



Viewforth High School

Newsletter - 02 February 2024

Head Teacher Update

UPDATE



I hope this update finds you and your families well.

It's been a busy week in Viewforth HS for wider curricular experiences. On Tuesday a group of 15 S2 pupils visited Fife College to learn more about careers in the hospitality industry. The pupils participated in six different workshops including making filled flat breads and mocktails and numerous people at the event highlighted how well the learners represented themselves and the school by being fully engaged in all activities. Two of the S2 pupils received prizes at the award ceremony. Jonasz Szczepanski received a prize for engagement in the butchery session and Ciara Rose Wightman received the overall prize for engagement across all schools involved. Well done to them!

On Wednesday, our Higher Geography pupils braved the heavy rain and high winds to complete their field trip to Glasgow to support them in completing their coursework assignment. The field trip included activities in Stepps, Glasgow Fort, Glasgow City Centre and Govanhill. All pupils now have the data they require to write up their assignment.

Throughout the week our S1, S2 and S3 pupils have had the opportunity to participate in Interhouse Badminton. Mr Easton reports that the performance, effort, fair play and behaviour of all the participants has been excellent and there were some very close and competitive games throughout - well done to everyone who took part. Well done and thank you to the Senior Sports Leaders for their help in organising and running the events. You can find the results noted below, including the overall house points.

S1 Badminton

1st - Calum Forrest

2nd - Zac Loudon, Marlo Watson and Roan Callow

3rd - Maxim Nenov, Sahil Khan and Cian Cardell

S2 Badminton

1st - Iona Galvez Brown

2nd - Aimee McHardy

3rd - Andrew Fleming

S3 Badminton

1st - Nico Christie

2nd - Daniel King

3rd - Ben Phillips and Iain McMichael

House Points

1st - MacGregor (293 points)

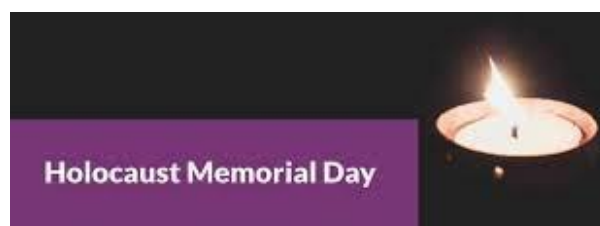
2nd - Fidra (252 points)

3rd - Craigendal (247 points)

Changes to Guidance Staff

Mrs Edwards is beginning her maternity leave from Monday of next week and on Friday of next week, Mr Simpson leaves us to take up a promotion in another Fife school. To ensure our young people continue to be fully supported in school, we have appointed a new Principal Teacher of Guidance to cover Mr Simpson's caseload and I'd like to congratulate Mrs Leanne Campbell on this appointment. Mrs Campbell will have responsibility for 1C1, 1C2, and 2C1. We have also redistributed some classes to cover Mrs Edwards maternity leave and Mr Bowman will take responsibility for 3F2, 4F1 and 4M1. A new Principal Teacher of Guidance is being appointed to take on Mrs Edwards' remaining classes of 3C1, 3C2 and 4C1 and we expect to appoint the new Principal Teacher of Guidance early next week. All other class responsibilities remain the same. The attendance coordinator responsibilities also remain the same.

Holocaust Memorial Day



#HolocaustMemorialDay / 27 January

Saturday 27th January was Holocaust Memorial Day. To commemorate this two of our S6 pupils, Hollie Bonnellie and Amelia Brown, delivered presentations at morning assemblies this week to all year groups. Both pupils had participated in the Lessons from Auschwitz scheme which saw them take part in training exercises and a day's visit to Auschwitz in Poland. They shared their experiences with the school community and described the Holocaust and its impact on people then and today.

Registration classes have also been completing Holocaust Memorial reflections to consider how the lessons from the Holocaust can be learned and how we can all make changes to promote equality and inclusion in school and our communities.

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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S3 Parents' Evening



S3 Parents' Evening appointments opened on Wednesday 24 January at 1pm and will close on Sunday evening. 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, please sign up using this link

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKaLE4prGDRZLv6EFYa8ZafJUN0tNMjJIWDaxRUxZSIRWVTdNWDIPMzY0OC4u>

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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Children's Mental Health Awareness

**WANT TO CHAT
ABOUT YOUR HEALTH?**

Fife Health & Social Care Partnership
Supporting the people of Fife together

**It's easy to speak to our School Nursing
Health Hub Staff**

School Nursing Self-Referral Service

Mondays 9am-12pm

In room S1.02

To make an appointment you can:

- Drop In to room S1.02
- Text us on 07312 263023
- Fill out the appointment form and pop this into the drop box – both at school reception

**SCHOOL NURSING
HEALTH HUB**

Other ways to contact us:
*Text on 07312 263023
*Call on 01592 729393
Messages & calls will be charged at your standard network rate

Next week the School Nurse Service will be speaking to all year groups to promote Mental Health Awareness during assemblies. They will also be setting out the supports they provide in school but also some of the other services that are available for young people. The School Nurse Service accepts referrals from the school; young people can refer themselves and they can also use the text and call services.

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

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.

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>

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

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

Mr Simpson for classes 1C1, 1C2 and 2C1 / Mrs Campbell will take responsibility from Monday 12 February

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

The new Principal Teacher of Guidance 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

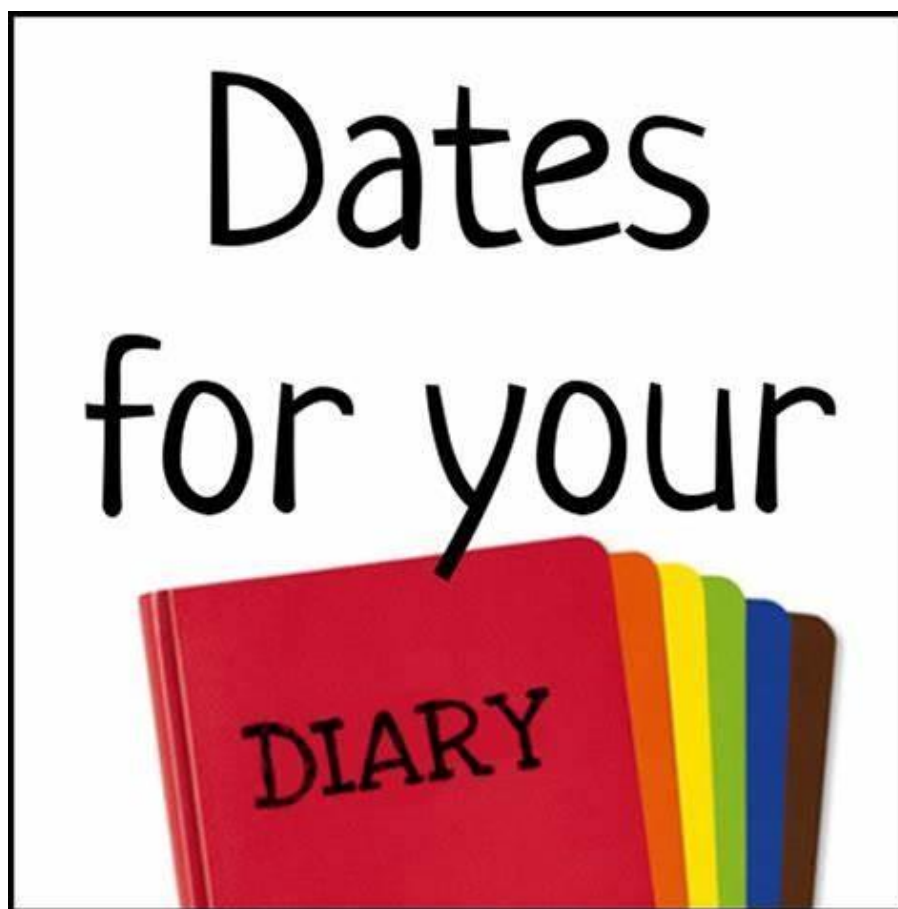


There are a variety of ways you can contact the school and we would encourage you to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

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...



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