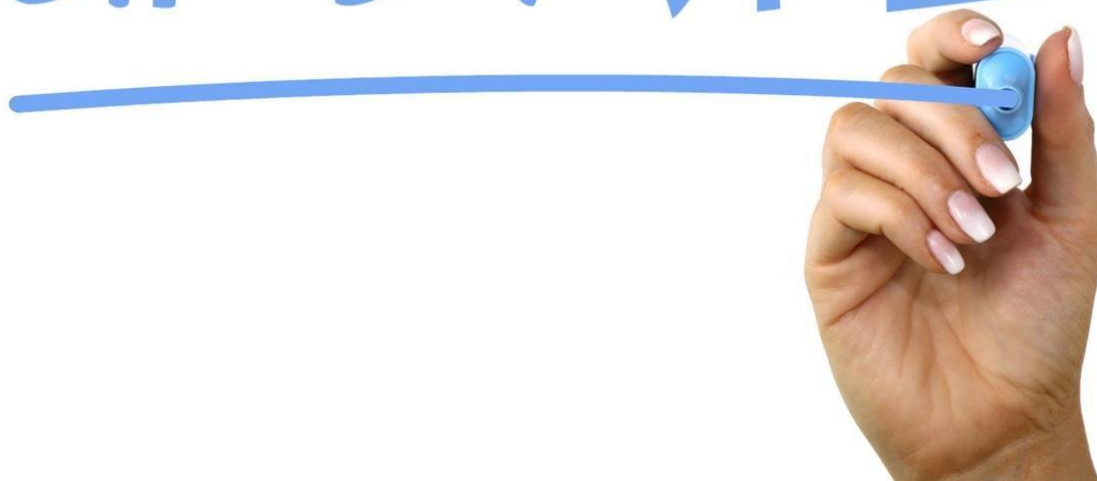




Viewforth High School

Head Teacher Update

UPDATE



Welcome to the last weekly update of this academic session. Next week we will share our Summer Newsletter, showcasing the wide range of activities and successes that have taken place over the last few months in Viewforth High School.

This week our Silver Duke of Edinburgh participants completed their expedition section of the Award. The weather proved very challenging at points and the young people were soaked through on occasion, however they displayed real resilience, dug deep and kept going - well done everyone involved!

Our annual sports day took place on Wednesday afternoon and the whole school was out on the field either participating or spectating, cheering on those taking part. There were many hotly contested races and of course the tug of war competition was very popular. Mr Easton and the PE staff worked very hard to plan the event and they even managed to arrange for the sun to shine!

As we approach the final week of the session, our newly appointed School and House Captains are organising a Food Bank collection on the last day of term. All young people and staff are invited to dress down in casual clothes in exchange for an item / items for the Kirkcaldy Food Bank. All items should be non-perishable e.g. tinned food, dried pasta, diluting juice, toiletries etc and should be handed into school next week. Each item will equate to one House point. This piece of charitable work allows us to support the local community at the same time as having some fun competition between the Houses.

The school term will end at 1.05pm on Friday 28 June (3pm for the young people within our Extended Support Classes). Classes will continue with their learning up to the end of term, so attendance at school continues to be very important and all young people are expected to attend school.

SQA Exam Results



Ahead of Results Day on Tuesday 6 August, SQA have produced a new learner booklet called 'Your Results'. The booklet contains information on all the support available to learners as they receive their results and consider next steps. It includes: an overview of what to expect when receiving their results; details around certificates; frequently asked questions; how exams are marked; appeals information and more. We'll include a hard copy along with the certificates and anyone who wants to read it before Results Day can download the digital version from our website via this link [Your Results - what you need to know about SQA results, certificates and appeals¹](https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/Your-Results-2024.pdf?utm_source=marketo&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2024.06.13-SQANews-NL-MC&utm_content=button&mkt_tok=NTA1LVICSC0zMDAAAAGTsEfXKcQkZVwXqgUzDmvVwFNNGFzwsQZnQ-setUh7E4rNR_GvQDdSwrLlrU18FkHZ9RWd98YQoWb4XdQ0VTdBAEOr_TNkpnF6WxFvwoHlg)

¹https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/Your-Results-2024.pdf?utm_source=marketo&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2024.06.13-SQANews-NL-MC&utm_content=button&mkt_tok=NTA1LVICSC0zMDAAAAGTsEfXKcQkZVwXqgUzDmvVwFNNGFzwsQZnQ-setUh7E4rNR_GvQDdSwrLlrU18FkHZ9RWd98YQoWb4XdQ0VTdBAEOr_TNkpnF6WxFvwoHlg

SQA Re-coursing Day



This year's re-coursing day will take place on Tuesday 6 August 2024. This is a day to allow any young people who have not achieved the results they expected (or even those who have done better than expected) the opportunity to choose new subjects through curriculum pathway. The re-coursing will take place from 12.30pm - 3pm in school. Please come to the school reception where you will be placed in a queue and staff will see you as quickly as possible.

There will also be an opportunity for any young person who would like a marking review, but please bear in mind that this is only in exceptional circumstances. Please see the information (below) and link from SQA

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/79049.html>

If you appeal your grade, a senior appointee will carry out a marking review of your SQA-marked assessments. This is not a re-mark. A marking review checks that:

- *all parts of your SQA-assessments have been marked*
- *the marking is in line with national standards*
- *the marks given for each answer have been totalled correctly; and*
- *the correct result has been entered on our system.*

Please note that after being reviewed, your result could stay the same, go up or go down.

School Captains, House Captains and Prefects



We are pleased to announce the successful candidates for formal pupil leadership roles for the coming session. The process saw the candidates complete a written application, deliver a presentation and answer questions at interview. The standard of candidates this year was very high. Their preparation, conduct and professionalism towards the process was a credit to all involved.

For the session 2024-2025 our School Captains will be Carla McDowall and Mikey Kelly. They will be supported by two School Vice Captains Ashmeen Kaur and Charlie Douglas.

The House Teams will be led by the House Captains. For Craigendal this will be Caitlyn Kemp and Albenia Nenova, for Fidra this will be Ruby Emmerson and Thomas Scott and for McGregor this will be Sasha Grubb and Harman Sandhu.

We are also pleased to announce the successful candidates for school Prefect following assessment of their written applications. Please see the table for the lists of new prefects for this session. The overall leadership potential of this team is massive, we look forward to seeing what they can achieve in the coming session.

<iframe
src="https://onedrive.live.com/embed?cid=F15A3199E2E1A848&resid=F15A3199E2E1A848%212254
&authkey=AAym3MDDnannsql&em=2" width="476" height="288" frameborder="0"
scrolling="no"></iframe>

Café Inc Summer 2024



Café Inc will be back during the summer holidays for children and young people across Fife. It is a free lunch club providing tasty, healthy meals for our children and young people while our schools are closed during the holidays. No need to book, just turn up. Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult, who can also have a meal.

Cafe Inc venues will all be listed on our interactive map, which is available along with other advice and help with the Cost of Living, at our.fife.scot/gethelp

Summer Holiday Supports



The long summer holidays can be a challenging time for many families, especially given the current Cost of Living Crisis. There are, however, a number of supports that are out there which can help.

Viewforth Support for Families and Young People

Our new family support worker Angela Wilson and our Social Work Senior Practitioner Kim Gilmartin will be working with young people and families throughout the holiday period. They will be undertaking group work and 1:1 with identified young people.

Our Fife - Support with the Cost of Living

This team provide help for those who aren't eligible for any benefits. Some of the support which is offered is universal, meaning anyone can get it. You can reach them at this webpage [Cost of Living Support](https://our.fife.scot/gethelp)² (our.fife.scot/gethelp) or on this number 0800 9520330.

Food Bank Availability

²<https://our.fife.scot/gethelp>

The Link Living Foodbank is open Monday to Friday, 10 am to 4.30pm. It is referral only, so you will need a support worker to make a referral on your behalf. This can include a social worker, housing officer or our Family Support Worker here at Viewforth.

Viewforth Church Foodbank is also available and accepts walk ins without a referral. It is Mondays and Thursdays 10-3pm, Tuesdays and Wednesdays 10-1pm.

Mental Health Supports

Samaritans

They are available on 116123 and they provide phonenumber support for anyone needing to speak about their mental health who may be in crisis.

Shout Crisis

Provide a text line on 85258 for anyone needing to speak about their mental health who may be in crisis. If you are under 19 and wish to use the service text "YM" as there is a specific team which deals with this age group.

LGBT+ - There is also an LGBT+ specific helpline to provide mental health support on 0800 4647000.

Fife Alcohol Support Service

This team provide support for those who might be struggling with alcohol. They are available on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday during the holiday period and can be reached on 01592 206200

Active Schools Survey



In line with our recent move to an asymmetric week, Active Schools have created a pupil note of interest form to better understand what extra-curricular activities pupils would like to see in the school, and any potential offerings they would like on a Friday afternoon in the Kirkcaldy area. We have also included questions on non-sport activities that might be of interest to young people.

The form is being shared with pupils in all four Kirkcaldy secondary schools. Pupils can complete the survey via the link below to help inform the extra-curricular activities that will be offered. Get involved and have your say.

<https://forms.office.com/e/UDV6yterWz>

Digital Device Policy



Our Digital Device policy has been in place for two weeks and I'm pleased to say that it is going well, with pupils making good choices to keep their phones in their bags. This is having a positive impact on their attention during lessons and we will continue to remind the young people of these expectations. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for their support in reinforcing the message at home with regards digital devices during lessons.

```
<iframe  
src="https://onedrive.live.com/embed?cid=F15A3199E2E1A848&resid=F15A3199E2E1A848%212197  
&authkey=ADN5py8-ZhF91LI&em=2" width="476" height="288" frameborder="0"  
scrolling="no"></iframe>
```

Achievement Awards



We were delighted to host our Achievement Awards Ceremonies this week at Viewforth High School. There were over 200 awards given out to our young people and it was great to see families and friends in school.

A special thanks to our two guest speakers and to everyone who helped bring the event together.

Well done to all those who have received an award.

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](#)³
- 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](#)⁴
- 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.

³<https://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/education2/schools-in-fife/free-school-meals-and-school-clothing-grants>

⁴<https://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/education2/schools-in-fife/funding/educational-maintenance-allowance>

- 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](#)⁵

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 (**10.20am - 10.35am**) and lunchtimes (**1.05pm - 1.45pm**).

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. There will be some changes to our

⁵<https://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/welfare,-benefits-and-money-advice>

Guidance Team from August 2024 and the key staff are listed below. 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, 2C1 and 2C2

Mrs Beesley for classes 1M1, 1M2, 2F1, 2M2

Mr Wilson for classes 1C1, 1F2, 2F2

The Depute Head Teacher with responsibility for S1 and S2 is Mr Kowbel.

S3 and S4

Mrs Barr for classes 3M1, 3M2, 4F1

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

Ms Harris will support 3C1, 4C1 and 4C2

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

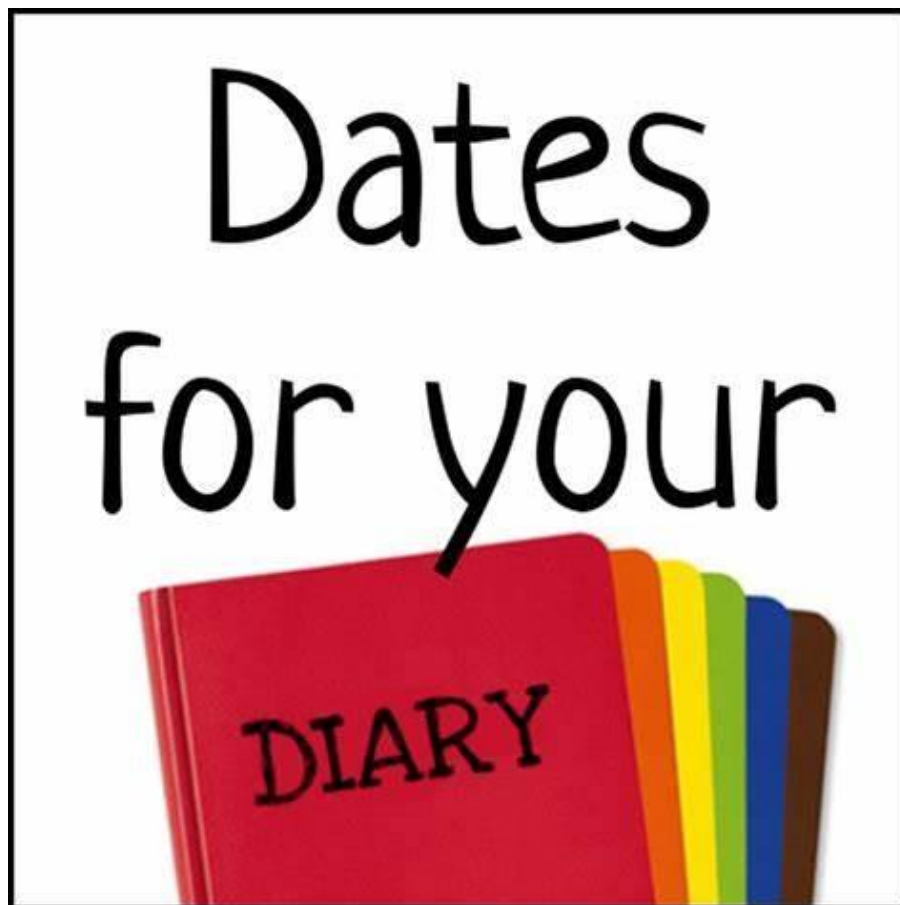


There are a variety of ways you can contact the school and we would encourage you to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

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