



Peebles High School Newsletter - 04/11/22

Dear Parent/Carer

You may be aware that senior Education staff from Scottish Borders Council conducted an Inspection style review of our school during the first week back after the October break. This was a robust and challenging process that identified some important and key strengths in our school as well as areas where we must improve as a school.

Key strengths:

- Raising attainment and achievement was deemed to be a key strength especially in relation to attainment over time, attainment in Literacy and Numeracy, overall quality of attainment and our 98.4% positive destination rate. In all of these areas we are performing better than our Virtual Comparator School.
- Positive interactions between staff and young people in all settings.
- Our Peebles High School Learning Framework is leading to improvement to the quality of Learning and Teaching across all departments and faculties.

Areas for improvement and action:

- **Communication** was identified as a key area for improvement. This Newsletter represents the start of our commitment to keeping you better informed of the life of our school, important news, notable successes, progress with our School Improvement Plan and introductions to new members of staff. Initially our Newsletters will be weekly or fortnightly and then we will ask you in the new year about how useful you find them and the frequency with which you would wish to receive them.
- **Young people feeling unsafe at school** was also highlighted as a concern and something we are taking immediate steps to address. While the review team observed a very orderly and safe school environment during the week they were in our school, a significant minority of young people still report feeling unsafe due to issues such as the poor repair of toilets, the rumours of weapons in the press and social media or the behaviour of a small group of other young people at social times. We are undertaking an immediate review of our approaches to tackling poor behaviour and our Positive Relationships Policy.
- **Support for our young people with Additional Support Needs** is also being reviewed and improvements/changes to our provision and approaches to support these young people will be communicated soon.
- **Leadership.** Leadership is to improve in order to take forward the areas in need of improvement as described above. A crucial part of this process is the appointment of two new DHTs over the course of the next week. Thanks in advance to the members of the Parent Council who will be joining me on the panel to conclude those interviews on Monday and Wednesday of next week.

New Members of Staff

We welcome aboard Miss Mel Haldane, PT Enhanced Provision, and Mrs Kathryn Ramage, PT Support for Learning. Clearly, their roles in leading improvements for the young people in their care is crucial to delivering the improvements expected by SBC outlined above. Both have already made a positive start to their careers in our school.

Upcoming events on the Calendar:

Please remember you can view the school calendar at any time via our new website: [Calendar](#)

In the next couple of weeks there are two main events:

- 10th November - Parent Council Meeting at 7pm - 8:30pm in the Assembly Hall
- 16th November - Careers Evening at 6-8pm in the Assembly Hall

I trust that you will contact the school via email to phs@scotborders.gov.uk should you have any feedback on our Newsletter or issues you would like to raise with the school

Best Regards

Campbell Wilson

Headteacher

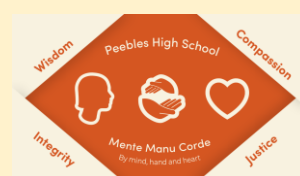
New Members of Staff



Hello, I am Miss Mel Haldane, Principal Teacher Enhanced Provision, and I am very excited to be leading the complex learning team, working in Peebles High School.



My name is Mrs Kathryn Ramage and I am the new Principal Teacher of Pupil Support at Peebles High School. I am delighted to join the team and look forward to supporting the young people and staff here.



What's Happening in PHS

We will include a small selection of articles in each newsletter which share the experiences and celebrate the successes of our young people to give you a flavour of school life.

Pride & Prejudice* (sort of)

Our Higher and Advanced Higher Drama classes recently went to see *Pride & Prejudice* (sort of)* at the Lyceum Theatre in Edinburgh. Since opening in Glasgow back in 2019, *Pride and Prejudice* (*sort of)* has taken London's West End by storm winning the Olivier Award for Best Comedy. A distinctly Scottish retelling of Jane Austen's classic text, the play was greatly enjoyed by all of our students. Our next trip to see *An Edinburgh Christmas Carol* takes place on the 14th of December at the Lyceum Theatre.
Mr Swinton, Drama



My Place Photography Competition

Our Art Department has launched PHS My Place Photography Competition! This offers a fantastic opportunity to win £400 worth of prize money! There are 2 categories: S1-S3 and S4-6. Winners in both categories will each receive £100 and two runners up in each category will receive £50. All pupils need to do is choose an urban Scottish place which matters to them, take a photo of themselves there or direct someone else to take the photo of them and then write a short text of 250 words explaining why that place is significant to them. Please encourage your child to take part!



More details are available [here](#).

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES - FRIDAY 25TH NOVEMBER.

Pupils can see Mrs Tweedie (Art and Design) in MC1 if they have any further questions.

Mrs Tweedie, Art

Chill, Chat and Art

The Store have been holding a 'Chill, Chat and Art' lunchtime group on Wednesdays. This is a group which allows students to move freely between rooms to chill, chat and create. Here are some of the students' creations for our 'Day of the Dead' theme: skull tea light holders inspired by Mexican culture. They are yet to be fired and will be stunning when the glazes shine.

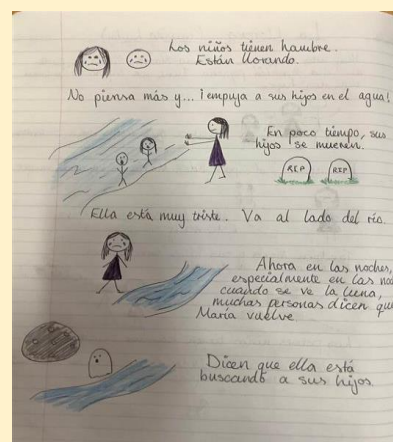
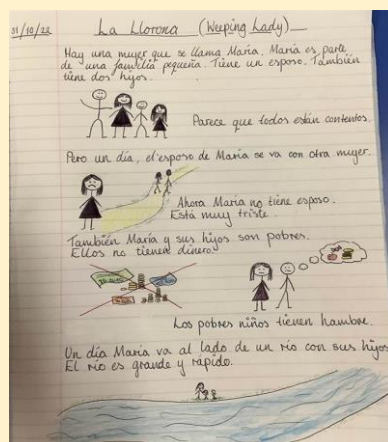
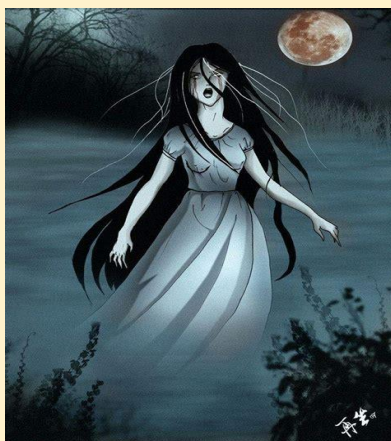


Miss Manson, Support for Learning

'Día de Muertos' in Modern Languages

This week we have been celebrating the Mexican 'Día de Muertos' in our BGE Spanish lessons. We have explored this unique festive celebration that takes place on the 1st November known as All Saints Day and November 2nd known as All Souls Day. The festivities mark the return of the souls of past loved ones.

Our Senior Phase language lessons have looked at different versions of the Spanish Legend of 'La Llorona' the spooky tale of The Weeping Lady.



Ms. Marr, Modern Languages

Witchcraft in Peebleshire

Elisa Smith came in to talk to an S3 English class about witchcraft in Peebleshire. She gave a fascinating talk and we very much enjoyed playing the Witch or No Witch game! She gave us lots of information to support us with writing our reports on Witchcraft in Scotland for N4 Writing and N4 Scottish Studies.

What was even better was that Kirsty Lothian and Sonny Turner both volunteered to contact Elisa as they know her from Youth Club. Kirsty got in first and liaised with Elisa in the first instance. What a lovely example of learners leading learning.

Mrs Stewart, English

Rugby Success

Our school teams took on Jedburgh at the weekend (29/10/22) and enjoyed success in the rainy conditions. S1 won 45-20, S2 had a comprehensive 50-0 win, and honour were even in the under 15 game: 26-26.

Mr Changleng, PE

Fabulous Friday

Congratulations to the pupils nominated by their Social Subjects teachers for recognition in this month's Fabulous Friday. Those pupils who have gone above and beyond this month joined staff in the base for last Friday break to celebrate with some sweet treats.

Miss Watterson, Social Subjects

