



# ULLAPOOL HIGH SCHOOL

28<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Dear Parent / Carer

Another busy term full of hard work and endeavour and which has been made even more challenging by a winter that just seems determined not to loosen its grip! However, despite this, I am really pleased to see the Astroturf now being utilised to the full and we have plans, together with the community sports hub, to have even more activities on offer after school as we go into next session.

Take a look at the new school logo with the values incorporated, above. This major piece of work has taken over a year to bring to fruition and I feel it has captured the spirit of Ullapool High School and our continued aspirations. We will now use this image and values statement to help 'freshen up' the entrance area to the school building – watch out for these developments.

## STAFFING CHANGES

A major part of my work this term has been securing our staffing position for next year and I'm pleased to say that we will move ahead with a full complement of staff for the session 2018/19. I should mention here that Miss Henderson, PT Science and Teacher of Biology, has announced her retirement in May and, as this is the last newsletter her departure, I would like to take the opportunity to express our gratitude for all her hard work and assistance over the years. Numerous pupils have achieved excellent results in her department and this is due in no small part to Miss Henderson's teaching so thank you, particularly on behalf of those who have gone on to make a living in the scientific field. We wish you all the very best in the coming years.

One of our long-serving canteen members is also leaving us during the Easter break – Ann Macdonald, who has been at UHS for 15 years, working latterly as Assistant Cook, is moving away from the area and we wish her well in her new life. Those of us who eat regularly in the canteen will particularly miss her.

## SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

It has been a very busy term with lots happening since January – here is just a flavour :

- ❖ **Hill to Grill Project** - Second year pupils spent two days on the hill with professional deer stalkers and rangers from the Assynt Foundation, John Muir Trust and HC Ranger Service to learn about wild venison as part of the Coigach & Assynt Living Landscape Partnership scheme's (CALLP) Outdoor and Woodland Learning



Project. Then when back in school they worked as design teams on a food challenge to develop a new venison burger.

- ❖ Modern language students spent a day back in January attending the Highland **Business Brunch** in Inverness

- ❖ After 4 excellent and engrossing presentations by S3 pupils on behalf of different local charities, the **Youth Philanthropy Initiative** judges decided to donate the £3,000 prize to the Joanne Fotheringham Fund, CRY (Cardia Risk in the Young). Congratulations to the winning team of Kacey Lees, Kira Patterson and Ewan Johnstone and well done to everyone who worked so hard and took part in this worthwhile event, not only in the final but in the previous semi-final and original heats as well.



- ❖ Early February saw the **Construction** pupils visit Northwoods Construction at Leckmelm for a day of practical experiences
- ❖ Rehearsals for the school play, **The Importance of Being Earnest**, by Oscar Wilde continued with a day of movement workshops for the actors. It is anticipated that there will be 2 performances - Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> June, and Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> June – and further information about tickets sales, timings, etc. will follow next term.
- ❖ The **Senior Phase Coursing** has gone well with the vast majority of students having now settled their choices for next session. S2 pupils are now finalising their **BGE Choices** and, once these are all in, Senior Management can begin to work on the new timetable for 18/19.

- ❖ The school was delighted to welcome Stephanie Inglis to the school in March as part of the **Sport for Champions** programme. Steph won a silver medal in judo for Scotland at the Commonwealth Games 2014 in Glasgow and she led the S1-S3 pupils in some circuit training sessions. The pupils were sponsored to take part and raised £269 for this worthy cause.



- ❖ As I'm sure you read in the *Ullapool News*, the **Ullapool Pipe band**, distinguished themselves at the Scottish Schools' Pipe band Championships by winning the inaugural Eilidh MacLeod Endeavour Award. The award recognises the wonderful values that youth pipe bands encourage and is named in honour of the young member of the Sgoil Lionacleit Pipe Band who tragically lost her life in the Manchester Arena bombing last year. Congratulations to everyone who took part.
- ❖ Several lunchtime and after school clubs are now running on a weekly basis – they include
  - Robotics Club
  - Board Games
  - Singing Group

- Yoga for Youngsters
  - Various sports teams training
- ❖ Also in early March, S2 held **Mock Elections** organised through their Social Subjects lessons. It was a hard fought contest with excellent canvassing by all the candidates and finishing with a lively and well attended hustings. Only 2 votes separated the first three parties as Labour won with 37 votes to the SNP's 36. A fictitious party, ScotU, came third with 35 votes.
  - ❖ Congratulations to India Poe who won a Silver Medal at the **Highland Schools' Indoor Rowing Festival** in Inverness last week. She has worked very hard and her success is well deserved.
  - ❖ Work has started on the **Men of Loch Broom** project. We've had lots of deliveries - wood (for trench reinforcing), plastic helmets (for role playing) and bookings (from Highland schools eager to avail themselves of the resource). If you would like more information about this ambitious project, come and see the information boards and model at the school entrance or check out The Men of Loch Broom Facebook page.



- ❖ Our Music Department was busy in the run up to last week. Once the practical exams for Nat 5 and Higher had taken place, our pupils joined together to show off their skills at the **Spring Concert**. As every year, the audience were amazed and delighted by the standard and variety of the talent on display. Well done to all involved; a total of £405 was raised which will be divided between the Music Dept and the Charity Committee.
- ❖ And who can forget the **Generation Game** which took place in mid-March. A great evening which invoked nostalgia for some and a sense of bewilderment in others! And a superb £640 was raised for school trips. Congratulations all round.
- ❖ The online booking system for **Parents' Evenings** seems overall to be working well. There have been some small issues which the school office staff have tried to resolve as quickly as possible. It has been a learning curve for us here but feedback from parents has been mostly positive. We intend to continue with the system next session.
- ❖ Our S3 pupils, as part of their collaboration with artist, Julia Barton, and the **Littoral Art Project** gave an investigative performance at the Ullapool Ferry Terminal last Friday which told the research journey which they have



undertaken along the shoreline over the last few years. A absorbing tale evening.

- ❖ Last week, our S2s had an excellent presentation from Alana Robinson of the Teenage Cancer Trust. As in previous years, this was really sensitively done, highly informative and also a fun way to learn about a serious issue. One of the key messages was being aware of things we can all do to prevent some of the more common cancers. Exercise, healthy diet and staying sun safe were emphasised and the S2s listened really well and asked excellent questions. We very rarely have PSE homework but if the S2s could complete an online survey (will only take about 5-10 minutes) with their views about the presentation, then that would be greatly appreciated.

<https://teenagecancertrust.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/schools-programme-student-evaluation>

- ❖ And bringing us right up to date ... our S6 pupils are currently working hard on the entries for the Leavers' Year Book which will be presented to them on **Leavers' Day**, Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> June. More information will be issued to parents next session.



#### **ADVANCED WARNING**

The school breaks up for the Easter Holidays today and will reopen at the normal time on **Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> April**. Other school closures in the summer term include **Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> May (Bank Holiday Monday)** and **Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> June (In-service Day)**.

Study Leave for Senior pupils will commence on **Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> April** with both the new S5 & S6 pupils returning on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> June

I wish everyone the very best for the Easter holidays. I also wish all senior students the best for their studies during this period - remember there will be revision classes available in school for most subjects and I urge you to consider attending if at all possible; it will make a difference to your exam prospects.

Yours sincerely

*Robbie McFedries*

Headteacher