

# ARD SGOIL A'PHLUIC/PLOCKTON HIGH SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER—Week ending 24th March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of term it is good to see some more settled weather coming in. We certainly hope we have seen the last of the snow closures for this session. Pupils in the senior years are busy completing coursework and preparing for assessments and exams. We do recommend having a revision plan in place in good time for the exams and this should include time spent studying over the Easter holidays. It is important to have a break as well to enjoy time spent with family and friends. School returns for pupils and staff on Monday the 17<sup>th</sup> of April and we have only one week of the new term before the SQA exams begin on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April.

The dates of Exam Preparation Leave are included in this newsletter and it should be noted that the full allocation of leave is for those pupils sitting six exams in S4 and at least three exams in S5. Pupils leaving school also have the full allocation of Exam Preparation Leave. This means that some pupils may be required to be in school for at least some of the time. In some cases, there may be coursework to complete and pupils should be aware that they will be need to be in school to finish work if required.

This week we enjoyed a visit by staff and pupils from Gairmscoil Chú Uladh which is an Irish Gaelige school in Donegal. There has been a long-standing connection between our two schools so it was a pleasure to have them here. Due to high winds and driving rain, we had to change the schedule from shinty outdoors to cèilidh dancing indoors with music and song provided by our Music School students.

Many thanks to the teachers and judges who supported S3 pupils through the Youth Philanthropy Initiative process this year which culminated in a successful final in school last Thursday. Planning begins now for our involvement in next year's YPI with a meeting scheduled shortly to discuss arrangements.

Preparations for next session are now underway with pupils in S3, S4 and S5 currently making their choice of subjects for next year from the available options within a column structure. Pupils were asked to indicate their choices for next year and the columns have been created following those responses. All pupils have discussions with their Pupil Support teachers around the best pathways for them in school and looking ahead to their preferred study and career options post-school. We expect pupils to make a full choice of subjects for their year group and further information about the options available can be found in the subject information and options choice booklets which were previously emailed out to parents and carers.

I hope you all have a good Easter.

Le dùrachdan

Jo Scott-Moncrieff

*The Lochalsh Pipe Band travelled down to Kilmarnock on the 12<sup>th</sup> March to compete at the Scottish Schools Pipe Band Championships. The band performed well and were pleased to finish in 8<sup>th</sup> place out of the 19 bands in the Novice Juvenile 'B' category. Pupils enjoyed the trip away and they are looking forward to competing again later in the year and also playing at many local community events. The band are always looking to recruit new pipers and drummers (Side Drum/ Bass/Tenor). If any pupils are interested in joining please contact Mr. Stewart*



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## The Coffee Bothy Man

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March Andrew Jones, owner and manager of The Coffee Bothy in Broadford delivered a talk to our S5 and S6 pupils about choices, life paths and the importance of being yourself. A former teacher, vet and all round positive individual, Andrew shared some inspirational insights to help our young people navigate what can be a challenging time in their lives. A huge thank you to Andrew for this, and to our Seniors for being such a respectful audience.

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### 100 CLUB PRIZE DRAW

**1st Prize: Amanda Stark**

**2nd Prize: Mary Docherty**

**3rd Prize: Margaret-Ann Matheson**

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By Jenny Matheson, S5



By Holly Moss, S5



## YPI Final

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March saw the Final of this year's YPI engagement. Four teams of S3 pupils delivered presentations championing their chosen charities to a judging panel and an audience of S2 and S3 pupils.

Youth and Philanthropy Initiative is supported by the Wood Foundation and provides the opportunity for our young people to develop their skills through a series of activities aimed at exploring social issues and charities providing supports in managing these. This year's finalists were championing Crocus Highland, Kyle and Lochalsh Community Trust, Crossroads and Mikeysline.

Thank you to Karen Kennedy, Melanie Sinclair, Dougie Pincock, Eleanor Strath and Izzy Moran for being our judges and to last year's winners Izzy Somerville and Josie Beveridge for helping them make their decision.

A massive well done to all the groups who presented and the presentation winners were Elizabeth Jones, Dasha Griffiths and Vivienne Goodman who secured £3000 for their charity, Mikeysline. Ava Ferreira, Alice Hammond and Conall Ralston secured £50 for their display board for Crocus Highland.

Current S2 will begin their YPI journey in S3 and we expect big things from them!



By Bea Hammond, S3

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For 2022/23 Exam Preparation Time, has been agreed from **Monday 24 April to Friday 26 May** inclusive.

The last day in school before Study Leave is Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> of April.

Pupils return to school on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May.

Pupils sitting exams which take place on or after the 29<sup>th</sup> of May should return the day after their last exam. These dates are:

**Monday 29 May** – Psychology (pupils return to school on Tuesday the 30<sup>th</sup> of May)

**Tuesday 30 May** – Design and Manufacture (pupils return to school on Wednesday the 31<sup>st</sup> of May)

**Wednesday 31 May** – Practical Cake Craft (pupils return to school on Thursday the 1<sup>st</sup> of June)



By Bethany Stewart, S6

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