

Five things you need to know today



- **Edinburgh Restaurant Festival**
- **Castlebrae Community High School have a permanent Headteacher**
- **Digital Sentinel**
- **Chronicle Online**
- **School Placement Fraud**

The Edinburgh Restaurant Festival runs for 10 days from 8 to 18 October 2015.

✖ The festival will offer plenty for food lovers to sink their teeth into with over thirty of the capital's most-loved restaurants offering irresistible **three course lunches for £15 and three course dinners for just £25**. From city favourites, Contini Cannonball, Kyloe, Cucina and Fisher's in the City to recently launched No.8 Lister Square and Acanthus there is something for every culinary palate.

John Donnelly, Chief Executive of Marketing Edinburgh commented: "Edinburgh's reputation for food and drink is second to none, from Michelin star establishments, to pop up dining and high-end street food. The Edinburgh Restaurant Festival gives us an opportunity to go to town and celebrate this variety and diversity, as well as showcasing the quality experiences on offer.

"With more restaurants per head of population than anywhere else in the UK, there is a lot to choose from, so the carefully curated event programme and affordable set menus give foodies a chance to sample the wares of a whole host of top restaurants, while meeting some of the people and chefs working hard behind the scenes."

Roddy Smith, Chief Executive of Essential Edinburgh commented: "Edinburgh Restaurant Festival is a great opportunity for the city's best loved restaurants and bars to come together and celebrate all the fantastic food that's on our doorstep. Whether you want to pick up some locally sourced produce at the Markets or eat out for under £30, with over 30 different restaurants to choose from the Edinburgh Restaurant Festival is the perfect opportunity to try something new.

The jam-packed programme of gastronomic events will see appetites rocket, as the city comes to life with food demonstrations, street food offerings and live entertainment.

[Read more here.](#)



Castlebrae Community High School now have a permanent headteacher in Norma Prentice who was seconded from Drummond Community High School last year.

Mrs Prentice announced to all pupils at school assembly yesterday that her appointment had now been made permanent following a recruitment process which included an interview by pupils.

[Read more here.](#)



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The Digital Sentinel is on the look-out for community reporters.

Shasta Ali the Community Media Development Worker told The Edinburgh Reporter: "As you are aware the Digital Sentinel is the community news site for Wester Hailes and we would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that they are free to send us information on their activities and events. Also, anyone is able to [submit a story](#) through our newsite at any time and we would highly recommend this as a way to reach out to the community and share positive news stories and events. "



Six families have lost their school places after being caught giving false statements to get their children into popular city primaries in a crackdown by the City of Edinburgh Council.

As a result of the investigations by the Council's fraud team, the offer of places was withdrawn and several other families dropped their requests when they discovered they were being investigated.

In some cases, families were also found to be fraudulently claiming housing and council tax benefits and were then forced to repay the money. In one instance, where a tenant was discovered to be sub-letting their council house, they lost their tenancy.

Councillor Paul Godzik, Convener of Education, Children and Families, said: "We know this is an issue that concerns many parents and we take it very seriously. If we believe there is a possibility that fraud is being committed, we will investigate. If we discover this to be the case we will withdraw the school place.

"By working with the Council's fraud team, we are able to access a greater range of information, including credit

checks, and this has allowed us to identify instances of fraud. Anecdotally we believe there are a number of schools in the city where this is likely to be a greater issue than others and we investigate all potential cases. This year we plan to put these schools under greater scrutiny with spot checks at different stages of the process.”

When registering for a school place for the first time, parents need to provide a council tax demand notice and recent utility bill. If someone is moving house they need to provide proof of purchase and their tenancy agreement. If they are moving to a different Edinburgh address they will also need to provide proof of sale or termination of lease.

When pupils move from primary to secondary school they are allocated a place based on the current address information held by their school. Spot checks will be carried out to ensure this is accurate.

The Corporate Fraud Team can carry out credit checks, check council tax records and carry out unannounced home visits to establish whether or not someone is actually living at the address they claim to be at. If nobody is at home when they visit, they will speak to neighbours to try and find out if they know who was living in the house.

And the fraud team will continue their address checks during the school registration process which starts in November.

Anyone who believes a parent has given false information to register for a school place can contact the school placing team on 0131 469 3033 or email school.placements@edinburgh.gov.uk.

All cases will be treated confidentially and you will remain anonymous.

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