



Dingwall Academy

News

Welcome to our Newsletter. As always, there are a number of achievements, pupil pieces, and events inside. Enjoy!

Dingwall Cares: Anthony Nolan

Anthony Nolan is a charitable organisation that saves the lives of people who suffer from blood cancer and blood disorders. Last week an Anthony Nolan representative delivered a presentation to the senior pupils. They made us 6th year realise how incredibly easy it is to save the life of someone who has no other alternative. Given that Dingwall Academy has raised more money for Teenage Cancer Trust than any other school in the UK, the chance to give even more support with people with cancer presented itself as a great opportunity. Because of this it is no surprise that over 60 6th year students applied to be a life-saver. Alongside the impressive student turnout, many members of staff also put their name on the Anthony Nolan register.

We hear many horror stories about stem cell and bone marrow donation but the reality is so much simpler. After you merely spit in a tube and your tissue type is determined, you may be called up as you are the only match for someone who is in need of a stem cell donation. If this was to happen, you're asked to come down to an Anthony Nolan clinic. If you live far away, all expenses are paid. Once there you're connected to a machine and they extract the stem cells required. The process takes around four to five hours but once complete you are free to go home knowing that you've just potentially saved somebody's life.

By Joshua Henry



saving the lives
of people with
blood cancer



APRIL 2016

Dates for your Diary:

Monday 2nd May
School Holiday

Tuesday 3rd May
Study leave starts

Monday 9th May
Parent Council Meeting 7pm

Wednesday 25th May
S3 YPI Finals 7pm

Monday 30th May
Timetable changes

Wednesday 1st June
Senior Phase end of study leave

Monday 6th June
In-Service Day

Tuesday 7th June
S6 Dinner 7pm

Wednesday 8th June
Prize Giving 7pm

Wednesday 15th June
Sports Day

Wednesday 15th June
Parent Information Evening
Internet Safety 7pm

Mon 27th Tue 28th June
Activity Days

Pupil Voices: Spring Fair

This year we had our second spring fair on the 19th of March. We managed to make an incredible £10,000 for the school! At the fair we had a range of activities from a Dunk Tank to a Smoothie Stall.

The S2 House Tutor classes had the task of creating their own stall/stalls. They had to plan out their stall, gather anything they needed for that stall and then set up just before the fair.

The inflatables in the games hall was a big success. There were obstacle courses, a Bouncy Castle, wrecking ball, a bungee run and a bucking bronco. For £10 you could buy a VIP wrist-band which would let you on all the inflatables for free. If you didn't have a wristband you could just pay for a ticket at the office. Over all the inflatables made around £2,000.



A big thank you to everyone who helped out with the spring fair and also the community who came out to support the school. We couldn't have done it without you!

Emily Clark 2B2

Recently, on 19/03/16, the Dingwall Academy Spring Fair was held at the school. It was great fun and a lot of work and effort was put into it. A huge amount of stalls were run by pupils by themselves and we did very well in the end. An amazing raffle took place with prizes ranking up to 2 Belladrum tickets and even a PS4! Prizes also included a Go-Pro camera, lots of chocolate and much, much more! Stalls ranged from a Tombola to a Gaming league! Among them were stalls such as "Guess how many calories", "Smoothies", and lots and lots more. The pupils and teachers did a marvellous job in holding the event. All the stalls did a grand job in raising money, and we ended up with a whopping grand total of £10,000! Other activities included Lazerstrike, several inflatables, nerf wars, go-karting, bungee runs and so much more! It was a proud day for Dingwall Academy.

Callum Dickinson 2T1

Dingwall Academy's Spring Fair took place on Saturday the 19th of March. At the fair we raised an amazing amount of £10,000; we could not have raised this money without the help of pupils and staff of Dingwall Academy. Pupils ran stalls and showed off their musical talents, we had a range of activities from inflatables, dunk tank, athletic challenges and more.

All S2 house Tutor classes were asked to organise stalls. My class created a smoothie bar and athletics challenges, together our stall was pretty successful especially our smoothie bar.

The Dunk tank was great to watch especially when some teachers came out dressed in full wetsuits, goggles, arm band, snorkels, flippers and more.

There was also some pretty cool inflatables, there was a Bucking Bronco, Wrecking ball, obstacle course, Bungee run and laser tag. At the fair you could buy an unlimited wristband or just buy individual tickets.

All together our Spring Fair was a great success with lots of money made, happy customers and happy pupils and staff.

Ashleigh Sutherland 2F1



Exams Begin

Study leave starts on Tuesday 3rd May and a number of practical assessments will already have taken place before this date. **Where pupils have any outstanding unit assessments it is crucial that these are completed as soon as possible.** Remember, without all the unit passes pupils cannot achieve an overall final award.

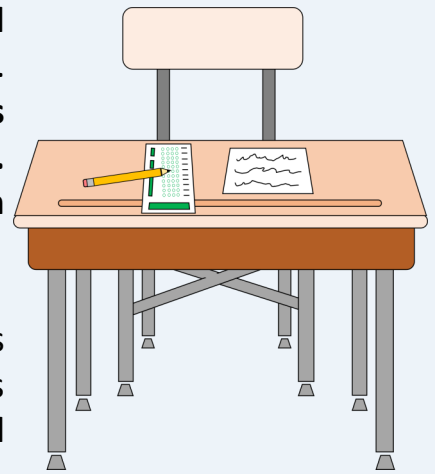
Pupils should already have an established study routine. It is important that pupils use their study leave time wisely. Pupils should spend time working but must also find time for rest and relaxation.

There are a number of online resources available:

<http://www.npfs.org.uk/national-5-revision-in-a-nutshell/>

<http://www.npfs.org.uk/2015/03/25/higher-revision-in-a-nutshell/>

Good luck to all pupils sitting exams.



Internet Safety



The internet can be an incredible source of information and a great way of communicating and sharing. However, it is important that pupils know how to use the internet, and in particular social media, safely. Pupils need to be aware that inappropriate use of the internet can have serious short and long term repercussions.

To help inform parents and pupils there will be an information evening in the school hall at 7pm on Wednesday 15th June. There will be presentations from school, police and social work and an opportunity to ask questions and seek further advice. Parents of all pupils are invited to attend; pupils are also welcome to come along.

Strictly Come Dancing

Coming in the next issue!



Prefect Lunch



Prefects play an important role in our school. Not only do teams of prefects supervise corridors and the canteen daily, they also play a leading role organising senior and whole school events. To celebrate the super job this year's group of prefects have done, a lunch was held at Tulloch Castle on Friday, 17th March. Attended by the vast majority of prefects as well as Mrs Cormack, Mr MacIntosh and Ms Harrison, the lunch was a deserved and delicious recognition of the group's contribution to school life.

YPI

For the second year running, S3 pupils will be taking part in the very worthwhile Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI). The project involves teams of pupils researching issues which affect our community then selecting and championing a local charity who tackle this issue. Pupils have work together to prepare and deliver a presentation on their chosen charity. Not only does this project raise awareness of the admirable work done by local charities, the winning group gets to present a £3000 cheque to their cause.



<http://ypiscotland.org.uk/>

Last year's YPI was a huge success and the winning team proudly presented Ross-shire's Woman's Aid with the £3000 cheque. This year's YPI was kicked off on at an S3 assembly with a repeat performance by last year's winning group – NAMES. There was a real buzz as the current S3s left the assembly hall. There is no doubt they are going to give this project their all. Pupils will be working on this project during April and May with the finals taking place in the Council Chambers on 25th May.

Prize Giving

Arrangements are now underway for the annual school Prize Giving. This year the event takes place on Wednesday 8th June and our guest speaker is former Rector Mr Graham MacKenzie. Teachers are currently selecting prize winners for all year groups.

In S1 and S2 the top pupil in each class for individual subjects receives the class prize. In S3 the top pupils for each subject in the year group receive distinctions. In the senior phase the top pupils being presented for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher receive awards. There are also a number of special prizes awarded for a range of outstanding achievements.

The list of prize winners will be published at the start of May and all will be invited along with family to attend the event.



Biology Challenge



Royal Society of
Biology

On March 21, fourteen S3 Biology pupils put themselves to the test and took part in the Royal Society of Biology's Biology Challenge. The competition is open to all 13-15 year olds (in Scotland S2-S3) pupils in UK secondary schools. Pupils have a limited time to answer 120 questions online and under exam conditions, covering nearly every Biology topic imaginable. Seven of our pupils earned an

award certificate, and many more were only a few points short, so well done to all who participated!

Ellie Taylor was our top scorer with a Silver Award, and just 1 point away from Gold. **Finlay Rollo** earned a Bronze Award, and **Jessica Neilson** and **Jennifer Smith** both earned Highly Commended Awards, just missing the Bronze by 1 point. This was the two girls' second year to participate. **Hannah Georgeson** also earned a Highly Commended Award, with **Sara Nicoll** and **Eilidh MacKenzie** earning Commended Awards. Pupil comments included

"I really enjoyed being part of the Biology Challenge, because it was fun and expanded my knowledge within the subject" (**Isla Moodie**)

"It was a challenge, but made me more knowledgeable on a variety of topics within the unit we are currently doing". (**Kieran Chalmers**)

The aims of the Biology Challenge are to encourage an interest in biology beyond the school curriculum and stimulate curiosity in the natural world, and to involve as many pupils as possible in a challenging and interesting biology competition. It is a great opportunity for our S2 and S3 pupils to challenge themselves and to demonstrate their knowledge of Biology.



Parent Council: Christmas Fair



The Parent Council are organising a Christmas Fair on Friday 1st December at 7pm. Individuals and groups can purchase a stall for the evening. Tables are being offered to pupils and family members of Dingwall Academy first. This may be for any fundraising or a small business.

Prices are £10 per table until September the 1st and it will then be £15.

If you would like to purchase a stall please contact the parent council on dingwallacademypc@gmail.com

Judo

At the Northern Ireland Open competition in Derry, Northern Ireland on 10th April, **Thomas Inglis** attained a Gold medal and **Cameron Foster** collected a Silver in the Under55kg Pre-Cadet category. **Euann Mightens** was also awarded Gold in the Under50kg Pre-Cadet group.



π
3.14

π 1.ε

Pi Day

To celebrate Pi day, Miss Campbell's First year Maths class had a 'Pi off'! Congratulations to the winner, **Daniella Reid**, who recited Pi to an amazing 101 decimal places!

COINCIDENCE?

Music

Sasha Clement has passed her ABRSM grade 5 violin practical exam - with distinction.



Brothers **Archie and Hamish Drennan** were successful in their applications to the Agar trust and were awarded bursaries to further their piping skills.

London Work Experience

I was delighted to have the opportunity to go down to London to complete a week's worth of work experience during the Easter Holidays. I was invited to spend the week with the international company "Edited" based in London, who are a fashion retail analyst company.

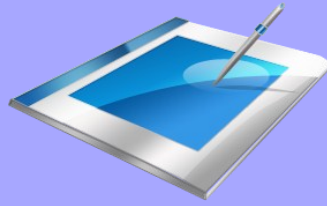
During the week I worked with a large team and I was given a research project to complete on my own. I put together two mood boards and wrote an article based on the research of fashion trends. The article was then published on the company's website with viewers from River Island, Boohoo, Miss Selfridge and Tesco, as well as people from Russia, South Africa, Germany and India who viewed my article. Also during my working week I attended video conferences, connecting with staff from the New York and Melbourne offices.

I really enjoyed the whole experience and I feel very lucky to have been given such a fantastic opportunity. I feel that I now have an insight into the working world and I have had the chance to begin building further skills for the future. I am very pleased that I rose to this great opportunity. I really recommend that if you ever get the chance to do anything like this, that you definitely do it!

Maisie Mackenzie

Something missing? Correction? Is there a feature you'd like to see? Get in touch!

Dingwall Academy
Dingwall
Ross-shire
IV15 9LT
Tel: 01349 869860
Fax: 01349 869886
Web: www.dingwallacademy.com/contact_us.html



Sailing to Byzantium

I
That is no country for old men. The young
In one another's arms, birds in the trees
--Those dying generations--at their song,
The salmon-falls, the mackerel-crowded seas,
Fish, flesh, or fowl commend all summer long
Whatever is begotten, born, and dies.
Caught in that sensual music all neglect
Monuments of unaging intellect.

II
An aged man is but a paltry thing,
A tattered coat upon a stick, unless
Soul clap its hands and sing, and louder sing
For every tatter in its mortal dress,
Nor is there singing school but studying
Monuments of its own magnificence;
And therefore I have sailed the seas and
come
To the holy city of Byzantium.

III
O sages standing in God's holy fire
As in the gold mosaic of a wall,
Come from the holy fire, perne in a gyre,
And be the singing-masters of my soul.
Consume my heart away; sick with desire
And fastened to a dying animal
It knows not what it is; and gather me
Into the artifice of eternity.

IV
Once out of nature I shall never take
My bodily form from any natural thing,
But such a form as Grecian goldsmiths make
Of hammered gold and gold enamelling
To keep a drowsy Emperor awake;
Or set upon a golden bough to sing
To lords and ladies of Byzantium
Of what is past, or passing, or to come.

William Butler Yeats

<http://www.public-domain-poetry.com/william-butler-yeats/sailing-to-byzantium-180>



Dingwall Academy

A school with a sense of community—a school where by taking collective responsibility, pupils and staff have the opportunity to achieve extraordinary things.

RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

HONESTY

DETERMINATION