

ARD SGOIL A'PHLUIC/PLOCKTON HIGH SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER—Week ending Friday 4th November

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy start to the new term and I'm delighted to share some highlights with you in this newsletter. Last Wednesday, we welcomed pupils from our associated primary schools for a Basketball Festival which was organised by the school and High Life Highland. Our S3 are working towards achieving their Sports Leader qualifications and they did an excellent job of supporting the primary pupils to enjoy the day. In the afternoon, S1 pupils were involved in Art Workshops with Sarah Longley and you can see some of their impressive artwork in these pages.

In conjunction with Developing the Young Workforce and with support from Skills Development Scotland, our senior pupils enjoyed a Business Breakfast in school yesterday. It was great to hear the buzz of conversation in the hall as our pupils took the opportunity to speak with representatives from local employers and businesses. Many thanks to the representatives, your support is very much appreciated. We will be welcoming more employers and businesses on the 8th of December when we have our Careers Fair.

The Senior Charities Group held their first fundraiser of the term: a Halloween Spooktacular dress-down day with proceeds to Maggie's Highland Cancer Care and they have been busy organising the Blythswood Boxes for the annual Christmas Shoe Box Appeal. We thank the Senior Charities Group for their hard work, both in raising awareness of issues and for the important organisational work they put in to support us all to contribute to those in need.

Finally, I encourage you all to participate in the National Discussion on Scottish Education which is running until the 5th of December. You can find out more through the link provided in this newsletter, including useful guides and advice for parents and carers about how to organise discussion groups and submit your views. It is a great opportunity to contribute your ideas to the future of Scottish Education and it is really important that the Scottish Government hears from parents, carers and the wider community. You don't have to work in education or have children in school to contribute your views, so please share the link to the website with anyone who would like to contribute:

<https://consult.gov.scot/national-discussion-scottish-education/>

I hope you all have a good weekend.

Le dùrachdan

Jo Scott-Moncrieff

Sgoil Chiùil Na Gàidhealteachd will hold their annual Pre-Christmas concert in Kyle village Hall on Saturday 19th November at 7:30 p.m. In keeping with our tradition, proceeds from this event will go to a local charity, and this year the beneficiary is Balmacara Old Mill Hall restoration fund. Tickets will be available on the door, and price information will be available soon on the Sgoil Chiùil web site at www.musicplockton.org.



The Big Totem Draw

Schools and community centres all over Skye and Lochalsh recently took part for the BIG TOTEM Draw, organised by local artist Sarah Longley. Inspired by a poem by Michael Longley, children and adults have drawn their own interpretation of the poem.

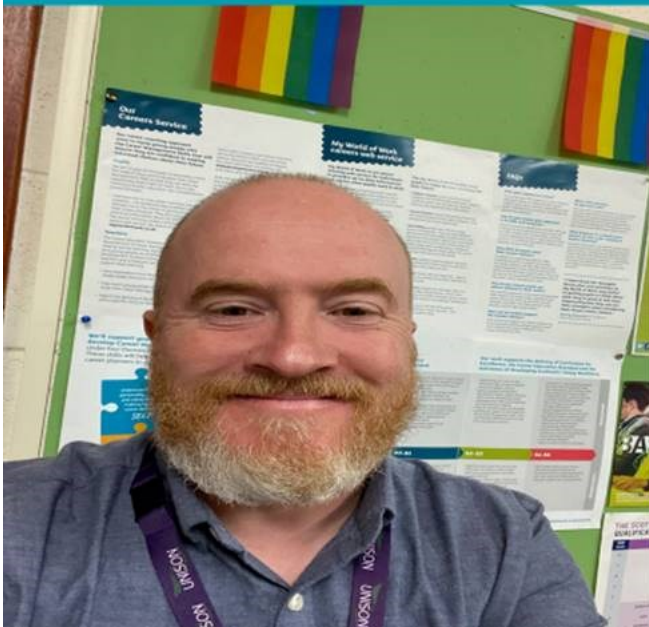


Hello! My name is Stuart and I am delighted to be the new Skills Development Scotland Careers Adviser supporting Plockton HS. My role is to provide Careers Information, Advice and Guidance to pupils from S1 to S6 via a combination of groupwork and individual careers interviews. This can involve identifying skills, planning and goalsetting and identifying pathways and opportunities with practical support, such as completing applications and CV's, as required.

We also offer the MyWorldofWork Web Service which has lots of useful careers related tools and information for pupils parents & carers.

I can be contacted via the Channels below:

Stuart Bauld SDS Careers Adviser - How to find me!



- I will be In school every Thursday
- Drop-In Sessions offered to pupils at Lunchtime
- My email address is stuart.bauld@sds.co.uk
- My Phone number is: **01463 383373**
- Delighted to support Pupils, Parents & Carers
- Referrals can be made directly to myself or via Guidance
- Don't forget to check out <https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/>

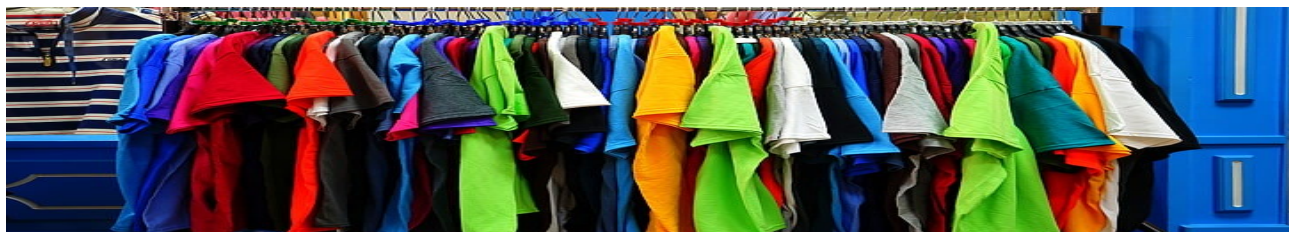
Information on our service: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-7MxZJ2ICXI>

A tour of My World of Work: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wskKjNxiKf0>

SWAP SHOP

Swap Shop has grown! Due to the success of swap shop, we are now based in the recce area on a Thursday lunchtime. Items available to swap or buy for £1 include books, clothes, shoes, DVDs, unused toiletries and bags. Erin Finlayson and Megan MacDougall are doing a wonderful job running the shop as part of their charities group work. Money raised from swap shop goes back into swap shop, buying items from a range of different charity shops.'

'There is still a lot of lost property that has not been collected – even with the lost property cupboard being open every Thursday lunchtime. There are especially a lot of coats! Mrs Forrest & the swap shop team are now in the process of sorting through 7 black bags of lost property. If there are names on items, they will be returned. Items that have been left longer than 3 months and are in a suitable condition, will be washed and put into swap shop. Any items that has been left longer than 3 months and not in a suitable condition, will be given to fabric recycling. This is to prevent big piles of lost property building up in the future. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter



**Parent Council Meeting - Thursday 10th November at 7pm
In Plockton High School**



Our S1 Parents Evening takes place in school on Tuesday the 22nd of November from 6pm-8pm.

Pupils will be supported to make appointments with their teachers and we look forward to having these discussions in person this year.

Girls Football - The S1/2 Girls football team competed in the local round of the SFA SPAR Football Cup just before the October holidays against other Highland schools. The girls played exceptionally well for their first competition and managed to secure 2nd place and progress to the Regional round in Elgin on 21 November. Well done to Mairi Finlayson, Leah Stewart, Kelly Lin, Poppy MacKenzie, Maria Stewart, Abigail MacRae, Lexi Cox and Nell MacDonald.



Boys Football - The U15 played in the first festival for the Highland Schools League before the October holidays. They were up against some tough competition but managed to play well and score a few goals. They are waiting to hear when their next fixtures are, well done to: CAMERON HILL, JOSH WHITTINGHAM, ALLY TALBOT, MATTHEW NORTH, MURDO MACRAE, HAMISH MACLEAN, , OWEN MACKENZIE, CHARLIE MACLAREN LEE, ALEX DRUMMOND, LEWIS FRASER, SEAN CAMPBELL, GAVIN COX, OLIVER NORTH, CONNOR WEEGAN



BUSINESS BREAKFAST

On Thursday 3rd November all S5/6 and some S4 students had the opportunity to enjoy a Business Breakfast. Working in partnership with our great DYW Coordinator, Claudia Pech, 15 businesses came to enjoy an hour of networking and talking to our students about future possibilities within their sectors, topped off by many delicious breakfast pastries supplied by the Midge Bite café. Students found out about the many routes in to work, training and further education by talking to representatives from a variety of local employers. This sort of 'no pressure' event allows students to feel confident asking questions and finding out more about careers they hadn't previously thought of, some times igniting a spark of curiosity and desire to find out more. The businesses present gave their time generously and some have offered to host workplace visits to embellish the students experiences.

With thanks to SSE, Mowi, Qinetiq, NHS, RJ MacLeod, LSHA, KLCT, NTS, Eilean Iarmain Estate, Attadale Estate, Chocolates of Glenshiel, Kennedy Accountants, Midge Bite Café, Atlas Arts, Countryside Learning, WHC UHI, SDS



How do we get involved in the National Discussion as Parent Councils and also individuals?

Please visit the webpage, where you will find further information.

<https://consult.gov.scot/learning-directorate/discussion-guide-for-parents-and-carers/>

There are number of **set questions** that Parents & Carers are being asked and the attached documentation has clear information that shares these questions and supports these discussions with background information. The National Discussion **closes on 5th December 2022.**

It has been made very clear that submissions to these questions can be made through the following methods:

1. *This web form is the easiest and most thorough way for one person to feed-back the points raised by their group's discussion. The form also offers you the chance to upload anything that might help describe the content of your group's discussions (e.g. videos, photos, mind maps, drawings etc). [online feedback form](#).*
2. *Please know, that if there are people in your group who want to submit their own personal thoughts please encourage them to [use the online survey](#) directly.*
3. *If neither of these options fit your group's needs, you can instead email a summary to nationaldiscussiononeducation@gov.scot or add content to Instagram or Twitter with using #TalkScottishEducation. Please remember to include a rough description of who was in your group and how many people took part.*

BLYTHSWOOD SHOEBOX APPEAL

Very impressed with the generosity and compassion of our young people (and their parents/carers!). Blythswood collected 43 filled shoeboxes from Plockton Primary School and Plockton High School plus a huge box of miscellaneous items to help with the 2022 Blythswood Shoebox Appeal. Special mention to registration class 1.1 who filled two boxes as a class and also had another two boxes brought in, as well as additional items; and well done to the Senior Charities Group for all their work in organising the wrapping, delivery, collection, checking and uplift of the boxes.

