

People Committee: 23 August 2017

Outstanding Achievements – Health, Care & Education

Invergordon Rock Challenge



For the second year running, Invergordon Academy Rock Challenge were invited to perform on the main stage at the Belladrum tartan Heart Festival in August.

School staff and pupils took up to a week out of their summer holiday to make preparations for their performance, which opened the Friday line-up at the festival.

Farr High School were also selected to perform by the Festival organisers, but it proved too difficult to organise attendance from the school during the holiday period.

Oakwood

Oakwood Children's House in Dingwall has received 'Very Good' grades from the care Inspectorate for Quality of care and support and Quality of environment.

Pipe Bands

Ross and Cromarty Pipes and Drum School (RACPADS) youth pipe band are European Champions (Novice A Grade) with Lochalsh Junior Pipe Band coming 2nd in Novice B Grade, and City of Inverness Youth Pipe Band also giving an impressive performance at the European Pipe Band Championships that were held in June. The RACPADS winning performance can be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oydz0MRKUQU&feature=share>

Ross and Cromarty Pipes & Drums School and Lochalsh Junior Pipe Band, then went on to achieve the ultimate accolade, by becoming World Pipe Band Champions in their respective grades at this summer's competition in Glasgow.

The bands are tutored by Highland Council Music Instructors,

School Catering Services

School meals across the authority have been awarded prestigious awards for their quality and freshness. The Soil Association's 'Food & Life Served Here' Silver Award has gone to Cradlehall, Drakies, Holm, Lochaline, Rosebank and Smithton Primary Schools and Nurseries. All other Highland Primary Schools have been awarded the Bronze Award.

Stonewall Education Equality Index



Highland Council has been awarded 'Most Improved Local Education Authority' within the Stonewall Education Equality Index. Highland Council is also the highest performing Scottish local authority.

The Index is a comprehensive benchmarking exercise for local authorities across the UK, showcasing how well they are celebrating difference and tackling homophobia, biphobia and transphobia in schools. Stonewall research shows that reduced levels of bullying contribute to significantly improved learning outcomes for students.

Team Highland at the Special Olympics National Summer Games

61 athletes and 23 coaches represented Highland at the Special Olympics National Summer Games in Sheffield in August. Highland had athletes participating in 6 sports – athletics, boccia, bowls, football, golf and swimming.

The Highland medals for each sport were-

- Athletics (15 athletes in squad) 16 gold, 5 silver and 4 bronze
- Boccia (3 athletes in squad) 1 silver and 1 bronze
- Bowls (11 athletes in squad) 1 gold, 2 silver and 5 bronze
- Football 7-a-side (10 athletes in squad) 10 silver
- Golf (5 athletes in squad) 1 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze
- Swimming (17 athletes in squad) 2 gold, 6 silver and 2 bronze

Highland athletes also achieved Personal Bests in a number of events: male 400 metres run, female 100 metres run, male long jump, male 25 metres freestyle swim, and male 50 metres breast stroke.