



6th September 2016

Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome to the start of a new school session. It's been a busy and successful start to the term following on from some very strong exam performances from the pupils in the May exam diet – well done. Please note that statistical reviews of the exam performance will soon be appearing on the school website, <http://www.ullapoolhigh.highland.sch.uk/>.

CONGRATULATIONS

While the rest of us were enjoying Rio and the Olympics, some of our pupils were busy becoming champions in their own right, including World Champions! Step forward, Stephen Mackenzie (S5), Gregor Clooney (S4) and all the school members of the Ullapool Junior Pipeband. Stephen not only represented Scotland at the Celtic Games in Swansea but won his event, the U16 High Jump with a height on 1.84m; Gregor, meanwhile won a gold medal at the Skiff World Championships in Ireland; and, finally, as many of you will know, the Ullapool Junior Pipeband are the new World Champions of their particular group.

And, while technically not classed perhaps as a champion, congratulations are also due to Eilidh Summers (S6) who was selected, as 1 of only 3 Scottish students, to participate in the 2016 Baird of Bute Society Canadian Science Scholarship – a tremendous achievement.

STAFFING CHANGES

As I outlined at the end of last session, we have welcomed 2 new probationer teachers this term - Ms Victoria Howard in PE and Ms Susan O'Sullivan in English – and we look forward to working with them this coming year. Mrs Anne Hunter has taken up her position as Depute while Mairi Mackay, a long-serving and much loved member of our Support for Learning Dept, has moved on to a new career. She will be missed by pupils and staff alike.

LATE SERVICE BUS TO ASSYNT

The late bus to Assynt will continue to run Monday to Friday, as per last term. This service leaves from UHS at 17.20 and arrives at the Lochinver Church car park at 18.20. The 8-seater bus can continue on up the Stoer road as far as Drumbeg if requested by users at the beginning of their journey. Only 5 of the seats on this bus are reserved for school pupils and therefore each pupil who intends to stay behind and take part in a school-organised activity must notify the School Office by the end of that school day so that the places can be reserved and the contractor kept informed of potential seat availability or shortages. Your help with implementing this system is much appreciated. Please contact the School Office for any further information.

UHS PARENT COUNCIL

Have you ever considered getting involved in the Parent Council? They will be holding their AGM on Monday, 12th September at 6.30pm at the Macphail Centre and are looking for new parents to join so now's your chance!

The Parent Council is made up of parents, teachers and other adults from the community who volunteer their time to represent the views of parents and carers of pupils attending the school. They try to represent the entire catchment area but are currently short of members from Achiltibuie, Lochinver, Clachtoll, Stoer and Drumbeg. If you are interested in joining, please approach any member to find out more, or come along to the meetings. Current members: Cathy Higginson, Helen Meek, Christine Crook, Anthony O'Flaherty, Lorraine Thomson, Sam Richards, Ian Williams (teacher rep) & Joany McGuire.

SCHOOL YEAR GROUP PHOTOGRAPHS

The school photographer was here last week to take photos of our S1 & S4 for their Young Scot/National Entitlement cards. This was also the visit for the year group photos (which alternate with individual and family photos each August) and we are expecting to receive the proofs for these shortly. As the day itself was sunny and the midgets at a minimum, we took the opportunity of photographing the pupils outside against a back drop of greenery so they should be particularly good this year. Once these proofs have arrived, a copy of each year group photo will be displayed at the entrance to the school and orders taken by the School Office. We will send out an email to notify parents when they are available.

TRACKING & MONITORING REPORTS – ALL YEAR GROUPS

Last year, in line with the developments in the national curriculum, Ullapool High School updated our reporting system by introducing Tracking & Monitoring Reports (TMR) to the Senior school. This session, TMR will also be rolled out to S1 – S3. The information contained in these reports includes Target grades, Current Working Grades and teachers' Comments. S1 – S4 will receive 2 TMRs during the session on the following dates :

S1	6 th December / 22 nd May
S2	7 th November / 8 th May
S3	19 th December / 24 th April
S4	24 th October / 27 th February

S5 & S6 will receive 3 TMRs during the session on the following dates :

S5/6	26 th September / 21 st November / 27 th February
------	--

Details of the Parents' Evenings can be found amongst the School Key Dates attached to the end of this newsletter.

RECENT & UPCOMING EVENTS

At the beginning of September a group of **S6 pupils** visited several **Scottish Universities**, including Glasgow, Strathclyde and Stirling, to get a taste of where they might like to study in the future; while, later this week, 16 **Senior Modern Studies** pupils will visit **London** accompanied by Ms McCann and Mrs Richards. We also have a team of 4 pupils taking part in the Highland heat of the **Enterprising Maths** 2016 later this month and we wish them all well.

Our annual fine dining event, Chefs Adopt A School, organised in conjunction with **Chef Albert Roux** and his staff from both the Inverlodge Hotel, Lochinver, and the Rocpool Restaurant, Inverness, will take place this year on Tuesday, 13th September. As this newsletter is typed, the event is sold out and we have a small reserve list; however, if you would like to enquire about tickets (which cost £22), please contact the School Office. This year the proceeds will be going to three charities - Macmillan, Highland Hospice and the local Mountain Rescue clubs. We look forward to a good evening

SPORTS AMBASSADORS

After a rigorous interview process, we are delighted to announce that the Ullapool High School Sports Ambassadors for 2016 will be Rebecca Tyson and Sean Heaney. They will work alongside our Sports Co-ordinator, Kenny Beaton, to deliver opportunities and organise exciting events for our pupils.

FRIDAY CANTEEN SERVICE

Despite the school day finishing at 1.15pm on a Friday, the canteen continues to offer hot snacks for pupils, both a morning break and at lunchtime and we would encourage those pupils who travel on the school transports to take advantage of this service. Items available include panninis, soup in a cup, pizzas and sausage rolls. These snacks need to be ordered and paid for at the morning break.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

Friday Fusion has started here on a Friday afternoon between 1.30pm and 5.00pm each week, run by Yvonne Boa, our local Youth Worker, and open to all High School pupils. Participants are promised 'games, snacks, Xbox and crafts'. This club has proved very popular in the past. Please speak to Yvonne if you would like more information.

There are plans to offer more activities and clubs on the Friday 1/2 day and details will be made available as soon as they are finalised. In the meantime, if any parent or member of the community has a skill or an interest that they feel they could share with our pupils, please do get in touch. The more activities we can offer, the better for everyone.

SCHOOL KEY DATES

Please find attached details of this session's key dates, including holidays and Parents' Nights. Please note that there are two Inservice Days this week on **Thursday, 22nd and Friday, 23rd September**. The School Calendar for this and future years are available on the school website <http://www.ullapoolhigh.highland.sch.uk/>.

Can I also remind you to sign up to the school's Twitter account (twitter@ullapoolhs) – if you are social media minded that is! We currently have 300 followers and this site is where we primarily post photos and details of Ullapool High School events. Well worth a look.

Yours sincerely

Robbie McFedries

Robbie McFedries
Head Teacher

SCHOOL CALENDAR SESSION 2016/2017

Term & Holiday Dates

	School Opens	School Closes
2016	Monday, 15th August, (Staff only)	
2016	Tuesday, 16th August	Friday, 7th October
2016	Monday, 24th October	Friday, 23rd December
2017	Monday, 9th January	Wednesday, 5th April
2017	Monday, 24th April	Friday, 30th June

May Day Holiday: Monday, 1st May 2017

Casual Holidays: Monday, 20th and Tuesday 21st February 2017

In-Service Days

Monday, 15th August 2016
Thursday and Friday, 22nd & 23rd September 2016
Wednesday, 22nd February 2017
Monday, 5th June 2017

PARENTS' EVENINGS 2016 / 17

Secondary 1	Thursday, 8th December
Secondary 2	Thursday, 23rd March (S1 by request)
Secondary 3	Thursday, 9th February
Secondary 4	Thursday, 3rs November (S3 by request)
Secondary 5/6	Thursday, 24th November (S2 by request)
Secondary 4/5/6	Thursday, 2nd March