



Dingwall Academy *News*

Another Amazing Puffer!..



More details inside ...

JANUARY 2019

Thursday 31st January —
S2 Parent Contact evening

Tuesday 5th Feb — HPV
injections for S1 girls

Wednesday 6th Feb—
Senior Phase Parent
Information Evening

Wednesday 6th Feb—
Interhouse Cross Country

**Monday 18th & Tuesday
19th Feb—** Holiday

Wed 20th Feb— In Service
day; school closed to
pupils

Monday 18th March —
DTP/MENACWY injections
for S3 pupils

Wednesday 20th March —
S3 Parent Contact evening

Saturday 23rd March —
Spring Fair

School news

Staff News

At the end of term we said goodbye to Mrs Webster, Social Subjects and Miss Matheson, Home Economics. Mrs Webster is planning a move to New Zealand and Miss Matheson has taken up a new post in Aberdeen. We wish them both all the very best for the future.

During last term Mrs Downie joined our ASN Department and at the start of this week we welcomed Miss Sumner to the Home Economics Department and Mr O'Connor to Social Subjects.

Mr O'Neill, who was working in the school on a temporary basis, has now moved onto a new post.

Adverse weather phone line:

0800 564 2272

Pin number: 04 1010



Injections

If any parents have not yet signed and returned HPV forms can these please be returned to the school office as soon as possible.

SENIOR PHASE INFORMATION EVENING

There will be an information evening for parents with pupils in S4, S5 and S6 at 7pm in the school hall on Wednesday 6th February. This information session will look at exam information, study support and option choices. Parents may have attended the event in previous years but are still very welcome to come along. Pupils are encouraged to attend along with parents if at all possible.



School Uniform

Parents will be aware that the school was inspected recently and the inspection report will be made available to all parents during this term. One of the areas Inspectors commented on was the need for consistency in the application of basic school rules, and this includes school uniform. Pupils may have noticed a more rigorous application of the school dress code; the full dress code can be viewed on the school website.

http://www.dingwallacademy.com/school_uniform.html

It is worth reinforcing those items that are not part of the dress code

Unacceptable
tracksuit bottoms
faded black jeans / 'designer' jeans
leggings
jeggings
short shorts
micro skirts
black/white/grey stripes, spots or checked garments
low cut vest tops

During the first week of term assemblies were held for all year groups looking at the importance of standards. Pupils were encouraged to consider how important it is to set high standards in all areas of life.

“

With people, it is the psychology of standards that separates the best people from the ordinary. For people with high standards, they believe that everything matters and that nothing is small stuff. They hold themselves to high standard because they know that without doing this, they will not get to where they want to go, or become the people they want to be.

“

Never apologise for having high standards. People who really want to be in your life will rise up to meet them.

”

”

Pupils were also reminded of the importance of basic standards such as taking jackets off in class, not walking between classes with mobile phones or headphones. It is really important that we all take a consistent approach and aim to have a school that sets high standards and has a strong focus on learning.

Re-use, Re-cycle

School uniform too small after only a few months?

Barely used sweatshirts lying in the cupboard?

Another trip into Inverness to stock up on new uniform?

Parents will be very familiar with all of the above. We are all now part of a more environmentally friendly and waste conscious society and so we are aiming to create a scheme where it will be easy for parents to donate and then purchase uniform from the school.



In partnership with parents, we are devising a scheme where uniform can be donated and then made available for other parents to buy.

We would also hope the senior pupils, on leaving school, would look to donate as much as they can.

Please watch for further detail on this.

Something else we could re-use more are Study Guides. Lots of pupils buy study and revision guides that are used for one year and then discarded. We would encourage any pupils with study materials lying around at home to bring them in. These can then be made available for other pupils to make use of.



Lost Property

We have a large amount of lost property in the school. This property will be displayed in school the week beginning 4th February.

Parents are encouraged to come in anytime during this week to retrieve any lost items. Any items not claimed at the end of this week will either be used as part of our school uniform re-use scheme, or given to a charity.

SCHOOL TRANSPORT

BUS PASSES

It has come to our attention that not all pupils are not being asked to show their passes when boarding some school buses. The Transport Unit are working with contractors to ensure passes will be checked going forward.

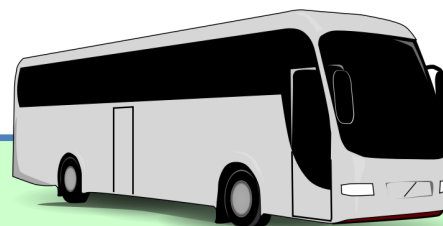
Please ensure your child carries their bus pass on the days they require to travel. If your child does not have a bus pass and you wish to apply for one, please do so online on the Highland Council website:

https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/12/school_transport

Stagecoach will be operating a number of school transport contracts previously operated by D & E Coaches from Monday 7th January 2019. Existing bus passes will be accepted by Stagecoach on these routes.

Parents and pupils regularly check the D & E Facebook page for updates during adverse weather. Stagecoach will provide similar information on the link below:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/564119030722107/>



Exams and options

Exam preparation

Senior Phase pupils are now coming to the end of their prelim examinations. Pupils now need to take time to reflect on the experience and to think about how well prepared they were. We would encourage pupils to think about what worked for them and what they would do differently.

Pupils can enjoy a short break from the intensive studying but very quickly need to get back into a regular study routine. The SQA exams start on Thursday 25th April — in 13 weeks time!

February and March are incredibly busy months in the senior phase. As well as preparing for exams, pupils have deadlines to meet for internal coursework, projects and assignments.

One of the most important things pupils can do is be in school. Absence from school can have a significant impact on attainment. We appreciate that there are times when pupils cannot avoid being absent, either because of illness, or involvement in school activities. However, when pupils are absent they must take responsibility for catching up with work missed. This could involve talking through the work with a friend in their class, checking Google Classroom for resources and materials, attending supported study events at lunchtime and after school.



Option timelines

New S3 Option forms issued on 24th January, to be returned by 7th February

New S4 Option forms issued on 8th March, to be returned by 22nd March

New S5 Option forms issued on 13th February, to be returned by 22nd February

New S6 Option forms issued on 22nd February, to be returned by 8th March

Contact evening dates

S2	Thursday 31st January
S3	Wednesday 20th March

Senior Phase Info evening	Wednesday 6th February
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dreamstime.com

Spring Fair

It may seem like Christmas was only last week but planning has started for the annual Spring Fair!...

The Spring Fair takes place on **Saturday 23rd March from 11am—3pm.**

Pupils will be very involved in the planning and organisation of the day, and we are also extremely grateful to the Parent Council for their valued support.



Parental Engagement

The Spring Fair gives an opportunity for parents to get involved and help with our school community.

The Parent Council will be asking for volunteers to help with various stalls on the day of the Fair.

Some parents choose to stay and help all day, others are able to give a couple of hours. We are extremely grateful for all parental support and would encourage all to think about how they might be able to help on the day.



S2 PUPILS

S2 Pupils play a big part in the Spring Fair. Over the next few weeks in House Tutor time they will be starting to plan their class stalls for the Spring Fair.

Involvement with the Spring Fair provides pupils with the opportunity to learn and develop important employability skills, such as team work, creativity, planning and organisation.



Dingwall Academy Market Logo Competition

We would like to give a big thank you to all those who took part in the Dingwall Academy Market logo competition. You had some great ideas. We had forty seven entries in all with 3 winners in the end. So, a big well done to Megan Robertson, Jackson Steven and Sofie Bavnhoj whose ideas will be combined to create a brilliant new logo.

We would also like to send a massive thank you to Mrs. Trimble and the whole Art Department for all their help.

Launching Dingwall Academy Market

Dingwall Academy Market is a brand new social enterprise set up and run by our senior pupils with the help of local business MOO food (<https://moofood.org/>). The market will bring together a range of our very best local producers to bring you quality local produce. We aim to promote sustainable living and shopping as well as place the school at the heart of the community.



It will also be a chance to showcase some of the school's own work. The art department is working on handmade goods such as printed bags which we are looking to supply at the market (for purchase on the day, not to order).

Pupils will also benefit from a chance to learn about how a social enterprise works, opportunities to volunteer and a chance to develop employability skills.

The market works the same way in which the food assembly did. All you have to do to get involved is head to our website: <https://www.dingwallacademymarket.co.uk/> and click on Join/Login to register in the top right hand corner. Once you've registered you'll get an email to confirm it. After that all you need to do is place an order and collect it from Dingwall Academy between 4-6pm each Wednesday. It is a great chance to meet the producers!

The online market opens on Wednesday at 7pm and closes at 11.59pm on the Monday. Outside these times you will not be able to place orders but you are still free to browse our great range of products. There is everything from fresh milk and yogurt to vegetables and artisan bread.

There is no commitment. You can use it for your weekly shopping or just to buy the occasional treat. This makes it an easy and convenient way to enjoy local produce and reduce your food miles.

Hope to see you there!

Christmas Activities

Christmas always seems to take so long to come, and then passes so quickly. However we are fortunate to have lots of happy school memories from this Christmas —Christmas Fair, Christmas Concert, Christmas Socials, Christmas Jumpers



PUPILS OF DINGWALL ACADEMY



Do you want to see change at
Dingwall Academy?

Do you have good ideas that you want
to see put into action?

Join the PUPIL VOICE!

Find out more:

Room 123

Thursday 7th February

1.30pm



Strathpuffer 2019

19th January saw some pupils from Dingwall Academy, once again, take on the challenge of the Strathpuffer 24; a mountain bike event with a fearsome reputation for providing the sternest test for competitors, bikes and pit crews alike.



The local Dingwall community was, as in previous years, very generous with Frank Nicol Farm and Garden Machinery, George Cockburn & Son and Tesco Dingwall all continuing their support of the team.

Frank Nicol loaned us an amazing generator to provide power for lighting and heating during the long dark hours of the event.

Cockburn's provided champion haggis and bacon which went down well at any time of the day or night and Tesco provided general groceries such as rolls, tea, coffee and porridge to help keep riders and pit crew fuelled.



This year we had a school team of eight attempting to retain the schools category title they won last year. The team consisted of Alasdair Reid (S6), Rory Graham (S6), Callum Porter (S3) Andrew Georgeson (S2), Quin Simpson (S6), Alexander Taylor (S4) Stefen Matheson (S5) and Moray Fraser (S3). We also had two of the girls quad - mentored last year by Lee Craigie and Jenny Graham - riding as a pair, Bethany McCully (S4) and Lilly-Belle Kelt (S3).

There were also a number of other pupils riding with support from parents or local bike clubs and teams. Sean Kelt (S6) was riding in the quad category with ex pupil Callum Beaton along with two other local teenagers, ably supported by Mark at Orange Fox Bikes. Victor Atkinson (S1) rode in the pairs category along with the youngest rider in the event, supported by Ben Wyvis Cycle Club and his family. Finally Rowan Masterson (S3) – a third member of last year's girls quad – decided to take on the challenge as a solo rider.



After a fairly mild start to the year, right on cue, temperatures dropped to provide classic puffer conditions of ice, mud and some snow. This led to lots of discussions on tyre choice and some sticky gear cables but with mechanics raring to go these were dealt with smoothly.

The race started with the now standard 'Le Mans' style start with riders running to their bikes to start up the fire road on their first lap. First runner/rider to appear was Sean Kelt to give his team a great start.

The race was completed without major drama for the school, although the medics had a steady flow of customers early in the race as other riders struggled to come to terms with the difficult conditions.

The pupils worked faultlessly as a team and took responsibility for making sure change overs were smooth and that riders were always waiting ready for the incoming rider to pass the timing chip.



Support crews made sure bikes were de-iced and kept warm before laps, to prevent freezing and the stove seemed to be constantly on, boiling water for teas and coffees. A custom made fire pit complete with bike cogs and chains welded around it, crafted by Callum's dad Stephen, made a fabulous social setting during the night.

When the race came to a close, our team of 8 had convincingly held onto their school's title having ridden 26 laps and beating teams from Fortrose, Invergordon, Moray and Arran. The boys also came 13th overall out of 382 teams in the race, with Rory Graham setting the 10th fastest lap of the race out of over 5700 laps ridden.



The girls achieved the target that they set for themselves of 8 laps each – which was twice what they achieved last year. They rode 100km each and only got rests of around an hour and a quarter between their laps. Rowan rode 9 laps by herself covering 112.5km, more than doubling last year's distance and firmly showed that her determination and endurance are solid.

Victor and his young partner rode 11 laps between them placing them 66th out of 90 male pairs. Their combined age was probably similar to the next youngest rider's age. An impressive feat!

Finally, Sean Kelt's good start helped his team to 3rd in the male quad category out of 133 teams and 6th in the race overall. Fantastic effort!

The support from staff and parents is fast becoming legendary at this event and every year seems to get



better and better. The pit area was set up in record time on Friday before the event started and the clear up was pretty much completed before the prize giving.

I know what our pupils are capable of and I shouldn't be surprised, but every year they show us something more. They believe and they always achieve. We came away from the event exhausted - yes, but proud to be a part of Team Dingwall, and before finally finding the sleep that has escaped over the weekend we start to discuss what small changes we might make for next year!

Highland Kinship Care event



Free event for Kinship Carers.

We are delighted that the Minister for Childcare and early years, Maree Todd will open the event

18 th March 2019	11.00am – 3.00pm	Tulloch Caledonian Stadium Stadium Road Inverness. IV1 1LS
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**Workshops, taster sessions and activities.
Come along and join in.**

Lunch will be provided



If you require crèche facilities or support with transport please get in touch and let us know.

To register for the event please contact:
linsay.robertson@cas.org.uk or phone 0131 550 1000 ext 6104
giving name, details of any children attending crèche, transport requirements, and any dietary requirements.

ROWING CLUB



Strathpeffer and District Rowing Club

For attention of any Pupils over 12 at Dingwall Academy and other Ross-shire Secondary Schools with an interest in an activity which is fun and healthy and can involve both recreation and competition

The aim of the Club is to provide opportunities to row a St.Ayles Skiff (for 4 rowers and a cox) mainly from our base at **Storehouse of Foulis**, but also from other coastal locations and when competing in local regattas including Avoch, Cromarty, Ullapool and Fortrose.

The Club was formed in 2017 and covers a wide area with members from many Ross-shire towns and villages, our skiff was launched in September 2018.

Rowing requires participants to be reasonably fit but support and training will be provided by members and the cox who steers the skiff and is in charge of each row.

The main rowing season is May-November but when the weather is calm and not too cold it's possible to row at any time of the year. During the winter 2018/19 the skiff is being rowed about twice a week and there is a booking system using Team App.

If you wish to try this activity out you can join for free by logging into

www.strathpefferrowing.co.uk

and there is also information on

www.facebook.com/StrathpefferCommunityRowing

It's **FREE** if you're aged 12-18 or you can join as part of a family – each person has to fill in a form online.

If you're under 16 you will have to be accompanied by a parent or guardian or a nominated responsible person.

The Club is keen to increase its Youth Membership and training can be provided for small groups with advanced notice.

This information will be made available to Rory Cross, Active Schools Co-Ordinator who is based at Dingwall Academy and act as a link to the Club : rory.cross2@highlifehighland.com / 01349 869860

If you require further information about the Club or wish to come to a "Come & Try" Session please contact Lori MacGregor, Chair : Strathpeffer & District Community Rowing Club :

lori.a.macgregor@gmail.com

We look forward to welcoming you to the Club

PUPIL ACHIEVEMENTS

National Youth Choir

Andrea MacDonald in S2 successfully auditioned for the National Youth Choir of Scotland's National Girls' Choir. Also Charlotte Mann in S3 is now part of the NYCoS Girls' Training Choir.

Both girls will take part in a six-day residential course at Loretto School, Musselburgh, where a variety of musical repertoire is learned. They will have vocal coaching, musicianship training and full choir rehearsals with highly qualified music staff who are experts in their field.



Miss Munro's S1 English Class received their Reading Certificates

In English, we have read a few books to help us learn. The books I read were 'Ali Baba', 'Robin Hood', 'David and Goliath' and 'Beowolf'.

I would rate 'Ali Baba' 4/10.

I would rate 'Robin Hood' 8/10.

I would rate 'David and Goliath' 2/10.

I would rate 'Beowolf' 10/10

I got a certificate and some chocolate for reading so many books since October.

I am enjoying reading.

Jack Allison



Air Cadets Success

Cadets from 379 (County of Ross) Sqn, Royal Air Force Cadets, recently attended the National Corps Finals at RAFC Cranwell and came away with four gold and four silver medals. Representing Scotland & N.I. Region they competed against the best of the best from all over England and Wales.



(L—R) Sgt Will Cawte, Cdt Ryan Cleary and Cdt Sam Wallace won the Under 16 Team competition.

Sgt Cawte also won the Under 16 Individual competition by having the highest score.



Sgt Cawte, Cdt Alfie Robertson and Cdt Wallace also won the Runners Up Team medals in the Open Team competition - with Sgt Cawte winning the Runners Up medal in the Individual Open competition.

PUPIL ACHIEVEMENTS



Highland Wildcats



S5 pupils Callum Wilson (on the left) and Nathan Falconer (on the right) attended the Blitz Awards ceremony at the Ironworks in Inverness on Sunday 18th November. This is the annual awards ceremony for the Highland Wildcats American Football team. Also attending and presenting awards was the Head of the US Consulate, Ellen Wong and Member of Parliament Drew Hendry.

Callum was awarded the Youth (U17) Offense Most Valuable Player award for the season, and Nathan crowned Youth (U17) Rookie of the Year award.

This season the U17 Highland Wildcats team won the Scottish Division, and after competing at Britbowl XV at the University of Derby (England) in August, ended up ranked 6th in the UK overall (out of 33 competing teams).



PUPIL ACHIEVEMENTS

At the beginning of December, Ross Company held their Christmas training weekend. Various awards were given, among them were three Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Awards given to Dingwall Academy pupils: Andy Tait, Lewis Squire and David Millar.

The cadets received these well deserved awards after a year of hard work from their commanding officer Major George MacDonald.

Pictured are Corporal Andy Tait, Corporal Lewis Squire and Lance Corporal David Millar. The cadets will be carrying on to complete their silver award over the next year.



Andy Tait



Lewis Squire



David Millar

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

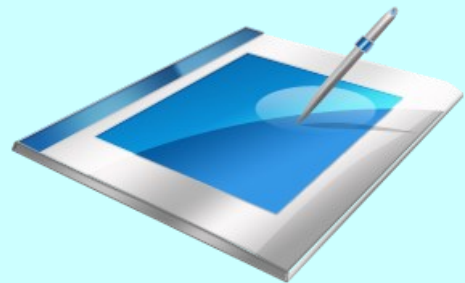
Something missing? Correction? Is there a feature you'd like to see? Get in touch!

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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