



DINGWALL ACADEMY

Homecoming Ceilidh

Dingwall Academy Homecoming Ceilidh

Thursday 26th November

In the school multi-purpose hall

7.30pm - 10.00pm

£3 PER TICKET OR £5 FOR ADULT & PUPIL

Tickets available from the Main School Office

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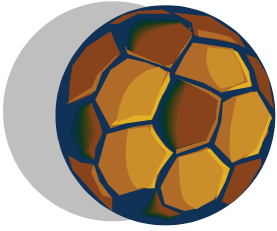
The ceilidh will be the culmination of a lot of work taking place in school. S1 and S2 pupils will be doing work in all classes related to the Homecoming during the fortnight leading up to the ceilidh.

The school has also received an invitation to participate in the National Homecoming Exhibition to be held at The Hub in Edinburgh on Monday 23 November. Mrs Karen Cormack, Depute Rector and a number of pupils will travel to Edinburgh to showcase Dingwall Academy's contribution to the Homecoming year.

Again, this is a very welcome invitation to participate at national level, and all concerned are to be congratulated for their efforts.



School Football



The boy's school teams have played thirty one competitive games so far this season. Now that the dark nights have arrived full use is being made of the floodlit astroturf to continue with fixtures through the winter.

Both the under 13 and under 14 teams are top of their leagues. Mr Morton's under 13's have 18 points from eight games and Mr Ross' under 14's have 13 points from their six games. The under 14's have also reached the third round of the Scottish Cup following victories over Culloden Academy and Wick High School. The third round will see them host a school from Aberdeenshire or Aberdeen itself.

The under 15's, coached by Charlie Macphee, are second in their league but are undefeated having played four games.

Mr MacIntosh's senior team are 5th in their league having played most of the strongest teams so far. They have won two games and lost three.

Four players from the school are involved in North of Scotland select teams. Kyle Macdonald and Tony Dingwall play for the seniors and Martin Groat and Fraser Mackay play for the under 15's.

The school is pleased to have formed a working relationship with Dingwall Primary School who make use of the Astroturf for training purposes and with Dingwall Thistle F.C who help with refereeing home fixtures and will, in the future, assist with the coaching of some groups.

Preparation is well underway for the under 15's summer tour to Malta. Fund-raising efforts begin with a coffee morning in the school on Saturday the 14th of November from 10.30am – 1.00pm to raise funds for a multi-sports trip.

All welcome.

Coffee Morning

Sat 14th Nov

10.30am - 1.00pm

In the school

Girls Football

This past year there have been over 30 girls S1-S6 attending training. This is a big increase from last year, with a lot more S1 girls coming along.

The girls have had a very successful year achieving the following –

Firstly, the junior team (S1 – S3) won the Highland Bank of Scotland league. This qualified them to represent North at mini Hampden against central belt teams.

Secondly, the U15 team reached the semi finals in the North of Scotland cup.

Finally, the pinnacle of the year was when the team travelled to Stornoway to take part in the Kirk cup tournament. After some very challenging games, the team won their pool and progressed to the semis, and then the finals. They won the tournament in a penalty shoot out, to receive a very prestigious trophy.



Hockey

All the hockey teams have enjoyed the luxury of the astroturf this year and we have had a huge turn out for all our practices.

The senior team came second in the Ross-shire league this year, missing out on first place by one goal. They also put in a good performance at the North of Scotland tournament, again missing out on the final by one goal. There's still the Ross-shire tournament to be played – the results will be displayed on the PE website after the event.

The third year team won their league convincingly this year, not losing one game. They also have their tournament coming up, and are expected to excel again. These results will also go up on the website.

The second year team started off slowly but they have gradually come into their own, and picked up more players as the season has progressed. The second years also have the Ross-shire tournament to look forward to, and the results will be posted.

The first year team have had a great start to the year, coming second in the league, and third by a whisker in the Ross-shire tournament. The first year team also have their highland tournament to look forward to come spring time.

Dance

The dance club has continued to meet every Wednesday after school and has recruited a few new members. Since the summer, they have been working hard at all their dances but have been concentrating on choreographing the Dingwall Academy reel in time for the homecoming ceilidh.

Four Nations Pentathlon

Paula Gass has been selected to represent Scotland in a Four Nations Pentathlon which will take place in the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow in December. This call up is a just reward for Paula who trains incredibly hard all year and always gives her all. We wish her all the best.

LINK SCHOOL IN SOUTH AFRICA

International Inspirations is an International legacy programme of the London 2012 Games. It aims to use the power of sport to transform the lives of millions of children and young people of all abilities, in schools and communities across the world, particularly in developing countries, through the power of high quality physical Education, sport and play.

Dingwall Academy is proud and excited to be part of the programme. We have established a link with Rylands High School in Capetown, South Africa.

The Rector and Mr MacIntosh (Head of P.E, Health and Nutrition) visited South Africa during the October holidays and spent time at Rylands High and with the link staff. A three year plan has been agreed between the schools.

Rylands High is a 1,000 pupil school within an Indian community in Capetown. Sport is an important part of school life but only in extra curricular time. Physical Education as we know it is not taught in many South African schools. Part of our plan is to try and reintroduce P.E into the school curriculum giving it the status and relevance it formerly had in the country.

The link is very much a two way process. We can undoubtedly learn a great deal from South Africans. Their approach to education and sport is different from ours but, in some respects, better. We can learn from each other. South Africa's diverse culture and recent political history may enable us to form links in curricular areas beyond P.E and sport.

In the near future, a number of pupils will be offered the chance to link up with a Rylands High School pupil via email and eventually through video conferencing. In the long term, it is hoped that groups of pupils from each school will visit each other.

In March 2010, Mr Oberay and Mr Searle from Rylands will visit us to further advance the link and to gain an insight into Scottish culture, education and sport.

The link will offer pupils fantastic opportunities to broaden their outlook and gain a real understanding of life in another country. A country that is rich in many ways and poor in others. The World Cup will propel South Africa into the limelight next summer. If successful, our link will enable pupils from both countries to take advantage of both the World Cup and the 2012 Olympics to greatly enhance their educational development - and have great fun into the bargain.





Health and Food Technology

Students have been very active in the Health and Food Technology department. John McIver has made his way to the regional heats of the Future Chef of the Year awards and we wish him well in his endeavours.

Meanwhile a group of pupils will take part in the Young Consumer of the Year awards, the first heat of which takes place in December. Last year Dingwall Academy were national runners up in this event and have progressed to the national finals twice in the last three years.

4 senior pupils will take part in a Hospitality Challenge at the award winning Torridon Hotel on Wednesday 18th November.

Good Luck to all involved

Social Subjects Department

Senior pupils and teachers from the Academy will next week be making a two day visit to Edinburgh. During their time in Edinburgh the pupils will visit the National Museum of Scotland and will attend a theatre performance of We Will Rock You in the evening before staying overnight and attending the Scottish Parliament sessions the next day.

This year the school has been successful in obtaining tickets for First Ministers's Question Time and all participants are very much looking forward to this event.

Maths and Curriculum for Excellence

S1 pupils have been involved in a cross-curricular project which was started as a transition project linking the work of primary 7 and S1. The project brief was to design and construct a gift box to contain some shortbread. Construction skills have been developed in CDT and the pupils will be making their own shortbread in Food Technology to put in the boxes. Everyone who comes to the Homecoming Ceilidh will receive a complimentary gift box of shortbread.

S2 pupils are involved in a competition to design and make a rocket and test how far it will travel. The pupils are looking at how the design influences the distance travelled and also what is the optimum angle of propulsion.

Other S2 pupils have been researching the work of Scottish Mathematicians as part of the work on Homecoming. Using Napier's Bones or rods, they have learned how to perform multiplication such as 456×87 . A poster competition was run within the class and this was one by Mateusz Zaleski – Korzisek.

2nd year Gaelic Learners' Skye Trip



“S e am beul a labhras ach an gnìomh a dhearbhas” says the Gaelic proverb, roughly equivalent to the English “Actions speak louder than words”. That was the idea behind organising a week long trip to Skye for S2 Gaelic learners last June. Too often pupils fail to see the relevance of what they learn in the classroom to everyday life, a problem addressed by the philosophy behind the Curriculum for Excellence. Their week gave the 25 youngsters an opportunity to practise the Gaelic of

the classroom for real in the Gaidhealtachd area of Stafain in the North end of Skye.

Among the activities they took part in were canoeing, abseiling, archery, loch fishing, visits to a folk museum and a dinosaur museum, swimming and friendly shinty and football matches with Portree High School. In addition the pupils cooked all their own meals under the patient supervision of Mrs. Campbell, (who, with six children of her own, has some experience of mass catering).

Each evening a diary was filled in in Gaelic of the day's events, giving each young Gael a souvenir to keep of his week. The final evening was cèilidh night with our own dance band of accordion, fiddle and drums and three pipers.



Fraser MacKay and fan club

Our week coincided with Portree High School's school sports which took the form of Highland Games to which we were invited. This led to the rather embarrassing result of our very sporty class winning almost all their events, culminating with one of our second years - ok, let's name him – Fraser MacKay, beating a Portree sixth year in the final of the relay race!

Language, exercise, music, dance, cookery, history, social skills – Curaicealam airson Sàr-Mhathais - surely?

Iain MacIlleChiar,
Gaelic teacher

(P.S. I have now recovered)

English department

A party of 70 senior pupils will be attending a matinee performance of "The Steamie" by Tony Roper at Eden Court Theatre on Thursday, 19th November.

Students from the Advanced Higher English class will be attending a week-long Creative Writing course at Moniak Mhor. As this is the International Year of Astronomy, experts from the Royal Observatory in Edinburgh will also be in residence and Moniak will become one of Scotland's Dark Sky Discovery sites. Students will be given the opportunity to star gaze (weather permitting) and to write poems for commemorative posters to be distributed to schools throughout Scotland.

National MOD

Congratulations are due to three members of staff from Dingwall Academy who participated in the Dingwall Gaelic Choir's recent success in the Lovat and Tullibardine Shield event which is the most prestigious choral event at the National Mod.

Mrs Kirsteen MacLennan conducted the choir and Mrs Karen Cormack and Miss Jan Wilson were both members of the choir, having joined relatively recently.



Joanna Shepherd goes to Houston, Texas

Joanna Shepherd of S6 sets off for Houston with a group of other Scottish students, having won her way through interview procedures to participate in a chance of a lifetime expedition to the space centre in Houston, Texas. Joanna travels first to Glasgow where she will meet the rest of her colleagues before flying to London for an early morning flight to Houston.

She is of course extremely excited about the prospect of the whole trip and goes with the best wishes of everyone at Dingwall Academy. We hope she will return with pictures of herself with the astronauts

Matthew Erskine

Heartiest congratulations are due to Matthew Erskine S6 who was successful in an appeal for his Higher English and now becomes the fifth Dingwall Academy pupil to achieve five straight A's in this years SQA diet of exams.

Well Done, Matthew

**NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 2009**

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Eco-Art Competition:

Show your creativity and help make the school a better place!

The Dingwall Academy Eco Group are running a competition to design a poster. It is open to all years and a winner will be chosen from Lower, Middle and Upper school. Your poster should encourage people to dispose of litter responsibly and warn against the problems of litter. It should be submitted in printed/drawn form or electronically. The three winning designs will be used to stick on bins and recycling containers around the school.

So if you care about your environment and want to help us make it cleaner and safer, then "Get creating!" Entries can be handed in to Mr McKay (room 135), Miss Sharpe (room 229) or Miss Swallow (room 213) and the deadline is Monday 7th December.

On Thursday 5 November, a meeting of the Eco group involved pupils and staff coming together to plant bulbs around the school in order to make the environment more attractive. It is hoped that this will lead to a very colourful early spring.

Corona Celtica

The Dingwall Academy Ceilidh band, Corona Celtica, have been very active recently. Prominent in their activities were four performances over two days at the recent Curriculum for Excellence showcase held in Dingwall Academy.

On the second day the band was kitted out in their brand new hooded outfits and looked extremely smart. An example of some of their music is to be found on YouTube by entering CFE Showcase. You will be given a link through to the Highland Learning Festival.

The band has now been invited to play at the Scottish Homecoming celebrations which will be held in Stirling Castle on Tuesday 24 November. This is a very prestigious and very well deserved invitation for our youngsters and we wish them well at that event.

The band is now looking forward to producing a CD which we hope will be available for Christmas.

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL DATES

S1/S2 Wednesday 16th December 2009

S3/S4 Thursday 17th December 2009

S5/S6 Monday 21st December 2009

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Tuesday 15th December 2009

