

# Inspirational Rian nominated for Young Scot Award

OBAN High School first year pupil Rian MacAllister who suffers from severely impaired vision, has been nominated for a Young Scot Award.

Rian, who can only partially see out of one eye, was nominated for the award by none other than First Minister, Jack McConnell.

The Sunday Mail Young Scot Awards 2006 honour great things done by young people in Scotland and recently celebrated the success of young tennis sensation Andy Murray.

Mr McConnell nominated Rian after he was unable to attend a debating competition that Rian spoke at in Inveraray Jail. But Mr McConnell was made aware of the fact that Rian had great difficulty with his eyesight by Oban High School Head Teacher Linda Kirkwood.

'I wrote to Mr McConnell, who was totally unaware that Rian had severe vision problems.

'To our delight he took the time to write back to inform us that he had personally nominated Rian for this award.'

Oban High School were initially concerned about Rian who has just taken the step up from Park Primary School to secondary education.

'We were a little worried about the transition because the high school has a lot more people and the school is bigger. But he has shown great determination and courage in adapting extremely well,' said Mrs Kirkwood.

Rian's positive attitude since beginning high school has also seen him take part in fun run's and even attempt playing rugby.

Being part of the school's debating team has led to him being very much a part of discussions as diverse as animal testing and school uniform.



*Rian MacAllister who has been nominated for a Young Scot Award by First Minister Jack McConnell.*

But Rian's main passion is not speaking but writing and he is in the process of writing his second fictional novel.

Rian is still stunned that he has been nominated for this national award.

He said: 'I just can't believe that I have been put forward.

'I just think of myself as being like every other young boy who enjoys learning and being taught in school.'

Rian also revealed his career ambitions could lie in politics when he eventually leaves school. He explained: 'I either want to be a politician or a writer because I really look up to both Jack McConnell and J.R.R. Tolkein.

*We asked a man in Tobermory why many of the dogs on Mull had flat faces and he told us that it was because they chased parked cars!*