

Outstanding Achievements – Care, Learning & Housing Committee: 22 August 2018

SQA examination results

The detailed SQA analysis data will not be available until mid-September. We cannot draw any significant conclusions at this stage. However, as is the norm in Highland, the overall picture is positive, and the Head of Education will provide an overview.

It is important that we acknowledge the success achieved by our young people. As ever, it is a real team effort - and we should commend our young people, their schools and teachers, and their parents/carers for the hard work they have put in to achieve these results.



Caol Primary School

Caol Primary are the national winners of the First Minister's Reading Challenge School & Community Reading Journey Award, for their "fantastic efforts" in engaging their entire community in the school's reading initiatives.

The pupils developed successful partnerships with families, local businesses, the local library and authors - while creating imaginative, inclusive initiatives to celebrate their love of reading. They were presented with the award by FM in June.

Cradlehall Primary School

Cradlehall Primary has become the first Highland school to receive a UNICEF Gold Award as a Rights Respecting School, and they were presented with this in June by Drew Hendry MP. The gold award is the highest level, and is granted to schools that have fully embedded the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into their ethos and curriculum.

Erin MacLean

Erin, a P5 pupil at Kilchuimen Academy, Fort Augustus, won a top award at this year's Scottish Engineering Leaders Award – which had submissions from more than 10% of Scotland's Schools. Erin invented 'The Blanket Roller', designed to solve the problem of people who can't get up in the morning. Apparently, Erin is one of those people, and to stop her Mum moaning (Erin's words) she has invented a mechanism where (at the right time) the roller turns and rolls the covers off the bed.



Islay Watson

Kingussie High School Pupil, Islay Watson was the (unofficial) Youth World Windsurfing Champion at the Youth Sailing Championships held in July in Texas. After the event, Islay said: "I have had the most amazing time competing against some of the best young windsurfers in the game, and am thrilled to come away with the gold medal. It was a super week of racing in amazing conditions and a truly inspiring experience".

Lochardil Primary School

Lochardil Primary won the category of Learning for Sustainability at the Scottish Education Awards 2018, held in June. These awards are supported by the Scottish Government and celebrate the hard work and success which takes place in Scottish education, and they have become a major event in the national education calendar.

Rock Challenge

Ten Schools competed in the Rock Challenge® Scottish Finals. The four Highland Schools finished in the top five, albeit they were pipped at the post by Kinross High School:

- 5th place - Invergordon Academy
- 4th place - Thurso High School
- 3rd place - Alness Academy
- 2nd place - Dingwall Academy

School Meals

Highland Council has achieved the Soil Association Scotland's Silver and Bronze 'Food for Life Served Here' Awards for the ninth year running. These awards are widely respected and independently assessed, and supported by the Scottish Government. They recognise Councils that are serving food made from fresh ingredients, free from undesirable additives, and that comply with national nutrition standards.

Special Olympic Games

Team Highland was successful at the 40th Anniversary Special Olympic Games, which were held in Stirling in August. Team members won a total of 9 Gold, 17 Silver and 8 Bronze medals, in a variety of competitions. This included the following sports: football, athletics, swimming, bowling, boccia and golf.

Eve Grant, a 15 year old pupil at Culloden Academy won three gold medals in swimming, attracting national publicity - for the front crawl, back crawl and relay swimming,. She was one of the youngest competitors.

Wick High School – Apps for Good

Another team of enterprising pupils from Wick High have achieved success in this UK-wide technology challenge for schools. Supported by teacher Chris Aitken, Nicholas Mann, Caleb James, Lewis Buchan, Russell Mackenzie and Steven Gunn won the Emerging Technology award, after impressing the competition judges with their 'Light Bike' Application – which deploys smart lights to help cyclists be safe and visible.