

Portree High School Parent Council. AGM held 6.30pm on 30/09/2020 on Google Meets.

1. **Present-** Catherine MacDonald (HT), Matthew Jackson(Chair), Tony Breen(DHT), Jo Scott-Moncrieff (DHT), Donna McIntosh, Rebecca Langlands, David Croy, Isobel MacLeod(Treasurer), Mark Crowe, Martin Allan, Suzanne Turner, Stephen Varwell, Iris Donaldson, Heather Dibble, Andrew Shaw.
2. **Apologies-** None received.
3. **Welcome-** Matthew Jackson(Chair), opened the meeting and welcomed all present. He stressed the importance of supporting the school and acknowledged the challenges the School faces to comply with statutory measures.
4. **Management update- Miss MacDonald** reported that pupils are behaving well and the return to school continues to progress well. The cleaning regime between classes is working well, as are the staggered lunch times and break times.

S4-6 are now allowed to go down into the village on a rota basis.

Sanitising is being observed but needs to be continually emphasised.

Miss MacDonald said that she is not anxious re the SQA assessments. Portree High did well last year and is in a position to do so this year.

Mental health issues are becoming increasingly prevalent and are a high priority for the school.

Some extra Curricular activities are resuming. Bus passes are available to assist pupils in attending.

One pupil, Shannon MacLeod (s5) raised over £2000 for Children in need through running.

The School has raised and sent £150 to each of the two homes that we support.

Blythswood appeal- 129 shoeboxes and £400 was submitted.

Debating- Mia McGillivray and Joe Jones won the final of the ESU St Andrew's Day Debate – a great achievement. 30th November

There will be no Christmas dances held this year.

There will be an online S1 assembly. If deemed successful more will follow.

An online pantomime is being held by The National Theatre of Scotland on the 21st December, which the school will engage with.

A talent show is also being organised.

Shinty ambassadors (Leah MacLeod and Molly MacKinnon) have been appointed.

Nuan Nel and Alice Hook MacDonald have been appointed as Young Sports Ambassadors

Fundraising for our partner school Hope and Faith ongoing. Calendars and Christmas gift cards available.

A dress down day to raise funds for Am Fasgadh is scheduled for Tuesday 21st December.

The annual money mile is scheduled for June 2021.

Developing Young Workforce- Inputs are being delivered.

Extra study classes have commenced.

Jo Scott-Moncrieff reports that links with West Highland College (WHC) and Highland Virtual Academy(HVA) are widening senior options. Business Management and Psychology are the most popular options. There is a range of subjects available through the West Highland College, including Foundation apprenticeships. HVA offers an extra range of Advanced Highers.

Tony Breen reports that the SQA 2021 exam diet has been cancelled. The SQA proposed model consists of 3-4 assessment “windows”. These will be-

1. Before Christmas.
2. January to mid February.
3. Mid February- Easter.
4. After Easter.

The assessments will be a mixture of multiple choice and written. Marking will be by teachers.

There will be cross marking by other teachers. Exact details of the regime will come from the SQA in the new year. Assessment materials are being provided by the SQA to the required standards.

Assessments will be spread out. There will be no more than one assessment in a day. They will be organised in line with subject columns. The final assessment window will be a two week “off timetable” period after Easter and before mid -May.

The evidence process is more robust this year than last year.

General questions and answers followed re the assessment process.

Mr Breen also stated that an outward-bound instructor is coming weekly next term to instruct S2.

5. **Developing Young Workforce (DYF)- Matthew Jackson (PC Chair)** gave an overview of DYF. He stated that work is in progress to assess the changing workplace. The aim is to make young people work ready.

Engaging with S1 and S2 pupils through business links, mentoring and incorporating work experience into School life is a priority.

Forming business links with schools is the main aim.

Discussion followed re the importance of engaging young people and links between work and education.

The link between this purposeful approach and nurture was explained by Matthew. Miss MacDonald confirmed that nurture is high priority at present.

6. **DONM-** To be confirmed.