



Dingwall Academy

News



Result!

Congratulations to all pupils involved with exams. Pupils all received results in August and we were delighted to record some excellent results.

Photographed are some of our fabulous 4th years who all achieved

straight 'A' passes in their National 5 exams. Also worth special mention are former S6 pupils Charlie Mack, Fiona Reid and Archie Drennan. All three achieved straight 'A' passes in S4, S5 and S6. Well done!

Captains 2016-17



Head Girl: Carron MacDonald **Head Boy:** Finn Crockett

Deputes: Rachael Turner, Emma Cuthbertson, Hamish Kerr, Lewis Taylor



AUGUST

2016

Dates for your Diary:

Thursday 1st September
Sports Fair

Monday 5th September
Parent Council AGM

Wed 7th September
S1 Homework Evening

Wed 14th September
Employability event S5

Monday 19th September
Senior Phase Information
Evening

Thursday 22nd September
INSET, school closed to pupils

Friday 23rd September
INSET, school closed to pupils

Monday 26th September
S2 and S3 RAF STEM Roadshow

Friday 30th September
Sponsored Walk

Tuesday 4th / Wed 5th October
Art and Music Trip

Wed 5th / Thur 6th October
DADs *Crucible* performance

Friday 7th October
School closes for October holi-
days

Notes & News



New staff

At the start of session we welcomed a large number of new staff to Dingwall Academy. We are delighted that they are now part of the school and look forward to working with them all.

CDT	Mrs Millar
Home Economics	Miss Boyle
Physics	Mr Boa
English	Mr Strathern and Mrs Riddell
History	Mr Learmont
Geography	Mr Clark and Mr Hilton
Science Technician	Mr Hunter
PE	Miss Brooman

Guidance Teachers and House Structure

We have now reverted back to a four house structure – Brahan, Novar, Tulloch and Wyvis
Guidance teachers are:

Brahan	Miss Alexander
Novar	Mrs Merrell
Tulloch	Miss Tullis (Acting during Mrs Watson's maternity leave)
Wyvis	Mrs MacLennan



Parent Council AGM

The Parent Council AGM takes place in the school on Monday 5th September at 7pm. We are lucky to have a very pro-active Parent Council and very much value their contribution to the school. We would be delighted to welcome any parents along on the 5th September. If any parent requires any further information before the meeting please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Notes & News



CYCLE TO SCHOOL WEEK!

Following on from the success of last year's Cycle to School Week, we are again encouraging pupils from Conon Bridge and Maryburgh to cycle to school during the week beginning Monday 26th September. There will be adult supervisors at the main crossings, and refreshments available for pupils when they arrive in school. We look forward to another overflowing bike shed.

UCAS Applications

Senior pupils are now starting the process of applying for University. All S6 pupils received a talk on 22nd August from the Scottish University tour. There will also be the offer of a drop in session for parents later in the term. Further details will be issued to senior phase parents.

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 2.50. Parents will receive more information closer to the time.

Novar and Wyvis pupils
Brahan and Tulloch pupils

Monday 26th September
Thursday 29th September

Notes & News

Parent Information Evenings

For the last few years, information sessions have been held for S1 and Senior Phase parents. In response to parental feedback these sessions will now be held earlier in the session –

S1 Wednesday 7th September 7pm ‘Don’t you have any homework tonight?!’

Parents of S1 pupils are all encouraged to attend; parents will gain more from the evening if they are able to bring the S1 pupil along!

Senior Phase Monday 19th September 7pm

This evening will be of most interest to S4 parents, however parents of pupils in S5 and S6 who have attended the event in previous years are still very welcome to attend. The evening will focus on senior phase qualifications and will also look at how parents can help their child study in the lead up to the exams.

Dates of note

- **Tempest Photographers** are coming on Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th October to take pupil photographs.
- **Data check forms** have now been distributed to pupils. Please could they be checked and any amendments marked clearly. They should be returned to the school office by Friday 16th September.

Contact Evening Dates

1/11/16	S5/6
28/11/16	S4
14/12/16	S1
2/2/2017	S3
21/3/17	S2

Holiday Dates 2016/17

School **closes** Friday 7th October 2016

Re-opens Monday 24th October 2016

School **closes** Friday 23rd December 2016

Re-opens Monday 9th January 2017

Holidays – Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st February 2017

In-Service day - Wednesday 22nd February 2017

School **closes** Wednesday 5th April 2017

Re-opens Monday 24th April 2017

May Day Holiday – Monday 1st May 2017

In-service day – Monday 5th June 2017

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.

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.	S1- S3	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 McKie
Germany/Holland	S1 – S3	June 2017	£575	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

S2 Super Citizens

Our S2 (now S3!) Super Citizens had a busy end of session helping our new S1 pupils settle in to the Academy. They also helped at the Friendship Games; these games involve St Clements and Marybank schools.



Belgium Trip



The Belgium Trip 2016 was undoubtedly one of the most incredible trips I have ever been on.

While there, we had the opportunity to visit many different sites including the Passchendaele Museum, where we got to experience what living in a WW1 trench was like. We also visited numerous commonwealth cemeteries such as Tyne Cot, Essex Farm and war memorial sites such as Newfoundland Park and Hill 60, where some WW1 battles took place. What shocked me was the sheer amount of unidentified soldiers in the cemeteries – 70% of the graves were unidentified at Tyne Cot.

We also visited a German cemetery called Langemarck which contrasted sharply to the commonwealth ones we had seen. Instead of neat, white headstones there were black slabs on the ground, shared between 6-8 soldiers. This trip was a truly life changing experience which I will never forget. I felt, and still feel a sense of gratefulness, beyond

comprehension, for those who sacrificed their lives for us to live in today.

Written by Jennifer MacIver 5B1



Senior Woodwork Project

Each year we have a group of senior pupils that want to return to CDT and carry on with woodwork, despite achieving the highest award at National level. This is something that we welcome within the department and have, with the permission of parents, taken a select group of pupils each year to further develop their skills and knowledge within a project that they take full control of from start to finish.

This year Josh Simpson (S6), Daniel Shaw (S5) and Nathan Anderson (S5) were involved in manufacturing a picnic table which was donated to the school for pupil use.

The project involved the boys researching and designing the table, working out the quantity and price of materials, approaching the head teacher to ask for funding and ordering the materials before manufacturing the product. The boys took full responsibility for the decisions made throughout and the whole project was kept real, like it would be in the world of work.



Our intention is to develop Employability skills within pupils and build confidence levels to problem solve and provide working solutions. From this project, Josh, Daniel and Nathan recognise the need for good communication skills, team work and the need for people to work independently to achieve success. Some of the stages removed them from their comfort zone but as a result they all grew in confidence and are proud of what they achieved.

Well done to them.

ASG News

Would you like to win £100 in the Marybank Duck Race?

The race will start at 2.00 pm on Sunday 18th September 2016 from Moy Bridge Marybank and end ½ mile downstream with the ducks being caught in nets by canoeists. £100 will go to the owner of the first duck to finish the race.

Refreshments and baking available at Marybank Primary School after the event.

The proceeds from the event will go towards Marybank Primary Parent Council funds to benefit the pupils at Marybank school.

If you would like to buy some ducks or have any questions please email Jo Ellen on littleandlarge@ellens.plus.com



Many thanks for your support.

Rock Challenge: Scottish FINALS

Dingwall Academy has been heavily involved in Rock Challenge for a number of years now and this year has been especially successful.



For those of you who are unaware of Rock Challenge and what it entails, in a nutshell it is a performing arts competition that shows young people how they can achieve a natural high without the use of tobacco, alcohol or other substances. It communicates health and social education messages to teenagers in a positive and supportive environment. The 'Challenge' for the students and their teachers is to create and be involved in their own production from conceptualisation through to the final live performance.

All the pupils have been working very hard since October last year, giving up every Friday and Sunday afternoon; designing and building set, mixing, designing lighting, making costumes, and coming up with different styles of choreography.

After a successful performance at the Highland Regional Stage at Eden Court with 'Snow and the Raven' where we came second to Alness by one point, we were now headed to Dundee for the Scottish finals on Friday the 17th June.

Our two buses left on the Thursday night with much anticipation and excitement building, especially for those who had not attended the event before. The Caird Hall is an impressive and statuesque building in the centre of the pedestrianised section of Dundee and as we crossed the square we could already hear the music pumping out of the main doors.

The whole day was a great experience. The pupils got to meet and mix with other Rock Challenge students from all over Scotland, as well as having the support of the other four Highland schools. They also got to see the step up in performance, set, costume, make up and effects that the Scottish Finals bring.

After a long day we finally performed at ten o'clock in the evening. The performance was stunning due to the hard work of every single pupil involved in D.A.R.C and was celebrated by the audience and the judges. After a long and painful wait we were announced fourth overall out of eleven schools and won numerous awards, our best result yet!

Rock Challenge is back and running getting ready for next year's performance. If you are interested in joining Rock Challenge please see Mrs Magowan in the P.E. department.

Young Leaders



This year's Summer P7 Transition project took place in July and attracted over 80 new first years along. All participants were able to take part in various activities including swimming, funky fitness, multi-sports and cooking. This event provided the new pupils with an opportunity to get to know the layout of the school and to meet new friends.

At this year's Transition project we had over 20 young volunteers from Dingwall Academy. These young people were aged from 14-18, and were an amazing help – the transition could not have happened without their support. All the volunteers involved have now completed a SALTIRE Volunteering Award along with a High Life Highland Leadership Award. The young people completed a Go Lead Sports Leadership Award to prepare for working at P7 Transition. The High Life Highland Youth Development and Active Schools teams would like to say a huge thank you to all involved!



Speedy!



Well done to Jade Fiddy 4B2 on taking part in the Inverness 5K midnight Runway run for CLIC Sargent on 27th August. Not only did she take part, she won, coming in 1st out of approximately 150 participants. She ran an amazing time of 21.48 mins.

Congratulations, Jade.



Let us know!

If you are aware of a member of the school who has achieved in any area, whether that be in sport, on stage or as part of another organisation, let us know! We are keen to celebrate the success of our pupils.

XPO North

100 new S4 National 5 English students attended the XPO Inverness creative industries showcase at Eden Court in June. The festival promotes career opportunities in filmmaking, crafts, fashion, broadcasting, games development, design and music. The Dingwall pupils were among 1,500 delegates who attended lectures and participated in various workshops over the 2-day event.

Highlights included attending the premiere of “Marty Goes To Hollywood,” a BAFTA nominated short Scottish film, trying some, as yet, unreleased computer games; pupils also saw 3D printers creating various artefacts and used virtual reality glasses to explore virtual environments. Congratulations to the pupils in Mr Dolan’s class who created animations and short films as part of a competition, which resulted in the school winning a bursary to allow attendance at the event.



Author Visit: Moira McPartlin



Mr Green’s N5 class were treated to a fantastic visit from author Moira McPartlin, who discussed her current dystopian work *Ways of the Doomed*. As well as addressing the inspiration for her work, she talked to the class about the drafting process—it takes a long time, and ten to fifteen drafts before submitting! This certainly helped the class put their folio drafting process into perspective. We also heard about the process for choosing cover art for books, which was fascinating.

Ms McPartlin also lunched with the Book Group.

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 was selected to represent Scotland in the 800m at the International Athletics meeting which took place in Ashford, Kent on July 17th. Joe finished 7th on the day and we are all extremely proud of his achievements.

Alladale: Pictures



Extracurricular Groups



Following the success of trampolining sessions in the Fit for Girls club last year, a new trampolining club has been set up for S1-S3 students this year. The club will begin by offering an introductory 10 week block of sessions for S1 students with this being opened up to S2/3 students later in the year. The school is also hoping to offer British Gymnastics Proficiency Awards in Trampolining during future sessions. The club will run after school on a Tuesday until 5pm by Mrs Silvester.



Florida Fun

On the 29th of June 2016, the pupils and teachers of Dingwall Academy set off on their once in a lifetime football trip to Florida. After an early wake up and a 9 hour long flight, we finally made it Florida. The heat was astounding. We got on the bus and headed for our hotel. The next day we were up and off for our

Dingwall Academy Copa America Mini Tournament consisting of five teams picked by Mr McKie.

Later that night, we went to the Orlando City vs Toronto FC match, which was an experience never to forget, seeing the likes of World Class players like Kaka. The next day, we had our first game, the heat was too much for some, but we got through it. It took a while to adapt to the heat though, as we are used to the rain. The game was followed by some fun shopping at the Premium Outlets. The Wednesday consisted of a full day at Universal Studios, which was fun packed full of roller coasters which everyone enjoyed. Thursday was the day that we travelled to Jacksonville for Elite Coaching from the members of the Clay County Soccer Club. After some great training we went shopping and had a late night game. On the Friday, we headed to Tampa to see the Tampa Bay Rays Baseball team in action against the Boston Red Sox. Saturday was the day when we had to leave Florida, we boarded our flight and headed home. We touched down in Glasgow and headed back to Dingwall. An unforgettable experience, never to be forgotten.



Written by Matthew Moir S4

DINGWALL

WORD

ON



THE

STREET
STREE

WORD ON THE STREET 2016
13th 14th & 15th October

Events & Activities include: Word(less) - scenes in shop windows. Word on Stones, a conducted walk. Night time parade and projections on buildings. Landmark exhibition. Storytelling, Jazz, Poetry, Rehearsed Readings, Music...

Supported by Highland Council and Dingwall Community Council

Authors and Books include :

Pauline Mackay

“Wee MacNessie”

Stuart McCulloch

“ Scion of Heroes”

Mairi Hedderwick

Ewan McVicar

“One of God’s Rock Hounds”

Helen Sedgwick

“The Comet Seekers”



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

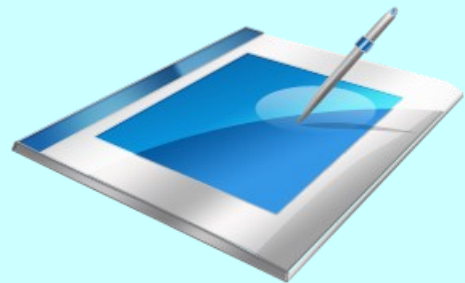
Something missing? Correction? Is there a feature you'd like to see? Get in touch!

Dingwall Academy
Dingwall
Ross-shire
IV15 9LT

Tel: 01349 869860

Fax: 01349 869886

Web: www.dingwallacademy.com/contact_us.html



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