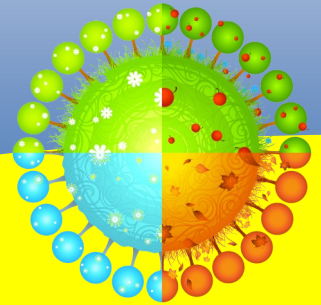




Dingwall Academy

News



JUNE
2015
EDITION

*Dates for your
diary:*

**Monday 29th and Tuesday
30th June**
Activity Days

Thursday 2nd July
School Closes at 12pm
(Buses have been arranged
for this time)

Tuesday 18th August
School re-opens for pupils
8:50am



Welcome to our Newsletter.

Thank you to all pupils, parents and staff for a truly fantastic year. A glimpse at the newsletters this past year show just how hardworking and successful all have been. Thank you to all who have contributed to the News—your pieces are the lifeblood of the publication.

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

We wish everyone a safe, happy and restful summer holiday.

Dingwall Academy wins National Award

In partnership with Evanton Community Woods, Dingwall Academy were awarded 1st prize in Scotland's Finest Woods Competition.

This was given to the school for its work in conservation projects and helping make Evanton Woods more accessible to the public and school groups.

A group of pupils and staff visit the Woods every Wednesday and have worked on tasks such as making paths, helping build a log cabin, clearing undergrowth etc. While there, the pupils develop their physical skills, communication skills and social skills such as teamwork and co-operation, under the guidance of Simon Harry – Evanton Community Woods coordinator - and his volunteers.

Pictured: pupils Alexander Collins and Ryan Kellow with Simon Harry.



Notes & News



Staffing

Retiring at the end of term are Mr MacKay, Science and Mrs Thomson and Mrs Fraser from Learning Support. Together they have given many valuable years of service to Dingwall Academy and we send them all good wishes for happy and healthy retirements. We also say goodbye to Mr Paton who has spent his probationer year in the Maths department; we wish him all the best for his future career.

Exam Results

Exam results will be issued to pupils on 4th August. Pupils are also encouraged to register for the on-line results service. Please remember that there is no longer the opportunity to appeal for a change to exam results.



PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE RETURN OUR BOOKS

Pupils are reminded that all school books and equipment must be returned to the appropriate department as soon as possible. New courses have started and staff and pupils need the resources to work with. Letters will be sent out to any pupils who have still to return school books.



Option Changes

Following the publication of exam results there may be some pupils who would like to discuss the possibility of option changes. Pupil Support Staff will be available to discuss possible option changes in the school hall at 11am on **Monday 17th August**. Please note that it is not always possible to accommodate option requests at this stage.

Welcome Primary 7



We are delighted this week to welcome all the P7 pupils to Dingwall Academy. This is an exciting time for you, but it can also be quite an anxious time. Everything is different – teachers, classmates, timetables, canteen, buses ...

The good news is that there are lots of people in the school ready to support and help you. Senior pupils and prefects will be available throughout the three days, as will support staff and office staff. If you are worried about something, the chances are someone else will have the same worry so please don't hesitate to ask any questions. Everyone will be working hard to welcome you to Dingwall Academy and to make sure that you leave at the end of the three days excited about returning in August.

Dingwall Academy on Facebook

The school now has an official Facebook Page. The page was initially set up to promote the Spring Fair but has proved so popular that we have decided to keep it going. The page will initially be used to promote pupil achievements and successes. We will continue to communicate school information to parents via email and the newsletter.



This is the profile picture, so please make sure that you are directed to the correct site.

So far the page has had over 600 likes – we would really like to break the 1000 mark so please have a look and like!



Art and Music...

Off to Glasgow

On Tuesday 12th May, forty five pupils and five members of staff set off from Dingwall Academy on the Art and Music trip. We travelled down on a bus to Glasgow to stay in a hostel overnight. En route to the hostel we had our first cultural activity, a visit to the Kelpies, two spectacular thirty-metre high statues of horses on the outskirts of Falkirk. After our tour inside one of the Kelpies, we stopped by the Falkirk Wheel and Mrs Trimble explained to us how it operates. Once we had checked into the hostel we went out into the city centre and our first stop was Zizzi's for dinner. Later that evening we went to see the new Avengers film, *Age of Ultron*, which was great, although I'm not so sure the teachers agreed!

The following day we got up, made ourselves breakfast and split into two groups for our morning activities. Mrs MacLennan and Mr Brindle took one group to the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, with the other group going to Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum with Mrs Trimble, Mrs Slaven and Miss Pendlebury. The group who visited the Conservatoire had a tour of the world class facilities for people studying music, drama, dance, film and production and even got to sit in on an orchestral rehearsal. My group, who went to Kelvingrove, had a fascinating couple of hours wandering around the museum looking at all of the exhibits, and a particular highlight was the painting 'Christ of St John of the Cross' by Salvador Dali. Once we had finished with our morning activities we went shopping on Buchanan Street, one of the main streets for shopping in Glasgow.

That afternoon we went to see *Shrek the Musical* in the Kings Theatre. The musical was very funny and I think everyone enjoyed it.

After that, we jumped on the bus to travel back up the road to Dingwall, with a quick stop at McDonalds for tea, followed by karaoke the whole way up the A9!

Freya Finlayson (S2)



Health Week

As part of Health Week, Amber Dance, Ben Gillan, Cailin Reid and I were invited to visit Tarradale Primary school to educate the youngsters from P1 – P7 on food health and to give small cooking demonstrations. We delivered a small PowerPoint and talked to the pupils about the “Eatwell Food Plate” to show how this contributes to a healthy lifestyle. We were mainly focusing our information on foods that are particularly beneficial for the developing body and to help prepare them for their Sports Day the following day.

We made a selection of dishes for the children including: Tomato, Feta, Mackerel Panini; cold pasta salad; strawberry and banana smoothie, and finally carrot and apple juice. We were able to interact with the children to find out what they liked to eat at home as well as informing them about the ingredients we were using in the recipes and the cooking techniques used to produce each dish. This also gave us a chance to invite a number of pupils to get them involved with some hands on food preparation and cooking.

Many of the children had never tried some of the foods we were using so we were able to encourage them to taste new ingredients to help make their food choices a bit more varied and nutritious.

By Rachael Turner 5N2



Stone Carving Workshop

Congratulations to all the S2 pupils who took part in this year's Stone Carving Workshop in Dingwall Academy. Thanks also to John Ross and the CDT department for once again gifting the use of their workshop facilities. Our Stone Masons, Graham Campbell, Mark Macarthur and Heather Griffin made what is now their third visit to the school. The Stone Masons, from Elgin College, demonstrated the necessary skills and techniques and also talked to pupils about the career possibilities and degree course training available at Elgin College in Stone Masonry.

The pupils were then invited to try out the techniques on a limestone brick, carving a logo design they had created using their own initials. All pupils worked exceptionally hard and should be proud of the very impressive final results.

The Art & Design department intend to use these stones as the starting point for a Land Art project in the grounds of the school. Well done to all those pupils and staff who made the day possible!



Employability Pilot



During study leave a number of pupils were involved in an Employability Pilot which also included pupils from Invergordon Academy and Tain Royal Academy. The programme gave pupils an insight into the world of work and equipped them with the skills necessary to create a CV, apply for work and to conduct a successful interview. The programme included input from Lifescan, SSE, Capgemini, HIAL and Tesco as employers and Skills Development Scotland and UHI as Education partners. All pupils carried out one or two weeks of work experience and should gain an ASDAN Employability award. The school would

like to thank all those who contributed to the very successful pilot. Every contributor to the programme praised the pupils who were all totally committed and enthusiastic about the work.

S1 Stompers

At the end of May, those S1 pupils who had completed the Stompers ID unit over the year had a great walk up Fyrish Hill to make use of their newfound skills. The Stompers unit taught the pupils about the benefits of walking for health and fun and studied some of the skills needed to complete a successful walk. These included nutrition, map and compass work, what to take on a hillwalk and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.





D.A.D.S.

(Dingwall Academy Drama Society)

What is DADS?

DADS is an all-inclusive drama group which welcomes members from S1-S6. There are various opportunities for pupils to get involved in different aspects of theatre production. From aspiring actors to writers, backstage crew and light and sound technicians, there's bound to be something you'll be interested in. As well as putting on productions to the public and competitively, DADS also helps pupils develop their theatrical skills. There is no experience necessary as older and younger members can mix and work together to pass on their skills and knowledge. DADS is a very enthusiastic and welcoming group where members can express creativity, build their confidence, make new friends and discover their talents.

What have we done?

DADS has been highly successful in the past few years, particularly with the SCDA One Act Play Festival. Our most recent productions include *Private Peaceful* and the musical *Return to the Forbidden Planet* which played to near sell-out audiences. Smaller One Act plays such as *Alice in Wonderland* and *The Ugly Duckling* have won various SCDA awards. As part of the SCDA festival we have staged three self-written plays which have been very well received.

What are we up to?

At the moment rehearsals for our latest production, *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, are underway. Our cast are busy at work familiarising themselves with their songs and showing off their multiple talents of singing, acting and dancing. This musical promises to be our most ambitious yet and will result in a great performance. This production is being directed by Mr Ferguson and stars Charlie Mack, Peter Dingwall, Adrian Moody and Fiona Cameron alongside a cast of S1-S6 pupils.



By DADS Pupil President **Fiona Reid**



2015 Biology Challenge

The 2015 Biology Challenge, open to S2 and S3 pupils. Participants complete 2 timed, online question papers on a very broad range of challenging biology topics. All 5 of our 2015 participants earned award certificates:

S2 (now S3):

Jessica Neilson – Highly Commended
Jennifer Smith – Highly Commended

S3 (now S4):

Helen Parker – Highly Commended
Katrina Radin – Bronze
Ceilidh Gunn – Commended

Very well done to all.



Judo News



Congratulations to **Euan Mightens** and **Thomas Inglis**, who achieved podium positions at the British Schools Judo Championships held in Sheffield. Euan brought home a Bronze medal and Thomas Gold.

Euan Mightens has been selected as part of the Scottish Judo team to take part in the British Team Championships. Good luck and well done to Euan.

Neil Gunn WRITING COMPETITION

Congratulations to **Eilidh Campbell S6** who has been awarded 3rd Prize in the Neil Gunn writing competition with her piece entitled "To Home." Eilidh attended an award ceremony at Town House Inverness on Tuesday 16th June.

Her fantastic piece has been published here: <https://www.highlifehighland.com/neilgunn/>

Inverness Local Mod 2015

Well done to all pupils who represented Dingwall Academy Gaelic and Music departments in the various competitions. Congratulations to:

Gaelic

Seonaid MacKinnon	1 st	16-18 verse	(Learners)
Emma MacIannan	3 rd	13-15 verse	(Learners)
Rachel Kellow	1 st	reading at 1 st sight	(fluent 16- under 18)
Mairead Morgan	2 nd	reading at 1 st sight	(fluent 16- under 18)
Rosie Shepherd	3 rd	reading at 1 st sight	(fluent 16- under 18)
Eilidh Johnson	1 st	reading at 1 st sight	(fluent 13- under 16)
Adam Dyer	3 rd	reading at 1 st sight	(fluent 13- under 16)
Rory Cormack	3 rd	reading at 1 st sight	(fluent 9 - under 13)
Rachel Kellow	1 st	conversation	(fluent 16- under 18)
Rosie Shepherd	2 nd	conversation	(fluent 16- under 18)
Mairead Morgan	3 rd	conversation	(fluent 16- under 18)
Adam Dyer	2 nd	conversation	(fluent 13 -under 16)
Kirsty Wilson	1 st	story writing	
Ella Fraser	2 nd	story writing	
Rory Cormack	3 rd =	story writing	
Adam Bradley	3 rd =	story writing	
Michael Bentley	3 rd =	story writing	



Writing Star

Congratulations also to **Rory Cormack S2** who won 2nd in the annual CLAS National Gàidhlig writing competition. Well done too to all pupils in S1 and S2 who submitted their stories. *'S math a rinn thu Rory agus 's math a rinn gach goilear ann an S1 agus S2 a ghabh pàirt.*

Music

Caitlin MacLeod	1 st	Voice solo	
Archie Drennan	1 st	Strathspey & Reel	
	2 nd	March	
		Winner, Inverness Piping Society aggregate trophy	
Hamish Drennan	2 nd	March	
	2 nd	Strathspey & Reel	
Andrew Laird	3 rd	Strathspey & Reel	
Eilidh Johnson	3 rd	March	
Rory Cormack	3 rd	Piano	
Fraser MacIntosh	1 st	Piano	



Prizegiving 2015



The Annual School Prize Giving was a wonderful evening celebrating the talents and achievements of Dingwall Academy pupils. Guest speaker for the evening was local journalist and author Catherine Deveney. Catherine gave an inspirational and thought provoking speech that left an impression on both pupils and adults. The musical performances were all excellent and the final item by the school choir was a fitting and moving end to the evening.

Athletics Champ

Joe Arnaud has been selected for the Inverness Harriers squad for this year's Gothenburg Youth Games international athletics meeting. He will fly out to Sweden next week. Good luck to Joe for this event.

Youth Philanthropy Initiative

After the Easter holidays, our year were asked to make groups in our houses for the YPI (Youth Philanthropy Initiative). We were asked to pick a charity in our groups and make a presentation about our chosen charity. One group's charity would become the winner and would receive £3,000 for their chosen charity.

Myself (Talitha Matheson), Claire Stewart, Ali Macdonald and Niall McClelland are all from of Wyvis. We chose Ross-Shire Women's Aid as our charity. As part of our research we went to visit Ross-Shire Women's Aid refuge and spoke to one of the support workers called Eilidh, who showed us around the place and gave us information about Ross-Shire Women's Aid. We put our research together and prepared our presentation; we were successful and won our house semi-finals. A week later we had to compete in the finals which were held on the 4th of June. Our friends and family were invited to attend. We had to compete against all the other houses: Novar, Tulloch, Brahan and Fairburn. Our group was chosen to compete in the finals.

After a nerve racking evening with all the presentations being of a really high standard, our team, Wyvis, were chosen as the winners and we were thrilled to receive the £3,000 for our charity Ross-shire Women's Aid.

After being selected as the winners we were taken to Perth to celebrate. All the winners from across Scotland attended. We were shown more presentations about the Youth Philanthropy Initiative, had presentations from Sir Ian Wood, Josh Littlejohn and Gareth Wood. Music was provided by the Daniel Mutch Band and Matt Cardle. It was a great and interesting day.

If you would like to see part of the presentation it can be viewed here
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qla1GsbCaLQ>

Talitha Matheson S4

Here we come!



This was the opening line for the 2014 Sports Day report:

'Since returning to the School Academy fields and for the third year in a row, Sports Day 2014 was absolutely Baltic!!'

M. Dillon 2014

2015 certainly kept up the tradition and was once again windy, cold and what we are becoming accustomed to as a normal June summer's day! However, once again the 278 brave souls that entered sports day for 2015 made it extremely worthwhile. The day began with the traditional house parade with all the houses being led around the track for a lap by two of our talented pipers, Archie and Hamish Drennan. Soon after the competition began, it was clear from the offset that the positive attitude and determination shown by competitors, the sportsmanship on display by all, the encouragement that the crowd gave the athletes and the banter between teachers and pupils are what makes our Sports Day so special.





A range of pupils chose to compete on the day, from those who wanted win races, break records and take home the championship to those who simply wanted to be involved in a great day, earn points for their house and enjoy the occasion.



Whatever pupils' reasons were for taking part, all 278 could rightly call themselves superb athletes and competitors for what they contributed to the day.



The standard of performance throughout was outstanding and this was clearly demonstrated by the **24 records that were broken**. We congratulate all of our record breakers for fine performances, but a special mention goes to our multiple sports day record breakers: Heather Bruce broke the S3 girls 100, 200 and 300m records; Bartek Karkoszka the S1 boys 200m, Long Jump and Triple Jump; Finlay Rollo the S2 boys 200m and Long Jump; and Kieran

Sports Day

Sports Day

Chalmers the S2 Boys 800 and 1500. Fairburn broke the record for S2 and Senior mixed relay.

A great day was finished by our inaugural House Tug 'o' War Championship and of course staff relays. Fairburn had some great performances



in the relays and continued this with an emphatic win in the Tug 'o' War. The staff relays were well supported with four speedy teams taking to the track. Mrs Barlow can claim bragging rights this year as her team stormed to victory with Mr Dillon's team taking the dreaded fourth position!!

A huge thank you must go to the PE staff for all their hard work in organising this year's event as well as the many other staff who helped the day run extremely smoothly. We would also like to extend our thanks to Irene for doing teas and coffees, the excellent senior helpers and to Callum Allan (S5) for setting up the PA system.



Congratulations to all who took part in sports day, particularly this year's winners and record breakers. We also say well done to all pupils in Wyvis House for their victory in the Athletics. However, a huge congratulations goes to Novar who are the overall house champions for 2015.

Some of our super soon-to-be S1s...





The Results



Athletics Championship

1st Wyvis 735 2nd Novar 733
3rd Tulloch 682 4th Brahan 678
5th Fairburn 649

House Championship

1st Novar 1615 2nd Wyvis 1467
3rd Tulloch 1400 4th Brahan 1370
5th Fairburn 1305

Overall Year Group Champions

S1 Girls

1st Rachel Johnstone 2nd Hannah Hallett 3rd Rona
Robinson

S1 Boys

1st Bartkomiey Karkoszka 2nd = Callum Wilson and Danny McPake

S2 Girls

1st Jessica Golden 2nd Nicola Ramsey
3rd Katie McBride

S2 Boys

1st Finlay Rollo 2nd Kieran
Chalmers 3rd Ruairidh Munro

S3 Girls

1st Erin Robinson 2nd Heather Bruce
3rd Jemma Logan



Sports Day



S3 Boys

- 1st Joe Arnaud
- 2nd Jacob Henry
- 3rd James Maclean

Senior Girls

- 1st Lauren Fraser
- 2nd Eilidh Gunn
- 3rd Beth McBride

Senior Boys

- 1st Archie Drennan
- 2nd Adam Carter
- 3rd David Laszkiewicz



Professor Turner Returns

Two Full Packed Sessions with Professor Turner

On Thursday 18th and Friday 19th June, the school welcomed back Professor Graham Turner (Chair of Translating and Interpreting Studies at Heriot Watt University).

Last month, it was announced that Professor Turner had won the Principal's Public engagement prize principally around his work with the Deaf community and the BSL Bill. He was well placed to update the pupils, the staff and parents on the journey this Bill is taking. The third and final stage will be sometime in September. The pupils were perhaps slightly disappointed when he told them that the Bill did not specifically mention qualifications in BSL. However, he told the pupils that the most important part of the Bill is the word 'promote' BSL. As a result he strongly suspects that there will be qualifications and more job opportunities arising from the need to address the lack of qualifications in BSL and also in the shortages in interpreters and translators.

On Thursday he worked with deaf pupils and BSL learners and the staff from the deaf base, updating them on the BSL Bill. Then in his true style he had everyone engaged in a spot of Chinese whispers but using BSL. Attention to detail and some clever repetition produced the best results. A challenge has been thrown to the pupils: Word Wizard competition 2016 will have BSL as one of the languages. He asked 'Is Dingwall Academy ready to take up this challenge?'

Later in the afternoon he met with several parents to discuss the BSL Bill and BSL qualifications.



On Friday he worked with the entire S3 pupils and staff from the languages department, exploring the reasons and purpose for studying languages.

He started each session with the top ten reasons why we should study languages before the groups were divided into different workshops. Pupil engagement was evident throughout each workshop with much reasoning and explanations going on throughout each workshop.

To finish the session he had the groups repeating Swedish numbers from 1 to 10. Mrs Cormack challenged the group to find any pupil who could recite the Swedish numbers from 1 to 10. It came as no surprise when a number successfully repeated the numbers. Well done to S3!

Opportunity!

BFI Film Academy

Screen Education Edinburgh in partnership with Eden Court cinema are recruiting for the second year of the BFI Film Academy taking place in Inverness over the summer.

The BFI Film Academy aims to help train and inspire the next generation of British filmmakers, supporting talented and committed **young people aged 16-19** to develop the commercial and cultural knowledge and skills to help make a career in film a reality. This opportunity is open to any young person living in the Highlands and surrounding counties.

The BFI Film Academy offers training for every film industry role, from writing and directing through to production, sound design, editing and camera, and provides learning around film history and cinematic storytelling to inspire an appreciation of film culture in the round.

Last year twelve participants went through this programme producing two short films that have since been screened in Scotland, California, Utah and Spain. You can watch the films that were made last year and also a behind the scenes documentary from the academy here: [BFI Film Academy - Youtube](#)

Applications for the academy are open now. Please visit [BFI Film Academy](#) for more information and the application form. **The deadline for applications has been extended to Monday 6th July.**

This programme will include:

Learning Phase (11am-6pm): Tuesday 14th July, Thursday 16th July, Tuesday 21st July, Friday 24th July, Tuesday 28th July, Thursday 30th July

Shooting Phase (10am-6pm): Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th August

Editing (10am-6pm): Saturday 15th & Sunday 16th August

Careers Day (11am-6pm): Saturday 22nd August

Screening: Sunday 23rd August

Young people aged 16-19 from all across the Highlands are encouraged to apply. Do not worry if you are going to miss dates, apply and we will discuss this with you. Money is available to cover travel expenses and all food will be provided.

To apply for this opportunity please visit our site - [HERE](#).

You can email this to neil@screen-ed.org or post it to BFI Film Academy Highlands, Screen Education Edinburgh, 30 Ferry Road Avenue, Edinburgh, EH4 4BA





It's SUMMER!

Have a wonderful holiday!

Remember, school closes at 12pm
next Thursday, 2nd July.

See you in August.



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!

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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