



PORT GLASGOW
HIGH SCHOOL
SUCCESS FOR ALL

PGHS Weekly News

Friday 20 December 2024



This week at Port Glasgow High School



Message from the Head Teacher

Welcome to our final newsletter of 2024. In this newsletter, we would like to share with you the activities your child has been involved in as we celebrate Christmas at Port Glasgow High School. We have had a busy Christmas Season with Elf on the Shelf, the Christmas Door Competition, Food Bank collections, Christmas Karaoke, our annual Christmas Football Tournament, Christmas Bake Sale, Christmas Show, Panto visit, S1 Christmas Party and our Christmas Service. With all of this going on, I hope we have helped your young person get into the Christmas spirit! All the staff here at Port Glasgow High School wish all our pupils and their families a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We look forward to welcoming your child back to Port Glasgow High School on Monday 6th January.

Kooth Support Available Over Christmas Holidays

Discover Kooth.com – Your Go-To Mental Health Resource! A safe, online space for young people in Inverclyde (14-26yrs) to talk about their feelings & mental health. 24/7 access to trained professionals, support is just a click away!

The graphic features the Kooth logo at the top left. Below it, the text reads "Whenever you're feeling..." followed by "Reach out to us." and the website "kooth.com" at the bottom left. In the center, there is an illustration of a person with their hands on their head, surrounded by five thought bubbles containing the words: "left out", "lonely", "a bit different", "misunderstood", and "like you don't belong".



Christmas Jumper Day

It was fantastic to see so many of our pupils join us in wearing their Christmas Jumper on Christmas Jumper Day this week!



S1 Christmas Party

A big thank you to our S6 Sports Leaders for organising our S1 Christmas Party. S1 had a great time with an afternoon full of activities, games and dancing! Well done S1 for their participation in the Christmas fun!



Pantomime Trip

Mrs Millar took a group of our young people to the Beacon Arts Centre to watch their production of Jack and the Beanstalk on Friday. Oh no she didn't! Oh yes she did! The young people and staff who accompanied them had a fantastic time!



Nations League Football Tournament

The tension was high on the last day as England and Italy prepared for the biggest game PGHS has ever seen! Mr Cultrera and Mr McAllister, the respective managers, were both eager to be crowned champions alongside their nations in what was a colossal match.

George, from Children in Poverty Inverclyde along with Chris Millar, a former St Johnstone and Morton FC player, joined us for the match and could not help but get involved in the game!

The winning team was England after a high stakes penalty shoot out!

We have raised nearly £600 for Children in Poverty Inverclyde so far with some donations still to be counted. Please contact the school should you like to donate.

A huge thank you to Mr Hart and Mr Starling who organise this annual event! A big thank you to our young people who give it their all during these games and provide us with exciting entertainment! Each and everyone of our players should be proud of their efforts, we certainly are. Thank you to our staff who manage the teams (only a few red cards this year)!

Thank you to all the young people who come along each lunchtime to support their friends, teachers and this local charity!

England Team: Kieran B, Ryan M, Luca B, Cooper D, James K.

Italy Team: Hayden B, Logan P, Jack H, Calum M, David W, Blake F.



Nations League Football Tournament (Continue)

Brandon C was awarded player of the tournament.



Ross G was top fundraiser of the tournament.



Curricular Choices for Session 2025/26

We may only be half way through this session, but the planning for next session starts now. On Monday the 13th January we will be holding year group assemblies for S2 through to S5 to consult with pupils regarding their curricular choices for next session. At these assemblies your child will be asked to list the subjects that they would like to study the following year. Please note they are not making their final curricular choices at these assemblies, just providing us with a guide to support forward planning. The information they provide will be analysed to inform how the curricular option forms are constructed. We will then host a **Parents' Curricular Information Evening on Thursday 6th February**, to share with you the curricular options and pathways planned for PGHS pupils. Alongside this we will have further pupil assemblies, report cards and Parents' nights, before each pupil has a Curricular Choice Interview with their guidance teacher, to make their choices for next year. As a parent you are invited to join your child's Curricular Choice Interview, the dates of which are highlighted below so you can add this to your diary.

S3: Tues 11th & Wed 12th March (9-6pm)

S2: Tues 18th & Wed 19th March (9-6pm)

S4/5: Tues 1st & Wed 2nd April (9-6pm)



Karaoke

On Monday our House Captains organised a lunchtime Christmas Karaoke! Our multi- talented teaching staff turned their hand to some festive singing with some excellent audience participation. Thank you to all the young people who came along to support this event and thank you to Mrs Burns, Mr Kretowicz, Mr Hart and Mr Starling for their stellar performances!



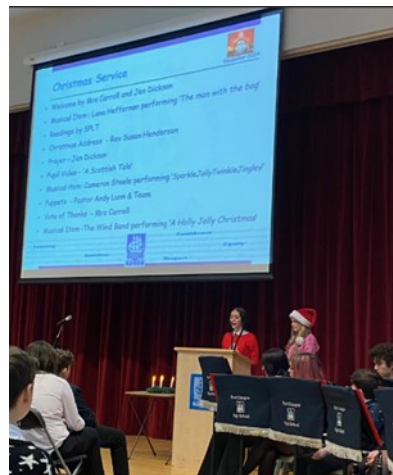
Christmas Door Competition

Port Glasgow High School staff take decorating our school for Christmas very seriously! Each year their competitive nature comes out when it comes to our Christmas Door Competition! This year our S1 panel crowned the Support for Learning Department our winners with PE and Technical being very close runners up!



Christmas Service

On Thursday morning, we were delighted to be joined by Jen Dickson, Reverend Susan Henderson, Pastor Andy Lunn and Reverend William Boyle from our Chaplaincy Team to take us through a Christmas Reflection. The Service also allowed our young musicians to share their gifts and talents as they wowed us with their festive performances. This year our Support for Learning tutorial group produced a video that was played at the service on the new year. This was an excellent addition to the service and further displayed the hard work of our talented young people.



YPI Final

S3 PSE classes have been working hard on their entries for the Youth Philanthropy Initiative with 5 groups making it through to the Tuesday's final. The 5 groups that presented at the final on Tuesday displayed all of our CLEAR values and were of a very high standard. The panel found the group that presented on Your Voice Inverclyde Community Care Forum to be worthy winners and so they were awarded £3000 for their charity!

Big congratulations to Nieve, Danielle, Olivia and Alyssa!



Christmas Concert

We welcomed our parents and friends of Port Glasgow High School into our school on Wednesday for our annual Christmas Concert. The music department produced a wonderful evening of musical entertainment. A huge thank you to them and all our fantastic performers.



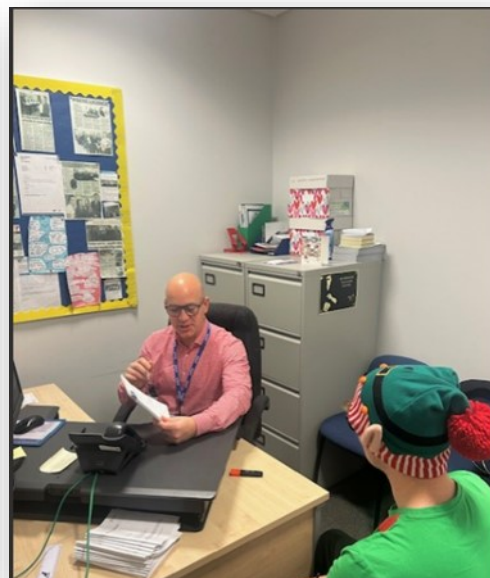
Christmas Round Up

Our retail group organised a Bake Sale! This was greatly appreciated by staff and pupils as they headed along to purchase some cakes and biscuits!



The staff were also visited by Santa! He popped by to let us know which teachers were on the naughty or nice list!

Mrs Carroll had to so a double take when she walked by Mr Rhodes office and saw him giving career advice to one of Santa's Elves!



Rights of the Month

As we are now in the festive period, it is important to remember that we do not all celebrate Christmas at this time of year. During December there are many faith-based festivals, such as; Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Saint Nicholas Day and Christmas. As an inclusive school, we provide a safe place for religions, languages and customs.

•Article 14 - Every child has the right to think and believe what they choose and also to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Governments must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents to guide their child as they grow up.

•Article 30 - States that children have the right to learn and use their family's language, religion, and customs, regardless of whether they are shared by the majority of people in their country.



After school cookery club

This term we ran our first block of the PGHS Cookery Club with S3 and what a success it was! The students learned to make rosemary and garlic sweet potato, chicken fajitas, spaghetti bolognese and Biscoff cheesecake. Well done to all the students who attended as they did a fantastic job! Thank you to the PGHS Parent Council for providing funds for the club.

There will be a new block starting in the new year: S1 get your oven gloves ready!



Subject Departments Updates this week

Modern Languages

S1-S2 classes have been learning a lot about Christmas in France and Spain. Expanding our knowledge and understanding of the culture of these countries is very important when learning the language. A research activity on Christmas in Spain included naming three Spanish Christmas songs, finding out the ingredients in turrón and investigating Spanish cities where there are Christmas markets. Pupils have also been creating wonderful Christmas cards in Spanish and French to give to their loved ones. We have very artistic and linguistically gifted pupils at PGHS!



Music

Extra Curricular

Port Glasgow High School MUSIC DEPARTMENT		
	LUNCH	AFTER SCHOOL
MONDAY	Advanced Higher Supported Study Music Theory	Wind Band
TUESDAY	BGE & SQA Performing Support	Inverclyde Strings Inverclyde Wind Orchestra Ukulele Group
WEDNESDAY	VOISS Strings Group	School Show Jazz Band
THURSDAY	Folk Band Percussion Ensemble	Junior Orchestra Percussion Ensemble SQA Performing Support
FRIDAY	Soul Band SQA Composition Support	



Lunchtime and After School Clubs**M**

Lunchtime - Games Club with Mr O'Donnell S040
 After school - Dance, Futsal club, basketball

TU

Lunchtime - SI Coding Club with Dr Chen F086
 Lunchtime - Games Club with Mr O'Donnell S040
 After school - Fitness, Girls football

W

Lunchtime - Craft club with Mrs Barclay S039
 Lunchtime - Games Club with Mr O'Donnell S040
 After school- Football, Badminton

TH

Lunchtime - S2 Coding Club with Dr Chen F086
 Lunchtime - Games Club with Mr O'Donnell S040
 After school - Netball
 The PGHS Junior Orchestra with Miss Ballantyne





Senior Pupil Leadership Team

2024-2025

School Captains



Anna D



Aimee H



Stacy R



Jack K

House Captains

KINGSTON

Emma B & Lana H

LITHGOW

Emily H & Emma W

GLEN

Emma McL & Connie M

FERGUSON

Ava O & James K



S6 Ambassadors

Mental Health

Devon W

Health & Wellbeing

Cara McM



S6 Lead Prefects

Sam McG

Logan V



2024-2025 School Calendar

August 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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September 2024						
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October 2024						
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November 2024						
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December 2024						
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					15	

January 2025						
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February 2025						
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March 2025						
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April 2025						
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May 2025						
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June 2025						
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July 2025						
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

-  School Closed/ Holidays
-  Teacher in-Service Day (no school for students)
-  School Open



Contact Details

Name	Details	E-mail
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Senior Leadership Team

Mrs G Carroll	Head teacher	gillian.carroll@portglasgow.inverclyde.sch.uk
Mrs F Craig	Depute Head Teacher S1 - S2	fiona.craig@portglasgow.inverclyde.sch.uk
Mrs L Fitzharris	Depute Head Teacher S3 - S4	lisa.fitzharris@portglasgow.inverclyde.sch.uk
Ms S Welsh	Depute Head Teacher S5 - S6	suzanne.welsh@portglasgow.inverclyde.sch.uk

Pastoral Team

Mrs K Brown	Head of Ferguson House	kirsty.brown@portglasgow.inverclyde.sch.uk
Mrs L Greenlees (Mon to Wed)	Head of Glen House	loredana.greenlees@portglasgow.inverclyde.sch.uk
Mr Goodfellow (Thurs & Fri)		stuart.goodfellow@portglasgow.inverclyde.sch.uk
Mrs A Rae	Head of Kingston House	amanda.rae@portglasgow.inverclyde.sch.uk
Miss Robinson	Head of Lithgow House	lydia.robinson@portglasgow.inverclyde.sch.uk
Mrs K Wilson	Principal Teacher Support for Learning	office@portglasgow.inverclyde.sch.uk
Mrs K Fraser	Principal Teacher Health & Wellbeing	kirstin.fraser@portglasgow.inverclyde.sch.uk

Careers Team

Mr N Rhodes	Skills Development Scotland School Careers Advisor	Nicol.Rhodes@sds.co.uk
Mr C Hart	Principal Teacher Developing the Young Workforce	craig.hart@portglasgow.inverclyde.sch.uk

