



28th June 2017

Dear Parents / Carers

Here we are at the end of another busy session. Our pupils and staff have excelled themselves with activities, foreign trips, arts projects, sporting achievements and fund-raising ventures all taking place. And that's in addition to the normal, day-to-day school lessons, start of the new timetable and undertaking of the SQA exam diet throughout May. Here's a small selection of what we've been up to :

- 📖 *Energetic **day long activities** including rock climbing, mountain biking, clay pigeon shooting and hill walking (incorporating the Million Metre Challenge)*
- 📖 Fascinating **Living Lochs Project** in conjunction with North West Fisheries Board
- 📖 *Progressing through the **John Muir Awards** – both the S1 residential trip to Tanera (arranged in partnership with CALL) and the S3 Outdoor Learning Elective*
- 📖 Creative **Littoral Art Project** – following up on last year's successful project with artist, Julia Barton
- 📖 *Active **Duke of Edinburgh** expeditions : Bronze (practice)
Silver (assessment)
Gold (assessment currently happening in the Peak District)*
- 📖 *Challenging **S2 Activities** at Lagganlia*
- 📖 Metropolitan Modern Studies **visit to London** including meeting with our local MP and seeing the sights
- 📖 *Fulfilling **S3 Work Experience** week*
- 📖 Successful **school exchange** with pupils from Colegio Monte Deva Calle de Pepe Ortiz in Gijon, Spain where many lasting friendships were made
- 📖 *Thrilling visit to **Alton Towers** (pretty exhausting too)*
- 📖 Inspiring **Youth Philanthropy Initiative** national event in Perth, attended by seven S3 pupils; they heard inspirational stories from schools around Scotland about their charity work over the last year and, as part of an audience of 1000 pupils from across the country they listened to motivational words from Dame Kathryn Grainger and music from some upcoming new artists. The current S3 will be participating themselves this session and they came away with fantastic motivation to do our local charities proud this year.
- 📖 Entertaining joint **School Fair** with UPS which raised £680 for school trips; I can see the Pet Show becoming a must-see annual event!

An impressive list, I'm sure you'll agree and it is important that none of us take any of the above activities for granted. The organising required beforehand and the support and enthusiastic effort shown during all our activities is truly phenomenal from everyone involved and we should appreciate how lucky UHS is to have staff, parents and partners willing to give up their time. Please look at our website (www.ullapoolhigh.highland.sch.uk) or consider following us on Twitter (@ullapoolhs) for updates on these and other achievements and events within the school.

I would also like to take this opportunity to once again thank all parents, pupils and staff who have been so supportive of the school this session. With your positive backing and help, the school continues to grow and our youngsters to develop into fully-rounded, caring individuals.

ACHIEVEMENTS

I attach a list of the award winners for this session. Many of the Senior prizes were given out at our Leavers' Day earlier this month with the rest awarded today at our Achievement Ceremony. It is always pleasing to celebrate our pupils' successes, both in-house and outwith the school, and I am grateful to those parents/carers/pupils who remember to share their news with us.

Congratulations are particularly in order for Stephen Mackenzie who, after an outstanding individual display at the Scottish Schools' Track & Field Championships, was awarded the prestigious Eric Liddle Memorial Trophy. Praise also for Bina O'Flaherty who, at the Inverness Provincial Mod, won the Monach Cup for her inspired fiddle playing. Well done to both

STAFF NEWS

This session we say goodbye to several members of staff – firstly, our two Probationer Teachers are moving on – Ms O'Sullivan (English) and Ms Howard (PE). We are delighted that they have both secured full-time posts in elsewhere in Scotland and we wish them all the very best for their careers. They have both done a great job here.

And Mrs Karen Reeve is leaving the Learning Support Dept after many years with us. She has worked at Ullapool High School since early 2010 when she joined as a pupil support assistant after making the move from Ullapool Primary School. During the 7 years she has worked here Mrs Reeve has been a great team player and has always gone the extra mile to support all pupils as well as she possibly can by learning alongside them when necessary. She has honed her IT and technical skills and also her command of both French and Spanish - all of which perfectly position her to run a large multinational company or whatever she chooses to do next in her career. It has been a pleasure to have been Mrs Reeve's team-mates for the last 7 years. We will miss her sense of humour, her dedication and her terrific work ethic but we wish her every success in her future endeavours.

Next term will see Ms Charlotte Law join our PE department and where she will also work closely with Primary Schools. We also have a new probationer joining our Maths department; Ms Jade Brooks. The school extends a warm welcome to both these new members of staff and we wish them all the very best for their time here. Later this week interviews will be held for the post of Principal Teacher in English and, if an appointment is made, I hope that the successful candidate will start in August.

And for those who missed it earlier in the term, Ms Jemma Middleton (from the Social Subjects Dept) and Ms Lucy Beattie (Leckmelm Farm) who currently deliver the Rural Skills module to UHS

pupils on behalf of West Highland College, attended the LANTRA Learner of the Year Awards where the school won the coveted Rural Schools Award (shared with Breadalbane Academy) in recognition of the exceptional standards in rural skills training on offer here.

FUNDRAISING FOR CHARITY

There have been many fundraising efforts across the whole school this year and, in total, Ullapool High School has raised just under £5,000 – well done. In addition to the regular annual events such as Children in Need (£225), Sports Relief (£305), World Aids Day (£64) and Save The Children's Xmas Jumper appeal (£105), pupils took part in the Million Metre Challenge which raised £1,249 for several local and national charities – a fantastic total!

The Sudan Famine Appeal by Mary's Meals received £250 while the school's Fairtrade group raised £100 to support the Garden of Remembrance appeal here in Ullapool. The annual S2-led Chefs Adopt A School Dinner (commonly known as Chez Roux) raised £1,290 and the school's Charity Committee, which consists primarily of S6 pupils, organised their Winter Charity Event, raising £1,219, a portion of which was donated to support Chrissie Mackenzie for her year in Guyana with Project Trust.. The school continues to sponsor 3 children through Action Aid – a 10 year old boy in China, a 7 year old girl in Sierra Leone and a 13 year old boy in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Also, as a result of several years of fundraising, the school has purchased a defibrillator which is now housed at the school entrance.

DRESS CODE

The school dress code (despite what your youngster might say!) has not changed and we expect all our pupils to arrive at school dressed for their work at school. I try and speak to every youngster who is seen to be flouting this and usually a gentle reminder results in improvement. I will, however, call parents into the school for any young person who continues to have problems around this. A copy of the dress code is attached.

Our Senior Pupils have enjoyed telling me of the clothes purchases they will be making during the summer break to bring them up to standard and I look forward to seeing these on the first day back.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

The full list of term dates for the 2017/18 session will be sent home at the start of next term and are also available on the school website. As usual, Monday, 14th August is an in-service day for staff and, therefore, the first day back after the summer holiday for pupils is Tuesday, 15th August with school starting at 8.50 am.

LOST PROPERTY

All items of lost property are currently on display in school for pupils and parents to view and reclaim before the end of term. However, any items of clothing, shoes, gloves, etc. not reclaimed by then will be sent to Blytheswood during the holidays.

LAST DAY

The last day of term is Friday, 30th June. Normal lessons will finish at 1:15 with the school buses leaving at 1.30 pm.

AND FINALLY ...

You may remember me mentioning our visioning exercise earlier in the session, led by Lorraine Thomson, in which a group of pupils, parents and staff teased out the school's shared values. The result of this endeavour has been our new theme 'Let's Climb Trees' and particularly the promotion of the following values :

Equality	(support and inclusion)
Respect	(mutual, community, global)
Well-being	(happy, resilient, confident, mentally and physically healthy)
Ambition	(challenge, opportunities)
High Quality Learning and Teaching	(everyone to the best of their ability)
Community	(peer learning, intergenerational work, charity, international links)
Environment	(climate challenges, sustainability, outdoor learning)

It took the cryptic, analytical skills of a language teacher to point out that the acronym ERWAHC can be re-jigged to spell WE REACH; an excellent thought for us to carry forward with us to next session ...

I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable summer.

Yours sincerely

Robbie McFedries
Head Teacher