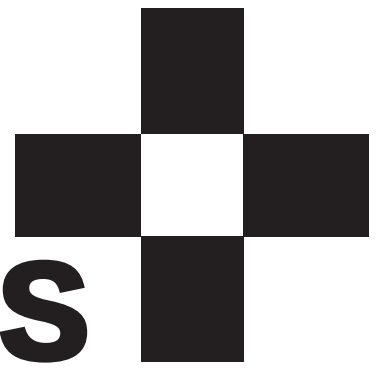


Your Future, Your Success



The newsletter for Life and Work Skills (Level 1 & 2),
My Future, My Success (Level 3) and Pathway to College and Employment (Level 4)

UHI NORTH, WEST AND HEBRIDES
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February 2024



A message from Curriculum Lead, Jane MacIntosh

I am delighted to introduce myself and welcome you to the first newsletter for some Access courses at UHI North, West and Hebrides based at our campuses in Thurso, Alness and Dornoch.



Our quarterly newsletters will keep our stakeholders up to date on our access provision courses and the wonderful achievements and range of learning opportunities our students participate in throughout their studies.

I hope you find the newsletter informative and if you would like to speak directly, please contact me via email at jane.macintosh@uhi.ac.uk

My Future, My Success (Dornoch and Thurso)

After a morning of IT work on college laptops, the My Future, My Success students from Dornoch campus went to Dornoch beach to conduct a cleanup activity.

UHI staff, Highlife Highland Development Officers and the students walked to the beach together on a glorious autumn afternoon. The aim of the activity was to tidy up the beach and learn about the local environment, team skills, community involvement and practical skills.

Students stopped on the way to read the information boards about Dornoch's interesting history and look at the Witch's Stone. Whilst conducting the activity, students chatted with members of the public walking their dogs and enjoying the sunshine, and identified various shellfish and crustaceans including crabs, sea urchins and razor shells. Students filled two large binbags with plastic, bits of rope and other items and disposed of them at the recycling facilities.



We then returned to the Dornoch campus where students reflected on the skills they used and developed during the activity as part of the Developing Essential Skills unit. This is one of thirteen units covered this academic year including enterprise skills, employability, customer care, and several core skills units.

Speak to your guidance teacher at school for information on the **My Future, My Success** course

Pathway to College and Employment (Alness and Thurso)

ALNESS: The Pathway to College and Employment (PCE) class have been enjoying learning all about play types, the importance of play and how they can support children to feel enriched by play.

They have also been out and about with Peter Noble, Curriculum Lead for music, who has been recording sounds in and around the college with the class. The students used the sounds to create a beat, and contributed to a Christmas

song. They really enjoyed using different technology to create their song and having a chance to get creative in the music department.

The class have shown multiple creative skills, teamwork, problem solving and peer learning to plan and create their chosen idea and bring it to life. In numeracy, they are now confident in looking at data to put into a graph, as well as developing skills in working with percentages and fractions. For ICT they have



completed a tourism project and a personal project of their choice presented as a PowerPoint to showcase their skills. They have completed communication tasks such as analysing

newspaper articles as well as looking at job applications and using job searches to match their skills to jobs of interest as well as creating their own CVs.

THURSO: Students on the Pathway to College and Employment (PCE) course at the Thurso campus have been participating in a wide range of tasks and activities including weekly 'Wellbeing Wednesday' sessions to help promote positive mental health and introduce tools and techniques for wellbeing.

Students have also been undertaking a project about plastic pollution on local beaches, and recently had a visit from Dorcas Sinclair from the Caithness Beach Cleans group. Dorcas talked

to the group about plastic waste around Caithness and demonstrated some of the more unusual items found by local beach cleaners which included drone equipment and plastic ducks.

The PCE course also offers taster sessions for different UHI programmes. So far this year, students have visited Dale Farm, with one student being so impressed by the facilities that they have signed up for an evening course in Horse Care. The group have also had a taster with our computing department, where they

were introduced to ethical hacking. Students have more tasters coming up in our hospitality, hair and beauty, and care departments in the new year. The students have also enjoyed participating in tasks on renewable energy in the Newton Room, problem solving and working as a team.

The Pathway to College and Employment course is ideal for students who are unsure of their future



direction, as well as those seeking a broad introduction to college and employability skills.



Scan for information on the **Pathway to College and Employment** course

Life and Work Skills Programme (Thurso)

Our Life and Work Skills students have all settled in really well and are becoming more independent. They have embraced their learning activities and are enjoying everything they are doing. Our students are very caring towards each other and always willing to help.

They have worked on Halloween activities and crafts for our Christmas market. Our wheelchair users are especially delighted to be able to access the library facilities on a regular basis. One student tells us he enjoys being with his friends and another says she enjoys doing maths and likes using the computers.



Scan for information on the **Life and Work Skills Programme**

Contact us to meet a member of the team, enjoy a campus tour or join an online information session. Please book in advance by emailing jane.macintosh@uhi.ac.uk

Campus tours available from 10am til 3pm. Please book in advance.

Alness: Mon 26th Feb, Mon 25th March, Mon 29th April

Thurso: Tues 27th Feb, Tues 26th March, Tues 30th April

Dornoch: Wed 28th Feb, Wed 27th March, Wed 1st May

Online (4pm-5pm): Tues 27th Feb, Tues 26th March, Tues 30th April