

“Our task is not to put the greatness back into humanity but to elicit it, for the greatness is there already.” John Buchan

Head Teachers’ Leadership Academy

Introduction to Columba 1400

Columba 1400 was founded by Norman Drummond. In 1988 Norman set up the Ronald Selby Wright Leadership Centre in Staffin on the Isle of Skye. Norman’s early experiences in the Parishes of Easterhouse in Glasgow and West Pilton in Edinburgh, followed by Chaplaincies to The Parachute Regiment, The Black Watch, Fettes College and Head Teacher of Loretto convinced him of the great need for young people to have time and space to think and discuss amongst themselves and so to begin to demonstrate their undoubted potential for initiative and good citizenship. Norman created Columba 1400 to extend this concept.

Columba, leader of the early Celtic Church, worked through the community encouraging values for living and teaching everyday skills such as reading, writing, fishing and crofting. Columba 1400 was developed to pick up these strands of community life and develop centres where people can come together to discuss and practise leadership which will then be applied and tested in their home environments. The atmosphere of Skye and Loch Lomond offers time and space for reflection and discussion whilst the landscape lends itself to challenging and exciting expeditions, tailor-made to each programme.

The foundational principles of Columba 1400 come from the early Columban Celtic Christian emphasis on warmth and in three ways... “warmth of welcome, warmth of hospitality and warmth of the sense of being on a shared journey”.

Allied to this is the fundamental family principle shared by Norman and his family over several generations that “the most important person at Columba 1400 is the next young person, of whatever age and stage, to cross our threshold”.

Where does the name Columba 1400 come from?

The name Columba 1400 was chosen by our Founder, Norman Drummond, because of his admiration for the life and message of St Columba who was unafraid of turning his back on his ‘tough realities’ and making a new start in realising his ‘inner greatness’ for the good of others.

The number 1400 commemorates the 1400th anniversary of the death of St Columba who died in Iona on 9 June 597. Little was Columba to know then that some 1400 years later to the day, on 9 June 1997, Norman Drummond and his community members would set out to raise the funds and to begin the building of what has now become Columba 1400.

Columba 1400 Skye in Staffin is the home of Columba 1400 and was opened by our Patron, HRH The Princess Royal, on Saturday, 3 June 2000.

Columba 1400 Loch Lomond at Ardoch, our lowland base, was similarly opened by HRH The Princess Royal on Monday, 21 June 2010.

An abiding reference quotation for Columba 1400 comes from the life and work of Frère Roger of Taizé who once famously said:

“You never can tell how the little that we communicate to another person, particularly a young person, someone else’s child, may find a resonance in their soul which will last their whole life long.”



Values - Based Leadership



AWARENESS

Increasing awareness of self and as a leader of change.



FOCUS

Focusing on their leadership responsibility to shape the internal culture and external identity of their school.



CREATIVITY

Creating a unique vision and leadership presence for their school with the refinement and encouragement of committed peers.



INTEGRITY

Reaffirming their core vocation as a leader and an educator and the role model to future generations.



PERSEVERANCE

Identifying sources of complication, obstruction and resistance and developing strategies for success.



SERVICE

Committing to a spirit of education that is never content unless making an effective and measurable difference