



Peebles High School Newsletter - 18/11/22

Welcome to the second edition of our fortnightly Newsletter for Peebles High School parents and families. We are keen for our new approaches to communication to provide you with the type of information about school life that helps you to know our school and what is going on. Your feedback will help us to continuously improve. Please provide feedback via our contact email: phsenquiries@scotborders.gov.uk

Enjoy this week's edition!

Best Regards

Campbell Wilson

Headteacher

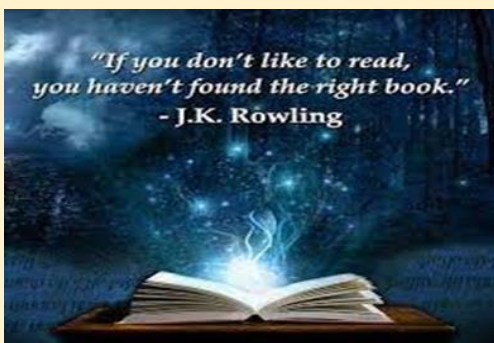
What's Happening in PHS

Remembrance Sunday

It was an absolute honour and privilege to be joined by these amazing young people at the war memorial in Peebles on Remembrance Sunday to pay respect to the fallen on behalf of Peebles High School.

Mente Manu Corde

Mr Wilson, Headteacher



Scholastic Book Fair – 24.11.22 – 02.12.22 Tweed Reads will be hosting the Scholastic Book Fair in the Tweed Reads base at the end of the month. There are lots of great books to choose from in a number of genres so there will be something for everyone. And this year you can pay with cash, or scan the QR code and pay online. Easy!

New Members of Staff

Miss Roper



Hi I'm Miss Roper, and I'm working in the amazing Art and Design department. Very excited to be working at Peebles High School and teaching fun, creative Art and Design lessons to my students. Looking forward to getting to know everyone.

Mr Renwick



Hi, I'm Mr Renwick. I am delighted to join Peebles High School, I was previously a PE teacher at Hawick High School for 13 years. I have lots of interests including rugby, basketball, athletics, golf and brass band and I'm looking forward to getting involved in the wider life of the school.

PHS Pride and LGBT Charter Journey

This year Peebles High School is working towards the Gold LGBT Charter of Rights award from LGBT Youth Scotland. PHS is already a proud recipient of the silver level award which we earned in 2018.

To earn the gold level award our school needs to evidence our efforts to make PHS as inclusive as it can be. These efforts include staff training, policy reviews and making sure our school practices and lessons are inclusive.

90% of our staff (including senior leadership) have completed training. This is an LGBT Youth Scotland record. We have also carried out consultations to gain a clearer understanding of the experience of our LGBT young people. Our school LGBT group (PHS Pride) has developed a series of lessons and will deliver these to S1 and S2 PSE classes. With help from Friends of Peebles High School, we have installed a very popular LGBT library that is well stocked with books for the whole school to borrow. PHS Pride also continues to be a safe social space for pupils to eat lunch.

Before our April 2023 deadline the charter group will continue their efforts. This will include staff consultations, further policy review, updating the school website to include information about and signposting to LGBT sources of support and the installation of gender neutral toilets. We are grateful to our parent representatives who are supporting us with this area of school improvement.

Miss Fyfe, RMPS and PHS Pride



PE Sports Tour

52 football fanatics from S1-S6 were delighted when Erling Haaland scored a last minute winner for Manchester City against Fulham when they visited the Etihad Stadium. It was a brilliant day out.

Mr Stewart, PE/Pastoral



Equally Safe at School

The Equally Safe at School (ESAS) project has been moving forward in the last few weeks with teaching staff taking part in online training which aimed to develop knowledge and understanding of what gender-based violence is and how it can affect young people, and the role that staff can play in helping to prevent it. Thank you to some of our PHS students who confidently shared some of their experiences with staff.

Over the next few weeks some staff and students will be invited to focus groups to identify key issues relating to gender inequality and gender-based violence in our school.

Mrs Milligen, Pastoral



Family Learning Events



To register for this event please follow this link <https://forms.office.com/r/0z7t9sckAU> For those registering for online attendance a TEAMS link will be sent nearer the date.

This first session will look at the teenage years as well as risk, challenge and adventure. A second session in March will cover the brain under stress and the importance of communication.

SAVE THE DATE

January 18th Wednesday

PARENTS AND CARERS TRAINING COURSE

The use of technology to support digital learning/staying safe online and protective factors for mental health. Further details to follow.



Mr Lee, Depute Headteacher

Hall of Heroes

Congratulations to current pupils Thomas Hilton, Kieran Fulton, Ruby Maclean and former pupils Patrick Cannon and Stewart Campbell for being inducted to the Hall of Heroes. Josh Landers, Jess Colledge and Andrew Wilson will be next!

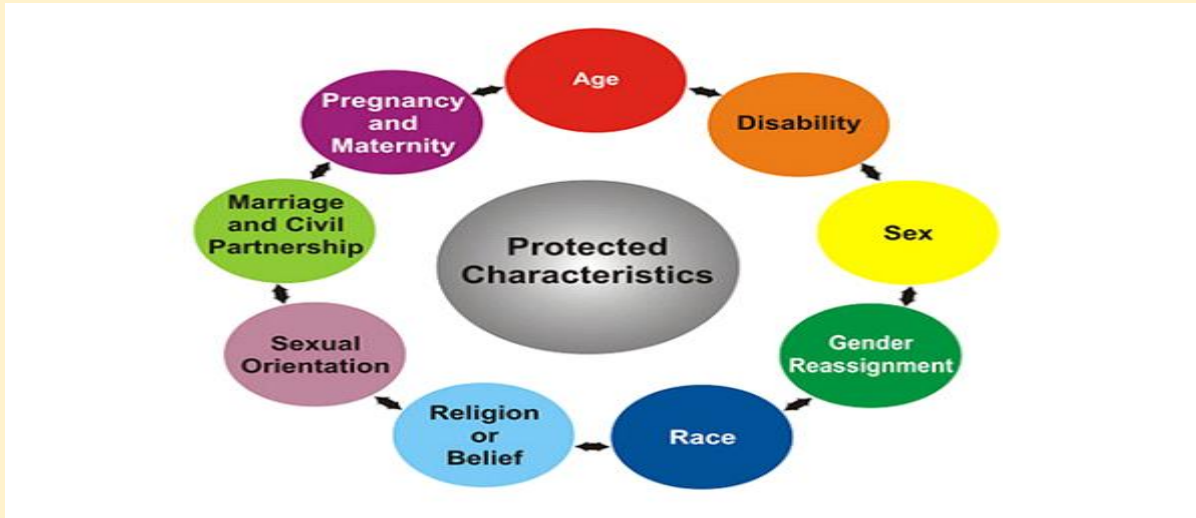
Mrs Moretta, DHT (Pupil Support)



EQUALITIES

One of our school improvement priorities this year is to reduce inequalities of outcome for all young people, particularly those with protected characteristics

We held an assembly in September and young people learned about what equality means and how we plan to address inequality in our school community. We are focusing on three of the nine protected characteristics this session – sex, gender reassignment and sexual orientation.



Young people heard that:

- 70% of gay/lesbian young people report experiencing bullying due to their sexual orientation at school (LGBT Youth Scotland)
- 67% of PHS young people have witnessed hurtful language, gestures or behaviours being used about someone's gender

Our next assembly in November focused on our wellbeing focus month 'Respected'. We took the opportunity to give young people an update on developments on our work on Equalities but also raised the subject of bullying, something which young people feel needs to be addressed. Young people were reminded of how the school deals with bullying incidents and who they can talk to about any concerns they have. We have also reinstated our 'Not Alone' online bullying reporting service. The 'Not Alone' graphic below has been shared on year group teams and is also on the school website. Young people can click on the graphic and it will take them to a form which they can fill in and when submitted, this will go to their Pastoral teacher. Parents can support their child with this or report on their child's behalf.



Mrs Moretta, Depute Headteacher (Pupil Support)

S3 Parents' Evening

We are looking forward to our S3 parents' evening on Wednesday 23rd November. This session will be online and S3 parents have already been informed of the booking and login procedures.

Advanced Higher Art trip to Penicuik Paper Making Museum

Two trips to Penicuik paper-making museum (Bridge Street, Penicuik) were attended by Advanced Higher Art & Design students. On these two occasions they experienced three different workshops which tied into enhancing their learning for practical folio submissions.

Penicuik is a historic paper making town, and the students were given a brief history of the development of the paper mills and the industry and then had a quick tour of the museum with artefacts which have survived since Victorian times. Of particular interest was the printing presses which are preserved, especially the Heidelberg Press of 1914, which is still in use today.



Students were given a demonstration on how to create hand made paper by Museum Director, Roger Hipkin thereafter they spent some time putting theory into practice, making their own sheets of paper which they could develop and draw into upon return to class.



Ava Church, S6, with a finished sheet of her own handmade paper.

Running at the same time was a weaving workshop. After a short introduction into the mechanics of the large loom and review of the weaving process, the morning was spent card weaving using coloured yarns. Weaving by hand is a lengthy, meditative, technical process but once a rhythm is established you can progress apace. The workshop was offered by Christina, a Swedish craftsperson who produces her own textiles and runs workshops in her home studio. Christina was impressed at the speed in which Rosie Duckworth mastered the technique and said she was a “natural” weaver!



The final workshop was **Typography/typesetting**. Roger Hipkin, once again relayed the technical and historic process and a demonstration of the Heidelberg Press in action was given. The heavy cast iron and beautiful engineering impressed us. These workshops were arranged by the art department and Helen Philip of DYW, using monies from the Royal Scottish Academy/ Brodies School Art Competition. The award of **Inspirational Art Department, 2022** was won by PHS Art Department last session. For this award, it was highlighted that as a result of the fire and COVID, the art department would develop links to industry and offer practical, more specialised art experiences to students. We think we have gone some way to doing this by introducing these very worthwhile workshops to our seniors.

Further News from the Art Department

Congratulations to Ava Church who's Higher Art & Design practical folio has been retained as a 'Folio of Excellence' by the SQA. It will be feature in the SQA on line exhibition of work from across Scotland, scheduled for release in January 2023.

Ms Pollock, Art

Careers Fair

Wednesday, 16 November saw the long awaited return of our Careers Fair. With a warm welcome from Mr Wilson, the event was organised and supported by DYW Borders and our very own Parent Council. Our PHS learners and their parents/carers had the opportunity to meet representatives from over 60 organisations from a wide range of industry sectors and learn about the different career pathways. It was great to see so many former pupils come back to represent their employers. The schedule of Spotlight talks and the DYW "Doll Box" also proved popular attractions. Thanks to the organisations that donated prizes. At time of writing the Senior Student Council are waiting to draw the prize winners – results in next Newsletter.



Rugby is in safe hands!

Congratulations to Rio Bhatia and Elliot Brydon who are now fully qualified rugby referees.

Mr Changleng, PE



Happy Fridays in the Sunflower Café

In February 2022 young people and staff in our Enhanced Provision first opened the doors to their Sunflower Café. Each week staff in our school can order a scone from our café. Scones can be delivered, collected from the Sunflower or indeed staff can book a table and have a free hot drink with their scone. The janitorial team are regular customers and tell us that they are “treated like celebrities” by the young people. Everyone works hard and is keen to help out. Young people work as a team to tidy, organise and set their room up for the café as well as baking, washing dishes, serving, delivering, collecting money, tidying up, putting aprons etc in the washing machine.

This weekly café gives the young people a real life opportunity to develop skills for the future. By interacting with others they are developing social skills, teamwork and communication skills. Recently Sunflower Signers has become a part of the café experience where a communication sign of the week is sent to all PHS staff to learn and use with our young people.

Feedback given from customers is always positive. Staff love a Friday not just for the delicious Sunflower scones but also seeing the happy faces of the young people. It is the highlight of the week.

Ms Morrow, Support for Learning 🌻

