



### School Profile 2014/2015

**School Name** Islay High School  
**School Address** Bowmore, Isle of Islay, Argyll PA43 7LS  
**Head Teacher** Stephen Harrison (Acting)

### Overview

Measure	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	% change in Roll over 5 years <sup>AA</sup>
Roll (as at census)	222	214	211	207	212	-4.5%
Clothing and Footwear Grant (number of pupils) <sup>5</sup>				5	16	
Clothing and Footwear Grant (% of number of pupils)				2.4%	7.5%	
Clothing and Footwear Grant (%) - Authority Average <sup>A</sup>	6.9%	7.6%	8.5%	9.5%	15.6%	
Free School Meals (number of pupils)	20	no data	9	5	5	
Free School Meals (% of number of pupils)	9.0%	no data	4.3%	2.4%	2.4%	
Free School Meals (%) - Authority Average	10.2%	0.0%	13.1%	12.0%	10.8%	
Free School Meal - National Average for Secondary Schools (%)	14.4%	15.2%	15.4%	15.5%	not yet collated	

**Attendance, Absence and Exclusions<sup>1</sup>**

Measure	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	Range of Attendance (%) over 4 years <sup>B</sup>
<b>Attendance:</b>						3.9%
Attendance (% of school roll)	90.1%	92.4%	93.7%	94.0%	93.2%	
Authorised Absence (% of school roll)	4.3%	2.9%	3.3%	3.2%	3.5%	
Unauthorised Absence (% of school roll)	5.5%	4.7%	3.0%	2.8%	3.2%	
Attendance Number of Pupils (%) - Authority Average	92.5%	93.3%	93.1%	93.1%	92.9%	
Attendance Number of Pupils (%) - National Average	93.1%	not collated	93.6%	not collated	not yet collated	

Measure	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15
<b>Exclusions:</b>					
Exclusion Openings	10	28	33	10	12
Exclusion Incidents	2	7	6	3	3
Number of Pupils <sup>5</sup>		5	5		
Exclusion Incidents per 1000 pupils	9.0	32.7	28.4	14.5	14.3
Exclusion Incidents per 1000 pupils - Authority Average	61.1	51.5	51.4	37.2	22.9
Exclusion Incidents per 1000 pupils - National Average	40	not collated	32.8	not collated	not yet collated

**SQA Performance<sup>3</sup>**

<b>Intermediate 1 *</b>	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14
Number of Entries	122	118	107	
Number of passes Grade A-C	112	100	99	
% of number passes Grade A-C	91.8%	84.8%	92.5%	
% of number passes Grade A-C Authority Average	79.8%	78.9%	79.5%	72.8%
% of number passes Grade A-C National Average <sup>4</sup>	77%	78%	79%	73.5%

<b>Intermediate 2 *</b>	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14
Number of Entries	154	139	142	15
Number of passes Grade A-C	127	115	127	8
% of number passes Grade A-C	82.5%	82.7%	89.4%	53.3%
% of number passes Grade A-C Authority Average	81.1%	79.1%	80.5%	70.7%
% of number passes Grade A-C National Average <sup>4</sup>	82%	82%	83%	78.1%

<b>National 4 **</b>	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14
Number of Entries	No National 4 presentations across 10/11 - 12/13			153
Number of passes				153
% of number passes				100.0%
% of number passes Authority Average				100.0%
% of number passes National Average <sup>4</sup>				93.9%

<b>National 5 **</b>	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14
Number of Entries	No National 5 presentations across 10/11 - 12/13			226
Number of passes Grade A-C				195
% of number passes Grade A-C				86.3%
% of number passes Grade A-C Authority Average				82.0%
% of number passes Grade A-C National Average <sup>4</sup>				81.3%

**SQA Performance**

<b>Higher</b>	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14
Number of Entries	108	100	132	106
Number of passes Grade A-C	71	59	95	84
% of number passes Grade A-C	65.7%	59.0%	72.0%	79.3%
% of number passes Grade A-C Authority Average	75.9%	76.2%	77.6%	76.9%
% of number passes Grade A-C National Average <sup>4</sup>	77%	79%	79%	77.6%

<b>Advanced Higher</b>	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14
Number of Entries		9		
Number of passes Grade A-C		8		
% of number passes Grade A-C	57.1% <sup>5</sup>	88.9%	42.9% <sup>5</sup>	33.3% <sup>5</sup>
% of number passes Grade A-C Authority Average	75.5%	85.2%	79.3%	79.0%
% of number passes Grade A-C National Average <sup>4</sup>	81%	82%	84%	81.5%

**School Leaver Destination Returns (SLDR)\*\*\***

Measure	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15
Number of Total Leavers	32	42	38	30	Data not yet collated
Number of Young People entering Higher Education (%)	18.8%	19.0%	23.7%	46.7%	
Number of Young People entering Further Education (%)	9.4%	9.5%	5.3%	3.3%	
Number of Young People entering Training (%)	0.0%	2.4%	2.6%	6.7%	
Number of Young People gaining Employment (%)	53.1%	57.1%	57.9%	33.3%	
Number of Young People gaining Voluntary Work (%)	0.0%	2.4%	0.0%	0.0%	
Number of Young People entering Activity Agreements (%)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	
Number of Young People - Unemployed Seeking (%)	12.5%	9.5%	10.5%	10.0%	
Number of Young People - Unemployed Not Seeking (%)	6.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	
Number of Young People - Unknown (%)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	
Total number of young people in a Positive Destination (%)	81.3%	90.5%	89.5%	90.0%	
Total number of young people in Other Destination (%)	18.8%	9.5%	10.5%	10.0%	
Total number of young people in a Positive Destination (%) Authority Average	89.8%	90.1%	92.5%	91.0%	
Total number of young people in Other Destination (%) Authority Average	10.2%	9.9%	7.6%	9.0%	
Total number of young people in a Positive Destination (%) National Average	88.9%	89.9%	91.4%	92.3%	
Total number of young people in Other Destination (%) National Average	11.1%	10.1%	8.6%	7.7%	

## Footnotes

<sup>A</sup> Clothing and Footwear Grant (CFG) is not shown as a National Average as each authority set their own criteria and therefore cannot be compared accurately. Please note that 2014-2015 data for CFG and Free School Meals (FSM) is to date (start of January 2015) and therefore may change as the year progresses.

<sup>AA</sup> Please note the % change in Roll over 5 years shows the percentage change in roll figures from 2010/2011 to 2014/2015 and is not an average.

<sup>B</sup> Please note that Attendance and Exclusion data can only be compared over a 4 year period as academic session 2014/2015 is not yet complete and therefore the data for these years may change. The 4 year percentage change compared 4 full years. The range is the difference between the highest and lowest attendance rate for the 4 years.

\* 2014/2015 is the last academic year that Intermediate 1 and Intermediate 2 qualifications will be offered as part of the SQA diet of examinations. They have been superseded by National 4 and National 5. Standard Grade qualifications were offered for the last time in 2012/2013 and were superseded by National 4 and National 5.

\*\* 2013/2014 was the first year National 4 and National 5 Qualifications were offered as part of the SQA diet. Therefore no performance data is available prior to this date.

<sup>1</sup> Attendance, Absence and Exclusion information is now collected on a biennial basis and was **not** collected for 2011/2012 or 2013/2014 academic year.

<sup>2</sup> Authorised absence includes bereavement, short – term exceptional domestic situations, religious observance, weddings of immediate family. Unauthorised absence includes truancy, unexplained absence and most family holidays during term time. Attendance and absence is outlined in Management Circular 3.03.

<sup>3</sup> SQA Performance data was collected on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014 for all data. The data was collected from SEEMiS Vision. Information previously provided in the SQA Authority Analysis 2014 report for Committee differs slightly to information provided here in order to ensure consistency of approach in collating data for comparative purposes. Data has been anonymised to protect individuals where there are fewer than five entries.

<sup>4</sup> Results up to and including 2012/13 national percentages were sourced from the Annual Statistics Report 2013 (available only as whole percentages). National percentages for 2013/14 came from Attainment Statistics (December) 2014. Both documents produced by SQA.

<sup>5</sup> Data has been anonymised to protect individuals.

\*\*\* SLDR data is published by Skills Development Scotland (SDS) on behalf of The Scottish Government. The year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> August to 31<sup>st</sup> July each year and the data was collected on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in October each year. The data shown in this profile is the initial data collected.

- Higher Education includes HNC, HND and Degree courses

- Further Education includes Access, NPAs and Highers
- Training includes Employability Stage Funds 2 and 3 (previously called Get Ready for Work)
- Employment includes Modern Apprenticeships and any employment over 16 hours per week
- Voluntary includes Barnardos, Oxfam, Red Cross and community based volunteering
- Activity Agreements are for young people who are furthest removed from employment/training/education that are receiving mentoring support from a Trusted Professional
- Unemployment includes those young people who can't work through ill health, are caring for others or are pregnant

National Averages for FSM, Attendance and Exclusions have been taken from Summary Statistics for Schools in Scotland, No.4 | 2013 Edition, 11th December, 2013 (amended 11th February 2014).

### **Developments through the Improvement Plan 2013/14**

- A robust shared system of Quality Assurance was active in all levels of the school which included, production and monitoring of QA calendar, sharing of good practice/methods, feedback of findings/Actions (PT/SLT)
- Targets set were set for each individual and agreed to ensure students are performing in line with CATs indicators
- A new tracking and monitoring system set up in SEEMiS which led to reporting of progress being shared more regularly with parents/students
- A framework for skills development is being developed which will enhance the production of S3(2) profiles
- Introduce new curriculum - Endeavour project
- A new Rewards/sanctions system was developed with students council which allowed students to earn merits towards badges
- Attendance was more closely monitored by Tutors/Student reports with regular reviews with pastoral/SLT link
- The school moved to use of Pastoral Notes and referral systems
- We began working towards becoming an Adventure Learning School with a series of staff training and development days

### **Curriculum Developments**

The curriculum at Islay High School continues to evolve to meet the challenges of the Principles of Curriculum Design and keep abreast of CfE national developments

Session 2013-14 saw the replacement of all Standard Grade and Intermediate courses with the new National Qualifications. This led to the introduction of new qualifications such as National 4 Lifeskill Mathematics and National 5 Modern Studies. This was the main focus of development within our unique senior phase and entailed a lot of work by staff and pupils alike. However, it was not the only development.

In response to the need to recognise wider achievement the school also ran the SQA Personal Development Award and the John Muir Award for the first time. In line with developing personalisation and choice within our curriculum the school continued to develop its co-curricular activities on

Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Included in the many activities on offer were opportunities to gain accreditation in NPA Dance, NPA Drama and Higher Psychology.

The school also worked in partnership with Argyll College offering Skills for Work courses in Cosmetology and also Early Education and Childcare.

The Junior Phase was also being developed by the introduction of Endeavour Projects to the S1 curriculum. These were a continuation and refinement of the personalised educational projects started in primary school and continue the element of pupil choice within the curriculum. Literacy classes were also allocated to the S1 curriculum to aid in the national drive to improve literacy standards.

In 2013-14 the pupils had a formal curriculum choice of 21 Higher courses, 21 National 4/5 courses, 3 other courses recognising wider achievement and 2 skills for work courses. They had opportunities to study 2 NPA courses in co-curricular time as well.

## **Building Refurbishment Work**

Over the last few years the authority has invested a significant amount of money in upgrading the school building. Over the last year the following has taken place and planned:

- The re-wiring of the school is now complete
- The science base has been refurbished
- Server will be moved and new computer room completed
- General teaching rooms refurbished

Plans are still continuing to re-design some of the teaching spaces in school and the entrance area to the school building further stages of this work will take place this summer.

## **Staffing**

There have been a number of changes to the staffing in the school over the last year.

Mrs Joanna Holmes, the Head Teacher, resigned in June 2014 after 18 months in post.

Mr Ian Stuart has been seconded to the Scottish government for 2 years. Mrs Norma Broad joined the English department and Mr Jonathon Broad has been working in our Student Support department. Mr Alan Beresford was appointed as Deputy Head Teacher at Rothsey Academy. Mrs Nicola Moran and Ms Karen Siddall were appointed as replacement for his role. Mr Graeme Johnston joined the mathematics department and Mr Neil Gallighan joined as teacher of art. Mrs Sadie Richie is retiring this summer after 25 years of service to the school. Mr Kam Sangha is taking a year's sabbatical to pursue further studies and Mr Jonathan Broad will be filling his post in the English Department. Ms Jenna Coburn left our PE department and will be replaced with Ms Rebecca Gibson. We will be appointing a Maths teacher and new librarian shortly.

## **Mathematics and Business Education Faculty**



### **Mathematics Department**

Students successfully took part in this year's Scottish Mathematics Challenge at both Junior and Middle level achieving:

- 1 gold award, 5 silver awards and 6 bronze awards at Junior level, and 3 silver awards at Middle level.
- Congratulations to the students pictured who all received awards in this year's National Maths Challenge competitions at both Junior and Intermediate level.
- Students learnt more about deciphering codes by taking part in the National Cipher Challenge, run by the University of Southampton.
- The department has run the Fantasy Football competition throughout the football season.
- S1 took part in the Young Apprentice challenge by having to design, make, market and sell their own game based on using multiplication skills.
- Whole school events were run to celebrate national Pi Day.
- In addition to resources provided on students individual computers, and through edmodo, students can now also access materials on [www.mathsworkout.co.uk](http://www.mathsworkout.co.uk)
- Mr Mike Senior gave a talk to our senior maths students on the development of number systems and the calculator which was both engaging and informative as well as interactive, with lots of exhibits for students to try.
- Throughout study leave staff have been involved in visits to the local primary schools.
- After school supported study has run twice weekly throughout the year in addition to a Monday homework lunchtime club.
- Staff attended the Scottish Maths Conference in Stirling and attended workshops which supported the learning of students in Islay High School.
- Parental workshops were run for the parents of those students sitting higher maths and higher English.
- Former student, Mr Ben Harrison, now teaching maths in Williamwood High School visited the department, as did staff from local primary schools.



### **Business Education Department**

Students took part in the Coca Cola Real Business challenge which involved them creating a business plan for a new soft drink.

- Within the Young Enterprise competition this year students actively raised money for their projects by running a successful coffee morning and providing a catering service for the local Gaelic Choir, rehearsing that day in the community hall. The students then ran several profitable ventures from jewelry to mobile phone covers and bespoke candle holders.
- 6 teams took part in this year's Student Investor competition which linked in with their Business courses.
- The P4/5 class from Port Ellen Primary School visited the department to learn new ICT skills and develop a spreadsheet to take back to their school to be incorporated in their Enterprise venture.
- Students enjoyed developing revision materials using powtoons for the first time.

### **Art, Design Technology Faculty**

- **Publication:** We have continued to help many departments and events with publicity photos and poster production to advertise the various event which happens within and around the school.
- **Windows 8.1:** We have started to roll out the new version of Microsoft's Windows operating system. Windows 8.1 will become the standard operating system soon throughout the council and we will be leading the way along with a few other schools in its implementation. This operating system will be very suitable for our current setup as almost all computers within the school are touch capable devices.
- **New Computers:** We are continuing to refresh our stock of computers within the Argyll and Bute 'Computer Refreshment Scheme'. Our current stock of Dell Computers will be replaced this year with a new Toshiba device and Daniel and Walter are working hard to get these devices set up for the new term.
- **Travelling Gallery:** The Travelling Gallery, a National Lottery funded arts organisation, visited the High School on Monday 28th of April. Contemporary artist Rachel MacLean's exhibition of her work 'I HEART SCOTLAND' was on display, S1, S2 and pupils from the four Islay Primary schools were in attendance and an educational experience was had by all.
- **Ceramics:** S1 & S2 pupils have had a new experience of creating clay vases, tiles, pots and sculptures of animals. These items were then glazed to create the finished pieces. Older pupils have also been enjoying this 3D art form during the Ceramic Core class on Friday afternoon.
- **MOD T-shirt Competition:** Pupils designed T-Shirts for this year's MOD ILE team. Each design incorporated the pupils own Gaelic Slogans with the help of the Mr Bond in Gaelic Department. Happily an S1 pupil's design was selected as the winner and their design will be worn by all of the participants of the MOD ILE team at this year's MOD in Inverness, which will be and featured on BBC ALBA.
- **Baillie Gifford Art Competition:** Three pupils from Islay High School submitted work to the National Baillie Gifford Art Competition in January for the chance to win a cash prize for themselves and their school. Unfortunately we were unsuccessful, however the artwork submitted was of a very high standard and a credit to the school.
- **S1 Interdisciplinary Highland Games:** S1 pupils in Art & Design designed and made fabric banners to be used at this year's S1 Highland Games on Monday 19th May. Pupils also designed logos for the house t-shirts and it is hoped that the best designs will be printed into real t-shirts and worn at future inter-house competitions and events.
- **S2 Personal Health Project:** S2 pupils in Art & Design created their own imaginative Personal Health Plan front covers for the booklets they will be creating in PE. These were made on the Macromedia Fireworks Program. Pupils considered their diets and personal fitness goals and incorporated these ideas into their designs.



## Science and HE Faculty

The faculty is very much involved in the life of the wider school.

### Core activities:

- Chess Club
- Supported Study
- Issues in Science and Technology
- Craft Baking and Practical Cookery

### **Extra-curricular:**

- The breakfast club (Tuesdays and Thursdays) is at the heart of science and H.E.'s contribution to the Health and Wellbeing agenda for the school. This works in partnership with LAPA and staff from both faculties offer regular voluntary work.
- The biology after school club which operates twice weekly throughout the year.
- The physics after school club operates every Tuesday evening throughout the year.
- Chemistry and H.E. both offer extra-curricular support, sometimes even at weekends, on demand from students.
- Staff give freely of their time to support student learning and success. This includes the offering of Advanced Higher level courses (not timetabled) for physics, biology, chemistry and home economics.
- Science Club, targeted at younger students, runs when time and demand exist.

### **Interdisciplinary:**

- The faculty is a partner in the following regular interdisciplinary events:
- NSEW with the P7s from across Islay and Jura
- Personal Health Plan with S2s. Involved: Home Economics, p.e., biology, numeracy, literacy
- The faculty also participates in the following events which occur on a biennial or similar basis:
- Marine awareness week with S1. Involved: biology, geography, numeracy.
- Energy and fossil fuels with S1. Involved: science, geography, numeracy.
- A number of smaller scale interdisciplinary activities take place within the faculty; e.g. world food and H.E., topical science projects – biology and ethics, fuel resources, earthquakes

### **Working in partnership with others:**

- National Science and Engineering Week event with P7s from across Islay and Jura: Bowmore, Port Ellen, Small Isles, Port Charlotte and Keills.
- Biology working with RSPB, Islay Natural History Trust and more broadly, science working with Islay Energy Trust.
- Visiting speakers from Heriot-Watt University (Physics) and Liverpool John Moore University (Astrophysics).
- Working in collaboration with primary schools; e.g. PK's visits to assist with Port Ellen primary's science week, JMN working with Port Charlotte museum and RSPB reserves, PK visiting to work with Small Isles primary technology challenge project.
- Pioneering work with CfE and most recently the revised higher physics course as a national early adopter.
- The faculty works closely with SCHOLAR, especially supporting higher and advanced higher courses across the school, and maths at each level through PK's involvement with SCHOLAR.
- SQA work at various levels in biology (JMN) and physics (PK) with obvious benefits to the student support and teaching in the faculty. This has involved the development of questions and support material, and marking at levels up to Advanced Higher.

- Participation in the “Island Universe” program of astronomy work (in association with the National Schools Observatory) and with a visit to the school including public lecture, in September 2013.

Further developments:

- Exploring links with STEM ambassadors
- New Core activity under development involving visits and more connections in the wider community
- Strengthening links with Heriot-Watt and exploring other links with higher education providers

## **Literacy & Performance Arts Faculty**

### **English/Drama**

- S1/S2 curriculum we tried a much wider combined approach – using a novel as the thematic basis for studying other works e.g. poetry. Much bigger emphasis on critical reading too – research in a variety of situations – and on writing/note-taking in own words.
- S2 Drama –Gave outcomes/experiences/expectations and pupils helped to choose their own curriculum which suited their needs.
- All National 4 pupils passed the course. Discussion about Nat 4 helped confirm we were on the right lines with the new course.
- N5 – courses written managed to cover all the genres (drama, poetry, prose) as well as critical reading and research; also creative, personal, discursive/persuasive and report writing. Cross-marking helped to confirm standards for Nat 5 and Higher.
- Communication within the department and cross-marking/exchanging materials/ideas
- Teaching film to all classes to secure foundation in critical appreciation
- Making of anti-bullying ads with S1, involving mixed media
- Instigated creative writing competition and Project-based learning

### **Music**

- Uptake for subject has sustained increase from 5 Int. 2 pupils to 10 N5 pupils and 1 Higher pupil to 8 (predictions would indicate a high level of success). Indications from option choices represent a sustained interest in the subject too
- successful summer/Christmas concerts; standards are improving
- choir and Trad group have continued to flourish
- National Youth Band Jazz Workshop – at least 40 pupils involved
- choir trip to Edinburgh – ‘Lion King’

### **Instrumental and Concert Band Review**

## Islay High School

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The school now has a junior and a senior band and both have been very active and these provide a valuable avenue for students taking individual lessons to take their music further while benefitting from the discipline, performance and social interaction the band experience offers. Highlight include:

- School Band Concerts in October, Christmas and March
- Performing at the Kilmenny Church “Songs of Praise” service and the Christmas Carol Service
- Informal Concert at Gaelic College
- Instrumental Open Evening for P7 to S3 students
- ABRSM Practical examinations (100% success rate)
- Alba Brass Concert & Workshops with visiting professional
- Performing at Trust Housing in Bowmore and at the Gortonvogie Care Home
- Band Trip to Glasgow
- Competing at the Mid Argyll Music Festival in Lochgilphead

## **Social Subjects and Languages Faculty**

As well as developing our new national qualifications we have run a range of enrichment activities.

**Gaelic** - The John Muir Award program was again run for students at Islay High. Working with RSPCA camera traps and time-lapse were set up at Gruinart with sessions from CnaG's Dòmhnall Morris, and James How and Mary Redman from the RSPB. All students gained an award and the program ended with a residential in Applecross where students presented their film.

**History** - Students in S1 and S2 took part in the aspire inspire competition to commemorate the Second World War

**People and Society** - Students have been investigating their local area through a survey of Bowmore, a visit to the local museum and a tour of the Bowmore Whisky Distillery

**Modern Studies** - Students worked with the local police to investigate crime on the Island and ways of promoting a safer community. They produced crime talks as part of their assessment based on their work.

**Spanish** - Pen pal scheme has continued with Spanish students.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION (including Health and Well Being)

- Sports leaders/Young Ambassadors have been well utilized within school and the community including supporting the delivery of PE in our cluster primary schools. The 4 Young Amassadors also attended the National Youth Sports Leadership Conference at Strathclyde University
- Inspire/Aspire competition – 3 pupils made it to the national finals
- Enhanced involvement with partners – development officers, active schools, NHS
- Landscape architect produced plans for pitch development
- Participation in inter-house activities was high
- Regular sporting competitions with other schools in the MAKI League
- Rugby trips included competing against Bishopriggs High School with the South Argyll Rugby Squad and attending S1/S2 Festival of Rugby in Lochgilphead
- We have had enhanced involvement with partners – development officers, active schools and the NHS
- Steve Frew, Scottish gymnast and Commonwealth Gold medallist visited the school and ran workshops with students as part of the SKY SPORTS Living For Sport programme. The school also organized an S1 Foam Polo tournament as part of the same programme.
- The PE Dept., together with the Art, Maths and Music departments, lead an interdisciplinary task where all of S1 students competed in a Highland Games competition.
- Heavily involved in fundraising: Sport Relied raising £1134 by having the whole school take part in a sponsored walk and S1 Raised £1005 from sponsored runs



## New Qualifications

**John Muir Award:** Islay High School delivered the John Muir Award for the first time in 2013/14 with 8 pupils taking the class. The award was based around the school garden. The group spent the year building a large pond, clearing evasive plants, planting wildflowers and other plants to attract native wildlife to the garden. They made bird feeders during the winter. Paved a seating area in the garden and painted planters, tubs and benches to make the garden more colourful and interesting for students to visit

Alongside doing this the group also volunteered at Islay Community garden helping the staff to clear evasive plants and get the ground ready for planting.

Members of the class have also been taking care of chickens within the school. They have maintained the hen house. Kept the chicken in good health and after having a cockerel donated to the school they have managed to successfully breed the chickens and now have 6 chicks and counting.....





**Personal Development Class:** The personal development class has had a busy year during the 2013/14 school terms. The class aimed to help develop, support and challenge the young people in their personal skills. The class worked together to organise a lunchtime fun session where they had sporting activities, board games, Wii and a chill out area. This first challenge helped the 6 students to take their first step at building their confidence and develop their skill set at working within a team. The class's next project was to raise money for the elderly in the community by organising a quiz night!



The young people developed their leadership roles and commented about how much more confident they felt in their own abilities since the start of the course. The group have also been involved in sponsored walks, making substance misuse displays and work experience, where they planned and organised their own work experience placement.

## Wider Achievement

The school prides itself in the amount of extra-curricular and residential experiences it offers the students, which allows students to excel in non-academic areas. The following will give you a flavor in regards to the varied wider achievement of our students.

**Boatbuilding:** This year senior students have been involved in the construction of 2 hand built St Ayles Skiffs, supported by a local craftsman. Both boats were successfully launched on June 20<sup>th</sup> with a school rowing competition and later in the evening with a community event. Not only is this giving us an opportunity to allow students to be involved in more outdoor activities but we have made excellent relationships in the community, supporting Bowmore Pier by housing the skiffs there but our students have developed skills that could potentially lead to employment in the future.



**Loch Eil Outward Bound:** In February, all of our S2 students attended our annual 5-day residential experience at the Loch Eil Outward Bound Centre near Fort William. This is an excellent program aimed at developing self-esteem, confidence, leadership and teamwork skills, target setting and responsibility. It's challenging and hard work but the students have great fun and gain enormously from the experience. They all gained a John Muir award on return to school and completing a presentation.

**Expedition to Ethiopia (Summer 2013):** Eleven senior students took part in a 1-month expedition to Ethiopia. We deliver these expeditions every two years as an intense personal development program designed to provide young people with the adventure of a lifetime while at the same time developing essential transferable life skills to a high level. The skills, experience and confidence that the group will gain from achieving this venture will be immense. Aspects of the itinerary include;

- Working at the 'Children's Heaven' orphanage
- High altitude trek in the Simien Mountains
- Home-stay experience in high altitude remote village near Lalibela
- Two day trek and camp in National Park in the Rift Valley
- Rest & Relaxation – Lake Langano

