

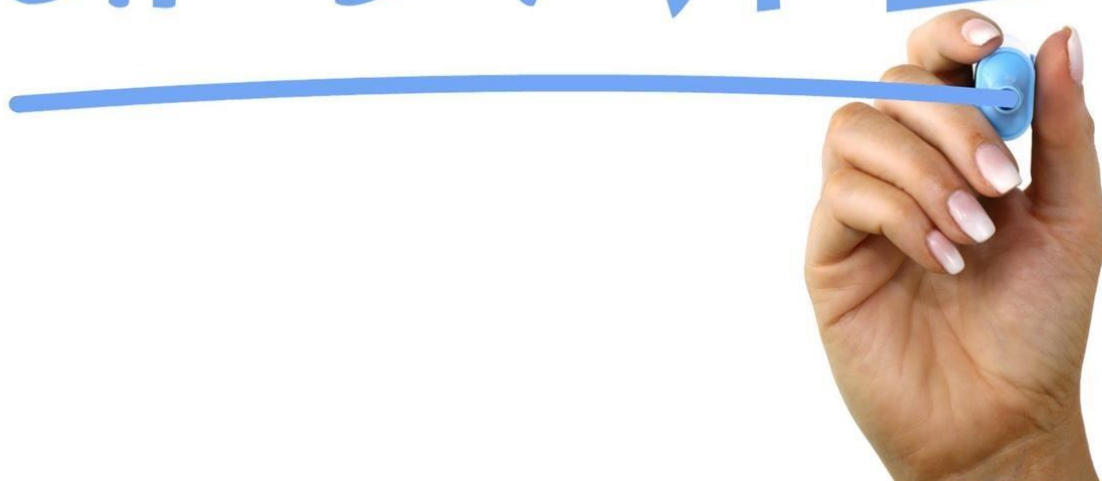


Viewforth High School

Newsletter - 23 February 2024

Head Teacher Update

UPDATE



I hope this update finds you and your families well.

Since the last HT update there has been lots happening in Viewforth High School. We had our first Careers Fayre in school on Tuesday 13 February and this was a very successful event. We had over 40 exhibitors in school including Colleges, Universities, Employers and Voluntary Organisations and the young people who attended throughout the course of the afternoon engaged very well with the visitors, asking them key questions about their interests and chosen career pathways. It was also lovely to see so many parents and carers present during the session after school and I'd like to thank you for your continued support. The exhibitors were very complimentary about the young people of Viewforth and commented on how respectful and interested they were.

Our Curriculum Pathway interviews for S2, S3, S4 and S5 pupils are underway and these will continue next week with young people in these year groups meeting with their Guidance Teacher to discuss the subject choices they would like to study next session.

On Monday of next week we have two new members of staff starting in Viewforth. We look forward to welcoming Mr Anthony Reddie to the Business Education department and Ms Angela Riddell to the Home Economics department. Ms Louise Harris will also take up post as Principal Teacher of Guidance as part of the S3 and S4 year team and will have responsibility for classes 3c1, 3c2 and 4c1.

If you haven't had the chance to complete the ParentWise survey, you can find the link to this below. By taking a few minutes to complete the survey, you are helping us to understand what we can do to

improve our working relationships with parents and carers. Thank you to everyone who has already completed the survey, your time is greatly appreciated.

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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Fife Festival of Music Success



During the week of the 5th of February a number of our pupils performed at Fife Festival of Music in both competitive and non-competitive classes. Our extremely talented pupils performed to a high standard and there were winners in a range of different classes. Those who didn't win, achieved Outstanding, Very Good or Good commendations from the adjudicators and the feedback that they all received was excellent. Below is a list of the young people who performed in each of the categories.

Electric Guitar / Bass Guitar (Open class)

Alex Harrower - **winner**

Alex was then invited to compete at the Fife Festival of Music Young Musician on Friday evening and was the overall winner at this event - what an incredible achievement!

Electric Guitar / Bass Guitar (Advanced)

Nicola Lewandowska - **winner**

Sasha Grubb

Harris Logan

Rowan Wallace

Brass (Intermediate)

Heili Kitsing - **winner**

Woodwind (Intermediate)

Amber Fenelon

Piano (Advanced)

Albena Nenova

Piano (Intermediate)

Shaun Graham

Lukas Smith

Strings (Advanced)

Thomas Scott

Strings (Non-competitive)

Raphaella Allotey

Voice - 18 & Under Musicals

Sophie Fenelon

Rowan Docherty

Voice - Solo Singing School Pupils

Sasha Grubb

Albena Nenova

Rowan Wallace









VHS Young Musician of the Year 2024

On Wednesday evening of this week, we held our first Young Musician of the Year competition with six S3 pupils and five S5 pupils performing to an excellent standard. The audience was treated to a variety of instruments and music styles and the adjudicators had the difficult decision at the end of the evening to decide a winner and runner-up for each stage.

Junior: Winner - Raphaela Allotey (cello)

Runner-up - Heili Kitsing (trumpet)

Certificate of Participation - Lukas Smith, Angel Brockie-Moir, Shaun Graham, Lucy Curran

Senior: Winner - Alex Harrower (electric guitar)

Runner-up - Grace Wilson (alto saxophone)

Certificate of Participation - Harris Logan, Nicola Lewandowska, Rowan Docherty

Alex will now represent Viewforth HS at the Fife Finals which will take place on Tuesday 19th March at the Rothes Halls, Glenrothes.

Many congratulations to everyone involved and thank you to the Music department for organising such an excellent event.





Interhouse Basketball



The Interhouse Basketball took place during the week of the 5th February. There were excellent performances from several players in first, second and third year. Each event was highly competitive and the behaviour and sportsmanship of everyone involved was very good. Well done to the fourth year Sports Leaders who officiated the competitions as part of their SCQF level 5 qualification. Everyone achieved the standard necessary to pass this element of the course.

Final house positions are shown below.

S1 – Craigendal = 17 pts, Fidra = 9 pts, MacGregor = 15 pts and Combined = 7 pts

S2 – Craigendal = 19 pts, Fidra = 15 pts, MacGregor = 19 pts and Combined = 19 pts

S3 – Craigendal = 14 pts, Fidra = 10 pts, MacGregor = 18 pts and Combined = 6 pts

Final Positions

1st – MacGregor = 52 pts

2nd – Craighendal = 50 pts

3rd – Fidra = 34 pts

4th – Combined = 32 pts

Youth Philanthropy Initiative



Yesterday, Ms Jack, hosted the Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) event in the assembly hall. YPI connects students with local, grassroots charities to help them understand the social issues in their local communities and understand the value of a grant to a local organisation. All S5 pupil in Viewforth HS participate in the YPI programme as part of their RME curriculum and this not only teaches them research and presentation skills, but also provides them with a hands-on experience in what it means to truly involved in the wellbeing of their local community.

Seven groups of S5 pupils were selected to present in the final yesterday and these groups were representing the following charities: The Cottage Family Centre, Teenage Cancer Trust, Link Living, Fife Young Carers, Fife Women's Aid, Maggie' Centre and Kirkcaldy Foodbank. Following the presentations, the judges had the very difficult decision of selecting an overall winner and the winning charity was the Kirkcaldy Foodbank. A cheques for £3000 will soon be presented to the Kirkcaldy Foodbank from the winning group. Well done to all involved but an extra special well done to Aashmeen Kaur, Carla McDowall, Rachel Brown, Jess Wight, Yomade Adekusibe, Nathan Christie and Oliwia KtANJI who managed to win £3000 for their chosen charity.



1 - The winning group with the cheque for £3000.

Scottish Apprenticeship Week

Each year Skills Development Scotland organises Scottish Apprenticeship Week (SAW), a week-long celebration of apprentices and their employers, and the fantastic contributions that they make to the whole of Scotland. This year's Scottish Apprenticeship Week will run from 4-8 March, and to tie in with this, in conjunction with our partners at DYW Fife, the Fife team will be hosting **two** apprenticeship-themed events at the following venues and dates -

- **Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline - Tuesday 5th March 2024, 6pm-8pm**
- **Auchmuty High School, Glenrothes - Thursday 7th March 2024, 6pm-8pm**

The main details are as follows:

- **Aim:** To help young people from across Fife and their parents/carers, find out about Modern Apprenticeships and the wider Apprenticeship family (Foundation and Graduate) and enable local and national employers to give information about current vacancies and future recruitment opportunities.
- **Timings:** 6pm-8pm

Both events are open to pupils, parents and carers from Viewforth High School, please consider going along to one of the two events to learn more about Apprenticeship opportunities.

Together for Change Project

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Fife Voluntary Action are keen to hear the thoughts of parents and carers in relation to your experiences of services and support for young people and families. More detail and the link to sign up can be found in the attached flyer.

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](#)¹
- 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](#)²
- 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](#)³

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

²<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.

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.com⁴ The meetings begin at 6pm.

Monday 11th March

Monday 22nd April

Monday 10th June

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

⁴<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

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

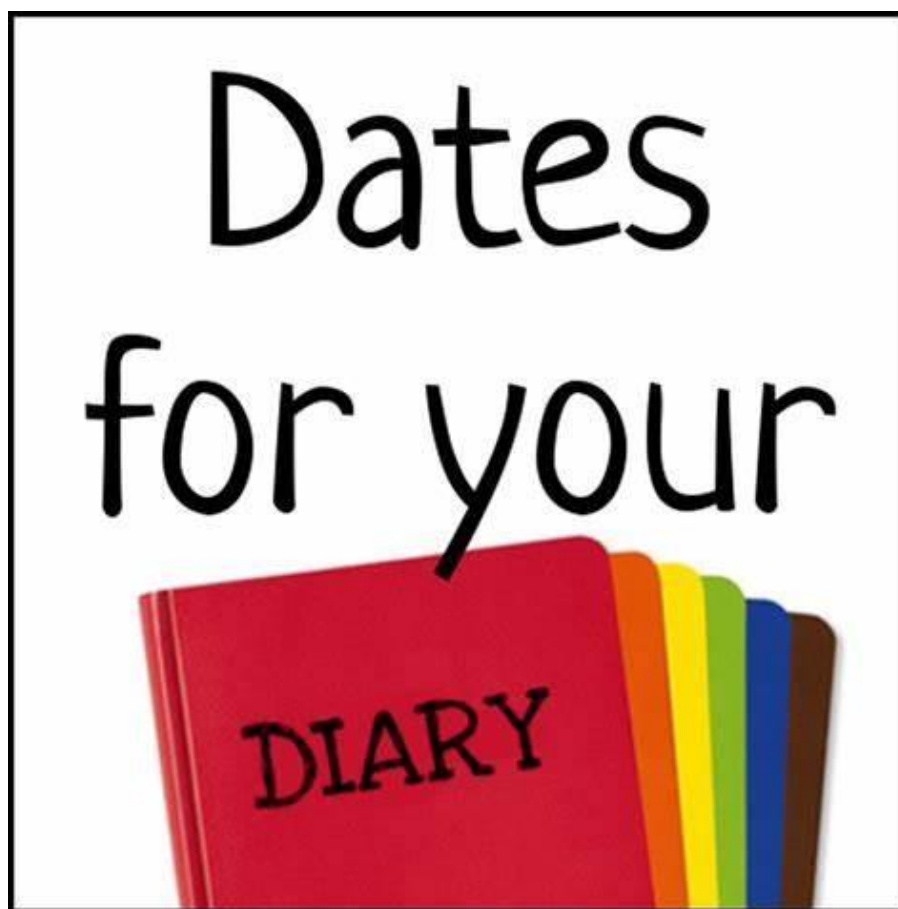


There are a variety of ways you can contact the school and we would encourage you to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

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...



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