

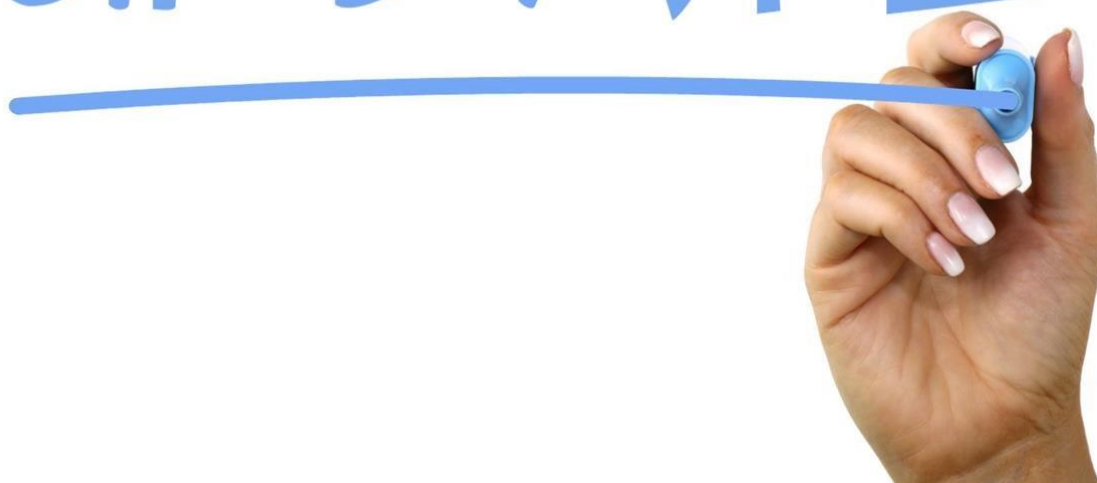


Viewforth High School

Newsletter - 08 March 2024

Head Teacher Update

UPDATE



I hope this update finds you and your families well.

You will have read in the last few weekly updates that Fife Council is currently working to gather the views of parents and carers across all schools, both Primary and Secondary, and they are doing this via a ParentWise survey. The deadline has been extended to allow more parents and carers to have the opportunity to have their say and you can find the link to the survey 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. The survey will now close on the 22nd March 2024. I'd like to thank all of our parents and carers who have already taken the time to complete the survey.

We are now progressing with the changes to the school day following the period of consultation and feedback involving young people, parents / carers and staff. Later today you will receive a letter from Shelagh McLean (Education Head of Service) with further information regarding the move to 27.5 learning hours from August 2024; this letter will be sent to all parents / carers of young people in Kirkcaldy Secondary Schools. Further information will then follow from the individual Head Teachers, detailing the arrangements for each individual school from August 2024.

Mrs Hughes (Principal Teacher of Guidance) is currently absent and during the period of her absence, Ms Barr will support the pupils within classes 1F2, 1M1, 2M1 and 2M2. If your young person is in one of these classes and you have any questions or concerns, you can contact Ms Barr via the school office.

During the last week of term, we will be holding a series of Celebrating Success Assemblies. During these assemblies we would like to celebrate the wide range of successes and achievements that our young people have across the wider school and out of school. Many of our young people are involved in clubs and activities or have hobbies outside of school that they don't tell us about and that's where I'm looking for your help. If your child has achieved success (however big or small) we'd like to hear about it. Please email viewforthhs.enquiries@fife.gov.uk¹ with the information and any photographs you may have. Thank you in advance for helping us to celebrate the success of our young people.

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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School Traffic Management Plan



Please find attached the school's updated Travel Management Plan. This is reviewed annually by our Business Manager and covers the usage of all parking and drop off areas for all site users of Windmill Community Campus. Although this document is updated annually, awareness of this document and its instruction is raised regularly through assemblies, school meetings and parent communications. If you have any questions regarding the Traffic Management Plan, you can contact our Business Manager, Ms Fiona Davison, via the school office.

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¹<mailto:viewforthhs.enquiries@fife.gov.uk>

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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 Council²](#)
- 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 Council³](#)
- 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.

²<https://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/education2/schools-in-fife/free-school-meals-and-school-clothing-grants>

³<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](#)⁴

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.com⁵ The meetings begin at 6pm.

Monday 11th March (This meeting will take place online only)

Monday 22nd April

Monday 10th June

⁴<https://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/welfare,-benefits-and-money-advice>

⁵<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

Ms Barr 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

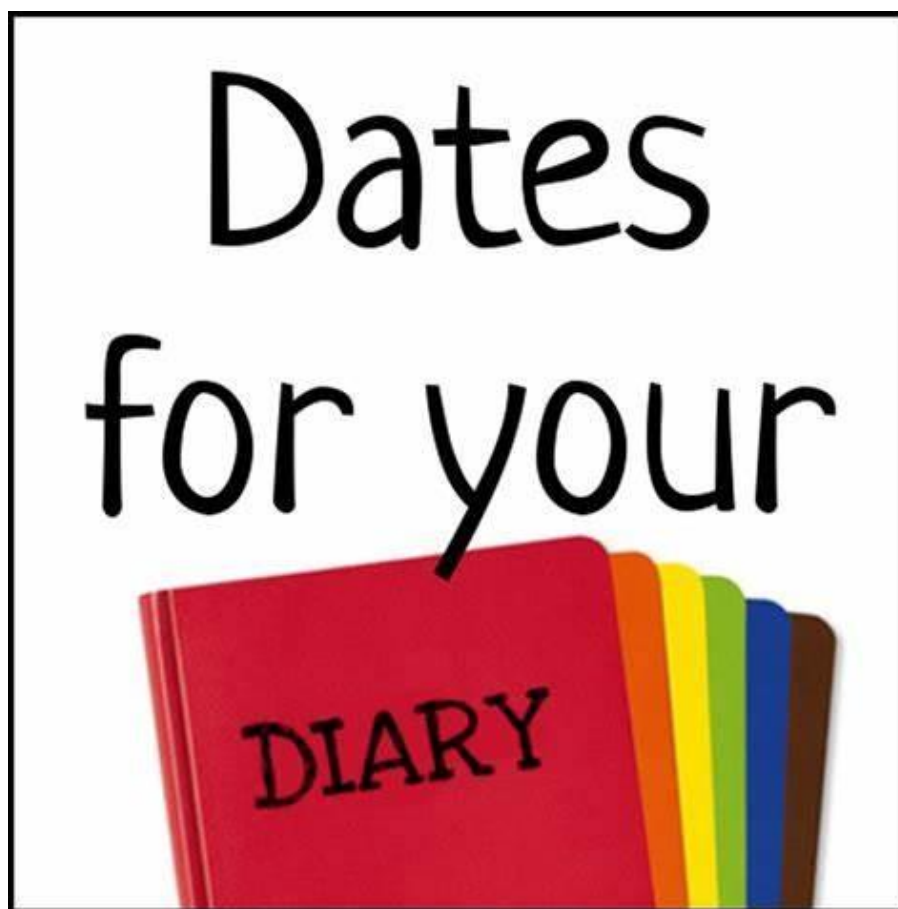


There are a variety of ways you can contact the school and we would encourage you to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

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