

# Sgoil Lionacleit News



Head Teacher Headlines

March 2019



As we head into the Easter holidays I am reflecting on how lucky I am to work in a school like this - our staff are hardworking and dedicated and our young people continue to excel in various fields. In addition to this Parents and Guardians are working with us to support and challenge young people on their journey.

This term we say goodbye to Zina Johnson our PT Science and Lauren Morrison our PT Social Subjects and RE, we wish them well for the next chapter of their story and thank them for everything they have done in this chapter.

Spring is a time of refreshment, growth and new beginnings – it is also when young people maximise their chances of doing well in their exams by revising properly. To this end we have a dedicated space on our school website which will give practical advice on how to study as well as tips to keep exam stress at a minimum.

I wish you all a restful and relaxing holiday after a very busy term and I look forward to continuing the journey in April.

Yours in partnership

Gordon Young

## School Contact Information

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 15th April - school re-opens

19th & 22nd April - Local holidays

13th & 20th May - Work experience weeks

Mon 10th June P7 transition week

Friday 28th June - school closes

## **STEM Club soars into Orbit!**

On Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February, pupils making up Sgoil Lionacleit STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) club attended the National finals of the Institution of Engineering and Technology's (IET) FIRST Lego League competition in Bristol.

The competition saw 60 teams from all over the United Kingdom and Ireland compete in a series of space themed challenges using Lego Mindstorms kits to design, build and programme a working robot capable of solving a variety of real world problems.

Following generous donations from local businesses and assistance from school staff and the education department, the team were on their way!

With delays to the flight to Glasgow threatening the whole trip, thanks to the quick thinking and resourcefulness of staff in Benbecula airport, the team made it to their connecting flight in Glasgow with barely seconds to spare! A very tired and frazzled group of pupils arrived at the hotel in Bristol at midnight and were relieved to be provided with complimentary sandwiches just before bed!



The boys were in attendance as Outer Hebrides champions following their recent success at the regional finals held in Sir E Scott School in Tarbert at the end of January. Having won the trophy for the Robot challenge and being crowned overall champions, the team had the arduous task of arranging a trip to the University of West of England in Bristol in two weeks time to meet other teams in the National finals!

After a hearty breakfast, the team were on top form, presenting their work and taking part in the first rounds of the robot challenge games. The size of the venue was enormous and although tired from the previous night's travel, the boys put on a good show and were even given special mention by the hosts during the opening ceremony!



With the competition underway, Niall was on mascot duties, taking part in the opening parade with the team's placard. Kory and Dylan provided a strong piloting team, assembling and programming the robot during the challenge rounds. Leon and Luke were our media stars, appearing for interview and commentary on the live broadcast of our second game. JC and PJ provided informative knowledge to the team presentations and all seven boys made valuable contributions to all aspects of the competition. With an impressive score in the first round (thanks to a bit of luck!) the team were comfortably in the top 20. During a hectic schedule the boys were able to make improvements to their design and alter vital code to allow them to potentially score more points. Alas, it was not to be and despite best efforts, the team were knocked out of contention for the top 12 places in the knockout finals.

Despite no further trophies to take home, the team can hold their heads high after an immense achievement for their first time taking part in the competition.

The whole weekend provided fun and plenty of new experiences with flossing, hotel swimming pools, giant burgers and milkshakes, getting locked out of hotel rooms and one pupil losing boarding pass just before getting on the plane being amongst the most memorable!

There are sure to be plenty of memories from this trip!

Thanks to the following for providing financial support in allowing the team to travel to Bristol:

Macaulay Askernish, MacInnes Bros, Loch Duart Ltd, Island Hub Ltd, Stòras Uibhist and Qinetiq.



## MSP visit

On Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of February, Mrs. Morrison's National 5 and Higher Modern Studies classes received a visit from SNP MSP Dr. Alasdair Allan. Dr. Allan came to the school to talk to the classes about political life the daily routine and tasks of a member of the Scottish Government, amongst other things such as life as an MSP. He also answered questions that both of the classes put to him for information that would be of use to them in their assignments.

Dr. Allan was full of knowledge and expertise that he was able to pass onto both of the classes that would help them in studies and revision. He also gave strong opinions of different political issues of today!

It was indeed a positive experience for both of the classes to be in the company of Dr. Allan and to hear and listen to the interesting and attention – grabbing aspects of the post that he holds and the responsibilities and challenges he faces. I, myself hope that not too much time will pass before we receive another visit.



## Climate Change Protest

A group of S5s organised a climate change protest in the school to raise awareness of this world wide issue in hopes of the government understanding how strongly the youth of today feel about this problem and act. It is an important issue that many pupils in our school feel strongly about. It was a great way to have the students of this schools' voices heard and it showed how much young people care about significant issues like this. Beforehand a group of senior pupils were involved in a litter pick up outdoors around the school to clear up rubbish that had gathered in the bushes. This was to give the whole school the opportunity to get involved in this global movement as half the countries in the world were part of the Climate Change Strike.

## LGBTQ+ RIGHTS IN WESTERN ISLES      PURPLE FRIDAY IN 2019

LGBT Youth Scotland is a charity in Scotland which works to promote LGBTQ+ rights and support young people in the LGBT community. For young LGBTQ+ people 'coming out' can be a very difficult time as many people struggle to find a term to fit into or way to describe how they feel. It can be even more difficult if the young person's social connections – be it family, friends or peers – are considered homophobic or intolerant towards LGBTQ+ people.

Purple Friday is a national day of action, so I, with the help of a few other pupils, set up an information stand in school to promote the work of LGTYYS and educate people about LGBT terminology, the history of the LGBT movement and how to support people in the LGBTQ+ community. I want to make a positive impact on the community and help make both the school and wider community more inclusive so young people can feel comfortable with who they are.

Want support or someone to talk to? LGBT Youth Scotland offer a [LiveChat](https://www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/chat) service at [www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/chat](https://www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/chat), which is open every **Monday, Wednesday** and **Thursday** from **6-8pm**.

Andrew Muncaster, S5

The S5s felt it was important to involve all years in this and some of the junior classes had lessons on global warming throughout the week to inform them on the problem that they might not have known about in much detail which made it a learning experience. This showed how as a community we are willing to demonstrate our understanding of climate change and how badly it affects our planet. It was important to show how significant the issue is to our island as climate change can lead to Uist being below sea level in the future if no changes are made.

Written by Tamzin MacLeod



## Fairtrade Fortnight

During Fairtrade fortnight, the S3 Geography class undertook learning about Trade, Globalisation and Fairtrade. They presented some of their research about the benefits of Fairtrade and the products available with the Fairtrade certification during the recent S3 parents' evening. Fairtrade products were also on offer for families and staff to try, including tea, coffee, chocolate and bananas.

Congratulations to the undernoted pupils who were awarded the Elementary Food Hygiene Certificate.

Iona MacDonald, Kory Kibble, Catherine MacCormick,  
Marion MacCorquodale, Leanna Y Blodwell, Catherine MacDonald.

Thanks to Esther MacDonald for running the course, to Lisa Johnson Environmental Health who arranged funding and to Mrs Beaton for organising it.

## Sports Day

This years sports day is on the afternoon of Tuesday 18th June at the running track, parents are welcome to come along for support. The high Jump is on Monday 17th June.

## Sgoil Lionacleit Pipe Band shines again at Schools Championships

Pictured left are 29 pipers and drummers and 3 dancers from Sgoil Lionacleit Pipe Band at the Scottish Schools Pipe Band Championships in Livingston on March 11th.

Sgoil Lionacleit Pipe Band competed in three categories this year - Novice Juvenile B, where they gave one of their best performances so far, Novice B where the development band gave a very credible performance indeed, and the "Freestyle" section where they excelled, and finished in 2nd place.



Pupils in the band would like to thank the SLPB Committee for helping to fund the trip, and for all the organising and arrangements. They would also like to thank the adults for accompanying them on the trip and looking after them so well. "Thank you very much"

Photos & performances can be viewed on [www.sspdt.org.uk](http://www.sspdt.org.uk)



## HIGHER MODERN STUDIES CLASS WIN £1000 IN NATIONAL COMPETITION

In December, our Higher Modern Studies class entered the Global Voices' competition run by Young Scot. We had to write a report on a global issue. We suggested the Scottish Government should tackle the global issue of the brain drain in Africa, entitling our report "Draining the Brain Drain". We suggested the government should put in place an exchange programme for skilled professionals such as teachers and doctors.

This would allow these professionals to leave their home and gain experience and earn more money in a developed country without taking away the professional from their home on a permanent basis as one from Scotland replaces them for a short time. We highlighted that this could not only help to solve the brain drain but could help things such as teacher recruitment and retention problems in Scotland as people would be more inclined to become teachers if they had this opportunity. In February, it was announced that we had won the Secondary Schools' category of the competition, giving the school an extra £1000 and giving us the chance to meet Ben MacPherson, the Scottish Minister for International Development.

Maria McGoldrick, S5.



Sgoil Lionacleit were successful in applying for RBS 6 Nations tickets this year. 11 senior pupils travelled down to Murrayfield to watch Scotland beat Italy in the opening match. For the majority of the group this was their first experience of watching a rugby match live and visiting the national stadium. Positioned in the first 2 rows just behind the posts, we got an excellent view of the tries being scored, the team warming up and a big wave from the squad at the end of the match as we waited for the stadium to clear. It was a whirlwind trip but we will be showing our support again for Scotland in next year's tournament.



Thank you to all that contributed to the fundraising for the trip. Bonus Ball winning numbers were No 54 and No 02 Congratulations to DA Maclean and Rhoda MacCormick for holding the winning numbers.

## SCOTTISH SCHOOLS ATHLETICS INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS, EMIRATES ARENA, GLASGOW.

At the beginning of February S5 pupil Marion MacCorquodale travelled down to Glasgow to compete in the Scottish Schools Indoor Athletics Championships in the Emirates Arena. Marion was competing in U17 Shot Put and achieved the standard to be eligible in this competition by more than 2m. Marion's performance didn't disappoint and she achieved a new personal best and placed 11<sup>th</sup> overall.

## NORTH OF SCOTLAND SCHOOLS CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS, GORDONSTOUN 2019.

Sgoil Lionacleit had a fantastic day competing at this year's North of Scotland Cross Country Championships in Gordonstoun where there were over 300 competitors across the 6 different age groups.



Joni Smith achieved a hard fought 2<sup>nd</sup> place and Seonaidh Macinnes 6<sup>th</sup> place in the U15 categories, the Senior girls team placed 4<sup>th</sup>, missing out on 3<sup>rd</sup> place by 2 points and the senior boys team placed 5<sup>th</sup>. All pupils involved in team have been attending some form of training at least twice a week and on the day gave their all, working hard for both themselves and the team.

Well done everyone and thank you to all who supported the trip, allowing it to go ahead and for Mr K Macdonald for giving up his time to accompany the trip and drive the minibus.





**LEWIS AND HARRIS WOMENS SELECT.**

Congratulations to Amie Ringstead, Kyla Mackinnon and Rachel Macdonald on their selection with Lewis and Harris Ladies football Team. The girls' first game will be on Saturday where they will travel to Inverness.



**WIDER ACHIEVEMENT.**

**World Island Games, Gibraltar 2019.**

Congratulations to S5 pupils Trinity Johnson and Marion MacCorquodale who have been selected to represent the Western Isles in athletics in Gibraltar in July. Trinity will be competing in the 100m and hurdles and Marion will be competing in the Shot Putt. Both girls have been part of the a PDP programme run through a joint partnership between the Scottish Institute of Sport and the Comhairle's Sport and Health team, attending Strength and conditioning session in the sports hub on the track and technical sessions to reach the standard required to be considered for selection. The girls will be joined by former pupils Heather Mackinnon, DJ Macmillan, Callum Fraser and Paul Morrison in the team.



On the 27<sup>th</sup> of January the Sgoil Lionacleit community, along with many communities around the world, commemorated those who were persecuted during the holocaust and subsequent genocides by taking part in activities for Holocaust Memorial Day. The theme for this year which "Torn from Home". The Social Subjects department ran a series of three lessons for S3 students during the preceding week. Throughout these lessons the students worked on tasks designed to help them think about the practicalities of being torn from home as well as to develop a sense of empathy for those, around the world, who are currently displaced from their homes. On Holocaust Memorial Day students, staff and members of the community were invited to take time to reflect on the impact of genocides including the holocaust and to write a message of support for people currently experiencing displacement. These messages will form part of a display which will make them available for all students to read.

<b>SUMMER 2019 - TERM 4</b>		
<b>opens:</b>	Monday, 15 April 2019	Teachers and Pupils
<b>Good Friday and school is closed:</b> Friday, 19th April 2019		
<b>Easter Monday and school is closed:</b> Monday, 22nd April 2019		
<b>work experience week one commencing:</b> Monday, 13th May 2019		
<b>work experience week two commencing:</b> Monday, 20th May 2019		
<b>P7 transition week commencing:</b> Monday, 10th June 2019		
<b>high jump:</b> Monday, 17th June 2019	<b>sports day:</b> Tuesday 18th June 2019	
<b>prizegiving:</b> Thursday, 27th June 2019 (evening)		
<b>closes:</b>	Friday, 28 June 2019	Teachers and Pupils