

# Sgoil Lionacleit News



## Head Teacher Headlines

### October 2019



October is here again! It always amazes me how quickly a school term goes past and of them all the first one is definitely the quickest.

After saying goodbye last term to some staff who have faithfully contributed to our journey our team has been refreshed and we are fully staffed – long may it continue.

This term we welcome:

Miss Sienna Gray (Biology/Chemistry)

Mrs Tina Nicholson (Business and Admin)

Miss Sarah Ferguson (Maths)

Mr Steven Simpson (Maths)

Mr Alaric Beckingham (Technical)

These additions to the team all bring their own strengths and varied experiences for our young people to benefit from.

Our young people continue to work hard towards Sgoil Lionacleit fulfilling its potential, our exam results were very good and continue to improve year on year (there will be more about this in Am Paipear in the coming weeks). This sustained improvement would not be possible without the dedication and hard work of all involved, teaching staff, non-teaching staff and parents/carers as well as pupils.

I can honestly say that I am privileged to work in this school and community.

As Mark Twain said:

“Continuous improvement is better than delayed perfection”

Yours in Partnership

Gordon Young

#### **School Contact Information**

Head Teacher, Mr Gordon Young  
Sgoil Lionacleit, Benbecula  
Western Isles, HS7 5PJ  
Tel: 01870 603690,  
Email [sgoillionacleit@gnes.net](mailto:sgoillionacleit@gnes.net)  
<http://www.sgoillionacleit.org.uk>



#### **Dates For Your Diary**

22nd & 23rd October INSET

24th October - School re-opens to pupils

22nd & 25th November - Local holidays

2nd–10th December—Prelims

20th December - School closes

## STEM CLUB NEWS



The Technical Department are currently looking to recruit some new members to SLYE (Sgoil Lionacleit Young Engineers). This club is run as an after school activity and involves working on a variety of STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) projects. The club meets every week on a Friday after school although alternative days could be considered. At present, the club is looking for pupils with an interest in Robots, Lego or coding to come along and get involved in the First Lego League Robotics competition. We are looking to put together a team to take part in a Lego Robot competition that will see us compete with teams from other schools. Last year's team made it to the UK & Ireland National finals in Bristol! Do you have what it takes to be a SLYE fox?

Speak to either Mr Beckingham or Mr Fraser if you want to find out more. There is a sign up sheet for any interested pupils outside room 12 in the Technical department.



## CLAS Writing Competition

Bha sgoilearan Sgoil Lionacleit trang a' sgrìobhadh anns a' Chèitean. Fhuair na sgoilearan a leanas am moladh airson nam pìosan sgrìobhaidh a chuir iad gu co-fharpais sgrìobhaidh CLAS.



Sgoil Lionacleit pupils were busy writing entries for the annual CLAS writing competition in May.

This is a national competition which is open to all S1-S3 pupils studying Gaelic and Gàidhlig.

The following pupils received certificates of commendation for their entries.

**S2 Gàidhlig:** Olivia Steele, Ruth Findlay, Katie MacDonald and Jack MacDonald.

**S2 Luchd-ionnsachaidh:** Anna Netherton, Mairi MacDonald, Callum Rae, Nicole Lindsay, Grace Steele, Iona MacLeod and Dawn Steele (not in picture).

**S3 Luchd-ionnsachaidh:** Joni Smith, Anna MacLeod, Leah MacIntyre, Rhys Linich, Kerry MacPhee and Jamie Ford.



**S3 Gàidhlig:** Francesca MacMillan, Erin Straderick, Finbar Rodger and Catriona MacLeod.

Is math a rinn sibh!



## MACMILLAN FUNDRAISING

### World's Biggest Coffee Morning

On Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> of September the school organised a bake sale and disco in aid of MacMillan Cancer. Mrs Beaton's hospitality class baked a grand selection of cakes and sweets in order to raise funds. A junior disco that same evening was held for S1 – 3 pupils. School staff also had a coffee morning to contribute to the event. All money raised was donated to the local MacMillan cycle team mentioned below. A total of £483.45 was raised.

R. Gray S6



Well done and thank you to everyone involved in raising £483.45 for MacMillan Cancer Support. The picture is school captain Rachel MacLean and prefect Ruairidh Gray, donating the money raised from the bake sale, disco and staff coffee morning to the Sponsored Cycle Team. Congratulations to S3 pupils Jake Monk and Shaun Macdonald, S4 pupil Orin Shepherd and S6 pupil Bethan Maclellan on completing the Macmillan Support Cycle from Eriskay to Berneray at the end of September.



## MACMILLAN SUPPORT CYCLE – 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept.



Four Sgoil Lionacleit pupils and Stuart Menzies our janitor took part in a locally organised cycle event to raise money for Macmillan cancer support on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September. The cycle route was from Eriskay Hall to Berneray approx. 60miles. The 4 pupils were amongst 55 participants who have raised a massive total so far of £9996 with money still coming in. Well done to Jake Monk and Shaun Macdonald (S2), Orin Shepherd (S4) and Bethan Maclellan (S6).



## GLASGOW HALF MARATHON

Congratulations to Katie Walker who completed the Glasgow Half Marathon on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September. Katie has been dedicated to a training schedule to ensure her fitness levels were good enough to complete the difficult distance of 13.1 miles in 2h 33mins. The route found Katie starting in George Square in the heart of the city centre and running across the Clyde twice using the Kingston Bridge and Clyde Arc. Katie was running for Cancer Research UK and raised a total of £1,319.25. Well done.



## SPORTS NEWS

### WORLD ISLAND GAMES GIBRALTAR 2019

Two S6 pupils, Trinity Johnson and Marion MacCorquodale secured places earlier last year to represent the Western Isles in Gibraltar competing in 100m, 100m Hurdles and Shot put. The girls were competing against adults from Cayman Isles, Gibraltar, Faroe Isles, Gotland, Shetland, Guernsey, Isle of Wight, and the Isle of Man to mention but a few.

The girls were committed to gruelling training schedules of strength and conditioning and discipline specific training, sometimes training at the track in Lionacleit before school started. All the hard work paid off with both girls excelling in their disciplines.



Trinity placed 4<sup>th</sup> in her 100m Hurdles and 5<sup>th</sup> in her 100m Heat, Marion placed 5<sup>th</sup> in a field of 22 in her shot put and improving on her previous throws by 66cm to give her a new PB of 10.66cm.

Both girls are now focused on meeting the qualifying standards for their disciplines to compete in Guernsey in 2021.



### MALLAIG FOOTBALL FESTIVAL

Mallaig High School hosted a boys and girls football festival recently and 38 pupils attended the trip. Mallaig staff were impressed with our skill level and behaviour. Well done everybody. Thanks to Kevin Morrison, Mairi Ann, Mrs Beaton and John Alick for supervising, supporting and coaching the pupils.



## CASTLEBAY SCHOOL VISIT

Sgoil Lionacleit welcomed 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> year pupils from Sir E Scott and Castlebay High School who joined our 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year pupils for a festival of sport on 12<sup>th</sup> September.

Pupils took part in a basketball tournament and experienced a variety of athletics activities during the course of the day. It was a fantastic day to engage with other schools and we are looking forward to visiting Sir E Scott for a return visit later in the school year. Thanks go to Kevin Morrison for organising the event.

## FUTURE ASSET CONFERENCE

On Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September five fifth year girls, Mrs MacSween and Mrs Campbell travelled to Glasgow to attend a Future Asset Conference at Strathclyde University. Around 400 girls from all over Scotland attended and we were privileged enough to have taken part. Future Asset aims to raise aspirations and confidence in girls and encourage them to choose ambitious career paths. The day was filled with talks from inspirational women such as Jo Swinson, leader of the Liberal Democrats. She spoke to us about how important it is to aim high and always try our hardest. We also participated in a number of workshops which allowed us to work with girls from all over Scotland. We took part in a voice and executive coaching workshop, which taught us about being confident in ourselves and expressing our own opinions. The speakers at Future Asset emphasised to us the importance of women getting involved in business and encouraging us to do so.



The experience filled us with passion and determination, inspired us to expand our horizons and consider the wide variety of opportunities available to us. We would strongly recommend this event to younger year groups in the future as it was a very informative, profitable and uplifting experience.

## WINTER 2019 - TERM 2

|                |                       |                                     |
|----------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>opens:</b>  | Tuesday, 22nd October | Teachers (staff in-service, 2 days) |
| <b>opens:</b>  | Thursday 24th October | Pupils                              |
| <b>closed:</b> | Friday, 22nd November | Teachers and pupils                 |
| <b>closed:</b> | Monday, 25th November | Teachers and pupils                 |
| <b>closes:</b> | Friday, 20th December | Teachers and pupils                 |

