



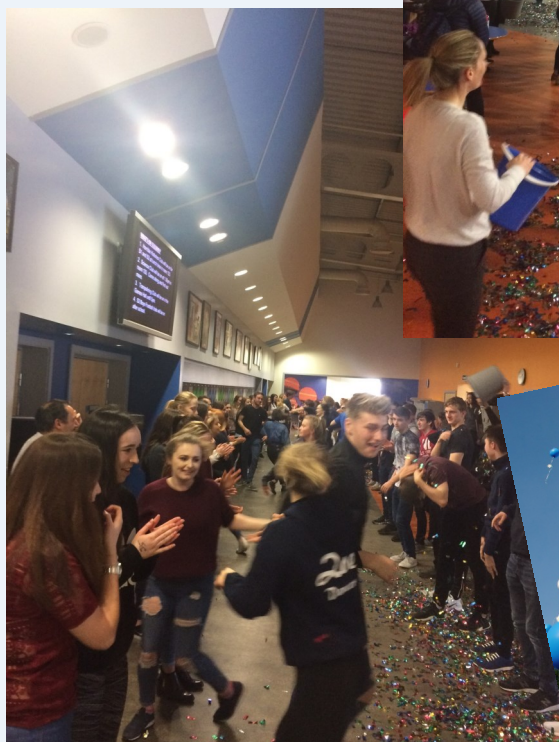
Dingwall Academy

News

Farewell to S6

This month we wish farewell to S6 pupils as they move onto life beyond Dingwall Academy.

S6 enjoyed a range of activities on their last day, finishing with the now traditional glitter filled Strip the Willow at the front of the school.



MAY 2017

Dates for your Diary:

Friday 2nd June

Senior Phase pupils return from study leave

Monday 5th June

Timetable Change

Monday 5th June

S6 Dinner 7pm

Wednesday 7th June

Prize Giving 7pm

Tuesday 13th June

Sports Day

Friday 16th June

Rock Challenge Finals in Dundee

Wed 21st to Fri 23rd June

P7 Visits

Thursday 22nd June

P7 Parent Information Evening

Tue 27th & Wed 28th June

Activity Days

Friday 30th June

School Closes 12pm

Notes & News



Mrs E Kendall retired at the start of this month. Mrs Kendall was known to many following her time in the CDT department, and latterly in the Biology Department. We send Mrs Kendall good wishes for the future.

We also wish Miss J Lloyd well as she started her new post as PT Guidance at Inverness High School. Miss Lloyd has been a member of the Support Department and will be missed by pupils, staff and parents.

Mrs F Dyer also moves to Inverness High School on a 2 year secondment as a Children's Services Worker.

Congratulations to Mr A Boa. Mr Boa has been with the school since last August completing his probationer year. Following interview, we are now able to confirm his full time appointment to the school.

There are a number of interviews taking place this month and we hope to be able to confirm some more appointments next month.



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bicyclehelmet_da_060713.jpg

Cycling to school

With the better weather, a number of pupils are choosing to cycle to school. This is great and we would encourage pupils to do this, particularly those who live in the Canon Bridge and Maryburgh area.

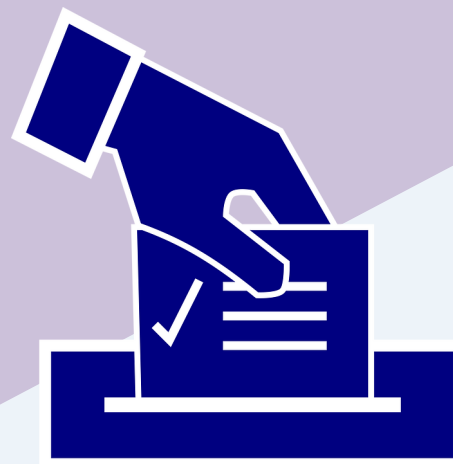
If pupils choose to cycle to school it is important that they do so safely. Pupils are asked to **keep to the cycle lanes and also to wear a helmet.**

A number of pupils have been seen coming in without helmets and would urge parents to check with pupils that they are properly

General Election on 8th June

Please note Dingwall Academy WILL be open as normal on this date.

Sorry!



Notes & News



Prize Giving

The annual school Prize Giving takes place at 7pm on Wednesday 7th June. We are delighted to announce that the Guest of Honour this year is Stephanie Inglis, Commonwealth Games Silver medallist.

Many of you will have followed the news of Stephanie's amazing recovery following her serious accident in Vietnam.

Stephanie has demonstrated incredible strength and we look forward to welcoming her to the school and hearing more about her story.

The list of Prize Winners has now been posted in school, family and friends of those receiving awards are all invited to attend.

University Open Days

Attending university and college open days is an important way for applicants to get a feel for a place and to visit the faculties they are interested in joining. They can expect to be shown around the student union, library, accommodation and the department where they might end up studying, as well as meeting tutors and students who can answer their questions about studying there.

Please be aware that many universities hold their first open days in June so it is important that parents and prospective students find out when the universities they are considering applying to are holding their open days.

UCAS has a searchable open day tool on their website at: www.ucas.com/open-days



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Constitutional_Reliability_of_Tamilnadu_Council.jpg

Employability

During Study Leave, the Senior Phase employability group have been taking part in a range of activities. These activities are organised in partnership with Skills Development Scotland and are hugely valuable in preparing pupils for life beyond school.

The group visited the café run by pupils at Invergordon Academy to learn about Social Enterprises and how they are run. Pupils enjoyed the experience (and the food). They also visited New Start in Inverness and found both visits highly informative. Many thanks to Invergordon Academy and New Start for their help and support.

We have already started plans to develop our own working café in Dingwall Academy.



As well as learning about Social Enterprise, pupils started working towards an ASDAN Employability Award, completed CVs, gained a Go Lead Award, were visited by Highland Home Care. Pupils will also complete at least one week of work experience.





Ben Wyvis Parent Council

**SCHOOL SUMMER
FETE**

x

Saturday 27th May 2017
10am-1pm Free Entry

The Day Includes:

Fantastic Raffle, Craft Stalls, Classic Cars, Selection of Bouncy Castles, Marshall & Scooby-Doo Mascots, Hockey, Highland Dancing, Teddy & Chocolate Tombo-la's, Bottle Stall, Water & Wine, Pop the Balloon, Teas & home baking, and more...



Activities

Activity Days

The annual school activity days take place on Tuesday 27th and Wednesday 28th June. Pupils have already opted for activities and the full balance of payment should have been received. The activity days are an opportunity for staff and pupils to enjoy some alternative activities together and are always great fun.

Pupils who have not chosen activities will be given an alternative timetable to follow in school during the two days.



Overseas Trips 2018

Advance information for parents on a couple of residential trips planned for next year:

Outline	Dates	Target Group	Organising teacher	Approximate cost
WWI trip to Belgium and France	24 th – 29 th June 2018	S3, S4 and S5	Mr Lyall	£540
Barcelona Football Development Tour	25 th June – 1 st July 2018	S1 – S5	Mr McKie	£879

Teachers will be providing more information to pupils soon.

Scottish Trade Union Congress Fringe Festival



Three Higher Modern Studies pupils attended the annual Scottish Trade Union Congress Fringe Festival in Aviemore this month.

Fergus Hallwood and Jennifer McIver were given 3 minutes to discuss a current political issue, ranging from Development in Africa to the President of the United States. Kyle

MacKenzie was on hand to assist both speakers and take photographs of the event.

The speakers were awarded a presentation trophy from STUC. This was a nerve-wracking experience for the pupils speaking in front of a large group of people from Trade Unions and businesses throughout the Highlands. It was a fantastic experience for the group and the organisers were very impressed by the maturity and confidence of the pupils.

S3 Prefects On Duty



During study leave S3 pupils are given the opportunity to apply for the temporary role of prefect. Pupils are able to gain important leadership skills by helping with various prefect tasks while the seniors are on study leave.
Congratulations to all involved.

Speedy!

The Scottish National Relay Championships took place in Grangemouth Stadium on Saturday 22nd April and several of our pupils took part.

Kirsty Arnaud S2 came home with a Gold medal for her part in the U15 3x800m relay.

Heather Bruce S5 also came back with Gold for the 4x400m senior women relay.

Both girls are members of Inverness Harriers AAC. Well done girls!

Neil Gunn Writing Competition



Congratulations to **Aurora MacPherson S5** who has been highly commended by the judges for her entry.

Aurora has been invited to attend the award ceremony on 16th June. The lead judge for the award is the author Michel Faber. Michel is also taking time to meet with some Dingwall Academy pupils on the morning of this event.

Adult Literacy

For this first time this year, a group of S6 pupils completed the Supporting Adult Literacy unit in partnership with Highlife Highland. The pupils learnt about issues impacting on adult literacy and strategies to improve adult literacy. The group then went on to tutor over 16s for a number of sessions. Next year this project will be extended and S6 Literacy Ambassadors will be trained to support a range of ages both in and out with the school setting.



WW1 Memorial Trip of the battle of Arras

During the Easter break two 3rd years girls Lily Fraser and Ellie Ferguson Took part in an organised visit as part of the Arras Commemorations. Lily describes the experience,

This trip was truly the most eye opening experience that has ever occurred to us. It really shows the hardships and awful experiences the soldiers of WW1 went through. To start off with we had to make our way to France so we left on a bus from Inverness at 6:30 and headed down to Hull on the ferry to Belgium.



The next day when we had reached Belgium we got off the boat and made our way to France where we would go and see the battlefields and graves of the Somme. The first stop was a massive crater that had been made by British soldiers trying to blow up the German trenches using 30,000kg of explosive. Next we went to the Thiepval memorial where the names of 72,000 British and South African soldiers are carved. Then we went to Newfoundland Park where the 29th Newfoundland division fought, that is a Canadian regiment, nearly all of them were wiped out. At this site there were visible trenches everywhere.

On the second day it was the actual 100 year anniversary of the battle of Arras and early in the morning we had to go to the memorial service. At the service some people talked, some read poems, we sang hymns and a brass band and some pipers played. As part of the ceremony all three battalions walked to two lines of graves and we all had to lay a poppy cross on one of the gravestones. After the memorial service we went to a German cemetery called Neuville St.Vaast which was very different from the British cemeteries. The German headstones were just plain, black crosses with 4 bodies per cross. This cemetery had 44,833 soldiers buried and had many mass graves with 7-29 soldiers in them. We then travelled to the French National Cemetery where 40,000 individual graves were. This was very upsetting to see as there were so so many headstones. The cemetery has bodies of French soldiers that fought in the war from a 30 mile radius. Also right beside the French National Cemetery was the Ring of Remembrance, this has the names of everyone who was killed in the north of France in the war, they are all from different countries and are not separated in anyway, all together there are 758,000 names on this ring. Then we went to the underground tunnels the soldiers stayed in while preparing for the battle of Arras. After that we went to the celebration in Arras town centre, lots of bands played and also we got to meet and take photos with the First Minister.

On the last day in Belgium and France we went to Porpopelle Cemetery where there are roughly 6,800 unknown soldiers buried. Our tour guide made us choose a headstone which was an unknown soldiers and place a poppy on it so they could be our soldier, this was for a very good reason which does not come until a little bit later. We then went to Passchaendaele Ridge where another regiment of Canadian soldiers fought, it is one of the highest points in that area. We then went to Tyne Cot Cemetery which is the biggest British WW1 cemetery in the world. It has the names of 35,000 British soldiers on the walls. In this cemetery we had to find a name for our unknown soldier and their regiment so we could name our soldiers. We then headed back to Porpopelle Cemetery where we had our own memorial service. We went back to our soldiers grave now with a name and a regiment and held a minute of silence, then we placed a poppy wreath on the main stone at the front. We then went to Ypres and to the Menin Gate which was very impressive. We then made our way to the ferry and stayed on that over night and came home the next day.

The overall experience was amazing for us and we are truly grateful for getting the chance to go. The trip was emotional, heartwarming and really opened our eyes, it is really important to remember those who came before and what sacrifices they made for us. On this trip we have made close friends and memories for life.

British Premier League Trip

BPL TRIP MARCH 2017 REPORT – Andrew Vance

The trip officially started at 8.30am when Ryan Dryburgh finally turned up and the bus could leave the school! The next 2 hours were driving down to Perth with general bus banter. We arrived in Perth, a quick stop at Broxden Subway and we were off again. A final stop in Edinburgh followed and we were set for Newcastle.

The first part of our trip was the Stadium tour of the immense St James' Park holding over 50,000 fans and also being able to see most of Newcastle from the top tier of the stadium. The tour guide knew everything from capacity to who painted the prison walls for pitch invaders! We then filmed our Sky Sports Walk-ons before heading to McDonald's then checking into our rooms.

Next morning was a quick breakfast before driving over to Manchester and had a look in the Man United Superstore. We went to the Man United v Bournemouth match – it was a huge climb from the bottom to the top tier and it was a good game with everything – penalties, goals, red cards and overpriced food! We then travelled to the Etihad Stadium (Man City) and



had a stadium tour there followed by a buffet and a relaxing evening.

Another sharp start on Sunday and we went to the 5-a side tournament where we played 5 matches each. We then had a quick lunch before driving over to Sunderland for the Sunderland v Man City game where I was unable to celebrate Man City's goals as we were in the Sunderland end! We then left Sunderland and headed home arriving at 1.30am. Thanks to Mr McKie, Mr Dillon, Mr MacIntosh and Mr Ross and obviously Trans World Soccer for making the trip happen.

Watch the video made by Trans World Soccer of the boys' trip:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ut6mN67qtk>

Achievements

CDT Department: New Bench



Visitors to the school will now be able to admire a new bench in our reception area.

The bench has been made by a group of senior boys during this session. Calum Maryon, Shaun Sinclair and Guenther Macleod are pictured below.

It joins another bench made in the department a couple of years ago. This bench has quickly become a school landmark with pupils arranging to 'meet at the bench' at the start of lunchtimes!

The bench is carved from Mernati wood and features the school crest.

The boys should all feel extremely proud of their achievement. The bench will remain a feature of the school for many years to come.



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

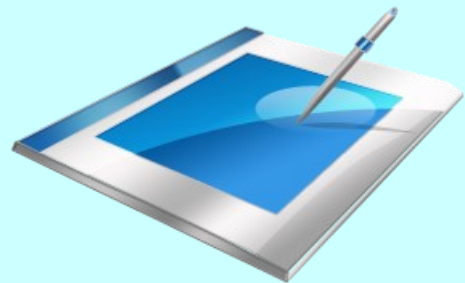
Something missing? Correction? Is there a feature you'd like to see? Get in touch!

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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