

Secondary Prize Giving

Congratulations to our 2019 Prize-winners pictured below with guest speaker Ms Donalda MacKinnon, Director BBC Scotland; Mrs Aileen MacSween, Head teacher and Secondary DHT, Miss Kirsty Donnelly. Missing from the photograph are Eddie Owens, Rebecca MacKinnon and Anna Cumming, who left school at the end of session 2018-19 and were not available to attend the prize giving ceremony. Rebekah Mackinnon left at the end of S5 and is currently studying History/English Literature at UHI Inverness Campus.

Congratulations to Anna Cumming, former S5 pupil, who is the recipient of the Alex John Macleod Memorial Dux Prize and Rachel Campbell, S6 recipient of the Tarbert Tennants' Association Proxime Accessit Award. Anna left SES School with 6 Highers, all at A grade and is currently studying Ecological & Environmental Sciences at Edinburgh University.



Secondary Prize Giving –Continued

At the recent secondary prize giving ceremony, John Masterson, retired supply teacher presented a small award to the school's Music Department as a mark of his regard for the 2018-2019 group. Mr Masterson spent several weeks with this group in November and December 2018 during Mrs Hurley's special leave of absence.

Mr Masterson is pictured below with the 2018-19 music group—Hamish Scott, Fionnlagh Olley, Jacob Johnson, Charlie Helfrich, Rachael Johnstone and Jessica Macleod.

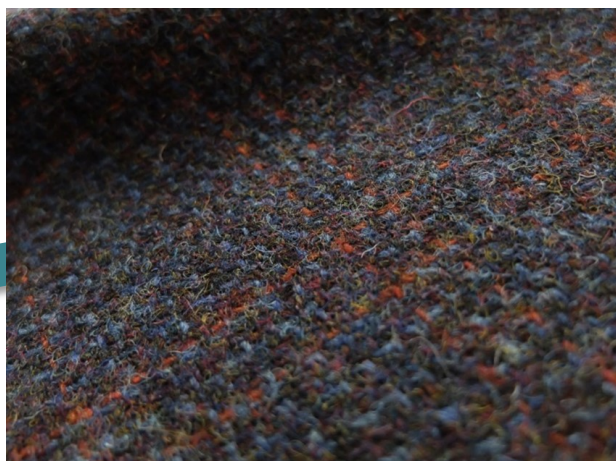


Harris Tweed

Following his success in the competition to design a HARRIS TWEED for the Harris Distillers, S4 pupil Scott Murray travelled to Rodel recently to see his design come to life.

Distillery employee, part time weaver and SES parent Stevie Passmore showed Scott the first stages of weaving the threads of copper, blue and peaty brown yarn into a richly patterned cloth which will soon be used at the distillery as a symbol of its island home.

It was a proud moment for Scott and we are keen to see what happens next with his beautiful tweed.



Head Teacher's Notes

Welcome to the first Newsletter of session 2019-20, which highlights the work of the first term in the secondary department. As you will see from this brief newsletter the secondary department have been busy on a number of fronts, encouraging our young people to engage in leadership, sporting, musical and land management activities, which enable our pupils to develop skills for learning, life and work.

There have been a number of interesting and engaging trips, 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 Ms Donalda MacKinnon, Director BBC Scotland as guest speaker at our secondary prize giving. Ms MacKinnon, a former pupil of SES, gave an interesting address about her journey through school, on to Higher education and into the world of work up to her current leadership position at the BBC. She also provided excellent advice to our young people as they now take this journey and the importance in retaining their individuality, their culture, their language and their island roots.

School Roll

The roll in the Secondary department stands at 91, which is a slight decrease compared to last session. We had a total of 14 S5 & 6 school leavers in May 2019, all going on to positive post school destinations such as further and higher education, apprenticeships or straight into employment. The SQA results in August were once again very pleasing, with strong National 5, higher and advanced higher results overall.

We welcomed new families into our midst this term, with Enya Marczak joining S2; Olivia Marczak joining S3 and Angus MacCuish joining S5. We also welcomed Coll Leishman from Leverhulme Memorial School transitioning into S1 –along with Anna Morrison, Freya MacLeod, Kitty Fitch-Johnson, Emma MacSween, Chloe MacDonald, Luke Johnson, Archie Campbell and Ryan Morrison who transferred from our own primary department. In total, we have a class of 9 pupils in S1; making them our smallest class and the smallest intake we have had into S1.



Head Teachers Notes– Continued

Staffing

We also welcomed new members of staff to Sir E Scott secondary department – Miss Sarah MacLeod, Maths Probationer teacher and Mr Patrick MacLeod, History probationer teacher. We welcomed Ms Irene Goodfellow and Mr David Smith, supply teachers, back to SES for the duration of the session to cover in the Maths and Technical departments respectively. At the same time, we said goodbye to Mr Calum MacLeod, Maths Department who left us at the beginning of September to go into full retirement. Ms Rachel Plant also resigned from her role as Support for Learning Assistant. Ms Plant was due to return to work from maternity leave in October but has recently been accepted to the PGDE teacher training course for Maths & Physics. I wish Ms Plant well for the year ahead.

Learning & Teaching

In taking forward subject choices we continue to strive to meet the needs of our young people as much as we can and encourage them to consider skills for work courses and other courses offered through e-Sgoil. To that end, four pupils on S6 have commenced on Higher Modern Studies and one pupil on AH Maths. We have five pupils studying the newly introduced Foundation Apprenticeships in Engineering, Social Services – Children & Young People and Creative & Digital Media in Gaelic. These courses sit well in developing our young workforce. We continue to work with UHI Stornoway campus in taking forward courses such as Maritime Skills for Work and for the first-time a joint school/college placement focus on NPA Computing Games Design course.

Leadership & Peer Mentoring

Congratulations to our S6 leadership team for session 2019-20 - Fionnlagh Olley is the School Captain; Rachel Campbell, Catherine Macdonald, Lauren MacInnes and Michelle Reid are senior prefects; and George Owens is a prefect. These senior pupils have shown a very proactive leadership style and set a very good example to the rest of the school in their dress code and work ethic.

Congratulations to our S5 pupils who are delivering an MVP programme to our S1-4 pupils on a weekly basis as part of the school's PSE programme. MVP is a peer education and leadership programme where senior pupils deliver workshops to younger peers on topics such as *groups chats, sexting, domestic abuse, knife crime and homophobic bullying*. It is a violence prevention and anti-bullying programme and it promotes healthy relationships, safer schools and communities. It is really pleasing to hear such positive feedback from the tutors and from the pupils delivering and receiving this programme. It is an excellent example of peer mentoring.



Head Teachers Notes– Continued

Celebrating Pupil Successes & Wider Achievement

Congratulations to our S4 group for the excellent effort they made in realising the phenomenal sum of over £1300 at their recent MacMillan Coffee Morning, they were well supported by Mrs Laing HE Department and the Harris Hotel. A fundraising café organised by a group of S5 pupils raised £400, which will be used to offset costs for secondary social events. I continue to be extremely proud of the achievements of our young people who have shown a commitment to taking forward their personal interests, skills and talents and consequently achieving much success for themselves at local and national level. Notable pupil successes this term are– Rachael Johnstone, S5, who was selected for the U17 Scotland Women's Football Squad. She gained her 5th international cap for Scotland and played in two fixtures against Poland in September. It is also good to see Rachael and Ellen Olley S5 using their skills to coach at a primary girls' football lunchtime club.

Our pipers, ceilidh band and violinists attended a 3-day event in Stornoway this term when the Royal Regiment of Scotland band carried out workshops with pupils from across Lewis & Harris, culminating in two successful ceilidh events.

Our secondary prize giving and Harvest Assembly also provided opportunities to showcase the talent and skills of these pupils, along with the Junior & Senior Choir and Senior Pupils' Music Department band.

Pupils attending the Claire Wilson school of dancing continue to do well. Emma Peterson, S3 is to be congratulated for competing at various Highland Dancing competitions on the mainland. She will attend an international gathering of Highland Dancing schools in Disney land Paris in November.

We have several S1 and S2 pupils who are cadet members of the Harris Army Cadet Force. Congratulations to Alasdair Langley, S2 who recently represented the local ACF at a swimming event in Glasgow. He came 3rd in the Junior Boys Backstroke and was part of the winning Junior boys' relay team representing 1st Highlanders; results which helped 1st Battalion The Highlanders become joint overall winners and Scottish Champions 2019. Congratulations also to Cadet Megan MacDougall who got her Basic Certificate at the Camp in Benbecula recently. Alex MacCuish, S5 is to be congratulated on becoming a Cadet Sergeant in the Harris ACF. In addition, we have a number of secondary pupils attending Scouts and Guides on a weekly basis too.

School Partnerships

We have been very fortunate over the years to have had a proactive Parent Council and I am therefore pleased that we have a fully constituted parent membership for session 2019-20, with several parents returning as members. Rev Bruce Jardine has come back on to the Parent Council and been re-instated as Chairperson. Committee members are – Alison MacDonald, Rhoda Campbell, Lucy Toor, Andrew Coghill, Donella Barker, Mairi MacLeod, Rebecca Passmore and Donna MacLeod. Miss K Donnelly, DHT Secondary and Mrs P MacLeod, DHT Primary represent the teaching staff. It is pleasing to have regular representation at our meetings by our three local councillors.

Links with our local and wider community play an important and crucial aspect of our school's work. Therefore, we look forward to working with parents, partners (e.g. CLD, SDS, Harris Volunteer Centre, North Harris Trust, CNAG) businesses and employers in taking forward our two school improvement plan projects for this session, which have a focus on Learning, teaching and assessment, including pupils leading their own learning. We want to further develop our curriculum to ensure it reflects our vision, values and aims, as well as embedding local and national priorities such as Gaelic education, developing the young workforce and raising attainment for all pupils.

Head Teachers Notes– Continued

Conclusion

Looking forward to next term, we will have a focus on engagement with parents at planned parents' evenings, a biennial Careers Convention and our annual Latha Na Gàidhlig. I am delighted secondary pupils are going to be on stage with a performance, Pirates of Penzance, later on in the session, with auditions taking place at the end of this term. We will also continue to raise the profile of pupil voice through participation in various committees and leadership opportunities.

As we look forward to our October holiday, I would like, on behalf of the school community, to wish Mrs Jayne MacDonald (Conductor), Mr Iain MacIver Music Instructor, the Mod Parents' Committee and all pupils competing in various competitions all the very best as they participate in this year's Royal National Mod in Glasgow. Gur math a theid dhaibh!

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable autumn break. **School resumes for staff on Tuesday 22nd October and for pupils on Thursday 24th October.**

Aileen M MacSween

Head teacher

Photos taken at the Royal Regiment of Scotland Event



S4 Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Friday 20th September the S4 year group organised and ran a coffee morning in the Harris Hotel to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support.

The Harris Hotel very kindly allowed pupils to run the event in the hotel. Pupils provided home baking and all the items for the refreshments. They spoke to various local businesses who kindly donated items for the raffle, these included a Harris Tweed bag and purse, some glasses from the Harris Distillery, room scents from Essence of Harris and the Post Office.

The event was very well supported by all the other pupils and staff in Sir E Scott school, local community, families and staff and residents from Harris House. The event was very successful and the pupils collectively raised £1304 after all the money was collected.



A group of S3 students have been studying Sustainable Land Management, as part of their elective course, with the North Harris Trust.

They have looked at the process and possibilities of Community ownership and the different uses of the land around us, this involved walks on NHT land as well as field trips to a local hydro-electric scheme and path network at the Scaladale Centre. They have also studied the problems associated with land management. such as non-native species, deer management, pressures and benefits of tourism etc.

Students also pitched in with some of the tasks an NHT Ranger needs to carry out. They have assisted with path maintenance on the Postman's Track at Urgha (in challenging weather conditions) and taken practical action against non-native species such as the Gunnera in the school grounds and surrounding area.

Many thanks to the team at the North Harris Trust for providing us with such a great opportunity to better understand, and appreciate, the land around us.



Pupil Support and PE Department

Inter School Sports – Sgoil Lionacleit

On Thursday the 12th of September a group of S1-S3 had the opportunity to take part in a basketball festival. We got onto the early ferry and arrived at Lionaclait school at around 11:00. There were three schools there when we arrived Castlebay, Lionaclait and our school. We started by splitting into two groups, the first group did basketball tournaments and the second group went outside to the track to do some running competitions and other activities such as long jump and shotput. After we had lunch the two groups switched so everyone could have a turn of all the different activities, a few medals were given out and then we made our way back to Harris. We all really enjoyed this festival and thought it was a really good experience.

Anna Macleod, S3

At the start of September fifth teen people were chosen to go to Uist to do multi-sports. We woke early on the Thursday morning and went on the seven o'clock ferry. As soon as we got off the ferry we drove to Lioncleit school where the festival took place. Castle Bay and Lioncleit also joined us at this festival. When we arrived we were split into three groups. Once all the schools were ready two of the groups from SES stayed in side and did games of basketball and the other group from SES went outside to do athletics on the track. Fortunately it was a very nice day so we got to go outside. On the track there was multiple sports such as discus, long jump, 100m sprint, 800m and shot put. At the end of the day some people got awards for overall performance and teamwork. Eilidh MacDonald, Kieran McNally and Natalie Maclean.

Natalie Maclean, S3



Pupil Support and PE Department - Continued

The Best of You Programme

Mark Brown Programme - fantastic week for a selection of S2, S3 and S4 pupils. The aims of the week were to:

- Improved confidence
- Increased self-belief and motivation
- Strategies to fulfil your potential.

'In my opinion the Best of You programme helped me gain confidence. Throughout the week we did various activities that ranged from trying to throw 3 balls around the room simultaneously to then seeing how fast our whole group could get through a bungee one by one. In this challenge we broke the Scottish record with (20.6 seconds). This programme is extremely helpful we learnt lots of different strategies and ways to do things that we weren't sure were possible.

Mark Brown shared with us his back story and it showed us that even if you had a tough background you can bring yourself back to being the best version of you.'

Emma Peterson, S3

This week from Monday to Thursday of the 20th to the 26th of September. Pupils from S2, S3 and S4 went across to the council offices to see Mark Brown from 10:30 in the morning to 02:30 in the afternoon. We worked on confidence, good listening, success and team work.

We worked individually and we worked together in groups to work on these skills. Alongside this we played games and had a lot of fun. The most enjoyable, in my opinion, was a scavenger hunt that took us all around the village.

Naomi Mackay, S3



Pupil Support and PE Department – Continued

Rachael Johnstone

Another U17 Scotland 'cap' for Rachael!!

Well deserved, as she is named in the squad for the UEFA qualifiers in October



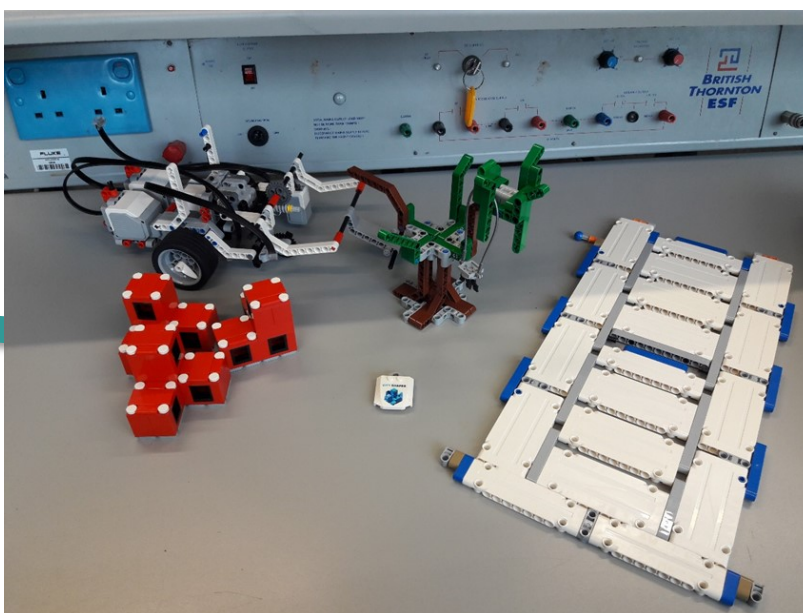
First Lego League

Sir E Scott are again entering the First Lego League. This year the focus is on the built environment around us, improving our villages, towns and cities for all who live and work in them.

FIRST LEGO League is the most accessible, guided, global robotics competition, helping students and teachers to build a better future together. The program is built around theme-based Challenges to engage students in research, problem solving, coding, and engineering. The foundation of the program is the FIRST Core Values, which emphasize teamwork, discovery, and innovation. Students emerge more confident, excited, and equipped with the skills they need in a changing workforce.

The FIRST LEGO League challenges pupils to think like scientists and engineers. During the CITY SHAPER season, teams will choose and solve a real-world problem in the Innovation Project. They will also build, test, and program an autonomous robot using LEGO® MINDSTORMS® technology to solve a set of missions in the Robot Game. Throughout their experience, teams will operate under the FIRST signature set of Core Values, celebrating discovery, teamwork, and Gracious Professionalism®.

Our team, a mixture of S2, S4 and S5 pupils, is currently building all the models necessary to start programming for the Robot Game.



The S2B Glasgow Trip 2019

On September 2nd, the S2 class of Sir E Scott School went on a three-day trip to Glasgow with three teachers, Mr Matthew Atkinson, Mr Adam Johnson and Mrs Louise Lang who organized the trip. We left the island at 7:00am on the Hebrides, a Caledonian macbrayne vessel. The first crossing was good, but the way back wasn't the most pleasant! We had a very good crossing, we even went up on the captain's bridge, and some of the pupils had the opportunity to steer the ferry, how cool! We finally reached Skye, and got on the two minibuses and headed for Fort William but because the weather wasn't very good, we had a quick stop off for some brunch: the pupils had a choice to go to either Morrison's or McDonalds, and after our short brake we continued on our way to Glasgow. On the way, the weather was still horrible. We then had another quick stop off at Braehead. Again the pupils had a choice to choose where they would like to eat, including McDonald's, KFC and Burger King. Pupils also had a chance to have a little shop around the centre.

Finally, after a long journey via minibus, we arrived at the euro hostel. It was a big hostel, so there was plenty of room for us all to stay. The rooms had white walls and were not bad, but in my opinion they could do better, and could do with a bit of decorating. We entered our dormitories, which consisted of three rooms, also including two bathrooms, and a shower room. We unpacked and settled in for the two nights we would stay here.

Next day, we awoke early and came down for some breakfast. For breakfast there was haggis, toast, ordinary cereal, and for refreshments there was water, orange juice, tea, and coffee. Then we got onto the bus and drove to the science centre. It was a fantastic place to go to, with lots of great interactive displays. The first activity we participated in was a programming project using Arduino – a kit that helps you create games on your computer, which was very fun. After that we had lunch in the centre, and after lunch, we visited the Planetarium- a large room where you see the planets in our solar system, and star constellations, because the IMAX Cinema wasn't working. After the science centre, we headed to the transport museum. The museum was jam packed with old cars, steam trains and models of famous ships. The Transport Museum was also a good place to go to.

Sadly, the trip couldn't last forever, and on Wednesday we began the journey to the Ullapool Ferry. The Ullapool crossing wasn't very comfortable; some people didn't enjoy it at all.

In short, the Glasgow Trip was a very fun trip and it will be quite a while till we go on a trip as fun as this one.

William Atkinson

The S2B Glasgow Trip – Continued

On the 2nd of September we set off on the Tarbert ferry to Ullapool we had a flat calm day for a smooth sailing. We reached Ullapool and with a stop in Fort William for a Mcdonald's we had reached Brae Head shopping centre and had 2 hours to do some shopping and get ourselves a dinner. We met up again at the main entrance with our shopping bags and headed to the hostel.

We were very pleased with our accommodation and had a good night's sleep, on the following day we went to the Science Centre which we all enjoyed and one of our highlights was the planetarium, substituted for the cinema which had technical difficulties.

After a good look around the different floors we had lunch and headed to the transport museum which was very interesting to see all the first transport vehicles and mechanism's. We also enjoyed seeing the boat that was outside and seeing all the old furniture and engine that was on the boat.

The next day we set off early to have time to get to which ever ferry would sail seeing as the weather was rough, after a stop in Dalwhinnie at a café to have some lunch we found out that the Ullapool ferry was sailing and that's the way we headed.

We reached Ullapool and had time to get some dinner since the ferry was going to be rough we most likely were not going to be eating. Most of us stopped for a chippy and then headed onto the boat, it was all fine until we got out of Loch Broom and that's when it started to get rough, we all when to the back of the boat which made it a lot better.

We were glad to be safe on land when we reached Stornoway ferry terminal and had a safe journey back.

We would like to thank all the teachers who looked after us throughout the whole trip and made sure we had a good time.

Ellie-Ceit Johnson S2B



S6 Work Experience

Work Placements

Stephanie- Stornoway Primary/Nursery

Finlay– An Lanntair

Martin- R Doig Opticians

Lauren- Bethesda

Claire– CalMac

Catherine– Lionel Primary

Ian– Sports Centre

Amy– Woodlands

George - Creed Park

Michelle– Tigh Innse Gall

Rachel- Anderson MacArthur Solicitors

On the 23rd of September S6 pupils started their work experience based in Stornoway. The pupils stayed in a guest house for the week and were given £40 for expenses.

Pupils had work placements in a variety of different places such as An Lanntair, Bethesda, R Doig Opticians and the Stornoway Sports Centre. Overall, the pupils enjoyed their work experience.

Here are what some pupils said about their experience:

“It was pretty useful and I saw what it was like to be there.”- Lauren MacInnes, Bethesda.

“I really enjoyed it, I helped kids with their English their Maths and PE. I think it has inspired me to be a teacher myself.” – Catherine MacDonald, Lionel Primary School.

“It was great, I learnt how to peel carrots and I would like to work there again.” – Amy Mackenzie, Woodlands centre.

“Eye enjoyed my time at R Doig Opticians, it was interesting to see what opticians do in their work place. I did a pun.” – Martin MacSween, R Doig Opticians.

“I enjoyed my time with Stornoway primary and it was but it is not something I would be interested in doing for my future career. My time helped me understand that.

The purpose of Work Experience is to give pupils a chance to see what it is like to work in the work place and to improve confidence and independence.

Harvest Assembly

Thank you to all who contributed to our Harvest Assembly and for all the food donations received for the Western Isles Food Bank. Tapa leibh uile.



Dìleab 2019–20



Dìleab 2018 was a huge success for us as a school. It was an ambitious intergenerational project directed by the Local authority and provided a focal point in bringing schools and the wider community together to research, record and learn from local stories, music and bàrdachd. The newly released EP contains the 5 songs written by Willie Campbell, 4 of them written with pupils at the 4 presenting schools in the authority. I recommend it to you.

The Dìleab project doesn't end there however. Our Director of Education, along with the Dìleab project coordinators and music instructors have taken forward events and a project focus for Dìleab 2019 and Dìleab 2020.

On Friday 29th November 2019, Dìleab 2019 concert will take place at Ionad Spòrs Leòdhais. This concert will feature pupils from Sir E Scott School & The Nicolson Institute, the Lewis & Harris Youth Pipe Band and Fèis group Dual who will be performing alongside local bands Face the West, The Tumbling Souls and headline act Skippinish; a tremendous opportunity for our young people to perform alongside these fantastic musicians.

Dìleab: Air a' Chuan will take place at Celtic Connections in Glasgow on Friday 17th January 2020. This new concert will feature pupils from Barra, Uist, Harris & Lewis alongside Willie Campbell, who has been commissioned to write 2 new songs for the concert, plus various other items including 3 of the songs from Dìleab 2018.

The Dìleab project focus for 2020 will link in with the Year of Coasts & Waters.

NewStaff



Miss Sarah MacLeod, Maths Probationer teacher



Mr Patrick MacLeod, History probationer teacher

Conclusion

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

Editor: George Owens S6

School based photographs: Stephanie Wilson S6