



Ard-sgoil Phort Rìgh
Portree High School
Viewfield Road
Portree
Isle of Skye

(01478) 614810

Portree.high
@highland.gov.uk

Absences:
Portreehigh.absence
@highland.gov.uk

Striving for Excellence
READY, RESPONSIBLE, RESPECTFUL, RESILIENT

As always, our term was a busy one, with a number of opportunities for our young people to demonstrate the 4Rs of PHS both in the school and in the community. We were extremely pleased to meet up with a large number of businesses for our careers breakfast and provide further opportunities to meet employers at MOWI and QinetiQ. It's been good for our young people to get back to a more typical term, with a school disco and performance evening both taking place for the first time since 2019! Both events were very successful, with the performance evening highlighting how talented our young people are.

With the arrival of the festive season, I wanted to pass on our thanks as a school for all your support this term. We have had a number of events that have welcomed parents to the school, such as the very successful Christmas Fayre, which raised over £6,000 for school and the re-introduction of face-to-face parents' evenings. Next term, we will continue to have in-school parents' evenings and I would like to extend an invitation to Raasay parents to come across to an open afternoon in February (details to be arranged with parents).

I am grateful for support from parents/carers with our uniform policy, which is clearly displayed in Daily Information and on our website. Consistent school uniform sets a standard where pupils are prepared and 'Ready' to learn and in the local community pupils in uniform are able to be 'Respectful and Responsible' whilst taking pride in their school. If pupils do not have the correct uniform, we have a number of spare shirts and school jumpers that have been laundered and can be worn. I do hope that this improvement in uniform will continue, now that the dances have come and gone! With the cold, wet and even icy weather could I please ask parents and carers to check their child's footwear when coming to school - we suggest solid black footwear rather than some of the canvas-type shoes that get easily wet and may have poor grip. I am also still surprised at the number of pupils who arrive in school without a winter jacket, even when it's freezing outside!

Finally, I'd like formally welcome Mrs Julie MacLennan as Depute Head Teacher, and to extend my thanks to Mr Burrows and Mrs Lamont, who will return to their substantive posts at the end of term.

I wish all families a wonderful break this Christmas time.

Mr T Breen, Head Teacher



HOUSE

Glamaig:

Marsco:

Tianavaig:

PUPIL SUPPORT

Mr T Coles

Mr N Burrows

Mrs D MacLeod

E-MAIL ADDRESS

thomas.coles@highland.gov.uk

neil.burrows@highland.gov.uk

dawn.macleod@highland.gov.uk

Halloween Disco

We had a SPOOKtacular time at the Halloween disco. A huge thanks to Miss MacNab and the S6 for organising it, and to Hugo and Sam Lamb for the lights and tunes. 4Rs of PHS - Ready!



Shinty Success

Congratulations to Aonghas Nicolson, Iain MacInnes and Iain Graham for taking part in the North V South U14 match today at An Aird, Fort William - the North winning with a very impressive 9-0 score line.

Photos thanks to Ryan Nicolson.

4Rs of PHS - Ready, Respectful, Responsible, Resilient!



Composer in School



Earlier in the term our senior pupils were treated to a performance from composer Gareth Williams, where he introduced his 'Songs from the last Page' music, transforming beloved Scottish stories into song. He was accompanied by former pupil Deirdre Graham.

NPLQ



Well done to our newly-qualified NPLQ students, the second cohort of 2022! Thanks to Roddy at Skye Youth Development and the staff at the Fingal Centre / Arainn Fhinn for delivering this course and supporting our students. 4Rs of PHS - Ready!

New Buses

This term we officially welcomed our new Stagecoach buses to Skye. Stagecoach have invested in a fleet of brand-new buses to serve our community. As part of a community competition, the school named the buses **Bus Lightyear**, together with **Glamaig, Marsco and Tianavaig** (after our school houses). Pictured with Mr Breen are Iain Beaton, of Stagecoach and Councillor John Finlayson.



Delivering the Young Workforce



Thanks to Claudia at DYW West Highland for organising our career breakfast. The event enabled pupils and local employers to meet up and talk about careers and local opportunities whilst discussing visions and values. Thank you to Portree Nursery, Duvegan Castle, Skye Gym, Sonas Group, LSHA, MOWI, CSMCO, SDS, Stagecoach, UHI Portree, Countryside Learning Scotland, Radio Skye, NHS, RJ MacLeod, Edinbane Lodge, Ferguson MacSween & Stewart, Shanks Plumbing.



BBC Visit

ON November 8th, we welcomed Martin Dougan and Abbi Thomson from the BBC, who were looking at Careers in Industry with our pupils, through the BBC 'Share Your Story' tour. We also thank Heather Fulton from Atlas Arts and Carolyn Alexander from Creative Scotland for being part of the panel. Our pupils asked very thoughtful questions as they reflected on their own dreams and aspirations!





This term, we have had a number of careers trips. A group of senior students went to MOWI's feed facility in Kyleakin and talked about career opportunities with engineering graduates (and former pupils) who have returned to work on Skye. We also took a small group to QinetiQ in Kyle to look at the apprenticeship opportunities currently on offer. Thank you to Mrs Lamont and Claudia Pech (DYW West Highland) for organising these trips and staff at both Mowi and QinetiQ for making us feel most welcome.



Trip to Eden Court

We had a wonderful trip to Eden Court with all the N5/H/AH Drama students to see 'Queen of the Fight'. An amazing production and a thoroughly enjoyable experience.



Performance Evening

56 of our pupils were involved in the annual School Performance Evening. An amazing night, with a variety of spectacular performances. A HUGE CONGRATULATIONS to all who were involved and a special thanks to Mrs Wright, Miss Davies and Miss Conneely for all their hard work in organising this event.







PHS Fundraising

Thanks to all pupils and families who contributed towards the **Blythswood Shoebox Appeal**. We were able to hand in 130 boxes for distribution to children and adults in places such as Eastern Europe and Syria. Special thanks to the Morag Anna and Jess, who co-ordinated this year's effort, and also the Enhanced Provision team and the S6 who helped wrap and fill boxes.



We held our annual **Money Mile**, raising funds to support buying Christmas presents for residents in our local care homes. We were able to lay out 0.92 miles of coppers, amounting to over £800 in money. Well done to G House pupils who laid out 650m, with M House providing 450m and T House laying out 385m.



Feed the school

We have also been fundraising for our Partner school in Zambia, the **Hope & Faith Community School**. Lusaka - £293 was raised at the Performance Evening, a further £365 raised at the Christmas Fayre, with an additional £42 contributed by the PSAs as part of their Secret Santa. Over £400 was raised for the **school magazine**, which will go towards its significant production costs.

Deasbad- Scotland's GM Schools National Gaelic Debate

Chaidh an latha leis na Sgitheanaich! (PHS are this year's National Gaelic Debate winners!)

Cha b' e ruith ach leum a rinn sgoilearan Phort Rìgh gus pàirt a ghabhail ann an Deasbad Longair nan Àrd-sgoiltean Gàidhlig am-bliadhna agus ar mìle meal a naidheachd orra airson cuach an deasbaid a thoirt dhachaigh leotha don Eilean Sgitheanach!

"San t-Samhain fhuair sinn an cothrom pàirt a ghabhail anns an Deasbad Nàiseanta, cothrom mìorbhaileach coinneachadh ri sgoiltean eile agus ar sgilean deasbaid a leasachadh. Bha a' chiad dà chuairt ann an Talla Bhaile Steòrnabhaigh agus bha sinn fortanach pàirt a ghabhail anns na h-iar-chuairtean deireannach agus sa chuairt dheireannaich ann an Dun Èideann. 'S ann anns a' Phàrlamaid a bha sinn a' deasbad airson a' chuairt dheireannach an aghaidh Sgoil an Tairbeirt. Bha sinn airson a' mholaidh gun robh ginealach ar pàrantan nas fheàrr dheth. Bha deasbad gu math sradagach eadarainn ach aig a' cheann thall thàinig na britheamhan chun a' cho-dhùnaidh gur ann dhan Eilean Sgitheanach a bhiodh an duais a' dol. Bha sinn uabhasach toilichte a' chuach a thoirt dhachaigh ach a bharrachd air a sin dh'ionnsaich sinn iomadh sgil ùr a bhios feumail dhuinn san àm ri teachd."

- **Eubha Caimbeul 5G**



It was great to see the Loganair National Gaelic Debate reinstated again this year after three years of being unable to go ahead. With 20 different debate teams from 19 schools across Scotland, it was yet another fantastic event and our pupils were, as ever, especially keen to take part. It was Eubha Campbell 5G and Beth Campbell 6G who rose to the challenge to represent PHS. The first round of debates was held in Stornoway and we were delighted when it was announced that of the four teams making it through to the semi-finals in Edinburgh, Portree High was one of them. And so to Edinburgh, where the girls managed to not only win the semi-final but were also the overall winners of the competition after defeating Sir E Scott in the final held at the Scottish Parliament. As well as being delighted with their success, the girls are grateful to the debate organisers for the opportunity to take part and feel they have gained mainly new skills which will be useful to them in the future.

You can still listen to the final of the Debate on BBC Sounds:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001fmx1> or, if you have Facebook, you can watch the final on this link: <https://www.facebook.com/deasbadbtalba/videos/1580674579028459/>

Christmas Dances



After the postponement due to the snowy and icy weather, we were pleased to hold our Christmas dances this week in school! We had an amazing two nights at the dances, and the pupils had such a fun time. A huge thank you to the S6 pupils and staff who organised this event.





Christmas Lunch



We were pleased to have our school Christmas lunch on Tuesday this week. A HUGE THANKS to our canteen staff, who put an enormous effort into making this happen!



Portree Community Carol Service

Thank you to our 3M students Sadie McIlraith, Eilidh Farr and Oliver Langlands, who represented the High school in the Portree Community carol Service on the 18th December. The service is being broadcast on Radio Skye on Christmas day.

Meet our new Depute HT, Mrs MacLennan

- I have been teaching for 23 years and my subject is Art & Design.
- I gained my degree in Environmental Art from Glasgow School of Art.
- I taught for 9 years in North Lanarkshire then moved to the Highlands where I was a supply teacher in the Support for Learning Department in Portree High School for 6 months.
- I then became the Principal Teacher of Art & Design at Inverness Royal Academy for 7 years and Acting Depute Rector for 5 years until my appointment in October.



"It is with great enthusiasm that I start my new job as depute in your school. I have been very impressed with the friendliness and kindness of pupils, staff, parents and partners. I am looking forward to working as head of Marsco, embedding the values of Ready, Responsible, Respectful and Resilient and being part of the very successful team at Portree High School."

Lessons from Auschwitz

Each year two of our S6 Humanities students take part in the national Lessons from Auschwitz Project. The project aims to increase knowledge and understanding of the Holocaust for young people and to clearly highlight what can happen if prejudice and racism become acceptable. This year Sophie Holmes and Emma Millar represented Portree High School on this project. Sophie and Emma delivered a poignant, thought-provoking and moving presentation to their peers following their visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau. As LFA ambassadors they will continue to convey what they have learnt to the wider school community over the coming months.



Ski trip, Italy, 18th to 25th February 2023

34 pupils and five staff will be going to Aosta Valley in Italy for a week of skiing in February 2023.

It is hard to believe that it is in just over 8 weeks' time - I hope those of you taking part are getting excited! You should be making sure you are fit for the hard work involved, so if you haven't started, I would thoroughly recommend you are actively taking part in your favourite sports on a regular basis, and even better, doing some specific ski exercises. This website is a good starting point:

www.skiclub.co.uk/info-and-advice/before-you-go/getting-fit-for-skiing.

If your child is going, please can you make sure you have completed the online Google Form, which is available on the Ski Trip class on Google Classroom. *Mr Purrett*



Advance Warning: if you missed out on the opportunity of taking part in the February Ski Trip, don't worry: the next trip is already provisionally booked for 16th - 23rd December 2023. This is open to any pupil in current S1 - S5 year groups. It is likely to cost around £1,200 which I know is a lot of money, but there are bursaries available from PHS and from Highland Children's Trust for pupils from low income households. Perhaps you will even have some Christmas money you could put towards it! So look out for letters for the trip which will be sent out in January. The initial deposit will be £150.

Live N Learn

Our S3 -S6 students took part in workshops looking at having a growth mindset, time management and development of study skills, as the senior pupils approach their prelims next term.

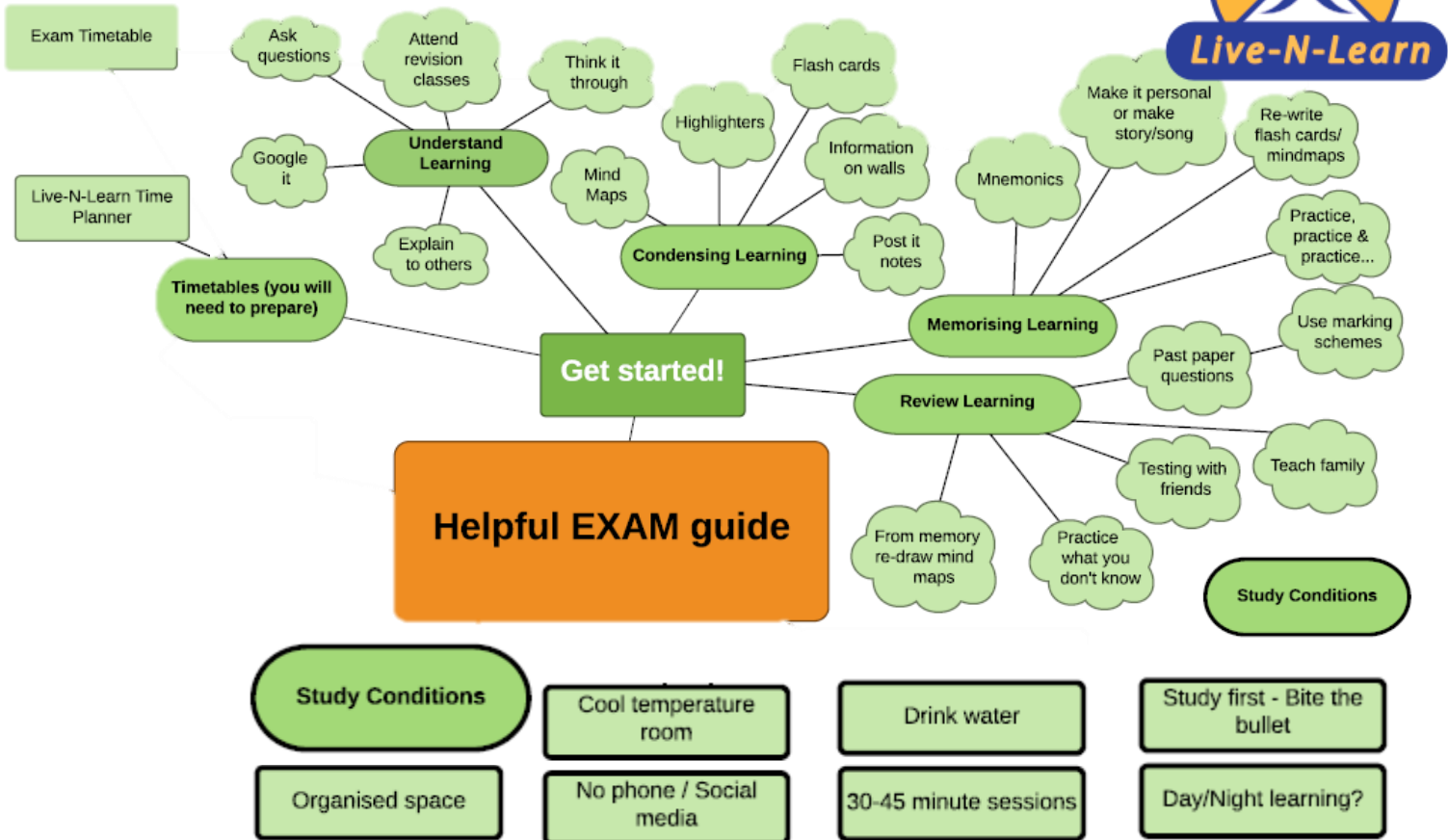
THERE IS A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NOT KNOWING AND NOT KNOWING YET!

(This quote has been attributed to Shelia Tobias)

CLive-N-Learn Ltd live-n-learn.co.uk @livenearnuk 0333 2000 443



Live-N-Learn



What should I do if your child is absent from school?

The parent or carer should either phone the school on 01478 614810 or email PortreeHigh.Absence@highland.gov.uk to let them know you are going to be absent. The school has an automatic voicemail system that lets your parents know you are absent from school but they won't receive one if we know you will be off. When you return to school you should write a note and ask your child to hand it to reception.



What should pupils do if they feel ill during school time?

If your child should feel unwell in class, they should inform the teacher who will send you to Reception- A member of staff will contact home if required, and appropriate first aid will be administered if necessary.

Recently, a number of pupils have directly messaged parents and subsequently been collected by parents, without letting the office know. CAN YOU REMIND YOUR CHILD TO REPORT TO RECEPTION, AND WE WILL CONTACT PARENTS/CARERS.

Dress Code

We are particularly keen that all pupils adhere to our school dress code and we welcome the support of parents in meeting this aim. School dress code is as follows:

- Black blazer with school badge or plain black V-neck sweater or cardigan to be worn by all pupils in S1 to S6; maroon blazer for S6 Prefects
- White school shirt/blouse and school tie
- Smart black trousers/skirt (no denim or tracksuit bottoms and no writing on them)
- Solid black coloured footwear
- Outer jacket with/without hood for travelling to/from school.
- During the colder months, a school hoodie can be worn over school uniform. These can be purchased at from the office at set times during the year and year-round online at



<https://schoolwearmadeeasy.com/collections/portree-high>

Education Maintenance Allowance

If you are 16 to 19 years old, in a school or college, you may be eligible to receive financial assistance from an [Education Maintenance Allowance](#) (EMA). EMA is a weekly allowance of £30 per week payable during term time. To be eligible, your family household income must be less than:

- £24,421 - for households with 1 dependent child
- £26,884 - for households with 2 or more dependent children

See Mrs MacLeod for more details and apply online.

Free school meals and assistance with clothing

Free school meals and assistance with school clothing can be claimed if you are receiving any one of a range of benefits.

If you believe you are eligible, please apply online. Students are credited with a daily allowance, automatically added to their canteen PIN number - no other pupils know who receives an allowance. https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/899/schools_-_grants_and_benefits/10/free_school_meals_and_assistance_with_clothing

PLEASE APPLY IF YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE - the number of pupils who qualify for FSMs has a direct correlation to the amount of PEF funding we receive, which is important for us to be able to provide extra literacy support for all pupils.

Pay your school meals online

- You will need your child's Scottish Candidate Number. Please contact the school if you need a reminder of your child's Scottish Candidate Number
- Allow 24 hours for the payment to reach the pupil's account. Payments made between 4.30pm Friday and 9am Monday will not appear in the pupil's account until the Tuesday

https://self.highland.gov.uk/service/School_meal_payments

Financial Assistance

School Meals



Useful Links

<https://www.skyefoodbank.co.uk/#help>

A SKYE AND LOCHALSH FOODBANK

The Community Foodbank - Skye and Lochalsh is an independent voluntary organisation. The demand for food has increased over the years. We are run entirely by volunteers with each having a specific part to play.

www.skyefoodbank.co.uk

<https://www.slmha.co.uk/am-fasgadh>



Skye and Lochalsh Mental Health Association - Am Fasgadh

There are laptops and tablets with free internet access, a cafe serving a hot meal at 12pm each day for £2.50 and teas and coffees all day for 50p.

www.slmha.co.uk

<https://www.cas.org.uk/bureaux/skye-and-lochalsh-citizens-advice-bureau>



Skye and Lochalsh Citizens Advice Bureau

This Bureau will be closed from Friday 23 December 2022 to Friday 6 January 2023 inclusive.

www.cas.org.uk

<https://scotland.shelter.org.uk/>



Home - Shelter Scotland

HOME IS EVERYTHING. We exist to defend the right to a safe home. Join us in ending the devastating impact the housing emergency has on people and our communities.

scotland.shelter.org.uk



Mikeysline

IT'S OK NOT TO BE OK

**NON JUDGEMENTAL CONFIDENTIAL PEER SUPPORT FOR
EMOTIONAL DISTRESS OR MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES**

YOU CAN CONTACT US BY:

Text 07786 207755

6pm – 10pm Sun to Thurs & 7pm – 7am Fri/Sat

OR



Support is available over the Christmas period for young people at Mikeysline

Telephone Support Service- you can request that we call you back.

You can request a telephone appointment by texting 07786 207755. Please see our textline opening hours below.

Text Based Support

We will still be here for you every evening via

Text 07786 207755, Messenger, Twitter, WhatsApp (01463 729000) or webchat via

www.mikeysline.co.uk

Hours: Sun – Thurs 6pm-10pm and Fri/Sat 7pm-7am

[#itsoknottobeok](https://twitter.com/itsoknottobeok)



The school office receives numerous enquiries about school holidays. The up-to-date calendar and holiday dates are outlined below and can also be viewed on the school website:

<http://www.portreehigh.highland.sch.uk>



The dates can also be accessed on the Highland Council website:

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/learninghere/schools/schooltermdates/>

HOLIDAY DATES – 2022-2023

Opens	Closes
	3:40pm, Thursday 22 December 2022
Monday 09 January 2023	1:15pm, Friday 17 February 2023
Thursday 23 February 2023	1:15pm, 31 March 2023
Monday 17 April 2023	Lunchtime, 29 June 2023

Note:

1. Additional Holidays: May Day - Monday (1st May 2023), King’s Coronation Bank holiday (8th May 2023); In-Service Day: Thursday 5th June

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/learninghere/schools/schooltermdates/>



Thurs 12th January - S2 Parents’ Evening 5-7pm
Thurs 16th February - S4 Parents’ Evening 5-7pm
PLEASE LOOK AT OUR WEBSITE for any further updates and information.

<http://www.portreehigh.highland.sch.uk>



Please also ‘like’ PORTREE HIGH SCHOOL ON FACEBOOK, TO CATCH UP ON NEWS, NOTIFICATIONS OF ANY EVENTS, etc.

www.facebook.com/portreehighschool/