

Kinlochbervie High School

Newsletter April 2016

Congratulations to:-

Lewis Parker- for achieving his black belt in Jujitsu.

Andy MacKenzie - the Youth B Champion 2015 for the Inverness & District MCC (motorbike trails); he picked up his medal at the weekend.

The girls football team on their 7 - 0 victory over Farr High School.

Thank you to parents and pupils for continuing to share their successes with us; these will be put on the website.

Study support

Any pupil is welcome to stay behind after school to study if they wish. They must report to the school office so that we know they are in the building.

If there are any transport issues please contact the school.

S4-6 Exam leave

In line with Highland Council guidance, Exam leave for pupils will be as follows:-

Pupils will be on exam leave from after school on Friday 29th April and if they are returning to school will be back in from Tuesday 7th June. (Monday 6th June is an in-service day) For pupils who only have a limited number of exams arrangements will be made for them to be out on a work placement, when they are not in school completing course work.

During exam leave any pupil who has course work to complete will need to come in to school as requested by staff. All pupils are of course welcome to work in school at any time. School uniform should be worn as usual at all times when pupils are in school or in exams. Most exams will take place in the village hall however some will be in school. All pupils will be given an individualised timetable by Mr Smart. The exam timetable is also on the SQA website (www.sqa.org.uk).

Staffing

As you may be aware the annual staffing review meeting took place on Monday 21st March. Highland Council uses a formula to set the staffing levels in school. The formula allocates 8.98 FTE (Full time equivalent) staff to the school. In the past schools have also had additional agreed allocations of staff and Head Teachers were told that due to the budget restraints there would be no agreed additional staff for this year. Following the meeting, for the time being we have been allowed to retain 0.68 agreed additional (this equates to almost 3.5 days of teaching time). There will be a cut in some teaching hours however I am confident that the school will still be able to deliver the range of courses needed by our pupils.

Art - Mr Tebbutt will continue to work on Mondays until the end of the summer term to teach the N5/H Art classes. Mrs Bewley has agreed to come in to teach Art to the S1 - S3 classes. Mrs Bewley has delivered Art and Textiles to the pupils in the High School when she was employed as our English teacher and also did this during the spring term of 2015 prior to the appointment of Mr Tebbutt. We are delighted she has agreed to take this on. The post has been advertised as fixed term to the end of the summer term, as Mrs Wood will be back in August. There were no applicants for the Support for learning teacher post. We are discussing the way forward with this post with our staff and the authority.

Mrs Sutherland has handed in her notice and will be taking a break from teaching; she will finish at the end of this term. Her post will be advertised as full time, permanent Principal Teacher (PT) Science. Mr MacPherson will be retiring at the end of this term and we have requested a probationer, in this way we will be able to keep both History and Geography on the curriculum as the teachers in their probationary year teach four days a week however only two and a half days are charged to the school budget. The same will apply to the Music post. As soon as we hear whether or not we have been allocated probationer teachers (usually mid to end May) I will let parents know. Our allocation is not sufficient to have a full time teacher for each of these posts and in this way we retain the maximum amount of teaching hours. Should you wish for further explanations, I am happy to speak with parents at any time.

Course choices

Most pupils are able to continue with their first choice of subjects and where this has not been possible further discussions will take place with affected pupils and their parents.

New timetable

The new timetable starts from Tuesday 3rd May as this enables pupils starting exam courses slightly earlier to give them the best chance of success in the exams. Pupils will all move up a year group from this date and new S1 pupils will slot in to the timetable during transition week.

S1/2 Electives

With effect from Tuesday 19th April we will begin a new programme of elective courses to run until the summer holiday. There are four options Sailing - working towards elements of the RYA level 2, Kayaking - working towards elements of the SCU 2 star award, Fiddle/Guitar - working towards a performance at the summer concert, Sustainable growth and the Eco School (this elective will look at learning for sustainability, planting and growing, and may lead to an application to become an "Eco School"). Thank you to parents for returning these forms, all pupils have been allocated to their first choice. For those pupils who are either sailing or Kayaking a separate consent form will be required.

Please see attached the calendar of dates for this term and details of extra curricula activities organised by the school and/or Active Schools.

Activities Available This Term

Lunch Times

Monday	Ukulele Group
Wednesday	Choir
Thursday	Duke of Edinburgh (as required)

After School

Monday	Skiff Building; Boys Football Training with Tony Reynoldson
Tuesday	Girls Football Training with Kerry Eastcroft
Wednesday	Shinty Training with Duncan Clark
Friday	Skiff Building