



# Dingwall Academy

## News

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

### Amazing Achievers!



We told you so!

Last month we were expecting to attend awards ceremonies, and to hear back from competitions pupils had entered. Check the Achievement section inside, where you'll find photos and articles covering these achievements. Well done, everyone!



### SPRING FAIR NEWS

Check inside!

### Dingwall Really Does Have Talent

This year's Charity Variety Show is taking place on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March in the MPH. You will be entertained by a host of singers, musicians, dancers and comedians. Tickets are £4 and can be bought from Miss Welsh (room 109) or on the door. All proceeds will be split between Teenage Cancer Trust and Rape and Sexual Abuse Service Highland (RASASH). The doors will open from 6.30pm with the show starting at 7pm. Come along for a great evening!



## FEBRUARY 2016

*Dates for your  
Diary:*

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**  
S5 and S6 Reports issued

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March**  
Talent Show 7pm

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March**  
S6 Option Forms returned

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March**  
S2 Reports and option  
forms issued

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March**  
Spring Fair

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**  
Strictly Come Dingwall

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March**  
S3 Option Forms returned  
School Closes

# Notes & News

## STAFF

Congratulations to Mrs Arkley on the birth of her baby daughter. During her maternity leave, Mrs Arkley's post will be covered by Miss A Munro. Congratulations to Ms Battison on her recent marriage; she returned after the February long weekend as Mrs Silvester! Congratulations also to Mrs Lewthwaite on the recent arrival of her baby son. During her absence classes will be covered by Mr J Trevelyan.

## School Meals

Occasionally pupils will arrive in school with no money for lunch and have to ask the office for a small loan. Where pupils request this they will now be provided with a credit slip that will enable them to purchase a meal from the school canteen.

## Woodwind Lessons

A few spaces have become available for Woodwind lessons within the school. If any pupil in S1 or S2 would like to start learning the flute, oboe or clarinet they should speak to Mr Brindle in the Music Department as soon as possible.

## Storms, Flooding and Gas Leaks!

What a month it has been. On one day, as a result of severe weather, only senior pupils were able to come to school. On another, pupils travelling by bus had to be sent home early. And then, just when the weather seemed to have settled, there was a gas leak in Muir of Ord! On each of these days we have managed to keep pupils safe and the school running as close to normal as possible. Incredibly we were able to get through all the prelims with no exams having to be re-arranged. Prelims are stressful enough without the worry of whether exams will take place or not.

This smooth running has been a great team effort and so thank you to pupils, staff, parents and D&E coaches for all helping.

## School Reunion

Rosaline MacDonald (nee Mikolajczyk) is organising a Dingwall Primary School/ Secondary School Reunion (for those who started school circa 1958!)...The last one was 20 years ago and this will be the last one ever. It will be held in Royal British Legion Hall, 7 pm on Sat 24 September 2016... please contact Rosaline at [craigowan@btinternet.com](mailto:craigowan@btinternet.com) or 01349 864923 for details.



## Severe weather information

The severe weather information has now been issued to all parents and is also available via the school website.

# Spring Fair Returns

Hopefully everyone already has the Spring Fair in diaries for Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March. The Fair was a huge success last year and we hope to make this year even bigger and better!

S2 pupils are already busy planning their stalls and producing imaginative and exciting ideas! All school groups are also encouraged to organise a stall to help raise money for their particular activity.

The fun inflatables have been booked and include lazer tag, assault course, wrecking ball, bucking bronco and more ... Included this year is a 'Dunk Tank' where pupils can take aim and send their favourite teacher or senior pupil into some ice cold water! The CDT department have recently acquired a new Go Kart and so you can take your chance with a timed lap around the playground!

The parent council will be organising the Barbeque and a well stocked bottle stall. Pupils in Home Economics will be providing delicious baking that you can enjoy while listening to some excellent musical entertainment.



## Spring Fair Raffle Tickets

All pupils have now been issued with 2 books of raffle tickets and the aim is for each pupil to sell £10 worth of tickets. If pupils are unable to sell, then the books should be returned to the school office so that they can still be sold. There are some fabulous prizes with the top prize of 2 tickets for Belladrum!!

Resources, equipment, travel, minibuses – all these things require money and the Spring Fair will provide a valuable source of income to support these activities and for the school to continue to provide so many amazing learning experiences.

## How else can you help?

The Parent Council are looking for helpers on the day. If you are able to help out, even for a short time, then please contact the school. Any additional raffle prizes would be gratefully received, and the S2 pupils will soon be asking for donations to their own stalls.

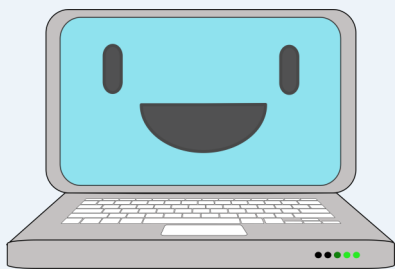
Thank you to everyone for their support. We pride ourselves on being a community school and the Spring Fair is an opportunity for the whole school community to come together for the benefit of our pupils.



## Got books?

Last year we managed to raise a great deal of money selling second hand books at our book stall. If you have any books to spare at home, in any genre, we'd really appreciate it if you could donate them to us. It was great to see so many people going home with new-to-them reading treasures! Simply drop any books you wish to donate at the office, and we'll take care of the rest!

# 21st Century Classroom



Parents may have noticed their child making use of Google Classroom. This is an app that allows teachers to share teaching materials and to set questions and assignments electronically.

Pupils have been provided with a google email address that allows access to Google Apps for Education and ensures that all communications are highly secure.

As previously intimated, all Highland Council pupils will eventually receive a portable Chromebook device. However, pupils can already download and make use of Google Classroom on any device at home. Simply go to the App store and search for Google Classroom, the App is free.

We do appreciate that some pupils may not have access to a device, or may not have internet connection at home. If you are concerned that your child may not be able to access Google Classroom then please contact the school where we will be happy to discuss possible solutions.

## SQA/UCAS

**This is a very important term for senior phase pupils with the SQA exams now only weeks away. Parents and pupils are reminded that before pupils can sit the final exams they must have completed and passed any internal assessments. Unfortunately a number of pupils do not yet seem to appreciate the importance of this and are taking too casual an approach to internal assessments and coursework.**

**SQA policy is very clear – without completing the internal coursework and assessments a pupil cannot gain an overall award in that subject. If you have any further questions about this then please do not hesitate to contact either Ms Harrison (Depute Head Teacher S5 and S6) or Mr MacIntosh (Depute Head Teacher S4).**

**UCAS Information for parents**

<https://www.ucas.com/sites/default/files/suggested-text-for-parents.pdf>



# Pupil Voices: Malawi



Open Arms  
Malawi

In S3 Modern Studies, we have been studying Malawi. It is a beautiful country with safari parks, lakes and many tourist attractions. Unfortunately, Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world. Most children in Malawi are very vulnerable and suffer from numerous diseases, poverty and poor education.

As a class, we decided to raise money to help these children. Between donations from pupils and Miss Welsh, we have managed to raise £50. We are donating the money to Open Arms Malawi. This is a charity that helps orphans from when they are born until they are adults. With the money we have raised, we are able to buy a 1 month supply of protein supplement, a mosquito net (because Malaria is a big killer in Malawi), enough food to feed a child for a month and an annual medical bill for a child.



Save the Children

Mrs Webster's class has also raised money. They are donating £17.67 to Save the Children who help children in poverty around the world. If you would like to donate, please go to [www.openarmsmalawi.org](http://www.openarmsmalawi.org) or [www.savethechildren.org.uk](http://www.savethechildren.org.uk)

Written by Andrew MacLean and Courtney Piper

## Bursary Applications



**The Highlands and Islands Educational Trust** is governed by the Education (Scotland) Act 1962 and the Highlands and Islands Educational Trust Scheme 1969. Each year the Governors of the Trust award bursaries to pupils who are living in the Highlands and Islands area and who are about to embark on courses of Higher or Further Education.

Bursaries are awarded on academic merit and are judged primarily on the results of SQA examinations e.g. all successful applicants in 2015 had obtained 5 Highers at A grade in fifth year. A specific award may be made to candidates who are speakers and/or students of Gaelic. Application forms are available from the school website.

# Scottish Sensory Awards 2015



On Monday the 15<sup>th</sup> February, 6 pupils joined Ms MacCallum, Ms Pendelbury and Mrs Kinsman at Inverness train station to travel to Stirling to represent the school at the Scottish Sensory Awards. (the pupils were: DJ Cameron, Lara Horne, Holly Spittal, Lucy Taylor, Rory Cormack and Rachel Johnstone). The school had been shortlisted for 3 awards: Transition DVD for deaf pupils, S1 IDL Deaf Awareness and Staff Sign Class 2015.

At the ceremony, held in the Stirling Court hotel, in the Stirling University campus, we met many people all offering congratulations to the school. We also met some deaf blind people who used deaf blind manual, or hands on signing. This was the first time some of us saw this way to communicate. It looked really tricky but Mrs Kinsman told us that it gets easier when you do it all the time.

Angela Bonomy from the Scottish government presented the awards.

She told the audience something about each nomination before announcing the winners. The winners and runners up came from all over Scotland and from many different organisations.

Miss MacCallum, Miss Pendelbury and Holly went up to receive the runner up certificate for the Staff Sign Class for category 3: personal and workforce. The judge told us that it was really great to hear that not only do the pupils get the chance to learn to sign but the teachers do as well!

Then she moved on to announcing the category 4 winner: Engaging people with a sensory loss. It was amazing to hear her say Dingwall Academy had won with their Transition DVD for deaf pupils leaving primary to come to the academy. DJ, Lara and Mrs Kinsman received the award.

It was great when she then told the audience that we had achieved second place as well for the IDL Deaf Awareness course. Rachel, Rory, Lucy and Mrs Kinsman went up to receive the runner up certificate.

The certificates are really interesting because they are made for blind people so there are raised markers around the certificate to show the edging and the right way up, raised letters, braille and Moon. No-one had seen certificates like these before.

We had a little time to have a look around the shopping centre near the station to get something to eat before we had to catch the train back to Inverness. The teachers looked after the trophy, the certificates and the gold star balloons.

We didn't mind giving up a day of the holiday because we felt proud to represent the school and we saw some really fascinating things like the guide dogs, the sign interpreters and the 2 ladies who typed everything onto a large screen.

## FILMG Update



*Meal an naidheachd air Àdhamh Bradley airson an duais “An Cluiche as Fheàrr” a bhuannachadh aig Duaisean FILMG ann an Glaschu. Tha clas Àdhaimh gu lèir ri mholadh leis gun deach am film aca a mholadh san roinn “Am Film as Fheàrr” aig na duaisean. Bha turas air leth againn a Ghlaschu agus ghabh sinn an cothrom cuideachd turas fhaighinn timcheall togalach ùr a’ BhBC.*

Congratulations to Adam Bradley S2 who won the Best Actor award in the youth category at the annual FILMG Awards in Glasgow. The S2 Gàidhlig class’s short film was also one of the four nominations in the Best Film category. Well done Adam, Rory Cormack, Andrew Wilson, Ethan MacLeod, Rachael MacLennan, Deborah MacDonald, Eilidh Kennedy and Anna Simpson. As well as attending the awards, the class spent an afternoon being shown round the new BBC buildings by one of the directors in the Gaelic department. They got a chance to see the Reporting Scotland studio and have a go at presenting the weather forecast!



Gaelic drama will be starting up again very soon, with the aim being to write, produce and perform a new play in Eden Court sometime in October. Any pupils interested should see Mr MacArthur.



# Creating Gallipoli Writing Competition



Late last year, one S3 class and Dingwall Academy's own writers' group, INK, participated in a competition organised by the University of Stirling. Pupils wrote poems inspired by soldiers' experiences in Gallipoli. The panel of judges commented on the high quality of entries from our school, and the following pupils received prizes for their excellent work:

Katie Downie S3: Highly Commended.

Alice Kerr S3, Emily More S2, and Jade Boyd S3: Commended

The poems will be printed in a forthcoming issue of the newsletter. Well done!

## International Athletics

Congratulations to Alexander Mackay and Kieran Chalmers who have both been selected to take part in a Scottish School Athletics Coaching Day in Fife in March.

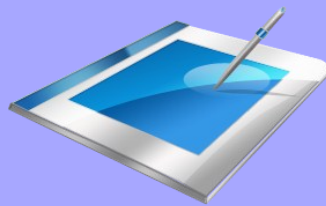


## Medal!

Cameron Foster was awarded Bronze in boys pre cadet under 50kg at the ultimate open Grand Prix in Edinburgh recently. Well done, Cameron!

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**