



# **Kinlochbervie High School Annual Report 2011-2012**



**Dear Parent/Carer**

## **Welcome to the 2011/2012 Annual Report**

This report is designed to give you a snapshot of the work and life of our school, our successes and achievements, our vision and leadership.

At the heart of all we aim to achieve is our vision and aims. Leadership refers not only to the staff but to the ways in which all in the school are developing these skills. We hope it gives you a flavour of all the aspects of our school and shows how we are celebrating the successes of our pupils.

### **Our vision**

Kinlochbervie High School is an inclusive community. Excellence in education, the welfare, security and happiness of all pupils and staff are our priorities.

Kinlochbervie High School endeavours to take the needs of the individual into account. We aim to provide pupils and staff with the skills, experiences and qualifications they need to give them choices in their progression through life.

### **Aims**

Our aim is to provide a meaningful and effective education for all our pupils. We seek to achieve this by:

developing in our pupils a sense of responsibility for their own learning

striving for the highest possible academic achievement

providing a wide range of experience both within and outwith the curriculum

developing our pupils as responsible individuals who are confident, tolerant and caring

Central to this is a strong partnership between staff, pupils, parents and the wider community; all working together in pursuit of the above aims

### **Work and life of our school community**

#### **Staffing**

Mr Stuart Petrie resigned in October 2011, his roles were covered by the Science department staff, Mrs Catherine Ann Munro who provided practical cookery opportunities for pupils and delivered Intermediate 1 Hospitality supported by North Highland College and Mrs Angela Smart who delivered the Childcare courses.

Miss Heather MacNeil returned to her PE post in December following her maternity leave, thanks to Mrs Karin Wood for covering this post during this time.

Dr Ian Smith retired from his post as Rector at Christmas and Mrs Debbie Gunn took over as Acting Rector until Mrs Susan Robertson arrived to take up the post at the start of the Summer Term

Mr Brian Jones is retiring at the end of this term and Mrs Margaret Jones will leave at the end of July and we wish them every success in the future and happiness in their new life on the east coast

Mrs Gunn is also retiring from her Depute Head post and again we wish her every happiness with whatever she plans to do. (We are not losing her completely just yet as she has agreed to come back for a few days a week next term until a new Depute Head is appointed)

All three staff have worked in the school for a long number of years and we would like to express our gratitude to both for all the opportunities they have offered to our young people during the years and support they have offered to everyone working with them. They will be greatly missed.

### **The curriculum**

Pupils continue to study a wide range of subjects at the appropriate level. In August S3 pupils will continue following the Curriculum for Excellence in their final year of broad general education. Nationally pupils following this curriculum are not expected to take exams at the end of S3 and are examined in S4 at the appropriate level - either National 4 or 5. We will be discussing the way forward with this curriculum with all staff, parents and pupils early next term. Pupils continue to have access to a wide range of subjects at exam levels.

### **Awards**

Sophie Clark Young Quality Scot Award for her contribution to Shinty Coaching  
Duncan Clark Sport Scotland Highlands and Islands Participation Coach of the Year



Duncan and Sophie receiving their awards.

### **Out of hours learning**

The pupils are very fortunate to have a wide range of opportunities available to them. This term the following have run after school:

Drama delivered by Eden Court outreach: Piping: Football: Golf: Shinty: Canoeing and Sailing  
Our thanks to Active school's staff and Youth Development worker and all who make these opportunities possible.

### **Pupil numbers**

Eleven pupils will be leaving the school this year with six pupils joining us in S1 so there is a slight dip in numbers next year.

Our Leaver's Dinner is held at the Rhiconich Hotel on the last Thursday of term followed by a dance. We would like to wish Sophie, Donald, Sophie, Tom, Ruaridh, Daniel, Elizabeth, Jason, Iain, Sine and Adam every success in the future.

### **Pupil council**

The pupil council is made up of representatives from each class, elected at the beginning of each school year. They meet on a regular basis with a member of staff. It is important for us to ensure

that all pupils are involved in the discussions and decisions made by the pupil council. The members of the council consult with their class, display their minutes on the pupil council notice board and will speak to Mrs Robertson about any changes they would like to make.

We will encourage them to be proactive in contributing suggestions to improve the school in terms of what is taught, what opportunities they would like to see and how the building can be improved and know they are listened to. Next year a representative of the Pupil Council will be attending the Parent Council meetings.

### **Head Pupils**

The Head Pupils have made a positive contribution to the life of the school in a number of ways. They have led various charity fund raising events during the year raising a total of just under a £1000. Certificates are displayed in school to show how much was raised each time and recognise the achievements of all involved. They are also responsible for organising lunch time house activities throughout the winter period. All pupils belong to one of the three houses - Laxford, Dionnard and Inchar. The Head Pupils have been well supported by the senior pupils. This involvement in the life of the school is important to both the whole school and to the individuals concerned as they develop necessary life skills.



Brightly coloured pupils  
Neon Day



Head & Depute Pupils 11/12  
Donald, Sophie C, Sophie B & Tom



Head & Depute Pupils 12/13  
Jaclyn & Mark



This year the aspiring Head Pupils applied for the role and were subsequently interviewed by a panel including the Head Teacher, Jane Stevenson from North West Training and Sophie Bell - one of this year's Head Pupils. Pupils then went on to make a presentation to the other pupils including the new S1 pupils and the usual elections were held. The new Head Pupil is Jaclyn Ross and Depute Head Pupil is Mark McCowan.

### **Parent Council**

The Parent Council meets once during each term in the school. They are very supportive of the school in a variety of ways and we appreciate this support. The Parent Council will be instrumental in enabling all parents to gain greater knowledge and understanding of the Curriculum for Excellence as we progress. Parent Council minutes are issued to all parents and are also on a display board in the school for anyone to look at. This year the Parent Council has continued to contribute towards improving learning and teaching through the purchase of foreign language dictionaries and Lego sets.

### **Support from charitable bodies**

Mr Anthony O Flaherty continues to have considerable success in raising funding from a variety of sources for the benefit of all pupils. During the year the school has received funding from the following as a result of his efforts:-

The Gerald Micklem Trust and 2014 Communities fund to enable pupils to go Horse Riding

Raddery Trust to cover transport costs of pupils working with Blythswood

Awards for All for the September trip to Badaguish

## SUCSESSES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### August 2011/September 2011

S6 attended the Driving Ambition course delivered by Highland Council

The first of the football trips to Hampden took place this month.

Pupils went to Edinburgh on a trip organised by the Art and English staff

Some of the Shinty players participated in a tournament held at Drumnadrochit

The Shinty Team also did an 11 mile Sponsored Sledge Pull raising funds for the Shinty club and also Scott Polar Research.

The school joined in the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of the North West Training Centre along with pupils from our associated primary schools.

### October 11/ November 2011

Highland Music Day

Teenage Cancer Trust Day organised by Head Pupils had a Hawaiian theme

Shinty Team played against Farr High School in Scourie and won!!

More fundraising this time for Children in Need and pupils also raised funds by having a sleepover in the school.

### December 2011

Once Upon a Time - once again a very successful panto performance with staff and pupils participating

Annual Christmas Service in the Church of Scotland

Goodbye to Dr Smith



Panto participants 2012.



Shinty Team Sledge Pull



Hawaiian Day, October '11

### January 2012/ February 2012

Bridge Building competition

Inter school boys and girls football matches against Farr took place and we won again! We also played and won a return shinty match in Bettyhill.

Pupils to Skye for the week to undertake Maritime Skills course

Wild West Day organised by Head Pupils in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care

### March 2012

Fish to Dish - this very successful event was the culmination of an interdisciplinary project involving upper primary and secondary pupils working together.

Zoolab visits the school and pupils had the opportunity to handle a range of exotic animals.



Looking at various species of fish  
Fish to Dish Project March '12



S1 & S2 Sand Boarding  
Wild Bird Productions May '12



Sine & Adam with their medals  
North of Scotland Athletics, June '12

## **April/May 2012**

S1/2 documentary making week - while the older pupils were on exam leave the S1/2 pupils spent the week working with The Wild Bird Production Company to develop their skills in filming, editing and animation in a variety of locations. One of the days spent in the woods at Achfary linked to a novel study in English developing survival skills. The DVD has been produced. This week enabled the pupils to develop valuable skills while enjoying the outdoor environment on our doorstep.

The S1/2 Shinty team also ventured to Inverness for the MacRae and Dick Shinty festival and some of them to Pitlochry Festival Theatre to see Little Shop of Horrors.

Neon Day saw pupils and staff dressed in Neon. The Head Pupils organised this and raised £111.37 for Alzheimers Scotland

A group of Dornoch young pipers visited the school to join with our own pipers and drummer.

## **June 2011**

Kinlochbervie Camanachd hosted the annual Far North Shinty sixes tournament on a beautiful sunny day in Scourie. Once again this was an extremely well organised event enjoyed by participants and spectators alike.

### **Success in the North of Scotland Schools Athletics Championships!**

Adam McKenzie achieved a bronze medal in the High Jump and a silver medal in the Shot Putt and Sine Jones achieved a silver medal in the triple jump.

### **Alton Towers**

Some intrepid explorers set off for a day at Alton Tower which was enjoyed by all. The pupils who chose to stay here had a day planned to Handa Island which unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the weather so they went instead to Golspie for the day.



Alton Towers, June '12



The Olympic Procession, June '12

Olympics Day - The High School joined with its associated primaries in Durness where pupils worked together in multi age teams. They competed in a variety of events with the winners being awarded points for excellence and a selected Olympic value. The day was a great success and the secondary pupils were a credit to the school in the way they supported the younger pupils.

Space School - Mark McCowan (S5) was selected from strong competition to participate in this week, Mark is the third pupil from the school to be selected. Mark is one of 40 people on the course who has now been invited to attend a workshop in August. 10 young people will be selected from this group to go to Houston, Texas.

Nuffield Project - Christopher Arrowsmith (S5) was successful in his application to participate in this prestigious six week project and we look forward to hearing about his experience after the holidays. Christopher is the third pupil from the school to participate.

Our thanks to the Parent Council for supporting our senior pupils work related experiences.

And finally!!

We would like to thank everyone who contributes in any way to making Kinlochbervie High School as special as it is and look forward to continuing to develop our partnerships and build new ones as we continue to build on our successes.