



# Dingwall Academy

# News

## DECEMBER 2016

*Dates for your Diary:*

*Friday 23rd Dec —  
school closes for  
Christmas holidays*

*Monday 9th Jan -  
School re-opens*

*Monday 23rd Jan -  
Parent Council  
Meeting 7pm*

*Thursday 2nd Feb -  
Inter-house Cross  
Country*

*Thursday 2nd Feb -  
S3 Contact Evening*

*Friday 3rd Feb -  
Parent Council Race  
Night*

*Monday 20th and  
Tuesday 21st Feb -  
School Closed*

*Wednesday 22nd Feb -  
In-service, school  
closed for pupils*

**Thank you to  
everyone who  
supported the  
Christmas  
Fair.**

**Merry  
Christmas to  
pupils, staff  
and parents.**

**Have a  
wonderful  
holiday!**



# Notes & News



At the end of this term, Mrs Mary Deans will retire from her post as Learning Support Teacher. Mrs Deans has worked with a large number of pupils over the years, and all have appreciated and valued her patient and caring approach. We wish her every happiness in her retirement.

We welcome back from Maternity Leave Mrs Arkley and Mrs Lewthwaite. In the New Year, Mrs Watson will also return to take over responsibility for the Tulloch caseload. Congratulations to Miss Tullis, who will now take on partial responsibility for the Novar caseload along with Mrs Merrell.

Mr Trevelyan and Mr Clark have been with us covering in Geography and we are grateful to them both for their contribution to the school.



## Parent Council Meeting

There will be a meeting of the Parent Council at 7pm on Monday 23rd January. All parents are welcome to attend, and the group would be delighted to see any new faces.

The next Parent Council event is a Race Evening (over 18s only) to be held on Friday 3rd Feb. Again, all parents are encouraged to come along and support what should be an excellent evening.

# Exam Info

## Prelim Examinations

Prelim exams for Senior Phase pupils start on Monday 16th January. The Prelim timetable has already been issued and is also available via the school website. There is no study leave during prelim exams and pupils are required to attend school as normal. If for any reason a pupil is unable to come into school on the day of a prelim, then the school should be informed as soon as possible.

All Senior Phase pupils should now have an established study routine and it is important that this is maintained over the Christmas period—you can of course still have time off to enjoy all the festivities!

## UCAS Applications

**UCAS applications should now all be completed and with PTs Guidance.**

On Tuesday 6th December, a group of S4 parents were invited into school to trial a new format of information evening. Parents and pupils were encouraged to attend together, and were given practical advice on how to help prepare for the exams.

Thank you to all who attended. We plan to do a further session after the prelim exams.

# Notes & News

Arrangements for the last day of term:

School closes as normal, at 2pm on Friday 23rd December; however lunch on this day will be from 1.15—2.00. Pupils not staying in school for lunch are therefore free to leave at 1.15.

## Contact Evenings

This term we have held a number of contact evenings and information evenings. Thank you to everyone who has supported these.

At the S5 and S6 contact evening we trialed a new online appointment booking system. This proved successful, and the feedback from parents was overwhelmingly positive. We have therefore agreed to use the system for the full year, and then carry out a further evaluation.

Remaining contact evenings:

S3 Contact evening    Thursday 2nd February

S2 Contact evening    Tuesday 21st March

Parents involved will be given further information on the booking system closer to the time.

Following a retendering of school bus contracts, some D & E timetables will change from 9<sup>th</sup> January. Please see the website for more details:

[www.dingwallacademy.com](http://www.dingwallacademy.com)

# PHOTO COMPETITION

Congratulations to Lewis Henderson, S5 for winning the Scottish Geography Teachers Association photography competition. Lewis submitted this beautiful image, captured when he was out on his mountain bike. Lewis is also an active member of the School Mountain Biking Club.



# S3 DIGI DAY

As part of our ongoing partnership with Highland Youth Arts Hub and XPO North, the leaders in nurturing creative talent in the Highlands, we were delighted to host our first Digital Workshop here in Dingwall Academy. The focus for the digital media day was:

Content Creation

Filming Skills (Cameras)

Editing (Final Cut Pro X)



We asked some of the pupils to highlight what they had gained from the day. This is what they had to say about the experience:

*Thank you very much for coming in, personally my favourite part of the day was the hands on experience with the cameras and technology, but I enjoyed the whole day very much.*

*Thank you for giving us the opportunity to edit and film. I've learnt many new skills thanks to the workshop. It was a great experience. **Catherine***

*Thank you for coming into our school and teaching us how to make good film content. I learned new skills that I can maybe use in the future, I have learned about headroom and how to edit content. Thank you again, I had a wonderful day. **Rory***

*I really enjoyed the workshop yesterday and I feel that I learnt a lot about cameras and editing. I especially liked the editing workshop and I feel that it was very useful. I feel that it has encouraged me to make my own short films and edit them too. **Charley***

# S3 DIGI DAY

*I really enjoyed the workshops. I found working and having fun with the cameras and equipment very enjoyable. I loved the editing workshop and I enjoyed looking at all the different types of editing and cuts available. I will definitely try to edit some of my own clips in the future. **Freya***

*Firstly I would like to thank you for the amazing day we had. I found it extremely interesting and I had a lot of fun. I found out about many different resources that I can use which I never knew about before. At first I was a bit overwhelmed and nervous to use the equipment but all the instructors were very helpful and by the end I was having great fun. Thank you again! **Lily***

*Thanks for the new skills in filming and editing. I really enjoyed the day and can't wait for Eden Court. **Ellie***



Thanks to the English Department for organising this day. Our next collaboration will be a visit to the XPO creative Conference at Eden Court in June.

# Pupil Success

## **BBC Alba Recording**

Christmas came early for a number of Dingwall Academy pupils as they took part in a recording of the Watchnight Service – in November!

Rory Cormack S3, Mairead Morgan S6, Kirsty Campbell S6 and Eilidh Sutherland S6 delivered readings as part of the service to be broadcast on BBC Alba on Christmas Eve.

Eilidh Johnstone S4, spent the day behind the cameras working with the production team.



## **Antibiotic Awareness Poster Competition**

Pupils from S1 and S2 Science classes took part in a competition about raising the awareness of antibiotic misuse in November for National Antibiotic Awareness Day. The pupils created a poster which was judged by staff at Raigmore hospital. All of the pupils who took part created informative and imaginative posters and three pupils from S1 won a prize.





## Art Exhibition

The exhibition of student art work held in the Strathpeffer Pavilion last month was a huge success! This was the first time the art department had worked in Partnership with the Pavilion and to be able to showcase the Nat 5/ Higher & Advanced Higher work in such a lovely venue was fantastic.



All the pupils and their parents seemed to really enjoy the opening preview and the music provided by the music department, Corona Celtica and the folk group made for a very special event. According to Pavilion staff over 250 people saw our pupils work and many bought cards and postcards featuring pupils work. We hope to have the exhibition there next year and also look at other ways that Dingwall pupils can showcase work from other departments too.

Amazing Art Work

## COURT RECORD – THE CRUCIBLE

I joined after the very successful *Joseph*. I didn't have a ~~HUGE~~ part but it was pretty good. I have made lots of friends and laughed a lot. The laughter was one of the best bits, but my favourite bit was torturing Elaine by giving her updates on precisely how many seconds we had left until performance. Ad- am breaking a chair was good as well.

signed *Andrew Vance 2W1*

My name is Ewan. I have been part of DADS since 2014. My first performance was *Private Peaceful*. I feel honoured to be part of such a welcoming cast and crew and I was grateful to be part of *The Crucible*. My favourite part was when Rory went off the stage at the wrong time and had to walk onstage saying his line. I really enjoyed meeting new people and having a good laugh. It was easy to get on with the cast.

signed *Ewan Cumming 4M*

*Hello, my name is Adam Macrae and I played Reverend Hale. I really enjoyed my time on The Crucible. My favourite part was when my button popped off onstage during Act 2, but we kept calm and carried on. I found learning my lines really hard but I loved my time in The Crucible and made new friends along the way.*

signed *Adam Macrae 4B2*

*My name is Aimee Georgeson and I played the character Goody Ann Putnam. I started DADS this year as backstage. I quickly progressed to performing onstage as Goody Putnam. It was quite a task to learn all of my lines in four weeks. Even though it was rather tough and stressful, the cast and backstage people reall helped me through it and helped me along the way. My favourite part was the relief of the curtains closing and great joy was spread between one another, reminding me of all the new friends I made.*

signed *Aimee Georgeson 1N2*



## COURT RECORD – THE CRUCIBLE

Hello, my name is Elaine Matheson and I have been part of DADS for two years. I was a part of *Private Peaceful*, *Alice in Wonderland* and *Joseph*. *The Crucible* was quite challenging for me because I started off with being Goody Putnam but had to step into one of the main parts (Elizabeth Proctor) four weeks before the performance. I was very happy to do this and although it was hard it was worth it. My favourite thing that happened was when Adam's button fell off and when Rory called me Putnam on stage. Although the play was very stressful it was worth it and I hope to do another great DADS play next year.

signed *Elaine Matheson ST1*

Being part of *The Crucible* this year has been great. As my first DADS production I was a bit nervous however I was quickly welcomed into the group. After the auditions I was cast as Reverend Samuel Parris, a character I knew little about. Learning the lines was a bit stressful as the script was so long. My favourite part was the opening scene when you see the audience for the first time. However it definitely wasn't without its laughs. The performances had many laughs such as when Adam's button fell off and when I got someone's name wrong. Being part of DADS has been amazing and I will 100% be doing it again next year. I've made amazing memories and great new friends.

signed *Rory Cormack 3M1*

*I had the privilege of being invited to join DADS this year. I had a wonderful time working with this hard working group of pupils. During the past few months, I have been able to see pupils flourish and build in their self-confidence as they step up to take on challenging roles in this production. I had a wonderful time working with the backstage crew and getting to know more pupils within the school through this group. Thank-you so much to Miss Rowe for inviting me to join and I must say a massive 'Well Done' to the actors and backstage crew for the tremendous effort they put into this very successful production of *The Crucible*. Thanks for the memories!*

signed *Miss A. Munro*



## Blythswood Care's 2016 Shoe Box Appeal

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who donated to the Blythswood's 50th Anniversary Shoebox Appeal, we collected an amazing 65 Shoeboxes this year.



Last year's appeal produced more than 116,000 gift-filled boxes.

It was a good result but Blythswood believe that with your support they could do better. In their anniversary year they wanted to increase the number of boxes distributed by at least 30,000. Hopefully with the help of Dingwall

Academy they will have achieved their target to improve the lives of people supported by Blythswood.

When you consider that the average shoebox contains practical aid worth more than £20, you realise it will be money well spent. Your gift to Blythswood's 50th Anniversary Appeal will help us towards this goal.



A special thank you to Dingwall Academy's S2 Super Citizens who helped to collect and pack the shoeboxes.

## SCOTTISH COUNCIL on DEAFNESS STAR AWARDS

On Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November, 4 pupils representing the school travelled with Mrs Kinsman to Glasgow Hilton Doubletree Hotel to attend the presentation of STAR awards. The school and the Deaf base had been shortlisted for 2 categories: Lifelong Learning and Children and Young People Achievements. There were in excess of 50 nominations for the awards from across Scotland representing local authorities, businesses and third sector.

There were 150 people there with Dingwall Academy being the only school present.

Lunch was delicious! But the pupils had to work hard as at the table were deaf BSL users who wanted to know everything about them, the school and their studies.

After lunch, Angela Bonomy took the audience through the 7 different categories explaining why the judging panel had selected the final 3 shortlisted winners. Then she opened the envelope to announce the winners. Given the calibre of the shortlisted candidates, it was truly



astonishing when she announced Dingwall Academy had won the category for Lifelong Learning. She said what had really impressed the judges was the fact that learning in the school was not confined to young people. It also included teachers learning BSL and deaf awareness to help them

improve the teaching and learning experiences for all pupils.

Category 3: Children and Young People Achievements award was won by the YNAG (Youth National Advisory Group) a group of Deaf young people involved in promoting the BSL Act. She said when the panel read the nomination for Dingwall Academy; they noted that Dingwall Academy pupils from across the years had taken an active part in the campaign for the BSL Bill from presentations, to voting for the BSL tartan. (The winning tartan came down to the vote from Dingwall Academy: an amazing achievement reflecting the interest shown by all the young people in the school) She welcomed the group back on stage to receive the runner up certificate.

The young people were true representatives of the school: they engaged with others using their skills and appeared confident when doing so.

(Many said on the train home, their knees were knocking but they didn't give up—true Dingwall Academy spirit!)

*(Photograph shows Janis Macdonald, Chief Executive SCoD, Molly Munro- Main, Niamh Mackay, Fraser Owen, Isla McLean and Angela Bonomy, acting interim director for National Deaf Children Society and Margaret Kinsman, Acting Head of Service HDES)*

# Trampoline Club

In August a new trampoline club started at Dingwall Academy with students working towards British Gymnastics Trampoline Proficiency Awards. By the end of November, eight S1 students had achieved Level 6 which is a fantastic achievement over a 10 week block of work. Students have developed their technique and can now demonstrate front drops, back drops, and a short routine to the required standard for level 6. A new group of twelve S1-S3 students started at the end of November and there will be



an opportunity for a third group to work towards their awards in the New Year. Congratulations to Lauren Blackburn, Kai McAuley, Anna Beveridge, Katie Waters, Rhea Porter, Beth Mackay, Kirstie Clark, and Millie Macleod for all achieving Level 6 and also for their commitment and hard work over the first 10 week block.

Mrs Silvester.





The senior boys football team won the Highland Schools Football League without losing a game in the competition. The only points dropped were the result of a 3-3 draw in the first game. The league win was confirmed after a convincing 7-2 win over nearest rivals, Culloden in the last game. Captained by Kenny Cleland, the team is a mix of S4, S5 and S6 boys who have gelled extremely well and developed into a solid defensive unit. The team also has attacking flair and a great deal of pace going forward.

It is unusual for an S4 pupil to thrive in a senior team but this season Alexander Mackay, Shaun Sutherland, Ross Bremner and Conner Fraser all established themselves in the team and will, undoubtedly, form the backbone of next season's team. Congratulations to all those who contributed to a real team effort.

Well done to the Under 16 Football team who won the Highland league with 8 victories out of 8 scoring over 50 goals and conceding only 3, unfortunately they went out of the Scottish Cup in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Round to Arbroath 6-4 last week. The boys have been fantastic all season and number of them have already featured for the Seniors this year. Player of the year goes to Shaun Sutherland. The Under 15s are still in the North of Scotland and Highland Cups to be played after the holidays.



# Football

## Biking - End of year round up.

The schools mountain bike club has had a busy year so far with an influx of new riders after the summer. This included Mr Clark from the Social Subjects department – with tales of riding at Whistler over the summer gaining some instant respect.



## Downhill

Callum Galloway and Rory Graham both competed throughout the year in the Scottish Downhill Association Series where Callum finished an impressive 4th overall out of 50 Youth category riders. Both boys finished the year racing on the challenging Fort William World Cup Course and posting some impressive times – looks like they struggled to keep the bikes on the ground!

Well done boys and good luck in 2017.





## Amazing achievement ...

**Finn Crockett** (Head Boy) has achieved great success on the bike in 2016. He started the year in style by winning the first round of the Scottish Cross Country Mountain Bike Series by over 4 minutes! His main achievements however, have come away from the dirt as he has made an impressive transition to road racing.

He became the U19 Scottish Time Trial National Champion and was presented with the Best All Round Award (Combined time over 25mile and 10 mile course) at a recent Scottish Cycling Awards Ceremony.

As a result of his hard work, Finn has now landed a place on the Spokes Racing Team. This is a Scottish team set up to provide young riders with financial sponsorship and logistical support as they endeavour to become part of the next generation of elite riders. This will involve Finn racing both at home and abroad as he tackles UCI races in the UK and across Europe, including the infamous Belgian cobbles .

Very well done Finn, and best of luck for the 2017 season.



# Mountainbiking



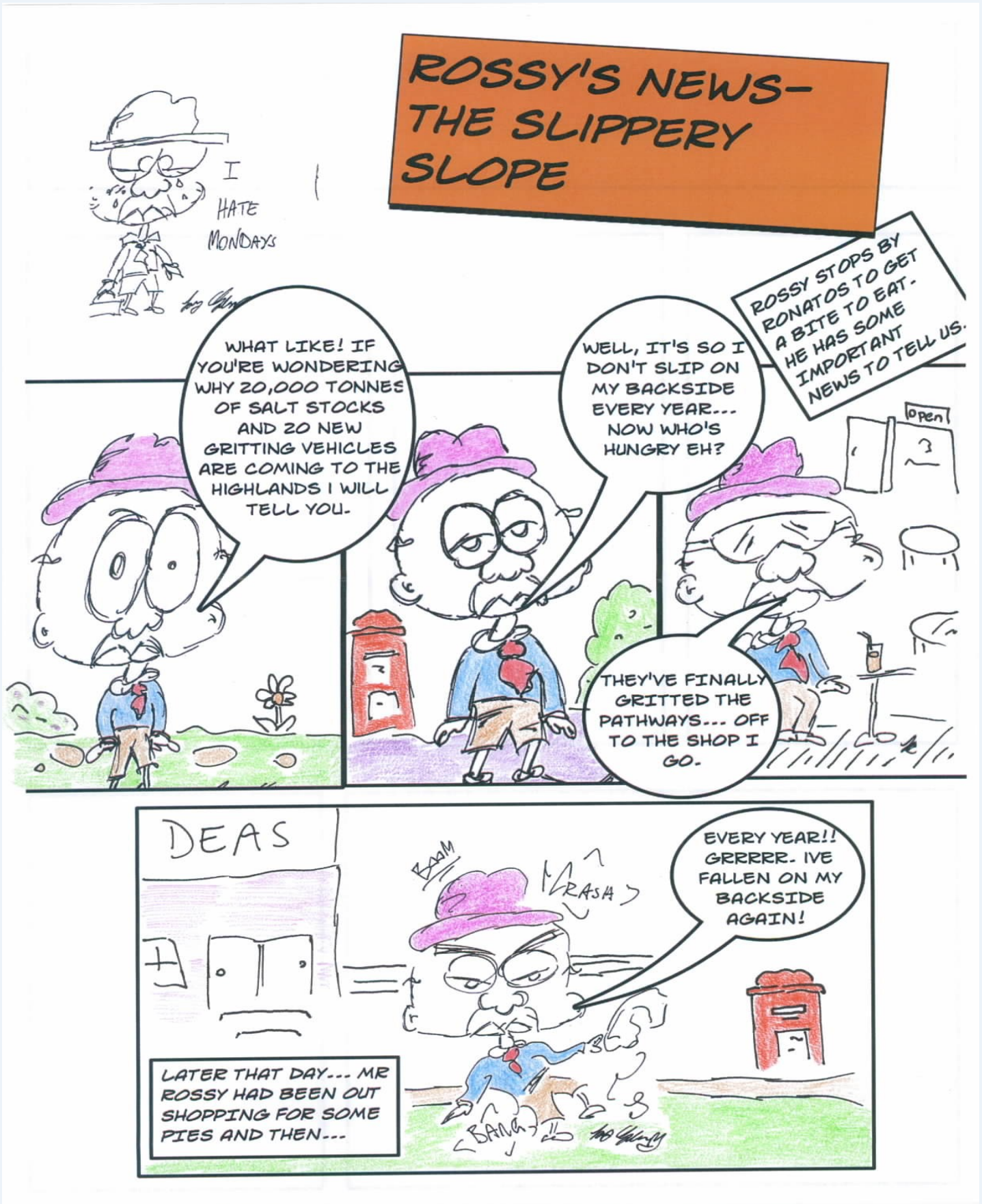
2017 will see Dingwall Academy entering a team of pupils into the “Strathpuffer 24” mountain bike race for the third consecutive year. Please come and support them over the weekend of 21/22 January if you are free.



**New members are always welcome.**

**Please see Mr Graham in Room 8.**

Budding S2 cartoonist, Glen McGilp, created this month's cartoon. Glen sourced a local Ross-Shire Journal news story-the arrival of gritting supplies to the Highlands- then created a storyline about it, involving his character Mr Rossy, a local gadge. We hope The adventures of Mr Rossy will become a regular feature.



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

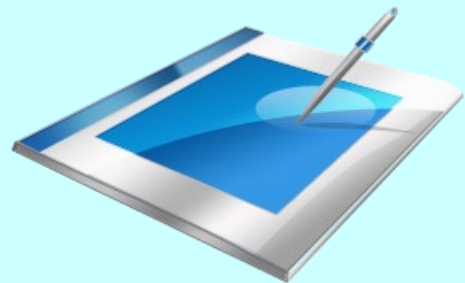
Something missing? Correction? Is there a feature you'd like to see? Get in touch!

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## 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**