



Dingwall Academy

News

Welcome to our Newsletter. As always, there are a number of achievements, pupil pieces, and events inside. Enjoy!

One reminder: Cycle Safe this winter. It is great to see pupils cycling to school – however can we ask that pupils cycling to school during the winter months make sure that they have appropriate lighting and are wearing reflective clothing.

Teens & Tots on the Telly

We have television stars! Pupils taking part in the Teens and Toddlers initiative were filmed for a BBC Reporting Scotland news item. The article was broadcast on Monday 14th December as the last item on the 6.30 news – if you have not yet seen it catch it on iPlayer!

Hope

Hope is a light.

Hope is a light, a light driving its way through the doubt and despair of darkness. Despair, like darkness, seems inescapable at first. Yet, but a mere flicker is all it takes to reignite your desire, to focus you back on track.

Hope is a light, a fire that burns behind your eyes
 Hope is a will that inspires you to go forward, a secret belief that it can only get better. Hope is in the stars above you; always there, never leaving, you just need the darkness to show it.

Hope is a lion that roars in the face of fear. Hope is an overcoming urge that can look hatred in the eye and smile. To hop, stand your ground when all around you have given up.

Finlay Rollo

DECEMBER 2015

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 22nd December
School Closes

Thursday 7th January
School Opens

Tuesday 12th January
S1 HPV Immunisations

Thursday 21st January
S3 Reports and option forms issued

Thursday 28th January
S3 Contact Evening



Notes & News

Staffing Update

At the end of term we wish Mrs K Watson well as she starts her maternity leave. During Mrs Watson's absence the Fairburn caseload will be covered by Miss S Tullis.

Guidance teachers for next term are:

Brahan	Miss M Alexander
Fairburn	Miss S Tullis
Novar	Mrs R Merrell
Tulloch	Mrs S Parke
Wyvis	Mrs V MacLennan

Thank you also to Ms A Munro who has been working in English during Miss Fyvie's absence.



Prelim Timetables

Prelim examinations start on Monday 18th January. Timetables have now been issued to all senior phase pupils and are also available via the website. We wish all pupils an enjoyable and restful Christmas but would like to remind all senior phase pupils of the importance in maintaining a study routine over the holiday period. There are a number of very good revision sites including:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education> BBC Bitesize – has revision guidance and test questions
<http://www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm> Access to SQA past papers

Good luck to all pupils as they prepare for these important exams.

UCAS

UCAS Applications

UCAS applications should now have been submitted ahead of the January deadline. A number of pupils have already received offers from Universities and we are delighted to hear about their success.

Notes & News

Option Choices

During next term S2, S3, S4 and S5 pupils are all required to make option choices. This is obviously a very important time and advice will be available from a variety of sources. Options forms and option handbooks will be available in both paper form and electronically. Guidance teachers and classroom teachers will all be able to provide further advice and support. Parents are encouraged to contact the school if they have any questions or concerns.



S2 Pupils

S2 pupils are asked to choose 9 subjects for next year. This will include English, Maths and then 7 subjects from the curriculum areas.

S2 into S3 options forms will be issued in March.

S3 Pupils

S3 pupils are asked to choose 6 subjects for next year. These are the subjects pupils will be presented for in the exams at the end of S4.

S3 into S4 option forms will be issued in January.

S4 and S5 Pupils

Senior Phase pupils are asked to choose 4, 5 or 6 subjects depending on the level of study.

Senior Phase options forms will be issued in February.

Chromebooks

Parents may already be aware of the plan to issue all Highland Council pupils with Chromebooks. These are portable devices that pupils will be able to use both in school and at home. Pupils will have full responsibility for these devices and more information will be made available to parents in the New Year. We hope to take delivery of the Chrome books during next term. We also plan to hold an information evening for parents where you will be able to get hands on experience of how the Chromebooks can support learning.



Advanced Higher Computing Science

As part of the Advanced Higher Computing Science course each pupil has to design and develop a project either as a web based database or a computer program. Gerry Carroll and Owen Cochrane, who are both Project Managers in the IT department at Lifescan Inverness, gave a very informative presentation on the need for good project management. They then took time to listen to each of the pupils' project ideas quizzing them about how they are going to tackle their projects and what the scope and boundaries of their projects will be. Gerry and Owen will keep in touch with the pupils over the coming term monitoring their progress and advising them as necessary.



Hour of Code

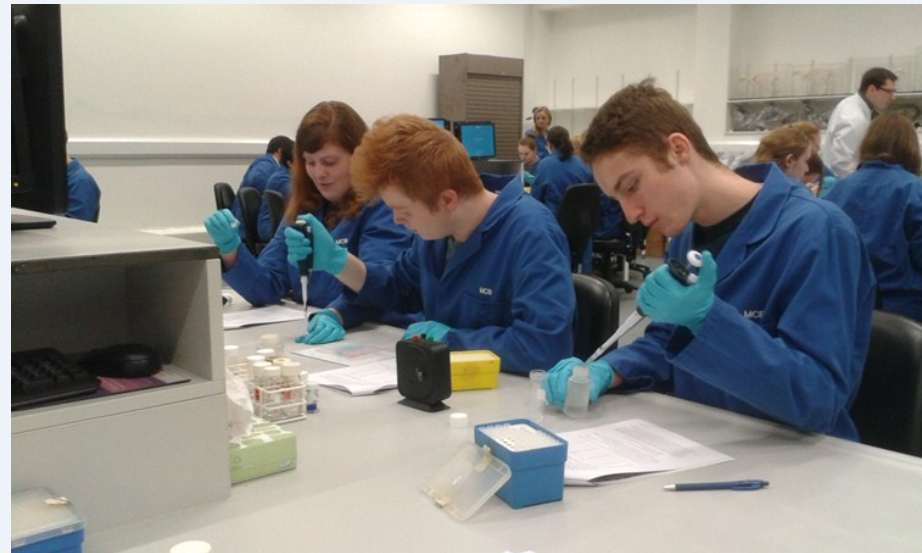


At the beginning of December many S1, S2 and S3 pupils took part in the International Hour of Code week. This is an opportunity for pupils to 'have a go' at computer coding. It is organised by Code.org and endorsed by many influential people around the world - most notably President Obama and David Cameron. Pupils enjoyed working on the many different coding tutorials, learning the basics of computational thinking and programming in languages such as scratch and JavaScript



Advanced Higher Biology – Aberdeen University Practical Day

Early on Thursday 17th, November a small group students, myself included, studying Advanced Higher Biology were accompanied by two teachers on a trip to Aberdeen University arriving later in the morning. Upon entering the university you are greeted by the bones of great creatures, long deceased to this backdrop we were registered by a member of university staff, ready to take part in the experiments prepared for us. Our small group, along with other classes from around the Highlands were led to a lab where we were given a brief introduction into the real world applications of the experiments that we were about to do. The experiment was split up into three sections with each taking approximately



an hour to complete. The experiments were designed to test the potentiality of regular household products as a medicine. They were put through the three tests: one a pH screening; another, a protein folding test; and the last, an enzyme inhibition test. Between the second and last tests we had a break for lunch after which we were given an illuminating lecture on protein structures before carrying on with the last part of the experiments; when the experiments were completed we collated our results, choosing the product that best filled the requirements of the medicine. When all was completed we started back home, making a small stop at McDonalds to refuel and discuss what we had learned and experienced.

David Robertson 6W

AH/Higher Computing Science - Internet of Everything Christmas Lecture

Senior Computing Science students attended an Internet of Everything Lecture hosted in the new Inverness College campus. The lecture was delivered by Bill Buchanan from Napier University in Edinburgh and focused on everyday items that are linked or could be linked to the Internet.



Pupil Voices

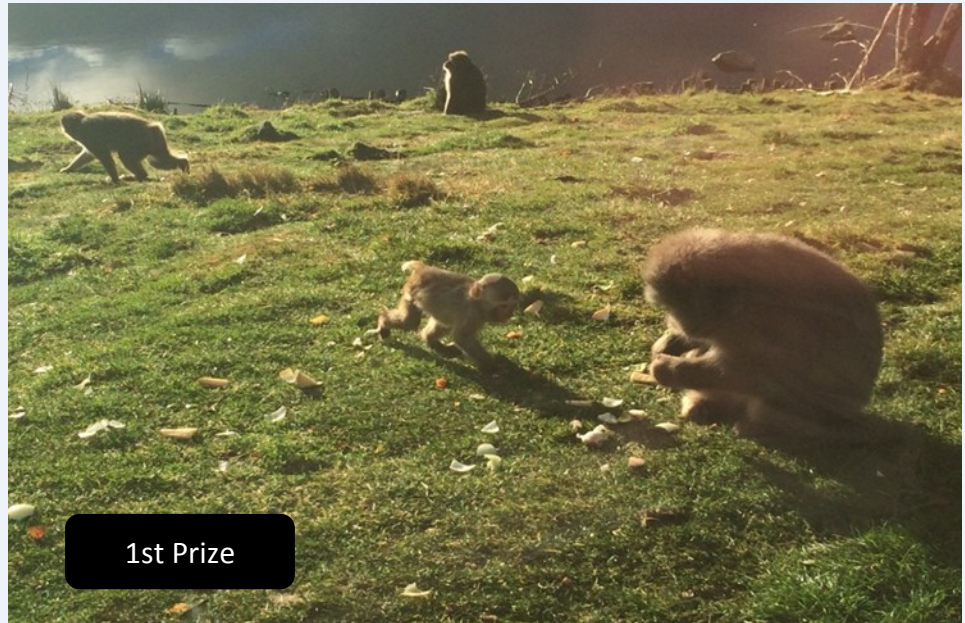
Business and Computer Education Department

HIGHLAND WILDLIFE PARK, BUSINESS TRIP

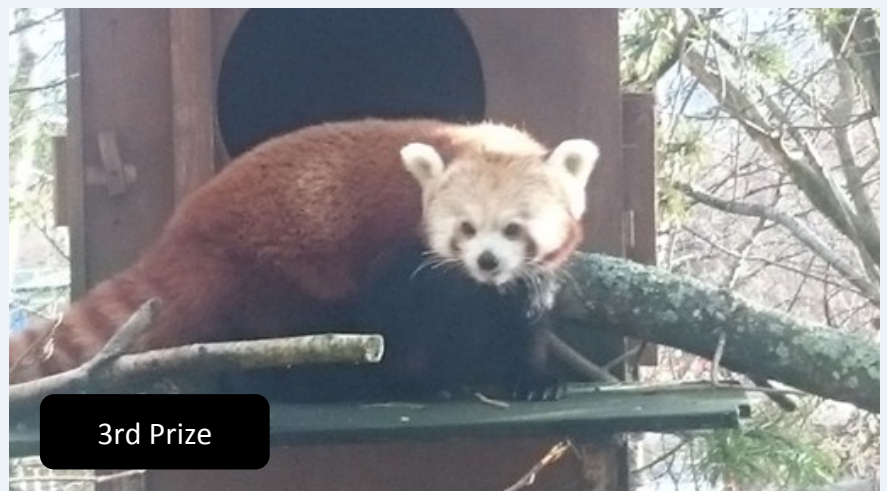
On the 24th of November, Mrs Calder and Mrs Mackie's National 4/5 Business Management classes took a day trip to the Highland Wildlife Park in order to learn about the day to day running of the business. The aim of this trip was to collect as much information about the business as possible in order to help us complete our assignments.

During the trip, Jasper, the Education Officer, showed us around the park and spoke a bit about the animals but more importantly, about the running of the organisation. We feel we have gained an increased amount of knowledge not only about the animals, but about how the Highland Wildlife Park operates. We learnt about the marketing, human resources, finances and also how external factors (such as the environment) can influence the Highland Wildlife Park. For example, the Highland Wildlife Park can only accommodate animals that can survive in colder climates, because of the chilly Scottish weather.

Our teachers also set us a competition that involved taking pictures of the animals we saw, with the best picture winning a prize. The winners were Jennifer Maciver (1st prize), Maya Duffy (2nd prize) and Josh McAllister (3rd prize). Prizes were memorabilia from the Highland Wildlife Park.



Jennifer Maciver and Katy Evans

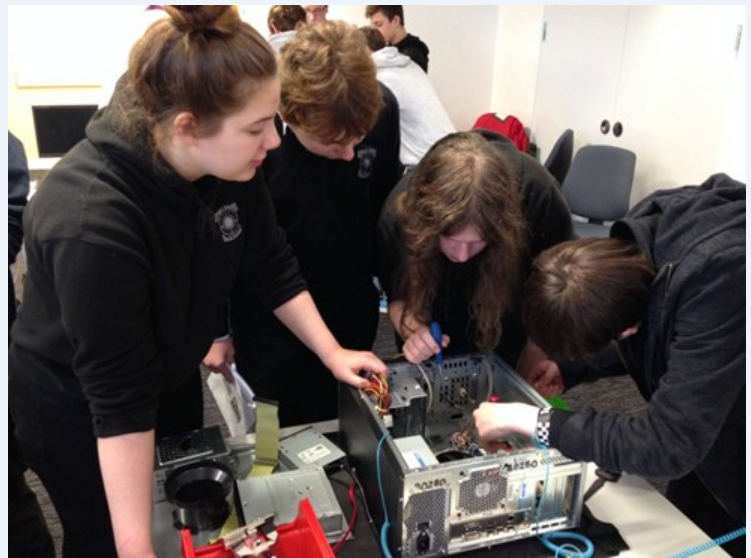


Pupil Voices

National 4/5 Computing Science Building a PC Workshop at UHI Inverness

On the 11 December 2015 the National 4/5 class went to the UHI (University of Highlands and Islands) to build a PC and install the Operating System. This task took the full day and as a result the students have now got a wider knowledge on the components of a computer. This day was an exciting experience that the students thoroughly enjoyed. The students are very thankful for this opportunity and would be overwhelmed if they could do it again. The lecturer also took the time to answer any questions the students had about future courses at the UHI. This was an eye opener and made them think about what they wanted to do in the near future.

By Lewis Wolstenhulme and Lewis Henderson



Naidheachdan Gàidhlig / Gaelic News

Mar as àbhaist tha sgoilearan Gàidhlig air a bhith glè thrang thairis air an dà theirm a chaidh seachad. Ghabh mòran dhiubh an cothrom a dhol an sàs ann an iomadh pròiseact inntinneach.

Adhamh Bradley, Chloe Lonnen, Ealasaid Morgan agus Rory (air an sgàilean) aig Eden Court



Adam, Chloe Ealasaid and Rory (on the screen) at Eden Court
As usual over the last couple of terms our Gàidhlig pupils have been taking the opportunity to get involved in a number of projects. Back in September the school's Gàidhlig drama group (Teàtar Òigridh Inbhir Pheofharain) with the help of Fèisean nan Gàidheal produced and staged their own play at Eden Court Theatre. 'S math a rinn sibh Rory Cormack, Adam Bradley, Chloe Lonnen, Ealasaid Morgan and Josie Campbell.

Adam agus Ealasaid aig Tursachan Chalanis

Adam & Ealasaid at the Callanish Standing Stones



Well done to Adam Dyer and Ealasaid Morgan for representing Acadamaidh Inbhir Pheofharain this year at the National Gaelic Debating Competition. This was their first time competing and they did fantastically well beating both James Gillespie's High School from Edinburgh in the first round and Inverness Royal Academy in the second. Unfortunately they didn't quite get the points required to take them through to the final rounds but it was a great learning experience which should stand them in good stead next year.

AS2 Gàidhlig - A' filmeadh shìos air Gob na Cananaich
S2 Gàidhlig filming on Chanonry Point

S2 have just finished filming and editing their FILMG project. This is a

competition pupils enter each year where they have to script, produce, film and edit a short film in Gàidhlig. Anna Simpson, Adam Bradley, Eilidh Kennedy, Deborah MacDonald, Rachel MacLennan, Rory Cormack, Andrew Wilson and Ethan Macleod all did a great job and learned a range of new skills. Watch out for the film on www.filmg.co.uk where you will also get a chance to vote for it in the competition.

If any pupils are interested in getting involved with debating or drama or FILMG in the future come and see Mr MacArthur

Nollaig chridheil dhuibh uile agus bliadhna mhath ùr nuair a thig i!



Interhouse Swimming Gala

The Interhouse Swimming Gala was held at the end of November with almost 75 pupils competing on the day. Pupils were competing to earn points for their house but there was also the added incentive of winning places in the Dingwall Academy Swimming Team to compete at the Ross-Shire Schools Gala the following week.

There were many fantastic performances on the day but three pupils completed the clean sweep of winning races in every stroke e.g. Front crawl, Breast Stroke, Butterfly and Back Crawl. These were Daisy Wisely S1, Lewis Lyall S1 and Adrian Moody S6 all from Novar. It was hardly a surprise with these three super stars in their midst that Novar took the overall title and were awarded the 'Parent Council Swimming Cup'.

Champs!

Cross Country Championships

The North District Cross Country Championships were held in Elgin on Saturday 5th December and several Dingwall Academy pupils featured. In the U13 girls race Kirsty Arnaud (S1) claimed a silver medal with Rachel Johnstone (S2) placing 6th. Kieran Chalmers (S3) won gold in the U15 boys.

These results will hopefully secure all three athletes a Team North selection at the Inter-District XC in Edinburgh on the 9th January.

Senior boys football

The senior boys football team has had an exceptional season so far. They have only lost one game of the seven played, a 3-2 defeat to Millburn in the first game of the season. They won their section of the league and then drew twice with Lochaber (2-2 and 0-0) in the semi-final but lost on away goals. In the cups they beat Culloden in the first round of the North Cup and await Lochaber or Charleston in the second round.

With a number of S4 pupils in the team the future looks very promising.

These younger players have been very well supported by S6 pupils Adam Carter, Sandy Elrick, Kenny Cleland, Jack Green, Josh Henry and Martin Keyes.

Christmas Concert

The school Christmas concert took place on Tuesday 15th December. With more pupils than ever taking part and the hall filled to capacity it was an excellent evening. The audience were treated to a wonderful range of musical items ending with a stirring whole cast performance of Corona Celtica. Well done to all pupils who took part and to staff for their amazing efforts in putting the evening together. The retiring collection was for the recently formed charity 'The Highlands Support Refugees.' £413 was raised and has now been forwarded to the charity, thank you to everyone who contributed.

Literacy in Focus

This term we have run whole school Literacy Focus Fortnight. Each fortnight, pupils have been given a different focus and have had to gain signatures from across the subjects when they have used these skills correctly. And what a job they have done!

For more information on the skills we have been looking at, see the school website where there are links to support websites.

A massive thank you and well done to all S1, S2 and S3 pupils who have taken part in the whole school Literacy Focus Fortnights.

Staff have been really impressed with your participation in this and how many pupils have wanted to improve their literacy.

Watch out for the next literacy fortnight – paragraphs.

Ross-shire Gala

After a successful Inter House Swimming Gala Dingwall travelled with 32 pupils to compete at the Ross-Shire Schools Swimming Gala that was held in Golspie swimming pool on Thurs 3rd December. This competition has gone from strength to strength over the last few years and is now becoming a highly competitive team gala with a large number of entries from the local schools.

Dingwall Academy pupils once again competed extremely well throughout and came away from the competition with four trophies. The S2 boys team consisting of Danny McPake, Robbie Stewart, Alex Ellen and Euan Mightens won the overall team trophy as did both the senior boys and senior girls teams. The senior boys team consisting of Martin Keyes S6, Chris McPake S5, Dean Brannen S4 and Leon Radin S6 and the senior girls represented by Adrian Moody S6, Erin Robinson S4, Katy Connelly S4 and Eilidh Gunn S5. The mixed boys relay team of Martin Keyes S6, Aiden Stewart S3, Danny McPake S2 and Lewis Lyall S1 won the last race of the day and picked up a trophy for their endeavours.

Well done to all pupils that competed on the day as they were a credit to themselves and the school.

Other individual race winners on the day were:

S1 – Lewis Lyall - Butterfly, Gregor Dow – Breast Stroke.

S2 – Niamh Chisholm – Back Crawl, Rona Robinson – Breast Stroke, Danny McPake – Front Crawl, Euan Mightens – Butterfly

S3 – Alice Kerr – Front Crawl

Senior – Eilidh Gunn – Back Crawl, Adrian Moody – Front Crawl, Martin Keyes – Front Crawl, Chris McPake – Back Crawl, Leon Radin - Breast Stroke

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

- Pupil Voices
- Pupil Achievements
- Holiday 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



Jingle Bells

Dashing through the snow,
In a one horse open sleigh
Over the fields we go
Laughing all the way.
bells on bob tail ring
making spirits bright
What fun it is to ride and sing
A sleighing song tonight.

Chorus

Oh jingle bells jingle bells
jingle all the way!
Oh what fun
it is to ride
In a one horse open sleigh,
Hey!

For more lyrics: <http://www.metrolyrics.com/jingle-bells-lyrics-christmas-carols.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