

ARD SGOIL A'PHLUIC/PLOCKTON HIGH SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER—Week ending 29th June 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the final newsletter of the 2022-2023 session. As you will see from these pages, school continues to be very active towards the end of term with pupils and staff involved in a range of activities in addition to working in classrooms. Our timetable changed at the end of May so pupils have been getting started on their new courses since then, including Geography Fieldwork and other outdoor opportunities to take advantage of the recent spell of good weather.

Our End of Session ceremony took place recently with music, recitations and speeches from pupils, teachers and our guest speaker, Dr David Murray. We celebrated the achievements of pupils in all year groups and also said goodbye to the pupils who are leaving school this year and moving on to the next stages in their lives. We wish them all well and always like to hear news of how they are getting on.

The National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music had their Summer Concert last Saturday and it was a wonderful celebration of the work of the Music School. It also marked the last Summer Concert for Dougie Pincock as director of the Music School. Dougie has been in post since the inception of the Music School 23 years ago so has now been responsible for encouraging and nurturing almost a generation of young people. Colleagues, friends and Music School students past and present took the opportunity to speak of how much they valued Dougie's encouragement and support. There was also a surprise for Dougie when his work was recognised with an induction into the Scottish Traditional Music Hall of Fame from the organisation Hands up for Trad. It was a fantastic night.

As the session comes to an end, we thank colleagues who are leaving for their work with learners here in school and wish them well. This year Jo Cumine is leaving after five years as a Pupil Support Assistant and we thank her for the support she has given to so many pupils and for her commitment to supporting pupils to have enriching experiences such as horse riding.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank Bex McFleat, Amy Ottway and Velina Vateva who have been working as Pupil Support Assistants with us over the course of this session.

I am delighted to say that we also have a member of staff joining us from August. Our new Music Teacher, Ms Shankland, was in school this week and she joins us in August to take up the post of full time Music Teacher.

There is also a change in the School Management Team as Mrs Gess will be Acting Depute Head for the coming session. We welcome her to the management team and thank Mr Clark for his work as Acting Depute Head and Mrs Salvage for her work as Acting Faculty Head for Maths and PE this year.

Thank you for your support of the school over the past session and I wish you an enjoyable summer.

Le dùrachdan

Jo Scott-Moncrieff

Tosgairean na Gàidhlig 2023/4



Cuiribh fàilte bhlàth, chridheil air Tosgairean na Gàidhlig 2023/4. Emily NicDhòmhnaill, S6 is Hamish MacGilleEathain, S3.

“Tha mi air leth toilichte a bhith nam thosgaire na Gàidhlig am bliadhna. 'S e ar dleastanas a bhith a' brosnachadh na Gàidhlig timcheall na sgoile, a' cur tachartasan Ghàidhlig air dòigh agus a bhith a' freagairt ceistean sam bith a th' aig daoine mun chànan. Tha mi gu mòr a' coimhead air adhart ris an obair a tha rotham.”

“I am very pleased to be one of the Gàidhlig ambassadors this year. Our job is to encourage and promote Gaelic around the school, to organise Gaelic events and to answer questions people may have about the language. I am very much looking forward to the work associated with this role.”

S1 SELF PORTRAITS



S2 Rainforest Presentation

Just before the new term started the S2 classes prepared and presented a campaign to inform the visiting P7's about the causes and effects of the destruction of the Amazon Rainforest and what could be done to stop this. Both incoming S1 classes visited the library during their induction week to view the colourful and informative posters, videos and displays prepared by the S2 classes. S2 pupils were on hand to share their knowledge of the topic and to answer questions. Class 2.2 were particularly innovative in their approach to engaging the new S1 who enjoyed playing the quizzes and games they had prepared -the knock a monkey from a tree skittle game was particularly popular! Thanks to Madame Reeves and Mr Jardine for bringing their classes along.

100 CLUB PRIZE DRAW

1st Prize: Nadia McCartney

2nd Prize: Mardi Wood

3rd Prize: Alison Macleod

This year we have two recipients of the Dux Award, our Principal academic award, based on cumulative SQA results from S4 and S5.

This year's recipients are (from left to right): Ruaridh Miller and Eleanor Strath.. The recipient of our Proxime Accesit award was Bethany Stewart. They were all presented with a certificate, a book of their choice and an engraved quach at our End of Session Ceremony.



S1 SELF PORTRAITS



Geography Fieldwork Day

The Nat 5 and Higher classes had a combined fieldwork 'taster day' in Plockton. Luckily the weather was dry and sunny – perfect for a day outside. In the morning we went to Coral Beach and each group tried out various physical geography techniques and tested the hypothesis that particle size decreases as distance from the sea increases. In the afternoon we walked down to Plockton village to plot land use and complete an environmental survey. Everyone then had a well-earned ice cream before returning to school. Hopefully some will even use these techniques and results for their assignments! Thanks to Ms Ottway and Ms Cumine for accompanying the classes and participating in the fieldwork so enthusiastically.





Uniform

We look for your support in topping up items of uniform over the summer holidays so that pupils are wearing uniform when we return in August. In particular, leisure wear should be kept for PE classes or other sporting activities. Our uniform is black trousers/skirt, a plain white or black shirt and a black jumper, cardigan or school hoody. School hoodies and ties are available to purchase from the school office.



Shinty

Plockton High School's shinty players were active with a recent tournament to Fort William on Monday 19 June for S3/4/5 to compete in the MacPherson Cup and again on Tuesday 20 June in a friendly match against Sgoil Ghaidhlig Glaschu for S2/3.

Everyone played extremely well – the senior team only lost 2 games out of 10 while the friendly match ended 2-2. Well done to: Kieran Martin, Poppy Glasgow, Lexie MacKenzie, Tegan Bruce, Isabella Langlands, Niamh Morrison, Summer MacLennan, Josh Whittingham, Owen MacKenzie, Hamish MacLean, Charlie MacVicar, Duncan Healy, Mairi Finlayson, Anna Matheson, Sean Campbell, Murdo Macrae, Abigail MacRae, Ali Talbot, Thomas Greville, Lewis Fraser.



Changes to the SQA Appeals service

Just a reminder that there is an SQA Appeals service which becomes available on Results day, Tuesday 8th of August. The following extract from the SQA website outlines the key differences from last year and full information can be found on the SQA website at: <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/79049.html>

This year we have had our second group compete in the Edinburgh University Remote3 Mars rover challenge, Team Cosmic Plock! And the robot rover, Marvin. The team had to design, build and program a Lego Mindstorms rover that would be tested 1.1km below in Boulby Underground mine. Both teams did really well in their designs and our second group gave a fantastic presentation to the judges, who were very impressed. The team (Arran, Adam, Noah, Lyra and Elisabeth) won the Perseverance Prize on testing day, with the judges commenting on the rovers ability to keep going with the tasks even after experiencing some initial difficulties. Hopefully we will be running this project next year, and would invited anyone in S1/2/3 who would be interested. Mr McGrath will share more details when he knows more!

