

MAY NEWSLETTER

May has been a particularly busy month given the huge range of curricular and extra-curricular activities which have been taking place. Whilst S4, 5 and 6 have been sitting their SQA exams, junior classes have been finishing off course work and taking advantage of opportunities to shine in terms of wider achievement. We would like to congratulate a number of pupils:

Maths Challenge

The following pupils have distinguished themselves in the annual, national Maths Challenge. Po Yi Law, Ruari MacPherson, Gwion ap Reinallt and Caitlin Montgomery took Gold. George Riley, Mhairi Parker and James Morrison were awarded Silver and Bethany Macleod, Andrew Duncan, Holly Maclean, Cirsty Gillies, Ewan Smith, Iain Macleod, Katie Emmott, Rachel Maciver, Aaron Nicolson, Anna Heriot, Morgan Davis and Jonathan Macdonald each received a Bronze award.

Po Yi Law deserves special mention in that he scored an incredible 124 / 135 and will now be going through to the next stage of the competition, The National Olympiad. We wish him every success.

UK Chess Challenge

Luke Wilson, 4S2, won the school stage of the UK Chess Challenge. Very well done, Luke! Gwion ap Rheinallt, 1A1, came second, Scott Morison, 1S1, 3rd and Lewis MacDonald, 1G1, 4th. All four qualified to go through to the Megafinal in Aberdeen. Gwion ap Rheinallt competed in the Megafinal in Aberdeen and won an impressive trophy. He also qualified for the next round which will be held at the University of Derby on Sunday, July 17th. Nach math a rinn thu, a' Ghwion! Pupils wish to thank Mr M. Bartlett for organising the school's Chess Club.

BBC Off by Heart Shakespeare Competition

The BBC Off by Heart Shakespeare competition took place on Tuesday 24th June. Seven S2 pupils took part and performed their speeches with accuracy and confidence to the three judges, Tom Clark, Jane Paton and Muriel Ann Macleod. Harriet McNaughton 2M2 was the overall winner and she will now compete in the regional heats in Glasgow in the autumn. Eilidh Macalpine 2G1 came a very close second with only 2 points separating the girls. A very enjoyable afternoon was had by all involved and Mrs S. Blane, who organised the event hopes to make this an annual feature of the school's calendar.

Under 14 Boys' Football

The Nicolson's Under 14 Boys became North of Scotland Champions on May 16th when they beat Inverness Royal Academy 3-0 in Dingwall. The winning goals were scored by Alasdair Maciver, Andrew Macaulay and Ross Allison. Well done to the boys and their coach Ms. L. Mackenzie!

Both the junior and senior girls' teams are also through to the finals of the North of Scotland competitions and these games will be played in June.

Get well wishes

Get well wishes are extended to Mr A. Murray (Maths), Mrs C. Clelland (Maths) and Mrs C.M. Macmillan (Gaelic) who have been off school through accident or illness. As you will appreciate, this has caused difficulties with regard to pupil reports but once teachers return to post there will be an opportunity for parents to discuss pupils' progress.

New appointment

Ms Marion Campbell from Bragar has been appointed to the post of Business Studies teacher. We wish her every success and happiness.

Under 15 Girls' Rugby

Stornoway Rugby's U15 Girl's Team recently enjoyed a fun packed weekend when they took first place at the IRB Festival of Rugby 7s held at Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh. Well done to the team and to Mr. D. Beattie, their coach.

HMIe Visit

The school is to be visited by HMIe during the week commencing 6th June. We welcome this opportunity to have our practice reviewed independently and any advice which they may provide as to how any aspects of the school's performance can be improved.

Clisham Walk

As part of raising achievement through outdoor education, 37 pupils accepted the challenge of climbing the Clisham in three groups. Unfortunately, due to adverse weather, the Clisham was not accessible so Todden was tackled instead. Despite wind and rain, seeing eagles and a grand view from the top meant that pupils had a thoroughly enjoyable experience. They would like to thank Ms. E. Carmichael for organising the event and staff from the school and Outdoor Learning for accompanied them.

Turas nan Geàrrannan

Fhuair luchd-ionnsachaidh agus fileantaich bhon chiad bhliadhna cothrom mìorbhaileach air piseach a thoirt air an comas comhraidh nuair a chur iad seachad oidheannan anns na Geàrrannan bho chionn ghoirid. Bha iad ag ionnsachadh a' chànan tro chèilidh, dannsa, cuairtean agus iomadh spòrs eile. Chòrd e cho math ris a' chloinn 's ris an luchd teagaisg 's gu bheil sinn an dòchas a leithid a dhèanamh a h-uile bliadhna. Tha Mgr. D. Macleòid agus a Bh.ph. L NicChoinnich rim moladh airson an turais seo a chur air dòigh.

Thanks to Mr D Macleod and Mrs L Maciver of the Gaelic Department, pupils from S1 fluent and learner classes enjoyed a residential experience in Geàrrannan Village which provided them with fun filled opportunities to develop their language skills and an appreciation of Gaelic culture.

Duaisean Gàidhlig

Fhuair Annabel Nic'Illeinn a' chiad dhuais ann an co-fharpais còmhraidh Comunn Gàidhlig Lunnainn agus fhuair Calum Mac a' Phì, Lorraine Mhoireasdan agus Eilidh Nic Iain àrd mholadh airson na rinn iad. Air sgàth seo, gheibh Sgoil Mhicneacail Cuach nan Ard- Sgoiltean agus duais airgid.

S4 / 5 pupils performed very well in the annual London Gaelic Society oral competitions and have been awarded the senior trophy and cash prize.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Nicolson Institute now has its own Duke of Edinburgh Award S3 / 4 groups, supporting over 40 young people at mainly Bronze and Silver level. This programme consists of four sections: volunteering, skills, physical recreation and expedition. Members are currently preparing for their expeditions having completed a training day in camp craft, First Aid and navigation. Practice expeditions are planned for the last few days of the school term.

New Bangladesh Link (International Education)

An exciting new link has been made between Social Subjects department of The Nicolson Institute and the MRM High School in Kakina, Northern Bangladesh. RMPS teacher, Muriel Mackenzie has been involved in educational projects in this area of the world twice before and has developed links for the purposes of International Education. For the past 6 months pupils have been exchanging letters across the world and learning about each other's school curriculum, culture, local area, history and religion. Recently, pupils from the Nicolson Institute raised £400 to buy the MRM High School a computer and internet connection. This will enable pupils in Bangladesh swap work by e-mail with pupils from the NI and will also allow Bengali pupils to access the internet for the first time. This will have a massive impact on the learning and communication experiences of pupils in a poverty stricken part of the world. Well done to all pupils who took part in the fundraising. We look forward to getting to know our Bengali friends in the MRM High school better!

Communication

Website -The school's website is currently being revamped and it will be updated on a regular basis.

Groupcall – This facility is now operational and will be used to provide parents / carers with urgent information updates as well as notification of pupils' absences.

Report Cards – The draft report format used this session will be revised in the light of comments from pupils, parents and staff in an attempt to make the final format as informative and user friendly as possible.

Two way communication – Please remember that for communication to be effective, it has to be two way. Pupils, parents and carers are encouraged to respond to questionnaires, attend information meetings or make an appointment with the school if there are issues which require our attention or if they wish to make constructive suggestions. We are always happy to speak to you.