



PEEBLES HIGH SCHOOL

CAMPBELL WILSON HEADTEACHER



Parent/Carer Newsletter 11 28th September 2023

Dear Parent Carers, Pupils and Staff,

Welcome to the latest edition of our school newsletter. It is a pleasure to introduce you to new members of staff and to lift the lid on school life to show you how much has been going on in what has been a busy start to the session. Our young people and staff are enjoying a much more positive session than in recent years and I take this opportunity to thank our dedicated and hardworking team for giving our young people so many opportunities to achieve and shine. Happy reading.

Campbell Wilson
Rector

New Staff Introductions



Miss Maclean



Miss Butler



Miss Hadjitofi



Ms Wilkinson

Miss Maclean - I am thrilled to be joining Peebles HS as part of the science faculty teaching biology and BGE science. After solidifying my passion for teaching whilst working as an ESL teacher in South Korea for three years, I undertook my PGDE at Glasgow University and completed my NQT year at Cleveden Secondary School. I am looking forward to passing on my passion for science to our young people and becoming an active member of the PHS community.



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Miss Butler - I am thrilled to be working at Peebles High School. I grew up in South Lanarkshire and moved to Edinburgh to complete an MA(Hons) in Physical Education at the University of Edinburgh. I am now in my 6th year of teaching and during this time taught for a year at St Thomas of Aquin's High School in Edinburgh and have just left Newbattle High School in Midlothian after 4 brilliant years. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know all of the wonderful learner and staff at Peebles High School over the last few weeks and I am very excited to see what the future holds!

Miss Hadjitofi - I am excited to be a new member of the PE department at Peebles High School! I completed my teaching degree at Edinburgh University and have taught at Musselburgh Grammar School and Beeslack Community High School which have both given me great experiences. I loved PE when I was at school and have been actively involved in sport my whole life, with a particular passion for open water Swimming and more recently cycling. I look forward to working with the PE team in order to give pupils a positive experience in PE.

Ms Wilkinson - I am delighted to have joined Peebles High School as a Technical Teacher. I am at the start of my teaching career, having spent most of my working life as an architect. I am really looking forward to being part of the PHS community.

Miss Coats - I am delighted to be joining Peebles High School as Principal Teacher of Modern Languages. I am passionate about delivering the best experience possible in Modern Languages and ensuring that pupils develop all the skills they need to support them in later life. I look forward to working with the school community!



Miss Coats



Miss Dobbin



Miss Black



Mrs Finn



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Miss Dobbin - I am delighted to introduce myself as one of the newest members of the maths department. I am joining from St Columba's High School in Gourock and I am looking forward to getting involved in Peebles High School.

Mrs Finn - I am excited to be joining the Math's department at Peebles High School for numerous reasons! I am already enjoying working with our young people and staff at our school. I have spent 14 years teaching nearby in Midlothian and love living and now working in the Borders.

Miss Moore - I am excited to be part of the PHS PE department this year! I am an Edinburgh Uni graduate, who has worked in East Dunbartonshire Council, and The City of Edinburgh Council. PE, and sports have always been a passion of mine, particularly Dance, and Triathlon/Aquathlon - this has allowed me to compete in GB age-group races around the World. I am looking forward to working with the staff and pupils at PHS



Miss Moore



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Our new Senior Student Council

Sam Wardlaw - In S6 I am studying Advanced Higher Geography, Higher Business, Higher Application of Maths, and a borders college rugby development course. Next year I am either going to go straight into university or I may try and take a year out, but I am not 100% sure yet. One of the main things that takes up most of my time is rugby which I spend a lot of time doing throughout the week. I look forward to organising events for the year and I hope there is something for everyone in the school can look forward to this year.



Sam Wardlaw



Charlie Franklin-White

Charlie Franklin-White - This year I am studying Advanced Higher Maths, Advanced Higher Mechanics, Advanced Higher Physics and Higher English. Next year, I would like to go to university to study Maths, although I'm still drawn to the idea of doing Maths with Philosophy! Within the school, in addition to being Head Boy, since S1, I have been heavily involved with the Debate Team and Model United Nations. I do work with the PHS Pride group and I am an Inspire Ambassador, a role in which I will work with juniors who struggle with reading and writing to help them utilise their iPads to make those tasks easier and 'level the playing field'. I feel content in the knowledge that, as an SSC, we are dedicated towards making this year of school memorable and enjoyable for all.

Student Parliament Elections

Elections for the PHS Student Parliament were held between the 4th and 15th of September. Over 80 candidates stood in these elections and 32 candidates were successfully elected. S1 were particularly enthusiastic with 30 candidates standing for election and over 160 votes cast for a turnout of 75% - well done S1! The new Parliament met for the first time on 22nd September for training and teambuilding and are looking forward to a new year standing up, speaking out and making change happen



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PSE Lessons

S1-4 are continuing to work through the Young Minds Matters lessons. These lessons focus on ways to improve mental health. S5 have started their Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood (RSHP) lessons - <https://rshp.scot/>. These have focussed mainly on what a good relationship is and when it may be time to end a relationship. They have also received an assembly on mental health. S6 have been looking at creating personal statements that can be used for job/apprenticeship/college/university applications. There are lots of great resources on the UCAS website to support writing an effective personal statement.

Period Pants and Cups

We have a supply of free Hey Girls reusable period pants and cups available. The first batch flew out the door a couple of weeks ago, showing just how popular these sustainable products are amongst our young people. A second batch has been sourced. Young people can collect them from Mrs Ferguson in the Meldon office. There is also a large stash of disposable liners - 50 in a box - that are also available for free. Please encourage your young person to come and take advantage of this offering.

Feeling Safe in School - Respectful Relationships and Bullying Behaviour

We are committed to improving the school experience of our young people so that they feel safe in school. During our September assembly, young people learned about the difference between banter and bullying and how saying something is banter doesn't mean it is.



S2 and S3 young people enjoyed sessions with a company called Humanutopia. Steve and Ryan spoke about how we can have our 'emotional bin' filled by the behaviour of others and how our behaviour can fill the bins of others. With the help of our S5/6 'Heroes', they encouraged young people and staff volunteers to get out of their comfort zone to be the best version of themselves.



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Germany visit



Jack Ewart 18/9/23

Early morning on Saturday the 9th of September 36 pupils, 4 teachers and our wonderful bus driver Brian departed Peebles High school and started our journey to Germany.

Upon arrival on Sunday, we were welcomed by the music staff and our exchange partners at Ursulinengymnasium in Werl. Everyone whom we had the pleasure of meeting throughout the exchange was very welcoming, and I do not hesitate when I say everyone went that extra mile to make sure our trip was the very best it could be. We are all very grateful to our exchange families. They have all nurtured us and been very supportive throughout the week. We can't possibly thank them enough. During the school day (which begins at 7.45 am!) we rehearsed the music for the concert. After school ended at 1 pm, we went home to our German families and visited neighbouring towns, a beautiful lake or were taken out for meals. The school is beautiful. It stands on ancient castle ruins and is a mixture of old and new buildings. On the Wednesday night, we had an out-door ceilidh where we taught our German partners to dance. The parents brought a lovely buffet. On Thursday the 14th of September we had our concert which almost 200 people attended. I think we can safely say our favourite piece was 'Loch Lomond (Runrig Version)' and this was our finale.

We performed 16 pieces. We had an orchestra and choir (which the German students participated in), and a guitar group. After this we had another ceilidh which was danced brilliantly by both German and Scottish students as well as parents and teachers.

We cannot thank the German and Scottish music staff for making this trip happen. We would also like to immensely thank our bus driver for safely escorting us all there and back (via Europe's largest music store). We all look forward to June 2024 when the German students come to Peebles High School.



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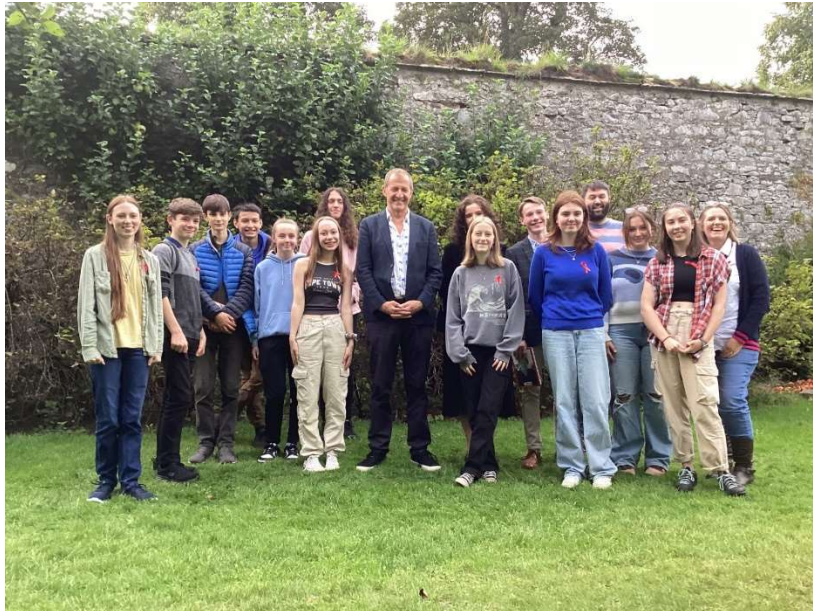
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Beyond Borders; Beyond Expectations

By Freya Compton

A motivated team of S5s and S6s from Peebles High School's Administration class attended on the Friday night before the event to assist in the preparation for the weekend. Books, joy, and a myriad of intellectual discussions made the Beyond Borders international book festival culturally enriching for all those that attended. As part of a group of journalism students from Peebles High School, I can confidently say that the youth programme made the experience doubly special by providing many unique opportunities (as well as tempting us to spend all our money in the book shop). The brilliant volunteer organisers created an extraordinary programme for us, and their enthusiasm was contagious - we were buzzing with excitement (and some nervousness) from the get-go.

Ms Ness (Journalist teacher from Peebles High School) stated 'I only wish that I possessed hindsight because I would have hired a bus and brought the whole class. We met so many interesting and inspirational people and learnt so much, it really was beyond my expectations, which are always high! An amazing experience and one that I hope to be able to share with next year's class in its entirety.'



Journalism Students with Alistair Campbell

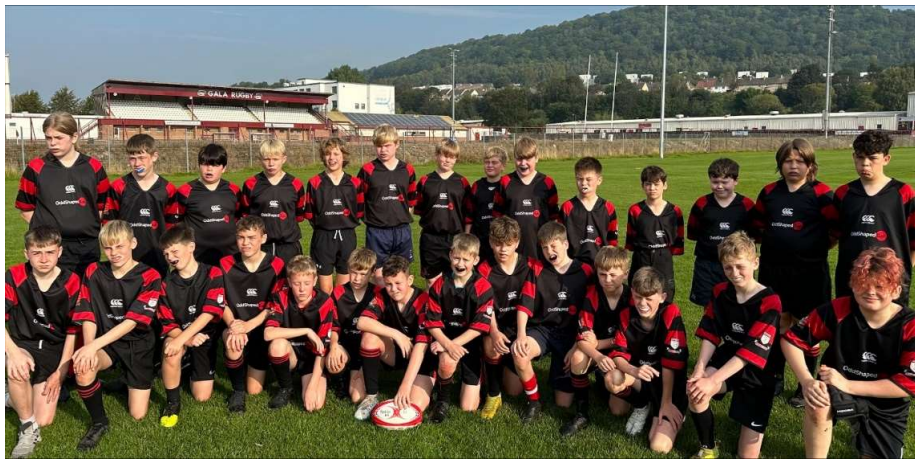


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Sporting Success

The school rugby teams have enjoyed a great start to the season. The S1 squad have had over 30 boys training and have two teams out. They enjoyed wins over Hawick, Selkirk and Galashiels Academy plus a visit to Dollar Academy. S2 also have good numbers and enjoyed matches v Heriots, Loretto and Hawick. S3 boys have also won their matches v Hawick, Gala and Selkirk and played Dollar Academy too. The girl's squads are training hard every Friday and look forward to their first matches soon.



Last week 20 Peebles High School students travelled to Comrie Croft to take part in the Scottish School Mountain Bike Championships. The trip was a fantastic success with representation from students from S1 to S6, boys and girls. A tough course meant all riders had to dig deep and show their determination to complete the race. We were delighted to be awarded the overall winners for the boy's category and the girl's category and special congratulations to the individual podium winners, Guy Rorke in S1 came 3rd in the S1/2 category, Freya Gibson S5 came 2nd in the senior girl's category and Ben Allen S6 took the victory in the boy's senior category. We are proud of all the students who took part and are looking forward to returning to the event next year.





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PHS Vision Business Breakfast

On Thursday 21 September, community and business partners enjoyed a very tasty Business Breakfast, catered for by Mrs William's National 5 Hospitality class. Following which, Mr Wilson shared the journey towards our renewed school vision before leading discussion and inviting feedback. Partners also heard from Mrs Boyd about the plans for our Skills Framework, successful industry partnership working, supported by DYW Borders, and our hopes for collaboration to better prepare learners for the changing workplace. It was lovely to be able to host existing partners and we are looking forward to working with new partners in the future too.



S5/6 Attitude Matters Workshops

Courtesy of funding from Peebles High School Parent Council, S5/6 learners had the opportunity to participate in Attitude Matters workshops, delivered by Matt Stewart of EntrepreneurMe. Designed to foster a positive mind-set, students learned about the importance of having an enterprising and ambitious vision for themselves. Highlight of the workshop was definitely the 2050 Vision Challenge with the opportunity to win £40. Lots of high quality entries with the winners demonstrating good self-awareness, self-belief, self-motivation and social conscience. Congratulations to session winners Lottie and Sarah.

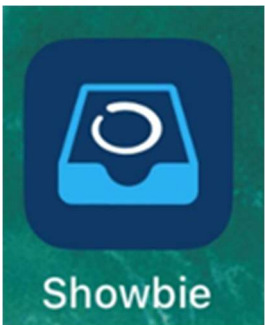




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Showbie Learning Portfolios



One important part of our work on improving our learners' understanding of their progress is the introduction of Showbie Learning Portfolios, an online space where feedback and pupil reflections on learning can be stored. This portfolio can be viewed on an Apple device or on a web browser. Unlike other apps used on our Inspire Learning iPads, the content uploaded to Showbie can be viewed by parents as well as by pupils and teachers (only pupils and teachers can contribute to the platform). Showbie will be used school-wide this session for the following purposes:

Pupils' tracking and monitoring reports will be uploaded to their Showbie House Class in line with the academic year reporting calendar.

Throughout the year, feedback and/or pupil reflections on their key assessments will be uploaded by pupils to their individual subjects' Showbie classes and added to their overarching 'portfolio'. This will be an ongoing process reflecting individual subject assessment schedules. Parent access to the 'portfolio', a place where assessments and other information from across all subjects is collated into a single and easy to view format, should supplement our tracking and monitoring reports by giving more regular updates on each child's progress.

We hope that our use of Showbie will support parents to encourage their child's ongoing reflection on their learning and actioning of next steps.

S1 parents were provided with their Showbie codes last week to coincide with the publication of the first tracking report. We plan to disseminate Showbie parent codes for all other learners by the end of next week.

Thank you for reading and we look forward to sharing further exciting developments with you in the October Newsletter.



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Key Dates:

4/5th October - S5/6 settling in report to parents

6th October - School closed for holidays.

16th October - INSET day for Staff only

17th September - School open for all

18th / 19th October - S4 settling in report to parents.

19th October - S3 Parents evening (online)

26th / 27th October - S2 settling in report to parents.

31st October - S1 parents evening (in person)

2nd November - S1-S6 Careers event

Our full calendar for session 2023/24 is available to view on our website: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sb/peebleshighschool/calendar/>

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