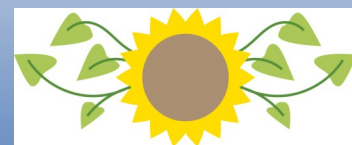




# Dingwall Academy

# News



**AUGUST**  
**2015**  
**EDITION**

*Welcome back to all parents and pupils after the summer break.*

*It has been a very sad return to school this session; we were all devastated to hear of the death of much-loved teacher Mrs Turner. Mrs Turner taught Home Economics in the school and was a much respected teacher who we will all miss. Our thoughts are very much with her family at this time.*



### **Dates for your diary:**

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September** 7pm  
Parent Council Meeting in the school

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September**  
Individual pupil photographs

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September** 7pm  
'Don't you have homework?'  
S1 parents info evening

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September**  
2<sup>nd</sup> round of HPV immunisations for S2 and S3 girls

**Week beginning 28<sup>th</sup> Sept.**  
Cycle to school week

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September**  
7pm  
Study Information Evening for S4 parents

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> and Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September** INSET days

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October**  
Sponsored Walk

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October**  
S2 Contact Evening

# Notes & News

## Staffing

We welcome Miss MacCallum to the English Department. She will spend her probationer year at Dingwall Academy.

At the very end of last session, Mrs Fyfe was appointed Acting Depute Head at Inverness High School and we all wish her well in this post. This has resulted in some staffing changes: Mrs V MacLennan will continue to take responsibility for the Wyvis caseload, and we welcome Mr N Morrison to the Maths Department. We also welcome back Mr J Maxwell to the Chemistry Department.

Mrs Reid will be on maternity leave until later in the session and Mr R McKay is covering in her absence.

At the end of term we said a happy farewell to Mr MacKay, PT Chemistry and Mrs Thomson and Mrs Fraser both Pupil Support as they started their retirements. We would like to thank them all for all they gave to the school and wish them all the very best for the future.

## Road Safety

We have received some concerned comments from members of the public about pupils crossing roads at lunchtime and the end of the school day. Some pupils have been stepping out onto the road without first checking for oncoming traffic. Unfortunately some pupils seem to think that if they are part of a large group that cars will stop. We will be reinforcing the importance of road safety with pupils and would appreciate if parents were able to do the same at home. Pupils in S1 and S5 will be receiving road safety talks on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September.



DATA

DATA

## Data Capture Forms

Data check forms have been distributed to pupils. Please could they be checked and any amendments marked clearly. They should be returned to the school office by September 18<sup>th</sup>

## UCAS Applications

Senior pupils are now starting the process of applying for University. All S6 pupils received a talk from the Scottish University tour and have also been issued with a booklet called the 'Parents' Guide to UCAS' -There will also be a drop in session for parents later in the term. Further details will be issued to senior phase parents.



## Parent Council AGM

We are fortunate to have a very enthusiastic and pro-active Parent Council. The Parent Council is a valued and important link between school and home and plays an important part in the life of the school. The Parent Council involve themselves with a number of school events including the Sponsored Walk and the Spring Fair. They are also able to give a parent perspective on local and national initiatives.

The Council meet at least once a term and, as with all organisations, the more parents involved the better. The AGM takes place on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September in the school at 7pm. We would be delighted to see any new parents there, it doesn't matter if your child is in S1 or S6 – all very welcome! If you would like any further information prior to the meeting please do not hesitate to contact the school.



## Chance to Chat

The chance to chat sessions are an opportunity for parents of pupils in S1 to come along and have an informal meeting with the PT Pupil Support, meet other parents and then have a tour of the school.

These sessions will take place on the following dates, starting at 3.15. Parents will receive more information closer to the time.

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September – Tulloch

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September – Wyvis and Novar

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September – Brahan and Fairburn



## S3 Prefects

Thank you to S3 prefects who did a wonderful job of helping around the school during study leave. S3 pupils were asked to take over some of the duties that the senior pupils would normally do and they did an excellent job. Well done!



## Facebook

The school Facebook Page continues to grow in popularity. To help parents stay in touch with the many activities that go on in the school the page will now include information on extra –curricular clubs and activities. We are nearly at 1000 page likes – so please like us on Facebook and stay in touch with all that is happening.



# Results 2015

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> August was a date fixed in the minds of senior phase pupils – results day ...

Congratulations to all pupils who received results. We were delighted with the overall results, deserved reward for all the hard work of pupils and staff.



The following S5 pupils achieved 5 A passes in their Highers:

Sophie Brown, Chloe Burdekin, Archie Drennan, Liam Lennox, Charlie Mack, Naomi MacKenzie, Fiona Reid, Eilidh Seaton.



The following S4 pupils achieved A and B passes in 6 National 5 exams:

Andrea Aquino, Megan Bell, Fiona Beveridge, Finlay Campbell, Josephine Campbell, Sophie Cushnie, Emma Cuthbertson, Annelise Hoey, Matthew Jack, Grace Kerr, Hamish Kerr, Somhairle McCourt, Sasha Polson, Patrick Rea, Michael Stewart, Abbie McAskill

## Bridge to Employment

We have been chosen to represent Dingwall Academy as part of a group of fifteen pupils taking part in the Bridge to Employment scheme. This allows us to take part in team building activities and to learn and understand more about the workplace.



On the first day we went to the Black Isle show field to take part in a teambuilding day involving other schools who also take part in the Bridge to Employment course. The team building was challenging as we had to talk to people we didn't know, but also enjoyable as this showed us what it would be like working with new people in the workplace in future. Overall the day was fun and definitely prepared us for working in the future.

The second day which we took part in was a tour of the Lifescan building in Inverness. It was a new experience and was interesting to see a different work environment than we were used to. We were taken around the factory and they explained what was taking place. We then got a number of small talks, further explaining job opportunities. To conclude the day was interesting and enlightening, as we were shown a new area of work and



a new area of opportunity. So far Bridge to Employment has been challenging but also very useful for us to grow in confidence when trying new things. We are definitely enjoying Bridge to Employment and look forward to what we take part in next.

By Erin and Eve (S4)

## Tanzania - World Challenge



On the 21<sup>st</sup> of June, five S5/6 pupils – Christy Eaglesham, Kelsie Nairn, Rachael Turner, Hannah Kerr and Alan MacKenzie – along with 4 pupils from Peterhead Academy, embarked on a month long adventure to Southern Tanzania with charity organisation, World Challenge.

The team embarked on a 2 year fundraising campaign before the expedition which not only helped fund the cost of their expedition but taught them valuable skills that would be essential on the trip, such as budgeting, organisation and teamwork. Two of the team members, Hannah and Kelsie have agreed to give us an insight into their experience. Hannah says,

“The thought of going away for a whole month, away from friends and family is daunting. It just seemed such a long time to be away but once your Expedition starts, it goes so, so quickly!”

After a very long journey via a long stay at Addis Ababa airport in Ethiopia, the team arrived in Dar Es Salaam for their Acclimatisation Week. Hannah adds, “It was a huge culture shock arriving in Dar Es Salaam. It was so noisy and so busy. Everything was moving so fast and everyone shouting in different languages. It took us some time to calm down and get used to the bustle.” The next morning, the group would travel to Msosa at the edge of the Udzungwa Mountains. For two days the team trekked through Baobab Valley to experience traditional Tanzanian landscapes and meet locals while passing through the villages. The group had to get across the croc-infested river in a traditional dug-out canoe. An experience Hannah won’t forget, “I swear, there was part of a leg in that river. I saw a shoe then ‘something’ attached.” The rest of the team maintain that Hannah was perhaps still a little jet-lagged and/ or delusional!!

Part of the challenge is for the team to be able to source food, prepare and cook themselves. So, off to the market they went and with the help of the local guides, were able to find and haggle the best price for their ingredients. Included in the shopping list were two live chickens. And yes, the team would have to prepare the chickens themselves! A very brave Kelsie agreed to complete the task. The team then learned to cook traditional Tanzanian food over an open fire. She said, “cooking for ourselves was really difficult. We had no clue how to start a fire! I’ve kind of suppressed the whole chicken experience!!”



For the second week, the team travelled to Iringa for their Project Phase. World Challenge



send several teams to development projects such as schools or public buildings that are in the process of being built, thanks in part to donations from charities such as this one. The team arrived at Luhota Secondary School where they would be staying and painting a new science laboratory. Kelsie said, "Working in the school was really hard work but great fun.

It was great to see how grateful all the children and their teachers were, just from us doing something as simple as painting a building for them." While it was very hard work, there was always time to play with the school children. A Ceilidh of course, was in order!

Week three was the "Trek Phase" and the one most of the team dreaded the most! After two weeks of a limited diet and little sleep, the thought of climbing a mountain was enough to make them weep! Hannah added, "I was really looking forward to the trek but the general vibe seemed to be everyone wanted to cry!" The Challenge was to climb Mount Rungwe. At 2,981m, it is the highest point in the Tanzania's Southern Highlands. After 4 days of very steep climbs, rain, very little food ("Who bought lunch???!") and very unstable camping ground, the team made it to the top and they couldn't have been happier! Until, they remembered they had to walk back down again! Hannah was more positive: "I really enjoyed the trek but the vibe seemed to be everyone was miserable!" It is believed the team were just grumpy because the teachers beat them to the top J

After three weeks of intense walking, wild camping, painting and cooking, it was time to RELAX. What better way than going on a two day Safari at Ruaha National Park? The team spotted, lions, elephants, hippos, giraffes and warthogs. Not to mention herds upon herds of impalas and kudus. Everyone was so surprised at how close the animals were and it was hard to contain excitement and not scream! Next it was off to the beach – Kipepeo Beach Resort on the Swahili Coast. This was utter luxury! Hannah noted, "This seemed to be the time we bonded with the Peterhead pupils the most. It seems strange after spending so much time with them already but this was the time we could enjoy being ourselves and not worry about who is cooking that day or what time we need to be somewhere." Being able to eat burgers, ice-cream, even bacon and pancakes for breakfast was bliss! Kelsie said, "After cooking for ourselves and struggling with a constant diet of porridge, beans and rice, it made eating out so much more exciting." Staying in hut on the beach instead of hard ground was great. Although the rascals decided to toilet paper the leaders' huts on the last night! I'm sure they all enjoyed the 6am wake-up call to clear up J

And then, all of a sudden, it was time to go home. The long, long journey back to Scotland. The four weeks passed so quickly but there are so many memories crammed in, it will be a very long time before anyone forgets this unique experience. Kelsie said, "Although parts of the Expedition were hard, the laughs we had together, making new friends and seeing and experience things I never thought I would, make it all worth it."

# Fit for Girls



Fit for girls got off to a great start on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August with a full sign-up sheet for badminton and trampolining. 24 S1-S3 girls took part in badminton and trampolining which will continue for the next 12 weeks giving each group 6 weeks for each activity. The girls will then decide what activity they would like to change to for the next 6 weeks allowing them to create a personalised club just for them! Well done girls! 🎉🎉

If any girls would like to join the group please come along after school on a Wednesday.







# D.A.D.S.

(Dingwall Academy Drama)



## Quick-fire Interview with Joseph (a.k.a. Charlie Mack)

**What is your favourite play/musical?**

*Les Mis, I really like the music.*

**What's been your favourite role at DADS so far?**

*Definitely Captain Tempest because it was the first time I had a lead role and that was really fun.*

**Film or boxset?**

*Film, it takes too long to watch a boxset.*

**Favourite actor or actress?**

*Bryan Cranston for his role in Breaking Bad.*

**What's been your best moment in DADS?**

*Performing on stage is always great. Probably singing 'Born to be wild' and getting to belt it out. You get a great buzz from it.*

**What would you say to people to encourage them to join DADS?**

*Come along, have a laugh it is a very welcoming and comfortable environment and can help to overcome stage-fright.*

Interview conducted by Fiona Reid, DADS President.



### What is DADS?

DADS is an all inclusive drama group which welcomes members from S1-S6.

### A bit about the Musical

In November DADS will be performing the musical Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. This global stage phenomenon, written by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber is the most performed musical in history. This family friendly musical comedy follows the story of Joseph and his "coat of many colours" from the book of Genesis. As the favourite of his father's twelve sons Joseph is given a splendid multi-coloured coat. This arouses jealousy from his brothers who sell him into slavery and as a result Joseph endures a series of challenging adventures.

### An opportunity for you:

Fancy promoting your business to the local community?

DADS is offering the chance for interested businesses to advertise in our programme for our up-coming musical. If you'd like to be involved, or know someone who would, please email the address below for further details.

**Please register to support us at [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) to help us keep doing what we love.**

**Email us: [dingwallacademydrama@gmail.com](mailto:dingwallacademydrama@gmail.com)**

# Ross County Foundation



Pupils were asked to design a logo for the new Ross County Foundation. Thank you and well done to all pupils who took part.

The pupils in the back row from left to right Jade Fiddy, Zoe McLachlan, Laney Coburn (overall winner), Hannah Taylor and Ealsaid Morgan. Front row left to right are Mackenzie Blyth, Dylan Mackintosh, Murray Stewart and Rebecca Coull.

They will all be getting to enjoy full hospitality at a future Ross County home game as part of their prize, watch out for details of this in future newsletters

## Ross and Cromarty Pipes & Drums School

*Over the summer months the band has competed in the British, European and World Championships.*

*At the British Championships in Bathgate at the end of May they were the first band from the Highlands to qualify for a final narrowly missing the prize list by 1 point.*

*They built on this at the European Championship in Forres at the end of June being place 6th and receiving the Jim Baxter Shield.*

*On 15<sup>th</sup> August, the band attended the World Championships in Glasgow where they qualified for the final again and finishes 12th out of 29 bands.*

*This is a fantastic achievement for both the children and band in only their second year of competing.*

### *Band Members*

*Dylan Finnie, Andrew Laird, Matthew Moir, Fergus Bryce, Lucy Finnie, Melvine Lynch, Lauren Bell, Liah MacPherson, Aurora MacPherson & Sara MacKenzie*

## Extra-Curricular Sport at Dingwall Academy – 2015-16

We want to encourage as many pupils at Dingwall Academy to attend extra-curricular sporting clubs. Please come along at lunchtime or afterschool and get involved with one of the clubs or teams. Speak to the PE Dept for more detail about any of the clubs on offer. This is timetable will change over the course of the year and will be updated every term in the newsletter.

Day	Activity	Time	Year	Teacher/Coach	Location
Mondays	U13 and U14 Boys Football	3.40-5pm	S1 + 2	Mr Ross and Mr McKie	PE Dept. (Grass)
	Girls Football	3.40 – 5pm	S1-S6	Mr MacIntosh	PE Dept. (Astro)
	U16 Boys Rugby	3.40 – 5pm	S3 + 4	Mr Dillon	PE Dept. (Grass)
	Netball (Boys and Girls)	3.40 – 5pm	S1 - 4	Active Schools Coaches	PE Dept. (GH1)
	Basketball	Lunchtime	S1-6	Sports Prefects	PE Dept. (GH1)
	Fitness Suite	Lunchtime or	S4-6	PE Dept.	PE Dept.
Tuesdays	Duke of Edinburgh	3.40-5pm	S4-6	Miss Forsyth	Rm 113
	Table Tennis (Boys and Girls)	Lunchtime	S1-3	Sports Prefects	PE Dept. (GH1)
	Volleyball (Boys and Girls)	Lunchtime	S6	Sports Prefects	PE Dept. (GYM)
	Fitness Suite	Lunchtime or	S4-6	PE Dept.	PE Dept.
	Fit for Girls Club	3.40-5pm	S1-3	Miss Battison	PE Dept. (GH1)
	Hockey	3.40-5pm	S1-6	S1 – Mrs Magowan, S2 – Miss H Bennie, S3 – Miss L	PE Dept. (Astro)
Wednesdays	Badminton (Boys and Girls)	Lunchtime	S3 + 4	Sports Prefects	PE Dept. (GH1)
	Staff Dance	1.30 – 1.55pm	Staff	Mrs Magowan	PE Dept. (GYM)
	Fitness Suite	Lunchtime or	S4-6	PE Dept.	PE Dept.
	U16 Boys Football	3.40 - 5pm	S3 + 4	Mr K McKie	PE Dept. (Astro)
	Basketball (Boys and Girls)	3.40-5pm	S1-4	John Kerray – Highland Basketball D.O.	PE Dept. (GH1)
	Badminton (Boys and Girls)	Lunchtime	S1 + 2	Sports Prefects	PE Dept. (GH1)
Thursdays	Gymnastics	3.40 – 5pm	S1-6	Mr Robertson	PE Dept. (GYM)
	Fitness Suite	Lunchtime or	S4-6	PE Dept.	PE Dept.
	Rock Challenge	2 – 4pm	S1-6	Mrs Magowan	PE Dept. (Rm 21)
	Senior Boys Football	2 – 3.30pm	S5 + 6	Mr MacIntosh	PE Dept. (Astro)
	Fitness Suite	Lunchtime or	S4-6	PE Dept.	PE Dept.
Fridays					

# Computing

Bentley Systems (formerly C3Global) hosted 6 senior Computing Science students on a week's work experience during the school summer holidays. This was a very worthwhile experience for all the pupils and very much appreciated by all who attended.

Mrs Grieve (Computing Science Teacher)



**Claire Matheson** (AH Computing Science) describes what was covered during her Work Experience week with Bentley Systems offices in Dingwall.

On the first day we were shown around the server room and saw where the landline office phones connect. We each had to connect up our own phone. Later we were given instructions about installing amulet and tomcat, programs the office use, and had to work as a team and follow them. We were exposed to the SQL environment and shown basic coding which we were then left to practice on our own. We managed to create our own database tables and add data to them. We were told about how you connect a database to a webpage using Java. We learned the difference between Java and JavaScript.

The next morning we had a Skype call with one of the workers in Manchester who showed us around the amulet website and about the main product of the company. Then we were given an image of a webpage and had to recreate the website using html and CSS. The next day we were shown the existing c3global demo page and were asked to try and redesign the demo page to look like a Bentley webpage. We each designed our own page. On the final day we were given a talk from Richard about the marketing side of Bentley. We were told about how the company used Gartner to expose itself to more businesses and that they used success stories such as Australian Water to boost their image.

Overall it was a great experience to be in the office environment and see all the different jobs there were for the one product.

**Paul Langdale** (AH Computing Science) comments on the experience

Overall I found the trip very worthwhile as it showed me what an office workplace could be like to work in. I found that I might like to do this as a job as it is very satisfactory and you get to work with some very likeable people.

**Zack Benzie** (Higher Computing Science) comments on the experience

I feel that the work experience was useful in seeing what it would be like to work in an office environment and I found that I learnt new information on HTML as well as CSS which are both languages used in creating and refining websites respectively. We created two websites; a mock Dingwall Academy home page from a design given to us, and a portal page which we designed ourselves. The atmosphere in the office itself was quite friendly and you could pursue the path according to what it was you were interested in learning and you were given the freedom to work at your own pace. Overall the week of experience was definitely worth it and I am happy to have had the chance to take part.

**Greg McCormick** (Higher Computing Science) comments on the experience

I feel that the work experience went well overall, we got a look and feel tour of their product and got shown some SQL on it. We also got to get a feel of what it is like to be in an office environment, which was quite different to what I expected which was good. Overall it was a good experience and I feel it was helpful for getting a feel for working in an



## Computer Coding Club

I go to computing club on a Wednesday afternoon after I have had lunch and I get to code whatever I want during the period of time I am there. Right now I am learning to code JavaScript, html & css, I have learnt lots since I have started the club I have even built my own website using the skills that I have learnt during this class. Feel free to come along to room 212 if you want, there will always be someone inside.

**Mark Maclennan 2B2**

# In the next issue of the *News...*

- Pupil Voices
- Pupil Achievements
- Welcome Back!

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

Dingwall Academy  
Dingwall  
Ross-shire  
IV15 9LT  
Tel: 01349 869860  
Fax: 01349 869886  
Web: [www.dingwallacademy.com/contact\\_us.html](http://www.dingwallacademy.com/contact_us.html)



## **The Swing** **Robert Louis Stevenson**

How do you like to go up in a swing,  
Up in the air so blue?  
Oh, I do think it the pleasantest thing  
Ever a child can do!

Up in the air and over the wall,  
Till I can see so wide,  
Rivers and trees and cattle and all  
Over the countryside—

Till I look down on the garden green,  
Down on the roof so brown—  
Up in the air I go flying again,  
Up in the air and down!



## **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**