



Dingwall Academy

News



**AUGUST
2014
EDITION**

Welcome back, and a warm welcome to our new pupils. We hope that everyone had a truly restful summer, and that all are ready for the new session at Dingwall Academy. You'll see that a great deal has gone on in the Academy since the last newsletter. This edition is absolutely packed with news of trips, sports and success. Dig in!

School Captains Announced

Congratulations to the school captains for next session – they are

Head Girl Sara Di Carlo
Deputes Amy Connelly and Alana Hay

Head Boy Euan Gill
Deputes Jack Cuthbertson and Grant MacIver

Pupils underwent a rigorous process before being elected. First they had to apply for and be successful in attaining the position of prefect. Pupils were then asked to indicate if they were interested in applying for the position of Captains. S6 pupils and staff were then asked to vote. Those pupils with the highest number of votes were then interviewed before the final decision was made. Mrs S Blyth, Vice Chair of the Parent Council was part of the interview panel and said the following:

"Can I just say what a pleasure it was sitting in on the interviews this morning. The young people were a credit to their school and families; smart, confident and very likable. All of the interviewees showed a great pride in the school and were all very capable ambassadors."

Congratulations to all pupils who took part in the process and we look forward to working with all the senior pupils over the next session.

Dates for your diary:

Friday 5th September
S6 LFA Essay Competition entries due

Thursday 25th and Friday 26th September
INSET—school closed to pupils

Friday 10th October
Sponsored Walk
School Closes

Monday 27th October
INSET—school closed to pupils

Tuesday 28th October
School re-opens for pupils

Notes & News



Staffing

We welcome our new probationer teachers for this session, Miss Pendlebury and Mr Paton. Miss Pendlebury is in the Music Department and Mr Paton is covering in Maths while Mrs Hannah is on maternity leave. We also welcome Ms Lloyd to Behaviour Support and Mr Fraser to Science. Mr Fraser is covering for Ms Canham who is also on maternity leave.

Newsletter

Although the newsletter is now well established, an evaluation exercise before the summer revealed that not all pupils were seeing the newsletter each month. The newsletter is an opportunity for pupils to share and read about information and achievements and it is important that all pupils have access to it. We have therefore made a number of changes: the newsletter is now posted at various points around the school, and a number of lessons have been planned that require pupils to read, research, and even write newsletter articles. You may also now see the newsletter out and about: it will be delivered each month to health centres and dentists in the catchment area. Parents are encouraged to share and discuss the newsletter with pupils when it arrives each month. If you have any other ideas about sharing the Dingwall Academy News, please do not hesitate to get in touch.



Study Logs

All pupils in S1 – S3 have now been issued with study logs. These replace the homework diaries and require pupils to record not only set homework, but also additional **study** and **revision**. Pupils will be given more advice on how to use these log books during House Tutor time. It is important that as pupils move through secondary school they start to take more responsibility for their own learning. There will be further information for S1 parents at an information evening during the first term.



In-Service Dates

There are 5 in-service dates throughout the session. The school is closed to pupils on these dates:

Thursday 25th and Friday 26th September 2014

Monday 27th October 2014

Wednesday 18th February 2015

Monday 1st June 2015

A full list of holiday dates is available via the school website.



Success!

The first week in August is always a nervous and exciting time as the SQA exam results arrive. This year was arguably even more nerve wracking than usual as we awaited the first results of the new National Qualifications. S4 pupils have all experienced the new exam system, with National 3 and National 4 levels being assessed internally, and pupils sitting National 5 examinations being presented for external exams.

We were very pleased with the overall S4 results, with 76 pupils achieving at least 5 passes at National 5 level. As a result of the changes it is very difficult to make comparisons with previous years, but there were some outstanding performances. A high number of pupils achieved A and B passes in all their National 5 subjects. The following pupils achieved A passes in all 7 of their National 5 subjects:

Isaac Boardman, Sasha Forbes, Eilidh Forsyth, Liam Lennox, Charlie Mack, Sheena MacLean, Fiona Reid, Eilidh Seaton (pictured below)



In S5, the number of pupils achieving 5 Higher passes increased to 31. The following pupils all passed 5 Highers in S5:

Peter Bell, Imogen Callan, Eilidh Campbell, Amy Connelly, Megan Dale, Sara Di Carlo, Kirstin Dilley, Ruth Foster, Euan Gill, Mhairi Hallford, Molly Hewitt, Susannah Kerr, Bradley Lang, Tara McClelland, Joanna MacDonald, Rachel McKay, Laura MacLean, Megan MacPhee, Catherine O'Brien, Daniel O'Brien, Olivia Paulin, Laura Rea, Molly Richard, Luke Shaw, Ross Slater, Jamie Stewart, Charlotte Taylor, Naomi Thornton, Cameron Veitch, Kirstie Will, Eleanor Wilson

Congratulations to *all* pupils who sat exams this year.

Moving on, moving up...

Welcome to our new S1 pupils, and welcome to any S1 parents who are reading their first Dingwall Academy newsletter. We hope that this will be the start of a long and happy association with the school. During June, the then P7 pupils took part in a very successful three-day visit to the Academy. During the three days, pupils met most of their teachers and also started to become more familiar with the layout of the school – it is amazing how quickly pupils find their way around!

On the Thursday evening, the P7 pupils were invited to a transition disco organised by the S3 prefects. This was a tremendous success, and the S3 pupils are to be congratulated for their organisation and enthusiasm on the night. While the pupils were demonstrating their best moves, parents were given more information about the school, and in particular how we work in partnership with home and school. Parents were introduced to members of the Senior Management Team and Principal Teachers of Pupil Support. At the end of the evening, P7 pupils were given the opportunity to show their parents around the Academy.

There will be further opportunity for S1 parents to come in to the school for a 'Chance to Chat' session. This will take place during September and is an opportunity for parents and carers to meet with their child's Guidance teacher and for them to have a tour of the school. Further information will be issued via the pupils.

S1 Transition

On the three day visit I really enjoyed the lunch menu and the food. Another thing I liked was that all the staff are really friendly. -Logan

I learned where everything was and met a lot of new friends. I saw a lot of my new teachers and enjoyed watching Sports Day. -Jack

I enjoyed Maths most, and I made new friends.

-Dylan



I learned how to do the PIN number and put money on my card. -Chloe

Summer School

P7 – S1 Transition Summer Activities

The P7 – S1 Transition activities took place between 15th and 17th July. The project ran for three days this year instead of the usual five days, mainly due to available resources and the additional activities being run to celebrate the Commonwealth Games. However, there was no reduction in quality or fun.

One hundred and seventeen pupils booked on to the project and on each day we always welcomed around 106 boys and girls. The variety of opportunities this year included some different activities and the adult staff had bated breath, wondering how they would be received by the youngsters. We were pleasantly surprised that the singing and the dancing all went down really well, especially with the boys. Cricket and Frisbee were also new to the programme and again, lots of fun was had by everyone.

A rather nice highlight of the week came from the Art workshops. As the Art rooms weren't available, we had to use another area in the school and therefore deliver a 'clean' session. Mr Houston, the art teacher who kindly helps us out every year, suggested making postcards. We agreed this would be fine but to give it more of a purpose, I suggested that we send the postcards to an orphanage in South Africa with whom I have a connection. The boys and girls took this on board and set about making their postcards with Scottish themes, Commonwealth Games themes and much more. They wrote to a child or young person on the back giving them news about their lives here in Dingwall. What they wrote was incredible and from the little information they had been given about the orphanage they seemed to understand fully why they were doing this. The cards were posted after the event and a Facebook message came back



S1 Transition

S1 Transition

All in all, the three days were most successful with no hitches, problems or difficulties. A happy atmosphere was throughout the school the whole time.

The project gained by having a group of senior pupils working with us for the three days. They were a great asset as they took on responsibility for managing the groups of children at each workshop and joined in with the activities, which has created a bond between senior pupils and the new S1 classes.

As this was my first year of running this project, and was a bit nervous about how it would go, I would like to thank the following people for keeping me right - Childrens Services Workers, Youth Development staff, Library Staff, Active Schools colleagues, Stephanie Watson and Sarah Peebles - volunteers who had been Dingwall Academy pupils recently, Mr Brindle, Mr Houston, external activity providers, the senior pupils and the parents for bringing their children along every day and recognising the benefit that all the hard work of the HLH staff can bring.

Wilma Kelt – Active Schools Co-ordinator



Top: Lunch time games – thread pasta tubes onto spaghetti with no hands!

Middle: Frisbee time with Luke Humberstone of Highland Fling Frisbee Club

Bottom: ‘Sing It Louder’ with Mr Brindle

After the event...

It really helped me gain confidence. -Mikolaj

At the transition days, there were lots of activities. My favourite thing was either Archery or making Pot Noodle. I feel I gained confidence and made new friends. I now know lots of people and can make Pot Noodle! -Catherine

I did a scavenger hunt! -Luke

I got to know my bearings better and it helped me make friends for moving up. -Ashleigh

I learned how to play a new sport. -Eilidh

We did lots of things, and throughout the days I gained more confidence. -Shannon

The activities we did were fun and I made new friends! -Cameron

I did archery, cooking, dancing, singing, rugby, art, cricket, and a scavenger hunt. It was really good fun and it helped me develop new skills. Archery was the best! -Deborah

It was fun, a challenge, we were all laughing. -Ben

We are very fortunate in the Academy that so many staff are prepared to organise and run residential trips. The proposed trips for this session are listed below. Please note that dates and costs are only approximate at this stage. More detailed information will be provided by teachers as arrangements are finalised.

Outline of trip	Dates	Target Group	Organising Teacher	Approx. Cost
English Premier League Football trip	9/1/15 – 11/1/15	S1 – S3	Mr K McKie	£299
London Trip	28/6/15 – 1/7/15	S1 – S3	Mrs S Canham and Mr K McKie	£390
Costa Brava Water Sports Trip	26/6/15 – 1/7/15	S3 – S5	Ms L Bennie	£750
Glasgow, including 'Shrek' the Musical (Art and Music)	May 2015 1 night	S3	Mrs K Trimble	£130
Germany – Holland (Language Department)	29/6/15 – 5/7/15	S1 – S2	Mrs J MacKintosh	£549
France – Holland (Language Department)	5/10/15 – 11/10/15	S1 – S2	Mrs J MacKintosh	£549
Alladale Challenge 1 week Camping Trip	early May	S3	Miss Tullis	£90
Belgium (History Department)	June	S3 – S4	Mr Lyall	£500

In addition to the above trips there will be the annual school Activity Days on 29th and 30th June 2015. All pupils will have the opportunity to opt into a wide variety of activities. Information on this is provided after Christmas.

Foreign Trips

The end of last term was extremely busy with Sports Day, Activity Days and 4 trips abroad. During the last week of term Dingwall Academy pupils were in Belgium, Germany, Romania and Spain. We hope you enjoy reading the pupils accounts of these visits

We have received tremendous feedback from those involved with the trips regarding the excellent behaviour and responsible attitude of all the pupils involved. One member of the public who found himself on the same ferry as the group travelling to Belgium took the time to send the following message to the school:

"I trust that your party returned from The Battlefields Tour safe and well. My wife and I had the privilege of travelling out and returning on the same vessel. Much is said of the youth of today and it was pleasing to see the interest of the pupils undertaking such a trip and I am sure that they will remember and cherish all they saw and heard.

Their conduct was excellent—they are good ambassadors for their school and Scotland. Thanks also to the adults who gave of their time, looking after the pupils and seeing all was well."

Romania Expedition 2014



Think of everything that could possibly go wrong on an expedition. Hostels with bed bugs; rucksacks missing in the labyrinth of Heathrow Airport; falling victim to heatstroke; leaving your camera on a crowded bus to explore the world on its own for a while. There you have a brief summary of our fifth year expedition to Romania this summer.

These 'minor hiccups' aside, our eventful ten day visit to Romania was nothing short of amazing. From the minute we landed in Bucharest we were

struck by the friendliness of the locals, but it wasn't until we reached the city of Brasov (picture the Inverness of Romania) that our journey really began. From there we only had a short train journey to Rasnov, where we volunteered for four days with the Bethany Foundation, a charity who help disadvantaged Roma children gain an education. There were over 20 children with us at the project every day, always greeting us with the excitement that most would reserve for the day they meet Beyoncé (because trust me, there will come a day). What surprised us the most was how eager they were to learn; having spent the year in Dingwall complaining about Highers we were suddenly reminded just how fortunate we are.

At the close of our four days teaching the children we couldn't help but feel that they had taught us more than we could possibly teach them. With the typical clichéd heavy heart we continued on the next part of our expedition, an epic climb up the Piatre Mare, a mountain over 1800 feet. The view from the summit more than made up for the aching bones that followed our topping the mountain in a matter of hours, another highlight being our wake-up call from a group of donkeys who decided to ambush our camp at 7am (who needs an alarm clock!?).

Our return to the chaos of Bucharest only served as a reminder of how close we were to going home but didn't stop us from enjoying the city sights and more importantly, the food! Determined to stay in touch with our kind hosts at the charity project we all plan to return next summer – this time to run a summer camp for the children. So yes, you might hear about a few more fundraisers before then...

Eilidh Campbell (S6)

Top: making loom bands with the Roma children at the Bethany Foundation

Lower left: Trekking back down the Piatre Mare mountain

Lower right: the view from the summit



Germany/Holland 2014

On Monday the 30th of June, 40 pupils from S2 to S5 accompanied seven members of staff on a trip to Germany and Holland. The trip was led by Mrs MacKintosh and Mr DiCarlo. We travelled by bus to Hull, following an overnight stay on a ferry to Zeebrugge.

After our journey on the ferry, we set off, Freiburg-bound. We travelled to Freiburg via Belgium, France and Luxembourg. By early evening we had reached the Blu Hotel which was lovely. After dropping off our stuff we went for dinner in a local, charming restaurant with very friendly staff.

The next day was full of activities. We explored and shopped in Freiburg, which was very pretty, and then went high up into the mountains for a rodelbahn in the afternoon. The views up there were stunning and the weather was scorching hot. To end the day, we had dinner and then spent the evening bowling.

Thursday was allocated for our visit to Europa Park, which is the largest theme park in Europe. The park boasted a variety of things to do including huge rollercoasters. After some persuading, we managed to convince Mrs MacKintosh and a few others to conquer their fears and join us on Mercedes Silverstar (the biggest and scariest rollercoaster there)! Once again, the weather was great and everyone enjoyed themselves. Later that day, we set off to Cologne, where we spent two nights in Hotel Junkersdorf. The hotel was very nice and offered a great breakfast which suited everyone.

On Friday, we spent the day at another theme park; Phantasieland which was also great fun. We returned to Cologne for dinner and later that night, Germany won against France in the World Cup so the atmosphere was fantastic.

We packed up on Saturday morning and headed for Amsterdam. We visited the beehive shopping area and during our walk we took in a few of the main sights of canals, river boats and architecture (excluding the red light district!). It was a brilliant way to end the trip before catching the ferry homeward from Rotterdam.

Overall the trip was fantastic and the weather couldn't have been better. Everyone had a wonderful time and I'm sure would jump at the opportunity to go again if they were given the chance.

Naomi Mackenzie (S5)



School Trips

Spain 2014



The Maths trip to Spain is one we aren't soon going to forget!

As soon as we got off the plane in the early hours of the morning it was roasting and throughout the week it didn't differ. Our week was packed full with activities every day, but the schedule still allowed time to try for the all-important tan.

On the second day we went to the Gaudi Centre in Reus. At night the boys stayed at the hotel to watch football while most of the girls, along with Miss Campbell and Mrs Ross, returned to Reus to experience a true Spanish festival. It was here we all featured on live TV! Our true claim to fame!



We spent two days at PortAventura Theme Park, the location of the tallest rollercoasters in Europe – but we still managed to drag on all the teachers!

The following two days we visited Costa Caribe Water Park and went on a Tour of Barcelona, taking in the Nou Camp, La Ramblas, La

Sagrada Familia and various other stops along the way.

On the last day we did a walking tour of Tarragona then celebrated Martin and Alice's birthday with some delicious cake, then sang our last night away on the karaoke.

Toot Toot! Chap Chap!

Eilidh Coleman & Chloe Burdekin (S5)

Eden Court—*Lord of the Flies*



From the reviewer's desk: *Lord of the Flies* Dance Production

This production was based on the William Golding novel, published in 1954. The novel tells the tale of a group of private school boys whose plane is shot down over a desert island. The boys are left to their own devices with no adults or order. It's an equally horrifying and enthralling piece of literature which depicts the slow mutilation of humanity in a situation where morality and civilisation is an afterthought. Replaced by the savage need for survival and the primal urge for

blood, it's a world where the strong prey on the weak and cruel and violent displays are looked upon with pride. Some of the boys lose their minds, some relish in the brutality and others join the masses just to get enough food. In the end only two remain separate from the rest of the group, Piggy and Ralph. The story escalates in intensity and comes to a climatic ending, allowing you to fully appreciate what has happened to these boys.

The production was put on by "New Adventures" a renowned dance company and was directed and choreographed by Mathew Bourne. Bourne took an interesting twist on the set of the story, replacing the island with an abandoned theatre. It was an intriguing concept, however it was poorly explained and confusing as he had also included the lights to give impressions of the time of day and at one point had a huge sun dangle from the rafters. He also included the iconic hunting scene, where the boys hunted a sow. The two different notions struggled to merge.

Bourne was not the only brain behind the choreography; many of the dancers also incorporated their ideas into the production, allowing for an interesting mix of movement and dance sequences. A big appeal factor with this production was the fact that the performers were a healthy mix of professionals and local boys who showed an interest in dancing and creativity. Yet while watching it you had no idea who was professional or who went to school down the road.

The entire performance was loaded with energy, the stage filled with bustling bodies jumping around creating a feeling of chaos. This madness was aided by the soundtrack, composed by Terry Davies. It was loud and vibrant, thumping drums and screaming trumpets, occasionally backed with sinister chanting was very effective in conveying the tone of the scene. This again went hand in hand with the lighting. The lighting was designed by Chris Davey and was used to maximum potential. The colours and style conveyed the mood of the scene in ways movement alone couldn't.

Overall this production is unique and provides a thought provoking experience. It's highly entertaining and is rich in symbolism, capturing Golding's main themes. It gets you to renew your views on the original work and was executed beautifully live.

Ruth Christman (S4)



Photo: Connorhan Rae (S4)

Athletes Shine on the Track for Dingwall

Over the course of the athletics season Dingwall Academy athletes showed that they have the talent, determination and attitude to achieve at the highest level on the track. Athletes from the school attended three competitions of varying standards and managed to do extremely well at all three. Personal bests were regularly smashed, medals were won by the bucket load and records were broken left, right and centre!!!

Ross and Sutherland Schools

The most local of these events was the Ross and Sutherland Schools Athletics Championships. The school travelled with a 50 plus strong team and aimed to win as many individual gold medals and overall age group championships as was possible – the team did not disappoint!! The team won 32 gold medals in total, the pick of these being **Andrew Smith's (S6)** run in the senior boys 200m where he broke the record running 22.65 seconds. There were also great overall performances from **Jessica Golden (S2)**, **Nicola Ramsay (S2)** and **Eilidh Gunn (S4)** who all came away with three individual gold medals each. Unfortunately, not every pupils was able to win a gold medal, however, every Dingwall athlete contributed greatly to the team points total for each age group and should be proud of their performance.

The overall age group trophies were won U14 girls and U15 girls with the senior girls finishing second in their age group. Although all the boys teams were disappointed not to finish in the top two of their team events, all pupils contributed to winning the overall points total beating Tain RA into second place by 10 points.

North of Scotland Schools

The North Schools event is a tougher nut to crack as it includes schools from Shetland in the North, to Kingussie in the South and Fochabers in the East. However, despite this the team still managed to win 8 gold, 8 silver and 7 bronze medals on the day – a superb haul! **Lauren Fraser (S5)** was impressive in her 1500m U17 girls race where she not only took the gold medal but set a new championship best performance of 4min 56secs. There were also numerous personal best performances over the course of the day with all pupils performing particularly well.

Gold			Silver			Bronze		
Lauren Fraser	U17	1500	Roslyn Mathieson	U17	300m	Roslyn Mathieson	U17	Long Jump
Beth McBride	U17	Triple Jump	Luke Shaw	U17	1500m	Heather Bruce	U15	100m
Andrew Smith	U17	100m/400m	Joanna MacDonald	U17	Javelin	Erin Robinson	U15	1500m
Joe Arnaud	U15	800m	Megan MacKenzie	U15	Javelin	Rowan Todd	U15	Discus
Taylor Sim	U14	80mHdls	Eilidh Gunn	U15	Long and Triple Jump	Jemma Logan	U15	Triple Jump
U17 Girls	4 x 100m	Relay	Keiran Chalmers	U14	800m	Nicola Ramsey	U14	800m
U15 Girls	4 x 100m	Relay	U15 Boys	4 x 100m	Relay	Tam Munro Whyte	U15	1500m

Scottish Schools Athletics Championships

With championships being held at Hampden, with the newly laid track for the Commonwealth games, there was a lot of excitement and nerves amongst the athletes for this competition. Only the best from across Scotland can compete at the championships and Dingwall sent a small but strong squad of athletes to ply their trade against the best.

Both **Scott MacDonald** and **Joe Arnaud (S3)** competed in the U15 boys 800m which meant they had a lot of travelling to do as they had to qualify at a separate event held two weeks before the main event. Joe managed to win his heat and qualified for the final but unfortunately Scott was unable to qualify but did run an excellent PB at the championships. In the U15 boys 800m final itself Joe ran a hugely impressive race and finished in the bronze medal position with a time of 2min 05.4secs, that was not only a huge PB but also smashed the school S2 boys record. On the weekend itself both **Lauren Fraser (S5)** and **Luke Shaw (S6)** competed in the U17 1500m. Both qualified for their respective finals and both finished and impressive 6th with Luke achieving an impressive personal best time of 4mins 10.43secs. Last up was **Andrew Smith** who has been steadily improving his times over the courses of the season. He competed in both the 400m on the Friday and the 200m on the Saturday. Not only did Andrew manage to qualify for both his finals he won the bronze medal in both races. This was a great achievement for Andrew who although narrowly missed out on individual selection for Scotland, did get selected to compete for Scotland in the relay at the British Schools championships to receive his first Scottish cap.

Andrew Smith (S6) also recently competed in the 400m at the Scottish Senior Athletics Championships. This was a big step up for Andrew as he was competing in the Men's section. However, this did not seem to faze Andrew who won a silver medal and achieved a massive personal best and a blistering time of 49.2 seconds.

Huge congratulations to all the Dingwall Academy athletes who competed in any of the athletics competitions this year. Quite a simply a very impressive group of pupils who are not only athletically talented but were an absolute credit to themselves and the school in the way they conducted themselves throughout. Well done team!!



Star Athletes

Congratulations to **Andrew Smith (S6)** who has been selected to represent Scotland in Athletics. Andrew competed in the 4 x 400m at both the SIAB International in Cardiff and the Celtic Games. Andrew will also compete at the UK School Games in Manchester in September. Andrew also took part in the National Senior Athletics Championships in Kilmarnock during the last weekend of the holidays and finished 2nd, this is a tremendous achievement and we wish Andrew the very best at his next event.

Scottish National Championships

News from the Scottish Age group National Championships: **Joe Arnaud (S3)** won the Scottish National U15 Gold medal for the 800m. On a really positive note for the school, **Andrew Smith (S6)** also won a Gold in his 400m U17 with a bronze in the 200m. Two gold medallists from Dingwall Academy!

Gaelic Greats

Achievements



London Gaelic Society Conversation Competition

Several pupils in the Higher Gàidhlig class participated in the London Gaelic Society conversation competition. The competition entailed the recording of a conversation with their teacher on a topic chosen from a list prepared by the London Gaelic Society. The recordings were forwarded to London to be judged by the Gaelic Society. Congratulations to **Eilidh Campbell (S6)**, who won joint 1st place and also to **Ella Scarr (S6)**, who was awarded a merit certificate. Mealaibh ur naidheachd!

Inverness Local Mod

Dingwall Academy was well represented by both Gaelic Learners and Gaelic-medium pupils at the local Mod in Inverness on Friday 20th June. Congratulations to the following prizewinners:

Rachel Kellow S5:

Aithris Bàrdachd (Poetry recitation) 1st prize

Leughadh air a' chiad sealladh (Reading at sight) 1st prize

Còmhradh (Conversation) 1st prize

Mairead Morgan, S4:

Aithris Bàrdachd (Poetry recitation) 3rd prize

Leughadh air a' chiad sealladh (Reading at sight) 3rd prize

Còmhradh (Conversation) 1st prize

Sam McCourt S4:

Aithris bàrdachd (Poetry recitation) 2nd prize

Leughadh air a' chiad sealladh (Reading at sight) 2nd prize

Kiera Brennan S5:

Aithris Bàrdachd (Poetry recitation) 2nd prize

Josie Campbell S4:

Còmhradh (Conversation) 3rd prize

Alasdair MacKenzie S3:

Aithris bàrdachd (poetry recitation) 1st prize

Very well done to all those who took part and to those who acted as 'runners'. A representative of the committee organising the Mod was very complimentary about all our pupils, commending them for their Gaelic and for their conduct. They were excellent ambassadors for Dingwall Academy.

'S math a rinn sibh!

Creative Writing workshop

Towards the end of last term we had a visit from the Gaelic writer Donald S. Murray. He came to speak to our Gaelic-medium pupils about a writing competition run by Highland Council to mark Homecoming Scotland 2014. He spoke to us about developing our skills in creative writing.

Young Highland Musician of the Year

Congratulations to Suzannah Mack who won the prestigious Highland Young Musician of the Year Event held at the end of last term. Suzannah won after a superb and varied performance that delighted both the judges and the audience.

DiGGers



DiGGers, the school's gardening club, are currently collecting Morrisons vouchers, which you can get by shopping at Morrisons and can be exchanged for gardening equipment which would really benefit the garden club and the school. The vouchers are being given out until the 26th of October, and we're aiming to collect enough for a polytunnel (2415 vouchers) and a wormery (1500 vouchers), but there's also a large selection of tools and seeds and pots and even raised beds and greenhouses. There's a wheelbarrow-shaped post-box by the school office where the vouchers are being collected, so please bring in your vouchers!

Gardening Activity Days

On Monday 30th June, pupils enjoyed a busy day in the garden. They treated our new sheds and painted horticultural terms on them. They used the new Kelly Kettle bought by DiGGers after their recent bake sale and enjoyed making hot chocolate for lunch. It was pouring with rain by then, so we all sheltered in the shed! Luckily it stopped raining but it had softened the soil so we could weed the fruit garden and lay wood chip to stop the weeds.



"Dressed to Paint!"

On Tuesday, pupils helped clear the greenhouses to make room for an Outdoor Classroom in future. They also worked really hard weeding, planting and mulching the raised beds which looked better than ever for the holidays! Well done to everyone for all the hard work.

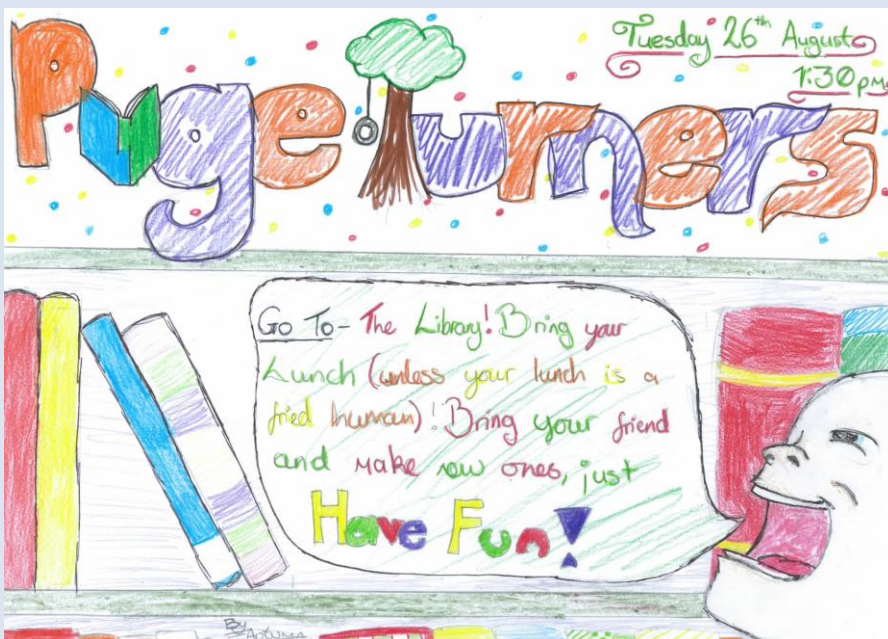
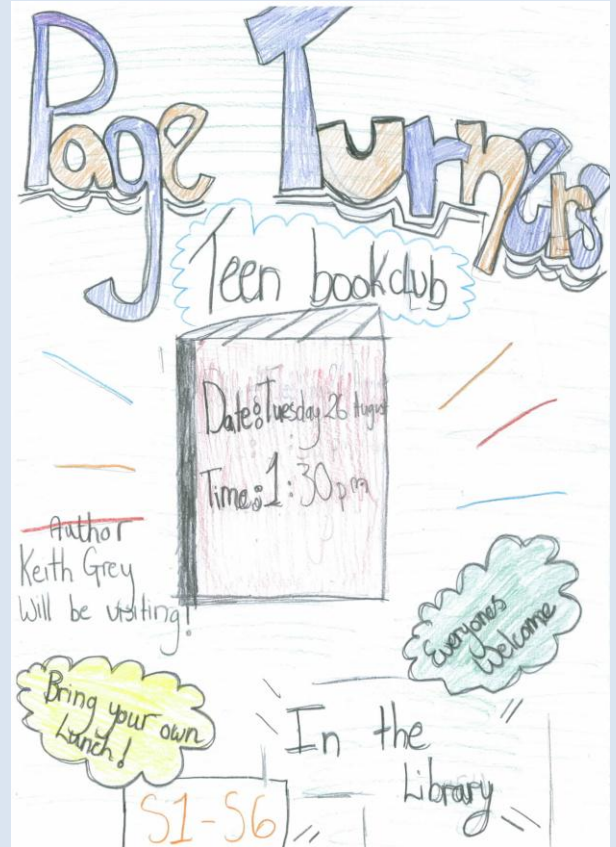
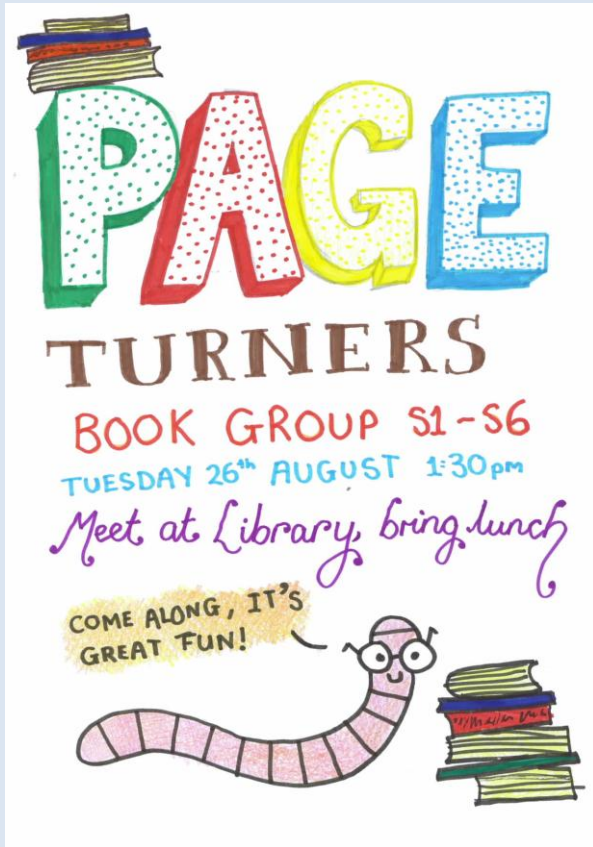


DiGGers Sunflower Competition

On Wednesday 2nd July, DiGGers put eleven sunflower plants on display at Frank Nicol's garden centre in Dingwall. The public have been guessing which they think will grow the tallest by September when they get measured. The club is raising money for "Sense Scotland" to help them buy sensory toys for deaf-blind children.



Poster Competition Winners



Winners!

S1 Winner – Laura Beveridge
S2 Winner – Kirsty Ross
S3 Winner – Autumn Lark

S1 Runners Up
Emma MacLeod, Callum Coli

S2 Runners Up
Sara Nicoll, Ellie Taylor

S3 Runners
Lauren Mowat, Emma Newlands

Well done to all who took part!

S1-3 took part in a poster competition last week, their challenge being to produce a poster advertising the Academy Book Club, *PageTurners*. The intent was to raise awareness of the lunchtime book club, and to encourage attendance. Stakes were high: there was one £10 Waterstone's voucher per year group up for grabs, along with a guaranteed place at author Keith Gray's talk on Monday 8th September. The quality of entries was excellent, particularly considering the posters were to be produced in under 45 minutes! Posters will be up in the English Department and Library.

What a day!

Since returning to the School Academy fields and for the third year in a row, Sports Day 2014 was absolutely baltic!! However, the frequent light showers and artice summer weather did not deter the 200 plus athletes from putting on some dazzling and determined performances. It was great to see a range of pupils competing on sports day, with all displaying real determination, a great attitude and genuine enjoyment for competition and for Athletics. However, there were a total of 21 grass track records broken across the year groups, showing that athletic talent remains strong in the Academy. This year also saw the introduction of some Primary 7 races with all pupils taking part performing extremely well in front of what was, quite literally, a bigger crowd than they were used to!!

A great day, which was led off by pipers **Eilidh Seaton (S5)** and **Sara Di Carlo (S6)** during the opening ceremony, was finished with a staff v S6 tug 'o' war and the awards ceremony. Needless to say experience shone through in the tug 'o' war match with the lighter, more sprightly staff team overcoming the S6!!!

A huge thank you must go out to the PE staff for all their hard work in organising this year's event as well as the many other staff who helped the day run extremely smoothly. We would also like to extent our thanks to Irene for doing teas and coffees, the excellent Parent Council for running a snacks and juice stall and to **Callum Allan (S4)** for setting up the PA system.

Congratulations to all who took part in sports day, particularly this year's winners and record breakers. We also say well done to all pupils in Wyvis House for their landslide victory in the overall house championship.



Sports Day



Champions!

Sports Day

House Championship

1st Wyvis 916

2nd Novar 687 3rd Brahan 572 4th Tulloch 516 5th Fairburn 492

Overall Year Group Champions

S1 Girls

1st Jessica Golden

2nd Nicola Ramsey

3rd Katie McBride

S1 Boys

1st Alexander Mackay

2nd Kieran Chalmers

3rd Ross Bremner

S2 Girls

1st Erin Robinson and Megan Mackenzie

3rd Heather Bruce

S2 Boys

1st Jacob Henry

2nd Scott MacDonald

3rd Tam Munro-Whyte

S3 Girls

1st Roslyn Mathieson

2nd Eilidh Gunn

3rd Victoria Kaczmarek

S3 Boys

1st Kenny Cleland

2nd Daniel Clark

3rd Hamish Kerr

Senior Girls

1st Catriona Holland

2nd =Joanna MacDonald and Laura Maclean

Senior Boys

1st David Laszkiewicz

2nd Adam Carter

3rd Charlie Mack





Sports Day



Sports Day

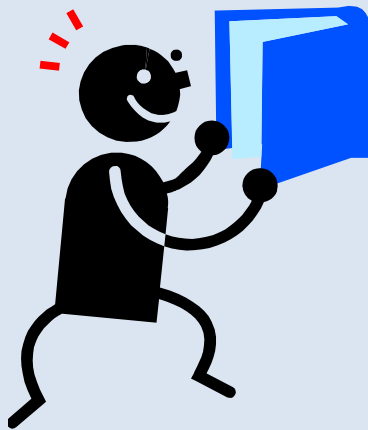


Extra-Curricular

Music

Starting from Mon 1 September

- Monday: Fonn (lunchtime)
Piping Group (lunchtime)
Senior String Ensemble (lunchtime)
Orchestra (after school)
- Tuesday: Junior Choir (lunchtime)
Senior Choir (lunchtime)
- Wednesday: Jazz Band (lunchtime)
Corona Celtica (after school)
- Thursday: Staff & S6 Choir (lunchtime)
- Friday: S1/S2 Guitar Club (lunchtime)



Page Turners

Dingwall Academy's book club is up and raring to go for the new school year. Bring your lunch to the library next Wednesday and help us choose our next book, create a pub-style book quiz, and prepare for author Keith Gray's visit on Monday 8th September. All pupils welcome, S1-6.

Lochluichart Community Trust

The Lochluichart Community Trust (LCT) has been established as a means of enabling Eneco Wind UK Ltd to contribute to the communities in which it operates. Current and former pupils who live in the trust catchment area are eligible to apply for funding. Further details can be found on <http://www.lochluichartcommunitytrust.com/> and any pupil interested in submitting an application should speak to Mrs Cormack.





LFA Essay Competition

Through the Lessons from Auschwitz Project, sixth-year students and their teachers take part in two afternoon seminars and a one-day visit to the former Nazi extermination camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau in order to then pass on the lessons in their schools and communities.

<http://www.het.org.uk/index.php/lessons-from-auschwitz-general>

Interested? We have spaces for TWO sixth-year pupils.

The course is in four parts, including two **compulsory** seminars, which take place in Glasgow (dates left), a guided excursion to Auschwitz-Birkenau, and a final project related to your learning about the Holocaust.

To be eligible to participate, you must:

1. Be a sixth-year pupil studying at or beyond Higher level
2. Be an emotionally mature team player
3. Commit to all four aspects of the course, including the communication of the lessons you have learned to the wider school community on your return
4. Be able to attend seminars in Glasgow and the trip to Poland as detailed in the sidebar
5. Submit an essay of no more than 500 words, discussing the importance of remembering the Holocaust, to Mr Green **by 2pm on Friday 5th September.**

For more information about the Trust and the Lessons from Auschwitz Project, see the webpage above, or speak to Mr Green.

Dates:

Stage 1: Orientation seminar

Wednesday 1st October
3:00-7:00pm
Glasgow

Stage 2: Visit to Poland

Tuesday 7th October
Glasgow Airport

Stage 3: Follow-Up Seminar

Sunday 12th October
1:00-4:30pm
Glasgow



**WHEN WE UNDERSTAND WHERE PREJUDICE LEADS,
WE CAN STOP IT IN ITS TRACKS.**

<http://www.het.org.uk/index.php>

Speech Sucks: the Future Signs!

BSL FRINGE TRIP 6TH AUGUST 2014

After a successful training event earlier in the term, with Professor Graham Turner from Heriot Watt University, an invitation was sent inviting BSL pupils to attend one of the Fringe events in Edinburgh. But it would be during the school holidays. However, ten pupils, Mary Whittaker and her hearing dog, Scott and Mrs Kinsman woke early and travelled to Edinburgh to experience another opportunity to challenge their BSL skills and Deaf awareness.

The Fringe show called 'Speech sucks; the Future Signs was part of the Cabaret of Dangerous Ideas festival programme, where experts raise serious issues in unusual ways.

Unlike previous events where the pupils had to use their sign language skills to follow and understand the proceedings, the pupils had the opportunity to see professional sign language interpreters work alongside the presenters; Professor Turner and Assistant Professor Gary Quinn, as they translated BSL into spoken English and spoken English into BSL and with accuracy not just in the choice of words used but also to reflect attitude and intent from the speakers; sometimes at a flying pace!

They also experienced different aspects to deaf culture which many of them had read about but had never actually experienced. So silent heckling through raised hands waving and gesturing wildly showed that Deaf people can vent their feelings as well as any hearing person but just in a different way. Deaf humour, sarcasm and regional variations in signing styles all appeared in this unique presentation.

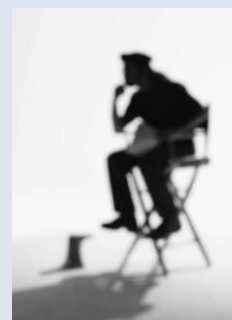
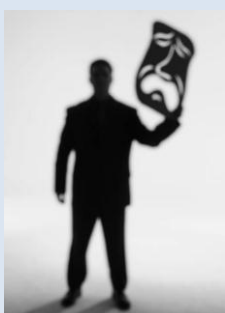
Audience participation was welcomed and encouraged but unfortunately just as the pupils were feeling confident to go up to the front (and in front of over 100 deaf and hearing people) and join in this lively tongue in cheek debate the compere announced the time was up... next time they will be ready!

The show was fast, it was serious, it was funny, it was engaging and above all it showed Deaf and hearing people engaging in a lively debate about BSL but with wit, humour and above all a true sense of fun. When one of the microphones stopped working, this failure was soon pounced on by a member of the audience when she rightly pointed out that if you sign you don't need to rely on the electronic gadgets which can fail at any moment!

After the show, the pupils were interviewed by a reporter from TESS about their BSL studies and lack of parity they felt their qualification had with other National qualifications.

Then it was a quick walk back to the station to catch the train home.

As in previous events the pupil were praised for their interest, commitment and behaviour.



Forest School



On Wednesday 2nd July, the Forest School Group continued to help the team at Evanton Woods prepare tree trunks to make a log cabin for community groups to use in future.

They also dug a deep hole for a totem pole marking one of the Woodland Trails, and helped to hoist it into place!



DiGGers' Summer Garden Party

On Tuesday 24th June, three primary schools attended our Summer Garden Party and enjoyed a busy day of activities. They were Strathpeffer, Ben Wyvis and St. Clements.

Activities included boiling water using a "Kelly Kettle" to make hot chocolate, learning knots and making growing frames, improving watering techniques, blind-fold soil texturing, potting up plants and exploring the garden to complete a quiz!

Lots of volunteers helped with both the activities and catering so a big thank you to everyone – including Simon from the Evanton Woods Project, Maggie from Royal Highland Education Trust and Trish from Ross-shire Waste Action Network. Also thanks to Dale and Danielle for their baking and Mrs McNab for her delicious soup!

The day ended with everyone stating what they had enjoyed the most, what new friends they had made, and then roasting marsh-mallows over the BBQ. All the P7s who attended are welcome to join the DiGGers club in S1 to enjoy more gardening fun!



Dingwall Academy Sportswear

The PE Department are launching a new Dingwall Academy sportswear clothing line this session. The sportswear has been mainly introduced for pupils who take part in any extra-curricular sport at the school; however, all pupils can purchase the clothing and wear it during Physical Education lessons.

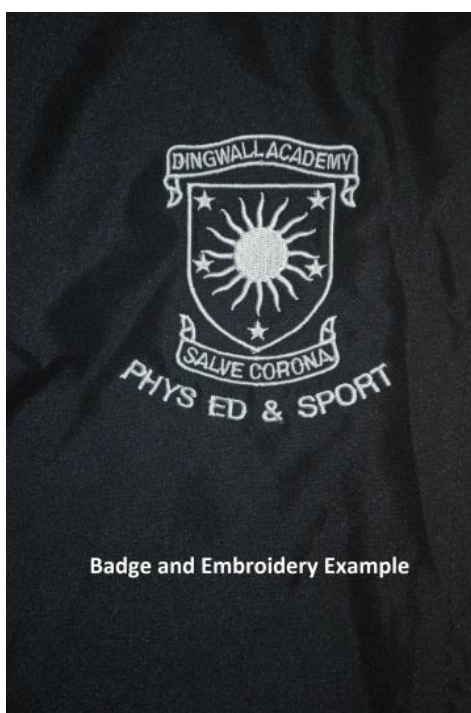
The sportswear is aimed at providing pupils with the opportunity to wear smart and well-designed sportswear that makes them feel part of a team and as well as making them stand out as Dingwall Academy pupils. We also hope that when they represent the school, they feel proud to wear the colours and badge of Dingwall Academy. However, importantly, the clothing line gives parents and carers the opportunity to buy good quality sportswear that is extremely affordable in comparison to many of the well-known brand names.

Below are a few examples of the garments available, however, more details can be found on the Dingwall Academy website under the Sportswear tab. Order forms can be downloaded from the school website or collected from the PE office. Please note that orders should be placed directly with the supplier whose details can be found below and not with PE Teachers! If you have any question please feel free to contact Mr Dillon in the PE Dept.

Schoolwear Made Easy, Harbour Road, Inverness

01463 222022

E-MAIL: marion@schoolwearmadeeasy.com





Mountain Biking Update

More mountain bike success! Three Dingwall Academy pupils have been selected as part of a 4 person team to represent the North of Scotland at British Cycling's annual inter-regional championships at the Olympic MTB track at Hadleigh Farm.

Sam Lawton, Finn Crockett and Tam Munro White have been racing well all season. They now have the opportunity to race against riders from across the UK, in a variety of formats in order to attempt to retain the title won by the team from Scotland last year.

This is Sam's second year competing at this event, so his experience will hopefully benefit the others to help calm any nerves.

All three pupils put a lot of time and effort into training and racing with our local link club Ben Wyvis Cycle Club, but they have all also ridden with and helped out on school club rides throughout the last year.

We wish the boys – and the rest of the team – well, and will provide some information on their experience in a subsequent newsletter.



Cycling opportunity

Meeting for all S4/S5 pupils interested in cycling and developing leadership skills, Thursday Interval Room 8.

Cycling Scotland are offering an expenses paid week in the October Holidays for a team of up to 6 pupils who have a good idea to promote cycling in their school. The winning team will receive training and mentoring to develop the idea and coaching in running introductory courses for primary pupils. A substantial budget is available to help the successful team to implement their idea.

Any interested pupil is welcome to attend the meeting to discuss thoughts. You don't need to be an experienced cyclist, its more about developing ideas!

Mountain Bike Club Meeting

Wednesday Interval Room 8. Anyone interested in riding this term must attend. New members welcome.

Back in the day...



1920s

Top: Staff, 1926

**Middle: Football Team,
1924-5**

Bottom: Senior students



**We invite you take a trip
down memory lane... are
you, or anyone you know, in
these pictures?**

**Have a picture you'd like to
share?**

Let us know!

**Make contact with your
anecdotes and information
via the school office.**

In the next issue of the *News...*

- Author Visit & Poster competition
- S1 Mini-mag Section
- Pupil Achievements
- New 'Back in the Day' photos
- And much more!

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

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IV15 9LT
Tel: 01349 869860
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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.

Headteacher: Mrs K. Cormack

RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

HONESTY

DETERMINATION