RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY

HONESTY

DETERMINATION



Dingwall Academy News

Dingwall Academy Remembers







School Captains laid a wreath on behalf of the school at the Dingwall Memorial.

Respects were paid as Dingwall Academy pupils took time to remember and commemorate the WW1 Centenary.

Senior pupils delivered assemblies to all year groups and wreaths were laid at both the school and Dingwall War Memorials.

November 2018

DATES

Tuesday 20th, Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd November School Show 'Annie' 7pm

Tuesday 27th November **S4 Contact Evening**

Thursday 29th November S1 Monitoring and Tracking report issued

Friday 7th December Christmas Fair 7pm

Tuesday 11th December Christmas Concert

Wednesday 12th December **S1 Contact Evening**

Notes & News



Mrs Cormack and Mr Green were delighted to attend the Highland Quality Awards along with Mrs MacKie, Head Teacher Ben Wyvis Primary School.

Our shared project 'Literacy Ambassadors' was shortlisted for a Quality Award and we were very proud to be announced winners of the category 'Enabling young people to thrive.'

This project has been a success because of the hard work of all the pupils involved, and we would like to pay credit to all who have been involved with the Literacy Ambassadors Programme.

Your Voice, Your Council, Your Future

Throughout November, the Council is reaching out to communities, staff and partners to better understand what is important to our communities. We want to understand what the Council is doing well but where we can improve and do better.

We are facing challenging financial times as an organisation but we believe we can meet that challenge and your feedback will help us plan and shape what we do over the next three years.

There are different ways you can provide your views:

An online survey: <u>www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YourvoiceYourCouncil</u>

A series of public engagement events, details can be found here: <u>www.highland.gov.uk/yourvoice</u> You can complete the Council's budget challenge which is an online tool which gives resident of Highland the opportunity to consider where the budget should be spent, the ultimate aim being to balance the Council's budget: <u>www.highland.gov.uk/yourvoice</u>

A series of facebook conversations on specific topics. Details of these are provided here: <u>www.highland.gov.uk/yourvoice</u>

Notes & News

ASG Parent Information Evening

Last Monday we held our first shared ASG information evening for P7 Pupils and Parents.

The evening focused on how pupils and parents could start to take responsibility for their learning as they prepare to move up to the Academy. Primary schools are already spending a short time each week looking at learning skills.

Pupils and parents had short presentations from Mrs Cormack, Mr Di Carlo and Mrs Sinclair, Head Teacher at Tarradale Primary School. Reading remains one of the most important things pupils can do at home, and so for the final activity, pupils and parents went through to the library. If pupils were already members they were encouraged to borrow a book, and if pupils were not members they were able to sign up and start borrowing.



We were unsure what to expect and so were delighted that the hall was full. Initial evaluations from the evening indicate that it was very successful and worth doing.

Transition Fayre



On Wednesday 14th November the school games hall was transformed into an impressive exhibition hall as we hosted the Transition Fayre.

Dingwall Academy pupils were joined by a number of pupils from other Highland Schools to look at the wide range of information available. The event provided valuable information to help pupils with their future planning.

A big thank you to Dingwall Academy pupils who helped with the running of the event.

Notes & News



EMPLOYABILITY

Last session a number of senior pupils were trained as nail technicians.

This year, some of these senior pupils were able to use their expertise to train up our next cohort of nail technicians.

The senior pupils proved to be very capable teachers demanding high standards from their students!

With some additional training, the new group will be ready to test their skills on the public ...



SQA British Sign Language qualifications for schools

SQA have developed a new range of Awards in British Sign Language. They are similar to Nationals but given these courses will also be delivered by non registered teachers, they will be referred to as Awards.

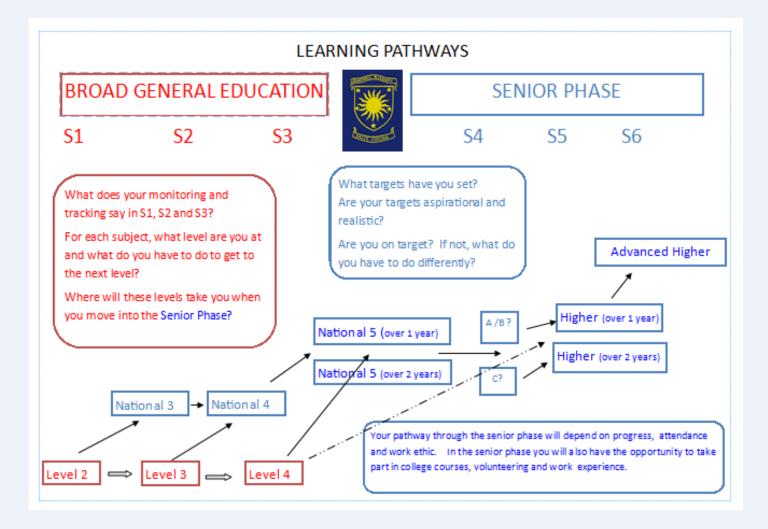
Dingwall Academy is one of two schools in Scotland piloting these new Awards.

Learning Pathways

It can be confusing for pupils and parents to navigate their way through the different grades, levels and exams available at school.

To help simplify this, we have put together our learning pathways guide. This aims to help pupils and parents track and plan progress through school. A summary of the pathway is shown below.

The parent council are also looking at this, they are helping to inform further information and guidance for parents.



Target Setting

All senior phase pupils are currently involved in target setting. Pupils are asked to reflect on current progress and to set targets for their prelim exams. The prelim exams start in January and pupils will be issued with full timetables prior to Christmas.

Chrome Book Update

Google Classroom



Google Classroom is spreading ...

Google classroom is increasingly used for passing on whole school information to pupils. All pupils should have now joined the Communications Classroom. Please take time at home to look at this with your child.

If you have any problems accessing Google Classroom then please do not hesitate to contact the school.

E-portfolios

We are now in the process of introducing all pupils in S1—S3 to e-portfolios. The aim is for all pupils to have started their e-portfolios by the end of this term. In the New Year we plan to share e-portfolios with parents and you will be able to access and view pupils online profiles.

So what are e-portfolios? They are an online record of pupil's learning and achievements. Increasingly employers will look at the online profiles of potential employees.



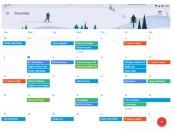


We want pupils to learn the importance of having a positive online profile that shows off their qualities, qualifications, skills and talents. We also want pupils to be able to reflect on their learning and wider achievements.

Google Calendar

Pupils in S1 and S2 have a weekly check of their calendar during House Tutor. Older pupils are expected to take responsibility for checking their own calendar.

S1 and S2 pupils have also been asked to share their calendars with someone at home. Not only does this provide a valuable contact between school and home, it also replicates the way that many people now work. It is now very common for colleagues to share their working calendars.



CREATIVITY

Earlier in the session, S3 pupils enjoyed a morning workshop with a focus on creativity. Pupils were asked to consider what they thought creativity meant, and were encouraged to think of creativity as being about much more than art, music, dance and drama.

Creativity is also about innovation and thinking differently.

Pupils were asked to consider a number of famous people who had all demonstrated creativity in different ways. This included J K Rowling, Beyonce, Albert Einstein and Marie Curie.





Pupil were given the opportunity to hear how creativity is an important employability skill. We were very grateful to Café Biagiotti, Shona MacLean, Highland Farm Café, Cullisse Farm and Georgia Bell for their valuable input.

Pupils were then asked to think about the importance of bravery and resilience. If a person is to be creative and put forward new ideas, then they must be prepared to listen to feedback and opinion and this can sometimes be difficult. They can also face initial failure and must be prepared to persevere.



We now have a creativity and resilience notice board at the front of the school and, following the success of this event, the workshop will now be offered to all of S3.



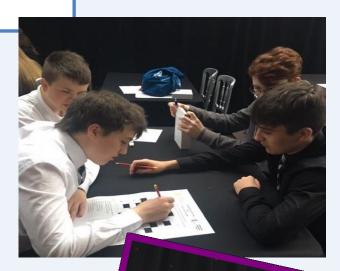
CREATIVITY

Creativity is also about problem solving, a number of pupils have been demonstrating excellent problem solving skills in the field of Mathematics.

Enterprising Maths Competition

After qualifying in joint second place in the Highland Heats of the Enterprising Maths competition, George Shread, Louis Taylor, Alexander Taylor and Ruairidh McGee took part in the National final which was held in the Glasgow Science Centre on Tuesday 6th November.

They competed in 4 rounds which included a group round, practical round, stations round and a relay round. They worked extremely well and out of the 68 schools participating, the boys finished in a very impressive 13th place!



S1 and S2 Problem Solving Event



On Monday 12th November, Mrs Miller and Mrs Hannah's S1 classes took part in a problem solving afternoon. The pupils were put into groups of 4 and worked their way through 3 rounds—a group round, a speed round and the make a number round.

The pupils worked very hard and we were very impressed with their resilience! We followed up the afternoon with more problems and puzzles in class. There will be a problem solving club in the Maths department starting soon where we will work on similar puzzles.

More details will be available shortly.

John Muir Award



Pupils who took part in the Alladale trip at the end of last session recently received their John Muir Awards. This is an excellent award, recognised and valued by education and business.

Pupils achieving the award are: Jade Allan, Emilia Astill-Brown, Tom Cameron, Thomasin Campbell, Ariane Greasley, Adam Green, Jakub Krystkowiak, Maggie Larsen, Tara Larsen, Euan MacIvor, Tom McBride, Lewis Mosey-Lyall, Alana Mutch, Daniel Porter, Iona Ramsay, Rhys Sim, Alexander Taylor, Hannah Unger-McGillivray, Andrew Vance, Finlay Walker and Christina Wilson.

> JOHN MUIR AWARD *wild* places: DISCOVER EXPLORE CONSERVE SHARE

Our engagement initiative encourages people to connect with, enjoy, and care for wild places.

Achievement Ambassadors



A new initiative this term has been the appointment of Achievement Ambassadors.

The role of the Achievement Ambassadors will be to highlight the importance of wider achievements, including volunteering. The Ambassadors will help gather and collate information on pupil achievements, they will then help signpost pupils to additional awards such as the Saltire Award and Youth Achievement Award.

Our Ambassadors will be delivering assemblies to pupils this week, and they are Mackenzie Blyth, Shannon Fraser, Kirsty Ross, Katie Sproul, Lexy Wallace and Angel Lawrie.



No Knives Better Lives

At the end of last term we hosted a visit from the Fast Forward Theatre group delivering a strong and powerful message through the play 'Balisong.'

S2 pupils were all given the opportunity to see the play.



The play, named after the Philippine term for a butterfly knife, focuses on three teenagers discussing the circumstances leading to their friend stabbing someone and whether they could have prevented it.

The final scene shows an alternative ending, demonstrating how the most tragic of circumstances could have been avoided if one of the friends had just spoken to someone about their concerns.

It encourages all youngsters to think about the impact of knife crime, and the importance of letting an adult know if they think someone is carrying a knife.







CHRISTMAS FAIR

For the last two years, the Parent Council have been responsible for the organisation and running of the Christmas Fair. The event has been unbelievably successful with over 50 stalls involved on the night.

This year the Parent Council were supported in their decision to switch focus from fundraising to parental engagement—so what about the Christmas Fair?!

It was suggested that a group of senior pupils might take on the organisation of this huge event. If Mrs Cormack is honest, she had her doubts, but was then reminded of a phrase that she used herself *"We have to give pupils the opportunity to surprise us!.."* And so it was decided that a 6th year group be given responsibility for organising the Fair.

The Fair takes place on Friday 7th December in the school from 6—9pm and the senior pupils have done an incredible job.



So please come along on 7th December to support them. All proceeds from the evening go to Teenage Cancer Trust. The school has a long established partnership with TCT and it is therefore appropriate that they will be delivering awareness raising talks in school on Monday 10th December.

DINGWALL ACADEMY CHRISTMAS FAIR FRIDAY 7TH DECEMBER 6PM—9PM

> Festive Food and Drink Beautifully crafted gift ideas Santa's Grotto Amazing raffle with incredible prizes

Royal National Mod

During the Monday competitions at this year's Royal National Mòd in Dunoon, Dingwall Academy pupils were competing both in the U19 folk group competition and the U19 choral singing competitions.

Deàrrsadh, pictured on the right, featuring Mhairi MacKenzie (S2), Andrea MacDonald (S2), Finlay Maclennan (S2), Ruaraidh Drennan (S1) and Hamish Drennan (S6) along with Billy Goodall from Dingwall Primary, gave excellent performances of both of their songs, showing fabulous musicality and musicianship and came a very close 2nd place.

> Rionnagan Rois, featuring Mairead Flynn (S4), Caitlin Maclennan (S3), Aimee Georgeson (S3), Mhairi MacKenzie (S2), Andrea MacDonald (S2), Jodie Robertson (S2), Emma McCourt (S2), Eilidh Reive (S2) and Heather Christie (S2) gave two stunning and emotive performances, coming first place and taking home the Queen Elizabeth (1937) Coronation Trophy.

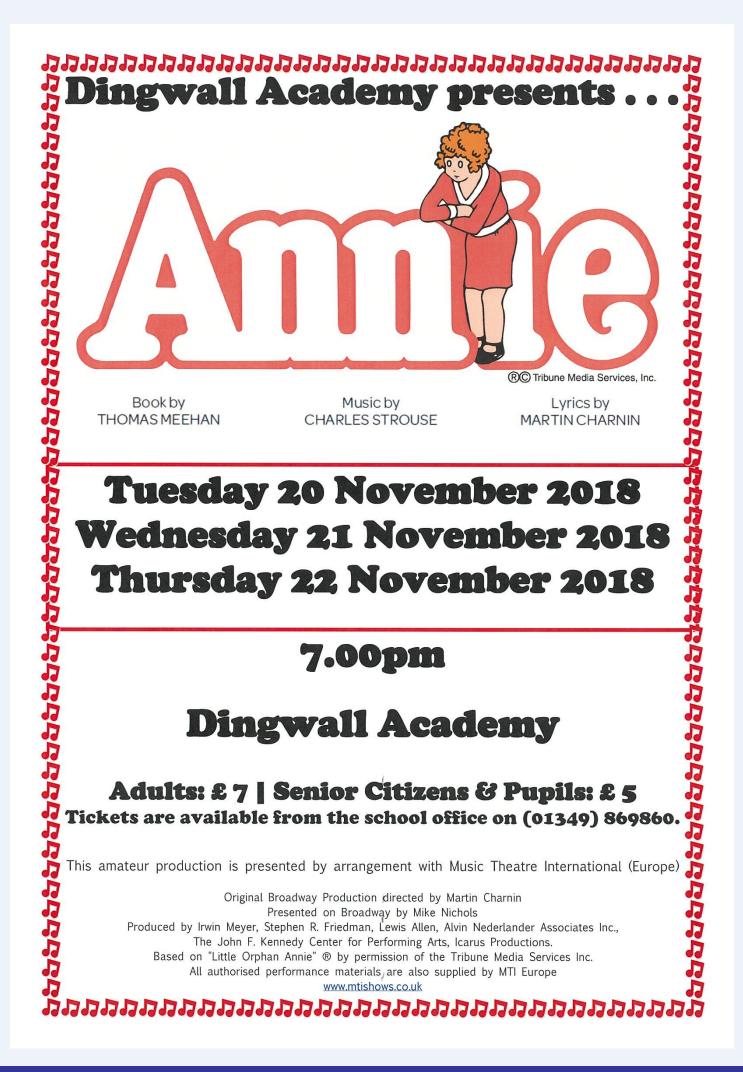
#YOYP2018



Ruaraidh Drennan (left) won two bronze medals in the solo singing and fiddle and also competed in solo piping. His brother Hamish won bronze medals in his three piping competitions.



Am Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail



Nov-18 • Dingwall Academy • Page 14 • 01349 869860 • www.dingwallacademy.com

RASASH

The school has established a very valued partnership with RASASH—Rape & Sexual Abuse Service Highland. RASASH provides free and confidential information and support to anyone aged 13 or over who is affected by sexual violence and lives in Highland.

Such was the impact of visiting speakers from RASASH, a number of pupils chose the charity as the focus for their YPI presentations last session. A number of pupils have stayed very involved with the group and are now working as Stand up volunteers.

S4 Stand Up! Volunteers



Several of the volunteers have written blog posts for the RASASH blog which have been very well received by our Facebook community and by my colleagues here at RASASH.

You can see posts by Kirsty Arnaud, Lucie Corbett and Anna Bayne. Elsa Fearn, Anna Munro and Kirsty Arnaud's winning YPI poem 'Time's Up' also is posted on the blog. <u>http://</u> <u>www.standuprasash.com/</u> Two of the blog posts have been entered in the national Write to End Violence Against Women awards, with the shortlisted articles to be announced in due course.

Approximately 6 of the girls involved with RASASH for the Youth Philanthropy Initiative attended a day's training in the school summer holidays with Lindsay Linning from Rasash at Dingwall Community Centre. We discussed issues around gender equality, gender-based violence and strategies for creating a more equal and violence-free society. We also had a dinner out in early July in Inverness to celebrate all their excellent work with the YPI project.

Stand Up!

Five of the volunteers will be joining Lindsay on 27 November in Glasgow for the Year of Young People event organised by Rape Crisis at Glasgow Women's Library. The day is a chance for young feminist activists to come together from all over Scotland to celebrate and showcase their work in the area of gender equality, to attend workshops, hear from the Equalities Minister and learn more about feminist activism and campaigning. It should be a great day! The girls are going to perform 'Time's Up' (the winning YPI piece) and a couple of the others will have the opportunity to talk about the YPI experience more generally and do a reading. They are also hoping to perhaps perform a song written by one of them on the topic of equality and create a video to show the audience.

Here are some photos of the dinner and the girls at the RASASH stand at ProudNess.



MSP Visit

Kate Forbes MSP visit

On Monday 29th October, Kate Forbes MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch (and former pupil of Dingwall Academy!) was welcomed into Mrs Webster's Higher Modern Studies class. During her visit, the pupils asked Kate a variety of questions relating to her job in Parliament and in the local community.

Kate helped pupils understand the importance of the role of an MSP and may have got a few thinking about a career in politics in the future!



Our Ness Book FEST TRIP



On Friday 5th October, five S3 students and Mrs Davidson went on an English trip to the Ness Book Fest. Our trip started off with a delightful visit to the Zizzi's restaurant. There we had an extremely delicious meal followed by a short visit to Miele's Gelateria.

We then went to the Town House, Inverness to meet the renowned author Lorraine Thomson. She has written dystopian, historical and crime fiction novels. We went especially to hear about her dystopian fiction as we are writing our own dystopian short stories in English. It was really interesting to learn about how she creates, plans and gets her inspiration for stories. She explained that to write a good novel, you have to really engage with the characters and to think as if you were them. She told us to find a writing structure that was effective for yourself and to not be let down by failure.

Overall, the trip was extremely fun and informative. It was a really great experience and it was very kind of Mrs Davidson to take us.

Written by: Emily Tham, Millie Simpson and Rowan Masterson.





Cyrano De Bergerac

A group of senior students, accompanied by Mr Dolan, Mr Strathearn, Mrs Riddell, Miss Fyvie and Miss Radcliffe, of the English Department, attended the National Theatre of Scotland, Citizens Theatre and The Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh co-production of the classic romantic tragedy Cyrano de Bergerac at Eden Court.

The new production of Edwin Morgan's Glaswegian-Scots translation brought new life to the brash and flamboyant Cyrano's quest for his love, Roxanne. An impressive ensemble of actors and musicians used Morgan's rich Scots verse to create a fresh take on the enduringly popular period piece based on Rostand's story, which was most famously given the Hollywood treatment in the Steve Martin comedy, Roxanne.

The 3 hr plus epic production was an intense, challenging and incredibly memorable experience for those who attended.

So what did you do during your holidays?

How often do you get to reply "I spent it at the NASA Space School in Texas!"

The Scottish Space School is an engineering programme run by Strathclyde University that takes place every year. Every S5 pupil in Scotland is eligible to apply for one of a hundred spaces for a week long residential course in June. I filled out the application form in December 2017, after having Space School recommended to me by my physics teacher, Mr Smart, with no real expectation to get in. I received a surprise email in March informing me that I had been accepted! In June, I excitedly turned up to Strathclyde University.

The week that followed was fast paced and loaded with interesting challenges and activities including lectures, labs and workshops all on a space theme. These were delivered by professors and researchers from the Faculty of Engineering of Strathclyde University and visiting NASA staff. We had the chance to meet and talk with the NASA staff which included a flight surgeon, an astronaut and the current deputy program manager of the International Space Station. This was such an inspiring experience, hearing about how sometimes failure can play an important part in success and in making them the people they are today.



The trip to Houston, in October, was ten days long and absolutely incredible. During the week, we were very privileged, seeing behind the scenes at the NASA Johnson Space Centre; visiting the Neutral Buoyancy Lab and Space Vehicle Mockup Facility.

We had inspiring talks from a variety of speakers, in particular, Gene Kranz and Fred Haise - both legends of the Apollo Missions. Other incredible experiences included visiting Rice University, attending the 'Wings Over Houston' airshow, stargazing at the George Observatory, going to an American football game and learning about how aerospace technologies are saving lives at Houston Methodist Medical Centre.

My whole experience with the Scottish Space School, from beginning to end, has been such an inspiration and eye-opening experience. I feel I have made lifelong friends and memories I will cherish forever. I would definitely recommend it to any pupil interested in Science or Engineering.

By Finlay Rollo (S6)



Pupil Achievements



Beauly Shinty Club's U14 team won The U14 North Division One League title to add to the MacMaster Cup win in September

Team included Dingwall Academy pupils: James Morrison, Farquhar MacRae, Finlay MacLennan, Scott Cameron, Ian MacLachlan and Callum MacIver Well done to you all!

Allan Hassan Pipes and Drums

Last weekend, Alan Hassan received the BAE Systems Cadet Award for Excellence in Piping and Drumming Leadership.



Alan has been a member of the Army Cadets Pipes and Drums for many years now and has reached a very high level of piping as a result. This is just a small part of the rewards that can be achieved through

the ACF Pipes and Drums.

Pipes and Drums meet at the Culloden Cadet Training Centre on Keppoch Road in Culloden on Thursday nights from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. Beginners are welcome.

Air Cadets



SamWallace (S3) has been selected to represent Scotland and Northern

Ireland at the National Finals of Aircraft Recognition at RAFC Cranwell next Saturday 24th November. He will be required to recognise and name as many aircraft as possible and is given only a couple of seconds to view each image. Sam has already won the Highland and Scottish heats.

Good luck Sam!









Judo success

Earlier this month, Cameron and Corey Foster competed in the Welsh Open. Corey in the Pre-cadet -46kg placed 5th, and Cameron in the cadet -66kg also placed 5th.

And recently they competed in the Scottish national championships.

Corey in the Pre-cadet -46kg won the Bronze medal, Cameron in the Cadet -66kg took the silver medal, and placed 5th in the junior category.

Cameron was also crowned Grand Prix champion 2018.

In a few weeks they will be heading to Sheffield for the British championships.

Attached is a picture of them with their medals and trophy.



Congratulations to Corey and Cameron. We wish you both all the best at the British Championships!



Ross Company Army Cadets Latest News



Ross Company ACF recently took part in the Remembrance Day Parade on Sunday 11th November, many Dingwall Academy pupils were involved in the parade and the laying of the wreath



Pictured are two Dingwall Academy pupils who laid the wreath for Ross Company – Jamie on the left and Hamish on the right



Ross Company Parade

Ross Company Army Cadets Latest News

During October, three Dingwall Academy pupils, Andy Tait, Lewis Squire and David Millar took part in a Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition with Ross Company.

The expedition took place going from Strathrusdale in Alness through Kildermorie Estate, camping at the side of the Averon River and round Cnoc Na Sroine back to Strathrusdale. A total distance of 17 kilometre.

The first day of the expedition was very wet! The boys walked all day in the rain and stopped for a well earned meal on Saturday evening. After a very early night they set off the next day in sunshine, the lads finished the walk ahead of time and smiling when they arrived.

As a result of this all the boys will go on to receive their award shortly then will be going on to do their Silver award through the cadets.

Dingwall Detachment meet on Monday nights 7.30pm to 9.30pm, at the detachment hut on Ferry Road in Dingwall.

Alness Detachment meet on Thursday nights. 7pm to 9pm opposite the recycling centre in Teaninich Industrial Estate



Pictured. 2Lt Wright (Ross Company DofE Officer), Corporal Andy Tait, Corporal Harry Dawson (Alness ACF), Corporal Lewis Squire, Lance Corporal Jack Davidson (Alness ACF), Lance Corporal David Millar, Captain Lucas (DofE Expedition Supervisor), PSI Davidson (DofE Expedition Assistant)

Re-Union Visit







On a beautiful Autumn morning we were delighted to host a visit from former Dingwall Academy pupils who had all taken part in an exchange visit to Belgium in 1958.

The visitors enjoyed a tour of the school before relaxing over refreshments in our Sunflower Café.

Thank you to Head Girl Anna Maria Stewart and S5 pupil Ceitidh Petrie for making our visitors so welcome.

Dingwall Academy has changed a lot in the last 60 years, but the sense of pride was evident from pupils past and present.

Archive news

Dingwall Academy Photographic Archive

In the coming issues of the newsletter, we are delighted to be able to share with you some of the school's historic photographic archive. The late Dave Ritchie, former pupil and Head of Modern Studies, was a man entrusted some years back with a unique collection of photographic slides of pupils and staff of the fifties, sixties and seventies. They were compiled by a remarkable character, Kenny Laing, post-war Head of Classical Studies at the school, who died twenty years or so ago in his late eighties.

Kenny was something of an educational icon and former wartime intelligence officer and his archive, of over 400 slides and photographs show pupils, classes, teachers, the old school and a large number of youngsters from both Dingwall Primary and the Academy.



Does anyone know who these Shinty Players are?



The Queen's Visit - 1964

Nov-18 • Dingwall Academy • Page 27 • 01349 869860 • www.dingwallacademy.com

Watch out for the next issue of the *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



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