



PEEBLES HIGH SCHOOL

CAMPBELL WILSON HEAD TEACHER



Parent/Carer Newsletter 14 - 21st December 2023

Dear Parent Carers, Pupils and Staff,

Welcome to the latest edition of our school newsletter. I hope that you and all of our community enjoy a peaceful, joyful and safe Christmas. I introduce our 2023 Christmas Newsletter with a strange mix of emotions: pride in our young people who have engaged so positively in all of the traditional end of term festivities and events; sadness with the realisation that this will be my last ever Christmas at Peebles High School; excitement and trepidation for new starts and new challenges; and a sense of shame for having been unceremoniously dumped out of the annual staff Tin & Bottle championship in the second round (I was sure that this would be my year!) Please enjoy reading about some of the great things that have been happening in our school this month

Very Merry Christmas! We will see everyone back on Monday 8th January.

Campbell Wilson
Rector

Introducing New Staff



Mrs Falcon

I am thrilled to have joined Peebles High School as the new Pastoral Support Assistant for Meldon House. I have really enjoyed getting to know the young people, meeting some of their families and staff working in the school. I qualified with an Honours Degree in Philosophy and Education (Pedagogy) in Spain and I also was awarded a Postgraduate Degree in Social and Family Education. Before joining the school, I have worked in different young people units as a Residential Care Officer as well as a Learning Assistant in an Early Years setting.



Mrs Nisbet

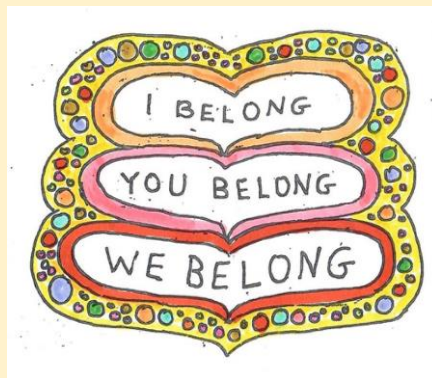
I am delighted to have joined Peebles High School as part of the Dunrig Pastoral Team. I am already enjoying working with our young people and staff at our school. I previously worked at Priorsford PS for 5 years before moving to Peebles High School in October this year.

Assembly

This month we focused on the protected characteristics of Race and Religion or Belief and tutors presented a recorded assembly to young people during House time. Miss Grieve from Social Subjects and the Student Parliament Anti-Bullying focus group helped put together the material for the assembly and Mrs Moretta presented this.

Young people learned what race, racism, religion and religious discrimination are and were given examples of when racism and religious discrimination have occurred in Peebles High School. They also learned that it is against the law to target someone because of their race and/or religion and this is called 'Hate Crime'.

Mrs Moretta reiterated the message that as a school community, we all have a responsibility to promote the message that racism and religious bigotry or discrimination is not acceptable. She asked young people to stop these forms of discrimination in our school by committing to never treating someone unkindly because of their race or religion (or for any reason for that matter) and to make Peebles High School a place where everyone feels they belong.



Showbie

PHS is using Showbie to distribute pupils' reports and communicate information about pupils' progress and next steps in key assessments. If not already connected, parents/carers should follow the steps communicated in the Group Call communication at the time of their child's latest report distribution, which includes an individual code to connect to your child's account. Should you have problems or questions, please contact Mrs Wilson - MrsSHWilson@glow.sch.uk.



Model UN Success

Over 30 members of the PHS Model UN club took part in conferences at North Berwick High School and St Georges School over the past few weeks, joining students from across Scotland in discussing a wide range of global issues. All our students participated in the debates and the efforts of many PHS students were recognised in the prizes allocated at the end of each conference. This reflects the hard work and effort of our students both during the conferences and in the weeks before, preparing resolutions and position papers. We were particularly delighted to win a majority of prizes at both events, including the much-coveted Best Delegation award at St Georges. Congratulations to all who took part - prize-winners are named below.

Cara Anderson (S4)

Rory Clark (S6)

Charlie Franklin-White (S6)

Aria Fraser (S4)

Kieran Fulton (S5)

Fraser Gemmell (S6)

Toby Haslam (S4)

Luc McMenamy (S1)

Hamish Palmer (S5)

Duncan Peppe (S4)

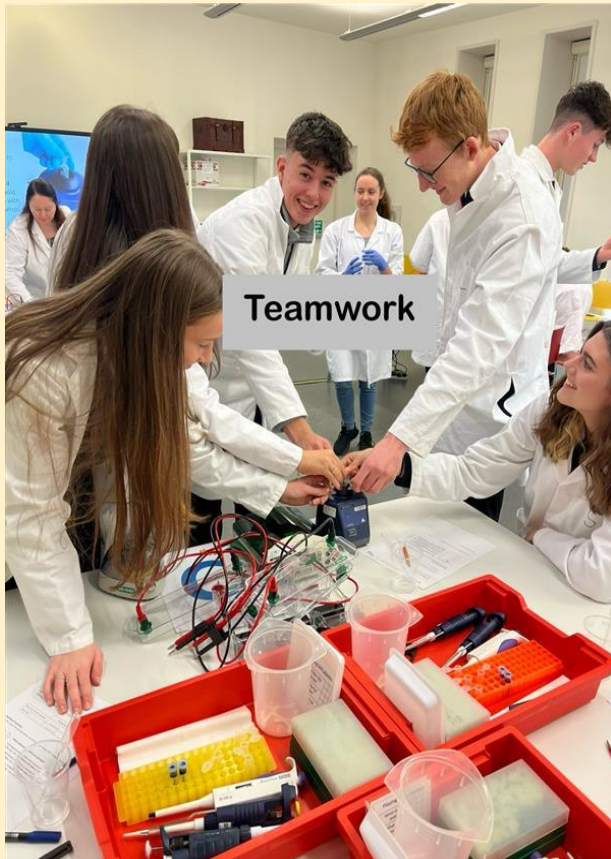
Owen Quayle (S4)

Alex Radkowski (S4)

Thomas Whitehead (S5)



Advanced Higher Biology - DNA workshop - National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh



At the end of November twenty of our Advanced Higher Biologists took part in a full day, hands-on workshop using modern laboratory techniques. They sampled their own DNA, to discover and compare their version of a bitter taste receptor gene (their genotype) to their ability to taste the bitter compound (their phenotype). The workshop, led by the University of Edinburgh in partnership with National Museums Scotland, provided the chance to use cutting-edge equipment to carry out DNA extraction, PCR, restriction enzyme digestion and gel electrophoresis. The students were able to enhance their knowledge of genetics by viewing relevant parts of the Museum's science galleries. One of the highlights of the day was hearing about the research done by a PhD student into the use of bacteria to extract rare earth metals from recyclable waste. Thanks to Dr Harkness who was a late addition to this trip and who admitted that Biology was in fact fascinating.

Enterprise Fair 2023

On Friday 01 December the BCT department ran their annual Enterprise Fair. All pupils were given the opportunity to apply to run a stall. This year we had 29 Stalls with 95 Enterprising Students as Stallholders. We had everything from smoothies to chess to 3D printing to the very popular "Pie the Teacher"!

£774.86 was raised for charitable causes (clubs, school groups, good causes).

Well done Peebles High School!



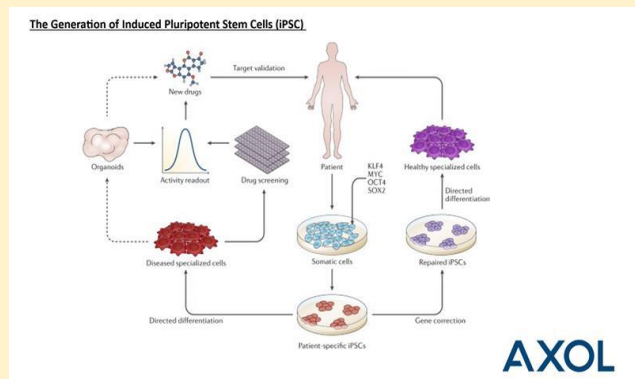
N5 Laboratory Science Pupils Gain Fascinating Insights through Lab Exploration at Axol Bioscience

Our N5 Laboratory Science students recently experienced the daily life of lab scientists during their visit to Axol Bioscience at Roslin Innovation Centre.

Through interactive tasks and engaging experiences, our developing researchers gained a deep understanding of the complex aspects of laboratory procedures, focusing on iPSCs (Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells). The highlight of the visit was a hands-on session where students actively engaged with various cell culture media specially designed for cultivating and expanding human iPSC-derived cells.

Axol Bioscience, a leading expert in the supply of human cell culture systems and custom services, provided our pupils with valuable insights into disease modeling and drug discovery. The visit was a unique opportunity for our students to witness real-world applications of their scientific studies.

We express our gratitude to Mr. John Gardner, Manufacturing Operations Manager at Axol Bioscience, and the entire team for their warm welcome. Their efforts in fostering a learning environment have sparked curiosity and enthusiasm among our students.



Ex Soldier Visit

S3 History classes were visited by parent and retired army major, Mr Hume. Mr Hume has a particular interest in World War 1, and during his talk shared with classes some very interesting artefacts including a real trench map, a bayonet and a flare gun. Young people were particularly interested to hear about the differences between soldiering today, and soldiering in World War 1. We are grateful to Mr Hume for giving his time and expertise.



S3 Theatre Trip

Ahead of their production skills unit, S3 drama pupils visited the Edinburgh Festival Theatre to watch *The Amazing Pantomime Adventures of Peter Pan*. Feedback from the pupils was glowing. The show provided an excellent opportunity to learn about lighting, sound, costume and set design.



Resol String Quartet

The Higher music class was privileged to be visited by the Resol String Quartet who gave a very intimate and interactive concert. The Highers were quizzed on string techniques and different musical eras and should be commended for their knowledgeable answers. As young professional musicians, the quartet spoke about their pathway into the world of work. This opportunity was provided by our partnership with Music in Peebles who always offer free tickets to under 25s for their world-class concerts at the Eastgate Theatre. We are grateful for their support.

Christmas Dances

This year's Christmas Dances were all well attended, and each had a brilliant atmosphere. The behaviour, dancing and attitude shown by everyone made them super nights to be a part of.



Senior Netball

Peebles High School senior netballers played the local Stuart's Netball Club in a friendly at the Gytes. Our friendship with the club is long held, given that Alex Stuart was a former pupil of the school. The PHS team played extremely well and won the match. Well done to all involved, please keep this fixture going!



Boys Hockey

This year Peebles High School entered a Senior Boys' Hockey team (S3-6) into the Aspire Scottish Schools Cup for the first time. The boys' trained before and with new strips set off to the tournament at Peffermill Playing Fields on Friday 3rd November. They had close games in their pool, winning against Boroughmuir and Balerno, and drawing with Wellington School. Both PHS goals came from Kallen Salmond (Captain). PHS were skilful, attacking and worked hard for every ball and their results were enough to secure the top spot in the group stages and finish in 1st place in their pool. PHS went into the final against Trinity High School. The team fought well but the experienced Trinity team were well drilled in attack and took their chances, meaning Peebles finished in 2nd place overall. It was a brilliant experience for the team, and hopefully one we will continue to build on for next year. Thank you to the two Kelso High School pupils, Ben and Fraser who joined us for the day and were a brilliant asset to the team.



U16 Hockey

The S3 Girls' Hockey team have had a successful season so far, with close games against all Border Schools. The U16 Cup Team recently travelled to Aberdeen to play in the quarter final of the Scottish Schools Plate. After an early start and a 4 hour journey the team arrived at Albyn School ready to play. It was a tough first half for the S3's, and they worked hard to link together in attack and defence. After going 1-0 down, PHS battled through the wind, snow and rain to come away with a 2-1 win. The team played well to use the width and both goals came from driving up the sideline and crossing the ball into the circle. After lots of pressure goals came from Elly Baker and Pheobe Franklin-White. A super win for the S3's takes them into the semi-final against Selkirk HS. Good Luck Girls!



U18 Hockey

With over 60 seniors in the squad it has been a busy start to the season for both Indoor and Outdoor. The 1XI and 2XI have had close games and results against all Border Schools so far. In the Scottish Cup first round our U18 team won against Galashiels Academy. We meet Robert Gordons' in the next ground, which is scheduled to be played on January 11TH. There has also been recent success for the seniors at Indoor Hockey, where they won the South Indoor Tournament for the 3rd year in a row. The girls' played well in every game with super work rate, skills and determination - coming away with wins against Kelso HS (2-0), Hawick HS (4-0) and Galashiels Academy (3-0). There was super play all over the pitch scoring lots, and keeping clean sheets in each game. They now go forward to represent South District at the Scottish Indoor Finals in Stirling on Sunday 4TH February.



Key Dates:

21 st December	Last Date of Term
8 th January	School Open for All
11 th January	S1 and S3 Course Choice Information Event
11 th January	S3 Work Placement Launch Event
15-26 th January	S4-S6 Prelims
24 th January	Parent Council Meeting
20-30 th January	S1 Full Reports Issued

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

Springwood Road, Peebles, EH45 9HB
01721 720 291

Email: PeeblesHS@scotborders.gov.uk

Website: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sb/peebleshighschool>

Twitter: @peebleshigh

