



December 2018

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Dear Parent/Carer

Our run in to the Christmas holidays has given us the chance to see some of the tremendous skills and achievements from our young people. There are too many to cover fully but highlights include the following. Our musicians who played at the Christmas concert and our year group assemblies. Our prefects who led the assemblies and have organised and run inter house events at lunchtimes this term. They have been supported in the latter by PE and Guidance staff. Home Economics provided the refreshments at the Christmas Concert and the parent/pupil Cookalong with S1 was a pleasure to see. The Art Club has created cards and I suspect some of you will receive presents carefully crafted in technical. As always you can see images of our young people in the above and other events and activities on our Twitter feed @PortyAcad.

A feature of our last week has been the wider citizenship that pupils are demonstrating by bringing in donations for local foodbanks. Their commitment, supported by you as parents, who may have found the food cupboard raided, is refreshing to see. See below for an example of one of our tutor groups and their donations.



Prelim Exams

As we look to 2019, pupils in S4-6 have prelims beginning on Monday 14 January. As covered in my recent letter to parents of these year groups a steady and structured approach to revision is essential and we encourage pupils to use the holidays constructively to that end. Getting a balance between rest and study is important however the longer-term gains of proper revision will make for greater confidence and performance in both prelims and the final exams. Past paper practice is fundamental to good results and these can be accessed on the SQA website. You will have received an email with the prelim timetable and an accompanying letter and these are also available on the school website along with revision advice.

Youth Philanthropy Initiative Grand Final on Wednesday 9 January, 7.00 pm-8.30pm

Every year Religious Moral and Philosophical Studies run the YPI with S2. Pupils research a local charity and then compete to win £3,000 for them. 9 January is our Grand Final for the teams whose presentations have seen them progress to the next stage. This is a great evening and all parents are welcome. YPI is run through the Wood Group Foundation and we are delighted that this year Lady Wood will be joining our judging panel.

Parent Council

You may recall that we are in a period of transition with the Parent Council and were looking for new office bearers for the committee. I am delighted to say we have filled the office bearer posts. Fiona Squires will be Chair, Nadine Bown is Secretary and Erica Kemp will take on the Treasurers role. Our next meeting is on Thursday 10 January at 7pm in the staffroom. We will issue an agenda during the first week of term.

We would like to thank you for the support you have given to the school this year. This has been in all sorts of ways from donations to the charities we raise funds for at events like the sponsored walk, through supporting our ethos and behaviour, by attending parents' evenings and to your support for uniform. We wish you a happy and safe Christmas and new year and look forward to working with you in 2019.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Neil Morrison', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Neil Morrison
Head Teacher