



PHS HT Community Update 21/8/26

Dear members of the PHS community,

Welcome back

- It has been great to welcome everyone back to school and in particular our new S1s, new enrolments and new colleagues. We are very grateful to everyone for a positive start to term, especially with the partial power cut and the network going down.

Assemblies

- All year groups had assemblies this week to look at our expectations of our young people in the context of our vision and values. We highlighted the importance of **Showing kindness** so that everyone in PHS can **Belong**. I made the point that, while we hope everyone had a nice summer holiday, some members of our community will be facing challenges and hardships and we need to look out for each other.
- On the back of our seniors receiving their exam results recently, I wanted to impress upon our learners that we expect everyone to always **Work hard to Achieve** their potential, especially when it is hard. This means simply that everyone needs to do their best, and asking for help when they need it.
- Part of what makes our school and our communities unique are the range of opportunities for everyone to **Contribute** through, for example, clubs and groups and volunteering. This helps us all **Grow** as individuals. Contributing also means always actively participating in class.
- I told our students about what we are working on as a staff this year to continue to learn as a staff - what we work on during INSETs and staff meetings. We are starting off our work on formal **Learner Conversations** with S5-6, to be rolled out next year. We are also learning as a staff how to support learners with **ADHD**, following on from a focus on Dyslexia and Autism in the last two sessions. We are also building towards achieving the **Gold UNCRC Rights Respecting Schools Award** which links our vision and values to a global aspiration for all children and young people.

Thank you to everyone for your ongoing support and I hope everyone has a nice weekend after a busy first week back.

Kevin Ryalls

Headteacher

How does our One Peebles vision link to the UNCRC - United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child?

Article 2 - Show kindness to Belong

Article 28 - Work hard to Achieve

Article 29 - Contribute to Grow

Our school Facebook page and the Friday Community Update highlight how amazing our young people are in relation to our vision and a global aspiration for education.



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ACCESS TO EDUCATION

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AIMS OF EDUCATION



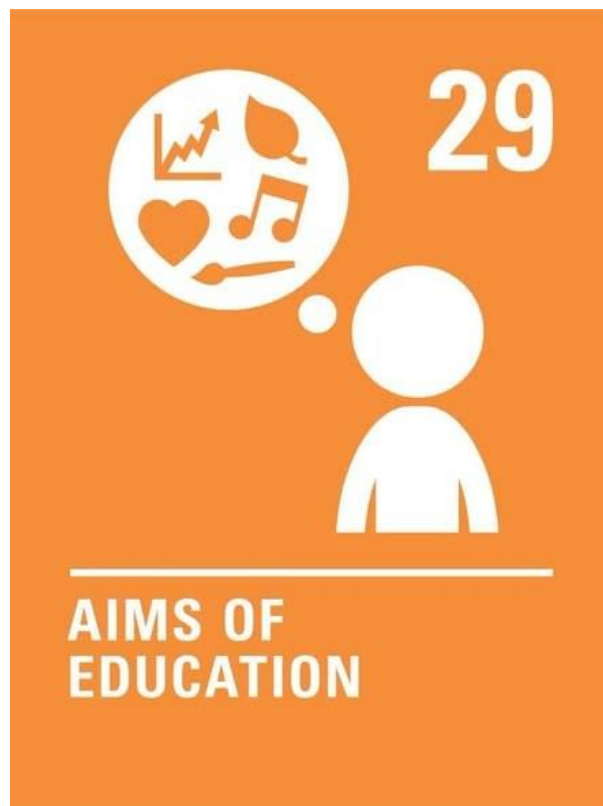
New PHS Students

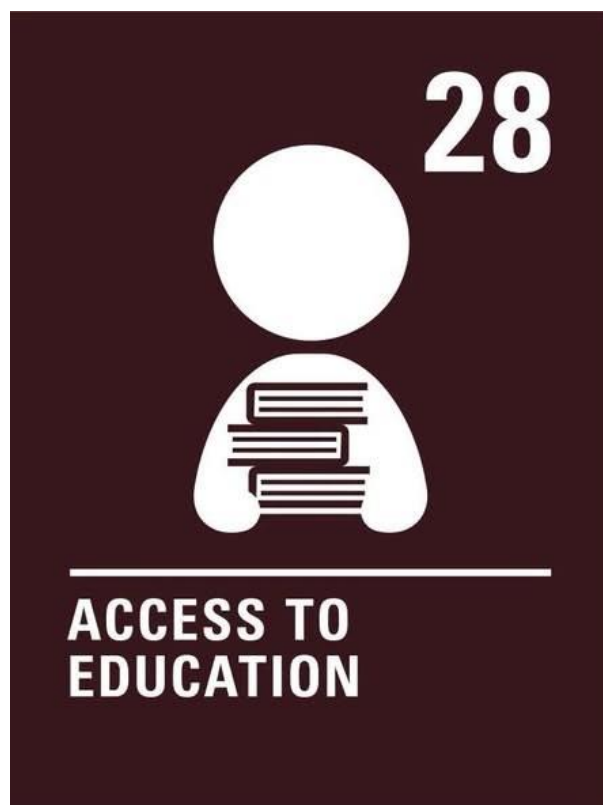
Well done to our new S1 students who have started very well. They are already talking about how they will live out our values and enhance our school community.

Show kindness.

Work hard.

Contribute.





Amazing act of kindness and bravery

We'd like to recognise again the actions of Alexander Welsh in the summer. As well as dialing 999, Alexander alerted residents himself in the West Linton Care Home that there was a fire in the building and helped get them out safely. This included making sure some residents had what they needed to maintain their care. Thank you Alexander and well done for this selfless act and for acting calm and decisively in a crisis.



House Captains and new S1

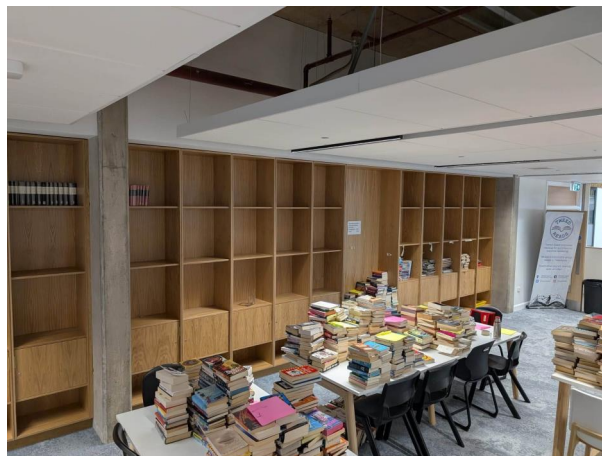
Well done to our House Captains for setting up activities for our S1 this week.

Contribute.

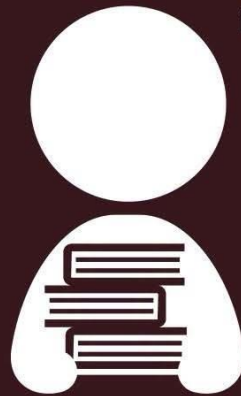


Tweed Reads

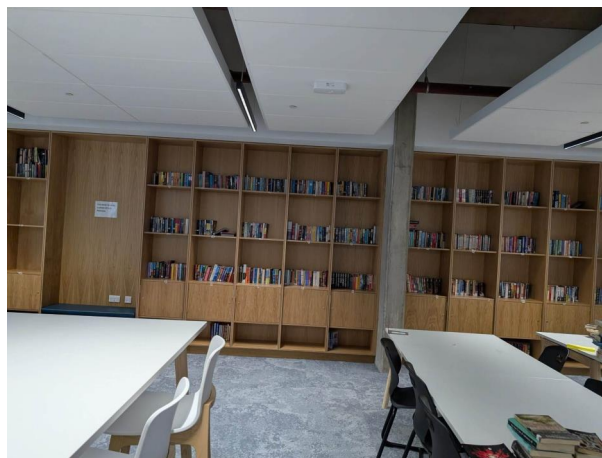
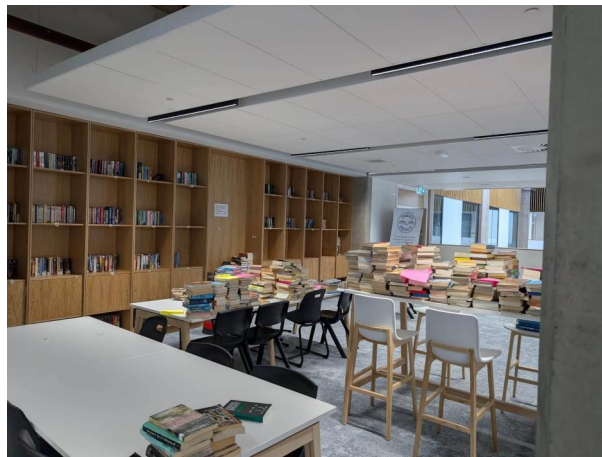
A big One Peebles thanks to volunteers Douglas Stewart, Ross Monro, Tom Service and Alice Bartlett who are helping to shelve our books in their summer holiday. Their brawn and brains were much appreciated!

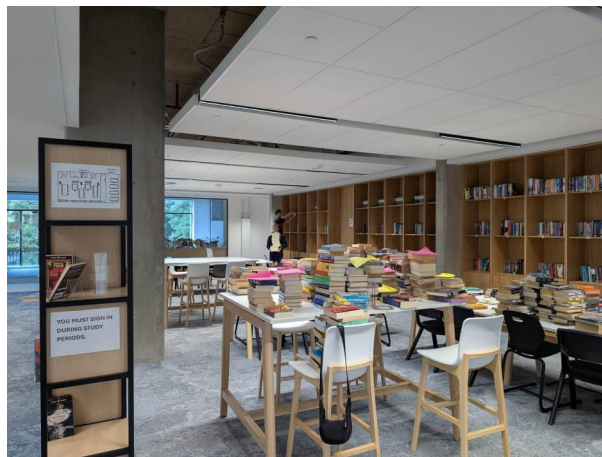


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ACCESS TO EDUCATION





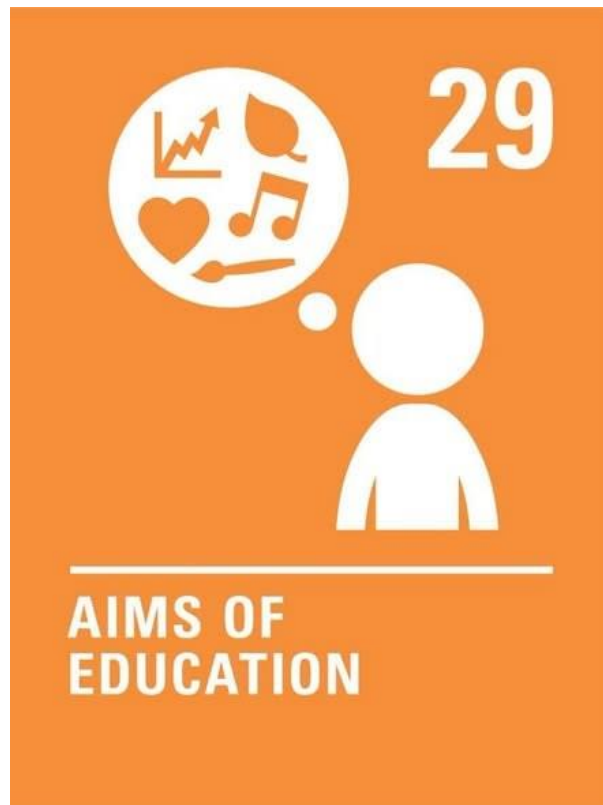
Half Marathon Success!!

Congratulations to Kayla McCallum and Holly Robertson both S5 who completed Edinburgh Half Marathon. Great to see such happy faces towards the end of 13.1 miles!!!

Work hard.

Achieve.



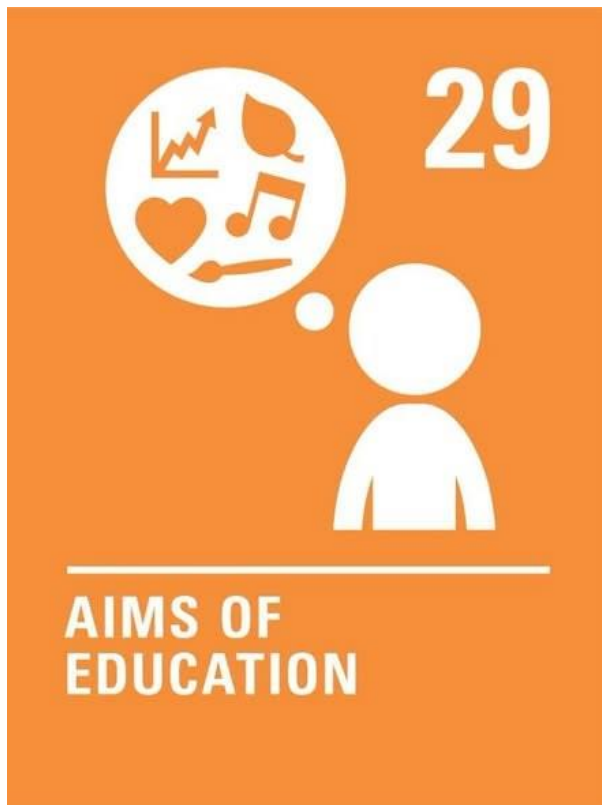


Highland Dancing Success

Darcy Short and Holly Williamson (new S1) both qualified this weekend to represent the Scottish Borders in Highland Dance at the Scottish Area Finals. They will travel to Oban in May 2027 to compete against finalists from the other Scottish regions. Well done girls!!

Work hard.

Contribute.



Swimming Success - and much, much more!

A brilliant interview with PHS student Aaron Drake. Aaron is also one of our senior prefects this year. Not quite sure how he manages to find time for everything - but we're very proud of everything Aaron has already achieved and excited to see what lies ahead.

[Peebles swimmer Aaron Drake hoping to make big splash during last year of junior competition](#)



Tanzania 2027

The team were at Peebles 7s raising money for the school [Peebles HS Tanzania Group](#) trip. Thank you to all who supported the group!



Duke of Edinburgh - Going for Gold!

'TRM' - not the latest rock-fest coming to Scotland this summer - but just as much fun!! Ticks, rain, and midges is how Archie Lamb initially sums up the experience of himself and Callum Fitzgerald in their recent Duke of Edinburgh Gold Qualifying Expedition. The 2 lads - who have just completed S6 at PHS - joined S6 students from Earlston High School to self-sufficiently hike for 4 days through the stunning landscapes on the Isle of Arran. The group had lots of laughs along the way, making memories and building friendships. The boys are on track to complete this prestigious award later this year following the expedition, a residential, plus a year of volunteering and developing physical fitness and skills. A phenomenal level of commitment and motivation - very well to both.







National recognition for PHSMUN!

[Duncan Dunlop MSP praises Peebles High School's Model UN Conference | Border Telegraph](#)



**Model UN Conference
at Borders school hailed
in Scottish Parliament**

Rugby Contribution

Rugby Contribution Roddy Deans from [Scottish Rugby](#) was in at lunchtime explaining to our S2 to S6 rugby players how to develop good habits and what the pathway to success on the field and in life looks like. Scotland Cap Jamie Dobie was the role model being discussed. Thank you to Roddy - a very valuable input.

Work hard.

Contribute.







Dancing Success

Congratulations to the Peebles High School students from South of Scotland Youth Ballet Company who performed Coppélia at the Eastgate Theatre on 14 June! Their performance

was outstanding, and they should be very proud of their hard work and talent. Zennor Motley, Erica Munnis, Emma Sharp, Jessica Allen, Karyna Moryeva, Hannah Dixon, Isobel Dixon, Rosie Whitehouse, Emily Thorburn, Lili Skelton-Garrido. A great example of our fantastic young people living out our values in our community.

Contribute.





Greener Peebles and Horticulture classes at PHS

Many thanks to our partners at Greener Peebles for providing us with growing space whilst the new school site gets developed. The hard work of multiple horticulture groups has turned an overgrown corner of the community garden into an oasis of organic food production.

Contribute.

Work hard.







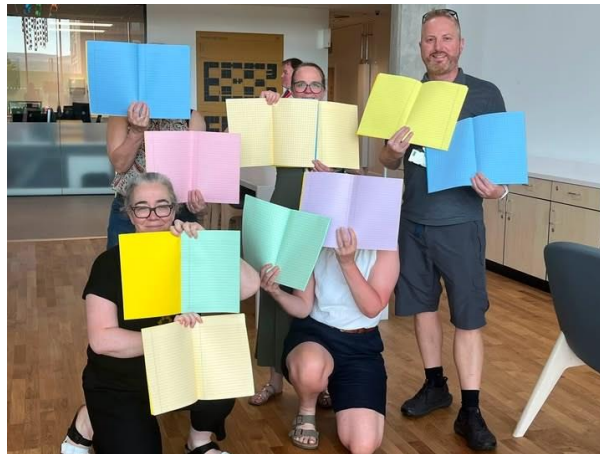
Dyslexic Collective

Many thanks to the Dyslexic Collective for their delivery of coloured jotters to help support our Dyslexic learners who use coloured paper/overlays to support their learning. Thank you so much for all you do to help the Dyslexic Learners in our community.

Work hard.

Show kindness.

Contribute.



Mario Kart on the last day!

We hope everyone has a wonderful holiday. See you all in August. Thank you to everyone for supporting our school. One Peebles.



