

3rd July 2019

Dear Parents / Carers

Well another school year is drawing to a close and, looking back on 2018-19, I can see what a varied and busy session it has been for both pupils and staff. From cross country running events to anti-plastics projects, design trips to Dundee to the school musical, Ullapool High School certainly likes to try to provide wide-ranging opportunities across the board, covering all interests and areas of the curriculum. I think we have provided something for everyone this year – I hope that you agree and that your child has been able to benefit from the options available, helping them to mature and develop important skills over the past 9 months. To list everything of note over the whole session would take quite a few pages so, given that this is the newsletter for the summer term, here's a small selection of what we've been up to since Easter:

★ *S3 & S4 met their **Swiss penpals** from Geneva face to face – lots of laughs and strong friendships formed as a result of the school visit to Ullapool*

★ In what is now becoming an annual event, S1 spent a very enjoyable few days on **Isle Martin** (arranged in partnership with CALL)



★ *Overall the **SQA exam diet** went well with our Senior pupils generally feeling well-prepared and pleased with their efforts – roll on Results Day (see below).*

★ Of course this confidence was no doubt helped by the presence of **Stella, the Therapet dog** who

came to visit (and calm) our Senior pupils prior to their exams.

★ *S3 were out learning skills the length and breadth of the country on **Work Experience** in May while S2 undertook the enjoyable challenge of Activities Week at **Lagganlia***

★ Lots of one-off days and workshops including the **Careers In Science Fair**, **S1 Forensic Science Day**, the **Littercubes Project** with Julia Barton and the **Highland Apprentice Showcase**,

★ *Our current crop of **Duke of Edinburgh** hopefuls underwent practice expeditions at Bronze, Silver and Gold level*

★ Congratulations to Velvet Lawton (S2) who was one of the **Pushkin Prize winners 2019**. She received her award in June down in Edinburgh before joining her fellow winners for a week-long

creative writing course at Moniak Mhor. A splendid achievement.

- ★ *Once again, S3 participated in the inspiring **Youth Philanthropy Initiative** during the course of the school year with 3 teams making it through to the final. The Men's Shed in Ullapool was the successful charity and they received a cheque for £3,000*

- ★ We marked **Healthy Eating Week** with fruit & vegetable tastings, nutritious breakfasts and some strenuous rowing (followed by a sleep survey ☺)!



- ★ *Another success story this term concerns Tasha Anderson (S6) who won the **Schools' Programme – Foundation Apprentice Award** presented by Inverness College. Tasha was judged by the lecturing team to have demonstrated hard work and commitment during her period of study. Well done!*

- 🏠 Raising funds for a new school minibus provided the opportunity for another **Million Metre Challenge** in May. Everyone, staff and pupils, took part with one pupil describing his walk up Ullapool Hill as 'the best walk ever' (Dr Miller is obviously an inspirational walk leader ...)



- ★ *The P7 pupils from our ASG Primaries joined us for **Induction Week** where, among other things, they took part in the **Maths Jamboree**. They also took part in a walk up Quinag. We look forward to welcoming them in August.*

- ★ **Sporting activities** have been much to the fore this term with pupils taking part in athletics and pentathlon competitions the length and breadth of the country, at both regional and national level. It's always pleasing to see the pupils' enthusiasm for these events and their willingness to train and work hard in the run-up. And of course our warmest congratulations to Stephen Mackenzie (S6) for his recent successes on the national stage which have resulted in his call up to the **Great Britain U20 Athletics Team** this summer

- ★ ***The Big Day Out**, a new event for Seniors to celebrate the end of the exam period, took place in early June and involved go-karting in Aviemore and zip-lining in Kincaig. Luckily the weather was kind and a great time was had by all.*

- ★ We currently have a group of pupils out in **London** where, as you might have seen on social media, they have visited Wimbledon as well as the National Gallery and Trafalgar Square – all the sights! And a lucky group of pupils will be sailing around Demark in August on the **Tall Ship Wylde Swan**. Our thanks go to Ullapool Harbour Trust for facilitating this latter opportunity.

- ★ And not forgetting *Bugsy Malone* – the wonderful school musical. Did you manage to come along and see it? Such a fun evening – well-known songs to sing along with; a fabulous set; great accompanying musicians; and such talented performers. A sheer delight from start to finish!



For such a small school we really do offer a wide range of opportunities and activities to our pupils and huge thanks are due to all those staff, parents and pupils who organise and support throughout the year. We appreciate your enthusiasm and encouragement. Please look at our website (www.ullapoolhigh.highland.sch.uk) or consider following us on Twitter (@ullapoolhs) for updates on school activities.

STAFF NEWS

There will be some staff changes next session. Firstly though, we say goodbye to 2 members of our Modern Languages Dept: after 28 years here at UHS, Ms Marie-Pierre Claret is moving on to a new and exciting phase in her life. Her recent sabbatical introduced her to new opportunities linked to education in Nepal. We are very grateful for all that she has done for the school – the pupils she has guided and taught, the trips she has organised and participated in, the colleagues she has supported and helped – and we wish her well for the future. While Ms Claret was away, her place was very ably filled by Ms Marion Boledovic who quickly became a firm favourite with pupils; they appreciated her infectious sense of fun and benefitted from her ability to bring out the best in those she taught. Ms Boledovic is now returning to Glasgow and we will miss her cheery presence.

For next session we are delighted that Ms Beth Milne will take up the full-time position of Teacher of Biology/Science, following on from her successful Probation year, while we will be welcoming Mr Angus Thompson as our Maths Probationer in August. He has already visited the school and is looking forward to starting in August. Mr Iain Murray will once again reduce his hours in the Department and he will be missed. His experience is

invaluable and we are glad that we will still be able to count on this in the coming session. Finally, only this week we had the pleasure of appointing Ms Ellen MacGregor to the post of Teacher of Modern Languages and we look forward to welcoming her in September when she arrives to take up the position.

SQA EXAMINATION RESULTS

Pupils who took SQA examinations at Ullapool High School this year should receive their results either by post or electronically on Tuesday, 6th August.

Senior school staff will be available on **Friday, 9th August, 10.00 am to 1.00 pm**, to discuss results with pupils or parents, especially if these have an impact on higher education courses or school courses chosen for 2019/20. Discussions may take place at school or by telephone, if that is more convenient.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

The full list of term dates for the 2019/20 session will be sent home at the start of next term and will also be available on the school website. It is worth pointing out that there will be 2 extra In-service days in November this year (21st & 22nd) while the May Bank holiday has been moved from the Monday to Friday, 8th May 2020 in celebration of the 75th anniversary of VE Day. Reminders will be sent out nearer the time.

As usual, the first Monday of the new session (19th August) will be an in-service day for staff and, therefore, the first day back after the summer holiday for pupils will be **Tuesday, 20th 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 until mid-July. However, any items of clothing, shoes, gloves, etc. not reclaimed by then will be sent to Blythswood during the holidays.

I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable summer.

Yours sincerely

Robbie McFedries

Headteacher