

**‘GOOD NEWS’ ITEM**

**LAUNCH OF MORAY AND HIGHLAND ARMED FORCES COVENANT WEBSITE**

In order to improve Highland Council’s delivery of its Covenant pledge to the Armed Forces community, a website has now been developed to provide information in a more readily accessible format. This is a joint website with the Moray Council area and is a direct result of the funding received in 2017 from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund. The dedicated microsite for the Armed Forces community has been developed with Highland Council’s Web Development Team and sits alongside the local authority websites. Its style reflects that used by the Armed Forces Covenant website.

The Armed Forces Covenant Fund local grant stream awarded the project £6000 towards the development of the microsite and its upkeep for the next 5 years. This ensures the availability of streamlined, tailored information for the Armed Forces community on where to find support locally to assist with matters relating to housing, health, employment, education, finance, leisure and moving to Scotland. It will also provide a directory of local services that can be used by service providers and professionals to identify other organisations that may support their work.

The website can be accessed at the following link -

<http://www.armedforcesmorayandhighland.co.uk/>

## **Outstanding Achievements**

**Care, Learning and Housing Committee: 24 January 2019**

### **Cromarty Primary School**

#### Primary Science Quality Mark- November 2018

The Primary Science Quality Mark is a unique award programme to develop and celebrate the profile of science teaching, learning and leadership in primary schools. The Outreach award is for schools which demonstrate how established *science leadership* is having a sustained impact on science teaching and learning across the school and also demonstrate impact of *science leadership*, teaching and learning on other schools.

Cromarty Primary is the first school to achieve this award in Highlands and they were awarded it at Outreach level, which is the highest level.

#### Scottish Primary Engineering Award- November 2018

The school has also recently been presented with an award from Primary Engineer for their sustained high quality of designs that they entered into their 'what would you do if you were an engineer' competition each year. The competition has been running for 5 years and last year there were over 15,000 entries from across Scotland. Over the 5 years we have had 4 winners and a number of runners up. One of the school's previous winners designed a shopping trolley for the elderly – a prototype is now on display in Glasgow Science centre. Another one of their designs, a winter walker for the elderly, is currently being made into a prototype by students at Strathclyde University.

### **Grantown Grammar School**

One of their pupils, Niamh Peters S4 is the Scottish National Senior Combined Soloist Champion after winning the Helen Murray Trophy, at the Scottish National and Age Group Synchronised Swimming Championships held in Glasgow last term. She also won gold in the junior free duet, senior free duet and senior technical duet with her partner Bethany Thomas from Nairn Academy. Nairn Synchro then went on to win back the Scottish Top Club Trophy and Podium Award.

### **Millburn Academy**

Matthew Clark, S6 pupil at Millburn Academy, Inverness is to receive an award for achieving the highest mark in Scotland in the SQA Higher Geography 2018 exam. He has been invited, along with his parents, to a lunch at the Royal Scottish Geographical Society in Perth later this month where he will be presented with his award.

## **Alness Academy – Year of Young People**

Hello! My name is Razannah Hussain, and I am an S5 student at Alness Academy. This past year has been the Year of Young People, and one of our Highland pupils has been lucky enough to be a significant part of it.

Over the year I have been able to experience things I never thought I could, from meeting members of the Royal family to travelling to Germany and many more. In February last year, I had the opportunity to meet Prince Harry and Meghan Markle at Holyrood Palace where I spoke about the aims of Year of Young People and the importance of youth voice. Then in April, I travelled to Berlin where I talked to German young people about future relations and how we can better the lives of young people. I then returned to Berlin in December to help build connections between Scottish and German youth groups through various workshops. In August I was a member of the stakeholder panel for choosing the new Chief Constable for Police Scotland. I was also selected as the chair of the judging panel for Young Scot Awards. As chair, I presented the opening speech on behalf of Young Scot in front of 800 people and was honoured to have sat beside the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon throughout the ceremony. I have also spoken at the Scottish Parliament about facing racism and overcoming prejudice as a young Muslim woman. In my own community, I have helped plan and organise week-long activities promoting diversity and participation within young people. As a young person of colour, I never had a role model that I felt represented me, so I think through this role I have become my own role model.

## **Highland Schools make FilmG Shortlist**

FilmG, MG ALBA's Gaelic Short Film Competition, has announced the shortlists for this year's competition with young filmmakers, community groups and school groups from around the country making the shortlist.

Highland schools continue to excel in the FilmG initiative, these include Lochaber High, Millburn Academy, Inverness Royal Academy, Ardnamurchan High, Alness Academy and Bun-Sgoil Stafainn all making the final cut with films ranging from social issues affecting young people in every day society to emotional historical disasters.

This provides a wonderful opportunity for those studying Gaelic to showcase their work so professionally, and also to recognise the rich value of our Gaelic heritage within the creative industries.