

Outstanding Achievements

Education, Children and Adult Services Committee: 25 August 2016

Balloch and Ardersier Primary Schools



Supported by their teachers, pupils from Balloch and Ardersier Primary Schools worked with the Making Maths Count Group to develop maths expressions for the green flags that were used at the Scottish Pro-Am Golf Tournament at Castle Stuart in July. The Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills wrote to both schools, thanking them.

Bridgend Primary School

Having come first in the Highland J Rock competition for Primary Schools at Eden Court in April, Bridgend Primary School has won the National J Rock™ Award for Cultural and Educational Achievement.

Christopher Faulkingham

An S5 pupil from Culloden Academy, Christopher Faulkingham, performed CRP on an elderly lady who collapsed in Inverness High Street in May, making a critical intervention, and enabling her to be treated in hospital. Christopher has received first aid training as a member of the Air Cadets and hopes to join the RAF.



Highland Bears

The Highland Bears under 12 girls Basketball Team won the National Challenge at Paisley in May, beating 12 other sides from across the country. The girls train weekly at Millburn Academy.

Highland Young Musician of the Year: Antony Hook

Antony Hook, tuba player and pupil at Lochaber High School, was awarded Highland Young Musician of the Year 2016 at the competition held in June. Eight competitors representing a wide range of instruments, worked over the course of a weekend before performing at the public final. The five finalists included two other pupils from the school: Rosie Clark and Rhona Mackintosh.

Invergordon Academy

Pupils from Invergordon Academy opened the Tartan Heart Festival at Belladrum in August, with their winning performance from Rock Challenge. The festival organisers have indicated that they wish to build on this performance for the 2017 event.



Catherine Milne

Catherine Milne, the P3/4 teacher at Cromarty Primary School, has been awarded Science Teacher of the Year by the UK Primary Science Teaching Trust. She is the driving force behind Cromarty's success in the Scottish Engineering Special Leaders Award - winning three years in a row, a unique achievement amongst all Scottish schools.

This year a P2 pupil Robbie Penwright was his age group winner with his invention of a wellie boot sealer. Another P2 boy Charlie Torley was highly commended in the same competition. Last year, Cromarty pupil Aiden McCann was the competition winner with his design of a trolley for older people, which was later built as part of a university project.



Nairn Academy

Two outgoing S6 pupils at Nairn Academy, Caitlin Sherrett and Finlay Allmond, were crowned Scotland's best young debaters after winning the final of the Law Society of Scotland's Donald Dewar Memorial Debating Tournament.

The final was held in the debating chamber of the Scottish Parliament in June, and was broadcast live on the internet.

National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music

The National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music at Plockton High School played at the State Opening of the fifth session of the Scottish Parliament in July, following the 2016 election. They were invited to return in August, to perform at the Festival of Politics.

John Norman MacLeod

John Norman MacLeod's service to Gaelic education was recognised with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the recent Herald Higher Education Awards ceremony in Glasgow.

Paul Little, Principal of the City of Glasgow College, said of John Norman: 'He has made an immense contribution to the development of further and higher education through the medium of Gaelic. Prior to his appointment at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, it was merely an independent college which offered seasonal short courses in Gaelic language and culture. Today it offers five honours degrees and postgraduate courses. It is unlikely that Sabhal Mòr Ostaig would be what it is today if not for the, ambition, vision, industry and determination of John Norman MacLeod.'