

# Newsletter

November 1999

Dear Friends

It is a very useful and salutary experience from time to time to step outside what we are doing, and what we are trying to achieve, and gain the benefit of a detached perspective. Attending the Scottish Head Teachers Conference in Crieff over the past two days has enabled me to do just this. I listened to colleagues from across the country talk of how they were striving to develop an ethos for their school and to create a sense of tradition within their school community.

In Harris we strive to provide the best for and to get the best from our pupils in all aspects of school life. There is the great danger in doing this of being over critical – we are not doing it well enough, quickly enough, carefully enough!..... Being able to take that step to the side and see that the progress we are making and know that moving into the future is supported by an ethos and tradition founded over a long time and based on a set of well tested values is one of this schools greatest strengths. The young people attending Harris today will experience the larger part of the first 100 years of the new millennium. I am confident that we are preparing them for that adventure.

It was good to meet so many of you at the reunion in September. The school has changed in many ways since you were here as pupils. I do hope however that you were able to find the areas which held memories for you and that you were not displeased with the manner in which we have developed the building to enable us to deliver a year 2000 education for today's pupils. It was most interesting to observe the dynamic which developed as the evening progressed, between former pupils and our current prefects. The fact that pupils who had not been in the school for decades were able to relate to pupils of today was, I think, a healthy sign for both groups and gives the lie to much of the media talk about different generations finding difficulty in communicating with each other.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank your Council for their organisation of a small but tasteful ceremony at the war memorial on Armistice Day. As I said on the day, it is a privilege to assist young people to achieve their potential and therefore highly appropriate that we should acknowledge those who sacrificed their potential.

I wish you all a good Christmas and a prosperous New Year and, as Harris moves into its third century, thank you all for your continued support of our school.

Yours faithfully

J Thewliss

Head Teacher