



Ard-sgoil Phort Rìgh  
Portree High School  
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Isle of Skye

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Striving for Excellence  
READY, RESPONSIBLE, RESPECTFUL, RESILIENT

As we are approaching the festive season, I am delighted to share some of the successes of our young people this term. We have had a busy term, not only with learning, but with a number of opportunities available for our young people to take part in. To name but a few: the Battlefields Trip, the Careers Fayre, shinty development and organising dances - we've done a lot! We've also taken part in a range of our fundraising and philanthropy initiatives.

In the various activities reported here, I hope that you are able to see the 4Rs of PHS shining through - the Readiness, Responsibility, Respectfulness and Resilience that our young people demonstrate on a daily basis.

In the new year, our senior pupils will be gearing themselves for a Prelim Exam Diet and I would be grateful to parents/carers if they would encourage their children to make use of the study opportunities available and help them in the preparation of an out-of-school revision timetable, necessary to establish good consolidation of the learning they receive each day.

I wish all pupils, parents/carers, partners and staff a very happy Christmas and I look forward to 2024, when we will continue to support our young people to achieve the best possible outcomes for their futures.

Mr T Breen, Head Teacher

*Battlefields Trip*



*Girls' Shinty*



*Performance Night*



*Christmas Fayre ◀ Work Experience ◀ Fundraising ◀ School Dances*

**HOUSE**

**PUPIL SUPPORT**

**E-MAIL ADDRESS**

**Glamaig:** Miss K MacPhee  
**Marsco:** Mr N Burrows  
**Tianavaig:** Mrs D MacLeod

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## Christmas Fayre 2023



We had a fabulous day, with over 50 stalls and a busy crowd creating a lovely community atmosphere. Our Parent Council ran a very successful café, bottle stall and raffle, raising vital funds for our young people.

Congratulations to Evie Painting (2T) who won the poster competition for our Christmas Fayre.





## *Sustainability in Local Business*



It was great to have Ben Oakes from the Isle of Skye Seaweed Company back in Portree High School. Ben was working with the Biology Department, talking about seaweed and scallops and the role of businesses to be more sustainable.

## *Work Experience*

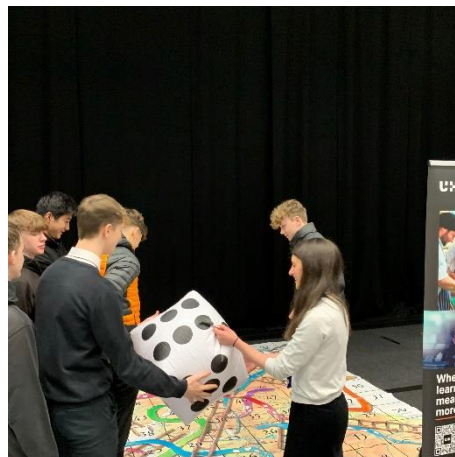
Our S3 Allotment Group continue to work with Nicholas Kelly in Broadford gaining valuable work experience. Last week they were doing a new path next to the new Hugel Bed down in the Broadford allotments. They managed to master the use of the power barrow to get new skills using machinery as well as some 'old school' tool use with the roller. The group headed out to a path along the 'Corry Loop' to help with some drainage issues near a bridge. Thanks to Nicholas and PHS staff for supporting our pupils.





## Careers Fayre 2023

Earlier this month DYW West Highland organised a Careers Fayre, where around 20 different employers, Skills Development Scotland and UHI West Highland spent the day in the school talking about the local opportunities available for our young people. Thank you so much to the individuals, many of which were PHS alumni, who took time out of their busy schedules to support our pupils.



## *Councillors' Visit*

In Modern Studies this term we welcomed two local councillors, Cllr John Finlayson and Cllr Calum Munro, to speak to a group of pupils from S5 and S6 about issues that are of concern to pupils. Topics included housing for young people, career prospects in the Highlands, healthcare and the environment.

The two councillors asked what the pupils thought the council does and how it works. There followed a super and informative discussion about ward make up, representation and departments – as well as information about apprenticeships and careers available from our local authority.



## *Lessons from Auschwitz*



Annually, two of our senior Humanities students represent Portree High School on the nationally recognised Lessons from Auschwitz Project run by the Holocaust Memorial Trust. This year Anna Moller and Lois Langlands took part. The experience was very impactful and the girls will be leading learning on the Holocaust in BGE RME classes in forthcoming months.



## SEALL Small Halls Workshop

The Music Department were very pleased to welcome four musicians currently touring Skye as part of the Small Halls Festival. Jarlath Henderson (pipes/whistle), Megan Macdonald (accordion), Eilidh Mackenzie (clarsach) and Mike Vass (guitar) worked with 25 pupils from S1-3 and taught them some new tunes by ear. The pupils listened well, worked hard and really enjoyed the afternoon.

Thanks to SEALL Events Skye for organising such a great opportunity for our pupils!



## Skye Wind Band

Congratulations to a number of our young people took part in a wonderful concert by the Skye Wind Band at the start of December.





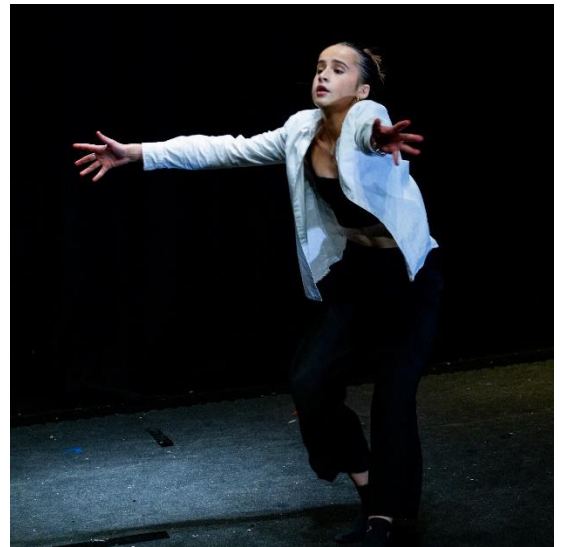
## Performance Night

We wanted to say a HUGE thank you to all the performers at the sell-out show, the staff who supported our young people and all those involved in running the production. The show was truly amazing and the talent of our young people was evident for all who came to watch. Thanks to Rosie at Love Skye Photography for the great photos.



*Striving for Excellence*







## Battlefields Trip to Belgium and France

October 2023

### What We Learnt

On the trip we learnt about some of the most devastating battles that took place during the First World War. However, we did not just learn about what happened, we also learnt about interesting facts about the terrain, the tactics used and the equipment.

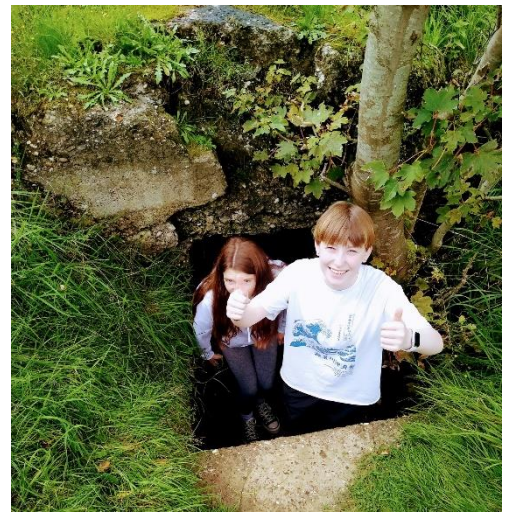
The experience we had has taught us so much and it was a once in a lifetime trip. Our tour guide, Margaret, taught us so much and you could tell she knew her stuff and how experienced she was on the subject.



### Best Bits

There were three highlights of this trip for me. Firstly, when we went to the town of Ypres and explored. Secondly, when we took part in the Menin Gate Ceremony and laid a wreath to honour those who had laid down their lives and finally when we visited the Somme and learned the horrific stories of what took place.





## Most Moving Bits

Some of the most moving bits of the trip were when we visited the graves of relatives and held ceremonies for them. Another part of the trip which was moving was when we saw the comparison between the British cemeteries and the German cemeteries and how badly run down the German ones were in comparison to the British ones.

## Would You Recommend the Trip?

I would 100% recommend this trip to anyone who is interested in learning more about the events that took place during the First World War or to anyone who is interested in history. In my opinion, it was the most interesting and beneficial way to fully understand what took place over a hundred years ago.

**Dylan McGlynn and  
Alexander Whitehead, S5**





## Blythswood Shoebox Appeal 2023



A HUGE thank you to those who brought full boxes or items for boxes and to the S6 who wrapped and filled numerous boxes!!! Over 110 boxes were completed this year - each one an expression of care and kindness from our young people towards a stranger in need.



## Teenage Vaping

Unfortunately, at times some of our young people do not always meet the 4Rs Gold Standard and one area of concern that we have is the nationwide issue of teenage vaping, which is also evident in our school community. This week Mr Breen and some of our senior pupils met up with Trading Standards, who are asking for parents and young people to support them in providing information about where their children are getting vapes. The team can only act if they have reliable information, so if you are able to share any knowledge about children getting vapes, please contact Advice Direct Scotland:

<https://consumeradvice.scot/> 0808 1646000  
or email [trading.standards@highland.gov.uk](mailto:trading.standards@highland.gov.uk)



advice  
direct  
scotland



## School Shinty

It has been a busy few weeks in the world of shinty in Portree High School.

Our Invasion Games block in PE saw us offering outdoor shinty for the first time in over 16 years! This was much in thanks to the family of the late Donnie Martin who made a donation of camans, helmets, balls, strips and other equipment to the school. We were also thankful to a number of pupils who donated some of their old sticks as part of the shinty stick amnesty we ran last session. (Any more out there?) Also, Jans donated a large quantity of grips and tape which we are most grateful for. Without all this support we simply could not have afforded to get this up and running again.



Pupils from S1 - S4 were enjoying taking part in PE lessons where they were able to work on their individual skills. The team play on both the Braedownie and the astro pitches.





### Annual Sorley MacLean Memorial Match

On the 25th of October three teams from PHS ventured down to Plockton to participate in this annual match. Our girls' team played first and despite the Plockton girls having a bit more experience, we gave a far better performance than the 5-1 scorelines suggested. Our girls can hold their heads up high after a very spirited game. Our most experienced players, Lexy MacLeod and Catherine Robertson really encouraged the whole team and helped many of our younger girls put in some very strong performances. Catherine Roberston was voted player of the team.



Next up our S1/2 boys competed and ran out 8 - 0 winners with goals spread throughout the team and some great individual performances. Lachlann Macleod was voted as player of the team.

Finally, the senior boys fought out a very close affair with the game ending 1-1. The game was hard fought and after going a goal down, the Portree boys fought hard to get back into the tie with Jamie Ross finding the



equaliser. Iain MacInnes who was the driving force for many of our attacks was voted player of the team. As a result of all this Plockton Girls won the Ladies' Quaich and our boys won the Gents' Quaich.

## Donella Crawford 6s



On the 15th of November a group of eight girls (Lexy MacLeod, Catherine Robertson, Katie MacDonald, Isla Preston, Sadie McIlraith, Teri MacLeod, Bethany MacIntosh, Ella Collins) travelled with Mr MacKenzie to the Donella Crawford Shinty 6s at Ardnamurchan High School.

16 teams were competing in a 2-league format. Portree Girls narrowly missed out on the final having only succumbed to one defeat out of seven. Our girls performed really well throughout the tournament giving a great account of themselves, all putting in strong performances.

The scores were as follows:

Lochgilphead A 0 - 5 PHS (Teri 2, Catherine 3), Oban 0 - 7 PHS (Teri 4, Catherine 2, Ella 1), Glasgow Gaelic School 0 - 7 PHS (Isla 3, Catherine, Teri, Lexy, Ella 1 each), Uddingston A 0 - 5 PHS (Teri 4, Catherine 1), IRA 4 - 1 PHS (Teri), Kingussie B 2 - 5 PHS (Teri 4, Bethany 1), Ardnamurchan A 0 - 3 PHS (Teri 2, Bethany 1).



## School Dances

This week we were able to hold our traditional school dances and our pupils made every effort to ensure that we all had a great time to round off the year. With thanks to Ross and Donald-John in the Ceilidh Band and Iain Wilson, who performed a set for our senior dance.





## Education Maintenance Allowance

### Financial Assistance

If you are 16 to 19 years old and 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. Pupils 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](https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/899/schools_-_grants_and_benefits)

*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 numeracy support for all pupils.*

### School Meals

## 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](https://self.highland.gov.uk/service/School_meal_payments)







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 – 2023-2024

Opens	Closes
	1.15pm, Friday 22 December 2023
Monday 08 January 2024	1:15pm, Friday 16 February 2024
Thursday 22 February 2024	3.40pm, 28 March 2023
Monday 15 April 2024	Lunchtime, 27 June 2024

#### Note - Additional Holidays

May Day: Monday, 6th May 2024

In-Service Day: Thursday, 5th June 2024

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



**S4 Parents' Evening – Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

**S2 Parents' Evening – Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

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/](http://www.facebook.com/portreehighschool/)