

ARD SGOIL A'PHLUIC/PLOCKTON HIGH SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER—Week ending 6th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the first term of this session I would like to wish all pupils, parents and carers a good October break. I hope you enjoy some family time and perhaps even some lovely autumn weather.

This week, all pupils in S4 – S6 received Interim Reports which are updates on their progress so far on the courses they have chosen to study this session. These short reports include a target grade they are aiming for; a grade they are currently working at and an update on effort, behaviour and homework. We encourage pupils to review these reports and discuss them with you at home. Please make contact with the school if you did not see your child's report and we will be happy to provide you with a further copy. Pupils should expect that the work becomes more challenging as they move up the school and our senior pupils have been responding well to the demands of their new courses. If you have any concerns about your child's progress then please do make contact with their Pupil Support teacher. There will be a further, more detailed report on progress next term.

Our S1 pupils are coming to the end of their first term as Plockton High School pupils and they have been a delight to have in school. Their enthusiasm has been really impressive and we look forward to this continuing after the holidays. All S1 pupils will have a one-to-one interview with a Pupil Support teacher in advance of the S1 Parents' Evening. The Parents' Evening takes place on Thursday 16th November.

A main focus this term has been working on two important priorities in our plan for the year: our Vision, Values and Aims and our Promoting Positive Relationships policy. All pupils have taken part in reflection and discussion about the school's Vision, Values and Aims which we are updating this year to reflect that we are a 3-18 school. The first lesson referred to the values which appear on the ceremonial mace of the Scottish Parliament: Wisdom, Justice, Compassion and Integrity. Pupils were invited to think about why these words were chosen and consider which values are most important to us as a school community. There is an opportunity for parents, carers and members of the community to take part in this reflection and see examples of pupils' work on Thursday the 16th of November from 4.30 – 6pm in the Assembly Hall, just before the S1 Parents' Evening. This event was postponed from this term and we hope to see you here on the new date.

Pupil Council Representatives and our Prefects met this week to represent their peers and contribute to our work on Promoting Positive Relationships in school.

In the first week of our new term we have a Halloween Disco for S1 and S2 pupils. This will take place in the Assembly Hall here in school on Thursday 26th October from 7pm – 9pm. Tickets go on sale this week and there will be a further opportunity to get tickets during the first week of the new term.

I wrote to parents and carers earlier this term about all Plockton Primary School classes being relocated to the high school buildings to allow full investigation of the buildings at the primary school site. This will mean some changes to how both schools operate so that we can share the same site effectively and we will be working on these during next term. There is more information in the letter to the parents and carers of Plockton Primary School pupils and this letter is included in the email attachments with this newsletter. From the start of next term, primary school pupils will be coming up to the high school at lunchtimes so they can access hot meals as the canteen facilities at the primary school are currently unavailable. The primary lunchtime will be timetabled separately to the high school lunchtime.

The Parent Council AGM took place earlier this week and a new committee is in place. There will be a meeting on the 7th of November at 7pm in the school at which the main item will be preparations for the Christmas Fayre which takes place on Saturday the 2nd of December.

Thank you for your support of the school this term.

Le dùrachdan

Jo Scott-Moncrieff



Head Prefects—
Hannah Matheson
and Emily Macdonald



Prefect Team



Senior Prefect Team—
Finlay Miller & Morigan
Miller with Head Prefects
Hannah Matheson & Emily
Macdonald



Girls football

An S3/4 team competed in the Highland local round of the SPAR Cup in Inverness on 25 September. The competition was of a high standard, with many Inverness school teams including girls who play regularly for their local clubs.

The Plockton High School team competed very well, especially considering they had little training or experience, and finished 5th in their group including a draw against Millburn Academy who qualified for the next round. The girls will have further opportunities to compete in festivals against Highland schools that are currently being organised throughout the year.

The team for the SPAR cup were: Lexi MacKenzie, Tegan Bruce, Lucy Matheson, Isabella Langlands, Niamh Morrison, Poppy MacKenzie & Charlotte Boswell.



**We have a new date that
the School Photographer is
coming to the school.
This is the 28th November.**

My experience at the Fire Skills development programme, Kyle of Lochalsh.

By Finlay Miller, S6

I was given the opportunity by Plockton High School and the Kyle fire station to go on a five day course. This course provided Fire safety skills, how to communicate as a team, how to successfully work as a team and the effects anti social behaviour has on the Fire and rescue service. These ideas intrigued me as it covered all the aspects which would benefit me in the working environment. Prior to starting, I was fitted in my allocated gear, by Marty and Andrew. They explained to me how having comfortable gear is essential as that should be the least of your worries when in the line of duty. You can't do your job effectively if your gear is not fitted appropriately.

The first day we all sat down and listened to the Fire station crew. This is where we met the other crew members: Danny and Donnie. They were all very friendly and explained to us exactly what we would be doing. They had full confidence in us that we would succeed in the training. After the briefing we were given toast which was always positive. The next day we learnt essential skills on how to safely exit a building on fire. This is where I learned the method of having one hand on the wall at all times, sweeping techniques to determine if the floor is walkable and to wave your hands in the air. It was rather amusing to constantly be waving your hands in the air while people watched, however it was all necessary for the exercise. These skills I learnt would be essential when I leave school as I'll have a greater understanding on what to do if I were in a situation with fire, and will be able to apply these skills I've learnt in that situation.

When the final day arrived I was fully prepared to carry out the practical presentation. This is where we demonstrated what we had learnt during the course of the week. It all went well and I was given my Fire skills certificate. I have much appreciation for Kyle of Lochalsh fire and rescue crew who were very kind and taught us all we needed to know e.g essential fire skills and how to work as a team to name a couple. My time at the station has given me a greater understanding of what the Fire and rescue service does and because of this made me want to become a retained firefighter. Thank you Plockton and Kyle fire station for this amazing experience.



S2 ARTWORK

S2 LOGOS

