



PEEBLES HIGH SCHOOL

CAMPBELL WILSON HEADTEACHER



Parent/Carer Newsletter 9 23rd June 2023

Dear Parent Carer

Welcome to the first Newsletter of session 2023-2024. At this time of year it is appropriate to reflect on the year just past and look to the future with a clear focus for improvement. Last session was undoubtedly challenging in many ways but despite these challenges our school enjoyed great successes, experiences and achievements, some not yet reported on through our monthly newsletter.

S1 residential.

Our new S2 marked the end of their first year with a tremendous S1 residential in the last week of May. Never before have we had so many photographs depicting such challenging, fun and valuable experiences



Key Dates:

29 July Last day of term

16 August Start of term

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Model United Nations (UN) Conference

We held a Model UN conference on Monday 19th June. Over 100 students attended including students from North Berwick, Earlston, Loretto and George Hutchesons.

The guest speaker was Mairi McAllan MSP (as show on the right) - Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition. The emergency debate video was generously provided by BBC Scotland. This was our first ever schools conference with other schools joining us for the debate here in Peebles - but it won't be the last.

Peebles students Duncan Peppe and Owen Quayle were highly commended as delegates for Russia.



Prize winners:





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Leavers Ball

We were sorry to see last session's sixth years depart but glad to mark the occasion with a splendid ball at the Cardrona MacDonald hotel at the start of June. The atmosphere on the night was fantastic and our seniors were a credit to themselves and our community. I wish them all the very best as they embark on life as adults in the world – I have no doubt that great successes await them!





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Wellbeing Assembly

We have focused on the wellbeing indicator 'Active' during the month of June. Young people learned that being active is one of the best things we can do for our mental health and wellbeing and that our bodies release feel-good hormones called endorphins when we are active that can also reduce anxiety and stress and help us sleep better. Mrs Moretta spoke about the many ways that young people can be active in their local area and stressed the importance of being safe in whichever activity young people choose to take part in. An example of this is any kind of outdoor water based activity. David Wilson from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) then spoke to young people about the dangers of swimming in open water, the dangers of cold water, jumping into water from height and making good decisions in order to enjoy water safely.





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Sunflower Class

A number of young people in new S2-S4 have volunteered to support their peers in the Sunflower Class. It has been fantastic to see our young people socialising, playing and learning together.



School Uniform

As previously intimated, Parent Council led a uniform consultation this session and their recommendations have informed a new Uniform Policy that will be shared with you separately today. Great care has been taken to ensure that our uniform is accessible and affordable. While there are some modifications and increased flexibility in our new policy, all current uniform will still be able to be worn in August.

School Improvement

This month we have been working hard to create an Improvement Plan that reflects the views of staff, parents, young people, and the wider community. Scottish Borders Council expect our school improvement plan to be submitted on Friday 1st September. Consequently, our September edition of the newsletter will focus on our school Improvement Plan for 2023/2024. It will not come as a surprise to hear that our top priority for the year ahead is positive behaviour reinforcement, tackling challenging behaviour and ensuring everyone in our community feels safe at all times.



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Prize Giving

The evening of Monday 26th June saw a joyous end of session Prize Giving in our Assembly Hall. Our Young People enjoyed having their formidable and prize worthy successes recognised and the evening was ably co-hosted by newly appointed Head Prefect, Charlie Franklin White and last year's Deputy Head Prefect, Christina Begara McGorum. However, it was returning former student and Guest speaker, James Farrell, who stole the show with his witty and apposite words of advice to this year's prize winners. This combined with outstanding musical performances from Neve Reed, Martha Bremner and Michael Gemmel made for a truly memorable and uplifting evening.



Finally, I would like to thank everyone for their support over the last session and I wish you all a fun a restorative summer. Looking forward to welcoming the young people back on Wednesday 16th August.