



Dingwall Academy

News

Thank you everyone for a fantastic year. School Closes for Summer at 12pm on Friday 1st July!



Prize Giving

On Wednesday 15th June the Games Hall was packed with over 500 pupils, family and friends for the annual Prize Giving. Guest speaker for the evening was former Rector Mr Graham MacKenzie. Awards were also presented by retiring teachers Mary Windsor and Jean Sinclair. Two new awards were presented during the evening: The Alexander Glass Trophy for Community Service and the Heart and Soul Award for

Home Economics and Hospitality. The Heart and Soul Award was presented in memory of Mrs Gail Turner with Gillian Cooke the very worthy recipient.

Top awards of the evening were presented to Grace Kerr, Dux and Megan Bell, Proxime Accessit.

This year also saw the introduction of the S1 and S2 Class Citizen awards, donated by Mr Alister MacKinnon.

The audience were treated to some wonderful musical performances and the proceedings were chaired by the School Captains. At the end of the formal awards Prize Winners were able to enjoy refreshments in the school canteen. There was a delay in the arrival of the Strawberry tarts – but they were worth waiting for!

Thank you to everyone who supported the evening and congratulations again to all the Prize Winners.



JUNE 2016

Dates for your Diary:

Friday 1st July

School Closes 12pm

Monday 15th August

Staff Return

Tuesday 16th August

Pupils Return

Thursday 22nd and Friday

23rd September

In-service



Notes & News



Staffing

Congratulations to Mr J Maxwell who has been appointed to a Chemistry post in the school. Mr Maxwell has been working in the school on a supply basis and we are delighted to be able to confirm his permanent appointment.

As the term draws to a close we have a large number of staffing changes. We say farewell to Mr Ferguson, Physics and Miss Welsh, Social Subjects as they move to new schools. Both Miss Welsh and Mr Ferguson have involved themselves fully with whole school activities, in particular the Drama Club. We would like to thank them for all that they have contributed to the school and wish them well.

Ms L Keenan is leaving the CDT department to embark on a new challenge. Mrs Keenan is retraining as a Gaelic teacher and at the end of this year will return to teach Gaelic in the Highlands. This is a very exciting time for Ms Keenan and is a wonderful example to everyone that there are always new challenges and learning opportunities out there.

Fiona Knotts and Lesley MacCallum are also leaving us and we wish them both well for the coming session.

A number of staff are retiring at the end of term, Mrs M Windsor, Home Economics, Mrs Sinclair, Social Subjects, Mrs I MacLeod, Pupil Support and Mrs S Parke, Principal Teacher Pupil Support. Together these staff have given nearly 100 years service to Dingwall Academy! During this time thousands of pupils will have benefited from their teaching and many parents reading this newsletter will have been taught by them when they were in school.

The school will be saying a special goodbye to these staff and we wish them all very happy, healthy and well deserved retirements.

At the start of next term we will welcome new teachers to the following departments; Craft Design & Technology, Home Economics, Physical Education, Social Subjects, English and Physics. We will provide more information on these appointments in the first newsletter of the new session.



Primary 7 visit

Last week we welcomed Primary 7 pupils into the school. Pupils had the opportunity to follow their new timetables and meet new teachers. Moving to secondary school can be a nervous time and so we hope that the three day visit helped to allay any worries or concerns. A large number of the P7 pupils will be taking part in the transition programme during the Summer holidays and we look forward to welcoming them back for this.

Notes & News



SQA Results

SQA Results are due to be issued to pupils on 9th August. All pupils receive a certificate but if pupils would also like to receive their results via text or email then they can register for this on mysqa.org.uk. Pupils must have registered by 18th July. Pupils and parents are reminded that there is no system for appeal available after results this year. A number of pupils may want to request option changes following the exam results. Principal Teachers Pupil Support will be available to discuss option changes at 11am in the Multi-Purpose Hall on Monday 15th August. Many classes in the senior phase are already full and so unfortunately it may not be possible to meet all option change requests.

Parent Council AGM

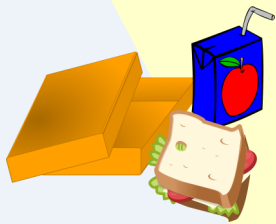
Thank you to the Parent Council for all their help and support throughout what has been a very difficult and challenging year. The Parent Council AGM takes place on Monday 5th September at 7pm. All parents are very welcome to attend.



Free School Meals

Parents are reminded that Application Forms for Free School Meals should be submitted for the start of the new session in August.

Information about this form can be found at [http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/899/schools - grants and benefits/10/free school meals and assistance with clothing](http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/899/schools_-_grants_and_benefits/10/free_school_meals_and_assistance_with_clothing)



Behaviour at lunchtime

We have received some concerning reports regarding pupil behaviour during lunchtimes. Some pupils have been seen throwing food onto the road to attract seagulls. This is obviously extremely dangerous and has resulted in a number of cars having to brake suddenly. Pupils must not engage in this very dangerous practice and we would appreciate if parents were able to discuss and reinforce this at home with pupils.



We're Away! Trips Next Session

We are extremely fortunate that staff are prepared to organise trips and provide pupils with a very valuable learning experience. As well as enjoying the two activity days we currently have trips away to Germany, Belgium and the USA!

To help parents plan for next year the following trips are planned, a number are just in the very early stages of planning and further information will be made available.

Outline	Year Group	Timing	Approx Cost	Lead Teacher
Alladale Challenge Residential camping and outdoor experience on the Alladale Estate.	S3	Early May	£115	Miss Tullis
Maths Paris Trip Maths themed visit, includes Paris, Disneyland and Bruges.	S3 and S4	25 th – 29 th June	£400	Mrs Hannah
Watersports Trip Based in South Spain, opportunity to learn and range of watersports. Flying from Glasgow.		24 th – 29 th June	£760	Miss L Bennie
English Premiership Trip 2/3 nights including visits to 2 Premiership grounds and games.	S1 – S3	Feb/March 2017 (Will depend on fixtures)	£350	Mr MacKie
Germany/Holland	S1 – S3	June 2017	Tbc	Mrs MacKintosh
Killington/New York Ski Trip A few spaces remain on this trip for skiers and boarders.	S1 – S6	March 2018	£1550	Mr Di Carlo
John Muir Award (Gaelic) This is available to Gaidhlig Medium pupils. Pupils follow the course over several months before taking part in the residential.	S1 – S6	June 2017	£35	Mr MacArthur

From Spain to Scotland

At the beginning of May, the school welcomed Diana Castillo Gandullo, 3rd year student from Seville for a 8 week Europe funded placement. The aim of the placement is to improve their second or third spoken language and to learn sign language of that country to conversational level.

Diana shadowed staff and pupils from the Deaf base and also joined BSL Deaf Studies classes. She also visited some Spanish classes. Deaf pupils thought it was great to learn another foreign sign language instead of trying to learn another spoken language

As part of her placement, she was asked to share her knowledge and experiences through discussions and teaching Spanish sign language and some spoken Spanish too. The pupils quickly learned the Spanish alphabet is very different to the BSL alphabet. Like many other sign languages, the alphabet uses only one hand unlike BSL where both hands are used. There are a few similarities in the grammar of both sign languages; question words in BSL always appear at the end of the signed utterance, this happens too in Spanish sign except when asking where you live!



The S2 IDL class could only be described as wildly enthusiastic learners setting themselves some imaginative challenges including one group deciding they would try using all four all languages at once! (Spoken English translated into BSL then into SSL and finally into spoken Spanish)

Diana left last week declaring her placement had been fantastic due to the pupils and the staff so welcoming and friendly. She said she will miss many things but not the Scottish rain!

Free School Meals and Clothing Grants

New Online Form

The new online form for Free School Meals and Clothing Grants went live on 21st May and so far, has had a great response from parents. We have received over 100 online free school meals and clothing grant applications since the form, a fantastic start.

Customers have also provided really good feedback on the form.

Reducing the need to reapply

We are also reducing the need for parents to reapply for free school meals and clothing grants every year.

If families currently receive **Housing Benefit** or **Council Tax Reduction** **and** any of the following benefits:

- **Income Support**
- **Job Seekers Allowance (Income Based)**
- **Employment and Support Allowance (Income Related)**
- **Universal Credit**

Contact Details for Enquiries
For parent enquiries, advice about who is entitled to free school meals and clothing grants, or to request a paper form, please contact the Operations Team, Nairn on **01463 703645**.

They will be assessed automatically and **will not need to re-apply each year**. Families who do not need to re-apply will receive a letter confirming their continued entitlement to free school meals and clothing grants. If parents do need to re-apply or would like to add a new child to the scheme, they should be **directed to complete the online form** situated on the Council's website. To access this form, go to www.highland.gov.uk/request and click on Free School Meals and Clothing Grants. This form can be accessed on smartphones and tablets as well as laptops and desktops.

Frequently Asked Questions

What if parents are not able to use the online form?

If parents are unable to apply online, a paper form can be downloaded from the website (paper forms for school year 2016-17 are now available). **The contact details within this form have been updated** so please do not use any existing paper forms. Parents can also ring **01463 703645** to request a paper form.

When can parents complete the form for the new school year?

The online form is available all year round and asks the parent whether they are applying for the current year or new school year. Parents can apply at any time, however applications for the new year won't be processed until July.

The new paper form for 2016/17 is now available on the council website.

What happens if a parent's circumstances change during the year?

If parents would like to report a change of circumstances which affects their free school meals and clothing grant application (for example they would like to change how they receive their clothing grant voucher), they should be directed to **change of circumstances online form**, available on www.highland.gov.uk/report.

S4 Careers Event

On Thursday 16th June all S4 pupils enjoyed a Careers event with a difference. Drama workers from Eden Court theatre delivered a series of workshops looking at the importance of creativity skills. Pupils learned that creativity is important in a wide range of careers; not just those traditionally associated with the expressive arts. Creativity is now recognised as a top skill sought by employers in a variety of sectors.





Inverness Local Mod 2016

Well done to all pupils who represented Dingwall Academy in the various competitions. Special congratulations to those who came home with medals.

Gaelic

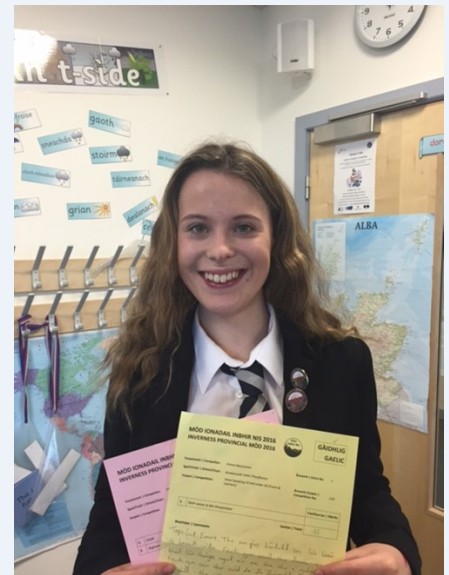
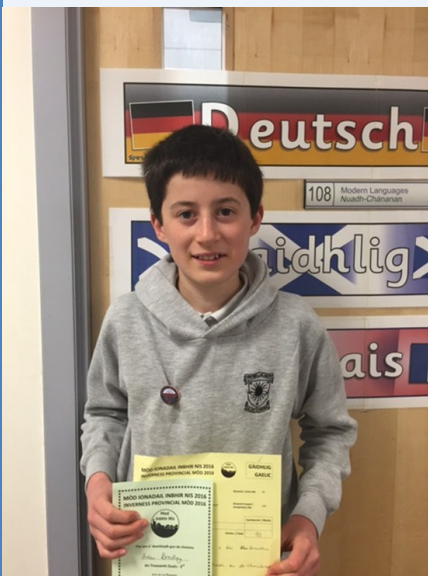
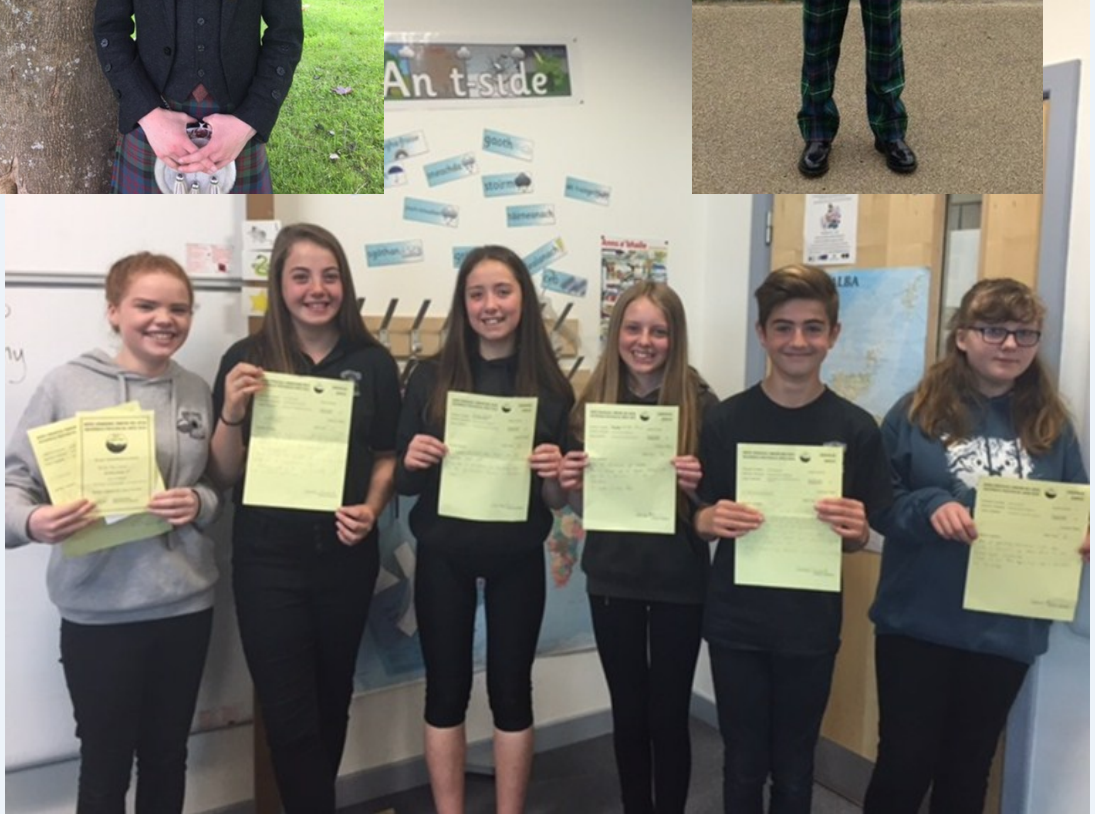
Emma MacLennan	1 st	16-18 verse	open
Nicole Munro	1 st	13-15 verse	(Learners)
Freya Finlayson	2 nd	13-15 verse	(Learners)
Ashleigh Stirling	3 rd	13-15 verse	(Learners)
Mairead Morgan	1 st	reading at 1 st sight	(fluent 16- under 18)
	1 st	conversation	(fluent 16- under 18)
Adam Bradley	3 rd	conversation	(fluent 13 - under 16)
Blythe Wilson	2 nd	Verse	(fluent 13 - under 16)
Carrie MacKinnon	3 rd	Verse	(fluent 13 - under 16)

Music

Hamish Drennan	1 st	Accordion	(13 & under 18)
	2 nd	Strathspey & Reel	(under 18)
	3 rd	March	(under 18)
Dylan Finnie	2 nd	March	(under 18)
Adam Dyer	3 rd	Strathspey & Reel	(under 18)
Matthew Moir	1 st	March	(15 & under 18)
	1 st	Strathspey & Reel	(15 & under 18)
Emma MacLennan	3 rd	Accordion	(13 & under 18)

Inverness Local Mod 2016: Pictures

Achievements



Terrific Teens & Toddlers

Well done to the two Teens & Toddlers groups who have completed an 18 week programme with Dingwall Nursery this year. Both groups spent an hour and a half each week in the Nursery where they mentored children and became part of the team. During the sessions with the facilitators the pupils completed a workbook and journals which has allowed them to receive an award in Personal and Social Development. Each pupil made a huge difference to the toddlers they were mentoring and a lot of fun was had along the way!

Pictured below are some of the pupils receiving their Award Certificates



Clyde Grand Prix Judo Stars

Cameron Foster and Euann Mightens were both competing at the Clyde Grand Prix judo competition on Sunday. Euan was fighting in the B band under 50kg category and narrowly lost the final, coming home with a silver medal. Cameron fought in the B band under 55kg category and had a hard group but came home with the gold medal mirroring his victory a couple of weeks ago at the Children First grand prix event where he also won gold. Well done, Euann and Cameron!

Youth and Philanthropy Initiative



Congratulations to Katie Downie, Carrie Hamilton, Kristin Langdale, Nicole Macleod, Jessica Palfreyman and Anna-Maria Stewart, the winners of this year's Youth and Philanthropy Initiative final. The girls presented on The Shirlie Project, a charity which represents people who need support in looking for employment.

Five groups took part in the Dingwall Academy YPI final. The night was attended by parents/carers, representative from charities, pupils and staff. Though all of the presentations in the final were well planned and informative, The Shirlie Project talk stood out as being particularly engaging and focused firmly on the impact the charity has on the local community. At the end of the evening, the winning team proudly presented the charity with a £3000 cheque.

Well done again, girls.

International Athletics

Congratulations to Joe Arnaud who has been selected to represent Scotland in the 800m at the International Athletics meeting to take place in Ashford, Kent on July 17th. We wish Joe every success and are all extremely proud of his achievements.

Alladale: Pictures



Enjoy your holiday!

*See you Tuesday, 16th August for
another great session.*



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