



PEEBLES HIGH SCHOOL

Community Update 6/02/26

Dear members of the PHS community,

Parent Council Monday 2 February 7pm-9pm

- The minute of the Parent Council meeting can be accessed at our website [Parent Council | Peebles High School](#)

In class Assembly Wednesday 4 Feb

- You can see the link to this week's assembly at our website [Assemblies | Peebles High School](#)

Thank you to everyone in our community and I'd like to wish everyone a nice weekend,

Kevin Ryalls

Headteacher

Dates Reminder

- 31/01/26 to 07/02/26 - Ski Trip
- 10/02/26 - Course Choice Information Evening S4/5 into S5/6 6.30pm and S2 into S3 7.30pm - both online
- 11/02/26 - Friends of Peebles High School meeting 7pm in person - new members welcome
- 12/02/26- SCQF Levels 6 and 7 Parents' Evening - in person

Yoto Player - Yoto cards needed!

Our Enhanced Provision - The Glen - has recently received a donated Yoto Player, which we plan to use to support our learners with complex Additional Support Needs.

For pupils in The Glen, the Yoto Player offers a calm, screen-free resource that can play an important role in supporting:

- Emotional regulation and wellbeing
- Reduced anxiety during transitions or unstructured times
- Engagement through listening when reading or written tasks are challenging
- Predictable routines and quiet time in a busy secondary school environment

To help us make full use of this resource, we are kindly asking our school community if anyone would be willing to **donate any unused or outgrown Yoto cards**. Content that would be particularly beneficial includes:

- Stories and audiobooks
- Calm music or mindfulness tracks
- Familiar, comforting content
- Age-appropriate non-fiction or educational material

All donated cards will be used **within The Glen** to support our learners' wellbeing, communication, and inclusion.

If you are able to donate, please send Yoto cards to the school office clearly labelled for *The Glen*, or contact us if you have any questions.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us provide a calm, supportive, and inclusive environment for our most complex learners.

DYW Health Sector Visit

Our N5 Health Sector class recently visited the Peebles Infinityblu dental clinic for an insight into the careers and pathways within dentistry. This visit supported pupils to develop real employability and sector specific skills, as well as giving them the opportunity to hear directly from professionals about the wide range of roles within the sector, learn about new and emerging technology in dentistry, and see a 3D scanner in action. A huge thank you to Amy and her amazing team at Infinityblu for taking the time to welcome us, share their expertise, and inspire our young people.



National Girl Guiding Advocacy role for Darcy

In October, Darcy Short applied for a place as an Advocate for Girl Guiding UK. She was shortlisted from 175 applicants for interview in November then heard in December that she had been successful in gaining a place on the Advocate Panel for 26-27. The panel consists of 14 girls and young women, aged 13-19 from across the UK. Darcy was the only successful applicant from Scotland and is the youngest on the panel.

Darcy spent last weekend at Girl Guiding UK HQ in London for training which was a fantastic experience for her and she will begin duties soon. The Advocates speak out on behalf of Girl Guiding UK on issues that affect girls and young women in our society. They are asked to participate in high-profile events, speak to the media, lobby politicians etc. Members of the last cohort spoke at Buckingham Palace, the Houses of Parliament, on BBC News and on various radio programmes to name only a few examples.

It's an excellent opportunity for Darcy and we look forward to watching where this takes her! What an outstanding example of our 'Contribute' school value - to be involved in influencing decision making around issues that affect girls and young women, at a national level.



Rugby Success

Congratulations to Archie and Liam who were selected to represent the South U18s in the Inter District matches at the Oriam. The South beat Edinburgh 19-12, with both Peebles players scoring! 🏉



Athletics Success

Well done to Rory Smith who, at age 15, is competing at under 18 level in sprinting. Rory's PB at 60m is 7.18 secs and he finished 5th in the recent Under 18 Scottish Championships. Great effort!! An excellent example of our values of working hard and contributing- congratulations and good luck for the rest of the season.



Improving attendance in PHS

Mrs Moretta, Mrs Nisbet and Mrs Sykes completed the SBC Attendance Quality Improvement Programme. The programme was designed to support schools to improve attendance and reduce unauthorised and persistent absences through targeted work with young people and their families.

As a result of this programme, the team were able to:

- Understand and interrogate attendance data more deeply
- Identify and address barriers to attendance
- Design and test small changes that improve attendance long term

Unexplained absences are a concern in our school. However, in the first two months of running the project, these went down by 3.5%. Other successes include significant improvements in the attendance of the targeted group, some young people reintegrating to

wider school classes, more parents/carers contacting school to explain absences, a revised curriculum offer for young people and a change in the language we use around attendance and how we support this.

The project has been very successful and the learning from this will be used to continue to improve attendance at PHS.



S6 Burns Supper

Our annual S6 Burns Supper was held on Friday night at the Hydro Hotel. We had incredible speeches from Gabrielle, Lewis, Will, Lara, Lily and Skye, as well as piping by John and William and a ceilidh provided by our own local accordionist, Alan Hunter. Many thanks to Pete Birrell from the Peebles Camera Club for the photos!











Great class work

Well done to Hayley, Lindsay and Amy for their hard work in Science and HLS 😊

