



# ULLAPOOL HIGH SCHOOL

25<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear Parents/carers

What a school year this has been, I am sure none of us would choose to repeat many aspects of it. However, there have been some tremendous examples, across the whole school community, of people digging deep; helping each other out and perhaps seeing priorities in life in a different light. I think it will be important for us all not to lose these qualities in the years ahead.

I could not be more pleased with the efforts of our young people and staff through lockdown. We had some of the highest engagement figures in the country, particularly in senior phase and the work was of high quality. We were able to do that, together with providing an education for S1-3 that allowed afternoons 'off' for well-being, this seemed to be much appreciated and I thank parent/carers for their support. We then had a partial re-opening of school before Easter, leading to full opening afterwards. We also had assessments given at Easter for senior phase, with formative feedback that led to the last set of assessments that could be used as part of evidence gathering. The amount of work and anxiety around these, for pupils, staff and parents should not be underestimated. It was an incredible volume of work for us all.

We have managed to get results to pupils before the deadline, we believe them to be as fair as we could make them. Once again we should be really proud as the grades across the board are really good, exceptional when you think what we have been through. But I hope you would agree with me that life, and school, are more than just grades. We are really pleased with the care and help we have been able to share to many of those in most need. We are also extremely pleased that in the midst of the assessments, we still managed to provide opportunities for the activities for which this school is rightly held in high regard.

I hope you enjoy reading about these below. I have never ceased to be impressed to see how many people have given 'extra' this past year. It is literally too many to name but my heartfelt thanks to you all nonetheless.

I'll be honest, we are all looking forward to the summer and whilst it is a well-deserved break, I know most of you will know that planning for next year, which had been put on hold due to assessments, will be taking place at this time.

At present we have been told that all existing COVID protocols - mask wearing, social distancing, limiting visitors to the school must still be in place in August. We can only hope that they are lifted soon thereafter.

## CONGRATULATIONS

We would like to forward our congratulations for the following outstanding student achievements:

**NUALA MACDONALD** who won the International Representative category in the FilmG annual Gaelic short film competition. Her film is an autobiographical reflection on loneliness and the importance of friendship. She talks about the things she likes to do to make herself feel better, and then she says that love and friendship have pulled her through and she will rise (Rise being the title of this year's competition). She will get the opportunity to go to an international film festival once restrictions have lifted. Link to the film: <https://filmg.co.uk/en/films/2205/#en>

**HARDIE CRAWFORD** who was one of only a handful who were selected to attend Scottish Space School from Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> June until Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

### **BRONIA ADRIAN AND HERMIONE LEWIS-ING**

S1 pupils who have been selected out of over 1500 entries to be in the top 10 in Scotland for the annual Show Racism the Red Card competition.

## LEAVERS

It was really good to have some form of leavers' event this year. We had a nice buffet outside and also the chance to see the leavers sideshow which talks about each pupil's highlights and next steps. We were able to present the following prizes as well. Hopefully the real prize was the experience they have gained at the school.

## ULLAPOOL HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS FOR 2020/21

### *EXCELLENCE AWARDS*

The Ron Mitchell Memorial Award for Technical Education	Tanya Stewart
The History Prize	Sarah Robbins
The Katharine Buchanan Macphail Prize	Holly Callus/Sarah Robbins
The Coigach Cup for Foreign Languages	Kacey Lees
The Isobel Nicol Quaich for Poetry/Creative Writing	Bruin Pellant
The Lewis Fisher Loving Cup	Amelie Pomeroy-Soos

## STAFF

We bid a fond farewell to Irene who has dedicated almost 29 years to serving school meals to us all. She will be greatly missed by both colleagues and pupils alike – her energy, enthusiasm and willingness to go the extra mile have been much appreciated and we wish her well for the future.

## Some of the out of school activities we managed to get organised

Duke of Edinburgh Silver and Gold Expeditions

Artist in Residence Workshop Glencanisp Lodge

Hill to Grill with Coigach Assynt Living Landscape Partnership (First stage)



S1 Inverlael Project in partnership with Highland Archaeology Services Ltd

S2 Activities including Achmelvich Beach, mountain biking and local walks



### SCHOOL CALENDAR

The full list of term dates for the 2021/22 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 In-service days in on 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> September this year. Reminders will be sent out nearer the time.

We genuinely look forward to seeing our young people back after the summer and hope that we can start to rebuild the activity filled school of old.

I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable summer and take care.

Yours sincerely

*Robbie McFedries*

Headteacher