

ARD SGOIL A'PHLUIC/PLOCKTON HIGH SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER—Week ending 16th February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are nearly halfway through the term and you can view in the pages of this newsletter just some of the work our pupils have been doing in school. There are some lovely photographs of S3 pupils learning drystone walling skills as part of their Crofting course and you can read all about the event-packed Science and Art excursion to Dundee which took place recently. We also have some information about forthcoming events, including a recitals evening on the 27th of February featuring pupils who are preparing for their performance examinations in Music.

We had to make some adjustments to the prelim schedule because we missed a whole week due to the snow. Pupils coped well with the change and have taken a purposeful approach to sitting their prelims. It is important to say that prelims take place some time before the actual exams so they are a good opportunity for pupils to identify which areas they need to improve on while there is still time to do that. For some subjects, there are also assignments or folios (coursework elements) which need to be completed this term. These coursework elements are assessed as part of the final assessment for the course so it is well worth taking the time to make sure coursework elements are completed to a high standard. All this means a busy time of year for our senior pupils as they gain some useful experience in managing their time and prioritising work. There are two Parents' Evenings coming up for our senior pupils and we encourage parents and carers to use this opportunity to meet with teachers and discuss progress and next steps.

Parents' Evenings

S5&6 = Thursday 15th February, 6pm – 8pm

S4 = Tuesday 5th March, 6pm – 8pm

At this time of year we are also planning ahead for next year's options. Pupils in S3 – S5 will be asked to give initial indications of the subjects they would like to study next year. These initial indications help us to draw up the column options from which pupils will make their final choices for session 2024-25. The final option choice form is discussed both at home and in school before subject choices are agreed.

It is important to state that there is no option choice process which will allow every pupil to get every subject they want. Inevitably, there will be some difficult choices to make if two desirable subjects are running at the same time and we encourage pupils to speak with Pupil Support colleagues and our Careers Officer, Stuart Bauld can help with information about recommended qualifications for specific courses and occupations.

It is Seachdain na Gàidhlig (World Gaelic Week) from Monday 19th – Friday 25th February. Plockton 3-18 School will be participating in this with Cofaidh 's Còmhradh (Coffee and a Blether in Gàidhlig) on Thursday afternoon and a range of Gaelic workshops for S1 and S2 pupils on the Friday morning.

Thursday 22nd February is Say A Gaelic Phrase Day and you can follow this link for details of how to take part in that and further information about the week:

<https://seachdainnagaidhlig.scot/>

Finally, just a reminder that we have holidays and an In- service day next week so the school will be closed to pupils on Monday 19th, Tuesday 20th and Wednesday the 21st of February.

Le dùrachdan

Jo Scott-Moncrieff



The College is holding a taster day on Wednesday 28th February at their Portree Centre.

Tasters are available in the following courses:

- **NPA Bakery SCQF 4**
- **NPA Beauty SCQF 4**
- **Foundation Apprenticeship: Construction Craft & Technician SCQF 4**
 - **SFW Sport & Recreation SCQF 4**
 - **NPA Drawing & Painting SCQF 5**

Pupils in S4 & S5 can sign up in school for two taster sessions on the 28th of February to gain hands-on experience and hear more about what is involved with the courses.

The deadline for signing up is Thursday 22nd February.

S3 CROFTING

Drystone Walling Techniques





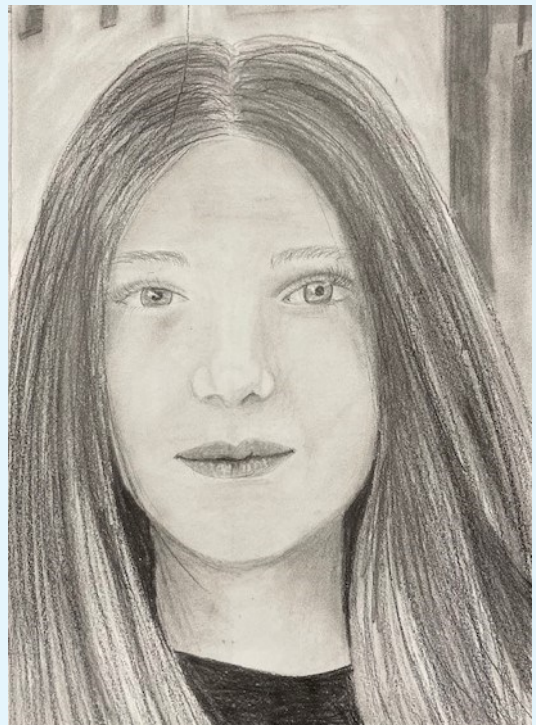
By Eilidh McWilliams, S3



By Lili Jones, S3



By Lola Boswell, S3



By Ganna Fraser, S3



SEACHDAIN NA GÀIDHLIG

WORLD GAELIC WEEK

COFAIDH 'S CÒMHRADH

Coffee and a Blether

DIARDAOIN 22 DHEN GHEARRAN

Thursday 22nd February 1400 - 1515

ÀRD SGOIL A' PHLUIC

Plockton High School

*Faodaidh duine ionadail 's an cairdean
a' tighinn gus Gàidhlig a bruidhinn.*

*Inviting members of the local community and friends of the school
to engage in using Gàidhlig in an informal manner.*



AN EVENT ORGANISED BY
BUN SGOIL A' PHLUIC

RAISING
MONEY FOR



Down's
Syndrome
Scotland

WWW.SEACHDAINNAGAIDHLIG.SCOT



FOOD FOR THOUGHT
EDUCATION FUND



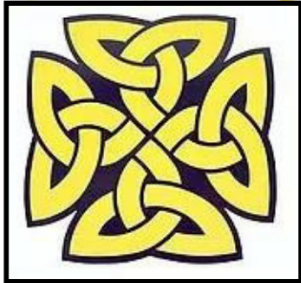
Bòrd na Gàidhlig



#cleachdi



PLOCKTON HIGH SCHOOL



Consairt Ciùil

RECITALS CONCERT

Dimàirt 27mh An Gearran 7f

TUESDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 7PM

An opportunity to listen to senior students in preparation for their forthcoming performance exams. This concert will include Pop, Traditional, Country, Disney and everything inbetween.



**DONATIONS
TOWARDS
MUSIC DEPT.
FUNDS**

Engineering Trip to Dundee

A group of sixteen S2 and S3 girls headed off on a residential trip to Dundee on Tuesday 30th January. With two train connections, one of which was only 7 minutes to get across 5 platforms, it was quite the adventure getting to our hostel. Once we were settled we got hot chocolate and then began making our lunch for the following day.

On Wednesday 31st January we had breakfast at the hostel and headed out to get the bus to Monifieth High School where we participated in a range of Engineering and Physics workshops with other students from the area and school.

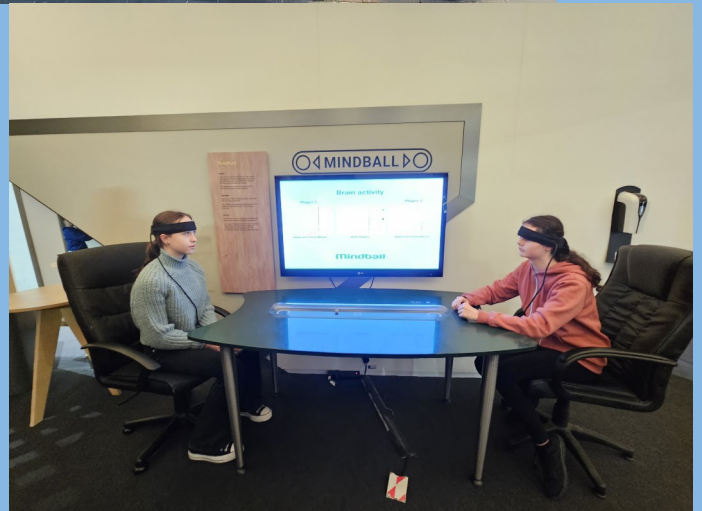
We studied Pneumatics, Drone Flight, Robotic programming, Civil engineering building challenge and how to map our universe using light! It was a busy and fun day and we learnt a lot at the different workshops.

After getting caught in the rain, as there was no bus shelter, while we waited for the bus back to Dundee, we headed straight to the V&A to warm up and look at their exhibitions on Scottish design. We saw tapestries, the reassembled Ingram Street cafe, which was designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh, and learnt about the video game history of Dundee – including the Lemmings, along with other objects that have connections to Dundee and Scotland. We learnt about architects that designed the Maggie's centres, the one in Inverness was designed by Charles Jencks. One hour was not enough time here – but it closed at 5pm.

We went back to our hostel to relax before heading out for dinner – after accumulating a table for 18 we sat down together and enjoyed a dinner all together. Before bedtime we played games in the games room and then went to get ourselves ready for our final day. On Thursday we got up a little later, had breakfast and made our lunch for the day and headed off to the Science Centre – which was just what we needed as we were all quite tired. Here we got to explore and investigate for ourselves such things as upthrust and flight, optical illusions and the mind, and the medical section which had historical implements from the Ninewells Hospital in Dundee – such as lobotomy tools and ancient key hole surgery instruments. But the highlight was the Teddy bear hospital and of course – MIND-BALL. The machine detected your alpha and theta brain waves and the more relaxed you were the more the ball moved towards your opponent! Ms McLaughlin won against Ms Dell and our student winner was Eilidh, look at the picture showing her graph which has her VERY relaxed brain waves!

Back we went to the hostel to collect our bags and off to the train station we went for our 2 connecting trains home and the secret conductor codes for our tickets. We arrived home shattered - feeling like it flew by but that we also accomplished a lot.

Thank you to all the students that made the trip enjoyable and easy for each other and the staff. They conducted themselves to an excellent standard and looked out for each other. We were very proud to have you representing the school and loved the opportunity to be able to go away again on overnight excursions.



ENGINEERING TRIP CONT.....



100 CLUB DRAW

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 1st Prize: | Laura Slaughter |
| 2nd Prize: | Mrs G Johnstone |
| 3rd Prize: | Charlene Maguire |

Feel Good February

The senior Charities Group are encouraging us to look after our mental health and have been posting daily hints to support positive mental health, together with a song of the day. We have looked at the importance of sleep, hydration, exercise, friendship and doing good for others. Have a look at the Fios and see what you could do too!