning in these areas, including the Osiris programme which two groups of staff have experienced this year and a further two groups will enrol on next year. Following on from mental health awareness week, time will also be devoted to activities and strategies to support wellbeing.

## Primary 7 - Maths Challenge



On Thursday of last week we once again welcomed the Primary 7 pupils from our associate Primary Schools into Viewforth HS. After challenging the body during the ceilidh, the focus of this visit was to challenge the mind through the 'Maths Challenge'. The assembly hall was a buzz of energy and excitement as teams of four puzzled their way through a variety of maths problems and challenges. When the event reached its conclusion, this year's winning team came from Sinclairtown Primary School. Well done to all involved and huge thanks to Mrs McLeod and the Maths department for all their efforts organising an excellent afternoon of maths fun!

### **We are becoming a UNICEF UK Rights Respecting School**

Viewforth High School strives to be a school where children's rights are at the heart of our ethos and culture, to improve well-being and to develop every child's talent and abilities to their full potential. As part of this plan, we are working towards recognition as a Rights Respecting School, an award given to schools on behalf of UNICEF UK.

UNICEF UK works with schools to create safe and inspiring places to learn, where children are respected, their talents are nurtured, and they are able to thrive. The Rights Respecting Schools Award supports schools to put in place a set of standards based on equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination, and participation. These values stem from the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

At Viewforth High School pupils will learn about their rights by putting them into practice every day. You can find out more about the Award here: [unicef.uk/About\\_RRSA](https://www.unicef.uk/About_RRSA)

We are currently looking for young people in S1-5 to join our Rights Respecting School Ambassadors Group. Please speak to Miss Meek in B1.14 if this is something you would be interested in. We really hope that you will support our school on our Rights Respecting journey.

## 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>](#)

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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>



- 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.

## 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>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>

<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**

Mrs Campbell 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

Mr Bowman for classes 3F2, 3M1, 3M2, 4F1, 4M1 and 4M2

Ms Harris will support 3C1, 3C2 and 4C1 from Monday 26 February.

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

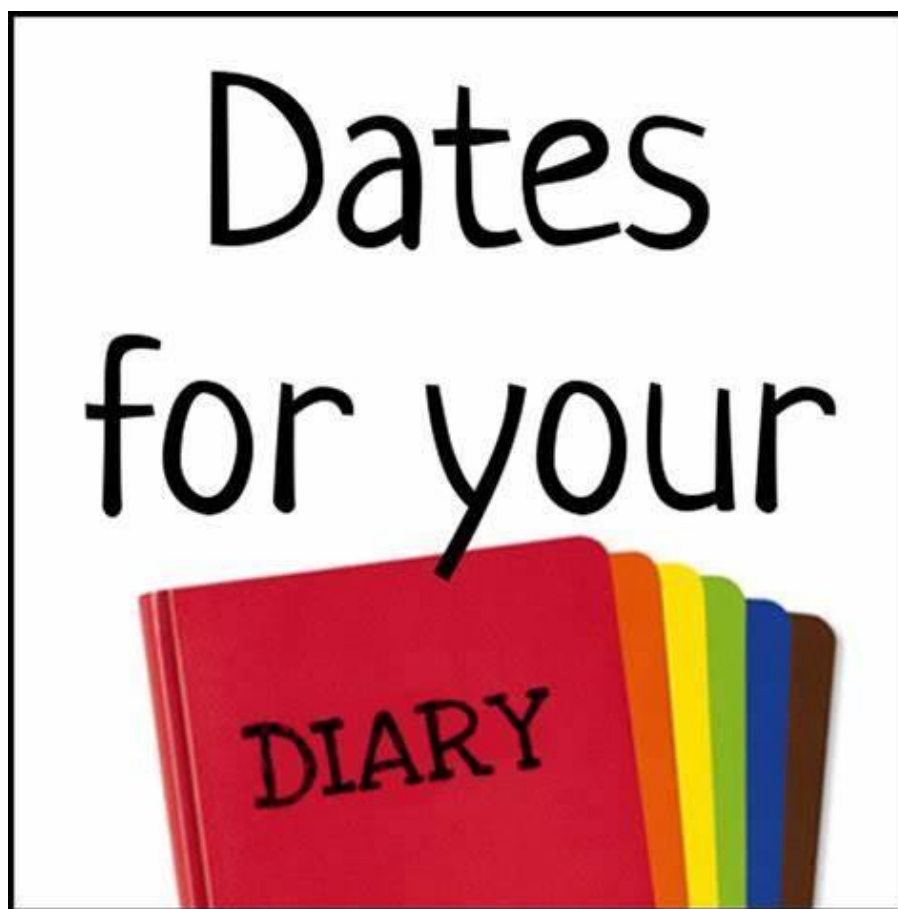


There are a variety of ways you can contact the school and we would encourage you to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

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**

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)**

Spring Thursday 4th January 2024 - Thursday 28th March 2024

Summer Monday 15th April 2024 - Friday 28th June 2024

**Respect - Equity - Ambition - Community - Health**