



CAMPUS NEWS

OCTOBER HS EDITION



CAMPUS ACHIEVEMENTS AND UPDATES

STAFFING UPDATES

We are unfortunately saying goodbye to Mrs Wilson who has been with us for 34 years.

We wish you all the best for the future!

Our technician, Andrew Macleod, is also finishing up at the holidays. Thank you for all of your support!

Miss Skye Macleod will join us as a PSA, and Miss Emma Wallace will be joining the team as the school technician.

Louise White, a student teacher from UHI will join us in Business Studies for a 6 week placement after the October break.

I am sure you will join us in making all of our new staff feel welcome.

NEXT TERM

Friday 9 October
Campus closes - usual finish times

Monday 26 October
Campus reopens

Friday 30 October
Halloween events including a fun run

Tuesday 03 November
S3 and S4 parental engagement

Tuesday 17 November
S5 and S6 parental engagement

Wb. 7 December and 14 December
Senior phase assessments

Monday 21 December
Christmas Dance

Tuesday 22 December
Campus closes 1.15pm

CONTACTING THE CAMPUS



Nursery/Primary: 01855 832041 or
kinlochleven.primary@highland.gov.uk

High School: 01855 832042 or
kinlochleven.high@highland.gov.uk



HT UPDATES



QUALITY IMPROVEMENT VISIT

On 23 and 24 September, a team from Highland Council visited the school to look at learning, teaching and assessment. They also checked on progress towards our objectives for our HMIe revisit next year.

The team observed lessons, spoke to staff, pupils and parents and spent time with me and Mr Smith to discuss learning and teaching and attainment.

The team were hugely positive about the continued progress made by the school.

A letter outlining the team's findings will be shared with the community after the October holidays

PE NEXT TERM

We will unfortunately have a gap in PE provision while we seek a new teacher. We will be using a combination of short-term and longer-term supply (where possible) to continue to teach all courses and help pupils work towards their objectives.

A more detailed update will be sent to parents after the holidays.

ASSEMBLIES

Thank you to our school captains, Emily and Iain, and our house captains, Sarah and Conner (Garbhein) and Jackson and Joesph (Callart) for leading informative and entertaining assemblies this term.

Our assemblies focus on school values, look at children's rights as part of our commitment to being a Rights Respecting School and celebrate pupil achievements.

Next term, Ema and Logan (Leven) and Jenna and Kirsty (Mamore) will deliver their first assemblies of the year, and Emily and Iain will deliver their second assembly.

We look forward to seeing them leading assembly, and following on from the high standard set by other pupil leaders this term.

END OF TERM EVENTS

Pupil leaders and S6 pupils are busy organising events for the end of term.

Iain is leading the organisation of inter-house tournaments in dodgeball, football and volleyball, while Sarah and Ema are leading the arrangements of the 'Soak the Teacher' event - which this HT is REALLY looking forward to : (

There is also a dress down day. Soak the Teacher is 50p per raffle ticket for a chance to get your own back, while dress down day is a £1 contribution with monies raised going to the school fund, which helps pay for trips, equipment for clubs and wider-achievement and so on.



REMINDERS

**NOT
FOR
KIDS**
ENERGY DRINK

MOBILE PHONES

We are continuing with the policy that mobile phones are only permitted in classrooms with the explicit permission of teachers, but will extend this to cover corridors and social areas during class time.

Pupils who have phones out without permission will have their phone confiscated. The phone will be stored in the school office until the end of the school day.

Phone Prohibition Times

0850 until 1030 (break),
1045 until 1315 (start of lunch)
1405 until 1545 (end of the day).



ENERGY DRINKS

IN ORDER TO SUPPORT
LEARNING AND
CONCENTRATION,

ENERGY DRINKS ARE
NOT PERMITTED ON
CAMPUS.

Pupils bringing
energy drinks onto
campus will have the
item confiscated for
collection at the end
of the school day.

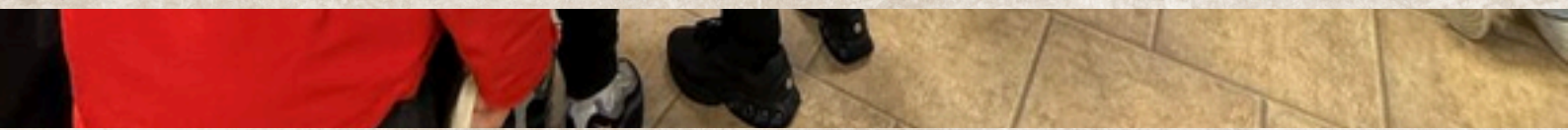
**Thank you for
your support**



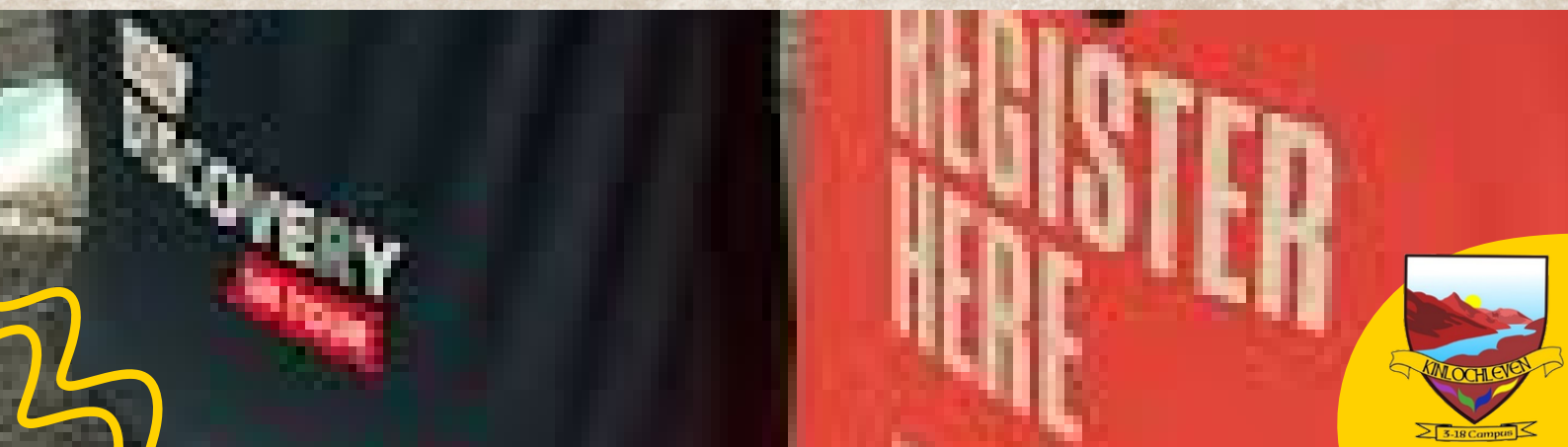
DYW events



All senior phase pupils attended the Career's Fair at Lochaber High School on the 27th August. There were a good number of employers and Universities participating. The students conducted themselves very well, approaching stands and having many meaningful and fruitful conversations.



The S6 year group attended the UCAS Discovery day in Inverness on the 10 September. Pupils had the opportunity to explore the UHI Campus and get the feel of a bustling tertiary education environment. All of the Scottish Universities were represented with select Employers, and pupils had the opportunity to ask specific questions around qualifications, campus life, accommodation and UCAS applications.





S2 pupils take part in FilmG

S2 Gaelic are currently working on their entry for this year's FilmG competition.

FilmG is the annual Gaelic short film competition. Entries are no more than 5 minutes in length and dialogue must be in Gaelic. The school previously entered the 2025 competition.

Rosie and Noah have created an excellent script, which the class described as having lots of detail for the director, props and costume teams to use.

The class is currently rehearsing ahead of their workshop with a tutor from FilmG on Monday 26 and Tuesday 27 October.

During the workshop, filming and editing will take place so the class can complete their entry for the competition.

A C T O R A L E R T

We still require approximately 5 actors to take on a mix of speaking and non-speaking roles. Interested pupils should sign up on the posters around school.



Healthy Young Minds Update

Last session, S2 and S3 pupils worked with Anna McBride and a team of researchers from the University of South Wales to explore a health and wellbeing intervention for the community.

As part of this work, Kaiden, Lucas, Lexi, Noel, Isla (current S3) and Freya (current S4) designed a community event which would bring together families and the wider community.

The majority of the group are now continuing to work with Katy Duncan, CAMHS to develop their project and make it a reality.

At this stage, they are redesigning their project to upskill themselves to lead other young people in events. Their current idea is to design a short residential trip for other students.

However, as the membership of the group changes and new ideas come to the forefront, it really is an emerging project!

The group are looking to recruit some new members who would like to be involved in planning and delivering an event or experience aimed at improving young people's health and wellbeing and engagement with the outdoors.

RECRUITING NOW

Anyone interested

should contact

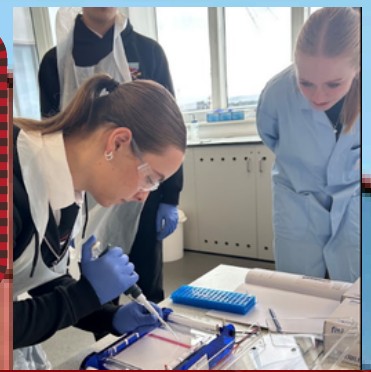
Freya, S4.



Healthy Young Minds



PCR Lab Glasgow University



On 16 September, eight students and Ms Duncan set off early for the University of Glasgow to take part in a one-day molecular biology workshop. The programme was designed to provide school pupils with practical, hands-on experience of modern molecular biology techniques.

Throughout the day, students attended talks exploring the ethical implications of DNA sequencing and advances in biological technology. They viewed digital animations illustrating the structure and function of DNA, took part in practical experiments that would not normally be possible in a school laboratory, and attended a careers presentation that encouraged them to consider future opportunities in this exciting field.



However, the experience offered much more than scientific learning. Students had the opportunity to interact with peers from other schools, gain an insight into university life, and develop their teamwork skills by supporting one another throughout the day. It was a valuable and inspiring experience for everyone involved.



Thank you to Ms Duncan for organising the trip :-)



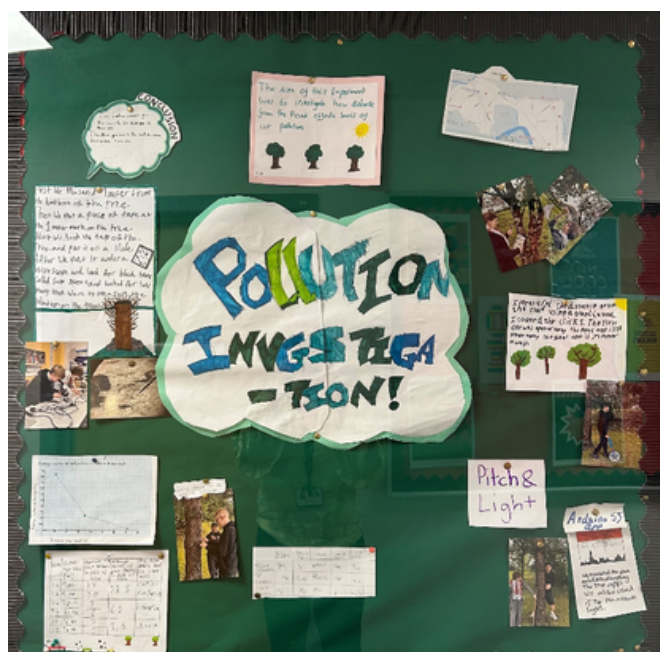
S2 Investigate Pollution

Our S2 students have been out and about investigating pollution and its relationship with roads. As part of their investigation, they used a range of scientific equipment and techniques to collect, compare and analyse data from different locations.

Students used trundle wheels to measure distances from the road and metre sticks to ensure that samples were collected at the same height on each tree. Measuring tapes were used to measure tree circumference, providing an indication of the trees' age, while identification keys helped students identify the different tree species they encountered.

Technology also played an important role. Using the Arduino Science Journal app, students measured light intensity and sound levels. These measurements helped them assess whether locations were sheltered and provided an indication of traffic levels and road noise.

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Students also used sellotape to collect samples from the surface of tree bark. These samples were examined under a microscope, allowing students to count soot particles and investigate levels of air pollution. The data collected was then carefully recorded in tables and presented in graphs, making it easier to identify patterns and trends.

The results supported the students' hypothesis that pollution levels were greatest closer to the road. This investigation gave students an excellent opportunity to develop their practical science, data-handling and analytical skills while exploring the impact that human activity can have on the environment around us.



Art Club



Wednesday Lunchtimes

Jack & The Beanstalk



S4 pupils - Anna & Freya



Pupils have been busy working on props for the school show.

Thank you Mrs Cockerill for giving up your lunchtimes to help with this.





Edinburgh Festival



Senior Drama Pupils

As part of our unit of work on devised theatre, National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Drama pupils visited the Edinburgh Festival Fringe during our first week back at school this term.

We managed to squeeze in 4 shows, (one of which the audience was sadly evacuated from) experienced in some of the most prominent performing arts venues in Edinburgh.

*Thank you to
Miss McAteer
and Ms
Ritchie*





Edinburgh Festival



I King, 2 Princes and Shakespeares Lie
☆☆☆☆☆
I King, 2 Princes and Shakespeares Lie, written by and performed by Andrew Glade was a disappointing watch. ~~The 2 sports eding~~ It follows a man defending his name against Shakespeares allegations, and whilst the story was respectable, it felt more so a lecture than a play. Your ears were constantly bawarded by the actors put on voice, making the words he spoke have an untrustworthy tinge, Surtbey

adding to my first decision on whether his character was innocent or guilty. The biggest problem was the first thing you see as he appears on stage. His costume consisted of a blouse pinned button up vest, a cloak with cushions for lunchbox and the most skintight pants I had ever seen. To say all ages 12+ were allowed to watch was appalling. The original disgusted take he intends to show you never comes because of it. Only at the end of his lecture did he say that it was based on a true story ~~and that was~~ and as he said it, I could not

Conner's Review

well is he was lying. If I had to describe the play in a short sentence, I would have to say: It is as if a cringe English teacher was trying to look to relive the dramas performance they never made.





Edinburgh Festival



Review:

AS Far As We Know
AT Summerhall Arts
★ ★ ★ ★

'As Far As We Know' is a play both written and performed by Sam Ward for YESYESNONO. The story follows a woman as mysterious holes start appearing around her house, this causes her to go on a ~~long~~ journey to discover the cause and get answers. At the beginning you are assured that "everything will make sense" no matter how crazy it may seem. This is meant to provoke the human mind's curiosity and constant need for answers, which is the theme of this play.

There are three acts to this play. The second act changes style from the usual performance of Sam Ward reading this woman's story to us, to words and sounds instead being shown in black and white on a big projected screen. This change shows the woman constantly changing word and adding more unanswered questions.



Leah's Review

In the end, the woman gets all the answers she needs from 'The Oracle' although the audience doesn't get to hear the answer, and maybe the answer wasn't meant for us, but only for the woman. Our constant interest in other people's lives is put on pause as we are told not to hear the answer. All we learn is that it made sense and filled all the gaps she had questions for but not satisfying her adventurous nature as she only looks for something else to investigate.

I found this theme and moral of the story is interesting like on everyday life and the natural curiosity all humans share.

The lighting in this production also changed accordingly and appropriately, always perfectly timed to set the mood and atmosphere.

The sound throughout this performance slowly built up to add suspense and appropriate dramatic climax to key scenes, using a lot of regular everyday noises.

In conclusion, This was a well thought out and captivating performance.





Edinburgh Festival



Is it too late now to say song, written and performed by theatre-maker Adam Benson and performed at Summerhall arts. Is it too late now to say song is a new day arrived to Adam, it evokes feelings of regret and wishing we could take things back.

This show is a very personal one as it explores Adam's own life and his mistakes, from little to big ones. The show makes you ask yourself if you have been truly song for your mistakes or perhaps you said so because you had to.

The small venue adds to the room feeling of the show and helps you analyse and actor. Adam also makes good use of music to help push things and the question are we really song?

Overall I enjoyed my experience with Adam. It had an impact with me, the set and the really ~~show~~ the show I'll highly recommend this show to any one at the Fringe.



Logan's Review

1 king, 2 princes and Shakespeare's lie. We went on a trip with school to the Fringe and this was the final play we saw. This play explains what we think happened to the two princes in the tower in 1483. Our playwright plays Richard III and explains how he took the throne after his brother Henry VI died. At the end of the play he asks us ~~was~~ it us three ~~was~~ ~~we~~ did the crime with a vote of a white flower for not guilty and red for guilty.

The costumes in this play are accurate for the time period however I would recommend a longer top or baggier ~~topping~~ leggings due to a bit too much baggy on show. However the costume was very fitting for the story.

Overall I would give this play 3 stars because the story was interesting but it did feel to drag on a bit.



Edinburgh Festival



Review, by Damon ~ 4.5 stars Is it Too Late Now to Say Sorry?



The play *Is it Too Late Now to Say Sorry* is about a guy's life and how many times he had wished he had said sorry in the past. During this play he sings multiple songs and talks about parts in his life where he had either had an argument or done something wrong and even though he didn't think he was in the wrong he wished he had apologised.

I thought personally that the play was quite good even though some of the songs were bad but I thought it was structured well and had a good balance of comedy and actual story.

I also liked how mainly at the end there was a bit of audience inclusion/immersion where we had the choice to write down a moment in our lives where we wished we had said sorry. I chose not to write anything as nothing came to mind but a lot of other people had written something.



Natural History Museum, Edinburgh



Senior Drama Pupils go AWOL

We had a wee bit of extra time in the day, so we visited the National Museum of Scotland too, enjoying looking at natural history, weapons and technology.





Small School's Football Tournament



We've had some outstanding participation in the annual Small School's tournament.

Our teams of S1 boys, S2/3 boys, Senior Boys and Senior Girls all did us proud with their determination and sportspersonship. Enthusiasm on the training field over the last 18 months almost resulted in us qualifying for the next round. However, none of our teams were successful this time.



Special mentions to our captains **Cooper, Aiden, Iain and Jenna** for representing the school so well and motivating their teams.



Thank you to Mr Smith, Mr Marsco and Mr Harding for organising training and transport





Into the Woods Rehearsals



Show dates and times are as follows:

Thursday 26th November 19:00 - 20:30 (approx, including interval)

Friday 27th November 19:00 - 20:30 (approx, including interval)

Saturday 28th November 14:00 - 15:30 (approx, including interval)

Saturday 28th November 19:00 - 20:30 (approx, including interval)



Rehearsals for this year's school show are well underway. By the time this newsletter reaches you, we'll have blocked the entire show. Jenna is working hard on building Rapunzel's tower and the art club has been busy making Jack's beanstalk and other props. The show is looking good so far, and costumes and props keep arriving through the post causing much excitement!

Any raffle donations will be gratefully received.

Tickets will be available to buy from Kinlochleven library or the school office shortly after we return from the October holidays. Please spread the word!





STEM Elective



Farewell to S3 STEM Elective groups

Ms Hall and Mrs Vind

Our S3 pupils have now completed their ten-week STEM elective with us and moved on to new projects with new teachers. During their time with us, pupils explored bath bomb making with Ms Hall or crochet with Mrs Vind.

The bath bomb group combined practical experiments with learning about the considerations involved in setting up a bath bomb business. Each week brought a different focus, with pupils using an engineering mindset to test their bath bombs, review the results and tweak their recipe. They learned that developing a product involves repeated testing and improvement.



In crocheting, the pupils have been reminded of the resilience it takes to stick with the frustration and discomfort learning a new skill. They went from tight odd shaped tangles - to skilfully weaving hook and thread, holding tension and are able to crochet a scarf!

Thank you to both groups for your work over the ten weeks. We look forward to hearing how you get on with your next projects!

Thank you Ms Hall and Mrs Vind for running these classes.





S3 Sustainability

Litter Pick



Subject: Geography Class

After completing our topic on urban sustainability, our S3 Geography class learned about the negative impacts of litter affecting crime rates, well-being, property prices, wildlife and water ways in all communities. The class then zoned off sections of the village and set off to conduct a litter pick.



Thank you Mr Smith for organising our field trip and competition.

We had a friendly competition to see which group could collect the most litter and the winning group were judged to be:

Isla
Thomas
Kaiden
Aiden

Thank you to the whole class for their responsible citizenship. Even though we made the village tidier we were pleased to evaluate that this task was challenging due to the fact that, with the exception of a few bits and pieces, it is generally kept very clean and free from litter.



Applied Science Pupils Master Molecular Biology in Hands-On Workshop



Our Applied Science National Progression Award pupils recently took part in an immersive, practical workshop delivered by the Science Skills Academy (provided by Edinburgh University at the Newton Room in Fort William). They took their classroom knowledge straight into the laboratory, stepping into the shoes of forensic scientists before learning about computational biology and bioinformatics.

The action-packed day was split into two focused sessions:

Morning Laboratory Session: Pupils gained hands-on experience using professional laboratory-grade equipment and reagents. After mastering precise micropipetting techniques, they carried out a DNA profiling experiment based on a realistic forensic scenario. By loading DNA samples onto agarose gels, running gel electrophoresis, and visualising the distinct banding patterns, pupils successfully analysed the evidence to draw their own scientific conclusions and utilise the same techniques as law enforcement to identify the suspect from the array of samples.

Afternoon Simulation Session: Shifting focus to the digital side of modern science, pupils explored the principles and real-world applications of Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR). The session introduced bioinformatics—highlighting its vital role in modern biology—and challenged pupils to design their own PCR primers, apply numeracy skills to calculate reagent volumes and reaction times, and reinforce their learning through an interactive PCR platform.



Setting up our Electrophoresis

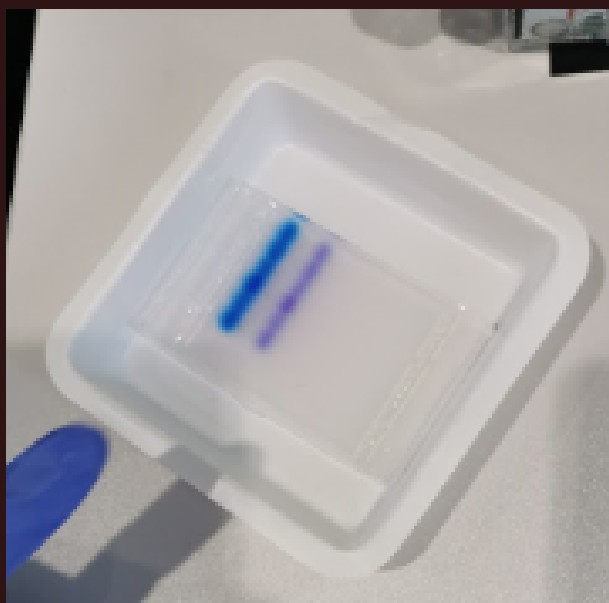




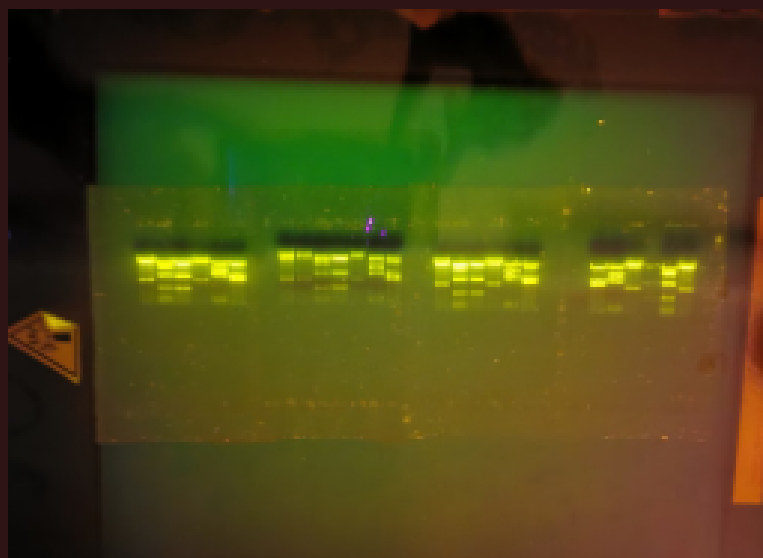
Applied Science Pupils Master Molecular Biology in Hands-On Workshop



By the end of the day, our pupils not only deepened their understanding of DNA profiling, PCR, and bioinformatics, but they also built real confidence in molecular biology techniques that will serve them well in their future scientific studies.



The gels we created



Analysing the gels

A huge thank you to the Newton Room for delivering such an inspiring workshop and supporting our pupils' learning journey.

Thank you Miss Ritchie for organising this activity.

