



# Dingwall Academy

# News

## Result!

In the August edition of the newsletter we reported on our exam results and successes. We are now delighted to be able to update this information—Grace Kerr has been successful in having one of her Higher results upgraded, meaning that she has now achieved A passes for all her Highers. Congratulations to Grace on this outstanding success.

Also celebrating an upgrade to his results is Patrick Rea. Patrick received a much deserved upgrade to one of his Higher subjects meaning that he now joins the list of pupils achieving 5 Highers in S5.



## NOVEMBER 2016



**Dates for your Diary:**

**Friday 25th Nov**  
**Interhouse Swimming  
Gala**

**Monday 28th Nov**  
**S4 Contact Evening**

**Friday 2nd Dec**  
**Parent Council Christmas  
Fair**

**Tuesday 13th Dec**  
**Christmas Concert**

**Wednesday 14th Dec**  
**S1 Contact Evening**

**Tuesday 20th Dec**  
**S1 & S2 Social**

**Wednesday 21st Dec**  
**S3 & S4 Social**

**Thursday 22nd Dec**  
**S5 & S6 Social**

**Friday 23rd Dec**  
**School Closes**

**FRIDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> DEC**  
**6PM - 9PM**

- Free Entry
- Santa's Grotto
- Kids Activity Zone
- Festive Food & Drink
- Christmas Entertainment
- Beautifully Crafted Gift Ideas

# Notes & News

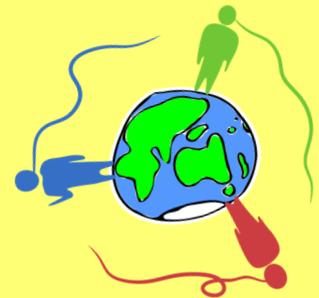
## Safety and Technology



Last session, we held a very successful information night for parents looking at internet safety.

Unfortunately, we regularly hear of cases where pupils have used technology inappropriately. This can result in a great deal of distress for those involved, and in some cases can have very serious consequences.

Technology, and in particular portable devices, are now a way of life. Social networking apps such as Snapchat, Tumblr, Instagram, Facebook and Twitter can be fun ways to keep in touch with friends, but it is important to remember that images and text can be shared with no regulation. We cannot monitor youngsters' activity all the time and it is therefore important that parents talk to their children about how to stay safe, and what to do should things go wrong.



**We would ask parents to consider the following checklist:**

- Have regular conversations with youngsters about the importance of online safety.
- Re-assure youngsters that if they do experience inappropriate on-line activities, then they must talk to you about it.
- Youngsters should not have devices in their rooms at night. Have an agreed time when devices are switched off.
- You should know the security password for your child's devices. It doesn't mean that you check all the time, but it does mean you can if you need to. Knowing that you have this access will often make youngsters think twice about what they send.
- There are blocks that can be put on devices, however many youngsters will quickly find ways around these. What is more important is that you talk regularly and discuss the importance of Internet safety.



# Notes & News

## Severe Weather Information

With the colder weather now with us, a reminder to parents of the severe weather arrangements. Should there be a change to school opening, then this information will first be put onto the telephone message:

Dial 0800 564 2272

School pin code 04 10 10

Information will also be put on the Highland Council Website - [www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk)

Please note that, particularly in the event of a power cut, there can be a delay in getting closure information onto the website.

Moray Firth Radio will also detail any closure information.

For the past few years, we have successfully worked a system where there may be a slightly delayed opening. This system has worked well and again, information will be provided via the telephone message.



## Developing Dingwall

- What do you like about Dingwall?
- What else would you like to see in Dingwall?
- What needs to be improved in Dingwall?
- What would make a difference to you?
- What do you think are the main community needs in Dingwall?

The Developing Dingwall group are keen to look at how Dingwall could be developed and improved for our community, our young people, our businesses and the people who visit us. We would like to build a strategy to achieve this and so we need to find out what priorities local people have.

**WE NEED YOUR OPINION!!!**

To have your say, please fill in our questionnaire at the following link <https://surveyMonkey.co.uk/r/DingwallDG>

or pick up a paper survey from the Library and return it there or to The Sports and Model Shop



# Notes & News

## S2 Super Citizens

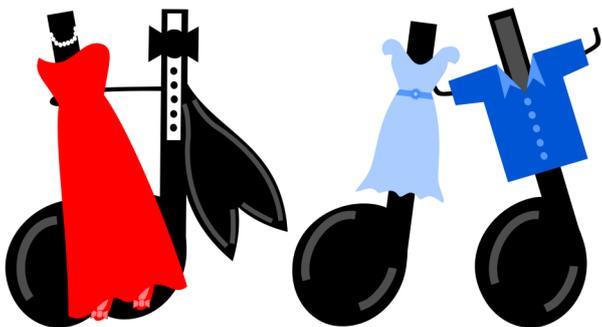
**Congratulations to our recently appointed S2 Super Citizens:**

Kirsty Arnaud, Kirstie Tilbury, Niamh Buchanan, Tiger-Lily Potter, Mairead Flynn, Liam Dickinson, Rebecca Laird, Andrew Emerson, Lucie Corbett, Roan Scobie, Iona Ramsay, Kieran Grant, Muriel MacKinnon, Blythe Wilson, Alana Mutch and Ben Grantham.



## Rock Challenge

This month at Dingwall Academy, Rock Challenge is just starting up again. With the amazing result of 4<sup>th</sup> at the Scottish Finals earlier this year, we are determined to up our game even more next year. A few weeks back, lots of enthusiastic students presented their theme ideas in front of Dingwall Academy Rock Challenge members, and with the help of a couple of teachers, the top 3 most popular themes were mixed together to make our amazing theme for this year. All the sections that make up our Rock Challenge are busy planning ideas. The dancers are learning 2 new dances to perform at the auditions this Friday. The Set, Costume and Hair and Makeup sections already have lots of designs and ideas for our performance. Once the parts are decided, it's full steam ahead!



# Notes & News

## Outdoor classroom



You may have been aware of the large shed that appeared just beside the library. With the help of pupils and community partners this shed has now been transformed into our outdoor classroom.

Pupils have been working hard over the last few weeks painting, plastering, flooring and fitting out this new space.

The classroom will be used to provide a nurturing environment for pupils who are experiencing difficulties with some aspects of school. We are very

grateful to those partners who have helped support the build: Mr William Gray, Travis Perkins, Mears and Mr Gordon Lyall.

## Watersports Trip to Pine de Mar, Spain - June 24<sup>th</sup> 2017

The PE department is planning to run this exciting trip for all pupils. They will experience a wide range of watersports activities such as paddle boarding, windsurfing, kayaking and sailing as well as mountain biking and beach games. There will also be the opportunity to spend a day at a waterpark as well as a sight - seeing trip to Barcelona.

We will be travelling by coach to Glasgow where we will then fly out to Barcelona. We will be staying 5 nights full board in a 3 star hotel in Pineda Mar. The trip will leave on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2017 and return on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June. The cost of the trip is £780. This price includes coach travel, flights, accommodation, all activities, all meals including breakfast, lunch and dinner and entrance fee to the waterpark.

This is a fantastic opportunity for your son or daughter to engage with their classmates in an unfamiliar setting, try out new activities and most importantly develop their own sporting and social skills.

If your son or daughter is interested please contact the PE Department for information.

# In pictures...



The amazing cast of 'The Crucible'



Below: RAF STEM Roadshow Presentation



# English and Gaelic

## Spooky Success

MFR recently teamed up with Highland Libraries to create a spooky story contest for writers of all ages. There were four categories – 7 and under, 8-12, Teen and Adult. Our very own Blythe Wilson of 2W1 was the winner of the Teen category. Here are her thoughts on her success.



The first time I heard about the spooky story competition was in my English class. When I wrote the story I was not expecting to win for my age group: I had actually forgotten about the competition until lunchtime on the day after Hallowe'en when people in my class started congratulating me. I was confused because I'd been away when we had English.

When people said I won I was so happy because I did not expect to win.

My story was about a murderous doctor with a split personality. During the story we learn about how and who he kills and his thoughts and feelings.

*By Blythe Wilson, 2W1*

You can read Blythe's story, and the other winners', on the High Life Highland website:  
<https://www.highlifehighland.com/blog/news/spooky-story-winner/>

## Fèis Dhràma Ghàidhlig / Gaelic Drama Festival

Bu mhath a rinn Tèatar Òigridh Inbhir Pheofharain ( Seumas Morgan S1, Adhamh Bradley S3, Ealasaid Morgan agus Chloe Lonnen S4) a chuir an dealbh-chluich fìor èibhinn aca air àrd-ùrlar Thèatar Chùirt Eden mar phàirt de fhèis Dhràma Ghàidhlig a thachair san t-Sultain. Ann an '*Tha e anns na Daoine*', a leasaich iad le taic bho Aonghas MacLeòid agus an cleasaiche ainmeil, Daibhidh Walker, tha neach-saidheans ag iarraidh nàdar mhic an duine atharrachadh gus stad a chur air mi-thoileachas agus eas-aonta san t-saoghal. Às dèidh uidheam a thogail a leigeas leis smachd a chumail air ar droch nàdair chan eil cùisean idir mar a bha dùil dha. Cuideachd a' cur nan dealbh-chluichean aca fhèin air an àrd-ùrlar bha Acadamaidh Bhaile Dhubhthaich, Àrd-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu agus Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir Nis. Ma tha ùidh aig duine sam bith ( luchd-ionnsaichidh no fileantaich) a dhol an sàs ann an drama chan eil agaibh ach a dhol a bhruidhinn ri Mgr. MacArtair ann an rùm 106.

Well done Dingwall Youth Gaelic Theatre ( Seumas Morgan S1, Adam Bradley S3, Ealasaid Morgan and Chloe Lonnen S4) for staging their hilarious comedy '*It is in the People*' as part of a Gaelic youth drama festival held at Eden Court in September. In the play, which they developed together with help from Angus Macleod and the famous Gaelic actor David Walker, a scientist invents a machine to change human nature in an attempt to bring unhappiness and strife to an end, but things don't work out as planned. Also staging plays were Tain Academy, Glasgow Gaelic High School and Inverness Royal Academy. If anyone is interested in getting involved in Gaelic drama (learners or fluent speakers) they should speak to Mr MacArthur in room 106.



## Just Dance!

During the first week of the October holidays 14 pupils took part in a Dance Leader Level 1 course. The participants learnt generic leadership skills such as organisation, planning, communication and teamwork through the medium of dance. Everyone that took part completed and passed the course, congratulations to all involved! Leaders are now looking to use this qualification by setting up their own dance sessions, a couple of dance leaders have already set up a lunchtime dance club for S1 on Mondays. Photo below of some of the course participants giving their best “dance pout”!



## I Can Lead!

Over the October break 8 young people completed an ‘I Can Lead’ Sports Leader Award. This provided training to young people so they can run and lead sessions in sport, dance or youth club settings. The course was organised and delivered by High Life Highland’s Youth Work team. All the young people thoroughly enjoyed the course and are looking forward to supporting local events.

If you would like to gain information on any awards or to take part, please contact Lindsay McGarry/Louise Rose on 01349 863308 or alternatively email:

[lindsay.mcgarry@highlifehighland.com](mailto:lindsay.mcgarry@highlifehighland.com)

[louise.rose@highlifehighland.com](mailto:louise.rose@highlifehighland.com)



# Highland Youth Voice Elections



There was a Highland Youth Parliament election held recently in Dingwall Academy. This was very exciting with over 7 young people applying and over 515 votes cast!! The newly voted representatives are Jennifer MacIver, Kyle Mackenzie and Fergus Hallwood. They will work hard to ensure that the views of young people within the Dingwall ASG are heard!!

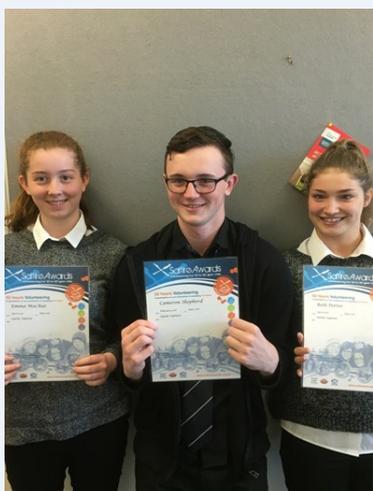
## Saltire Awards

Dingwall Academy is very lucky to have so many pupils who are willing to volunteer and give up their time to support community projects. The hours that young people give up are recognised with a SALTIRE Volunteering Award. Some pupils have recently received this award.

Stephen Clyde, Rhona Urquhart, Sophie Cushnie, Ashleigh Stirling, Catherine Bruce, Sasha Polson, Isla Grant, Lara Vance, Andrea Aquino and Catherine Mackay all recently received their 25 hours award.



Emma MacRae, Cameron Shepherd and Beth Porter received their 50 hour award. And a very excited Lily Fraser who gained her 100 hour Award!!



Well done to everyone!!!



Achievements

## Boxing Champion!



Congratulations to Lewis Urquhart S4 who, last month was crowned Scottish Novices Boxing Champion. The competition took place in Motherwell and Lewis was declared champion by a unanimous decision.

Lewis trains with the Highland Boxing Academy who are obviously delighted with his success.

## Judo Stars

At the end of October, Cameron Foster S4 and Euann Mightens S3 travelled to Flanders, Belgium to represent the North of Scotland in the International Cup for Judo. They both did very well; Cameron got through to the quarterfinals and Euan reached the last 16. Well done to them both.

# Art Department News

S3 design project – All of our third year pupils recently took part in a competition to design a new canopy and pillars for the platform at the Museum of Childhood in Strathpeffer.



The Museum platform is currently being refurbished and our pupils have had the chance to design fantastic and imaginative creations. 2016 is the year of Architecture & Design and this project has been a great introduction to a new genre of design.

Thanks go to Alison Boyle, curator of the museum for asking the department to be involved in the project and also to Peter McIlhenny, the architect who is overseeing the platform refurbishment.

The winners and runners up will be attending a presentation ceremony at the museum on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November and their design will go on display in the Museum and in Strathpeffer library.

## 2016 art exhibition

We are really excited that this year our annual art exhibition of SQA work will be held in the Strathpeffer Pavilion for two days.

Preview for pupils, family and friends will be on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> of November.

Members of the public can view the work on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November, all day. Please do come and have a look at all the beautiful work our pupils have created.



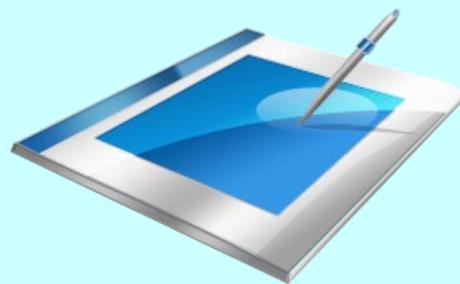
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Something missing? Correction? Is there a feature you'd like to see? Get in touch!

Dingwall Academy  
Dingwall  
Ross-shire  
IV15 9LT  
Tel: 01349 869860  
Fax: 01349 869886



## 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**