Many congratulations to the new team of house officials for session 2017-18. Millie Saunders has been voted Scotia House Captain with Siobhan West as House Sports Captain. Stuart McArthur will take on both the House Captain and House Sports Captain roles for Caledonia. Good luck to all three in fulfilling their new responsibilities.

Minibus update
We are delighted to have received confirmation just before the end of term that our application to Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company for a grant of £22K towards the purchase of a new minibus has been successful. Independent transport is crucial to the delivery of the 21st century curriculum. Not for the first time, the school is hugely appreciative of the Community Company’s support for our wider curriculum.

XX-Factor 2017
Ms Thurnell writes...
As part of its ‘engagement’ programme, St Andrews University invited selected schools across Scotland to participate in its annual ‘XX-Factor’ event. As one such school, students from P5/6/7, S1/2/3 and some in S5/6 watched female PhD students present their research in as engaging a manner as they could and voted for their favourite presentation, just like X-Factor! The presenters held all 56 students spellbound during their talks and stimulated some very deep discussions about the ideas presented. P5-S3 were also clearly engaged by these passionate researchers. Letters inviting parents to participate were made available to schools and, as we ran out of copies, many must have gone home. We hope parents enjoy the show as much as the pupils did!

“Interesting to see what science is doing for women and not just men!”
Andrew Dibsdale
S3

“It was interesting to see not just one way to look at things or research them.”
Kyle Sutherland S3

Dates for Diaries
- School re-opens—Mon 23rd Oct
- S4-6 “SQA Heads up” Parents Evening—21st Nov tbc
- Christmas Dance Tues 19th Dec
- Christmas Carol Service / end of term—Fri 22nd Dec
Google Classrooms: Ms Sharples writes...

This term more than ever, various members of staff are trialling and using Google Classrooms, for classes from S1 through to S6, in such varied subjects as Geography, PE, History, Modern Studies and English (including ASDAN and ESOL). This approach is newer to some of us than others, perhaps, but Google Classrooms has been in use in Highland for some time, and it means that pupils can access work easily from home, submit it to their teacher via Google Docs, and have it marked and returned in the same manner. It very much looks as if this is the way that school work will continue to progress, as we step into our futures. Work can be posted online, as can resources, revision aids, etc., and everything is stored in “The Cloud” – which is fairly infinite! No more excuses of “the dog ate my homework/diary”…it’s all there for eternity!

ESOL: Ms Sharples also writes...

For the first time, in the 2016/7 session, the school put three senior pupils through the SQA Higher ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) course. We were delighted that all passed with flying colours, achieving two A passes and a B pass amongst them. We plan to extend our ESOL programme down the school, as there are speakers of other languages amongst our younger pupils.

News in Brief

- **Attendance:** All families should now have received a letter from Head of Education, Mr Jim Steven relating to the increasing trend of planning family holidays in term time. Please read the letter very carefully as it makes it very clear that “**under the guidance issued at a national level, most family holidays will be coded as unauthorised absence, only in exceptional cases will the absence be recorded as authorised.**”

- **S1 Settling-in interviews** have now been completed. S1 have settled delightfully well into secondary school. Their S1 settling-in reports will be sent out shortly after the October break.

- **Geography Field Trip Tuesday October 24th:** Permission slips are due to be returned for a one-day N5/Higher (joint with Nairn Academy) Geography fieldwork trip to the Cairngorms and Nairn Beach. All National and Higher pupils must attend as this is a crucial part of their course.

- **Summer Concert DVDs:** These will be on sale shortly after the October break…buy your Christmas stocking fillers early!
**European Day of Languages…**

Well done to Mr Lopez and S3 who organized this year’s celebration of other cultures and languages! The weather was kind and we got to play our annual game of pétanque outside!

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**Update on Sports Leaders: Ms Gibbons writes…**

At the beginning of the last week of term I was delighted when Active Schools Coordinator, Storm Fraser confirmed that Scotia House Sports Captain Siobhan West had been invited to feature as a female role model on sportscotland social media channels. Friday 6th Oct is sportscotland’s annual Active Girls Day, and week 1st-8th October is a Scottish Women & Girls Sport Week which is being led by the Sports Minister, Aileen Campbell & her team. The idea is to demonstrate the wider benefits of sport & activity for women and girls, and inspire them to get involved in sport – role models will include top female athletes as well as role models at a grassroots level, such as coaches, volunteers, officials and young athletes. Accomplished Shinty player, Siobhan was asked to provide a photo and quote for her role model profile:

> “Through playing Shinty, I have developed several skills that haven’t only increased my performance but also enhanced my life out with sport. Shinty has forced me to come out of my comfort zone and mix and socialise with new people of all ages. Through this I have majorly boosted my confidence which has allowed me to take on new opportunities such as becoming Young Ambassador and Sports Captain for my school. Some of my team mates have become good friends which makes it great when it comes to training and competing as I get to share passion with my best friends.”

Storm went on to praise both Siobhan and Caledonia House Sports Captain, Stuart McArthur in their roles as young sports ambassadors, commenting that they have made “an amazing job of promoting Highlife Highland’s leadership programme…now we just need all interested young people to sign up online at the link below.”

www.highlifehighland.com/sport/leadership-programme/
S1 Art Trip: Loulou Nisbet writes....

Several weeks into the first term of school the brand new S1s, Miss Nairns and Mrs Knott took a trip to Inverness Art Gallery, where a unique photography exhibition was being held. This particular exhibition was by an interesting photographer named Kieran. His photography was about people who are different from everyone else, because they have Down's Syndrome, and he had even photographed people with ginger hair, as they can also be treated differently from others. We were given activities to do, and the class was split into two, to learn about the techniques that photographers use. Some of the class had to fill in sheets describing how others were sitting, and what position they were sitting in. Toni Demirev said “it was unique and interesting for young students, if anyone wanted to do photography when they’re older. Sophie Rand said “it was a great experience for people who are interested in photography.” Isla Johnson said it was “good to see people who are a little bit different in photography.” We all really enjoyed the day, and everyone had learned about Down's Syndrome, difference, and photography.

S5/6 UCAS Trip
Miss MacRaild writes...

“Recently, S5/6 pupils attended the UCAS exhibition at the UHI Beachwood Campus in Inverness. UCAS exhibitions are a valuable opportunity for students to explore the wide range of opportunities available after school or college, all in one setting. Whether they’re interested in applying to university or looking at alternative options, they’re sure to find something that appeals to them! A great chance to talk with university admissions staff and subject specialists, find out what life’s really like on and off campus, and discover what else is on offer when exams are done and dusted – from volunteer work and gap year adventures, to apprenticeships and career opportunities.”

Adverse Weather
All families should now have received their Highland Council annual update re adverse weather. Many thanks to those who have sent into school updated details or confirmed no change to contact and medical information already held. Please ensure that we receive all returns as soon as possible.

Breaking news...Dance Club will start after the October Break!
Jade S5