



# ARD SGOIL A'PHLUIC/PLOCKTON HIGH SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER—Week ending Friday 13th May

Dear Parents/Carers,

With just two weeks left in our SQA exam diet we are very much looking forward to welcoming the P7 pupils into the school next week for their Transition Week.

Two years ago we were in full lockdown and transition was a virtual experience, last year we were able to offer two days in school for the P7s and this year we have been able to return to our usual full week when the pupils will be in their S1 classes, following a timetable which will give them an experience of all of their subjects and a sense of High School structures and routines. We look forward to the parents of the P7s coming into the school for a meeting on Thursday 19th May at 7pm and this will be our first face to face parents' meeting for two years. All of this normality feels very nice.

I hope you enjoy this week's Newsletter which runs to two pages and I wish you all a lovely weekend.

*Le durachdan, Susan Galloway*



Artwork by Lola McLaughlin, S6

### CEO VISIT

Recently, Plockton Primary and Plockton High School enjoyed a visit from Mrs Donna Manson, Highland Council Chief Executive, who, after meeting with SMT, a group of staff, a group of pupils and visits to the Music School and Boatbuilding, was most complimentary about the work we all do here in Plockton High School to maximise our pupils' attainment and to provide as many opportunities as possible. We appreciated the opportunity to share all of this with the CEO and thank her for taking the time to visit us.

### Friday timings

From the start of the new timetable (30th May), there will be a slight change to our Friday timings. This has come about as a number of staff have expressed concern that a combination of the perception that Friday is only a half-day and the inclusion of both a break and a lunchtime fragments the day which has had an impact on the effectiveness of pupils' learning. We sought information from other schools and are moving to a model which is more in line with what other schools offer:

Reg	8.50-8.55	5 mins
Period 1	8.55-9.40	45 mins
Period 2	9.40-10.25	45 mins
Period 3	10.25-11.10	45 mins
<b>Extended break</b>	<b>11.10-11.40</b>	<b>30 mins</b>
Period 4	11.40-12.25	45 mins
Period 5	12.25- 1.05	45 mins

We retain 5 teaching periods and there will be a wider range of food available in the Dining Room at the extended break (I would remind you that we also run a Breakfast Club). We believe this is a tighter structure which will have a positive impact on pupils' learning and attainment.



by Higher Photography student, Bethany Stewart

### **PLOCKTON HIGH SCHOOL S3 WEEK OF WORK**

In the past, our S3 pupils have participated in a Week of Work as their final week in S3. The Week of Work was part of the transition to the Senior Phase where students really start to think about their next step beyond school. Previously we were able to arrange individual Work Experience placements for two days, alongside three days of in-school workshops and work-related events and presentations. This is still not possible in many workplaces but Ms George is working on some kind of work experience opportunities for pupils in small groups. Parents of S3 pupils will receive more information as details are finalised.

So, in the week beginning Monday 23rd May, S3 pupils will be off timetable all week and we very much hope they will have an enjoyable and stimulating week. Thanks to Ms George who, as the school's DYW Lead has always provided an excellent experience for our S3 pupils. She has worked, this year, with Claudia Pech who is the DYW Development Co-ordinator for Plockton and Portree High Schools and she has provided the following perspective:

**DYW**  
Developing the  
Young Workforce

*“As part of the Week of Work at Plockton High School starting Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, DYW (Developing the Young Workforce), is supporting the school by providing an extensive programme throughout the week which is aimed at pupils to gain an insight into the world of work and what skills are needed for different sectors.*

*Pupils will be provided with the opportunity to hear from a range of employers and education providers, which includes the National Trust, MOWI, UHI College, Ice Factor, Outdoor Learning Scotland to name a few. Pupils can explore their aspirations and discuss different careers with the employers and*

*it is also important to promote the importance of having a good career. This will help pupils to understand the link between subjects, their skills, and the opportunities that can arise from that.”*