



Dingwall Academy

News



Welcome to our Newsletter.

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



Spring

Fair

2015

Join us!

Saturday 28th March
11am-3pm

MARCH
2015
EDITION

Dates for your diary:

Saturday 28th March
Spring Fair 11am – 3pm

Wednesday 1st April
S4 – S6 Exam Timetables Issued

Wednesday 1st April
Anthony Nolan Registration
(For interested S6)

Thursday 2nd April
Interhouse Swimming Gala

Thursday 2nd April
School Closes

Monday 20th April
School re-opens

Wednesday 29th April
Study Leave Starts

Monday 4th May
May holiday

Notes & News



Staffing

Farewell and thank you to Anne Morrison (RMPS) and Richard Parker (English), student teachers from Aberdeen University. Anne and Richard have completed the first section of their 9 week placement at Dingwall Academy from 23rd February until 27th March. See you both in May!

Litter Focus Group

A new group has just been established to look at how we might reduce litter in and around the school. The group have been tasked with thinking of ideas that will encourage all pupils to think before they leave any litter. The group are in the early stages of planning so watch this space ...



There goes the sun!!



At 9.35 on Friday 20th March, the majority of pupils and staff were outside looking skywards – and what did they see? Cloud! Unfortunately the eclipse did not stick to the school timetable and so at 9.40 pupils returned inside to period 2 classes. However, just as pupils were settling back down to work blue sky appeared, the news spread throughout the school and a good number of pupils were able to return outside and enjoy the event.

Spring Fair!



On Saturday, 28 March 2015 there will be a Spring Fair at Dingwall Academy. S2 pupils have arranged the event to help raise money for the school funds. It will take place at the school from 11 am to 3 pm. Entry is free so don't miss out! The S2 pupils have arranged stalls and stands including: Football-Skills, Guess the Baby Faced Teacher, Hand in Goo, Bake Sale and Face Painting.

Other parts of the school are also getting involved including: D.A.D.S and Rock Challenge who will have their own stalls. In the MPH there are also stalls for Photography, Skills force and many, many more!

There are lots of fun things happening outside including Laser Quest and a Wrecking Ball which is suitable for all the family. Fusion, EQ Sports and ROWAN will also be attending the Spring Fair. The S3 and S4 Administration Studies students have provided the admin for the event like making posters and writing the newsletter article.

There will be a BBQ at the front entrance as well as the snack bar providing tea and coffee. Juice and crisps are being sold in the Senior Social Area. There will be an amazing raffle with prizes such as a mountain bike, iPad Mini and a pair of Beats Headphones. First Aid is available in the Medical Suite.

Please check out our Facebook Events Page for more information!

Written by Adam Chalmers and Erin MacPhee (S3)

Like the Spring Fair on Facebook



An events page has been set up on Facebook to keep everyone up to date with the details. Please get involved and share the day with as many as possible.

Grand Raffle As part of the Spring Fair S6 pupils are organising a Grand Raffle. Pupils have all been issued with tickets to sell. There are some amazing prizes on offer

- Mountain Bike
- Mini iPad
- Beats by Dr Dre Headphones
- Belladrum Tickets

We have also had an excellent response from local businesses with new prizes being donated on a daily basis. So keep up to date with the Facebook Page and you will see the list of prizes grow and grow!

Pupil Voices



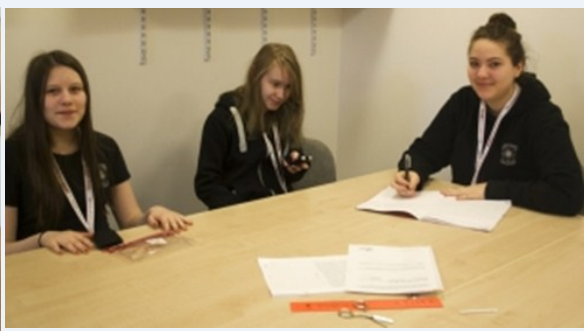
BBC School Report

On Thursday 19th March, 30 pupils in S3 joined 30,000 pupils from across the UK as they participated in the BBC School Report Live Journalism Challenge. The challenge was for pupils to gather news stories and feature them in various different articles, films and audio recordings. Features were then to be uploaded to school websites from where the BBC would use them for national broadcast. Our files can be found on the school website at: Dingwall Academy School Report website (check it out!) -http://www.dingwallacademy.com/school_report.html. Look at the website menu buttons, where you will see "School Report" and "School Report Practice Day"

The event itself is designed to encourage an interest in journalistic broadcasting and was recently awarded the prestigious European Diversity Award for Journalism, for giving a voice to thousands of students of different social backgrounds from across the UK. To find out more about this project, Google "BBC School Report" or go to the BBC'S School Report website - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schoolreport/> Participating pupils develop a wealth of skills in this innovative, engaging project. Here are a few comments.



Jennifer, Katy and Chris



Lauren, Ashton and Autumn Lark



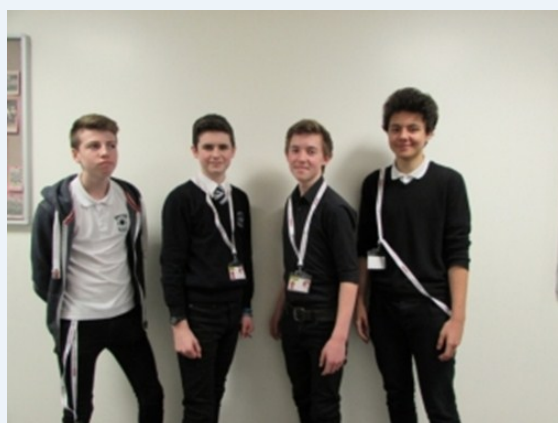
Eve and Erin

Katy Evans, S3 explained that she "gained teamwork and communication skills. I liked getting involved in the 'interview' process and I also found it satisfying to listen to the finished piece of work."

Adam Chalmers, S3 said "I've been able to answer open-ended questions effectively."

Jennifer Maciver: "I really enjoyed this task. I believe that it was a great experience and a perfect opportunity to gain new and important skills."

Niall, Kyle, Robbie and Kyle



Tiana, Ella, Kirsty and Rachel

To hear the audio files, go to the Dingwall Academy website: "School Report."

By Jennifer Maciver and Katy Evans (S3)



Italy Ski Trip 2015

We arrived early at the school on a Saturday morning full of excitement and packed lunches filled with food for the long trip ahead (30 hours) to Italy.

After an exhausting two day trip we finally arrived in La Thuille. The drive through the Alps set a great mood for the week. We were greeted by our holiday rep, Fran, who filled us with enthusiasm throughout the week. We were fitted with our skis and boards and shown to our rooms to rest so we were ready to hit the slopes on Monday morning.

We were very lucky to have a fab week of weather and no serious injuries. Everyone had a great week with our brilliant instructors who helped everyone improve massively.

The resort is right on the border between France and Italy and each group managed to ski over and have lunch in La Rossiere at the end of the week. The twenty minute poma tow back tested our abilities to not drift to sleep and fall off!

We had fun-filled activities every night. The highlight for us being the pizza and ice skating night.

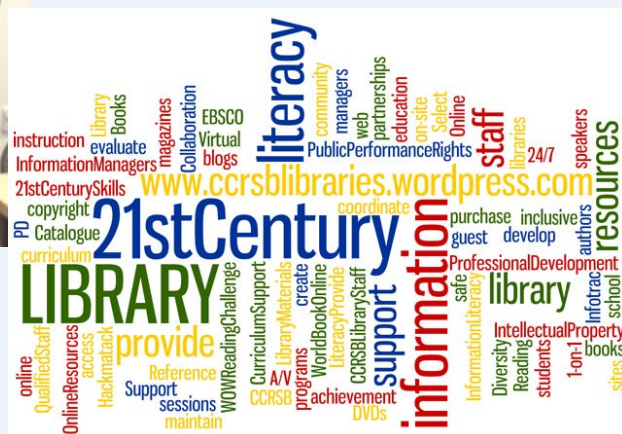
After a tiring but amazing week skiing and boarding we all returned back to Dingwall a little sun burnt but with big smiles. This was thanks to Mr & Mrs Reid for organising such a superb week.

Eilidh Gunn

Library Focus Group



A group of pupil representatives have been working with the librarians to establish a shared set of rules and responsibilities for the library. We are very fortunate to have such an excellent facility and want to ensure that it is enjoyed by pupils and the community.



Teenage Cancer Trust

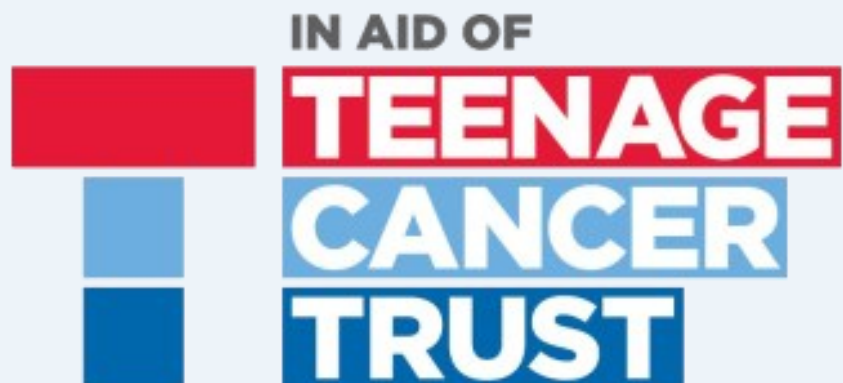
Teenage Cancer Trust is a charity very close to Dingwall Academy's heart and in fact Dingwall Academy became the top fundraising school for TCT in Britain in 2014 having raised over £14,000. We intend to maintain this title! With this in mind, every year a committee of sixth year pupils work closely with teachers to raise as much money as possible by doing a variety of fundraising activities.

This year we hope to add £3000 to our current total by cycling the distance from Dingwall Academy to the Teenage Cancer Trust centre in London, 624 miles to be exact. We will be placing a bike in the middle of our school with sixth years and staff taking turns to clock up miles and monitoring our ride to London from the Highlands of Scotland. We will be starting our journey on Saturday the 28th of March at our Spring Fair and will continue to peddle away during the school days of the following week until Thursday the 2nd when by 3.40pm we will hopefully have reached London and our £3000 target.

However, to reach this huge goal we need your help! We have issued all sixth year pupils with sponsor forms and have also set up a JustGiving page. We know that you all lead extremely busy lives so have made donating extremely easy by setting up a text service:

Text DADA50 and the amount you want to donate (£1-5 or £10) to 70070 and the money will go straight to Teenage Cancer trust.

Every penny counts so please donate what you can. If you are not personally in the position to donate please share the JustGiving page on social media because hopefully someone you know can.



Thank you,
S6 Charity Committee

Red Nose Day



The fundraising events started on Thursday 12th March with a talent show in the school hall. The audience were kept entertained by a variety of routines including song and comedy. The judges for the evening had a hard task but agreed that Toby Holloway (assisted by Mr Lyall!) was a worthy winner. £480 was raised on the night, with the money split between Teenage Cancer Trust and Comic Relief.

On the morning of Friday 13th March the corridors filled with some very interesting sights as staff and pupils chose to dress up as fictional characters.



The standard of dress was extremely high making the lunchtime fancy dress contest very difficult to judge. Group winners were Snow White and the Seven Dwarves, and the individual winners Ross Costigane and Eza Mirando.

There was an excellent response to the Bake Off Competition with the office ladies having the envious task of choosing the winners.

After the judging baking was sold at morning interval bringing the grand total for the day to £1623.80. Well done to all involved for this excellent effort.



Piping Honour

Well done to the following pupils who were asked to pipe at the media launch for the Edinburgh Military Tattoo at Fort George at the start of the month:

Dylan Finnie

Lucy Finnie

Andrew Laird

Liah Macpherson



Judo Success

Congratulations to those Dingwall Academy pupils who represented the school at the British Schools Judo Competition in Sheffield on Saturday 7th March. Thomas Inglis S1 won gold, and Ewan Mightens, also S1, brought home silver. Adam Dyer of S2 also had a successful competition, he was disappointed not to get a podium place but still won two out of his four fights. This is a tremendous achievement for all the boys and we are very proud of them all

Dingwall's Got Talent

Dingwall Academy hosted a very successful talent show on the 12th of March. We had 12 fantastic acts, including a brilliant staff performance where they danced to Bruno Mars' 'Uptown Funk'. We raised £480 from ticket sales. This has been split between Teenage Cancer Trust and Comic Relief. The winners on the night included Danielle Burton (singing and dancing) for the most entertaining act, Sarah Hickson (singing and playing guitar) as the best singer, Matt Thornton (pianist) received the runner-up award, and Toby Holloway and Mr Lyall (comedy sketch) received the overall winner's prize and trophy. Congratulations to everyone who took part and a big thank you to everyone who came and support the show.

Eden Court Performance

Congratulations to Josie Campbell who appeared in the recent Eden Court production 'Follow, Follow.'

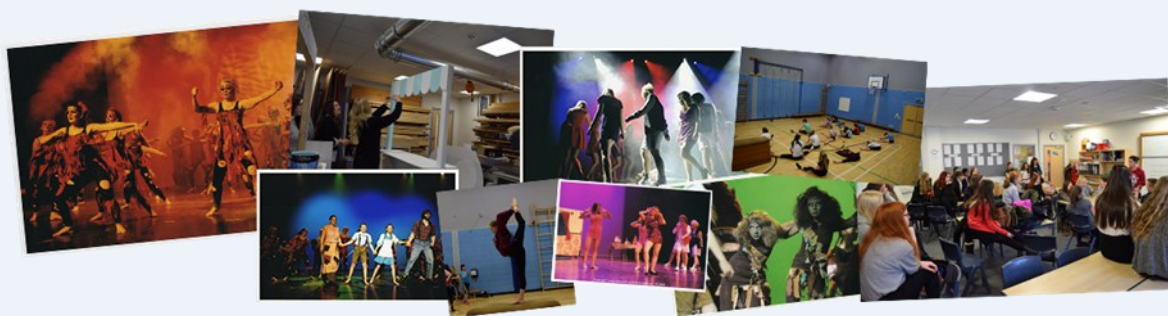
Drama One Act Plays

Congratulations to the Dingwall Academy Drama Society (DADS) pupils involved in the Scottish Community Drama Association One Act Play Festival which took place on Wednesday 4th March. DADS entered two plays and won four trophies out of a possible five. 'Alice in Wonderland' which involved the pupils learning to rhyme their lines, picked up two trophies for Best Costume and Overall Second Place. 'The Agenda' which was written by Hannah Oliver, an S6 pupil, picked up trophies for Best Acting and Overall First Place. On top of this the cast of 'The Agenda' has been invited to take part in the Divisional Final of this competition which takes place in Wick on Friday 20th March where DADS has a chance to pick up even more trophies. Mr Lyall, Miss Welsh, Mr Ferguson and Miss Rowe wish to say a huge well done to the pupils for their performance in this festival, we are all very proud of you!



DINGWALL ACADEMY 2015

Rock Challenge is a worldwide organisation for young adults. It gives pupils the chance to experience a high that does not involve drugs or alcohol. Dingwall academy started rock challenge in 2010 and it has been an ongoing success since then. Last year we came third out of the seven schools performing at Eden Court Theatre. This year we have been meeting every Friday after school to get prepared for our performance. The purpose of this performance is to tell a story that must be only 8 minutes long, which only contains movement with no speech. We have to prepare our own set, music, lighting, video, costume, make-up and choreography with no help professionals or outside agencies. Rock challenge is a great way of making new friends from first to sixth year which helps you gain more confidence. Also many who are involved come away with new skills whether it may be performing, building set or mixing more with others. If you would like to become involved in rock challenge, we would love to have some extra hands throughout. If you are interested please contact Mrs Magowan in the PE department, thank you.



Cross Country Report

Scottish Schools Cross Country Championships – Irvine

I'm sure all the pupils who travelled down to Irvine of Friday 6th March will tell you that it is a long way to travel from the North of Scotland! However, not one moan from the pupils was heard and it proved to be that the effort to make the journey was most certainly worth it.

Nine pupils travelled down to the championships looking to test themselves against the best runners in Scotland. We had a number of pupils competing as individuals and one team in the shape of our S1 boys who had achieved a great deal of success at Ross-Shire and North Schools already this season. It is always tough to finish high up in the races at Irvine and it certainly proved to be the case this year. In the S1 girls Rachel Johnstone finished in a credible 58th place out of over 130 competitors. It was a determined outing for Rachel's first experience at this level and all the more impressive considering she is still wearing a heavy and awkward stookie on her left arm!! The impressive Kieran Chalmers finished 25th in the U15 boys race and although his legs didn't feel as fresh as usual he should be proud of his first outing at this level. Luke Shaw in S6 was competing in his final schools Cross Country race before leaving in the summer and acquitted himself extremely well. He finished in 5th place in the Over 17 boys after an incredibly exciting race where the top five places could have gone anybody's way until the last 500m.

The S1 boys new they had a good chance in the team event and were determined to do well. The placing of the boys in a race with 135 competitors were Danny McPake 18th, Callum Wilson 31st, Josh Reid 48th, Alex Ellen 57th, Callum Coli 59th and Ethan Macleod 65th. To have six boys from the same school all finish in the top half of the Scottish Schools is rare. When the results were posted up the boys were ecstatic to find out they were Scottish Schools S1 Boys Cross Country Champions and by a colossal margin of 40 points. This is the first time the School has won this event in over 20 years – a fantastic achievement.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the pupils who travelled down to Irvine to compete. I was most impressed by the behaviour, attitude, manners and the outgoing nature of all the pupils.

Ross Shire Cross Country

On the 11th of February over forty enthusiastic and determined pupils travelled to Alness Academy for the Ross Shire annual cross country competition. We were once again very successful both in the individual and team events, demonstrating that Dingwall Academy has lots of very talented and physically fit pupils amongst its ranks. All pupils represented the school fantastically well and displayed a very determined, positive and sporting attitude at all times.

Teams Events

First year Boys Team – First Place
First Year Girls Team – First Place
U15 Boys Team – Second Place
U15 Girls Teams – First Place
Senior Girls Team – Second Place

Individuals

Gold – Rachel Johnstone: S1 girls, Lauren Fraser: Senior Girls,
Keiran Chalmers: U15 boys, Luke Shaw: Senior boys
Silver – Danny McPake: S1 boys,
Bronze – Callum Wilson: S1 boys



Assemblies and Presentations

Fairtrade Assembly



Healthy Choices Presentations to S1

Earlier in the year S1 pupils were given information to help them make healthier choices at lunchtime. Senior Pupils followed this up with a presentation to PSE classes. S1 pupils are now able to go down the street at lunchtime and the hope is that these presentations remind pupils of the importance of making healthy lunch choices.



2015 is the Year of the Light. 2015 is also the year where the Scottish Parliament is considering the BSL Bill! A group of 22 hardy pupils met Mrs Kinsman, Mr Graham and Mary, deaf tutor and her hearing dog for the deaf, Scott at Inverness railway station and 6.40 am on Monday 23rd February. Yes, a very early start and it was snowing!

The train left Inverness on time and everyone was looking forward to a full packed day at the RSE Event in Edinburgh, celebrating the Year of Light. Unfortunately, the train had to stop in Kingussie to allow the snowplough train to clear the track. As a result, we arrived an hour and a half late into Edinburgh and missed part of the morning session with Professor Turner and some of his team.

The pupils visited and participated in a number of events all focused on light from the effects of light on sleep patterns to light pollution to using lasers to cure some diseases to solar power. They were also involved in the experimental study by Heriot Watt University on light and sign language. The afternoon sessions saw the pupils attend the presentations: 'Using Light to look at the human retina' and 'Lighting up the brain- how neurosurgeons find their way'.

Feedback and comment from some of the exhibitors:

'Dingwall Academy should be 'rightly proud of the young people' who attend the RSE event from their behaviour, their politeness to their engagement with the different event organisers. It was the first time ever for the RSE to engage professional BSL interpreters. It was 'an eye opener to see those young people who rely on BSL to access and engage with the speakers and exhibitors'.

Professor Turner, who is active in the BSL Bill spoke to some of the pupils (many had submitted a signed BSL clip in support of the BSL Bill) and told them that they were being described as 'incredible, doubt there would be many of their peers learning another language having the same confidence, interest and skill in submitting their views in that language to support its place in the school curriculum to the Scottish Parliament.' These young people should not underestimate their contribution to the BSL Bill; their interest and skills to use BSL truly impressed those who are actively involved in the development and work of the BSL Bill in the Scottish Parliament.

Professor Turner said, 'I want your parents to know this simple but never the less true fact: Your son/ daughter is a remarkable young person committed to their learning and interest in BSL'. Professor Turner, who has worked with the school and the pupils, was as disappointed as we were that we had missed part of the morning. However, if the school diary and his diary can agree on a suitable date, he will be delighted to return to Dingwall Academy for more BSL learning and engagement! So watch this space for dates and events details.

School Meal Prices

Homemade Soup and Wedge of Bread	£0.75
Traditional Meal	£1.60
Meal Deal - 2 course + bread + drink	£2.30
Smart Snack - Pizza, Bacon Roll, Toastie	£1.35
1/2 Toastie	£0.80
Salad Box and Wedge of Bread	£1.50
Plated Salad and Wedge of Bread	£1.50
100% Beefburger, Bun & Salad	£1.50
Filled Panini	£1.50
Chicken Bites and Salad	£1.60
Hot Pasta Pot	£1.55
Sub Central	£1.75
Baked Potato	£0.75
H. WRAP/MAMBO	£1.50
1/2 Sandwich	£0.70
Standard Filled Sandwich	£1.25
Special Filled Sandwich	£1.35
Baguette/Hoagie/Croissant Sandwich	£0.75
Bread/Pitta/Morning Roll/Bap/Wrap	£0.50
Standard Filling	£0.80
Special Filling	£0.90

After Easter the price of school meals will be increasing. Secondary School meals will rise from £2.15 to £2.30

DRINKS

Milk Cartons	£0.40
Flavoured Milk Cartons	£0.50
Bottled Still Water 500ml	£0.55
Still/Sparkling Water 330ml	£0.35
100% Fruit Juice 85ml	£0.30
100% Fruit Juice 200ml Fair Trade	£0.60
Capri Sun Pouch 200ml	£0.60
Calypso Aquajuce Carton 200ml	£0.30

EXTRAS

Hot Veg or Salad Garnish	FREE
Salad portions and mixes	£0.50
Baked Beans, Potatoes	£0.50
Butter, Flora Portions/Jam	£0.15
Sauce Portions	£0.10
Traditional Dessert	£0.70
Ice Cream, Fruit Corners, Biscuits & Cheese	£0.70
Yoghurt, Mini Fruit Corners	£0.45
All Fruit & Bagged Vegetables	£0.35
Homemade Biscuits	£0.55
Healthy Baking	£0.60
Crisps & Savoury Snacks	£0.65



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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More Than Enough By Marge Piercy

The first lily of June opens its red mouth.
All over the sand road where we walk
multiflora rose climbs trees cascading
white or pink blossoms, simple, intense
the scene drifting like colored mist.

The arrowhead is spreading its creamy
clumps of flower and the blackberries
are blooming in the thickets. Season of
joy for the bee. The green will never
again be so green, so purely and lushly

new, grass lifting its wheaty seedheads
into the wind. Rich fresh wine
of June, we stagger into you smeared
with pollen, overcome as the turtle
laying her eggs in roadside sand.



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