

Secondary Leavers' Assembly

A Leavers' Assembly on Thursday 30th May was well received by staff and pupils and allowed for a formal event to wish all 14 S5 and S6 leavers our very best wishes as they move onto the next stage of their education, gap year or working lives. We were delighted to have Mr. Adam Johnson, PT Pupil Support, whom the young people chose as this year's guest speaker. Mr Johnson gave a profound but aspirational message to our school leavers. In addition, Mr. Martin Stone Managing Director SPORTident UK Ltd also gave an interesting talk on the final Low Alpine Mountain Marathon (LAMM) that took place in Harris in June 2018, gave advice to all our young people and presented the school with a generous donation of £4000. Thank you to the Parent Council who presented school leavers with book tokens this session and also to the primary department who presented the S6 pupils assisting with primary lunchtime clubs with book tokens and certificates.



Sir E Scott School Leavers 2019 (photographed with Mrs MacSween, HT; Miss Donnelly, DHT; Mr Johnson, PT Pupil Support and key speaker; Mrs Campbell, Co-Chair of the Parent Council)

Secondary Leavers' Assembly

2019 School leavers list:

Alasdair Binns: Edinburgh Napier University- Social Sciences/English

Hannah MacLeod: a career in Early years & childcare. Hannah has successfully achieved her SVQ2 and completed lifeguard training

Kate MacLeod: UHI – Stornoway Campus- Business & Management

Sean Martin: UHI – Stornoway Campus /CalMac - Access to the Merchant Navy or Deck hand apprenticeship

Seumas Morrison: Heriot-Watt University- Mechanical Engineering

Kirsteen Morrison: Edinburgh Napier University - Veterinary Nursing

Erin Murray: Currently working in the family business

Eddie Owens: Gap year to work and build up Art Portfolio to apply next year.

Alexander Campbell: Maritime career

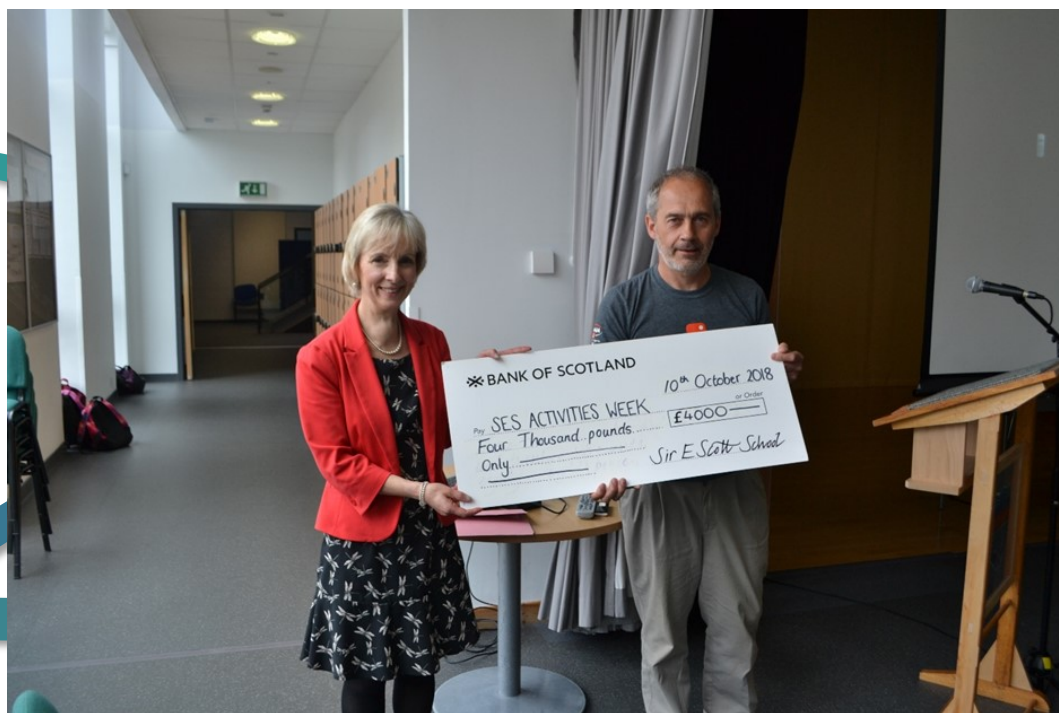
Anna Cumming: University of Edinburgh- Ecological & Environmental Sciences (firm choice)

Laura MacAulay: Modern Apprenticeship Early Years & Childcare(SVQ2)

Rebekah MacKinnon University of Aberdeen, Dundee or Glasgow - English/History

Jillian MacLennan – working gap year – career in Real Estate - Estate Agency work

Jessica Macleod - Sport & Recreation. Jessica has completed lifeguard training and is already working part time in Sports centre



Notes From the Head Teacher

Welcome to our June Newsletter, which highlights the work of the term in the secondary department and also brings session 2018-19 to a close.

As you will see from this brief newsletter the secondary department have been busy on a number of fronts, encouraging our young people to be enterprising, engaging in cultural, sporting and citizenship activities, which enable our pupils to develop skills for learning, life and work.

We have had a number of interesting and engaging events and speakers at the school this term, which we believe will have influenced our young people as they consider their own learning journeys in school and beyond. We were particularly pleased to welcome a group from Papua, Indonesia to SES during their time on Harris and we also welcomed Mr Alasdair Allan, MSP to the school whose presentation to the pupils was linked to the UNCR of Children's Rights. We also welcomed Mr Bernard Chisholm, Director of Education to Sir E Scott School during his end of session visits across the local authority

Learning & teaching

For our senior pupils and staff, this term saw the culmination of the year 's work as our young people sat their SQA exams. The majority of pupils made very good use of Study leave opting to come in to school for further tuition by teachers or preferring to study at home than in school. Now of course it is a waiting game and we hope that the results on Tuesday 6th of August will live up to expectations, particularly for our young people who have received conditional offers from various colleges and universities.

Thank you to the partners who have helped deliver courses and supported work placements for our pupils this session again –Mairi MacIver, CLD for assisting with the ASDAN course, the Scaladale Centre for their ongoing support with outdoor learning courses, local employers and businesses for supporting our S3 work placement week and other ongoing work placements for senior pupils throughout the session, Skills Development Scotland for their ongoing support at school events and on a regular basis with individual pupils and group work.

S1 pupils had the opportunity to experience relevant outdoor learning activities through the John Muir Award, which fits in so well to our school's setting and environment. S1 pupil progress reports were issued to parents, which we hope provided a clear overview of the pupils' strengths across all curricular areas and their next steps for improvement. Thank you to the parents who took the time to give some feedback, which was much appreciated.

A successful 3-day induction for P7s from SES and LMS, moving into S1 in August 2019, took place in May. Prior to that, P7 pupils from SES and LMS experienced well-planned weekly curricular transition opportunities, engaging successfully in a block of work in Science with Mr McCririck, in HE with Mrs Laing and the P7 GME pupils worked with S1 GM pupils and Miss MacLennan in doing preparatory work in Gàidhlig and Eachdraidh.

Mr Mulhern, English Department delivered YPI (Youth & Philanthropy Initiative) to S3 pupils, linking it to the English experiences and outcomes. This learning and teaching focus resulted in a very exciting and impressive 2019 YPI Final event on Friday 10th May. All 4 S3 groups made a particularly strong representation as to why the charity of their choice should receive the YPI cheque for £3000. It was clear from the presentations that the four groups had researched their charity very well and had put a lot of work into their fundraising efforts and their final presentations. They came across in a very mature and confident manner, which provided the judges with an incredibly hard task in choosing the winning group. The four charities chosen by pupils this year were: The Samaritans, Marie Curie, Western Isles Pregnancy Crises Support and the Hebridean Men's Cancer Support Group. The winning team consisted of

Notes From the Head Teacher — Continued

Emma Passmore, Charlotte Atkinson, Lola Sands and Hannah Ferguson with their chosen charity, the Western Isles Pregnancy Crises Support. This event was a good showcase of young people leading their own learning.

S2 have been participating in 'Decider Skills' Workshops, led by Mike Sullivan, CAMHS and assisted by Mr Johnson and Mrs Rogers. **Decider Skills are CBT MENTAL HEALTH SKILLS THAT ARE EFFECTIVE, FUN, MEMORABLE AND EASY TO USE.** One of the aims of the programme is to provide children, young people and adults with the skills to recognise their own thoughts, feelings and behaviours, and to monitor and manage their own emotions and mental health.

Across the secondary department pupils have experienced excellent opportunities to learn more about the world of work, the skills required for various careers and heard about various career pathways people have taken during our Developing the Young workforce events, culminating in the excellent RAF Youth event held at the school this term. I am indebted to the DYW working group, led by Mrs Laing and to Air Vice Marshall Ross Paterson who put much work and effort into taking this partnership forward and look forward to seeing further opportunities of engagement in the session ahead.

Celebrating Pupil Successes

We continue to be very proud of our young people's achievements and successes, within and out with the school setting. There has been a particularly strong emphasis on sporting achievements this term across our S1-4 year groups, with an article from Mr Johnson, PE Department on the recent WIIGA Sports Day and Youth Event; an update on Rachael Johnstone and Anish Toor achievements as they continue to do well in their chosen sport.

It is good to hear of other young people like Natalie Maclean successfully represented TNI netball team at a recent event in Inverness and continuing to do well at Highland dancing competitions, as does Emma Peterson and Abbie Lightbody; Jessica MacLeod, S5 school leaver was selected to play for TNI senior girls, and WIIGA team, at the island games; Connor MacDonald is showing a real talent in Darts and Cameron Mackay is developing an interest and skills in cycling also attending mainland events. Ellen Olley, Rhona Johnstone and Jessica Macleod attended Lewis Junior Netball Club weekly all season; while Mark Morrison, Calum Johnstone, Luke Johnstone attended Aths Football Club weekly and Mairianna Binns represented Stornoway Athletics Club. It is impressive to hear about that our young people are committing to weekly travel to Stornoway to further develop their skills and interests.

Notes From the Head Teacher — Continued

Alex Buchannan Smith Citizenship Award

Congratulations to Sean Martin who is this year's recipient of the annual Alex Buchannan-Smith Citizenship award, which is presented to the sixth year pupil who is deemed to have made the greatest contribution to the general ethos of the school community.



Notes From the Head Teacher—Continued

Harris Volunteer Centre Trophy

Congratulations to Hannah Macleod, S6 leaver who received the Harris Volunteer Centre trophy for Volunteering Excellence, presented by Mrs Kate Langley, Development Worker at our Leavers' Assembly. Hannah also received her Saltire certificates for 200 hours of volunteering. Well done, Hannah!

Also congratulations to Rebekah Mackinnon, S5 leaver who was awarded the Saltire certificate for 100 hours of volunteering.



The Donald Stewart Memorial Trophy 2019 Winner



Mr Donald Martin, Lord Lieutenant for the Western Isles & Marina Murray, Director of Development Stornoway Comunn na Gaidhlig presented Hannah with the Donald Stewart Memorial Trophy

Notes From the Head Teacher — Continued

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Nominations are sought by the Donald Stewart memorial Award trust on an annual basis from the 4 secondary schools for any S5/S6 pupil we feel has made a significant achievement during their time at the school. We were delighted to be told that Hannah MacLeod, S6 was this year's recipient. Congratulations and very well done, Hannah.

Mòd Na Hearadh 2019

A number of secondary pupils competed at Mòd na Hearadh. It was pleasing and encouraging to see a good level of entries in oral competitions from the secondary department this year. The Post Mod Concert was well supported by parents, extended family, friends and visitors to the island. The standard of performance by our children and young people was very impressive and was thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

Finally, I wish all our young people participating in various events during the summer a successful and enjoyable time.

Unfortunately, we say goodbye to Miss Alice Meaden, Miss Ishbal MacLennan and Miss Rebecca Dempsey who have been with us in their probationary teaching year, along with Miss Amy Clink, Chemistry. We wish them all the very best from pupils, staff and parents at SES School, as they take up teaching positions in Lewis, Cumbernauld, Dublin and Idaho respectively and thank them for their sterling work. Likewise, we say goodbye to the Dickson family, Connor and Logan who leave us at the end of this session. Although, Mr MacLeod, Technical Department is moving full time to the Nicolson Institute in August 2019, I am pleased he will continue to work with our Engineering Foundation Apprenticeships pupils next session. Mr MacLeod's input to the Technical Department over the last two years has been of a high quality and very much valued by the pupils and the school.

As we close for our summer holiday, I wish all pupils, staff and parents a well-deserved rest and a good holiday, whether that be at home or away on the mainland or abroad. We look forward to welcoming you back in August – staff on Monday 12th and pupils on Thursday 15th.

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable summer break and look forward to your continued support in session 2019-20, as we take forward new and challenging developments.

Aileen M MacSween

Head teacher



Latha Feachd Rìoghail an Adhair

Air 5 An t-Òg-mhìos, thàinig buidhean bho Fheachd Rìoghail an Adhair gu sgoil Sir E Scott air An Tairbeart airson obrachadh còmhla ris na sgoilearan. Bha tòrr diofar rudan a' tachairt air an latha: anns a' mhadainn, bha co-obrachadh leis na sgoileirean air fad; an uairsin bha bùth-obrach ann airson ionnsramaidean mar na pìoban agus drumaichean; bha cuideachd Coding UHI ann agus obraichean le UHI Stem. Bha bùth-obrach ann airson òran a sgrìobhadh còmhla ri Bethzienna Williams mar phàirt den charthannas 'Never Such Innocence'. Nuair a bha an co-obrachadh a' tachairt, dh'fheumadh sgoilearan a dhol ann am buidheannan agus seòrsa de bhara-cuibhle a thogail le dìreach an stuth a bh' aca ann am бага.

Aig uair feasgar, nuair a bha àm dìnnear ann, thainig pleana 'Typhoon' seachad air an sgoil gu math iosal. Fhuair a h-uile duine a-mach airson am plèana fhaicinn ach bha e seachad uabhasach luath!

Anns an fheasgar, chuidich buidheann bhon t-siathamh bliadhna, còmhla ri sgioba bho UHI, le bhith a' teagasg obair STEM gu sgoilearan anns a' bhun-sgoil. Le bhith a' cleachdadh sgilean einnseanaireachd, rinn na sgoilearan rudan a bha a' teagasg dhaibh mu dheidhinn de dh'fheumas einseannairean ann am Feachd Rìoghail an Adhair a dhèanamh san obair aca.

As dèidh na spòrsan diofaraichte a rinn sinn tron latha, chruinnich sgoilearan na h-àrd sgoil uile còmhla airson na sgeulachdan aig triùir de na daoine bho sgioba FRA a chluinntinn. Dh'inns iad dhuinn beagan mu dheidhinn ciamar a fhuair iad obair ann am FRA, dè th'aca ri dhèanamh agus dè na cothroman a tha a' tighinn leis an obair. Bha e gu math inntinneach agus dh'ionnsaich sinn uile tòrr.

Tron latha, bha aon bhuidheann de sgoilearan a' cur taisbeanadh ri chèile de rudan a bha sgoilearan a' dhèanamh. Aig deireadh an latha, chaidh an taisbeanadh a shealltainn de dhealbhan a thog iad air feadh na sgoile de rudan eadar-dhealaichte a bha daoine a' dhèanamh - mar eisimpleir, bha feadhainn a' cluich ceòl agus bha còmhlan a' cluich nam pìoban agus drumaichean. Sheall na dealbhan cho math 's a bha an latha a' còrdadh ris na sgoilearan.

Bhruidhinn an sgioba cuideachd mu Fheachd Rìoghail an Adhair ann an Alba. Dh'inns Hamish Scott, sgoilear air S5, cuideachd mu dheidhinn tubaist a thachair air beinn Ghilleabhal anns Na Hearadh nuair a chaidh itealan sìos mu sheachdadh bliadhna air ais.

Chòrd an latha gu mòr ris a h-uile duine agus fhuair sinn tòrr fiosrachaidh feumail bhon tachartas.



BLESMA (Military Charity for Limbless Veterans) talk

PC Rick Henderson arranged for two speakers from the Making Generation R project to visit SES at the end of April.

Jason Dobbs spoke to the S5 & 6 pupils, while Mick McConnell spoke to S3-6. Jason Dobbs served for 11 years in the Royal Marines joining straight from school. During Jason's active career his deteriorating mental health went unnoticed resulting in a near fatal suicide attempt. Discharged from service, Jason spent several years experiencing homelessness and drug, alcohol addiction becoming invisible to society until found by his friend. Jason now lives in Aberdeenshire with his family and travels the world helping the company he works for enhance the performance of the world's energy industry. He started sharing his story with Making Generation R this year and looks forward to making an impact through inspiration with young people in the years to come.

Mick McConnell served as part of the Royal Air Force Police as a dog handler. Whilst on patrol in Afghanistan searching for IED's his dog Memphis momentarily left his side and Mick stepped on a mine, causing life changing injury, eventually resulting in leg amputation. Through a lengthy and continued recovery, Mick has worked closely with the Royal Benevolent fund, sharing his story at the Hammersmith Apollo broadcast to cinemas across the UK. His dog Memphis became the winner of the 2015 Soldiering On Award, and he has been sharing his story with Making Generation R since 2017, talking to students across the country.

Papua-Scotland Study Tour 2019 – Lewis & Harris

Professor Alastair Macintosh, The Centre for Human Ecology, The Pearce Institute, Govan, Glasgow visited the school at the end of April with a group of delegates from Papua, Indonesia who were on a study tour of the island to experience a range and depth of community land trusts. The delegates met with P7 and S1-3 pupils, which provided a rich cultural/global citizenship experience for our pupils.

The P3/4 GME pupils welcomed the group with a Gaelic song, which was reciprocated with a song from Papua, and then some of the delegates shared a little about why they had come to Harris speaking in Indonesian. Pupils then had the opportunity to ask questions with an interpreter on hand to assist. The group were very impressed with the school building, the pupils and the fact that we are teaching through the medium of Gaelic.



S3 Enterprise Day

On the 22nd of May 2019, our year group took part in an Enterprise Day which was facilitated by the North Harris Trust and our PA teacher Mrs B Mackay. We visited multiple different businesses across the Isle of Harris, including the Isle of Harris Distillery, the Essence of Harris Factory and many more. The Distillery was the first stop on the trip, where Shona Macleod (manager of the Distillery) showed us around some of the different rooms in the building, including the Flavour Room, the Still Hall and the canteen, and she explained a bit about the many different jobs there are within the Distillery.

Next stop was the new Loom Shed brewery, with Jamie McGowan and his partner Callum Bennett. He talked to us about what went into both starting and running a business. Callum then showed us the basics of brewing beer. Then a quick trip down the road to the Essence of Harris factory. Deenie McGowan then told us a bit about the business and how they run day to day. We were introduced to some of the ladies who help make and sell the candles and we also discussed our favourite scents by Essence of Harris.

Finally, after a quick stop-off at school for a break, we set off to Bunavoneadar to check out the hydro scheme. David Wake (an employee of the North Harris Trust) told us some information about it and how much money it brings in for the trust usually which was very interesting. To finish the day, we set off to Huisinish for lunch and to complete an activity to do with business within Harris. This was facilitated by Michael Hunter and Gordon Cumming from the North Harris Trust. The activity consisted of creating a business plan in small groups that would benefit the local area. Some interesting ideas were put forward, such as a mobile beach bar, a sheep shop to buy all your woolly goods and a hotel for dogs. The day was both interesting and informative, and we all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.



Western Isles Island Games

A brilliant team performance in all three age groups -P7, S1 and S2. The S1 team came away with joint first prize and the S2's were second. Notable individual performances - Eilidh Macdonald and Luke Johnson both won the 100m sprint and Alasdair Langley, S1 came first in the High Jump. Well done everyone!



MVP Mentor Training

All of S5 have just completed 2 days of training in becoming a Peer Mentor. The Mentor in Violence Prevention programme will be running next session, which focuses on challenging prejudice, unhealthy behavioural norms and violence in our society.

It is based on the principle that through being an active bystander, young people are empowered and able to identify positive solutions to difficult situations that they may witness or be a part of. All of S5 were very focused, showing a high level of responsibility, insight and maturity throughout the course. They are looking forward to working with their peers as part of the PSE programme next term.

Well done.



Football

Rachael Johnstone, S4 spends most weekends travelling to the mainland in order to play for both Glasgow Celtic and Scotland. Travel costs to facilitate this are high, so a fundraiser took place to support Rachael and her family in allowing her to continue developing her Football Elite performance pathway. A significant sum of money was raised which will help enormously in supporting Rachael. Thanks to all who attended and contributed.



Netball

On Thursday 23rd May a group of S1/2 Nicolson girls and Natalie Maclean from SES, were invited to play in a netball tournament against local schools at Inverness Royal Academy.

We arrived slightly wobbly and as always a bit late, after a rough crossing. Our first game was against Lochaber and understandably we lost 4-2. However, with the first match out of the way, the training and determination kicked in and the team went on to win the remaining six matches and brought home a large trophy as Regional Champions! Well done girls!



John Muir Award

This award took place over 4 days, with lots of Outdoor Learning taking place for S1: Habitats, Flora and Fauna, Harris history, Navigation/Orienteering and Discovering and Exploring Diracleit and the Caw. South Harris--Northton Temple, Macleod Stone and learning about different types of Conservation - The Mink Project

"In every walk with nature, one receives far more than he seeks" John Muir



Mountain Biking

Recently, Anish Toor, S4 was competing in the second round of the HSBC British Downhill series in Fort William. He is competing at Scottish National level against the best of his age across Scotland. 2 races this year, including the last one at Fort William are UK competitions against the best in the UK. His race was on exactly the same track as the world's best Elite athletes compete on at the World Cup in two weeks, and the UK'S best Elite riders were competing that day with him.

As the race commentator said on the day.. 'anyone that can complete that course in under 10 minutes is a very good rider'. Anish did it in 6 mins, with only 1 timed race run due to the number of long red flag stoppages for serious injuries.

"I made a few silly mistakes on my race run which cost a lot of time but I was happy enough to come away with 38th out of 52. I knocked over a minute of my time from last year as well which is really good" Anish

Anish is sponsored by Bespoke Bicycles Hebrides Ltd. who provide equipment and technical support.

Anish is incredibly dedicated to his sport and demonstrates huge ambition, dedication and resilience in pursuing his passion for Downhill Mountain Biking. As Anish does not have access to a proper downhill track to train on, he's doing amazingly well, given his circumstances.

Well done from us all at SES and we wish Anish well in his future races.

Safe Riding!

Check out these awesome pictures.....what a pro!



Cycling

For almost a year now I have been going up to Stornoway every Saturday to “levels”. Levels is a group of approximately 10 in total. We practice our mountain biking skills in the castle grounds. We are all members of the Hebridean Cycle Club and follow the various trails in the grounds learning new skills like easier ways to get around obstacles, jumps, how to get over slippery surfaces and how to control braking on corners. It is normally Gavin Earons who leads the group.

In March I was given the chance to compete in my first race in Glasgow (SXC Round 1 – Cathkin Braes). It was snowing when we left and very cold. The snow was worse on the mainland but we made it to our accommodation. The day of the race the track was pretty muddy and wet, not great conditions! It was a great experience with all different age categories competing. The other week I competed in a race in Aberdeen (SXC 2019 Round 4 – Kirkhill Forest). The weather was the complete opposite this time with dry weather and warm temperatures. I was very pleased with my placings in my second race. While we are away at these competitions we also get the chance to ride trails near where the race is being held.

It is not a simple case of just turning up every Saturday. My bike needs to be kept in good condition and washed after every ride as depending on the weather it can be full of mud and leaves. Ali Glover at Bespoke Bicycles is fantastic and always a great help when I need any parts or information. We have to be careful in the grounds as there are lots of runners and walkers who sometimes are not keen to move out of the way!

Cameron Mackay ,S1



HeartStart

All S3 pupils are participating in the British Heart Foundation 'Heart Start' Course, which teaches essential Emergency Life Support Skills, such as CPR, Defibrillator Training and Basic First Aid. This course is part of the S3 Electives programme.



U13 Football

An absolute brilliant afternoon of Football with the Harris U13 team achieving 2 wins and a draw against 3 Lewis teams:

Harris 6 Ness 1

Harris 2 Back 2

Harris 5 Sty United 3

Well done Luke, Archie, Emma, Cameron, Ewen, Natalie and Kieran.

After some really hard games last season, and plenty defeats, it was great to start this seasons football with a great team performance and some notable wins!



Fundraising Ceilidh

Well done to our pupils who performed at a fundraising cèilidh at Amhuinnsuidhe castle.



Rachael Johnstone

On 2nd March I travelled to Celtic Park and signed for Celtic FC Girls Academy.

Since signing I have played 9 games for the under 19s including friendlies, 3 league games, and 2 cup games and I will be travelling down again in the last week of term for training sessions and the final league game against Hearts before the summer break.

I have also been selected to travel to Denmark next month with an u19 select team from Celtic comprising players from Celtic u15s, u19s and the development team.

To take part in an international tournament called the Dana Cup I also attended an SFA u16 national performance camp in St Andrews in May.

I have found the travelling quite tiring but I am enjoying the experience and I have noticed an improvement in my player development and skill.

Last weekend we held a fundraiser in Tarbert CC to raise funds to help with my travel costs. There was a good turnout for the quiz, raffle & auction and ceilidh and Mrs Rogers, who stepped in at the last minute due to illness, was an excellent MC. 3 members of Celtic Academy staff came up for the event and presented me with a new 2019/20 goalkeeper shirt.

Travelling Gallery

We welcomed the Travelling Gallery again to the school with this year's exhibition 'Displaced'. The theme was on migration and attitudes to refugees in the UK.

Our first impression of the art work on show was that it was difficult to interpret, but as Andy the curator explained the motivation and process behind each piece we came to understand the meanings. Some of the work was sombre, some was unexpected – photography by young Syrians in a refugee camp – and some was a bit funny in a sad context, but all of the pieces made us think and challenged our attitudes.

Thank you to an Lanntair for another opportunity to see contemporary artwork on our doorstep and thank you to the staff at the Travelling Gallery for their insightful commentary on the exhibition.



Still from video piece 'The Bureaucracy of Angels' by Broomberg and Chanarin

YPI 2019

As you may be aware, our S3 year group have recently been involved in Sir E Scott School's Youth Philanthropy Initiative.

The Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) is an international project funded through The Wood Group. It is designed to support young people in developing their community awareness. You can find out more about YPI at <https://ypiscotland.org.uk/>.

Throughout this process we have been exploring philanthropy and charity and considering the positive impact this can have on our community.

Last December Kate Langley, development worker with the Volunteer Centre for the Western Isles, and Mr Mulhern, English teacher, explained the principles of the project to S3 and outlined the activities involved, the skills developed and the goals aimed for.

The Youth Philanthropy Initiative invites pupils to:

- Research the needs of their local community
- Identify a local charity which they believe makes the most difference
- Find out about the charity's work, its budget, history and strategies
- Build a relationship with the charity
- Develop skills in public speaking through a presentation
- Convince others that their charity is worth supporting

Students have been working in teams to consider the needs of our community and identify a local charity we believe is best placed to make a positive change. We divided ourselves into four groups in order to investigate the charities of our choice. These turned out to be:

- Hebridean Men's Cancer Support Group
- Marie Curie
- The Samaritans
- Western Isles Pregnancy Crises Support

Pupils have been in contact with those running their chosen charities. In some cases, we have visited them at their place of work while others have invited charity managers to the school to discuss their charities with them. Through this project we have been learning how to assess our chosen charity's management, strategy, staffing arrangements and services.

During this process we have had the chance to develop skills in research, analysis, presentation, and communication which all contribute to a student's growth and confidence. In these ways we have had opportunities to develop a real understanding of some of the challenges facing the community. It is hoped young people will be inspired to work to change society for the better.

Students use their research to make presentations on the reasons that their chosen charity is most deserving of support. The team judged to have made the most compelling presentation is given a £3000 YPI Grant to present to their charity.

As a school we had to raise £250 as a contribution to the £3000 which would be awarded to the charity represented by the winning group.

YPI 2019 – Continued

In addition to this contribution, each of the groups also chose to independently organise a fundraiser event to raise money for their chosen charity above and beyond any money awarded through the YPI event.

The Samaritans were the first group to have their fundraiser, holding a pancake and lemonade sale at the school during a morning interval in March. They managed to raise an impressive £130 for their charity.

The next group to hold their event was the Western Isles Pregnancy Crisis Support group. They held a Swishing event in The Harris Hotel with kind donations of baking and clothes. They raised over £400 in just 4 hours!

The Marie Curie group held their fundraiser, a café from 1:00 – 3:30. Again, the Harris Hotel very kindly provided the venue. That group raised a grand total of £650 – the most raised out of all the groups!

The final group to hold their fundraiser was the Hebridean Men's Cancer Support Group, made up of just two pupils. They had a Beach Fun Day at the end of April at Horgabost beach with everyone welcome. The pair raised a total of £180.81 which is amazing work for just the two of them.

Each of the YPI groups did extremely well and showed skills of organisation and responsibility, as well as making their charities very proud.

The final judging event took place on the 10th of May when each of the four YPI groups had to give a presentation on what their chosen charity does, how they came to choose their charity and why they think their charity deserves the money. These presentations could include videos, poems, a short play or songs if they wished. The final was held in the school performance area where all secondary pupils, teachers, parents and people from the charity could come to watch. There were four judges who volunteered to observe the group's presentations: of SES; Michael Hunter, ranger with the North Harris Trust; Hannah Macleod, a former pupil; Paul Munro, the chairman of Harris Voluntary Services; and Bellanne O'Brien, a development worker with the Volunteer Service Western Isles. Each of the groups presented the case for their charity very well with all presentations including a video or videos along with their accompanying powerpoints. After the presentations, pupils, parents, guests and teachers went to the staff room for teas, coffees and baking, organised by the S3 pupils for their guests, while the judges were making their final decision.

A short while after, everyone made their way down to the performance area including all the S1s and S2s for the announcement of the winning group. Hannah Macleod announced the Western Isles Pregnancy Crisis Support the winning YPI Group of 2019! The winning group were presented with a £3000 check for their charity and were invited to Perth in June for the YPI Scotland National Event 2019.

We'd like to thank everyone in the school, parents, the wider community and the charities themselves who contributed in all kinds of ways to the project and the presentation event.

Overall, the YPI has been a very successful project for the groups, charities and the school. As a pupil who took part in the YPI project, I can say the YPI project has been a very valuable and very enjoyable experience. It has involved hard work but has allowed us to take responsibility for our own learning, to show initiative, to develop leadership qualities, to increase self-confidence and has given us the opportunity to develop our speaking and presentation skills in a real context. All of these experiences and the skills we have developed through them will be very helpful for us all in the future – in the senior phase of our school careers and beyond.

Emma Passmore

YPI 2019 — Continued



Harris Tweed Distillery Competition



Photo taken at the official prize giving at the Harris Distillery on Wednesday 19th June when the prize-winners were presented with their certificates by Mr Anderson Bakewell, Founder of the Isle of Harris Distillery.

The Harris Tweed Distillery Project has been an exciting Year of Young People competition, well planned and delivered by the Isle of Harris Distillery in partnership with The Harris Tweed Authority and Harris Tweed Hebrides.

I was delighted to see pupils across the Sir E Scott School participating in this project from primary 1 up to S3 in the secondary department, well supported by their class teachers and also having the opportunity to access special workshops to help them in taking forward the design process in creating their individual entries. Pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed the experiences afforded by this project. It has been an exciting journey from the design process to submission of entries, release of the semi-finalist list in December 2018 to learning about the five finalists in January 2019.

The announcement of the overall winner meant very exciting news for Sir E Scott School. We were all absolutely delighted for Scott Murray, S3 who was the overall winner in the Harris Tweed Distillery project. Likewise, we were very pleased that another S3 pupil, Neil Morrison was the winner in the secondary category. We are extremely proud that the Harris tweed, which will now be produced and used by the Distillery has been designed by a pupil at Sir E Scott School. Congratulations to Scott, Neil and their Art teacher Mrs Christina Campbell for this fantastic achievement for themselves and for the school community.

Conclusion

Thank you very much for reading this term's edition of the school newsletter. We hope you have a wonderful summer holiday and look forward to seeing you all again at the beginning of next session

Editor: George Owens S6

