

KINLOCHBERVIE HIGH SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

August 2020

Welcome back to a new session

Welcome back to all our returning pupils and staff and a very warm welcome to our new S1 pupils and new staff. We hope everyone had a great summer and will have an enjoyable and successful year.

Prize Giving

Below is the text of the Head Teacher's report to our long awaited prize giving which was held on Wednesday last week. A full list of prize-winners is attached to this newsletter:

Under normal circumstances we would have had prize giving in July and ended the term with a celebration of our pupil's achievement. Six weeks of summer holiday later we would have been back full of tales of what we did in the holiday.

These are not normal circumstances. On the 20th of March we sent all our pupils and staff home and started working on line. I know that our closure for Covid-19 and our on-line learning as a result has been a source of stress for some of our pupils and that the very sudden enforced move to a virtual curriculum was not easy. I want to commend the pupils for the real efforts they made in those weeks to keep up with the work being set by teachers. Some of you really worked incredibly hard and I know you will feel the benefit now that we are back at school.

I also want to thank the parents for all their support in this time, without your encouragement and perseverance the job would be a lot more difficult.

Our teaching staff also worked incredibly hard over these weeks to provide a high standard of work and support to all our pupils and I thank them sincerely for their efforts.

Many of our support staff have also gone beyond what we could reasonably expect in such difficult times to provide extra support for our pupils and to ensure that they were all safe and well even if they were not able to connect with on-line learning. We

are now back. It is different. Routines have changed and we need to develop new habits. Hand washing and personal hygiene is vital if we are to prevent the spread of this deadly virus. I do not wish to be overly alarmist but we must take precautions. People are dying because of this and while we in Scotland and in the Highlands have been fortunate to avoid the scale of infection which has happened elsewhere we cannot afford to be complacent. Please continue to exercise care and keep your distance as much as possible.

At a normal prize giving I would be looking forward to exam results. Even if I had been standing here in July that would not have been the case. There were no exams and in spite of some early concerns about the results we now know that the estimated grades we provided after a long and careful process have been accepted. This means that we have the results which our pupils deserved this year and we are delighted with the successes of our S4, 5 and 6 from last year. Well done to all of you.

At prize giving we say farewell to some and we welcome others. Tom, Roan and Ross left us this year and we send them off to the next stage in their lives with all our best wishes. Ross to pursue an apprenticeship with Loch Duart Fish Farms, Roan to Glasgow University to study Spanish and Tom to the University of the West of Scotland to study Physics. It is good to see you here today. Keep in touch and let us know how life beyond Kinlochbervie High School works out.

Mrs Jarvis moved on to pastures new, or at least back to Golspie. She has been a truly valuable and valued member of staff in the years she has been with us and we will miss her greatly but she leaves with our very best wishes for her future and that of her family.

Miss Majanen is also heading off this year. She plans to return to University in Glasgow to do a master's degree and I am sure she will be as dedicated to that as she has been to the pupils she has taught in Kinlochbervie. We wish her every success in her academic career and beyond.

Sr Alzolar also left us at the end of the term. (or perhaps a day or two early) He has spent his probationary year with us and has proved himself to be an excellent teacher and a well-liked and respected colleague, but family ties are taking him back to Spain. Who knows, maybe we will see him back here sometime.

Mr Garcia has joined us to take over the reins in Spanish and we look forward to working closely with him in the coming year.

Mrs Strachan, who was covering Ms Richard's maternity leave has left us and we are delighted that Ms Philip will fill the gap until Ms Richard's returns in October.

Mrs MacFarlane joins us as PT Support for Learning and has already met with many pupils and parents as she takes over the reins from Mrs Jarvis. I know she will be missed in Durness Primary School but their loss is the High School's gain.

Prize giving is always a special occasion in the school calendar and it was sad this year that we did not have the opportunity to invite parents and the community to join us but the newsletter which will go out to parents will contain a list of the prize-winners and I hope we can share some photos of the certificate holders and trophy winners on the website and on facebook.

I hope also that at least some of the parents have been able to join us on line this afternoon.

Before we present the prizes we thought it might be a good idea to show the video made by staff during lockdown. Normally we would have a leaver's video where staff say farewell to our departing students but this year we were missing you all so much that we felt we had to acknowledge that. This video is also available on Facebook and there is a link on the NWSS website. Enjoy:

Congratulations

Our new head pupil team of Michelle Ross and Katey Thompson as Head Pupils and Szymon Klodzinski as Deputy Head Pupils take over from the previous team with immediate effect. Congratulations to them and I look forward to working with them in the months ahead.

Uniform

We understand that orders of uniform from the suppliers are taking longer than anticipated. We do still have a very limited supply of sweatshirts and hoodies in school if you should need anything in the interim. Not all sizes will be available.

Inset Days

Just a reminder that Mon 14th and Tues 15th September are inset days.

As always should you have any queries or concerns please contact me at the school.

Graeme Smart

Head Teacher