



Dingwall Academy

News

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

Freedom of Dingwall

Head Girl Fiona Reid, and Head Boy Charlie Mack represented the school at the Freedom Of Dingwall Parade. The Royal Regiment of Scotland marched through the town after being conferred the Freedom of Highland Region. Fiona and Charlie were excellent ambassadors for the school and received high praise for their dignified and mature approach.



Remembrance Day

The school marked Remembrance Day with a number of events. At 11am on the 11th the school fell silent to respect the fallen of all conflicts. Later in the day Senior pupils delivered a Remembrance Day assembly to S3 pupils. All pupils involved are to be commended for their respectful and mature behaviour. School poppy sales raised £300 for Poppy Scotland.

S3 pupils taking part in the Skillsforce course organised and took part in a 9 mile speed march. The nine guys (Ross, Campbell, Callum, Adam, Shaun, Rory, Dominik, Jack and Colwyn) organised an event that consisted of a 9 mile speed march on a tread mill at the front of the school, complemented by a cake sale (all of which was home baked by the lads and their families). The group raised £172.91 for Poppy Scotland.



NOVEMBER

2015

Dates for your diary:

Monday 30th November
S1 Contact Evening

7th – 9th December
Senior Phase Music Practical Assessments

Thursday 10th December
S4 Contact Evening

Tuesday 15th December
Christmas Concert

Wednesday 16th December
Lower School Christmas Social

Thursday 17th December
Middle School Christmas Social

Monday 21st December
Upper School Christmas Social

Tuesday 22nd December
School closes

Thursday 7th January
School opens

Monday 18th January
Prelim Examinations start

Thursday 28th January
S3 Contact Evening

Notes & News

1000+ likes on Facebook

Thank you to everyone who has supported the school Facebook Page. We have now smashed through the 1000 likes barrier. The Facebook page continues to provide up to date information on pupil events and achievements.



Achievement Buddies

We now have a number of senior pupils working as 'Achievement Buddies.' Achievement Buddies are gradually working through the whole school to record details of pupil involvement with clubs, extra-curricular activities, hobbies and achievements. This will allow us to celebrate the vast array of achievements and also to identify where pupils could be receiving formal recognition through the Saltire Aware and other award schemes.

ACHIEVEMENT

Blythswood Shoebox Appeal

A huge thank you to everyone who donated items and complete shoeboxes to the Shoebox Appeal. We collected 38 shoeboxes this year with the S2 Super Citizens playing an important role filling and preparing the boxes for collection.

Lost Property – Lots and lots of Lost Property!

Parents and invited to come in, have a look, and take anything away. Please contact the school office if you have a particular item that you would like to track down.



Severe weather information

The severe weather information has now been issued to all parents and is also available via the school website.

Notes & News

Support For Learners

Earlier in the session information evenings were held for parents of S1 and S4 pupils. The focus of both evenings was to encourage pupils to take more responsibility for their own learning. It is important that pupils develop good study skills and good study habits early; pupils cannot afford to wait until exam time. Feedback from parents was extremely positive but asked for more information and advice to be made available throughout the year. To help pupils and parents with studying, information is now being added to the school website under the section 'Information for Learners.'

If parents ever require further study advice and support then please do not hesitate to contact the school.



Prelim Dates

The Senior Phase prelims start on Monday 18th January. All pupils sitting prelim examinations should now have an established study routine. Prelim timetables will be issued shortly and will also be available on the school website.



Chemistry Revision

The Chemistry department website contains all the departmental resources that pupils receive in paper format. Each pupil in Chemistry receives an activity booklet, summary booklet and regular homework. The website will be up-dated regularly with new revision resources to assist with learning in Chemistry. The password for the website will be given by the class teacher.

The link is <http://sciencesda.edublogs.org/>

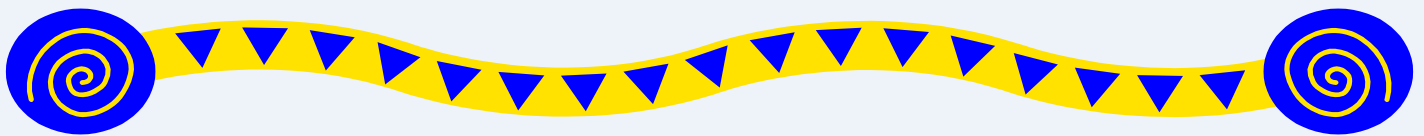


S2 Summer Reading Challenge 2015



Rory Cormack was the winner of the S2 Summer Reading Challenge and wins a £20 book token. Pupils were invited to submit a picture of themselves reading in an interesting place, together with a short 50 word book report. Rory submitted a picture of himself reading Harry Potter at Privet Drive (where the opening chapter of Harry Potter takes place.)

The "Straight Out the Library" competition winner is Catherine Bruce from 2W1. Well done to her for correctly guessing the characters that the S2 IDL class made up.



Literacy in Focus

Homophones

For the next two weeks, S1-3 are focusing on their use of homophones in *all* of their subjects (words that sound the same, but are spelled differently and mean different things). In particular, pupils are looking to improve their skill in using some of the most common homophones:

Their/ there/they're

Too/two/to

It's/its

You're/your

We're Away...!

Trip	Year Group	Outline	Dates (may change)	Approx cost	Leader
WWI Belgium Trip	S2 – S6	Visits to museums, war graves and battlefields of Belgium and France	26 th June – 3 rd July 2016	£530	Mr Lyall
Alladale Estate	S3	Wild camping, outdoor activities and estate work	3 rd – 6 th May 2016	£110	Miss Tullis
Languages Department French Trip	Open to all year groups but priority given to S1 and S2	Based in Paris – visit main attractions and Disneyland.	3 rd – 9 th October 2016	£550	Mrs MacKintosh
Languages Department German Trip	Open to all year groups but priority given to S1 and S2	Based in Freiburg – visit main attractions and Theme Park.	27 th June – 3 rd July 2016	£575	Mrs MacKintosh
Art & Music Trip	S2-S3 pupils	Visit Glasgow – creative and cultural visits plus Sister Act - the Musical	4-5 Oct 2016	Approx £120	Mr Brindle
Trans World Soccer USA Trip		Elite coaching, matches, Live Sport, Universal Studios	24 th June – 1 st July 2016	Trip full	Mr McKie

Above are the residential trips planned for the year so far.

Auschwitz

Two senior pupils, Eilidh Petrie and Meagan Ewing travelled to Auschwitz as part of the Lessons from Auschwitz programme. Eilidh describes the experience:

Before I was chosen as part of the Lessons From Auschwitz programme I did not have much knowledge of the Holocaust. However, I have always had a strong interest in this particular subject within WW2 due to being passionate about History. I was surprised to learn that Auschwitz was actually a network of concentration camps and not just Birkenau which is the largest and most well-known camp. I was eager to find out about the roles played by such camps and learn about some of the individuals that were involved.

One of my own aims for participating was to ensure that this horrific tragedy is not forgotten about. People need to be reminded about the bitter hatred that was the underlying cause of the Holocaust. I want to ensure young people are educated about this event since it is not taught in school. We need to learn if we are to prevent things like this from happening in the future. The ignorance of the past is due to lack of information but also indifference. We need to study the Holocaust to gain the awareness of the mistakes that were made in the past. History repeating itself is simply inevitable if we do not acknowledge it. Recognising what kind of events led up to a large incident helps us better predict the future. Furthermore I wanted to experience the conditions the victims were left in to see the extent of how shocking the camps were.

After the orientation seminar I was truly inspired by an Auschwitz survivor, Ziggi Shipper, as he told his story. It has helped me put a face to the Holocaust and made it real, that there is no denying the fact it happened. It reminded me that these were people who had family, jobs and aspirations and it was all brutally taken away from them. It was different from reading a book because I understood Ziggi's emotions and got a different sense of feeling.

I agree with the statement "hearing is not like seeing" because it is fine learning about the Holocaust and Auschwitz but you have to go to Poland to get a real experience and get a sense of the feeling of horror the victims felt. The gas chamber in Auschwitz 1 shocked me the most as it had an eerie atmosphere to it. It was here I felt truly sorry for those who were forced in the room. The visit highlighted the cruel conditions the prisoners were kept in and how inhumane this act was.



I feel that it is not possible to precisely label groups or individuals as "perpetrators" or "bystanders" because everyone played a part in the process. The people in charge of dropping the Zyklon B were not fully to blame for the Holocaust. Everybody had "just one job" that job contributed to the genocide. For example: the person in charge of gathering everyone in the chambers and the person in charge of opening the gates of Auschwitz.

Overall the experience in Poland was sobering. It made me realise that the 6 million victims were individuals and not just a number.

Duke of Edinburgh



Two groups completed their Bronze expedition in Early October. They have each described their experiences :

Team Rogie

We completed our DofE expedition on Saturday 3rd October. The expedition was overall very enjoyable, however challenging at some points. The best parts were arriving at the camp and cooking our dinner. Also, during the second day, we found a swinging bridge which proved to be a great resting place. However, the most challenging parts of the expedition included collecting clean water at camp, and the navigating proved difficult at times. The funniest part of the whole expedition was Rowan's spectacular fall as a result of dancing a little extravagantly to Michael Jackson's "Thriller". We would all really recommend taking part in the DofE award scheme as it is so rewarding and great fun.

Team Fishladder

As a group, we learned how to cook outdoors, read maps and plan routes efficiently. We also developed our team work skills. One of the highlights from our expedition was being given death stares from a huge bull. Some of the



worst parts included our dinner being a catastrophic failure on the practice expedition, and one of our team members having to leave due to being sick only 5 minutes into the assessed expedition, leaving our group one member short. We have all thoroughly enjoyed our experience doing the Duke of Edinburgh Award and we developed skills we can use in the future such as team work, communication and determination.



D.A.D.S.

(Dingwall Academy Drama Society)

What is DADS?

DADS is an all inclusive drama group which welcomes members from S1-S6.

Catching you up: (written by DADS President Fiona Reid.)

The Halloween Disco

We are delighted to announce that S1/S2 Halloween Disco raised £230.95 for DADS funds. Pupils enjoyed the night, including ducking for apples, musical chairs, limbo, dancing and the fancy dress competition (winner— Leon MacLean as Mrs Doubtfire). Special thanks to Tesco for their kind support and personal thanks to all the disco crew for their lights and music—you know who you are!



The main news this month is the massive success of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat!

It was great to perform to Dingwall Academy's feeder primary schools for the Tuesday (17th) matinee, and then for family and friends on the Wednesday (18th) and Thursday (19th) evenings.

WE HAD TWO SELL OUT SHOWS AND TWO STANDING OVATIONS!



The months of hard work have definitely paid off, and everyone should be proud of putting together such an amazing performance. Special mention to the teaching staff and to the band who set the background of the whole performance.



A HUGE WELL DONE AND THANK YOU TO EVERYONE INVOLVED!

What's Coming Up?

The next project DADS will be working on will be preparing for the Talent Show due to take place in March in aid of Teenage Cancer Trust. See Miss Welsh for more details.

Please register to support us at www.easyfundraising.org.uk to help us keep doing what we love.

Email us: dingwallacademydrama@gmail.com

Medical Career?



Reach Medical Student Mentors – School Link

Reach school aims to provide support for pupils as they go through the decision-making and application process to study either Law or Medicine at a Higher Education institution.

For pupils who are specifically interested in Medicine we now have the details of the Reach Medical Student Mentors who have been assigned to **Dingwall Academy** for this academic year.

Joshua Shaw j.a.shaw.11@aberdeen.ac.uk
Jillian Hamilton jillian.hamilton.12@aberdeen.ac.uk
Victoria Kinkaid victoria.kinkaid.13@aberdeen.ac.uk

These Medical students are at different stages of study at the University of Aberdeen and they are available to provide an insight into student life and share their application experiences. Joshua Shaw is a former pupils and would be delighted to provide additional support for Dingwall Academy Pupils.

School Visits:

Reach Medical Student Mentors could visit school to meet pupils interested in Medicine. Our mentors have been trained to provide advice on where to find work experience, personal statements and interview techniques.

Student Shadowing Opportunities:

Our Reach Medical Student Mentors in Year 1 and Year 2 would be happy for pupils to shadow them for a half/full day at the University of Aberdeen. This is a great opportunity to sit in on lectures, visit the teaching facilities and experience life as a Medical Student! Please contact myself (j.meredith@abdn.ac.uk) to organise this.

If your pupils have any specific questions about their own application then I recommend contacting Medical Admissions directly on medadm@abdn.ac.uk.

Senior pupils applying for Medicine can contact any of the above directly; you should also speak with your Guidance Teacher.

RACPADs



RACPADs - Two drummers, Lucy Finnie (S2 - on the right) and Melvine Lynch (S1 – on the left) travelled to Glasgow on the 17th Oct to compete in the World Drumming Soloist competition.

They are the first Junior Drummers to compete down there for over 20 years.

Unfortunately, they didn't make the final but did themselves proud having the confidence and talent to compete.

Judo

Scottish Champ

Euann Mightens is a pupil at Dingwall Academy who has *excelled* at Judo. He *really* has excelled! I asked him how his Judo is going and he informed me that he is ***the best in Scotland for his age***. He recently won the Scottish Championship and the Scottish Grand Prix Championships. Impressive stuff! I then asked him what his long goal for the future was and he has a clear goal in mind: go to the Olympics. A goal, at his current pace, easily achieved. He later informed me that he not only wants to go to the Olympics but he wants to also win Judo for the UK. If his form continues, which I'm sure it will, he will achieve his goal. We can only wish Euann the best for his future Olympic success.

Joshua Henry (S6)

Cameron Foster was presented with British Judo Association junior volunteer of the year award at the East midlands conference centre in Nottingham on Saturday 7th November at the annual BJA awards dinner.

There were a record number of nominations and he did extremely well to get an award.

The award is in recognition of the work that junior officials do at all the events throughout Britain. Cameron has been officiating for 4 years and has worked at several major events including the European open and major Scottish and British events.

Cameron achieved fifth place at the recent Scottish Age bands and was for the second year running Scottish Grand Prix champion.





Way to go, John!

John Anderson, S2 took part in two races as part of the Disability Swim Team and finished third in the 50m freestyle and 4th in the 50m backstroke against 6 others who were at least 5 years older than him, and about a foot taller!

He also completed all three parts of Lifeguard training and is now a silver level Rookie Lifeguard, a certificate awarded by the Royal Life Saving Society.

John previously completed Bronze level in the summer holidays, and is planning to go on to complete his Gold level in the New Year.



Jacob's on the Ball...

In April 2015, Jacob Henry 4B2 was selected to one of the Scottish Rugby academies. He was selected to play for U16 Academy Championships. This involved a heavy commitment over the summer holidays, and a lot of travelling. If Jacob continues to progress and work hard, he could be selected for the U16 Scottish International Team. This is a fantastic achievement and just shows what you are capable of when you set your mind on something and work hard. Dingwall Academy wishes Jacob all the best and will support him in achieving his dream.

Young Ambassador Sophie

Music is a big part of everyone's lives, but 5th year pupil Sophie Cushnie is interested in much more than what's in the charts! I had the pleasure of interviewing Sophie recently. It was lovely to see how enthusiastic she is about classical music, something I'm sure most of us don't know much about. She told me her love for classical music stemmed from when she 'first started playing violin in primary school' and that it 'can be very powerful and uplifting and [she feels] that everyone should have the chance to experience it, through playing it personally or listening to it.' Through her passion for classical music, **Sophie has become a Young Ambassador for The Royal Scottish National Orchestra.** As an ambassador, her job is to 'promote classical music in her local area, which includes attending regular forums in the Glasgow Royal Concert hall and generally promoting it within the school'. Although there are certain tasks that she has to carry out as a Young Ambassador, Sophie explained that personally, there are other things she would like to bring to the role. She told me that she would 'love to encourage people to listen and experience classical music and understand that it can be for everyone and not specifically targeted at older generations'. Becoming a Young Ambassador was a huge achievement and we are all very proud of Sophie, I'm sure we will hear her on the radio in no time!



Abigail Achieves!

Abigail Ross 3B2 recently competed at the Tang Soo Do British Championships. Tang Soo Do is a Korean martial art incorporating fighting principles. It combines elements of Karate, Taekkyon and Kung Fu. This was held on 10th October, 22 members of Team Scotland travelled to Bedford to compete. Categories include: Traditional Forms, Open Weapon Forms, Bo Staff Forms, Knife Form, Sword Form and Sparring. Abigail won 3 Gold Medals, 1 Bronze Medal and won British Junior Female Black Belt Grand Champion. Abigail was in a category for 13-17 year old. She was in a really tough category and was youngest at 14.

Abigail also came 2nd in the Junior Scottish Karting Championships and the Scottish Karting Super Series, she was presented with the Junior Scottish Driver Award 2015 by BTCC Driver, Dave Newsham – see below



Last week, Abigail was shortlisted for the 2015 Female Driver of the Year Award run by the British Karting Magazine. She received over 900 public votes and the results will be announced in the Karting Magazine due out in mid-December.

Highland Wildcats



Above is an image from the Britbowl championship in September showing all Dingwall Academy students that were selected for the squad. Left to right - Mikey Stewart, Dean Brannen, Scott Robertson, Kyle Holleyoake, James Maclean, David Robertson and Alex Macpherson.

In September the Highland Wildcats beat the rest of Great Britain at Britbowl to retain their British Title. The Wildcats took on all comers in an 8 team tournament held at Keepmoat Stadium in Doncaster.

Sunday 15th November saw the Highland Wildcats annual Awards event that looks back on the whole year and celebrates the teams' achievements. During the season there were nine Black Isle Stags involved with the Wildcats during 2015 and six were nominated for awards:

Kyle Holleyoake (Best Running Back, Most Improved Offense) Alex Macpherson (Best Defensive Skilled, Most Improved Defense) David Robertson (Best Defensive Skilled, Most Improved Defense) James Maclean (Best Quarterback) Dean Brannen (Best Defensive Lineman, Rookie of the year) Mikey Stewart (Best Defensive Lineman, Rookie of the year)

Two Black Isle Stags won awards outright during the evening.

Kyle Holleyoake won the Most Improved Offense award. Kyle was a large factor in the come from behind win in the British Championship semi- final against Buckinghamshire. All season he had been good, but in that game he dominated our toughest opponent of the season.

Alex Macpherson received an award for "Commitment to Excellence" recognising the effort and commitment he has put in during the year to improve as a player and teammate.

Coaches from the Highland Wildcats were in Dingwall Academy on 24th November to recruit for the Black Isle Stags for the 2016 season. The Wildcats will also be holding a free skills clinic at the Highland Football Academy on Sunday December 13 at 1pm.

Dingwall Amateur Swimming Club/ Dingwall Academy Highland Schools Report 2015

Wednesday 4th of November saw a strong team of Dingwall ASC swimmers and two swimmers from Dingwall Academy take part in the annual Highland Schools Swimming Heats. The event was a huge success with all swimmers putting in a truly stellar performance and behaving in a manner that would make both school and coaches very proud.

The following swimmers from Dingwall Academy took part in the event:

Daisy Wisely – 200m Breaststroke and 200m Individual Medley

Niamh Chisholm – 100m Backstroke

Danny McPake – 100m Freestyle and 100m Backstroke

Chris McPake – 100m Backstroke and 100m Breaststroke

Ellie Souter – 100m Freestyle

Katy Connelly – 100m Breaststroke

Erin Robinson – 100m Freestyle and 200m Individual Medley

Hamish Kerr – 100m Freestyle

Martin Keyes – 100m Freestyle

Adrian Moody – 200m Freestyle and 200m Individual Medley

Dingwall ASC Coaching team were very proud of all swimmers efforts on this day and despite being such a small group of swimmers compared to other school entries it was commented on by other teams coaches that we had the best support with all swimmers cheering and screaming for their team mates, a truly team effort.

The results are as available on the Dingwall Swimming Club website here: <http://dingwallswim.com/club-records/meet-results/>

Swimmers below achieved a personal best or a medal in their events.

Anna Beveridge – 50m Freestyle PB of 00:00.92 seconds and 50m Backstroke PB of 00:01.61 seconds.

Grace Ewing – 50m Freestyle PB of 00:00.35 seconds.

Daisy Wisely – 200m Breaststroke Bronze Medal and 200m Individual Medley Bronze Medal PB of 00:06.89 seconds.

Niamh Chisholm – 100m Backstroke PB of 00:04.24 seconds

Danny McPake – 100m Freestyle PB of 00:00.87 seconds and a Silver Medal

Chris McPake – 100m Breaststroke Bronze Medal

Katy Connelly – 100m Breaststroke PB of 00:01.37 seconds

Martin Keyes – 100m Freestyle PB of 00:00.34 seconds

A huge congratulations to ALL swimmers who took part, you are a credit to your schools

Andrew Clark, Head Coach





RASASH

Rape and Sexual Abuse Service Highland

Rape and Sexual Abuse Service Highland (RASASH) is a new sexual violence support service for the Highlands based in Inverness. Although the charity is very focused on support for survivors of

sexual violence, one of its key goal is to prevent sexual violence in the Highlands. Myself and a few other senior pupils who are passionate about this goal have been lucky enough to become Young Ambassadors for RASASH's StandUp! Campaign. The campaign provides young people like myself with a platform to stand up against sexual violence and challenge problematic ideas and behaviours surrounding it. As the Women's Aid 16 Days of Action Campaign is coming up we thought it would be a good time to raise awareness of the Stand Up! Campaign alongside this one. From the 25th of November and the 16th of December myself, Charlie Mack, Liam Lennox, Chloe Gordon and Emma Durdle will be raising awareness of these campaigns around the school. We will be selling ribbons to raise awareness for the 16 Days of Action, holding bake sales and events at lunchtimes. If you would like to learn more about RASASH and the StandUp! Campaign please feel free to contact any of us. We will all look forward to seeing the school stand up to sexual violence alongside us!

Fiona Cameron (S6)

Bike Project

DJ Cameron and Blair Cowan - along with a number of pupils from Room 1 - have recently been working with Colin Morrison from Active Schools, on a bicycle maintenance project.

The project involved taking bikes from the re-cycling centre that had been thrown away, stripping them down and replacing any broken parts, then rebuilding them into useable bikes once again.

A grant was received from "The Raddery Trust" in order to start the project. This allowed tools to be purchased and an account created with local bike shop "Dryburgh Cycles", to supply parts.

So far, three bikes have been re-cycled and two have already found new homes. One on a fleet of hire bikes at a nearby holiday complex, the other has become a winter training bike for a local highland games legend!

All money raised will be used to continue the bike project.

One bike is still for sale.

Mountain Bike: £20, Size Small 26" Wheel



Please contact the school if interested.



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



Winter Trees

BY [WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS](#)

All the complicated details
of the attiring and
the disattiring are completed!
A liquid moon
moves gently among
the long branches.
Thus having prepared their buds
against a sure winter
the wise trees
stand sleeping in the cold.



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