



ULLAPOOL HIGH SCHOOL

26th June 2018

Dear Parents / Carers

As we move towards the close of another busy session, it is good to reflect on the many activities, trips, projects and adventures that the Ullapool High School pupils and staff have undertaken and completed. The scope of the opportunities offered is truly wide-ranging and it has been a pleasure to watch individuals grow, develop skills and mature over the past 9 months. 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 since Easter:

- ☞ *Earlier this term we were visited by pupils and staff from the **Drangsnæs High School, Iceland**; we have hopes of an exchange visit in the future – watch this space*
- ☞ S1 spent a very enjoyable few days on **Isle Martin** (arranged in partnership with CALL)
- ☞ ***Stella, the Therapet dog**, came and calmed our Senior pupils prior to their exams – thanks to Maureen Stewart, her human companion, for bringing Stella into school*
- ☞ Once again pupils worked with artist, Julia Barton, on the final part of the **Littoral Art Project**, culminating in an exhibition and performance at the Ferry Terminal
- ☞ *S3 were out learning skills on **Work Experience** while S2 challenged themselves at **Lagganlia***
- ☞ Our current crop of **Duke of Edinburgh** hopefuls underwent practice expeditions at Bronze, Silver and Gold level
- ☞ S3 participated in the inspiring **Youth Philanthropy Initiative** during the course of the school year with 3 teams making it through to the final. CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young) was the successful charity and they received a cheque for £3,000
- ☞ *Lots of one-off days and workshops including **Science Skills Day, The Geobus (Scotland's Rock Story), Global Warming Lecture (S3), Engineering Pathways (S1) and One-day First Aid course***
- ☞ Our creative subjects worked hard to produce the hugely successful **Spring Concert** - such talent on display



And, of course, who can forget the vision and scope of the **Men of Lochbroom Project!** The month of May was taken up with trenches, sandbags, ration tins and thoughtful workshops exploring and discussing the various aspects of World War I. Photos and films of the recreated battlefield were seen on social and national media while many schools from Highland and beyond came and visited. There was also a well-attended community day.



The P7 pupils from our ASG Primaries joined us for **Induction Week** where, among other things, they took part in the **Maths Jamboree**. We look forward to welcoming them back in August.

There have been lots of sporting activities as well including **rock climbing, dance workshops and indoor rowing** while two pupils undertook their **Young Leadership** awards with the help of Kenny Beaton, the Active Schools' Co-ordinator. And we welcomed Stephanie Inglis, the judo Olympian, to Ullapool as part of the **Sports For Champions** project.

The Importance of Being Earnest – did you go? If you couldn't make it, unfortunately you missed out on a superbly entertaining, funny and witty evening. The actors worked so hard and, with the matinee performance in particular, showed pupils of all ages what is possible in the Senior years. Already there is lots of interest for another project.



We currently have a group of pupils out in **Japan** where, as you might have seen on social media, yesterday they visited a secondary school and taught them how to ceilidh dance! And a group of pupils will be heading off in July on the **Tall Ship Wylde Swan** sailing from Ullapool to Denmark. Our thanks go to Ullapool Harbour Trust for facilitating this latter opportunity.

It is, I'm sure you will agree, an impressive list and, although we are a small school, the opportunities and activities available for our pupils is as varied and inclusive as any in the Highlands. I am also sure that you'll agree how important it is that none of us take any of the above 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.

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 last week at our Achievement Ceremony. It is important to celebrate and share 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.

Once again, congratulations are due to Stephen Mackenzie who competed superbly at the Scottish Schools' Track & Field Championships, winning 2 golds and 1 silver in his three events. An excellent performance from a young athlete who will go far.

STAFF NEWS

This session we say goodbye to Ms Brooks, our Maths Probationer, who is moving on to a full-time post in the Central Belt. Her lively enthusiasm and cheerfulness will be greatly missed here at UHS and we wish her all the best for her future career. Gary Nimmo, the piping instructor, is also taking his leave of the area; he has done so much to develop the skills of our young pipers during his time here and we are very grateful for his efforts.

Next term will see Ms Beth Milne join our Science/Biology department as a Probationer Teacher and she has already visited the school to see her new surroundings and make our acquaintance. Mr Murray will increase the number of days he works each week in the Maths Dept for the coming session and we hope shortly to be in a position to appoint a part-time French teacher on a temporary contract as Ms Claret will be undertaking a 2-year sabbatical commencing next session.

FUNDRAISING FOR CHARITY

Ullapool High School has always put a lot of effort into fundraising for charity and good causes and this year has been no different. Overall a total of just above £4,500 was raised although, given the scale of the school trips this year, some fundraising events were directly targeted to help make those projects less costly. As last year, school pupils raised money through Children in Need (£75), Save The Children's Xmas Jumper appeal (£52) and Jeans for Genes (£212) while the second running of the Million Metre Challenge raised £940 for Cycling Without Age Scotland, an exciting new charity that is setting up locally and which school pupils are keen to support.

Other worthy causes supported during the year include, World Aids Day, Wayback Wednesday (for dementia charities) and The Teenage Cancer Trust while we re-introduced a Copper Challenge, pitting register classes against each other to raise the most coins. The

annual S2-led Chefs Adopt A School Dinner (commonly known as Chez Roux) raised £1,350 and the school's Charity Committee, which consists primarily of S6 pupils, organised their Winter Charity Event, raising £1,010, which contributed towards various charities including the sponsorship of 3 children through Action Aid – an 11- year old boy in China, an 8-year old girl in Sierra Leone and a 14 year old boy in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

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, 7th August.

Senior school staff will be available on **Friday, 10th 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 2018/19. Discussions may take place at school or by telephone, if that is more convenient.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

The full list of term dates for the 2018/19 session will be sent home at the start of next term and are also available on the school website. As usual, Monday, 20th August will be an in-service day for staff and, therefore, the first day back after the summer holiday for pupils will be Tuesday, 21st 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, 29th June. Normal lessons will finish at 1:15 with the school buses leaving at 1.30 pm.

I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable summer.

Yours sincerely

Robbie McFedries

Headteacher