



VIEWFORTH HIGH SCHOOL



NEWSLETTER

December 2025



Head Teacher's Message

As we reach the end of another busy and successful term, I want to take a moment to reflect on all that we've achieved together. Our school vision, Work Together, Achieve Together, has truly shone through in the way staff, parents, and our wider community have supported one another. To our staff and parents: thank you for your unwavering support and encouragement—it truly makes all the difference. The successes highlighted in this Winter Newsletter are a testament to what happens when we work together.

This term has been packed with memorable moments: from exciting school trips and adventurous Duke of Edinburgh expeditions to the hard work of our S4 pupils during their prelims. We've danced the morning away at the P7 Ceilidh and Christmas Party, enjoyed the talent and creativity on display at our Christmas Concert, and celebrated in style at the Senior Formal. Each event has reminded us of the strength of our community and the ambition of our young people.

To our incredible young people: you have worked hard, shown resilience, and demonstrated our core values of Respect, Equity, Ambition, Community, and Health every single day. Whether in the classroom, in extra-curricular activities, or through creative and cultural activities, your efforts have been inspiring. You should be proud of everything you've accomplished this year.

As we head into the festive break, I encourage everyone to take time to relax, recharge, and enjoy moments with family and friends. A well-earned rest will prepare us for the exciting challenges ahead. Looking towards 2026, we know there is still much to do—but with continued hard work, ambition, and collaboration, I am confident we will achieve great success together.

Wishing you all a joyful holiday season and a bright, healthy start to the new year!

Active Schools

Our Young Leadership Pathway pupils have been busy this term, out delivering in primary schools, helping with events and taking part in training courses. We have had a few new recruits and also had an S4 pupil receive a qualification in Basketball Officiating!



We had four new S2 Young Volunteers out delivering a multi-sport session at Sinclairtown Primary School, and a dance session at Dysart Primary School. A few of our Young Ambassadors have started a "FUNdamentals (multi-sport)" session here at Viewforth for pupils from all cluster primary schools in p1-3. A lot of our new S1 Leadership Academy and Young Ambassadors supported running our first Cluster Leagues event of the year, in Basketball, where all four Cluster Primary Schools were represented by a team. A couple of our Ambassadors also supported our p7 Cluster Ceilidh by leading on some party dances.



We also had a lot of activity going on last term:
S2 Leadership Academy - P1-3 FUNdamentals (multi-sport) at both Dysart PS and Pathhead PS.
S5 Young Ambassadors - P4-7 Multi-sport at Kirkcaldy North PS
S4 Young Ambassadors - P5-7 Basketball at Sinclairtown PS
S4 Young Volunteer - P5-7 Rugby - Multi-school

We also had support from the Sports Leader class to run a couple of Basketball sessions at both Dysart PS and Pathhead PS so that the pupils could practice for the Cluster Leagues.



Next term we are planning to focus on Dance and Netball sessions in schools so that they can enter events coming up. There will also be a P7 Transition Club being held for pupils coming up to Viewforth after the Summer, which we will be looking to pupils to support with and run activities.

If any pupils are interested in helping out with any of the activities I've mentioned or similar, they can apply to our Young Leadership Programme by filling out this form:

Young Leadership Pathway Application Form 2025
<https://forms.office.com/e/tt7hwLGBD9>

Art

Christmas Card Competition - Gingerbread Men

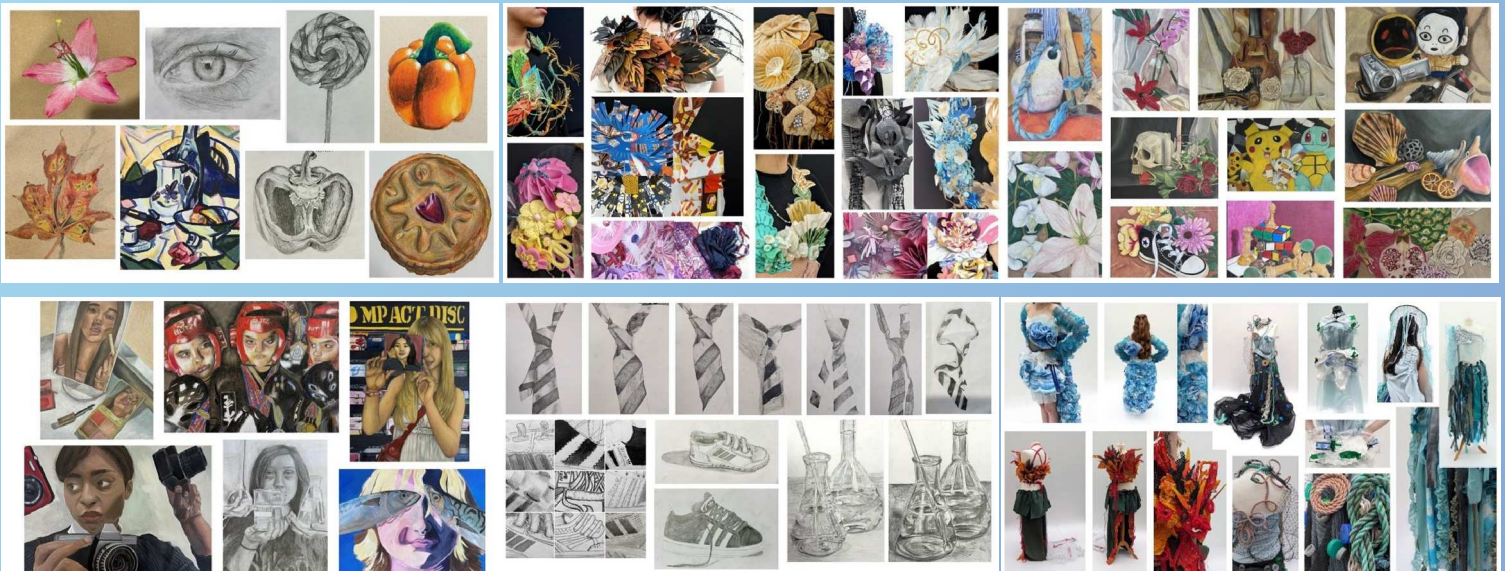
Again, this year our S1 pupils did an amazing job in the annual Christmas card competition, creating gingerbread men. Everyone in S1 made a gingerbread man and then Mrs Moore, Mr Kowbel and Mr Darling had the very difficult job of judging and choosing 10 designs to be showcased on the official Christmas card and sent off to schools and dignitaries all over the country. If you want these cheery little gingerbread men in your life, come and buy our school calendar at only £5 (details below).



Viewforth Calendar for Sale

Looking for an amazing present for a relative or friend? Look no further. Here are the images that are on the 2026 Viewforth School Calendar. The calendar is bursting at the seams with fabulous artwork created by our talented young people. Calendars will be on sale throughout December. Get in touch with the school office or with Mrs Gibb, room A210.

See below the fabulous artwork that could accompany you throughout the year.
A4 Calendars are only £5 – What a bargain!!!



Art

A Spotlight on NPA Photography – Recording Dysart History

NPA Photography have been out and about on their regular Thursday excursions around the catchment area. This term we have been looking at the historical significance of Dysart and documenting the history in the buildings and structures around the area. Dysart's history as a key fishing port, merchant hub, fortified position with castle and mining community are still visible today and our photographers have been out and about finding traces of this history of our area.



Expressive Arts Showcase

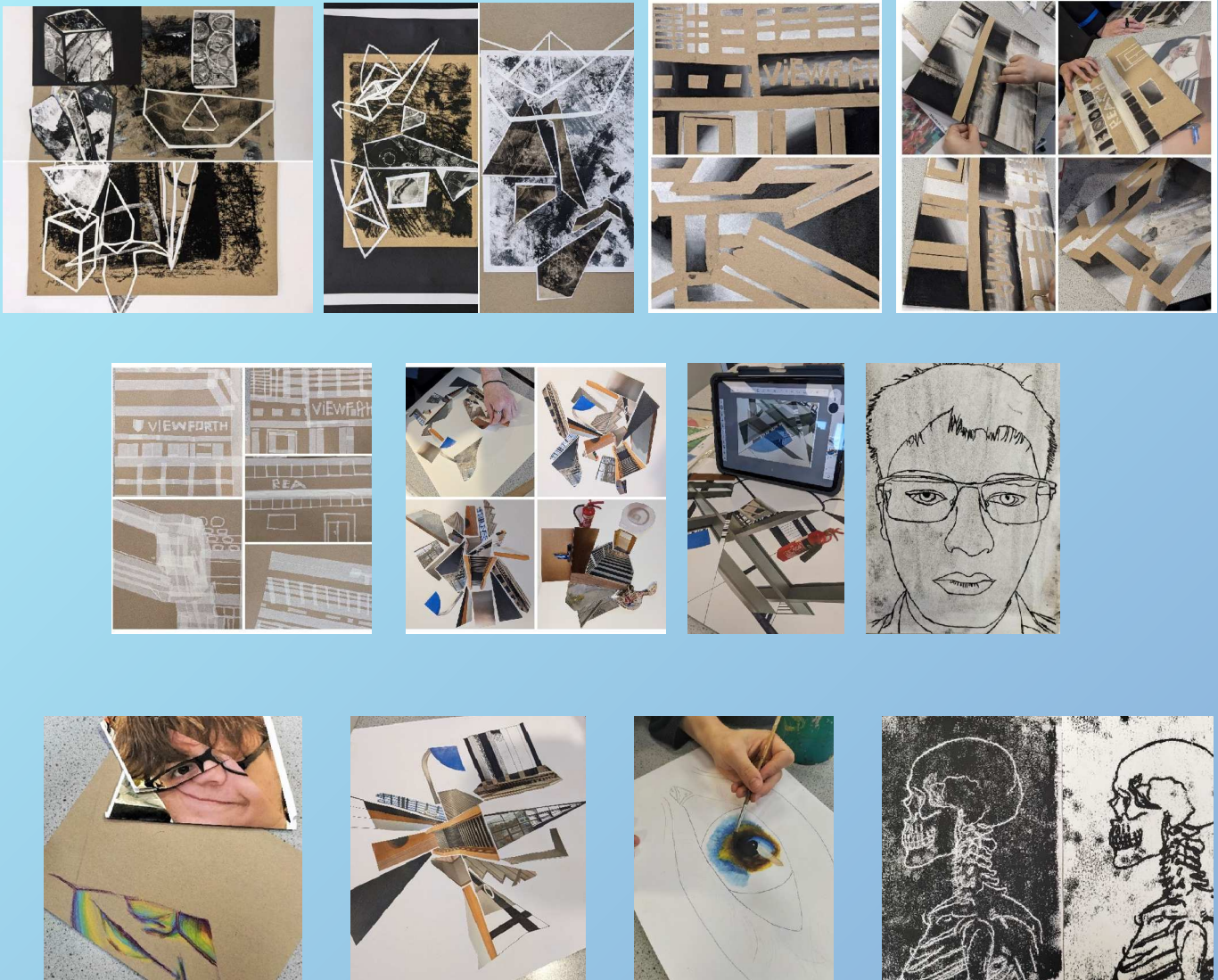
We had a wonderful Expressive Arts Showcase evening in school on the 9th of December, where we were able to showcase the work of young people across the Expressive Arts subjects within the school. The art department exhibited work alongside drama performances, dance and musical recitals, a wonderful exhibition of the folio work by senior pupils returned from the SQA. We showed work from both Art & Design and Photography. Here a few photos to show you some of what was on show.



Art

Spotlight on NPA Drawing and NPA Painting

Our NPA Drawing course is a creative and experimental course that means pupils will gain 2 level 5 qualifications within the one year. Pupils are encouraged to experiment with new techniques and create a range of realistic and abstract work. Have a look at some of the amazing pieces of work that the young people have been creating this session.



Business Education

S1/2/3 Christmas Concert Poster Competition

All of the S1 and S2 IT classes and the S3 Admin & IT class all participated in a competition to design the promotional materials for the school Christmas Concert. There were some fantastic designs from our talented pupils but it was Mason Lindsay who created the winning design. Well done to all the pupils who took part, there are so many creative pupils at VHS!



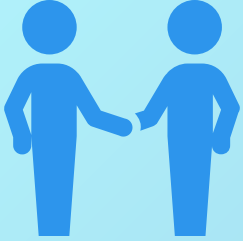
Future Assets

Our senior Future Assets team Abigail Brown, Gabby Keary and Lana King have been working hard since the summer on their group presentation and pitch video, which they have now submitted to the competition. Their task was to research and evaluate whether Roblox would be a worthwhile investment over the next five years.

Throughout the process, the group worked closely with their Competition Champion, Craig Leslie from Greenbank Investment, whose guidance and expertise have been invaluable. They are now waiting on feedback from the judges.

Well done to the whole team for their dedication and effort!

Career Ready



Our new 2025 cohort has been selected for Career Ready. The two-year programme empowers young people in S5/S6 to kick-start their chosen career through a series of authentic workplace experiences and a network of support. As part of the programme, they have several masterclasses to attend, a mentor from the world of work as well as a 4-week work placement.

We attended the first masterclass then the 2025 launch event at Carnegie Conference Centre in Dunfermline where students met their mentors for the first time. It was fantastic to attend the event with all 18 high schools in Fife present. Well done to Daniel King, Keira Whittle Smith, Lukas Smith, Skye Hunter and Alex Steir. The pupils were excellent and a credit to themselves and the school.



Developing the Young Workforce

Do you want to be a Dr? NHS Event

Future Doctors in Action!

We are thrilled to share that four of our S4 pupils recently attended the “Do You Want To Be A Doctor?” event at Cameron Hospital, hosted by NHS Fife. The day was packed with hands-on experiences, including CPR, suturing, communication skills, and even learning about sensory deprivation. Our young people showed fantastic enthusiasm and curiosity throughout, gaining real insight into what a career in medicine involves. They also had the chance to speak directly with medical students and doctors about pathways into the profession. A huge thank you to NHS Fife for providing such an inspiring opportunity; our pupils left motivated and excited about their future!



N5 Retail Success Story: “Guess the Teddy Bear’s Age” Competition

Imogen and her N5 Retail group have shown fantastic creativity and teamwork by organising a fun and engaging competition: “Guess the Teddy Bear’s Age.”

The group took full responsibility for planning and running the event, from designing promotional materials to managing entries and interacting with customers. Their efforts paid off, as the competition attracted lots of interest and created a buzz around the school.

This activity not only demonstrated their organisational skills but also highlighted key retail principles such as customer engagement, merchandising, and promotional strategies. It’s a great example of how classroom learning can be applied in a real-world context.

Well done to Imogen and the team for their hard work and success!



Developing the Young Workforce

Careers in Construction: Pupils Experience Fife Building Services

A group of enthusiastic 4th and 5th year students recently attended an exciting taster session and an in-school presentation hosted by Neil and his team at Fife Building Services.

The workshop day began with an informative presentation covering the apprenticeship process, including practical tips on how to apply and what makes an application stand out. Pupils also received valuable training on hazard perception, an essential skill for working safely in the industry.

Following the presentation, students rolled up their sleeves and headed into the workshops, where they had the chance to experience hands-on activities in plumbing, electrical work, and joinery. This practical insight gave them a real taste of what a career in building services could look like.

Applications for apprenticeships open in January. If you're interested in applying, please speak to Mrs Beesley or our SDS Careers Advisor team for guidance and support with your application.



Career Fair – Viewforth High School

On 5th November, Viewforth High School hosted its annual Career Fair, bringing together a diverse range of employers, training providers, and further education representatives to inspire and inform our young people. Students from S2,S4–S6 had the opportunity to explore pathways in sectors such as healthcare, engineering, hospitality, digital technology, and more.

The event was designed to give students real insight into the world of work, with interactive stands, hands-on demonstrations, and one-to-one conversations with industry professionals. From apprenticeships to university routes, pupils left with practical advice and renewed confidence about their next steps.

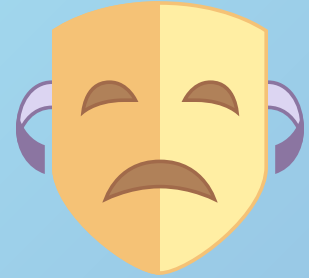
A huge thank you to all our partners who made the day possible and to our students for their enthusiasm and engagement. Events like this are a vital part of preparing our learners for life beyond school and judging by the buzz in the hall, the future looks bright.



Drama

S1 Drama

Our S1s have just completed their Gruesome Great Britain unit, in which they explored characters such as Sweeney Todd, Mrs Lovett, Sawney Bean, Burke and Hare. They explored exciting ways to perform their dramas including, tableaux, aside, narration, slow motion and split-stage. They also created excellent costume and make-up designs for these gruesome characters.

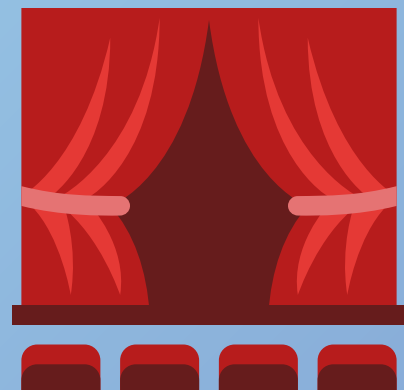


S2 DRAMA

Our S2s have just completed their Cluedo unit, in which they created flashback/documentary-style dramas, exploring the motive behind each suspect. They built evidence through practical exploration, characterisation techniques and design elements. They then designed and constructed their own murder weapon prop.

S3 Drama

Our S3s have just completed their Drama Skills unit, in which they devised their own 3 scene dramas. They sourced their own sound, costume and props for the final performance. The final products were extremely creative, exploring in depth themes/issues, purpose and target audience.



Drama



Senior Drama

In true Dickensian style the Viewforth Drama Department are proud to present a winter ghost story. This work-in-progress extract from our new original play 'The Briggers' was performed for parents at our Christmas Concert.

'The Briggers' tells the haunting tale of the men and women who died building Scotland's greatest manmade wonder. The Forth Rail Bridge was truly a fairytale of science, pioneering railway engineering and joining Lothian and Fife hand in hand. 4,600 workers were employed at the peak of its construction and 79 lost their lives. And as with all unjust deaths, there comes a haunting.

Our senior drama group have worked collaboratively to devise, write and rehearse the short spooky extract and performed exceptionally well during the concert. We hope to continue to develop 'The Briggers' into a full school show in 2026 and are currently working with Fife College to stage a portion of the play at Carnegie Hall in Dunfermline.



Duke of Edinburgh

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Practice Expedition

The first week in September saw our Duke of Edinburgh Gold pupils embark on their 4 day practice expedition in the Crieff and Comrie area. Day 1 saw the pupils dropped off in Comrie to follow a trail to St Fillans. The first part of the route saw the pupils walk out to the Earthquake House which is believed to be the first ever purpose-built earthquake observatory. A modern seismograph is now operating in the building and the pupils were able to read about recent earthquakes record at the Comrie Earthquake House including the Kamchatka earthquake which was recorded a 8.8 magnitude on the 29th July, South of Fiji Islands earthquake which was also on the 29th July and was recorded at 6.6 magnitude and Inchlaggan in the Scottish Highlands which had an earthquake of 3.1 magnitude on the 1st August. From here the pupils then walked towards Dalchonzie before taking the dismantled railway line path to St Fillans. The pupils did a great job navigating the route in unfamiliar surroundings.

Day 2 started with a visit to Cultybraggan Camp which is situated a mile outside of Comrie. The camp was constructed during the Second World War to house up to 4000 prisoners, first Italian and then German PoWs. Named PoW Camp 21, it had a notoriously hard reputation, housing dozens of SS officers, members of the Wehrmacht, Luftwaffe & Marine Corps among others. Today the camp is now a thriving multi-use community resource run by Comrie Development Trust. On arrival at the camp the group visited the 21st Perthshire (Comrie) Scout Group hut and were given the opportunity to learn about archery before being able to try the sport. Our thanks to Dr Chris Boardman for giving up his time to teach the pupils about archery. After this session the pupils embarked on their days walk following the Bogton Braes circular walk around Comrie and the surrounding countryside. With flood prevention work currently taking place along part of the section next to the River Earn the pupils took a wrong turn early on when following the diversion however, they were soon back on track and made good progress along the route. Thankfully the heavy rain forecasted didn't materialise and the pupils experienced dry, warm conditions whilst walking on the route. After completing the days walk the group returned to the campsite at Comrie Croft to enjoy their evening meals and campsite games.

The group headed to Crieff for day 3 of their practice expedition. On arrival in the town the pupils followed the Lady Mary's Trail along the River Earn, which climbed over Laggan Hill and also took the pupils past Glenturret Distillery and visited Crieff's MacRosty Park. On arrival at the park the group enjoyed some time playing on the equipment before being transported back to the campsite. En route to the campsite the heavens opened which meant on returning to Comrie Croft the pupils took shelter in their tents until the rain passed. After the rain cleared the pupils got a lovely sunny evening for their final night on the campsite and they also enjoyed a campfire under the moonlight.

For the final day of their practice expedition the pupils were taken to Crieff Hydro as they followed the Hosh circuit. The pupils made good progress with the route following tracks through fields, woodland paths and along a beautiful terrace giving grand views over Crieff. The walk visited the hamlet of the Hosh and passed the Glenturret Distillery before returning to Crieff Hydro.

Over the course of the 4 days the pupils were pushed to the limit, but they can be proud of their efforts as they get ready for their Qualifying expedition at the end of September.



Duke of Edinburgh

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Qualifying Expedition

On Monday 15th September our Duke of Edinburgh Silver group embarked on their qualifying expedition in the Lomond Hills area. The first day saw them transported to Coul Den Reservoir at Glenrothes. Here they were met with their first obstacle as the path which they planned to walk on was closed due maintenance works so instead they had to follow the diversion route to get to the East Lomond Mast car park. From here the group followed the path towards the Limekiln Trail before heading down to Craigmead and then onto Pillars of Hercules. The group made good progress with their walk and they arrived at our campsite at Pillars of Hercules by mid-afternoon. On arrival at the campsite, they set up their tents before cooking dinner and had a relaxing evening on the campsite.

Day 2 saw the group walk to Falkland before making the steep climb up East Lomond where they enjoyed fantastic views of Fife and over towards Edinburgh. The group then made their way down to Craigmead for lunch before returning to the campsite. After a rest the group then headed out for a late afternoon walk up to the Maspie Den waterfall before heading back to camp. The group enjoyed the glorious evening sun as following dinner they got a campfire going, roasting marshmallows and starbursts, as the sun set in the distance.

The third and final day of the expedition saw the pupils cook their breakfast before they packed up the campsite. They started their walk from Pillars of Hercules and walked through Falkland Estate wood towards the Stables. They then headed up towards Westfield before joining the trail through the woodland areas of Drumdeel Wood and Barrington Muir Plantation. The path then curved round and took the group back towards Pillars of Hercules. The early morning drizzle soon cleared to give the pupils a sunny afternoon as the group made great progress, arriving back at Pillars of Hercules ahead of schedule.

Over the three days the pupils showed great teamwork as they bonded well as a team. The pupils showed resilience, teamwork, maturity and tackled everything head on with very few complaints. Plenty of lessons learned, blisters earned and laughs along the way. 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.



Duke of Edinburgh

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Qualifying Expedition

At the end of September, the Duke of Edinburgh Gold group successfully completed their qualifying expedition along the John Muir Way Trail, demonstrating exceptional determination, teamwork and resilience throughout four demanding days. Despite persistent rainfall every single day, pupils maintained a positive attitude and supported one another from start to finish.

The expedition began with the group travelling from the school to Strathblane, where they officially set off on the John Muir Way Trail. Their route took them through Carbeth, offering scenic woodland paths and steady climbs made more challenging by the wet weather. The pupils arrived at Auchengillan Outdoor Centre, their basecamp for the duration of the expedition, in good time, tired but upbeat. They set up camp efficiently and prepared their evening meals, showing strong organisation and teamwork.

On the second morning, the pupils set out once more from Strathblane, this time going in the opposite direction towards Lennoxtown. The continued rain made paths slippery, but the group kept a steady pace as they followed the trail towards Lennoxtown. They navigated changing terrain with confidence and supported one another through tired moments. Their morale remained high, reflecting their commitment to the challenge. The day ended back at Auchengillan, where pupils cooked dinner, reflected on their progress, and enjoyed playing card games such as scabby queen.

Day three brought more rain, but also some of the most rewarding views along the route. The group made their way from Lennoxtown to Twechar, maintaining strong navigation skills and working effectively as a team. Spirits stayed high, and despite the wet conditions, pupils continued to show maturity, enthusiasm and strong problem-solving skills. The evening back at the campsite provided a welcome chance to dry off, reflect on the day's progress and recharge for the final stage.

The final day took the group from Twechar to Banknock, marking the final leg of their journey. Tired but determined, the pupils pushed through the last miles of the John Muir Way section they were completing with real grit. Their arrival in Banknock, just as Storm Amy was starting to take hold across the country, was a well-earned moment of pride and celebration.

This expedition was a true test of endurance and character. The pupils deserve significant credit not only for completing the route but for doing so under constant rainfall and challenging conditions. Their resilience, teamwork, and positivity were evident throughout the four days. The group should be extremely proud of what they have achieved. Their efforts embody the spirit of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and reflect the qualities that will serve them well far beyond the expedition itself.



Duke of Edinburgh

Duke of Edinburgh Silver and Gold Expedition Presentations

On Monday 17th November our DofE Silver and Gold groups completed their Expedition presentations to a parents, friends and staff. All pupils did exceptionally well with their Duke of Edinburgh Award Expedition presentations. Their hard work, teamwork and confidence really shone through.

The Silver Group did a PowerPoint presentation with each pupil taking it in turn to speak about their experiences and also go over their challenge which was an A to Z photo challenge, whilst the Gold pupils used a blog which they created whilst out on the expedition along the John Muir Way Trail. The Gold pupils also presented a short video looking back on their expedition experience over the last few years.

From watching both presentations, it was clear that the pupils had learned a great deal from their expedition experiences. They spoke confidently about the challenges they faced and the skills they developed and they were able to demonstrate key qualities such as leadership, empathy and teamwork. Their reflections showed real maturity and highlighted how far they have come since starting their DofE journey.

To finish the afternoon, Mr Scott shared a specially made video for the Gold pupils, capturing all five expeditions they have completed – from Bronze through to Gold – along with the various training days and camps. It was a fitting and memorable way to conclude the afternoon, celebrating not just one expedition, but the entire journey the pupils have taken over the years.



Duke of Edinburgh Gold Fundraising

Our Duke of Edinburgh Gold pupils were out volunteering at the start of December on the Santa's Sleigh Kirkcaldy Templehall and Seafield and Links routes, an event organised by the Rotary Club of Kirkcaldy. This year, the Rotary Club was collecting donations for the Children's Ward at the Victoria Hospital as well as other local charities and our pupils played an active role in supporting the effort. Each pupil was given a collection bucket and walked the routes alongside the sleigh, helping to gather donations from members of the community.

The group is volunteering with the Rotary Club as part of an ongoing partnership and their involvement not only supports a worthwhile cause but also strengthens their commitment to service, a core element of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Caroline, President of the Rotary Club of Kirkcaldy, sent a message to Mr Scott to say that our pupils were "brilliant last night" – a wonderful reflection of their attitude, effort and community spirit.



English

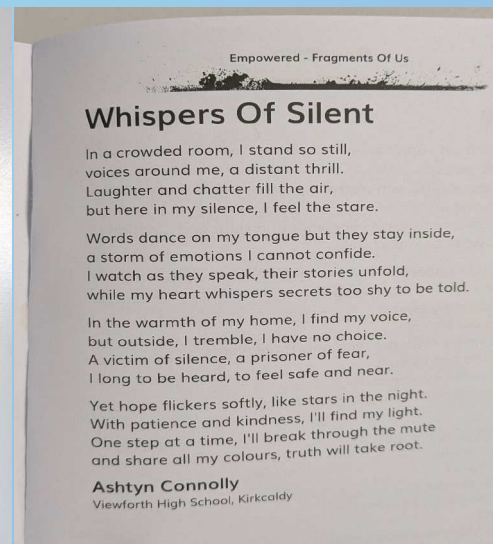
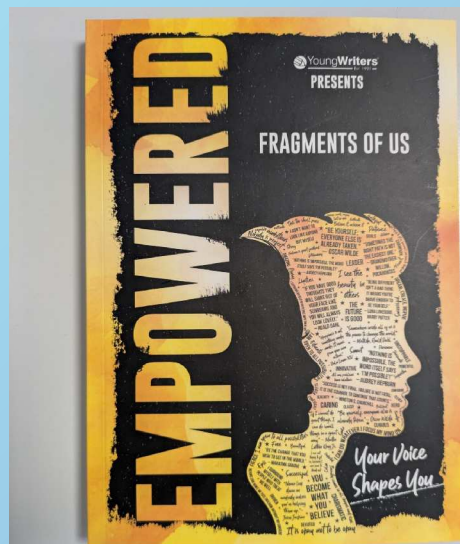
1F1 participated in a BookBug Reading Challenge!
We chose a child-friendly book from the library and pretended we were leading a BookBug session.

Our Reading Stars were:

Leyton Cairns
Euan Duff
Cameron Doogan
Jorja Ellor
Rachael Gibson
Maisie Hobbin
Erin Phillips
Jessica Renfrew
Logan Robertson



Ashtyn Connolly: A Published Poet!



Stars of the Month 2025: English, Drama, and Modern Languages

Cole Palmer
Hannah Swanson
Raphaella Allotey
JJ McColgan
Katrina Zimba
Leyton Cairns
Adam Kasprzyk
Olivia Christie

Hannah Swanson
Jessica Gardiner
Ryan Duncan
Summer Davies
Lucy Rodger
Alec Glover
Myles Clarkson
Leon Hannigan

Kaitlyn Thomas
Skye Fell
Mya Kalsi-Bennett
Levente Dombovari

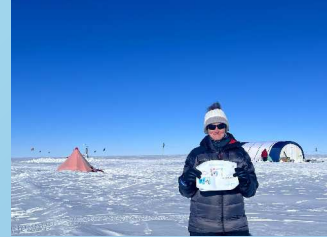


Enhanced Support Department

ESC Flags to Antarctica

The Senior ESC class have been working very hard in Social Subjects, exploring the continent of Antarctica and its scientific importance in partnership with the UK Polar Network. As part of their learning pupils were given the opportunity to design their own flags for Antarctica, which were then sent to the continent with a team of researchers.

The ESC pupils were really excited to receive a response from the UK Polar Network displaying their flags in Antarctica by scientists from the REWIND project, who are investigating some of the world's oldest ice cores. This opportunity allowed pupils to connect their classroom learning with real world exploration.



Christmas Show

Some of our talented pupils from the ESC department proudly took part in the school Christmas show, bringing festive cheer to everyone!



ESC Christmas Fayre

We were delighted to welcome parents into school for our Christmas Fayre. The department sold delicious treats, beautiful Christmas decorations, and handmade cards created by our pupils. Thanks to everyone's support, we raised an amazing £140.75!



Enhanced Support Department



Active Kids

Our pupils have been getting active and having fun playing football as part of the Active Kids programme – great teamwork and energy all around!

Christmas Door Competition

Once again, the ESC department went above and beyond with their creativity for the Christmas Door Competition. The winner will be revealed later this week – stay tuned!



Family Support

Family Support

This year, I've been proud to support families and young people at Viewforth—offering guidance, encouragement, holiday groups, and practical help to ensure we **work together and achieve together!**

To finish 2025 on a high, I even had the joy of taking a group of young people to see *Aladdin* at the Adam Smith Theatre... **oh yes, I did!**

Wishing you all a fantastic holiday season, and I look forward to working with you in 2026!



First Aid

Level 6 Emergency First Aid Qualification

The school had a visit from F.A.S.T – First Aid Training School, who delivered the Level 6 Emergency First Aid at Work qualification to our S4/5/6 pupils. The course covered skills such as understanding the role and responsibilities of the first aider, treating minor injuries and also how to administer CPR through the use of manikins.

A total of 59 pupils took part on Tuesday 04 November and successfully gained their qualification in this course! This is an amazing result for the school and the pupils are quite rightly very proud of their achievements.

Well done to all who took part in this fantastic opportunity and there will be another opportunity for pupils to complete the course prior to the Easter holidays.



First Chances

Junior pupils in S1 and S2 have engaged in exciting First Chances trips at Dunfermline Fife College this term. Part of the focus was to explore meta-skills and how these can be applied in everyday learning. The S1 group enjoyed a talk from a lecturer at Dunfermline College, who introduced them to the craft of stonemasonry and demonstrated the tools used in the trade.

Inspired by this, pupils sketched their own gargoyle designs before carving them into soap, giving them a hands-on taste of the creative process. The S2 group engaged with a Travel and Tourism concept learning about how different countries reach out to tourists and encourage them to visit their countries.

The groups considered themes of eco tourism, sustainability and greener transportation. Both events were a fantastic day out and gave the pupils involved greater insight into the new campus and what Fife college can offer in terms of future education and career opportunities with pupils showing great enthusiasm throughout.

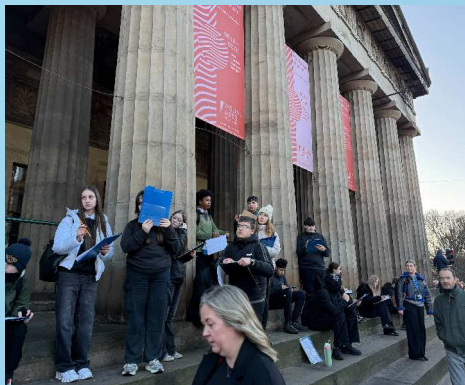
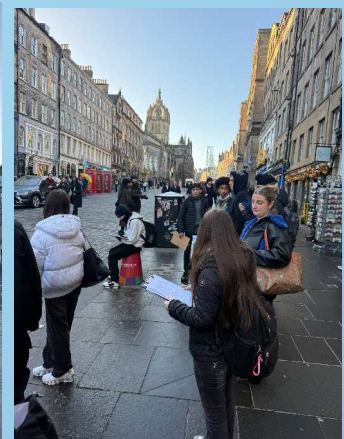


Our S3's have travelled to St Andrews University to meet their mentors and are currently working on their own research projects which they will be presenting early in the new year. The school partnership with the First Chances program has been a great success in allowing pupils to get a taste of the opportunities available to them in Fife once they leave high school.

Geography

National 5 Geography

National 5 Geography students visited Edinburgh on Tuesday 16th to gather evidence for their N5 assignment. Traffic and pedestrian counts were taken along with environmental quality surveys and field sketches in Scotland's capital. The weather was definitely on our side and pupils got to see first hand the different areas of land use within Edinburgh City Centre.



S3-6 Modern Studies Trip to Holyrood

35 S3-6 Modern Studies pupils went to visit the Scottish Parliament on Tuesday 16th December 2025. Pupils got to hear the history of the Scottish parliament and how they can get involved in political issues affecting them. Pupils then got a tour of the upper gallery before being allowed to sit in and listen to some of the business taking place. Pupils got the opportunity to listen to Topical Questions about the Bondi Beach attack and the changing of National Speed limits on single carriageways. Pupils then heard the beginning of the motion of no confidence in the Justice Secretary Angela Constance. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed their day.



Home Economics

Our S1 pupils have been working hard on their textile unit producing some lovely Christmas felt decorations. We have been challenging ourselves by trying to do blanket stitch and attaching ribbons to hang them on the tree. Great work S1!



S3 Creative Bakery

The S3 Creative Bakery class have been working on cake making techniques this term. They have used all the knowledge they have learnt to design, bake and make Christmas yule logs. Well done S3's your hard work has paid off.

NPA Bakery

Our NPA Bakery classes have been working hard on their cake decorating unit this term, and brought all of their new knowledge and skills together to produce some beautiful Christmas cakes. They have demonstrated some fantastic fondant models, as well as improving piping skills.



The Nat 5 Skills for Work Hospitality classes have carried out 2 different events this term. The first was a staff lunch time assisted buffet event they planned and carried out in class teams working independently. The second has recently taken place and was a 3-course set Christmas themed lunch also for invited staff members. The classes have all shown high standards while planning and carrying out their events. Well done S4 all the hard work and planning certainly paid off.

Library and Literacy Activities

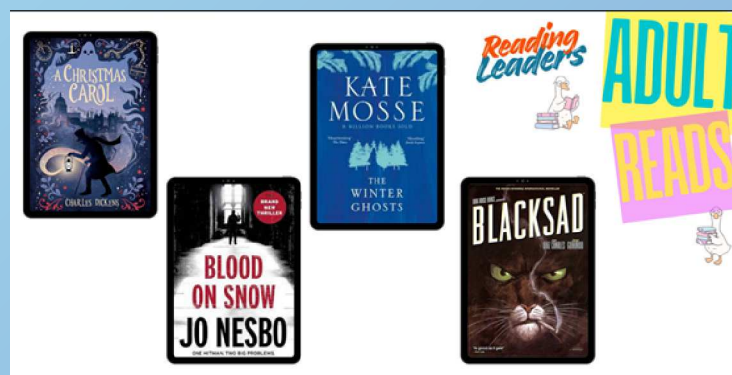
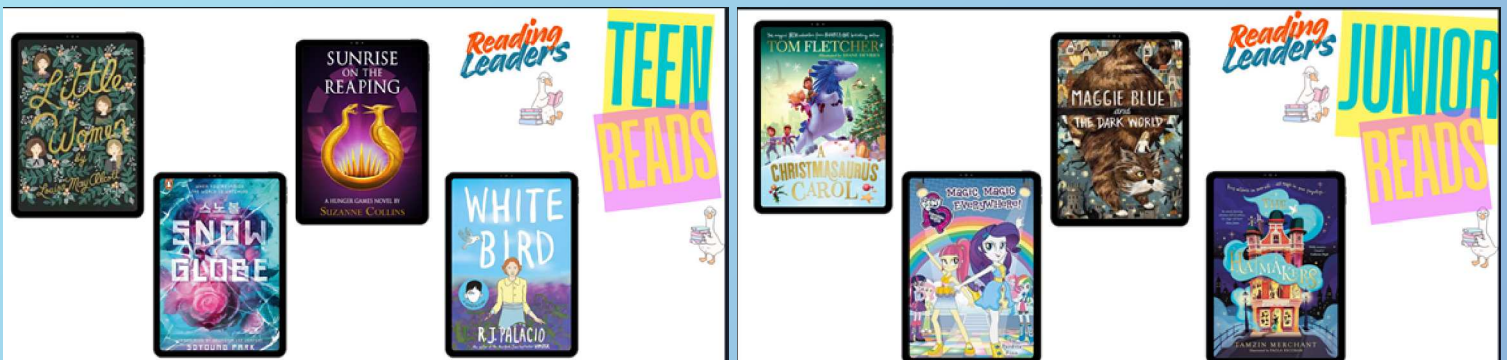
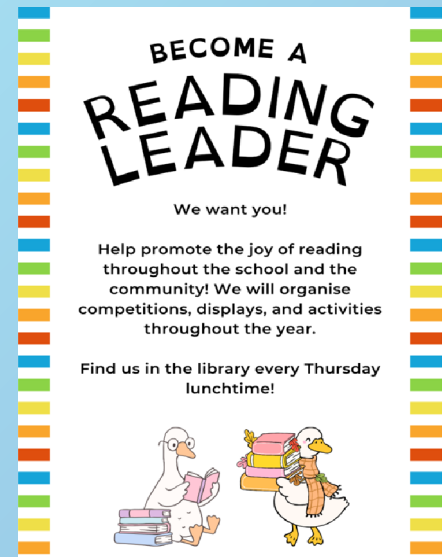
Our new Reading Leaders group began this term. We are super happy to say we've already begun making plans for World Book Day next year – watch this space!

The Reading Leaders will be helping the school work towards our Silver level Reading Schools Award.

Thanks to everyone who is already involved in this great project.



The group would like to recommend books for some Christmas reading. Please see below:



Maths & Science

The Maths department were recently awarded £380 from the Edinburgh Mathematical Society to purchase a number of Smart Games aimed at promoting logical thinking and higher order thinking skills.

These have been used across BGE classes with pupils enjoying using them as part of our rewards programme for high attendance and engagement in lessons



As pupils begin to think about their options for next year, we have updated our display boards to have lots of information about the differences between Applications of Maths and Maths.

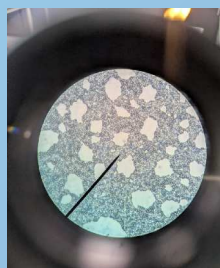
Click the link here for more information to help support your discussions with your child: [Apps of Maths vs Maths](#)



In Biology, pupils recently visited Fife College to complete laboratory work. The college complimented pupils on their hard work and focus during the sessions.

In Lab Skills, pupils have been focusing on developing their microbiology skills. S5/6 pupils successfully created dry mounts of yeast from cultures they developed over a number of weeks.

You can see from the photos the incredible work they completed!



Mentors in Violence Prevention

This term, our MVP mentors have taken the lead in S2 PSE classes, delivering sessions on pressure, image-based abuse, and the vital role of bystanders in promoting safety. Through interactive activities and open discussions, they have helped their peers understand the impact of coercion, the influence of media, and the importance of making safe choices online and in relationships.

By stepping into these leadership roles, our mentors are not only building their own confidence and communication skills but also fostering a culture of respect, inclusion, and positive peer influence across the school. Their efforts ensure that every pupil feels empowered to challenge harmful behaviors and support one another, creating a safer and more supportive learning environment.

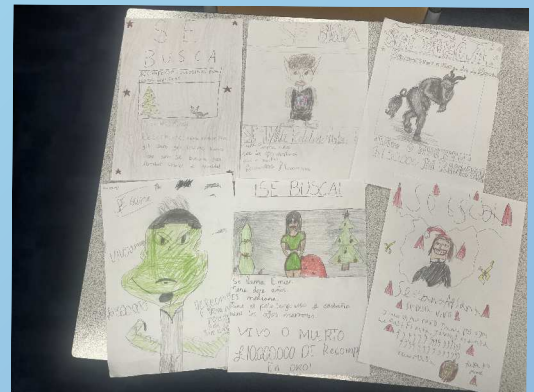


Modern Languages

S1 Spanish have been working on a Christmas Wanted Poster to consolidate the vocabulary from Physical Description. Some of the rewards on offer are quite appealing!



S2 Spanish have made a great start to the Apprentice Challenge, designing posters and menus for a Spanish food festival. We have just begun task 2 where they are now tasked with designing a range of products to sell at the food festival!



S3 Spanish will be taking part in a reward period this week to celebrate their excellent progress so far this year. We will be trying some Spanish foods and watching a Spanish movie.



Music

Composing workshop – 8 October

A group of senior music pupils attended a composing workshop in Balwearie High School. The workshop was part of a programme in association with the Scottish Music Centre. This programme sees working Scottish musicians deliver sessions to secondary pupils where they talk about their background, how they got into the industry, as well as a look into their creative process. We listened to a talk by John McCusker as well as listening to him improvise many Scottish-inspired melodies on multiple instruments.



Christmas Concert – 9 December

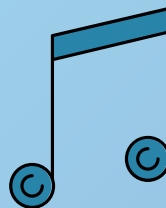
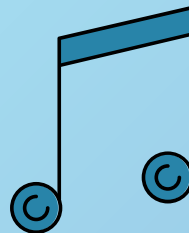
On a stormy Tuesday night, the music department hosted the annual Viewforth Christmas Concert. This year saw items from the Drama department and the P.E. department. The Art department put on a fashion show catwalk as well as an art exhibition. All of this was sandwiched in between multiple musical items representing the whole school. Pupils from S1 to S6 entertained a wonderful audience with solo number and group ensembles. The young people have worked incredibly hard, and this paid off on the night. Well done to all the performers involved!

Pictures taken by Liliana Altman (Higher Photography student)



Music

Christmas Concert



Physical Education

School Football

We're delighted to see our school football programme continuing to go from strength to strength, with more young people representing the school than ever before.

A special congratulations goes to Owen Wright, who has achieved something truly remarkable. Owen has been selected to represent the Fife Schools U18 Representative Team for the third year in a row, making him the only player in the squad to achieve this milestone.

In addition, Owen was invited to attend the Scotland Schools Trial, which is an outstanding accomplishment and a testament to his hard work and dedication.

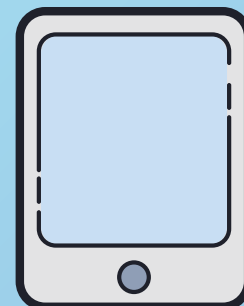
Well done, Owen – we're incredibly proud of you!

If you'd like to get involved in football, training for S1–S3 students takes place every Tuesday after school. Come along, give it a try, and be part of our growing team!



Pupil Support

Following the rollout of iPads to all Viewforth pupils, our department has been working closely with young people to help them make the most of the built-in accessibility tools that support learning. Features such as Speech-to-Text, Read Aloud, and options to adjust font style, text size, colour, and background have already proven to be incredibly beneficial. These tools help to personalise their learning experience and build confidence in their studies.



Guides to how to use these supports can be found on the school's website: <https://viewforthhighschool.co.uk/digital-learning/accessing-immersive-reader/>



This term, we were excited to launch our Paired Reading Programme. Each week, senior pupils dedicate time to working with younger pupils, offering encouragement and support to help develop their literacy skills while building positive relationships. Feedback has been very positive with pupils saying they enjoy working together and are proud of the progress they are making with their reading.

As part of its rebranding, the Gallatown YMCA required new decals to be fixed to the windows of the café. We were delighted to see some of our S4 pupils who attend our Employability Hub help with the redecoration, strengthening our commitment to working in partnership with local organisations and supporting the wider community.



Primary Transition



Primary 7 Cluster Ceilidh

During a very busy, enjoyable and uplifting week the annual Primary 7 Ceilidh took place! The event allows pupils from our associate primaries and beyond to showcase their hard work and learning by joining together to perform traditional Scottish dances, share a snack and drink as new friendships begin to develop before concluding the event with a 'Cluster Disco'.

This year the music was chosen in advance by the pupils themselves and the addition of 'YMCA' was a masterstroke and got even the most reluctant of pupils (and staff and parent/carer helpers) up on the floor! The final dance had a competitive edge with Erin and Kalia from Active Schools presenting an award for the 'Hokey Cokey'. The first winners of this were Dysart PS.

The event was very much pupil led by Active Schools Ambassadors Kayla and Angel and ably supported by Lucy, Lilly, Lacey, Codie and Leah who treated us all to a performance of the dance they have been developing during the extra-curricular Dance Club.



Remembrance

This November the school community saw several events to mark Remembrance Day, both in and out of school. Remembrance continues to be well respected part of the school's role as part of the wider community.

Remembrance Assemblies

On Tuesday 11th November junior History pupils led assemblies to each of the Year Groups. Cerys, Imogen, Jennifer, Chloe, Alyssa, Codie-Mya, Lilly, Katrina, Ryan, Cammie and Emily were all part of the team who brought Remembrance home to the school community by sharing stories of Viewforth staff and pupils involved in the Great War. They also showed original footage of the unveiling of Kirkcaldy War Memorial.

Viewforth's Own – Donald Mackay

- Depute and future headmaster Donald Mackay was awarded the Military Cross

HONOURS FOR LOCAL SOLDIERS.



VIEWFORTH TEACHER AWARDED THE MILITARY CROSS.

Some has just been received from France that Sir Donald Mackay, second master of Viewforth School, has been awarded the Military Cross for gallantry in the field and conspicuous services rendered during recent fighting. The information has given great satisfaction in the many friends possessed by Mr Mackay in the Kirkcaldy district, and especially in Viewforth School, where his outstanding ability and good personality made him a general favorite. In the circumstantial proof Mr Mackay's work was specially marked by a completely thorough and vigorous character, and it would appear that he has applied this to his own more successfully in his military activities. Mr Mackay joined up in February, 1916, as a member in the Royal Field Artillery. In a few weeks, he was promoted to second lieutenant, and in the course of time his ability was further recognized by his selection for a commission. After the usual course of training for an Artillery officer, Mr Mackay was appointed Second Lieutenant in the 155th Brigade, R.F.A., and in a few months he was sent to France with his brigade. For some time prior to his former appointment, he acted as an instructor in the Divisional Training School, and afterwards he was appointed adjutant in his brigade with the rank of Lieutenant. In the former capacity, Mr Mackay was very actively employed, and in Sir Douglas Haig's report on the fighting, he was mentioned as deserving for meritorious services rendered in the field. Early in the present year, he was promoted Captain, and now he has gained the Military Cross in a further honour. Viewforth School and the teaching profession generally, may well be proud of Mr Mackay's achievement and distinction.

Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday saw school representatives joining with members of the community in wreath laying services across the local area. Mrs Moore attended the wreath laying ceremony at Kirkcaldy War Memorial along with School Captains Amber and Gabby to lay a wreath on behalf of the school. Niamh and Sofia represented the school by laying a wreath at Dysart War memorial. At the same time Mr Kowbel attended the Remembrance Service at the memorial and church in West Wemyss.



Viewforth's Act of Remembrance

At 11am on Armistice Day, the whole school community came together to observe a minute's silence at eleven o'clock. The Act of Remembrance was led by School Captains Amber and Gabby. They completed readings from Binyon's "For the Fallen" and McCrae's "In Flanders Fields" in front of the senior school who attended at the school's own memorial. Rev Christine Fraser and Rev Andrew Donald supported the Act of Remembrance with a prayer after wreaths were laid for each of the Viewforth Houses by the House Captains. Cara and Tafara laying the wreath on behalf of MacGregor House, Abigail and Olivia on behalf of Fidra and Raphaella and Lana on behalf of Craigendal. The minute's silence was well observed across the school and was joined by members of the Windmill Community Campus.

Retail

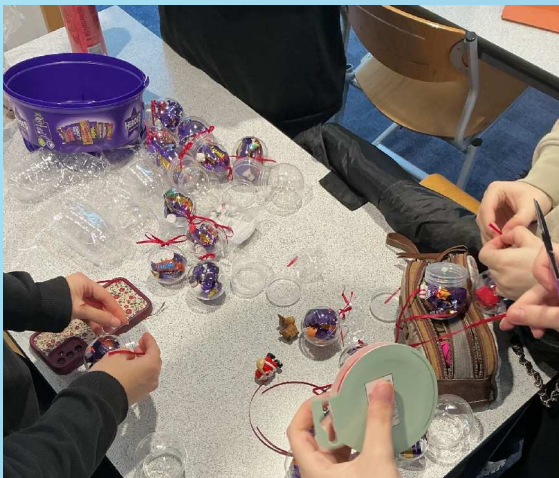
S4 Retail

Our S4 Retail classes have been hard at work this week bringing their retail events to life across the school.

These events have taken place during our Christmas concert, parents' evening, and lunchtimes in the run-up to the festive break.

Working in groups, students have researched, planned, and organised their stalls, selling a fantastic range of products including Christmas baubles, snow globes, chocolates, calendars, and more. They've also added fun activities such as games and raffles to make the experience even more enjoyable.

All of this effort contributes towards students achieving their National 5 Retail qualification. A huge thank you to everyone who has supported these events – your encouragement makes a real difference!



S4 Retail



Retail Class Community Project

This week, the 4F1 Retail class celebrated the successful completion of their retail project with a final visit and festive Christmas party at Ostlers House Care Home. Throughout the project, pupils engaged with residents by selling stocking fillers, hosting a “Guess the Marshmallows in the Jar” challenge, and organising Christmas-themed games to raise funds for their retail event.

The initiative provided an invaluable opportunity for young people to connect with the elderly community, challenge stereotypes, and discover shared interests. It also helped pupils develop confidence in communicating with individuals of different ages and backgrounds. Their polite and friendly approach was praised by residents, who expressed how much they looked forward to the visits and enjoyed seeing the pupils work together.

This project has been a rewarding experience for all involved, fostering mutual respect and understanding while strengthening community ties.

Quote below from Eva Rougvie, Emily McDonell and Abbi Deighan

'This experience was inspiring and the environment of the care home was very welcoming. The people there were friendly and we built connections we never thought we would. It made us realise we had more in common with people from older generations than we thought.'

One lady we connected with had such a kind heart and was really easy to talk to. She had pure emotion of love and had nothing bad to say. We are hoping to arrange to do work experience in care home as we really enjoyed this opportunity.'



S5/6 School News

Safe Drive

Our S5 pupils received an input from the Safer Communities team "Safe Drive, Stay Alive". This hard hitting presentation informs young people of the potential dangers of choices when driving and to encourage them to be both a safe driver, and a safe passenger. This is done in conjunction with the emergency services and real people from Fife who have been impacted by someone's decisions on the road. Pupils found the presentation upsetting at points and in follow up class discussions they had lots of questions and opinions about the drivers choices.



Frontline Fife

Frontline Fife is an organisation that tackles homelessness and provides education around the topic to reduce bias and raise awareness. All S5 and S6 pupils received 2 inputs from them and pupils reported that they found the sessions engaging and informative.



Prom Planning

Our School Captains have been hard at work planning the 2026 prom. They have been visiting venues, meeting with events managers and organising the prom committee. Things are progressing well, thank you Amber and Gabby.

School News

Support Over the School Holidays

The Christmas 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 and we've listed some of these below for your information.



Park Road Foodbank and Linton Lane Centre (Cabin) are available and accepts walk ins without a referral.

Centre	23/12	24/12	25/12	26/12	27/12	28/12	29/12	30/12	31/12	01/01	02/01
Park Road	10am-1pm	10am-1pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	10am-3pm	10am-1pm	10am-1pm	Closed	Closed
Linton Lane Centre (Cabin)	10am-12:30pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	10am-12:30pm	10am-12:30pm	Closed	Closed	Closed



The Substance Support Scotland team provide support for those who might be struggling with alcohol over the holiday period. They can be reached on 01592 321321



The SAMH Information Service provides information and support on mental health.

Whether you're seeking support, looking for more information for yourself or someone you love, or just want to have a chat about mental health, we're here.

Talk to the SAMH Information Team

Here are ways you can talk to the SAMH Information Team:

Live Web Chat*
0344 800 0550

info@samh.org.uk*

Open 9am-6pm, Monday to Friday (except Scotland and Northern Ireland Bank Holidays). Over the festive period we are open for support Monday to Friday 9am till 6pm. Calls charged at local rates, charges from mobile telephones vary considerably.

School News



Supports women, young people and children who are experiencing domestic abuse.
Freephone helpline for women – 24hour Telephone support 0808 8025555
Freephone helpline for children and young people 0808 8010422



Whether you are navigating benefits, managing debt or looking to make your money go further, we are here to help you.
Information available at <http://our.fife.scot/gethelp>



Breathing Space

A confidential out of office hours telephone line for people over 16 experiencing low mood, anxiety or depression.

Phone: 0800 83 85 87

Visit: breathingspace.scot



Samaritans

24-hour helpline offering emotional support for anyone feeling down, distressed or struggling to cope.

Phone: 116 123

Email: jo@samaritans.org

Visit: www.samaritans.org



NHS 24

NHS24 is a 24-hour health service for Scotland.

Phone: 111

Visit: www.nhs24.scot

childline

ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME

Childline

A free, private and confidential service for anyone under 19 in the UK.

Available: 24 hours, 7 days a week

Phone: 0800 1111

Visit: <http://www.childline.org.uk>

Technical

S1 and 2 have been designing and laser cutting their own Christmas decorations. They have used their skills in Affinity to create Christmas icons like snowmen, Christmas trees, Christmas lights and more. Their designs have then been cut from plywood so they can proudly hang them on their trees at home.



S3 Practical Woodworkers are working on making their basketball games out of pine and acrylic. They have been able to personalise their work by laser cutting designs onto the base, although not quite complete yet, they are starting to take shape and are looking great.



Viewforth High Young Talent



As we come to the end of 2025.....

Viewforth Young Talent program (MCR) would like to wish you all a safe and Happy Christmas and Holiday season

To date MCR young talent program has 90 young people on the program

43 pupil/mentor relationships

2 x S1 Group work

1 x S2 Group work

This year we have continued to grow, we have 43 mentoring relationships and S1 and S2 group work continues.

In the holidays, we've had a variety of activities on offer and some of the places we have visited this year are:

Edinburgh Castle, Fordell Firs, Bowling, Cooking classes. Art groups, Pumpkin Carving, Movies and Snacks

We also had our very first VHS Pantomime visit: we were very lucky for a large group of young people to attend the Adam Smith theatre to see Aladdin.

I would like to wish everyone a happy holiday – Val



Young Carers

'We are proud to continue our strong partnership with Fife Young Carers, ensuring that pupils with caring responsibilities at home receive the support they need.

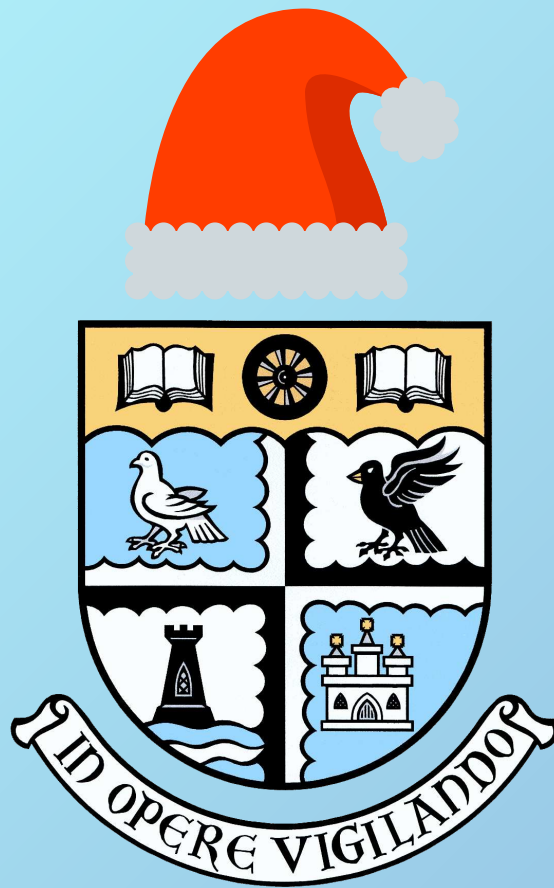
This term, we launched the Young Carer Lunch Club, which runs every Tuesday lunchtime and is open to all our young carers.

Looking ahead to next term, we are delighted to welcome the Learning With Care team, who will provide fully funded tuition for young carers in S4–S6. This is a fantastic opportunity for pupils to access additional academic support and achieve their full potential.

If pupils need any support regarding their caring responsibilities, they can speak to Mr Wilson in the Guidance Department.

Young people who have caring responsibilities and would like to benefit from support from Fife Young Carers can refer themselves online at:
fifeyoungcarers.co.uk.'





We hope you enjoyed reading our Christmas newsletter.

**Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, from all at
Viewforth High School.**