

What a busy start to session 23/24!

Our team of Music Instructors across Highland have already increased the total number of pupils receiving tuition to just over 4,200 – and that's before the usual peak we give in the Oct-Dec term. Busy timetables, but still so many of our Instructors give their time to lead weekly Area ensembles which give a real sense of purpose and achievement to pupils able to attend.

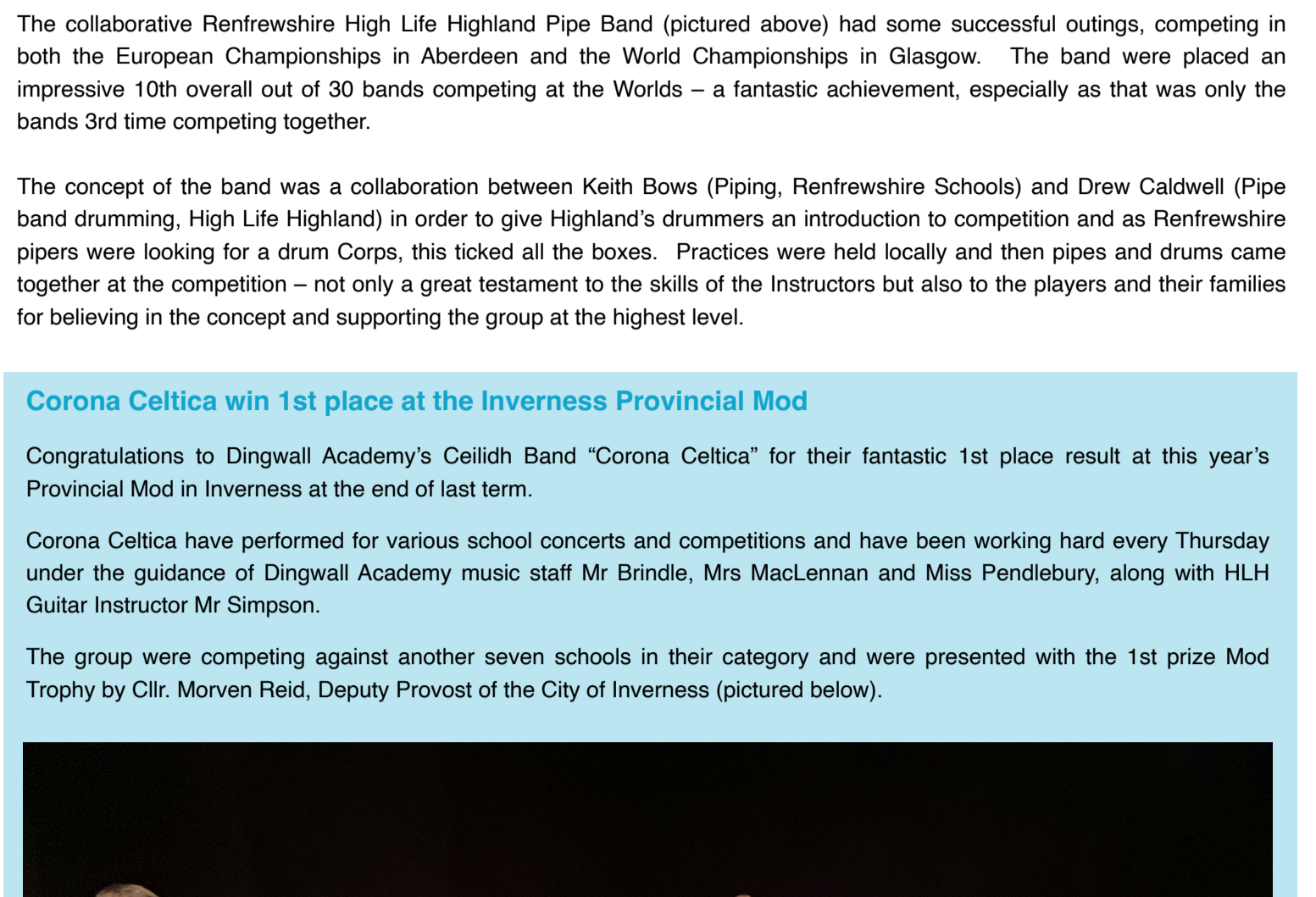
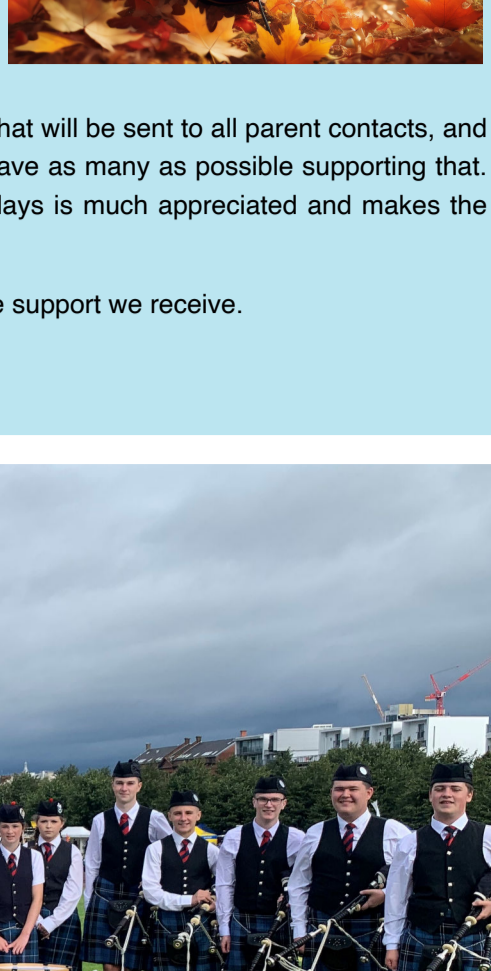
As you'll see in the separate article, Highland Young Musicians groups have also started for this session. Rehearsal days will start in October, with the season culminating in a spectacular Concert Festival on 2nd March 2024 in Eden Court – definitely not to be missed!

In addition to all these regular activities, we also benefit from ongoing relationships with external music organisations and professional groups, creating even more opportunities for our Highland young people.

We're going to be running a Practice-a-thon in November and information about that will be sent to all parent contacts, and distributed to pupils immediately after the October break – it would be great to have as many as possible supporting that. Anything families can do to support a little bit of practice over the October holidays is much appreciated and makes the return to lessons so much easier (for everyone!).

Wishing you all a restful and safe holiday – and that's as always, for the incredible support we receive.

Norman



Renfrewshire High Life Highland Pipe Band Compete At The European and World Championships

The collaborative Renfrewshire High Life Highland Pipe Band (pictured above) had some successful outings, competing in both the European Championships in Aberdeen and the World Championships in Glasgow. The band were placed an impressive 10th overall out of 30 bands competing at the Worlds – a fantastic achievement, especially as that was only the band's 3rd time competing together.

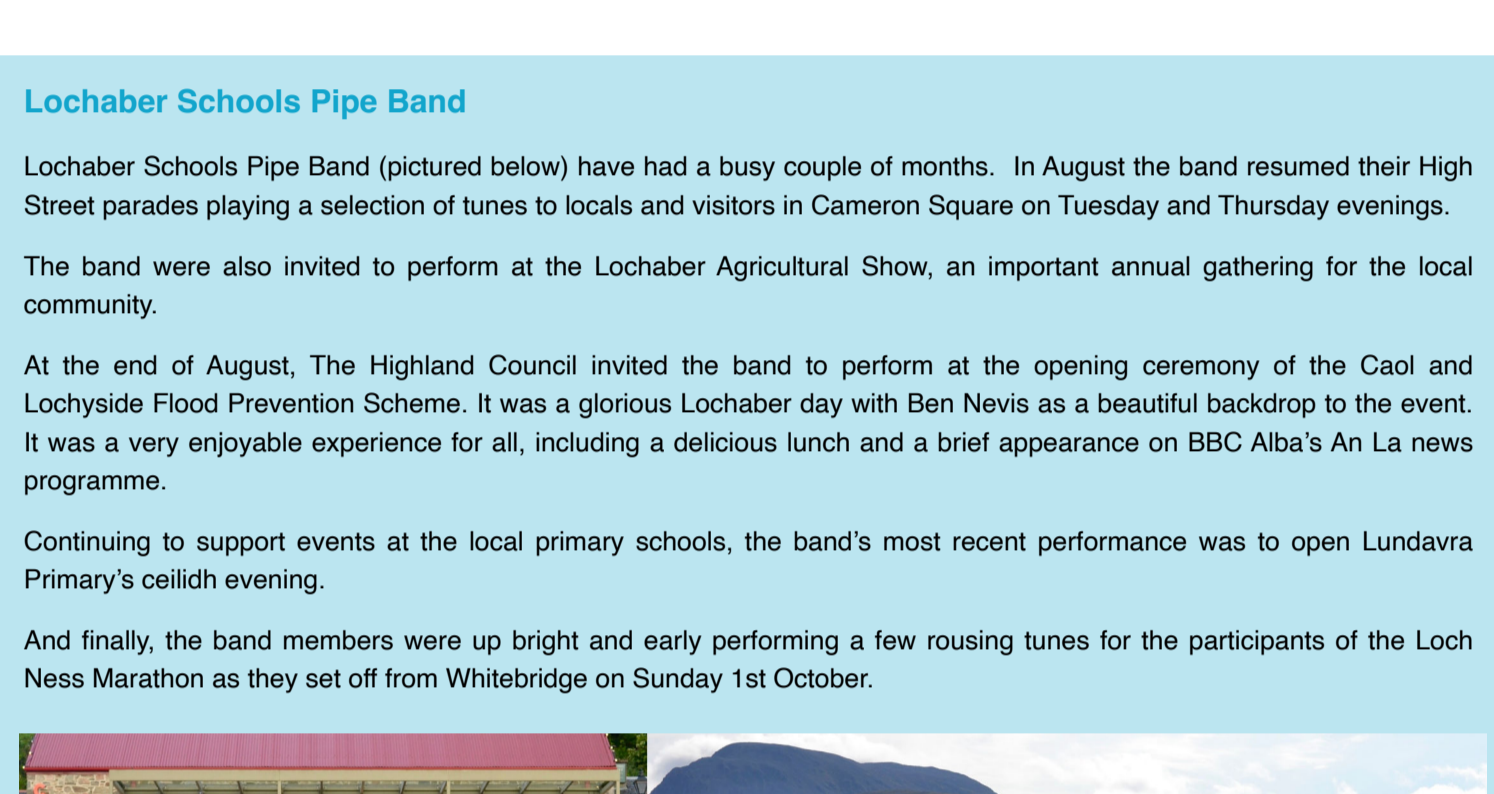
The concept of the band was a collaboration between Keith Bows (Piping, Renfrewshire Schools) and Drew Caldwell (Pipe band drumming, High Life Highland) in order to give Highland's drummers an introduction to competition and as Renfrewshire pipers were looking for a drum Corps, this ticked all the boxes. Practices were held locally and then pipes and drums came together at the competition – not only a great testament to the skills of the instructors but also to the players and their families for believing in the concept and supporting the group at the highest level.

Corona Celtica win 1st place at the Inverness Provincial Mod

Congratulations to Dingwall Academy's Ceilidh Band "Corona Celtica" for their fantastic 1st place result at this year's Provincial Mod in Inverness at the end of last term.

Corona Celtica have performed for various school concerts and competitions and have been working hard every Thursday under the guidance of Dingwall Academy music staff Mr Brindle, Mrs MacLennan and Miss Pendlebury, along with HLH Guitar Instructor Mr Simpson.

The group were competing against another seven schools in their category and were presented with the 1st prize Mod Trophy by Cllr. Morven Reid, Deputy Provost of the City of Inverness (pictured below).



Gizzen Briggs perform for the Inverness Botanic Garden's 30th Anniversary celebrations

Traditional group "Gizzen Briggs", who are based at Tain Royal Academy (pictured above), were delighted to be invited along to perform at the 30th anniversary celebrations of the Inverness Botanic Gardens on Wednesday 20th September. It was a very welcome return to the Botanics after performing there for their 25th anniversary 5 years ago.

It was a wonderful evening with lots of good food and music in such a lovely venue. The group also included HLH players from Alesness, Invergordon and Dornoch academies. A great time was had by all.

Lochaber Schools Pipe Band

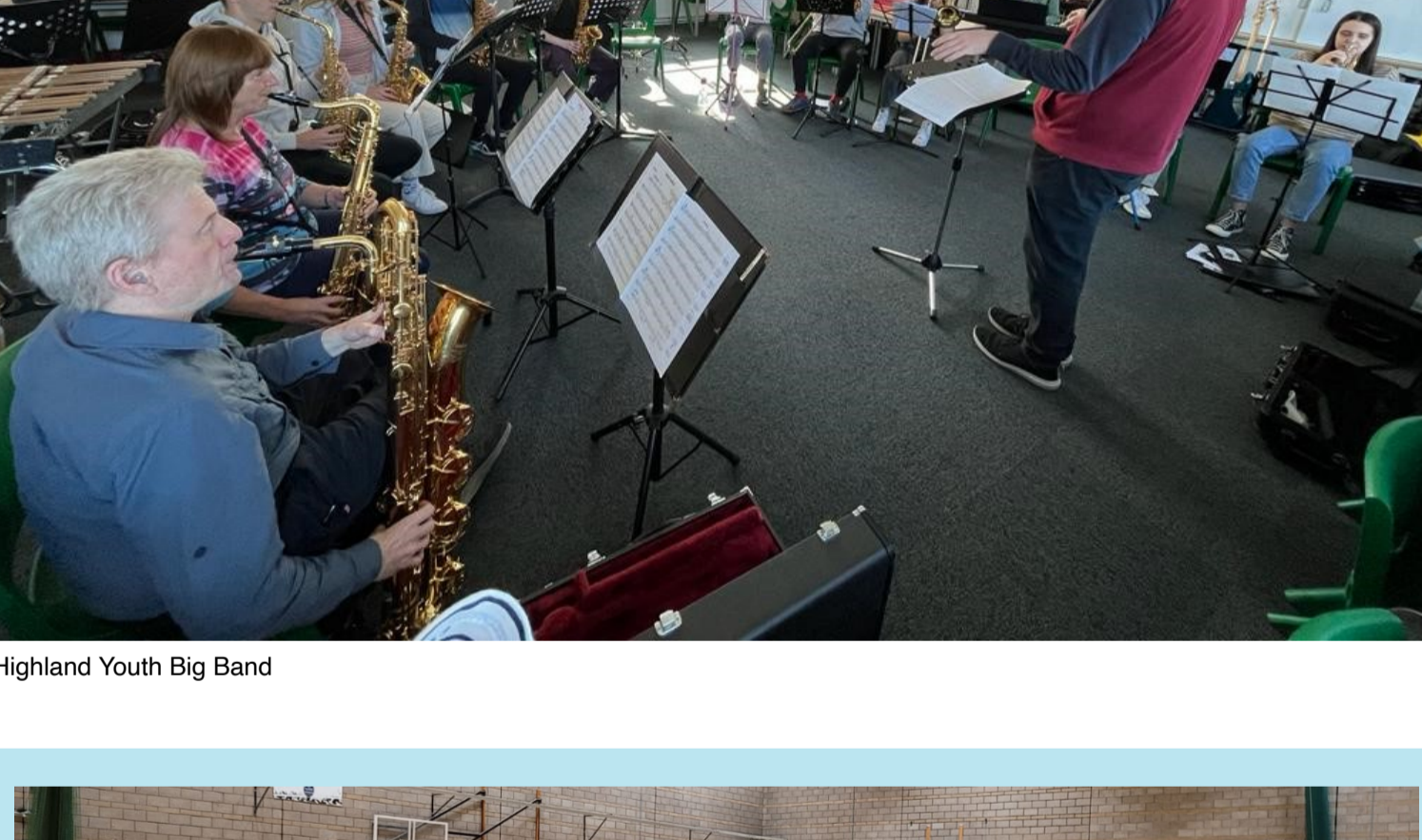
Lochaber Schools Pipe Band (pictured below) have had a busy couple of months. In August the band resumed their High Street parades playing a selection of tunes to locals and visitors in Cameron Square on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

The band were also invited to perform at the Lochaber Agricultural Show, an important annual gathering for the local community.

At the end of August, The Highland Council invited the band to perform at the opening ceremony of the Caol and Lochyside Flood Prevention Scheme. It was a glorious Lochaber day with Ben Nevis as a beautiful backdrop to the event. It was a very enjoyable experience for all, including a delicious lunch and a brief appearance on BBC Alba's An La news programme.

Continuing to support events at the local primary schools, the band's most recent performance was to open Lundavra Primary's ceilidh evening.

And finally, the band members were up bright and early performing a few rousing tunes for the participants of the Loch Ness Marathon as they set off from Whitebridge on Sunday 1st October.

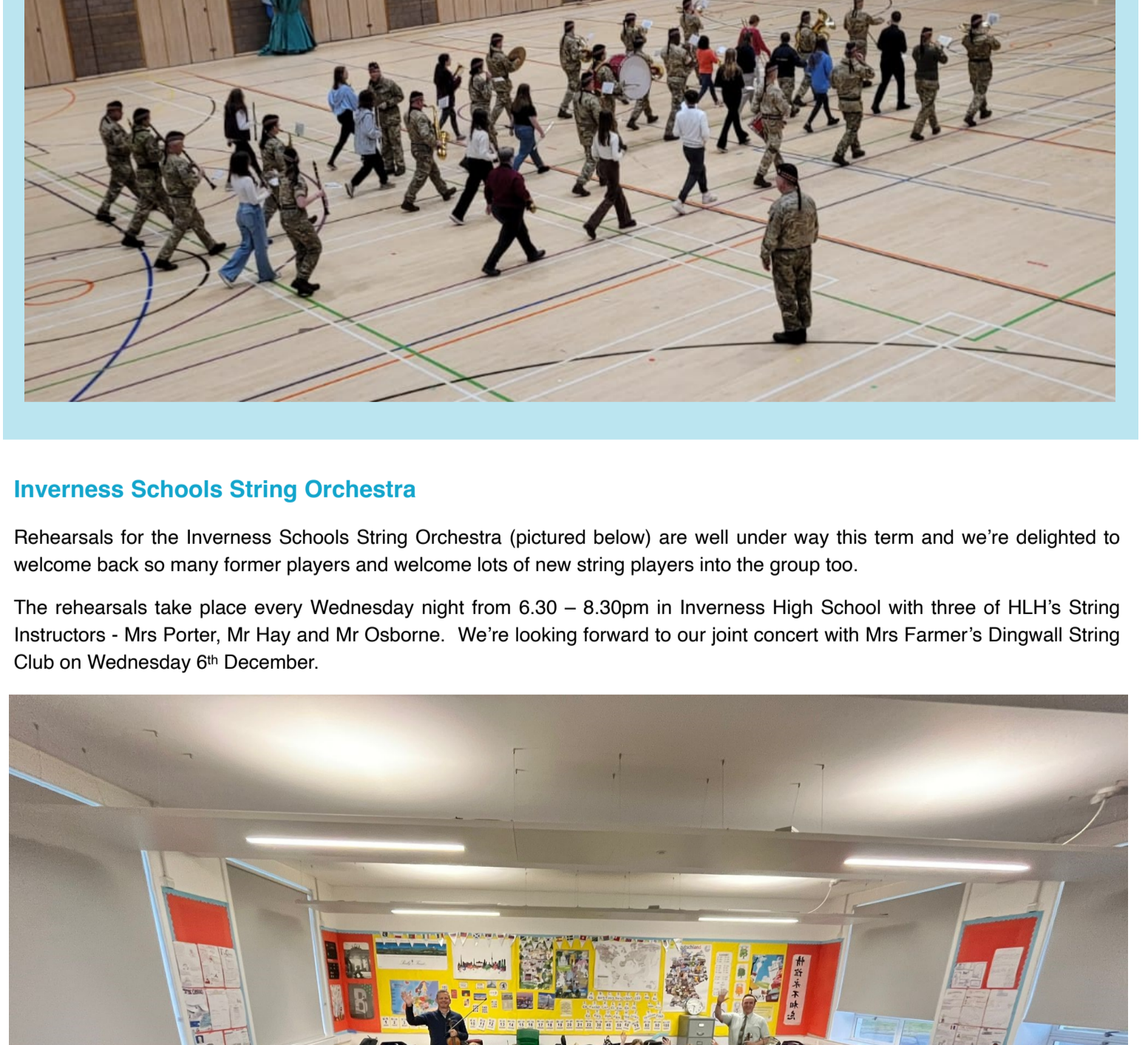


Highland Young Musicians Taster Day

Over 250 young musicians from schools across the Highlands and Gordonstoun, met together at Inverness High School on Saturday 23rd September to take part in the 2023 HYM Taster Day.

Pupils took part playing in one of the many HYM groups on offer for the day, rehearsing and making music together (see pictures of some of the groups below).

For some pupils, this was their very first time playing in HYM groups, and for others, returning for another year of music making.



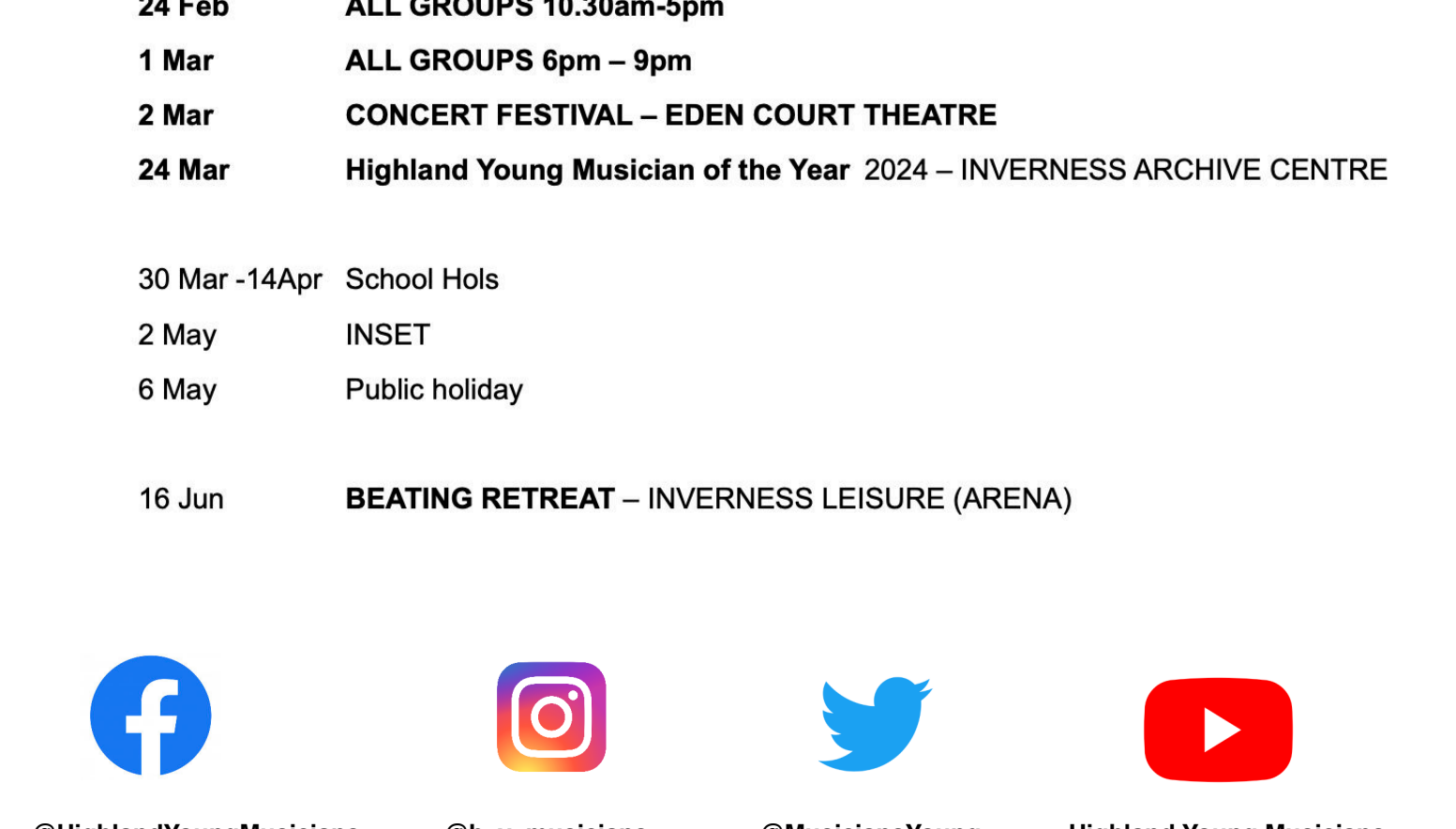
The Orchestra (featuring Strings, Woodwind, Brass & Percussion)



Highland Youth Choir



'Snas



Highland Youth Big Band

Royal Regiment Band

An invited group of woodwind & brass pupils from around Inverness and Ross-shire had a wonderful experience recently, thanks to a visit from the Band of the Royal Regiment of Scotland.

The band started their day with a concert for pupils from Merkinch & St. Joseph's Primaries. Highland players then spent the rest of the morning rehearsing along with the band before lunch and then a very enlightening presentation about being an Arms Musician (which blew a few myths away!)

The remainder of the afternoon was spent learning drill techniques before joining the band in both marching AND playing...definitely not as easy as military bands make it look – but thankfully, no casualties and some nifty moves on the parade ground!

Inverness Schools String Orchestra

Rehearsals for the Inverness Schools String Orchestra (pictured below) are well under way this term and we're delighted to welcome back so many former players and welcome lots of new string players into the group too.

The rehearsals take place every Wednesday night from 6.30 – 8.30pm in Inverness High School with three of HLH's String Instructors - Mrs Porter, Mr Hay and Mr Osborne. We're looking forward to our joint concert with Mrs Farmer's Dingwall String Club on Wednesday 6th December.

HYM Calendar 2023 - 2024

2023-2024

HYWB; HYSO; HYBB; 'SNAS; HRYO; HYC
Rehearsals: Saturday 10.30am-5pm

2023

- 7-22 Oct HOLIDAYS
- 4 Nov ALL GROUPS 10.30am-5pm
- 9 Dec ALL GROUPS 10.30am-5pm

2024

- 8 Jan Back to School
- 27 Jan ALL GROUPS 10.30am-5pm
- 19-20-21 Feb Mid Term & INSET
- 24 Feb ALL GROUPS 10.30am-5pm
- 1 Mar ALL GROUPS 6pm – 9pm
- 2 Mar CONCERT FESTIVAL – EDEN COURT THEATRE
- 24 Mar Highland Young Musician of the Year 2024 – INVERNESS ARCHIVE CENTRE
- 30 Mar -14Apr School Hols
- 6 May INSET
- 6 May Public holiday
- 16 Jun BEATING RETREAT – INVERNESS LEISURE (ARENA)

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