



NEWS FROM ULLAPOOL HIGH SCHOOL



Dear Parents / Carers

Once again we reach the end of a busy term and it's time to thank staff and pupils for all the hard work they have put in so far this session. Although the weather this autumn/winter has been unusually benign, the arrival of the dark nights is always hard and it is pleasing to see that, with the arrival of December, almost all of our young people are on track with their studies and in a positive frame of mind.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

As I said above, it has been a busy term since October and all pupils have been involved in lots of different activities and projects, including :

- 👉 Two S5 pupils, John Angell and Robert Farlow, took part in a Gaidhlig debating competition in Stornoway
- 👉 S1-S3 enjoyed a drugs education performance in the Macphail in which the band, *White Eskimo*, raised the rafters with their music – I wouldn't be surprised if you heard them in Achiltibuie!
- 👉 The BGE Profiling Fortnight has just finished and parents will see the results of that shortly
- 👉 The Cyber Security Christmas Lectures and careers event in Inverness was very interesting for all who attended (I can't stress how important it is to regularly change those passwords ... the potential problems of not doing so are really scary!)
- 👉 Live 'n' Learn visited the school to deliver positive study skills, resilience and growth mindset workshops to S1 –S5 which were enthusiastically received
- 👉 The Social Subjects trip to Glasgow and Edinburgh went well with good project work
- 👉 Watch out for the S1 Film G competition entry this year – an epic Gaelic take on the much-loved film, *Whisky Galore*, but involving Iron Bru!
- 👉 Well done to S4 pupil, Carla Lees, who has been voted on to the Highland Youth Parliament
- 👉 S1 pupils very much enjoyed their Archaeology Day out in Coigach ... and the weather was kind which is always helpful.
- 👉 After 4 excellent presentations by Senior teams on behalf of different local charities, the Youth Philanthropy Initiative judges decided to donate £3,000 to Ullapool Befrienders, Congratulations to the winning team of Caroline Thomson, Ellie Cunningham and Elena Whittle and well done to everyone who took part in this inaugural event.

👩 Thank you to Lorraine Thomson who instigated and is currently leading a series of visioning workshops with a small group of pupils, staff and parents. Their intention is to tease out the school's shared values, the important things for us to focus on, and I have been heartened by their discussions, the results of which will be opened to wider consultation in the New Year. This has been a very valuable exercise

FUNDRAISING

At the risk of making the second page of the Newsletter another list of successes, UHS pupils have been busy raising funds in a variety of ways for both local and national charities ...



So well done to all the organisers for their hard work and to everyone for their generosity.

ADVANCE WARNING

Dates for your diary for next term include :

18 th – 25 th January	Higher & Adv Higher prelims
19 th January	HPV vaccinations (S1 & S2)
1 st – 8 th February	National 5 prelims
9 th February	S3 Parents' Evening
10 th – 12 th February	Ski trip
13 th February	Dip/Tet/Polio + Meningitis vaccinations (S3 + S4 – S6 catch ups)

20 th & 21 st February	Half-term holiday
22 nd February	In-service Day
27 th February	S4/5/6 Tracking & Monitoring Report issued
2 nd March	S4/5/6 Parents' Evening
23 rd March	S2 Parents' Evening (+ S1 by request)
5 th April	Easter holidays begin

CONSTRUCTION PLANS

I'm pleased to announce that two major construction events will be completed early in 2017: the new climbing wall in the Leisure Centre should be finished and ready for our pupils (and the general public, of course) in January; while the school's Astroturf is due to be upgraded to a full 3G surface by May. Both of these projects will offer more possibilities for sport and development to our pupils and the community as a whole.

LAST DAY OF TERM

The last day of term will be Friday, 23rd December and the school will close, as normal, at 1.15pm with the buses arriving shortly afterwards. There will be a whole school assembly late morning at which we will celebrate recent pupil achievements, bid farewell to those senior pupils who are leaving us and also take the opportunity to pass on our best wishes to Rev Alasdair Macleod, the Free Presbyterian Minister who has recently accepted the ministry of Smithton Church in Inverness. Alasdair has been involved with the school since his arrival in Ullapool 12 years ago and his enthusiasm and warmth will be much missed. We wish him and his family well for the future.

Parents should note that, despite this Friday being the last day of term, it is still considered a school day and all pupils, including Seniors, are expected to attend. School will resume on Monday, 9th January 2017.

STAFF SUCCESSES

And finally, we're not just all about the pupils! Congratulations to Ms Middleton and Mr Inglis, both of whom have passed the 'Learning for Sustainability' module which constitutes part of a post-graduate Masters course; while Mrs O'Leary has studied hard (practising what she preaches to the pupils she works with) and attained her Masters in Educational Leadership. Well done indeed to these individuals, confidently demonstrating that learning is a lifelong endeavour.

Have a good Christmas and a Happy 2017

Robbie McFedries

Robbie McFedries
Head Teacher

P.S. See the next page for a selection of happy pupils and a suspended science teacher ...

