



Dingwall Academy *News*

KEY DATES

8TH—11TH MAY
ALLADALE CHALLENGE

10TH MAY
S1 REPORTS ISSUED

14TH, 15TH & 17TH
MAY S1 FYRISH
WALKS

1ST JUNE
STUDY LEAVE ENDS

5TH JUNE
TIMETABLE CHANGE

13TH JUNE
PRIZE GIVING 7PM

19TH JUNE
SPORTS DAY

20TH, 21ST & 22ND
JUNE P7 VISITS

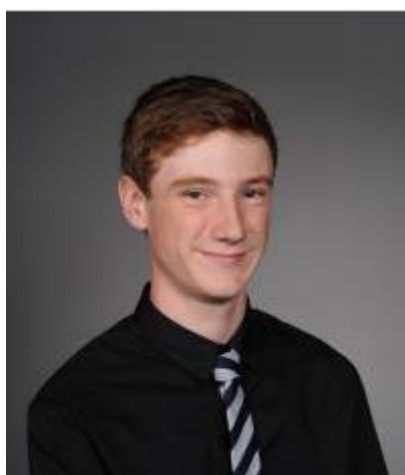
27TH & 28TH JUNE
ACTIVITY DAYS

DUX AWARD

We are delighted to announce that the 2018 Dux Medal winner is Alasdair Reid, and the Proxime Accessit, Callum Cushnie.

Alasdair is a former pupil of Maryburgh Primary, and Callum attended Dingwall Primary.

Prize Giving takes place on Wednesday 13th June and the full list of award winners will be published soon.



Alasdair Reid



Callum Cushnie

Exam Information

Study leave has now started with senior phase pupils returning on Friday 1st June. SQA exams started on Monday 30th April.

A reminder that, if a pupil is unable to attend an exam, for whatever reason, they must let the school know as soon as possible.

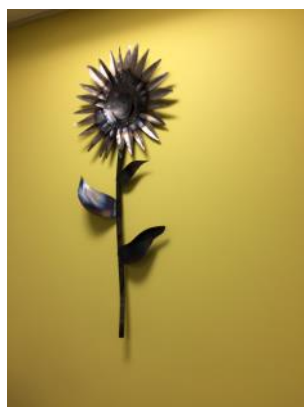
If a pupil is late on the day of an exam, then they can only be allowed into the exam room under the direction of a member of the Senior Management Team.

Sunflower Café—open to senior pupils

Our very own school café, the Sunflower café, will be open for S5 and S6 pupils during study leave from 11am—1pm.

Pupils are encouraged to use the space to get some food and relax between exams. It is important that pupils respect that this is a working café, and not a common room.

This is the first time we have opened the café up for pupils just to drop in, and if successful we may consider extending this.



Exam Results

Exam results are due to be issued to pupils on Tuesday 7th August.



All pupils will receive a certificate through the post to the address registered with the SQA.

If pupils would also like to receive their results electronically, then they can register with MySQA. Pupils must register by 5pm on Tuesday 17th July.

To register visit:

www.mysqa.org.uk

This service allows you to receive results by 8am on results morning. Particularly useful if you are away, or to avoid that nerve wracking wait for the postman.

Dingwall Level Crossing

A large number of pupils use the level crossings in Dingwall each day. Parents will be interested in the forthcoming changes to improve safety at these crossings.



Network Rail is preparing to undertake upgrades to two level crossings in Dingwall to reduce the safety risk posed to train passengers, pedestrians and road users.

Dingwall Middle, which allows the railway to cross the A862, is currently protected by a single barrier on each carriageway

Dingwall No.1, which operates on Craig Road, is an open crossing, with no barriers

Both crossings are to be upgraded to full barrier crossings. This will include traffic lights, two single lane barriers on each side of the crossing (4 barriers) and object detection. The object detection system allows for an additional level of safety which links to the signalling system. If a person is detected within the crossing, the exit barrier will remain open and the train will be held at a stop light.

Construction of both crossings requires advance vegetation clearance and ground preparation works. That work will take place from w/c 2 April 2018 onwards.

The installation and testing of the new crossing equipment will require two week road closures. At present, our forecast timescales suggest that Dingwall Middle will close for the period of [Sunday 15 July to Sunday 29 July](#). Dingwall No.1 will close for two weeks during August. Dates will be confirmed in May/June and advertised locally. The road closures will not overlap.

We are confident that these level crossing upgrades represent a significant improvement for rail and road safety.

If you would like further information, please contact our Senior Communications Manager, Craig Bowman: craig.bowman@networkrail.co.uk

Visit from the Moderator

On Wednesday 25th April we were delighted to host a visit from the Dr Derek Browning, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Dr Browning was spending 10 days in the Parish visiting a number of organisations in the area. He was able to spend a couple of hours in the school. He observed an S1 class being taught British Sign Language, and was able to learn some new signing skills himself. He then spent time with a Higher RMPS class. The class had put together some very topical and challenging questions for the Moderator, and all were impressed with his honesty and, at times surprising, answers.



Do you know a mechanic that can help?!

DRIVING AMBITION 2018

Every year our S6 are involved in a very worthwhile programme looking at all aspects of road use and road safety as they start learning to drive. There are various workshops delivered by local representatives including the police, the fire service, driving instructors and a mechanic.

Unfortunately this year we do not yet have a mechanic and are looking for a local volunteer to help support this programme.

What would be expected?

- Attendance at Dingwall Academy on the morning of the **Tuesday 26th June**
- A good knowledge of cars
- Groups will rotate around the facilitators so you will deliver the same content to all the groups

You would be expected to cover

- The importance of and how to check a vehicle before driving. Checking that a vehicle is road-worthy and legal.
- The importance of respecting that every car is different. The importance of getting to know a vehicle and how it responds.

Normally this group is outdoors and the mechanic/car expert brings along a vehicle to provide some hands on experience.

If you feel this is something you could help with please contact the school and ask to speak to, or leave a message for Mrs Watson, Principal Teacher of Guidance. We can then get back to you with more information.



S1 Visit to Eden Court

On Friday the 27th of April, Miss Fyvie's S1 English class went to Eden Court Theatre to see a live production of David Walliams' novel Gangsta Granny. The story of a young boy and his granny's incredible adventure to steal the Crown Jewels, Gangsta Granny is a humorous and moving book about the importance of the elderly in our lives. All the pupils really enjoyed the experience and gained a new appreciation for the story and for live theatre.

"I thought the use of the set was very clever. It made me feel like I was there." – Jamie Boldra, 1W2

"I thought the best actor was the mum because she had to change loads of outfits." – Ellie Mackenzie, 1B1

"My favourite part about the trip was when the granny was doing naked yoga!" - Kiera Walmsley, 1W2

"The moral of the story was be nice to your granny." - Josh Irvine, 1W1



Recycling News

What's rubbish got to do with English?



S2 students in Mrs Davidson's English class have been learning about sustainability and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDG 12 is Responsible Consumption and Production.

To help them learn about this goal in more detail the students had two visiting speakers: Highland Council's Recycling officer, Duncan Falconer, who spoke to the students about how Highland Council's recycling programme operates, and Emma Whitham, from The Dingwall

Food Assembly, who spoke to the class about sustainable food production.

The students behaved impeccably during these visits and took detailed notes which they then used to present to other S2 students. Their presentations covered Food Waste, Recycling, and Plastic. One group actually collected plastic and tins from the River Peffery as a prop to demonstrate why we should recycle rather than discard our waste. Another group emailed Duncan and secured 15 recycling boxes which they then distributed to classrooms and offices in school.

Clearly the students have learned a lot from these lessons – but the learning continues. They are now using persuasive writing techniques to design leaflets aimed at teenagers and they will also write and design storybooks which they will be taking to Dingwall Primary and reading to Primary One students at the end of May.



S3 History Exhibition

S3 Exhibition

Third year History classes worked to put together an excellent exhibition. It recognised the centenary anniversary of the passing of the law to give women in Britain the vote for the very first time. Each class had a separate section to work on which represented the combination of reasons why the act was passed in 1918.

Millicent Fawcett and the NUWSS – Mrs Reid's class

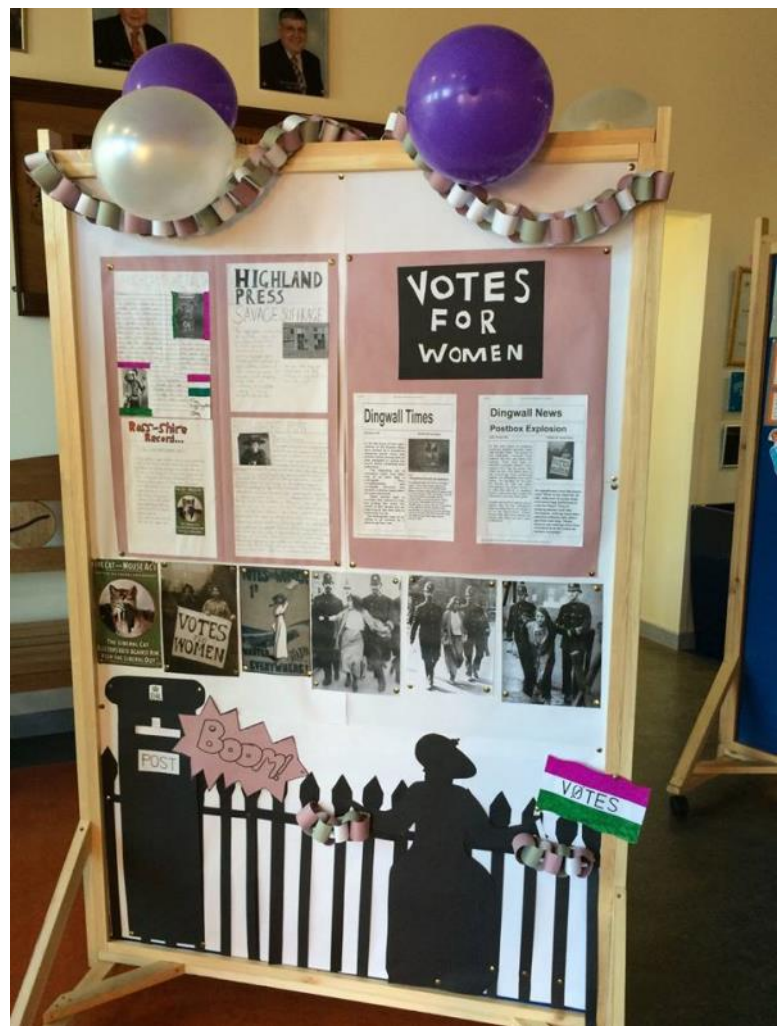
Emmeline Pankhurst and the WSPU – Mr Learmont's class

The impact of women's work during WW1 – Miss Parker's class

The exhibition was displayed at the S3 parents night in March and also the Spring Fair. A ballot was also held at the exhibition on the issue *"Should women who were convicted for militant suffragette activity be given a posthumous pardon?"*

The result was 60 in favour of giving a pardon and 31 against.

Why might people argue against giving a pardon?



Cròileagan Toddlers Visit the Sunflower Café

Cèilidh Bheag aig Cafaidh an Neòinein-ghrèine

Chòrd e rinn glè mhath fàilte a chur air an fheadhainn bheaga às a' Chròileagan bho chionn ghoirid. Thug e cothrom dhaibh Gàidhlig a chluinntinn aig an 'fheadhainn mhòra' agus, gu dearbha, an cuid Ghàidhlig fhèin a chleachdadh. Chruthaich clas AS2 de luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig clàran-bìdh airson nam bòrd, bha clas AS3 nam fileantach gam frithealadh agus dh'ionnsaich an fheadhainn bheaga mu dheidhinn airgead. Leis an seo bha ionnsachadh a' tachairt aig iomadh ìre.

The S3 Gàidhlig class enjoyed welcoming the wee ones from the Cròileagan playgroup recently. It gave the toddlers from the Cròileagan a chance to hear Gàidhlig spoken by the 'big ones' and to practise their own Gàidhlig skills. The S2 Gàidhlig learners' class created menus and the S3 fluent class welcomed and served them. The wee ones from the Cròileagan were learning about using money, so there was enjoyable, practical learning at different levels.

Mòran taing dha AS2 luchd-ionnsachaidh agus AS3 Gàidhlig.



Many thanks
to the S2/3
pupils
involved.

BEN WYVIS PRIMARY FETE



BEN WYVIS PRIMARY SCHOOL SUMMER FETE

**Saturday 26th May
10am to 1pm**

**Please come and join us at our annual
School Summer Fete**

Bottle stall, Raffle, Pupil Enterprise stalls,
Chocolate Tombola, Bouncy Castles,
Highland Dancing Display, Hockey Tournament,
Teas, Coffees and Home Baking, Craft & Food stalls, and other
fun stalls and attractions!

Entrance FREE





BOXING



Keeping it in the family!

Just like his older brother Lewis, Ruari Urquhart S1 is having some success in the Boxing ring. He returned home with the Silver Medal at the Northern District Boxing Championships on 24th & 25th March.

Well done Ruari!

Piping Success

Congratulations to Hamish Drennan (S5) who, at the beginning of April, successfully auditioned for the Senior Band of the prestigious National Youth Pipe Band of Scotland. He has been selected to play with the NYPBoS at Buckingham Palace at the end of May.

Hamish also auditioned for and was offered a position in the Feis Inbhir Narainn's Caledonian Ceilidh Trail. Hamish is looking forward to playing his bagpipes and reel pipes at different venues with the Ceilidh Trail throughout the Highlands this summer.

Congratulations also to Matthew Moir (S5), who also auditioned and has been offered a place in the Development Band of the National Youth Pipe Band of Scotland.



Sunflower café



As part of their 'Whole Novel' project, Miss Scanlan's S1 class visited the Sunflower Café to read and discuss David Almond's 'Skellig' with tea, hot chocolate and cake. The relaxing atmosphere of the café facilitated a natural experience of reading for pleasure which is seldom possible within the confines of the classroom – a thoroughly enjoyable time was had by all!



The Global Wolves group meet every Thursday lunchtime in Rm115 to talk about environmental issues locally and globally. We have come up with the following tips for being more environmentally aware:

How we can all help save energy within our school

It is important that we all contribute to saving as much energy as possible within our school and around our homes. However with all



our electronic devices and the new chromebooks this can be challenging.

To try and save energy whilst using the chromebooks it is important to not overcharge them. For example; charging your chromebook overnight every night of the school week costs you around a pound a day, this on top

all your other electronic devices can definitely add up!

How can we encourage wildlife into our school and gardens?

Encouraging more wildlife into our gardens, does not only improve our own personal environments but can also help protect species in danger such as bees. The number of bees is dramatically declining, and the extinction of bees would completely transform our lifestyles. Items we use everyday such as; fruits, cosmetics and soaps would become extremely expensive or unavailable. To help protect bees and other insect species there are simple things we can do. Planting flowers is not only visually appealing, but bees and butterflies need pollen as a source of nutrients. Having a small log pile in your garden can also provide shelter for other insects and beetles, and planting trees and shrubs can again provide food and homes for birds and insects.



Public Transport

It is important to make the most of public transport, instead of driving. For example, the school buses are free and you can socialise with friends on the way to/from school everyday. Walking to the bus stop can also increase the amount of fresh air and exercise you get everyday. Using public transport also significantly reduces air pollution. Buses emit 20% less carbon monoxide than cars and causes there to be less congestion. Use of the school buses also makes the area around the school safer as there will be less cars on the roads and in the car parks.



Top tips to reduce plastic waste in our oceans:

1. Stop using plastic straws, even in restaurants
2. Stop using plastic bottles and cutlery
3. Recycle all plastic used
4. Use more reusable bags, bottles and tubs
5. Give up gum (not biodegradable)
6. Don't use products containing microbeads



Watch out for the next issue of the *News...*

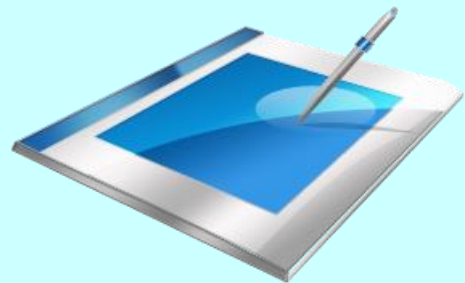
Something missing? Correction? Is there a feature you'd like to see? Get in touch!

Dingwall Academy
Dingwall
Ross-shire
IV15 9LT

Tel: 01349 869860

Fax: 01349 869886

Web: www.dingwallacademy.com/contact_us.html



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