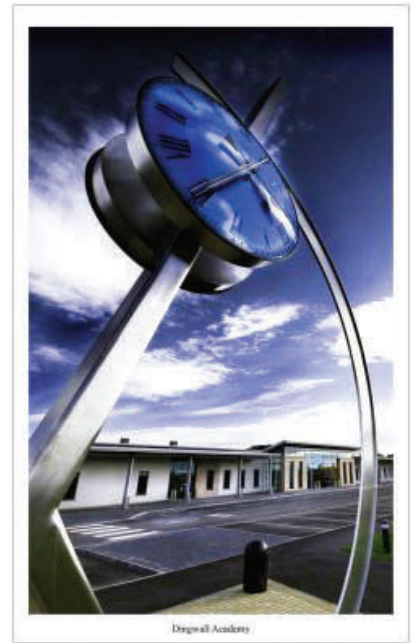


# NEWSLETTER

We are now well in to a new session and although this years' S1 is our biggest intake in many years, sitting at around 245, they have settled in very well both academically and socially. This first year is of-course, the first group to participate fully in the Curriculum for Excellence and the programme has started well with the pupils enjoying the courses on offer and participating fully in the Elective courses.



SEPTEMBER 2010

## Dingwall Academy

### SQA

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In S4 the number of pupils gaining 5 Credit passes or more has now risen to almost 42% which is a significant improvement yet again. This augurs extremely well for our performance in Higher in S5 during the current academic year. In S6 against almost all of the measures we are performing in the top 30-40% of schools in Scotland and this again is very pleasing. This is down to the hard work shown in school by both pupils and staff and is supported and encouraged by the attitudes of parents and other family carers. Thank you very much for this support from all, and I look forward to more success in August 2011.

### Mobile Phone Safety Advice

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Along with this Newsletter you will receive some documentation sent out from Highland Council and Northern Constabulary working in partnership. This documentation offers advice to parents and carers on the usage of mobile phones and the internet. It contains some very helpful advice for all and I encourage parents and carers to talk to their children about the contents of this letter.

## Mathematics Department

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The Mathematics Department are continuing the Maths tutorial / drop-in session every Thursday lunch time. This initiative is aimed at all years for any pupil having difficulty with either homework or with class work. Pupils can drop in whenever they need to and get help from the teachers who will be present. This is a splendid initiative from the Maths department and I hope that pupils will make good use of this opportunity.

## NABS

Parents of pupils in S5 and S6 and those with pupils sitting Intermediate Exams in S3 and S4 are reminded of the importance of Unit Assessments, often referred to as NABS. Pupils must pass all Unit Tests in order to gain an overall course award. Further information on NABS is available on the Policy section of our website.

## School Photographs

School Photographer will be in Dingwall Academy to take pupil photographs on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2010.

Prefects will have their group photo taken on 24th September.

## Family Update Form

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You will have received a form entitled Family Update Form. It allows us to update all of our information relating to pupils in our charge. As you can imagine contact details are extremely important to us and in particular we would appreciate notification of an emergency contact number outwith parental contacts. It is particularly important to us that before we can organise medical attention for youngsters we are able to speak to a responsible person connected to the child. It is also very useful for us to have pupil mobile phone numbers in the interest of Health and Safety. Emergency contact addresses and numbers are also required in the event of the school having to close for any reason. Please hand this form in as soon as possible if you have not already done so. If you move house remember to advise the school office of your new address and contact numbers.

## Former Pupils

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We have been notified of the following successes of our former pupils who have graduated or received a certificate/diploma: Anthony Burr, Louise Dytch, Rory Forbes, Christopher Mundell, James Munro, Blair O'Connor, Elizabeth Paulin, Jennifer Smith, Linda White, Graham Carle, Morag Cole, Graeme Miller, Catriona Ramsay, Malcolm White.

Congratulations from all at Dingwall Academy

## Captains and Vice Captains

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We are very proud to announce the names of the senior pupils who will be captains and house captains for this session. The boys Captain is Michael Rainnie and his Vice Captain is John Cameron. Girls Captain is Rachel Earith and her Vice Captain is Helen Matheson. I am very confident that all four of these fine youngsters will continue the very high standards and traditions established by their predecessors.

## Absence from school

Can parents please ensure that the school is notified of any pupil absence from school on the first day of absence before 10.00 am.

If we have had no contact, the school has a set protocol which must be followed, which includes the school trying to make contact with you.

If, after 4 days no contact has been made and we are not aware of any reason for absence, the school has to report this to the Police and Education Authority.

Please help us by keeping us fully informed about the reason and length of your son/daughter's absence.

## Absence Notes

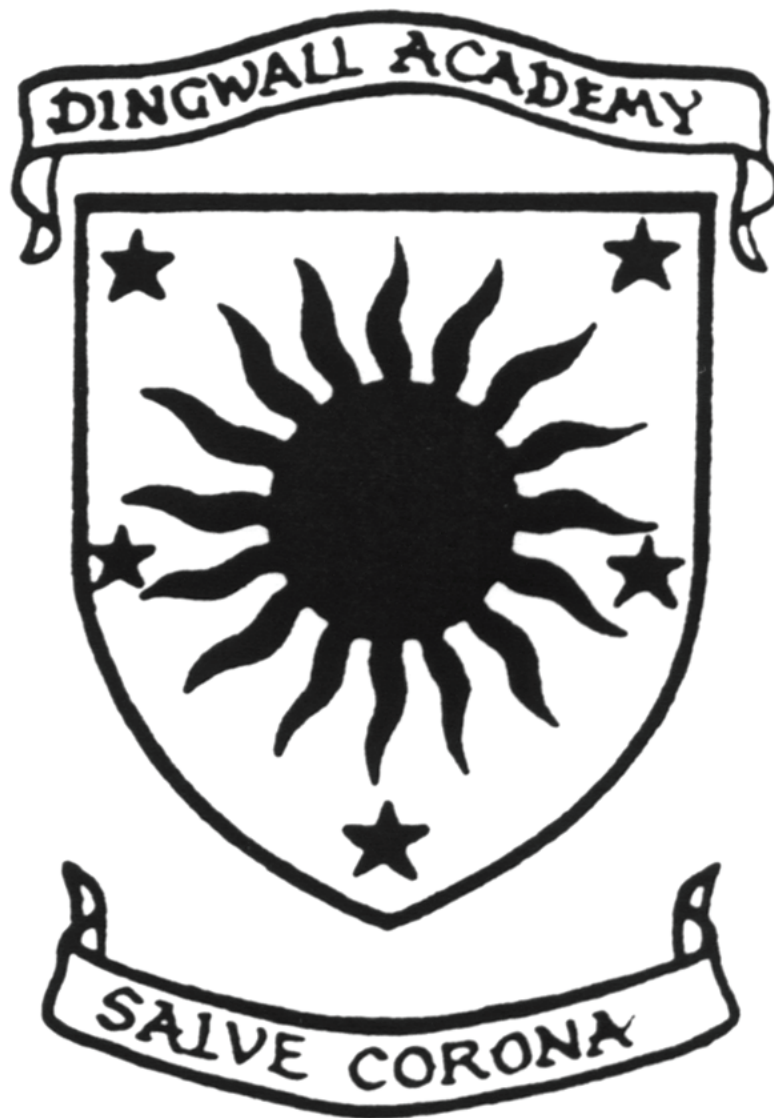
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When a pupil returns to school after being absent they must bring an Absent Note signed by a parent or guardian. This note is to be placed in the small black post box located at the main reception desk. Please ensure the pupils forename, surname and class are made clear on the note.

## College Courses

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Over 30 Pupils in S4, S5 and S6 are now taking part in college courses one day a week. The school has partnership agreements with both Inverness and North Highland College and courses range from Health and Beauty to Construction Skills. A number of pupils in S3 and S4 are just about to start the Int 1 Rural Skills course and we are grateful to our partners at Auchmore Farm and Fairburn Estate for their continued support



As always I am very grateful for your support of the school but if there are any issues which you wish to take up with us please do not hesitate to contact me at the school where our new number is **01349 869860**.

Graham A MacKenzie, Rector