



Viewforth High School

Newsletter - 19 April 2024

Head Teacher Update

UPDATE



I hope this update finds you and your families well.

Welcome to term four of this academic session. It really is difficult to believe that we're at this point of the academic year already. You may remember me highlighting the work of our Vision and Values School Improvement Group and our revised school values of Respect, Equity, Ambition, Community and Health. Work has been carried out around the school campus over the Easter break to physically promote these values and the sense of identity for our school community and if you look above the pupil entrance door you will now see a very large school badge to greet the pupils each morning. We have also introduced vision and values signage in the reception area, school café and the school assembly hall. The next time you drive into the car park or visit the building have a look at these spaces, we're very proud of how they look.

Today is the final day in school for our senior pupils before they begin their study leave next week. Ms McNamee and Mr Beaton led an assembly on Wednesday afternoon to prepare the pupils for their exams and they were all issued with a copy of the SQA booklet, 'Your Exams 2024'. On Thursday of this week all senior phase pupils were issued with a personalised copy of their SQA exam timetable (pupils with assessment arrangements will already have received their timetable). If your young person hasn't received their timetable or a copy of 'Your Exams 2024', these can be collected from the school office. Some senior pupils will be required to come into school during the study leave period to complete work and participate in further learning opportunities and these pupils will be informed of this on an individual basis.

You can find more information in relation to the SQA exams below and if you have any questions, please contact the school office who will be happy to direct your call to the appropriate person.

SQA Exams



SQA exams begin on Monday 22 April. Study Leave will take place from **Monday 22 April to Thursday 30 May 2024** (inclusive). All pupils returning to school, are expected to be in school on **Friday 31 May 2024**, when they will participate in their Senior School Induction. The new timetable for Senior Pupils will begin on **Tuesday 4 June 2024**. An assembly in preparation for the young people taking exams took place on Wednesday 17.04.2024 and the following guidance was shared.

- Attendance will be taken in every exam- if a pupil does not turn up- contact will be made home immediately
- Candidates should be ready to enter examination room ten minutes before start of examination
- Seat numbers for each examination will be outside the Assembly Hall and pupils should familiarise themselves with these
- Candidates will leave bags in the Drama studio - this room will be locked
- Mobile phones must be switched off and left in bags (in the Drama studio) or handed to Mr Beaton
- Candidates should provide equipment for writing, calculators etc
- Candidates should stay in Assembly Hall until the end of the Examination
- No talking or turning around during the examination
- School uniform to be worn
- No mobile phones or Smart watches
- Scottish candidate numbers to be written on all papers- this number will be displayed outside the Assembly Hall for each person

On the morning of all exams we will offer our senior pupils a free breakfast from 8.30am. This ensures that they have had something to eat and drink before their exam and subject specialists will be on hand to help settle any nerves and to answer last minute questions. This will take place in the Drama studio.

During the period of study leave, we are offering a dedicated in-school study space for any pupil who wishes to study in school rather than working at home, these pupils should wear full school uniform.

Please encourage your young person to attend all masterclasses relevant to their subjects. You can find a copy of the masterclass timetable here.

Good luck to all involved!

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S1 and S2 Assemblies



This week the S1 and S2 year groups were visited in assembly by our Community Police Officer, PC Campbell. They received an educational input on the appropriate and safe use of mobile phones and the imminent changes to the law with regards this. PC Campbell discussed the use of social media as a platform for sharing information and how our young people can keep themselves safe as well as the potential consequences of sharing personal and private details, images or videos with others. She also informed the pupils of the changing law around 'bystanders' in such situations which will see those sharing videos or pictures open to prosecution for doing so. Prevention is always the 'best cure' in such situations and I'm sure the input will prove to be valuable for our pupils.

S6 Graduation



Our Graduation Ceremony for our S6 Leavers took place today. We were delighted to invite their parents and carers in to school to take part to see the young people receive their certificates. They heard speeches from Mrs Moore and the school captains Caitlin Smith and Euan Fenton. There was also a musical performance from Sophie Fenelon and Rowan Wallace as the final farewell from the students to their classmates. Following the ceremony, the leavers had the chance to take photographs, get their yearbooks signed and have a pizza lunch together one final time as a year. Whilst there were some tears, there was a real sense of pride amongst the staff and young people for all their achievements.

We wish all of our S6s well for their final exams and their futures after school.



School Uniform

We have changed uniform suppliers for next session and are now working with BE Uniform. They currently have some special offers in place (please see the attached pricelist). The company will be in school on Wednesday 1 May from 4pm - 5.30pm to measure pupils currently in S3, S4 and S5 for school blazers. There is currently a 20% discount which will close on the 19th May. Next week we will share some photographs and further details of the uniform and how to order with you.

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Celebrating Success

Prior to the Easter break we held our Celebrating Success assemblies and it was lovely to share the many achievements and successes of our pupils and the young people enjoyed seeing their name up in lights. It is my plan to share the presentation with you next week so you can also enjoy the broad range of activities our young people are involved in.

Over the Easter holidays and during the course of this week, three of our young people have demonstrated their hard work and commitment by participating at a high level in dance, music and rugby.

Cody (S1) dances with the Danielle Law School of Dance and Music and specialises in Highland Dance. Cody holds many titles including the 12 Year European Champion, Granite City Champion, City of Aberdeen Champion and West of Scotland Champion. Cody will be participating in the Highland and Islands Music and Dance Festival next week and later in the year will be competing in the World Highland Dancing Championships and Scottish Open Championships and we wish Cody every success in the competitions.

Thomas (S5) participated in the Fife Youth Sinfonia event at the Lochgelly Centre on Wednesday evening and I had the pleasure of listening to the band play. They played a number of pieces from Beethoven to music from La La Land and West Side Story. It was a full house at the event and the young people played with confidence and passion following many hours of rehearsals. Thomas is an accomplished musician and very much enjoys working with the other young people in the Fife Youth Music team.

Ben (S6) competed with the Scotland under 18 rugby team in the Six Nations tournament in Parma, Italy over the Easter holidays. Ben, who is a member of Howe of Fife Rugby Club in Cupar plays in the position of scrum half and was delighted to be selected for the squad who competed against Italy, Georgia and England in the tournament. The team won two out of their three games and Ben loved the experience, including some sight seeing time in Parma. Ben is very committed to his sport, trains regularly and the hard work is paying off.

Well done to Cody, Thomas and Ben - we are incredibly proud of you.

Please continue to share good news stories and successes with us so we can celebrate these across our school community.



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 22nd April - this meeting has been rescheduled to Monday 13 May

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

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

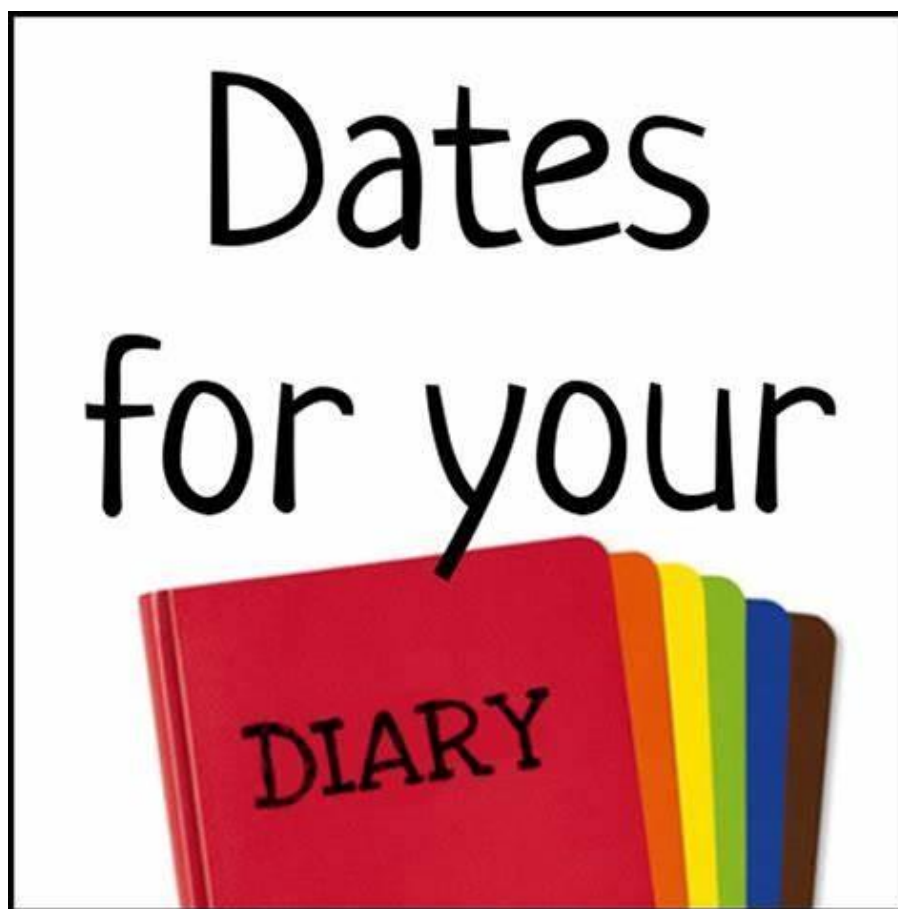


There are a variety of ways you can contact the school and we would encourage you to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

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)

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

Respect - Equity - Ambition - Community - Health