Outstanding Achievements & Good News Stories

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd



























HYP

Wick High School

Wick High School Pupils put questions to astronaut on International Space Station in live radio chat

On October 8th, Wick High School pupils took part in an historic, live via radio, question and answer session with Joshua Kutryk, KJ5BFU, an astronaut aboard the International Space Station. As well as talking to Joshua, our pupils will be showcasing all the excellent space-inspired work that was completed in the lead up to the contact.



Children between the age of five and 17 had been preparing for the huge moment for months, and were able to speak live to the ISS from Wick High School!

Chris Aitken, computing teacher and lead organiser at Wick High School, said: *"This was quite possibly the highest honour a school group can achieve in amateur radio, and having reliable, high-speed broadband in place was vital for sharing this landmark Stem event with the world"*.

Dalneigh Primary School

Maths Week 2026



All P4-7 pupils had a chance to play in the national Sumdog contest with some of our pupils placing in the top 500 out of over 55,000 children!!



What an amazing achievement, and some fantastic placings. We have been working hard over the past few years using mental maths games such as Sumdog, Numbots and Times Table Rock Stars to promote a culture of enjoyment and enthusiasm around maths, promoting little and often practice at home, and the importance of accuracy vs speed.



Dalneigh Primary School

Maths Week 2026



P3 Maths Madness Morning

We were lucky enough to have our friends in P3 from Kinmylies Primary come and visit us for a maths madness morning and had lots of fun. We had the choice of lots of different games and activities to take part in to practice our mental maths skills and we then played one of our favourite games 'Dotty to 6' with a friend from the other school.

It was so lovely to welcome another school to our playground and everyone agreed what fabulous manners, behaviour and hard work everyone displayed! We also all got a times table ruler to practice our multiplication facts over the course of P3.

Dalneigh Primary School

Inverness Primary Schools Mathletics Contest

We are very proud to have hosted the 3rd annual Inverness Schools Mathletics Contest during Maths Week Scotland, and this year was the biggest ever!! Teams of 6 children from 17 primary schools around Inverness and the local area competed to be crowned Mathletics champions! Pupils had to answer times tables and problem-solving questions and then played in a head-to-head game of NumberHive against pupils from other schools.

Our very own team of Dalneigh “mathletes” performed brilliantly against tough competition and worked very well as a team, displaying hard work and perseverance. More than 100 pupils took part from 17 other schools and also joined us at breaktime in the playground, and our brilliant team of P7 hosts looked after them while they were here – they did a super job of looking after everyone and we are incredibly proud of them!

Drakies Primary School

Drakies Primary School children's work recognised nationally!

Children and young people from Drakies Primary School in Inverness continue to influence and create impact with the amazing resource they have created.



The children have authored, illustrated and designed a book which will help support an early connection and sense of belonging in preparation of their move to Nursery or Early Primary School.

Their resource has been showcased as a Case Study on the Gov.Uk MOD Armed Forces Covenant website – national recognition of such a helpful and supportive resource aimed at early years/early primary.

See it here.

Crown Primary School

Cross Country Event

Brilliant participation by our runners in the cross-country event on 6th October.

An individual Silver, team silver for the boys and team gold for the girls.

We're very proud of you and our thanks go to the coaches who help you prepare for these events.



Crown Primary School

Success at the Irish International Open Karate Championships

Three Crown pupils won gold medals at the Irish International Open Karate Championships in Dublin: Congratulations to Finn McDonnell, Harry McLachlan and Sofiia Shevchenko.

Finn McDonnell has medalled at every national event since he began competing two years ago, earning his 10th gold medal!



Crown Primary School

Inverness Primary Schools Mathletics Contest

A HUGE well done to our amazing P6 and P7 Mathletics team, who **WON** their competition at Dalneigh Primary School against 17 other brilliant teams.

We are so incredibly proud of your massive achievement!

A special well done for all your hard work and preparation over the past couple of weeks and the maturity & teamwork you showed today. You represented Crown brilliantly and should be super proud of yourselves!



Eigg & Muck Primary Schools

Core Reading Schools Accreditation & a Silver Rights Respecting Schools Award!

Eigg and Muck schools achieved their Core Reading Schools accreditation from the Scottish Book Trust and their Silver Rights Respecting Schools Award at the end of last term, which is testament to the hard work and dedication of the children, their supportive adults and our wonderful island communities. We would warmly invite anyone to visit our islands and our schools!



The UNCRC at Muck Primary School

This term we have continued to promote awareness of the United Nations Convention of the Right of the Child by planning and organising learning through our Fun 31 Fridays – which help us to guarantee children's right to play. A real highlight of the term was our restaurant themed Fun 31 morning. Each child created a course for our "banquet" with on child in charge of the decorations. These Fun 31 sessions have been led by our "Junior Leaders" – who are taking part in an accredited leadership award with High Life Highland. We think this is a great example of pupil voice and our pupils leading our setting to exciting new learning opportunities.

Eigg & Muck Primary School

The Bothy Project at Eigg Primary School

Children in Eigg have continued their local partnership this term with the “Bothy Project” – a residency scheme for talented visiting artists. This is supporting children to explore new ideas, develop their creative skills and learn about what could be possible with a career in the arts.



This term Helen McCrorie returned to Eigg Primary for a sound recording workshop, with children trying out some impressive pieces of technological equipment.

The children were also treated to a premier of the recordings they made during Helen’s last visit. This partnership is supporting us to broaden the horizons of our learners and is supporting our understanding of Article 31 – the right to rest, culture and play. The Bothy Project is a great example for all of us of the opportunities provided by our unique island location.

Dornoch Academy

Dornoch Academy Debating Club Success



Charlie Millward and Thomas Shepherd, alongside Mr Maclean, have successfully established a debating club at Dornoch Academy. Both pupils have demonstrated outstanding enthusiasm, commitment and confidence as they continue to develop their debating skills.

The pair recently competed in the prestigious YSS Schools' Mace Debating Competition – Highland Round, held in the Highland Council Debating Chambers. They achieved an outstanding result, ***qualifying for the National Finals as the third-best junior team in Scotland!***

The National Finals will take place in Edinburgh at the beginning of next year, providing the pupils with an exciting opportunity to showcase their skills on a national stage.

In further recognition of his talent, Charlie Millward has also been invited to join the Scottish National Debating Junior Squad – a fantastic individual achievement! The pupils have continued to build on their skills by attending a debating workshop on Thursday 17 September, and they are now working to organise a similar opportunity at Dornoch Academy for others to benefit from. These achievements demonstrate the pupils' dedication, initiative and growing confidence, while highlighting the importance of communication, critical thinking and leadership. We are incredibly proud of their success and look forward to seeing how they continue to develop their talents! ***Well done, Charlie and Thomas!***

Muirtown Primary School



GOLD School Sport Award from Sports Scotland

Muirtown Primary are delighted to share they have achieved their **Gold School Sport Award** from Sports Scotland.

This award recognises the work of our pupils, parents, partners and staff in supporting sport to be a key part of the life and ethos of our school.

Applecross Primary School

Applecross Primary awarded the Gary Innes Award for School of the Year by the Camanachd (Shinty) Association

Applecross Primary has been awarded the Gary Innes Award for School of the Year by the Camanachd (Shinty) Association. Applecross is a very small, remote school, that has never had a team in any sport for around 50 years. With 14 children in the school – half of them play in the Shinty team. The Headteacher started the team a couple of years ago now and at the time, not one of the children had ever seen a game of shinty before (let alone watched any other sports match). We have gone from this to a now competitive team, who beat all the larger Lochalsh schools to qualify for the Nationals in Fort William (the smallest team to ever do so)!

The children travel to Lochcarron on our community bus for shinty training at Lochcarron Camanachd, in addition to our own training. Combined with Lochcarron we make a bigger team for full competition. Lochcarron support us with equipment, and we are also generously supported by Highlife Highland, Northwind Engineering and the Applecross Inn!

We are super proud of the children for all their commitment, and are so happy to be the smallest school to ever receive this award.



Tain Royal Academy

Jack Livings (S2) nominated for this year's Most Promising Young Musician

Jack has played the violin and been a member of the Gizzen Briggs Orchestra for the past 5 years. As well as Gizzen Briggs, Jack is also actively involved with the TRA Orchestra, Kiltearn Fiddlers, The Jack and Zoe Band, SNAS and various different Feis Groups. He has also had the opportunity to play with local musician Rhuaridh Gollan. Jack is a regular on the traditional music circuit and takes part in numerous ceilidhs and performances. He has accumulated well over 100 Saltire hours through his musical volunteering and commitment.

During the October holidays, Jack was contacted by Blazin' Fiddles and ***nominated as this year's Most Promising Young Musician***. This fantastic achievement gave him the opportunity to attend "Blazin' in Beauly", where he received a week of free advanced violin tuition. He thoroughly enjoyed the experience and will return next year to undertake the super-advanced tuition. At the end of the week, he took part in a performance where he got to perform alongside one of the tutors Douglas Montgomery – an experience he will never forget!



Jack is an exceptionally talented young musician whose life revolves around music. His dedication, enthusiasm and willingness to develop his skills are truly admirable, and it is fantastic to see his talent and hard work being recognised.

Nairn Academy

The New Nairn Academy!

After a number of years of planning and preparation, we were delighted to welcome staff and pupils into the new school last week.

A very busy week as we establish new routines but a hugely exciting stage for our Nairn community!









Golspie High School

Study Leave spent in the school garden!

Keiran McKelvie-Walker in S5 spent all study leave caring for and improving the school garden, weeding the beds, watering the plants, and harvesting the fruit and veg. He's even now set up a school gardening club with younger pupils.



We received donations of plants from Golspie in Bloom and early manpower from Murphy's to refresh the school garden for all, with a patio and seating and a new shed Kieran received the new School Gardener Award at the school prizegiving in June. As you will see he did it all with a massive smile on his face!

Nest of Tables Project Completed!

Mr Robert's full class of 20 N5 Practical Woodwork pupils completed their first unit project of the nest of tables! Everyone achieved a grade A1 or A2.



Highland Youth Parliament

Highland Youth Parliament Conference | Pàrlamaid Òigridh na Gàidhealtachd

The HYP Conference Took place on 24 September 2026 at Eden Court, Inverness.



Supported by HC Youth Service

123 young people attended

15 young people taking a lead role

35 HC youth/education service staff

Supported by Eden Court

Supported by the HC Employers Charter

55 partner organisation representatives, speakers and Elected Members

Highland Youth Parliament

Highland Youth Parliament Conference | Pàrlamaid Òigridh na Gàidhealtachd

The HYP Conference focus was on developing HYP's manifesto, highlighting young people's priorities in the following areas:

- Education
- Health & Wellbeing
- Environment
- Culture & Identity
- Transport
- Employment
- Leisure & Recreation
- Digital Safety
- Housing & Money
- Rural & Remote Living



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Home to Highland

Celebrating Clachnaharry Old School's 150th Anniversary!

Home to Highland pupils organised a variety of events to celebrate Clachnaharry Old Schools 150th Anniversary. A community open day was held where the march of the pupils over the bridge from the Old Gaelic School to the new school in 1876 was re-enacted. Past pupils were invited to share their memories of their time at the school; our pupils are using these to produce a 150th Anniversary Booklet.







The school was transformed back to the Victorian era for a visit by Muirtown Primary School which is celebrating its 50th Anniversary. In 1976 after Clachnaharry School closed the pupils transferred to Muirtown Primary. Home to Highland worked in partnership with Highland Archive Centre, Inverness Museum and Highland Folk Museum to organise these events.

Farr Primary School

Bear Scotland Name a Gritter Competition

We're excited to let you know that Farr Primary School's gritter name has been chosen as one of the winners of our gritter naming competition. Well done! Keep an eye out this winter as they head out across Scotland helping to keep roads clear of snow and ice. You'll also be able to spot your named gritter on Traffic Scotland's Gritter Tracker in the coming weeks.

Lots of entrants told us where they'd like their gritter to work. While we couldn't promise specific routes, we've managed to place many of the winning names close to where they were requested.

Thank you for your fantastic entry and for helping us name this year's gritter fleet. We hope you're proud to see your winning name out on the road this winter!



