



Dingwall Academy

News

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



DUX

We are delighted to announce the top prize winners for 2016:

Dux: Grace Kerr



Proxime Accessit : Megan Bell



MAY 2016

Dates for your Diary:

Wednesday 1st June

Senior Phase end of study leave

Monday 6th June

In-Service Day

Tuesday 7th June

S6 Dinner 7pm

Wednesday 8th June

Prize Giving 7pm

Wednesday 15th June

Sports Day

Wednesday 15th June

Parent Information Evening

Internet Safety 7pm

Thursday 16th June

S4 Careers Roadshow

Friday 17th June

Rock Challenge Finals Dundee

22nd to 24th June

P7 Visits

Thursday 23rd June

P7 Parent Information Evening

Mon 27th Tue 28th June

Activity Days

Friday 1st July

School Closes 12pm

Notes & News

STAFF



Staffing

At the end of May we say farewell to Miss McCulloch in the English Department. Miss McCulloch is returning to her native Orkney and we wish her all the very best in her new post.

We also say a fond goodbye and thank you to Irene, who has now retired. Mrs MacKenzie, HFT, has left to take up a new post at Plockton. She is in the midst of building a new house on Skye, so the commute will be much shorter in the morning!

We have a number of posts currently advertised and we hope to be able to confirm appointments before the end of session.



Correction

Apologies, the last newsletter incorrectly said that the Parent Council Christmas Fair would take place on Friday 1st December – the correct date is Friday 2nd December. Anyone interested in reserving a stall should contact the school.

Parent Council Facebook Page

Following on from the success of the school facebook page, the Parent Council are launching their own page. This will focus on parental engagement and ensure that parents receive the most up to date authority and national information.

Named Person Scheme

Parents may have seen recent press coverage regarding the Named Person initiative. The Named Person scheme has operated in Highland for a number of years and in Dingwall Academy Mr Gaffney is currently the named person for all pupils. Further information can be found at

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/Young-People/gettingitright/named-person>



Hear ye! Hear ye!
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL Friday 1st July
School closes at 12pm

BBC School Report



BBC News School Report gives 11-16 year-old students in the UK the chance to make their own news reports for a real audience. This year more than 1,000 schools across the UK took part in the project, on the biggest ever School Report News Day. For the second consecutive year, Dingwall academy was the most northern representative in the UK.

Jackie O'Brien, a distinguished BBC journalist, visited the school to support the work of Mr Dolan's S3 class. They made an audio news programme which was featured on BBC Scotland's evening radio broadcast News Drive. It was a fantastic experience for the students to gain hands-on experience of media production work. To hear snippets of the school's BBC School Report audio clips, go to the school website and you will see School Report buttons on the bottom left of the menu option.



Rock Challenge



Rock Challenge involves producing and performing an eight minute dance routine on the Eden Court stage. Pupils are responsible for choreography, lighting, sound, costumes set and make up. Over 100 pupils were involved in this year's Rock Challenge production and after months of practice and preparation the Highland Heats took place on 19th April at Eden Court.

Alness Academy have been recognised as the Rock Challenge team to aspire to, winning the Highland Heats for the last few years and a place in the Scottish Finals. The Dingwall performance this year was outstanding and the team were delighted to finish in 2nd place to Alness. Many people said that after watching the performances, they had found it too close to call between the two Ross-shire teams.

After the performance, there was a very nervous couple of weeks as we waited to hear if the team would receive a Wild Card to the Scottish Finals – and then came the fantastic news that the team had indeed been selected to take part in the Scottish Finals in Dundee on June 17th.

This is a richly deserved reward for all the hard work of the pupils, staff and parents involved. The school team were also awarded the coveted 'Spirit of Rock Challenge' award. This is awarded to the school that most demonstrates the inclusive and friendly spirit of the Rock Challenge Event. We are extremely proud that the team gained this accolade and wish them the very best of luck at the finals in June.

Activity Days

The annual school activity days take place on Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th June. Pupils have already opted for activities and the full balance of payment should have been received. The activity days are an opportunity for staff and pupils to enjoy some alternative activities together and are always great fun. There are still some places available for a limited number of activities and we would urge any pupil in S1 – S3 who has not yet chosen to ask at the office.

Pupils who have not chosen activities will be given an alternative timetable to follow in school during the two days.

University Open Days

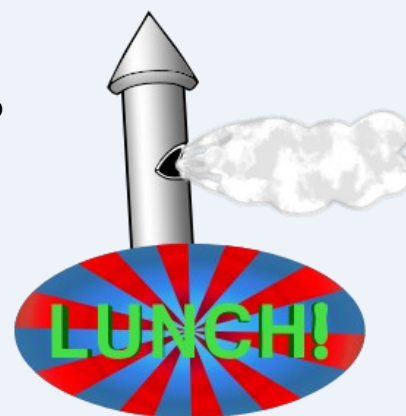
Attending university and college open days is an important way for applicants to get a feel for a place and to visit the faculties they are interested in joining. They can expect to be shown around the student union, library, accommodation and the department where they might end up studying, as well as meeting tutors and students who can answer their questions about studying there.

Please be aware that many universities hold their first open days in June so it is important that parents and prospective students find out when the universities they are considering applying to are holding their open days.

UCAS has a searchable open day tool on their website at: www.ucas.com/open-days

Meal Deals are Back!

Up until recently pupils had the option to purchase a 'meal deal' from the canteen. This included a two course meal and drink for £2.55. Pupils entitled to free school meals were able to purchase a meal deal each day. Without notice, this deal was removed at Easter time. However, catering services have now confirmed that the 'meal deal' is available again: pupils can again buy a two course meal and a small bottle of water.



Internet Safety Parent Info Evening

Do you know exactly what your child was doing online last night? Do you know exactly who they communicate with when online?



Online safety is an increasing concern for all parents. It is so important that pupils are made aware of how to stay safe online, and that they are also aware of the consequences should they choose to act inappropriately.

The information evening on Wednesday 15th June is open to all parents; pupils are also very welcome to come along. There will be information from the police, child support workers and the school. We do hope that parents will take the opportunity to come along and listen to this important message. The whole evening should only last one hour.

Employability/ Work Experience



S4 pupils in the schools Employability Programme during study were involved in workshops with Capita, The Bank of Scotland, Highland Home Help, SEPA, Skills Development Scotland and Inverness College. All pupils achieved a High Life Highland Leadership award. They also carried out a week long work placement and had mock interviews with employers including Tesco, Macleod and Maccallum Solicitors, SEPA and the Bank of Scotland.

A number of pupils gained part time, and even one full time job, as a result of placements. Many thanks to all of the businesses that helped make the programme a success.

Would you like to be involved in a Arts and Creativity Youth Club?



Are you between 12-19 years old? Are you interested in arts and creativity? The Muir Hub and Eden Court are looking for young people to get involved in an Arts and Creativity Youth Club. The group will be run by young people and you can decide what you want to do . There are options of film making, drama, dance, music, and art projects to name but a few.

If you are interested please come to the Muir of Ord Village Hall , Seaforth Road on Thursday the 9th of June 7pm

For more details contact Hannah MacSween, Community Development Manager on 01463 872 807 or email hannah.macsween@muiroford.org.uk

Muir of Ord Hall and Facilities Company is a Scottish Registered Charity No SC044689. Registered in Scotland. Company No SC397640 . Muir of Ord Village Hall, Seaforth Road, Ross-shire, IV6 7TA. 01463 872 807.



Musical Masters

Sasha Clement from S1 won her Secondary age group flute class at the Highlands and Islands Music Festival in Oban on 1st May 2016.



Hamish Drennan (S3) was told a couple of weeks ago that he was one of three students in the UK to be awarded a Piobaireachd Society bursary which will give him a week's intensive tuition at the College of Piping in Glasgow.

Sensational Swimmers

John Anderson of 2W2 took part in a sponsored swim on 30th April at the Aquadome pool in Inverness. He was part of the Highland Disability Swim Team who were trying to swim the length of Loch Ness which is 36.3 kilometres, or the equivalent of 1452 lengths of the pool. They are trying to raise funds to send a team to the Special Olympics in 2017.

Each swimmer had a target, and John's was to do 120 lengths in 2 hours. He hit his target in less than 90 minutes, and went on to exceed it. Altogether the 20 swimmers managed to complete 2556 lengths of the pool, which was all the way up Loch Ness, and 3/4 of the way back! It was a fantastic effort by everyone in the team, and all their supporters of course, including those who were hard pressed to keep up with the counting of lengths.



S6 Last Day

S6 pupils celebrated their last day before study leave with a range of activities. Pupils took part in Rollerbowl and Paintball before returning to school for a confetti-filled ceilidh in the front foyer. This was a highly enjoyable and emotional farewell to a wonderful year group.



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