



Dingwall Academy

News

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

Farewell, Mr MacKenzie



On the last day of term Mr MacKenzie retired as Head Teacher of Dingwall Primary. Many pupils have very fond memories of Mr MacKenzie and so we arranged for former pupils from each year group to visit the primary and present him with a card and tree from the Academy.



JANUARY 2015 EDITION

Dates for your diary:

Friday 23rd January
S3 into S4 Option Forms returns

Thursday 29th January
S1/S2 Girls HPV Immunisations

Tuesday 3rd February
Interhouse Cross Country

Saturday 7th February
Ski Trip Departs

Mon 16th/Tue 17th February
School Closed

Wed 18th February
In-Service – school closed to pupils

Notes & News

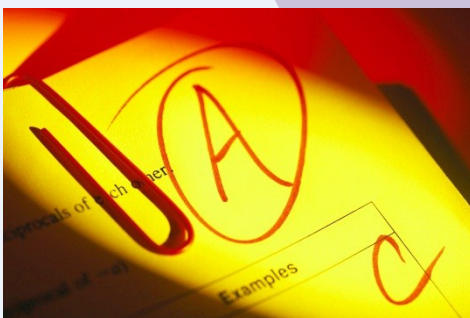
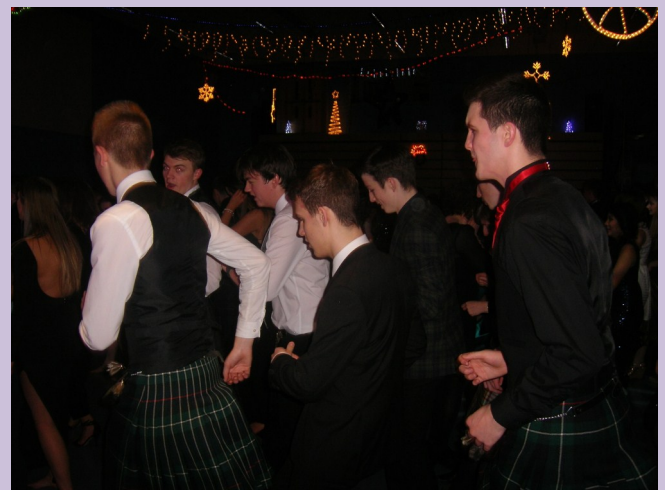


Staffing

Welcome to Mr Dobie who joins the CDT Department. Mr Dobie has taught previously at Alness Academy and we are delighted to welcome him to Dingwall Academy. Welcome back also to Mrs Canham who returns to the Chemistry Department after maternity leave. We also send best wishes to Ms Fraser who leaves the English Department to start a new post at Millburn Academy, and extend a warm welcome to Mrs Ross, who is taking her classes until Easter.

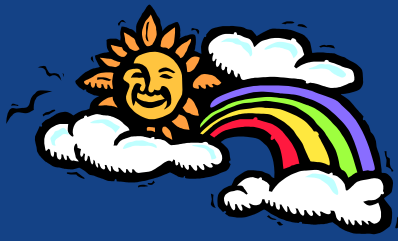
Christmas Socials

Christmas may already seem a long time ago, however the memory of the Christmas Socials will hopefully stay with pupils for a long time. The Lower, Middle and Upper School Socials were all absolutely wonderful with outstanding behaviour, dress and dancing. Thank you to all staff and pupils who worked hard to make the evenings such a success.

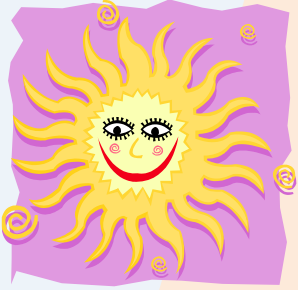


Talent Show

Attention all performers – there will be a school talent show on the evening of Thursday 12th March. Watch this space for more details ...



Heads Up!

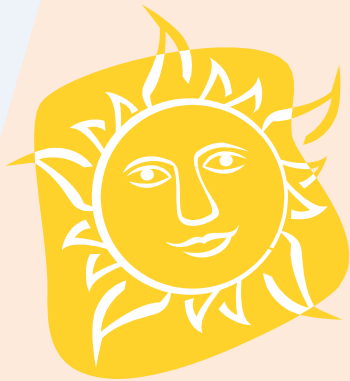


Mrs Cormack says...

Often in school we talk to pupils about the importance of taking on new challenges and making the most of any new opportunities. This month I was given the opportunity to take on a new challenge; participating in the Strathpuffer 24 hour endurance cycle as part of a Dingwall Academy staff team. We were a team of ten and so cannot compare our efforts with the solo, pair and quad teams, however the event still made significant demands pushing me well outside my own comfort zone. All involved thoroughly enjoyed the experience; it was a tremendous team effort and I would like to thank all who were involved. Of course special mention must go to the pupil team who finished in 1st place and impressed all with their attitude and behaviour. The event was a great reminder that we should all continue to challenge ourselves be it in prelims, cross country, Rock Challenge ... So I would encourage you all to aim high, put in the hard work and you will often end up surprising yourself.

Ms Harrison says...

Well done to pupils involved in the prelims. Not only have many of you worked extremely hard to prepare for these important exams but also the invigilators commented on how polite and well behaved everyone has been during this period. You should be proud of yourselves. I hope your results are all that you hope for. When you do find out how you've performed, take some time to identify your strengths and weaknesses then consider how you can use this information to tailor your studying for the real exams. They will be here before we know it!



Mr MacIntosh says...

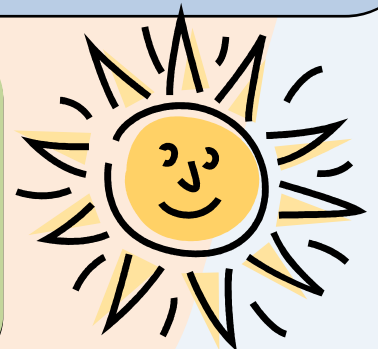
Well done to all those in the S3 and S4 who did so well at the Strathpuffer. You are a credit to the school.

S4 pupils can now reflect on how well (or otherwise) they prepared for the prelims and fine tune their approach to exam preparation for the SQA exams in May. Results and feedback from teachers will give you clear indication of the areas you need to develop. There is no fixed approach to exam preparation but it is important that each pupil develops their own specific and effective style. Organised study in February, March and April will lead to success in May. New Study Planners will be issued to help with this.

Mr Di Carlo says...

Well done to all those who took part in Strathpuffer this year. What a victory!

S1 and S2 pupils are reminded that they should be using their Learning Logs every day to record homework and study activities. Don't forget your nightly reading!



Pupil Voices

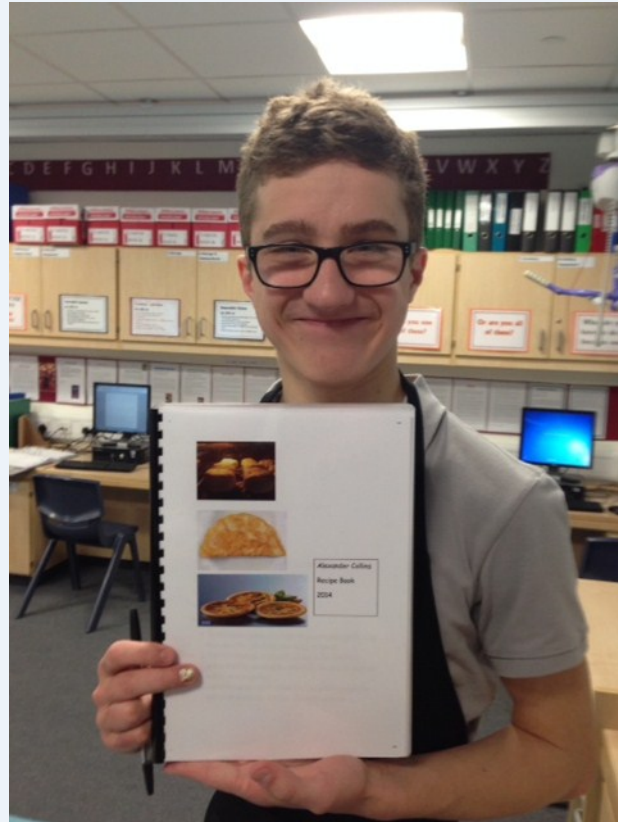
Cookery Project

Congratulations to Alexander Collins who has written and produced his own recipe book! Obviously all recipes had to be tested and tasted and there was no shortage of volunteers to help with this.

My Cookery Project

I started my cookery project in June 2014. Since then I have made lots of different dishes. I feel more confident now with cooking along with learning new cooking techniques. I have cookery 3 periods a week. On a Monday I do theory work, Tuesday is my cooking day and on Friday I look over recipes that I am going to make the following week. The highlight last year for me was producing my own cookery book with all the recipes I have made. I look forward to continuing with my cookery lessons.

Alexander Collins S3



Premier League Trip Report

Last weekend a group of S1-3 footballers went on a Barclays Premier Football Trip with TransWorldSoccer.

Despite getting off to a late start due to bad weather, we got on the road and the trip started. The teachers who accompanied us on the trip were brilliant. They were Mr Dillon, Mr McKie, Mr Ross and Mr MacIntosh. Also a special thanks to Mr McKie who had spent months organising this great trip. We also want to thank our TransWorldSoccer organisers Scott and Ewan. We also had a cameraman following us called Aaron.

We arrived in Newcastle after a long bus journey, then we had a stadium tour of St. James Park and then went to the Newcastle United megastore. After the tour we went to a buffet for dinner in Sunderland. We stayed at a Premier Inn in Sunderland.

The next day we did Sky Sports walk-ons. A Sky walk-on is where you walk up towards the camera with your hands behind your back and look at the camera for five seconds (like they do on the TV). Then we went to the Sunderland vs Liverpool at the Stadium of Light, where Liverpool won 1-0. After the game we travelled to Laser Quest. Laser Quest is when you have a Laser gun and body armour with targets on. The aim of the game is to get as many kills as possible and not as many deaths. We had a Burger king and then we had a 3 hour bus journey to Bradford.

We started the next day with a press conference. This was to build up our media skills and for a bit of fun. We went up in pairs and our teammates and teachers put us on the spot sometimes with tricky questions! We then travelled to the Manchester City training facilities and played a 7-a-side World Cup Tournament. There was 6 teams all named after a Premier League club. After great fun of playing football, we travelled to the Manchester United Stadium (Old Trafford) to watch them play in a crunch tie against Southampton. The score was 1-0 to Southampton. After a great trip we headed home to Dingwall. The bus journey back was long but great fun.

By **Matthew Moir** and **Oscar Forbes** S2





Monday lunchtime in room 211

Would you like to develop your skills in IT through a series of challenges – video editing, music making, cyber security, coding, data management - themed around your interests – like fashion, music, sport and computer games.

You don't need to be a computer whizz kid.

All S1/2 welcome



N5 and Higher Computing Science

There will be drop-in sessions starting this week. They will be held on Wednesday and Thursday lunchtimes for N5 and Higher Computing Science pupils.

Christmas Cyber Security Lecture

On Friday 12th December a group of senior Computing Science pupils braved the weather to travel to Inverness College to attend a Christmas Cyber Security Lecture. The tour, covering 5 different venues in Scotland was sponsored by the Scottish Government, Informatics Ventures and RBS. The purpose of the Tour is to provide information to pupils about the opportunities and challenges that are open to them within the world's digital economy. The lectures were presented by speakers from various cyber security organisations and were fun, interactive and educational.



Career Opportunities in IT and Business

Did you know that Baltic Training are offering Apprenticeships towards a successful career in the IT industry at **Capgemini**, one of the major employers in Scotland with offices in both Inverness and Nairn? If successful you train whilst you work and earn money within the Capgemini team. You can join as a school leaver with N5 qualifications in S4/5 or S6 and train towards recognised Cisco, ITIL or Microsoft qualifications in Project Management, Networking, Software tools and Customer Support. Whilst training you will develop key business skills which will strengthen your employability within any career path. This year alone Capgemini hope to provide up to **85** apprenticeship places. Find out more from the posters displayed outside the Computing Department

North of Scotland Select Under 15s



Each year trials are held for Under 15 and Senior North Select squads involving the top players from schools all over the North of Scotland from Elgin and Banff all the way to Fort William, Wick and the Islands. With Dingwall Academy Under 14 team winning the North of Scotland Cup last year – six players have gone on to represent the 15s this year – Kieran Chalmers, Liam Ross, Logan Mackenzie, Owen Fraser, Scott Macdonald and Niall McClelland. Unfortunately they failed to progress from the group stages despite beating Angus in their last game.

The Senior side qualified though and are due to face Forth Valley in the quarter-finals. Jack MacKay (S6) is the sole representative from Dingwall in the squad.

It is a fantastic achievement to represent the North so well done to the boys this year and hopefully Dingwall players continue to gain recognition at this level for years to come.

More Footie News...

The Under 16s were unfortunately knocked out by a strong Dunfermline High School side in the 4th Round of the Scottish Cup. With the Dunfermline team scoring an early goal it was difficult for the home side to gain any momentum and it finished 6-1. Player of the match – Logan Mackenzie, Goalscorer – Liam Ross.

Full match report and more photos from the game can be found on - <http://www.youthfootballscotland.co.uk/component/k2/item/9848-dunfermline-dominate-dingwall.html>



Strathpuffer

Two teams from Dingwall Academy embarked on the challenge that is the *Strathpuffer* over the weekend of 17th/18th January.



Now in its tenth year, the organisers of the 'Puffer' decided to offer an anniversary category for ten teams of ten riders – cue a challenge from the pupils of the mountain bike club to the teachers to produce a team capable of competing at the event.

Staff secretly started bringing bikes to school and disappearing into the woods for hours at a time in order to put these young upstarts firmly in their place. Many were hurt, some got lost, but all were rediscovering the joy of being out on a bike. The pupils looked on with interest – and a slight smile.

Talk in the staffroom turned from football and politics to tyre choice and battery burn times.

As the race approached, the weather deteriorated to produce some vintage Puffer conditions with snow falling on the Friday evening before the race. Fire roads turned to ice and a brand new section of the course hid some thick energy sapping mud that would reveal itself within the first few laps.

The morning of the race arrived and so did Dougie Vipond of *The Adventure Show*. He interviewed pupils and staff and quickly detected the smell of competition.



Riders were piped to the start line and at 10.00; hundreds of riders were off - running to their bikes in a 'Le-Mans' style start.

Next was the waiting game to see who would be first back to transition and more importantly who would be ahead between staff and pupils. After just over half an hour the answer to the first question arrived in the shape of Tam Munro White (a pupil of Dingwall but thankfully racing for our link club Ben Wyvis Cycle Club (BWCC) – well done Tam). Just over 50 minutes in and Cameron Brown arrived at exactly the same time as Mr Snow!



Strathpuffer

Calum Mackinnon (S3) says:

It was such a fantastic opportunity for us all to take part in the Strathpuffer in a school team. Being in a team of ten was great. We were split into two shifts, one for day, and one for night.

This was a one-off opportunity, because the teams of ten were created to celebrate Strathpuffer's tenth anniversary.

Our goal was to beat the teachers, but winning the category with our 27 laps was even better!

This however was as close as the competition got, as over the next 24 hours the pupils steadily pulled away from the staff and lapped us somewhere through the night.

The pupils quickly established themselves as one of the quickest teams in the category, swapping the lead on a number of occasions with two other teams. As day turned to night – lights were turned on and the pupils kept the pace up emerging at dawn with a substantial lead that they held until the finish. They completed an impressive 27 laps – 297km between

them. The podium was spine tingling with the pupils receiving one of the biggest ovations for their victory!

And what of the staff? They persevered through the night and managed an equally impressive 24 laps – 264km. For a group with limited experience of mountain biking in such conditions, they acquitted themselves fabulously and have shared an experience with pupils that all will remember for a long time.

The three Dingwall Academy pupils racing with BWCC also won the mixed quad category with a massive laps - km- well done boys.

None of this would have been possible without the help of a fabulous pit crew that consisted of the best spannerman at the event – Colin Morrison who kept 20 bikes going for 24 hours, and also spouses, parents and friends of riders keeping the food and hot drinks flowing. Thanks to you all!

(Staff team: Mrs Cormack, Mrs Harrison, Mr Snow, Mr Finney, Mrs Wilson, Mr McKay, Mr Dillon, Miss Forsyth, Mr MacIntosh and Mr Graham)

(Pupil Team: Fin Graham, Craig Bissett, Lewis MacKenzie, Cameron Brown, Callum MacKinnon, Angus Macdonald, Craig Boyle, Ryan Urquhart, Hamish Kerr and Paul Langdale)

Pos	Team Size	Name	Number(s)	Category	Laps	Total Time	Fastest Lap	Last Lap
1st	Ten	Dingwall Academy Pupils	600	M	27	24:08:52	00:44:15	00:47:28
2nd	Ten	Fatty Owls	603	MIX	26	24:17:04	00:44:03	00:52:56
3rd	Ten	T.E.N (BTR/ BikeRev/Oult/ ActiveSc	607	MIX	25	24:33:18	00:42:20	00:48:19
4th	Ten	Hydro electric bikers	605	M	25	24:35:15	00:44:50	00:47:57
5th	Ten	Forty Forlets (Walkers CC)	604	MIX	24	23:05:20	00:44:06	01:00:16
6th	Ten	The Highland Massive	608	M	24	24:23:40	00:49:46	01:29:32
7th	Ten	Dingwall Academy Staffpuffers	601	MIX	24	24:37:38	00:42:29	01:09:52
8th	Ten	Puffing All-Stars	606	MIX	23	24:18:28	00:42:00	01:03:35
9th	Ten	East Fife Tri Club - Should have kno...	602	MIX	21	23:48:16	00:52:09	00:52:09
10th	Ten	The Icicles	609	MIX	17	24:11:58	00:45:07	00:55:55



Strathpuffer 2015

Bringing business to life for students

On 10th and 11th December Business Management pupils took part in the Business Dynamics course. This is a two day course covering many topics within the Business Management Higher course. Prominent speakers from various local organisations presented to the pupils. Amongst these were: Alastair Kennedy of Global Energy; Liz Scott of HIE, Jenny MacPherson of Platform PR, Gilpin Bradley of Wester Ross Salmon, Bill Hickey of the Calman Trust and Brian Weaver, Chief Executive of HISEZ.

Pupils worked in groups and took part in a variety of engaging activities:



they competed against other groups to create logos, slogans and tweets
they took part in business simulations that allowed them to demonstrate their knowledge of finance in business, negotiating skills and recruitment and selection of candidates for jobs.
they researched and discussed articles written by PR specialists

The course culminated in a business challenge where pupils had to work in teams to design and run a mountain biking company in the local area. Pupils within each team were split into departments each with their own role to play in the running of the business. Teams then presented back to the others and the winning team were presented with highly prized awards.



Some pupil comments from the course:
“.. asked to make a tweet or label advertising fish. They were going to use them.”

“Inspiring to see the success of entrepreneurs within the area grow into international organisations.”

“We got to build an oil rig using marshmallows and pasta!”

“.. really engaging to see how finance works”

“It was good fun!”

“We learned how social enterprises raise money and what they spend that money on”

“Enjoyable/very educational two days - learnt a lot about what we do in business management and how it is used in the real world.”

“Business game - exciting..”

The course is sponsored by HISEZ (Highlands and Islands Social Enterprise Zone)

Spring Fair!

Saturday 28th March
11am - 3pm



**Stalls, Activities,
Grand Raffle, BBQ, Tea
and cakes and lots
more!!**

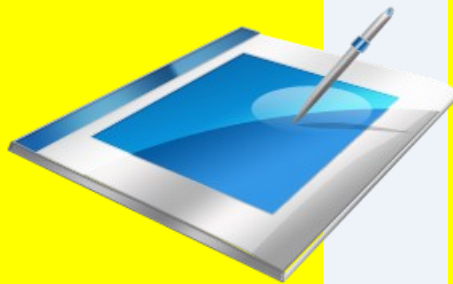


In the next issue of the *News*...

- S1 Supplement
- Pupil Achievements
- New 'Back in the Day' photos

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

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from January Jumps About

January jumps about
in the frying pan
trying to heat
his frozen feet
like a Canadian.

February scuttles under
any dish's lid
and she thinks she's dry because
she's
thoroughly well hid
but it still rains all month long
and it always did.

March sits in the bath tub
with the taps turned on.
Hot and cold, cold or not,
Has the Winter gone?
In like a lion, out like a lamb
March on, march on, march on.

April slips about
sometimes indoors
and sometimes out
sometimes sheltering from a
little
shower of bright rain
in an empty milk bottle
then dashing out again.

May, she hides nowhere,
nowhere at all,
Proud as a peacock
walking by a wall.
The Maytime O the Maytime,
full of leaf and flower.
The Maytime O the Maytime
is the loveliest of all.

June discards his shirt and
trousers by the stream
and takes the first dip of the
year
into a jug of cream.
June is the gay time
of every girl and boy
who run about and sing and
shout
in pardonable joy.

George Barker



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