

Outstanding Achievements

Education, Children and Adult Services Committee: 1 March 2017

Charleston Academy

Rosie Gittings & Bethany Morris from Charleston Academy were successful against two teams from Gordonstoun School in the Highlands & Grampian round of the Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal Debate. The motion was “Social Media is the enemy of Equality”. They hope to progress to the national final, which will be held at Parliament House.

Digital Schools Award

21 Primary Schools across Scotland were given ‘Digital School’ status, at awards presented by the Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science in February. Lundavra and Kinlochleven Primary Schools both received this award, recognising the progress they had made integrating the use of ICT in the curriculum.

Ellora James

16-year-old Ellora from Wick High School has won a highly prestigious national technology award. The FDM Every Woman in Technology Awards ceremony took place on 10th February in the *London Hilton on Park Lane* hotel and was attended by over 550 business and technology leaders from around the world. Ellora won the coveted ‘One To Watch’ award after impressing the judges with her self-taught abilities in coding. She hopes to study for Advanced Higher qualifications next year, before following a Computing degree.

Iona McLachlan

A third-place finish in the under-18 Nordic Surf Championships in Norway last year brought Iona from Thurso High School to the attention of the BBC TV Channel, and they made a documentary about her training for the World Junior Championships, which was broadcast in February. Iona was a member of the first Scotland squad to compete at the World Junior Championship in the Azores last October, and at the Eurosurf Junior Games in Morocco.

National Indoor Shinty Finals – Camanachd Association



Congratulations to Portree Primary School on winning the Primary 7 (& under) National Indoor Shinty Finals in Fort William last weekend. They beat Dingwall in the final to take the trophy home once more. Inverlochry Primary School won the P4/5 final. Balnain Primary School were the runners up. Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar won the fair Play Award at the tournament.

Strontian Community School

Strontian Community School reached its first fund raising target at the weekend – to raise £100,000 by the end of February.

FilmG Awards

2017 has been a hugely successful year for Highland Filmmakers in the BBC Alba FilmG Awards, which featured recently on the Gaelic Implementation Group agenda.

This year's Youth Awards shortlist featured:

School	Film Title	Shortlists
Gairloch High	Briste	Best Film, Best Script
Eòin Cumming – S3 pupil from Gairloch	Strì ris a' chiad chloich	Best Young Filmmaker, Best Mobile Short, FilmG Gaelic Prize
Ruaraidh Alexander – S1 pupil from Gairloch	Falach-fead	Best Young Filmmaker, Best Animation
Claire Frances MacNeil – S5 pupil from Lochaber	Bodach na Beinne	Best Young Filmmaker, FilmG Gaelic Prize
Dingwall Academy	Geamannan na Gàidhlig	FilmG Gaelic Prize
Millburn Academy	Eachdraidh Goirid na Gàidhlig	FilmG Gaelic Prize for Learners
Plockton High	Strì Ceitidh	FilmG Gaelic Prize for Learners
Christina MacDonald	Badenoch VS Skye	Best Sports Commentary
Kate Bradley	Lochaber VS Skye	Best Sports Commentary
Eòin Cumming	Gairloch VS Sleat & Strath	Best Sports Commentary

Further, Highland Council was significantly represented amongst the award winners. There was a clean sweep for Gairloch, with the School, Eòin and Ruaraidh winning a prize each – Best Script, Best Mobile Short and Best Animation, respectively. Kate Bradley of Ardnamurchan High School scooped the Best Sports Commentary award.

Adult talent from Highland also shone in the Open Category, with Portree's Alannah Beaton making 4 shortlists and Skye Camanachd player Kerr Gibb making the cut twice for his documentary. Iain Wilson and Ally Macleod of Staffin and Duntulm made the shortlist twice, for their comedy, "Girls, Strì is Macaroni", while Alness Academy Gaelic teacher Eòghan Stewart's satirical "FilmG no Die Trying" made the cut as well.

Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis Primary 7 teacher, Kirsty Scott, made the shortlist for Best Community Film and Best Drama for the second year in a row, with her class as the cast and double-act Lewis Boag and Keira O' Brien making the shortlist for Best Performance!

Alannah won both Best Comedy and The People's Choice Prize, Kerr took home Best Documentary, Eòghan won Best Mobile Short, and Kirsty Scott & P7 at BSGI continued last year's success, winning Best Community Film and Best Drama.