

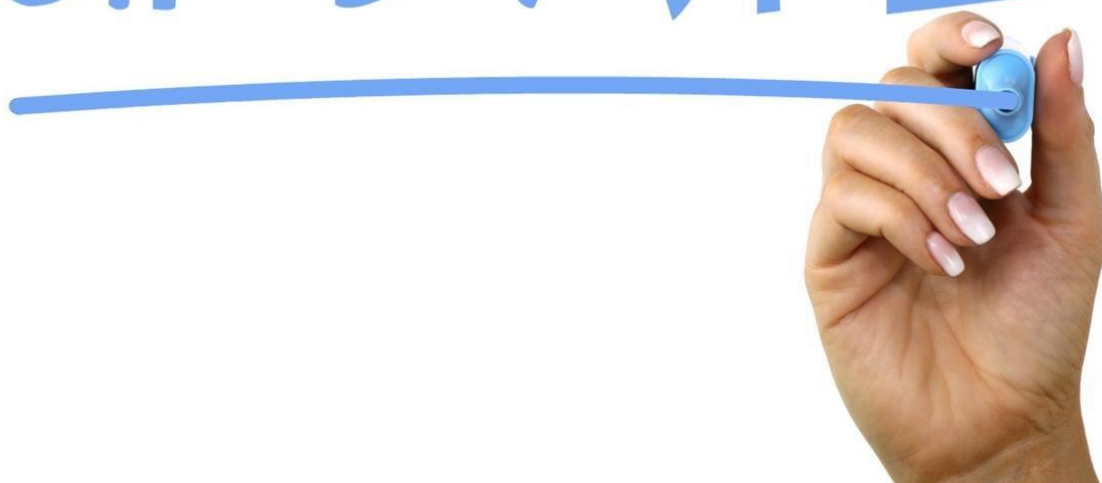


Viewforth High School

Newsletter - 20 September 2024

Head Teacher Update

UPDATE



I hope this update finds you and your families well.

Over the last few weeks our S1 pupils have been completing their standardised tests during their IT lessons. The tests generate data on individual pupils which in turn supports staff to plan learning to best meet the needs of individual learners as well as providing baseline data to measure progress. There has been a slight delay in the availability of the S2 standardised tests and these will now take place after the October holiday.

This morning I am meeting with a broad range of partners including Primary Head Teachers, Active School staff, Social Work, Family Support Workers, Community Education staff, YMCA, Young Carers, Community Police and Community Safety teams to discuss the wellbeing of our young people within the Viewforth HS community in response to the results of the national health and well-being survey. The focus of the first networking meeting of this session is in relation to food and drink. We will explore what we can do to encourage young people to drink more water and reduce their intake of energy drinks; the number of young people choosing to stay in school for lunch as opposed to visiting local shops and we also plan to create a directory of where families can access support for food within the local community. I will keep you up to date on the outcome of this meeting over the course of the coming weeks.

On Monday of next week, our Higher Geography pupils are travelling to Glasgow to conduct their fieldwork in preparation for the assignment section of the course. They will compare rural and urban areas, conducting detailed research to allow them to write an in-depth analysis.

A reminder that our school day begins at 8.40am. As we no longer have registration, pupils who arrive late are missing out on important learning time. Young people arriving 5 minutes late every day means half a period of learning is missed over the course of a week and two whole periods over the course of a month. If there is anything we can do to support you to ensure your child arrives on time, please contact the school attendance line. Our family support worker Angela Wilson, can also provide support if required.

As always if there is anything we can do to help or support you or your young person, please get in touch via the school office.

Community Donation from ASDA



We would like to say a huge thank you to ASDA who kindly donated fruit, cereal and cereal bars to Viewforth HS to ensure our young people have a snack at interval and are ready to learn. ASDA is also collecting pre-loved school uniform on our behalf. Thank you again to ASDA.





Celebrating Success



Congratulations to S3 pupil, Abbi Deighan, who is this week performing with the LAMA Youth Musical Theatre Group. Abbi has demonstrated a significant commitment to extra curricular music and drama in preparation for the performance and we are all very proud of her. Well done Abbi.

Drama Workshop



This week our National 5 and Higher Drama classes participated in a theatre workshop with Stellar Quines, supporting their understanding of Frankenstein. The workshop included ice breaker exercises, followed by improvisation tasks, whereby pupils demonstrated great dedication. They were very creative and were comfortable taking risks, supporting each other through scenes. The energy levels were excellent and everyone had great fun.

The second part of the workshop involved the young people exploring 'site specific' theatre, whereby they worked in groups to create a scene around the themes of Frankenstein. Each group were assigned a different space, including the drama studio, the dressing room, the cafe and the assembly hall. The young people then worked together to devise a drama, using the themes of revenge, monster and artificial intelligence. In the style of 'site specific' theatre the audience moved from one room to the next, following the story line of the dramas.

Well done to all involved. We're looking forward to watching you bring this learning experience to life during your Drama lessons.

Duke of Edinburgh Award



On Monday our Duke of Edinburgh Silver group embarked on their qualifying expedition in the Crook of Devon and Dollar area. The first day saw them walk from Easter Aldie to Nineacres Memorial Campsite in Crook of Devon via Rumbling Bridge Gorge and Lendrick Muir. The group made good progress with their walk and were finished by mid-afternoon before being transported to the campsite at Pillars of Hercules. On arrival at the campsite, they sent up their tents before cooking dinner. The first evening at the campsite ended with a campfire as the pupils were roasting marshmallows and starbursts.

Day 2 saw the group head to Dollar as they walked around Dollar Glen before heading up to Bank Hill for lunch where they enjoyed fantastic views of Clackmannanshire, Kinross-shire and the Forth Bridges. As a result of the very warm and sunny conditions it was decided to change the groups route for the afternoon and instead of heading up to King's Seat Hill the group returned to Dollar Glen car park and headed back to the campsite to complete a walk around the shaded Maspie Den instead. The group enjoyed the glorious sunny weather in the evening as following dinner they chilled in the evening sunshine and played some games.

The third and final day of the expedition saw the pupils cook their breakfast before they packed up the campsite and headed to Crook of Devon. They started their walk at the Village Hall in Crook of Devon and they were walking to Pool of Muckhart via Rumbling Bridge. It was another glorious sunny day and the group made great progress and arrived at their final destination in Pool of Muckhart ahead of schedule.

Over the three days the pupils showed great teamwork as they bonded well as a team. The expedition was tough at times, especially with the heat, but the pupils showed fantastic determination as they supported each other to complete the expedition. The pupils can be proud of their achievements and the staff on the expedition witnessed great skills such as their cooking skills and were really proud of how the pupils handled themselves as they made memories that will last a lifetime. Well done team!

Lift Off



We are delighted to continue to offer the Lift Off programme to our senior pupils this session. Lift Off delivers the Schools for Higher Education Programme within Fife and Tayside as part of the National Schools Programme funded by the Scottish Funding Council. Their aim is to increase the number of pupils applying to Higher Education. Members of the Lift Off team come in to school to deliver inputs to S5 and S6 year groups on choosing the correct pathway and writing personal statements. They also work with a smaller cohort of 15 pupils to support them with their UCAS applications.

By meeting with them several times over an 18-month period both in a group and 1:1 setting, they are able to support young people to select the correct university and course for them. They will also support them with aspects of the application such as writing their personal statement. If you have any questions about Lift Off or how they could support your young person, please contact Mrs Robertson, Principal Teacher of Guidance (S5 and S6).

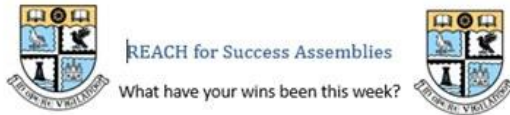
REACH Assemblies



On the 4th October we will hold our termly celebrating success assemblies. These will now be known as our REACH assemblies as they will be celebrating how our young people's successes demonstrate our school values and the difference this makes to the school, families and the community. These assemblies aim to shine a spotlight on the achievements of our young people and contribute to a culture of high aspirations.

We are actively encouraging our young people to show ambition for themselves and others by sharing their successes via a QR code poster. In this way we aim to foster a greater sense of confidence among our young people to speak up about their successes. However, they may not always recognise the importance of their successes.

To support this, parents are also encouraged to use the QR code and link to send in any successes for their child this term. These can be in relation to school, at home or in the community. If you would like to do this you can click the link below or use the same QR code in our poster. [REACH Success Assemblies \(office.com\)](https://www.office.com)



What have your wins been this week?

Big wins, small wins – they all matter.

Let us know via the QR Code below what you, or a team you are part of, have achieved so we can recognise this across the school.



Respect – Equity – Ambition – Community - Health

Tracking, monitoring and reporting

S1 Tracking Reports

S1 tracking reports will be shared with parents / carers on Friday 4 October, the last day of this term. Please ensure your young person is in school to collect their report. This will be the first official correspondence regarding your young person's progress in learning and how they have settled into life here in Viewforth High School. If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact your child's Guidance teacher.

Senior Phase Reports

Senior Phase Targeting Setting Reports will be issued to pupils on Thursday 26 September during period 7 (young people who attend college can collect them from the office before they leave for college). This report will provide you with a target grade for each of the subjects your child is studying. This is the grade, that based on the level of work they are producing at present, is what they are likely to achieve in their final exams / assessments. If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact your child's Guidance teacher.

Senior Phase Parents' Evenings

Senior Phase parents' evenings will take place across two dates: 23 October 2024 and 29 October 2024. This is to allow families to make bookings against any work commitments or any other prior arrangements you may have. The booking system will open on Monday 23 September and will close on Monday 21 October. Guidance regarding how to make appointments will be shared alongside the Senior Phase reports. If you have any issues accessing the system, please contact the school office who will be happy to help.

Primary 7 Roadshow



This week we had the pleasure of welcoming Primary 7 pupils and their parents / carers to join us in the Campus for our annual showcase evening. The event was very well attended and offered families the opportunity to visit all departments to view examples of the learning pupils can expect to enjoy next year. It was also a great opportunity to meet staff from all faculty areas and become familiar with the building. It won't be long until our next transition event....watch this space for more information.

Staff Training - Osiris Education



A number of staff are once engaging with Osiris Education through the Outstanding Teacher Intervention programme and The Excellence Through Leadership of Learning programme. As you may recall, cohorts of staff successfully completed the training programmes, which are focused on improving learning, teaching and assessment strategies, last session. The impact of this training is clearly visible across learning this session, and I'm sure the same positive impact will also be visible through the professional learning of the staff taking part this year.

Planning for Learning



A key part of this session's strategy to continue to drive towards excellent learning and teaching is planning for learning. Staff are working collaboratively to develop the 'Viewforth Planning Tool' which focuses on identifying and planning intended learning. This work is supporting colleagues to ensure lesson planning focuses on what is to be learned and the most effective way to facilitate this. This approach ensures intended learning is at the forefront of planning and supports staff to check for understanding and progress in learning. Planning with accuracy and being clear about the next steps in learning, supports improved outcomes for young people.

Pupil Attendance at School



At Viewforth HS we support and challenge all young people to achieve their very best. Consistently high attendance at school and in classes is vital for young people to succeed. Research tells us that a 1% drop in attendance leads to 3% lower achievement in school.

You may think that an attendance rate of 90% is a good rate of attendance, however it actually equates to almost four school weeks missed. This is a lot of learning time and is enough to significantly affect a young person's ability to succeed in school.

This is why we work with all families to support young people to have the best attendance possible. Please remember to inform us of all absences and try to arrange appointments outwith school time.

You can contact our attendance co-ordinations (Cheryl and Wendy) directly via the school office number and our dedicated attendance text number in the key contact section of this Sway below.

If your child is experiencing difficulties in attending school we are ready to help. Whatever the reason, our Support for Pupils team is committed to removing any barriers to a young person's attendance. If you would like to discuss possible support to improve your child's attendance please phone the school to speak to the relevant guidance teacher or ask for our Family Support Worker.

Reporting Calendar



Please see below the key dates for reporting this session. For each year group you can see when they will receive their reports. There is also the date for Parents' Evenings to help with planning/work. All Parents' Evenings are held in school between 4.30pm and 7pm.

Your young person will receive their report on the date mentioned and there will be a tear off slip for you to provide feedback or comments.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's guidance teacher if you have any questions.

S1 - Reports issued - 04.10.2024 and 20.05.2025

S1 - Parents' Evening - 05.12.2024

S2 - Reports issued - 28.11.2024 and 25.04.2025

S2 - Parents' Evening - 22.01.2025

S3 - Reports issued - 07.11.2024 and 04.06.2025

S3 - Parents' Evening - 04.02.2025

S4-6 - Reports issued - (target grade only) 26.09.2024, 16.12.2024, 07.02.2025 and 28.03.2025

S4-6 - Parents' Evening - 23.10.2024 or 29.10.2024 and 20.02.2025

Digital Device Policy



Our Digital Device policy will continue this session and I'm pleased to say that pupils have responded well this week, 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 your support in reinforcing the message at home with regards digital devices during lessons.

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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 8.30 - 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](#)
- 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](#)
- 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](#)

Alternatively, the our Fife Council website has a range of advice and links to support available for families.

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. The 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, 2M1

Mr Wilson for classes 1C2, 1F1, 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

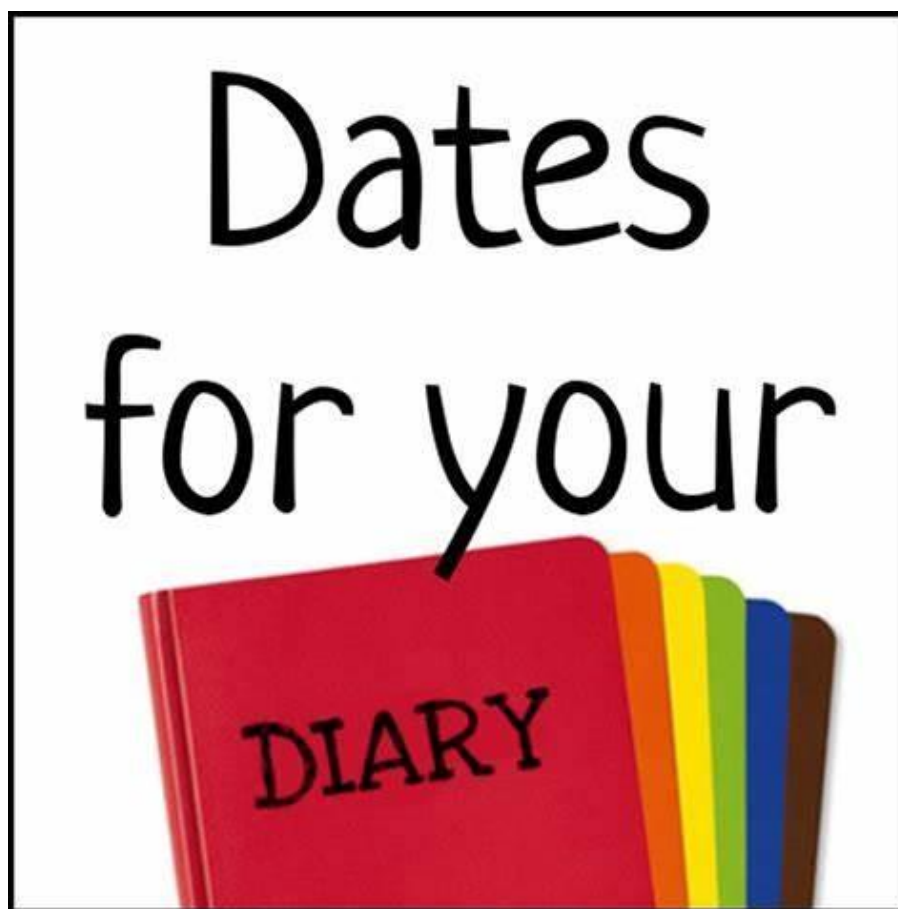


There are a variety of ways you can contact the school and we would encourage you to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

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 2024/25 (all dates are inclusive)

Autumn - Wednesday 21 August - Friday 4 October 2024

Winter - Monday 21 October - Friday 20 December 2024

Spring - Monday 6 January 2025 - Friday 4 April 2025

Summer - Monday 21 April 2025 - Thursday 3 July 2025

In-Service Days 2024/25

In-service day 3 - Friday 15 November

In-service day 4 - Wednesday 12 February

In-service day 5 - Tuesday 3 June

Parents' Evenings

Our parents' evenings take place in the Viewforth High School building and are a great opportunity to meet staff and to hear more about your son / daughter's progress. They run from 4.30pm - 7pm and

we will be in touch in advance of each evening with information regarding how to book appointments.

S1 - Thursday 5 December

S2 - Wednesday 22 January

S3 - Tuesday 4 February

Senior Phase Parents' Evening 1 - Wednesday 23 October

Senior Phase Parents' Evening 2 - Tuesday 29 October

Senior Phase Parents' Evening (follow up) - Thursday 20 February

Respect - Equity - Ambition - Community - Health