



NEWS FROM ULLAPOOL HIGH SCHOOL



21st December 2019

Dear Parents / Carers

I don't wish to dwell too much on the year that has been...but would once again like to thanks our school community for the tremendous efforts in the past few months - staff, pupils and parents. It has been so important for us to be open for business and great to work with our young people, albeit in a limited way.

To celebrate we have given out Gold, Silver and Turnaround awards to many pupils. These awards are a genuine thank you for hard work, good effort, enthusiasm and resilience and I hope pupils enjoyed receiving them. We were also conscious of this being a Christmas season like no other and were keen to organise some Christmas events that would allow our pupils to be with their friends and have socially-distanced fun, as it is unlikely they will be able to do that over the holidays.



The Music department were able to provide a socially distanced concert at Lochbroom House this week...and it was quite emotional, the residents were most appreciative. It brings home how important our job in connecting the community is to us all and I hope that going forward we can offer more.



We have held two fundraising events this term including: Children In Need which raised £276 and Christmas Jumper Day which raised £100.



A team of S3 students from Ullapool High School have secured a grant of £3000 for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, in particular the Lochinver Lifeboat, through the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI).

YPI is all about empowering and engaging young people to understand their role within their community and the ways in which they can make a difference while developing their own personal life skills.

The group's presentation detailing how the Lochinver lifeboat crew will be able to use the grant to continue saving lives in our local waters, saw them win the public final.



Advanced Higher Biology students recently took part in a remote 'Meet a Roslin Scientist' event run by The Roslin Institute in Edinburgh. The scientist selected was Dr Megan Davey, a leader in the field of developmental Biology. Students were joined by two other schools and participated in a Q&A session to find out about Dr Davey's career and her research into limb and finger development. They were also lucky enough to see one of her experiments using a chicken egg!



We have a busy year ahead, with the removal of SQA exams and the incredible work that will have to be undertaken by our staff. With your support we will get there.

ADVANCE WARNING

Dates for your diary next term include:

25 th January to 5 th February	Assessment window for N5, Higher & Adv Highers
25 th January	S3 Tracking & Monitoring Report issued
9 th February	S3 Parents Evening
19 th February	S4/5/6 Tracking & Monitoring Report issued
15 th & 16 th February	Half-term holiday
17 th February	In-service Day
3 rd March	S2 Parents Evening
11 th March	S4/5/6 Parents' Evening

Please note these dates may be subject to change



ADVERSE WEATHER & TRANSPORT ISSUES

Whenever the snow and ice hit this corner in the winter months, there are always difficulties and concerns about the transport arrangements. However, it might perhaps be helpful to share the following information:

All the school buses are public service vehicles (PSV), meaning that they carry fare-paying customers and follow a timetable regulated by the Dept of Transport. Therefore, they are required to **always** try to run each morning and will not cancel the evening before.

The exception to this (there's always one!) is the Dundonnell bus to Braemore Junction which is solely a school transport and not subject to the same regulations.

The school will always update the 0800 phone line and @ullapoolhs Twitter account as soon as it has news. If you call the line and there has been no update, please wait and try again in 5 or 10 minutes' time when there may be fresh information.

If the line is not updated, then that means the bus is trying to make its way to school. You, as a parent, may choose not to send your child to school and that is, of course, entirely your decision to make but your child will be marked as absent for Personal reasons. After all, the transport will have travelled to school and other pupils may well have made the journey.

Hopefully, having written the above, the snowy days won't come ...



LAST DAY OF TERM

The last day of term will be Tuesday, 22nd December and the school will close as normal at 3.40pm with the buses arriving shortly afterwards.

Parents should note that, despite this being the last day of term, it is still considered a school day and all pupils, **including Seniors and those who normally attend college**, are expected to attend. There will be timetabled classes in the morning and the last day of Five Festive Days of Fun in the afternoon. School will resume on Wednesday, 6th January 2021.



SCHOOL REOPENING AFTER CHRISTMAS

You will be aware of the Scottish Government announcement over the weekend on a staggered return for school children across the country. We are still awaiting further details which we will send out to you tomorrow.

School will reopen for staff and keyworker children on Wednesday, 6th January with no lessons provided. From Monday, 11th to Friday, 15th January lessons will be provided online, similar to what was produced during full lockdown. Full details on this will be provided by Highland Council and information will be sent out Tuesday 22nd December.

ALL ADDITIONAL UPDATES RELATED TO CHANGES IN SCHOOL OPENING DATES OVER THE FESTIVE PERIOD AND BEYOND WILL BE ADVISED VIA @ullapoolhs TWITTER FEED

AND FINALLY ...

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours an enjoyable Festive Season and all the best for 2021

Robbie McFedries

Head Teacher