



Peebles High School Newsletter - 21/12/22

Dear Parent Carer

There is no doubt that the end to Covid regulations and an increasing sense of normality here has led to a much more festive and optimistic atmosphere in our school than we have been able to enjoy in recent years in the build up to Christmas. This is reflected in the content of this, the fourth edition of our Newsletter introduced in November to better inform Parents and Carers of the life and successes of our school. Before you read all about this year's festivities and are introduced to new members of staff, I want to thank you all for the ongoing support of our school and invite you to engage as much as you are able in the efforts we are all making to help Peebles High school improve further and realise our ambition of becoming one of the very best schools in the country. Most of all I want to wish you and your family a peaceful, restorative and fulfilling Christmas. I look forward to seeing your children in the New Year and I hope that everyone returns safe and well. Have a very merry Christmas!

Campbell Wilson

Mente Manu Corde



New Members of Staff

Dr Coltman



I'm excited to be starting at Peebles High as a Physics Teacher. I've spent most of my working life as an Engineer, and have worked in several schools from Stornoway to Bannockburn. I'm really looking forward to getting to know everyone at Peebles.

Mr Patrascu



I am delighted to have joined Peebles High School's Chemistry team. I am looking forward to working with pupils and staff and want to bring my contribution to this incredible community.

Upcoming calendar dates

Thursday 22nd December - last day of school - Christmas assemblies

Monday 9th January - All resume - Wellbeing Month: Achieving

Thursday 12th January - S1 and S3 Course Choice events

Monday 16th January - Study Leave and Prelims begin.

Week beginning Monday 16th - S3 report issued.

Tuesday 17th January - Parent Council meeting

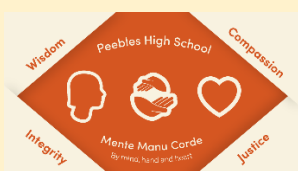
Wednesday 18th January - Family Learning Event - Digital Skills and Staying Safe Online

Monday 23rd January - School vision consultation (online) - Heart

Tuesday 24th January - School vision consultation (online) – Head

Wednesday 25th January - School vision consultation (online) – Hand

Thursday 26th January - S5/6 Burns Supper



What's Happening in PHS

Christmas Door competition.

Several staff have entered our Christmas door competition this year making our school a more positive and festive place.



Enterprise Fair

After an enforced break of 3 years, the 14th PHS Enterprise Fair returned on Friday 9 December 2022. Over 100 students took part as stallholders on 27 stalls ranging from festive bakes, jewellery, crafts and decorations, games, challenges and a very successful raffle for Peebles Food Bank organised by S6 girls. The primary aim of the Fair is to give an outlet for our learners to display their entrepreneurial talents. Twelve of this year's stalls were operating as social enterprises, raising funds for a range of charities and school groups which included PHS Price, School Breakfast Club, Tweed Reads, PHS Code Club, RSPB, Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation, Peebles Food Bank, Peebles Rugby Club and the Sunflower Cafe. These stalls raised a whopping total of £1,072 for their causes. Other stallholders operating on a commercial basis paid a table fee which was included in the charity pot. Well done to all the enterprising young people of Peebles High School. Mrs Fuddy



Student Leadership Academy took place in the Assembly Hall on 30th November.

The Student Leadership Academy took place in the Assembly Hall on 30th November led by John Loughton, CEO of Dare2Lead and focussed on public speaking, building confidence and leadership skills.

The session was designed to support those students who take on leadership responsibilities across the school - be it through being a prefect or house captain, serving on the Student Parliament or SSC, or through leading a club or society such as Model UN or PHS Pride. 60 student leaders from across S1-S6 took part. 100% of students surveyed said the session had boosted their confidence and they would recommend it. Duncan, S3, said *"The leadership training was very beneficial, as we got to improve public speaking skills and also helped me personally know what the purpose and importance of leadership was"*. Eilidh, S4, said *"The leadership training was great because I learnt how to improve my public speaking skills and we got to talk to a lot of new people we hadn't talked to before."*



Journalism success

After the school received the very generous donation of 200 copies of Ronald Ireland's new book, *History of Royal and Ancient Peebles*, we were given the opportunity to write an article in recognition of this. Having had the pleasure of meeting with Ronald the class completed their articles, three of which were selected for review by him. He has selected one for publication which has now been sent to the Peebleshire and we await their response. A huge congratulations to Isla Campbell for her wonderful article. A real talent and an article to be proud of. Ms Ness



Some of the new Peebles High School Pipe Band at practice . Our Pipe Major is Callum Collier (S6) and our Pipe Sergeant is Alfie Johnstone (S2) (Alfie missing from the photos). Huge thanks to George Blair for teaching our Drum core

Model united Nations

The Model UN Christmas Conference took place on 12th December. 90 students from across S1-S6 took part. Model UN is designed to give students the opportunity to role play the real United Nations through attempting to resolve global issues whilst representing one of the UN's member states.



It develops strong collaboration, communication and critical thinking skills and usually meets every other Thursday with most debates attracting 60+ students.

Our students debated potential solutions to water scarcity and a hypothetical emergency situation in Armenia. Best delegation went to Hamish Palmer and Kieran Fulton representing Azerbaijan. Other prizes were won by Faith Salmond, Johnny Birks, Destiny Robertson, Gabriela Hamza and Rhys Munro, with many more students being commended for their high quality contributions to the debate. Mr McMordie

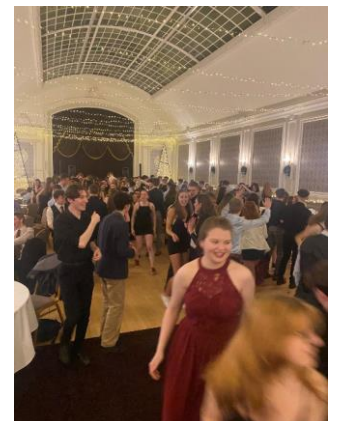


Christmas Concert



120 PHS students were joined by 30 string players from Priorsford Primary for the long-awaited return of our Christmas Concert. A capacity crowd enjoyed music and song from the choir, ceilidh band, brass band, concert band, guitar group, jazz band, woodwind group and string orchestra. We were delighted to host PHS Pipe Band's first performance and the whole evening was brought to a thrilling end with the Ukrainian Bell Carol performed by the orchestra.

Christmas Dances



Fun and frolics at the Christmas festivities, thank you to all who helped organise, run and supervise these events!

