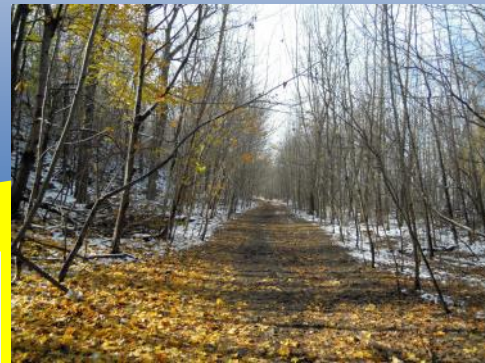




# Dingwall Academy *News*



## NOVEMBER



**Dingwall Academy pupils took part in Remembrance events both in school and communities.**

**More details on page 3.**

### Key Dates

Wednesday 20th November—  
S5/S6 Contact Evening

Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd  
November - In-service

Wednesday 27th November—  
Parental Engagement Event

Friday 29th November—  
Art Exhibition

Monday 2nd December—  
S4 Contact Evening

Thursday 5th December—Film  
showing of 'Divided' 7.30pm

Friday 6th December—Christmas  
Fair

Tuesday 10th December—  
Christmas Concert

**Thursday 12th December—  
S1 Contact Evening  
Postponed.**

17th, 18th and 19th December—  
Christmas Socials

# Notes and News

## Staffing

We are delighted to welcome Miss Scanlan to the English department. Miss Scanlan is no stranger to the school having completed her probationer year at Dingwall Academy.

## Annual Data Check Forms

Annual Data Check Forms to check pupil's correct contact and medical details were given out to all pupils in September.

Could all parents and carers please check that they have been updated, signed and returned to the school office.

## S1 Contact Evening

The date of the General Election clashes with our S1 Contact Evening.

This contact evening will now be re-scheduled for the New Year.

## Adverse Weather Arrangements

A reminder of procedure to check for possible school closure or delayed start.



The phone information line is the first to be updated. Parents are asked to call this number, and not the school office.

**Dial 0800 564 2272—you will then be prompted for the school pin code which is 04 10 10**

Highland school closures will also be listed on: [www.highland.gov.uk/schoolclosures](http://www.highland.gov.uk/schoolclosures)



If your child travels on a school bus, we would recommend that you follow the D & E Facebook page. This is updated with any travel changes early each morning.

# Monitoring and Tracking

## Target Setting

S4, S5 and S6 pupils have recently completed target setting for their prelim exams. Pupils complete target setting on chromebooks and we would encourage parents to take some time to discuss targets with their child.



## Monitoring and Tracking S1—S3

This year we have moved to a new system for monitoring pupil progress in S1, S2 and S3.

The pupil tracking sheet now sits on Google Drive, and can also be accessed via the pupil's e-portfolio.

Information on how to access this was emailed to all parents, there will also be an information stand at the parental engagement event on 27th November.

## Prelim Exams

Prelims exams start the first week back after the Christmas Holidays. All pupils will be issued with a timetable prior to the holidays.

All senior phase pupils should now have a settled study routine. Depending on the number of exams pupils are sitting they should be aiming for 8—10 hours of study each week.

Pupils have been given further study advice in school and there will also be further information at the parental engagement event on Wednesday 27th November.





# Remembrance

Advanced Higher History Pupils delivered a Remembrance Day Assembly to S4 pupils

They chose to focus on the friendship and collaboration of the allied forces during the D Day landings of June 1944. The pupils outlined the enormous effort of both military personnel and civilians during the operation to liberate Western Europe. Moving eyewitness testimonies and poetry were chosen to commemorate the sacrifices made during this battle and all battles fought by the British and Commonwealth soldiers throughout history.

After the Assembly the school observed the 2 minutes silence and School Captains then laid a wreath at the school memorial.

Thank you to Ruairaidh Drennan for his piping.



Thank you to all Dingwall Academy pupils who took part in Remembrance Sunday events.



*“Hi All*

*I would like personally to thank your Head Boy and Head Girl for their involvement in the parade last Sunday. They were a credit to the school. As a former pupil of the school it made me very proud to see them take a major role on the day.*

*Kindest regards*

*Andrew MacIvor, Community Councillor “*



# Parental Engagement

On Wednesday 27th November we will hold our first Parental Engagement Fair. The event will run from 4.30—7.30 with parents able to drop in and out during this time. Further details have already been emailed to parents and a full information sheet and guide will be made available.

Please do come along and learn more about the school and how you can support your child.

## ***What is it all about?***

*To help parents support their child's learning and wellbeing.*

## ***But I didn't really like school, why should I come along?***

School has changed—a lot. Please come along and experience what it is like to be a pupil in a 21st Century classroom. Lots of the activities are designed to be interactive, however parents can also choose to just observe.

## ***Do I have to be there for the whole event?***

No. The event runs from 4.30—7.30 but is designed in such a way that you can drop in and out at times that suit you.

## ***Do I come on my own, or with my child?***

Parents are welcome to attend on their own, or to attend along with their child. However this event is aimed at parental engagement so we do ask that pupils do not come along unaccompanied. We would be delighted to see pupils there, but they must stay with parents for the event.

## ***Not sure if there will be anything in it for me.***

The programme is full and varied so there will be something for everyone. There are snapshot lessons, information stalls and talks on mental health and drugs awareness.

## ***Do I have to bring a chromebook?***

No, however if attending with your child they are encouraged to bring along their chromebook so that you can take part in some of the activities.

# Christmas Fair



*Please come and join us at our Christmas Fair on Friday 6th December.*

*The school will be filled with stalls and lots of lovely food, so make a night of it and get into the festive spirit!*

*Proceeds from the evening will be donated to Teenage Cancer Trust.*

*The Parent Council will also be looking for some help at the event. Please consider giving even an hour of your time to help out.*





# John Muir Award

Last week 28 pupils from S1,S2 and S3 had the opportunity to take part in and achieve The John Muir Award. This is an environmental award scheme focused on wild places which supports people to connect with, enjoy and care for nature, landscape, and the natural environment.

Fairburn Activity Centre provided pupils with a range of activities and experiences that enabled the pupils to discover, explore, conserve and finally share their findings with each other. The weather was perfect each day and the pupils really enjoyed spending time outdoors investigating and researching the natural environment. The lunchtime soup provided each day by the centre was a welcome addition to our own packed lunches!

Thanks to the staff at Fairburn and to the teachers who accompanied the pupils on the trip.



JOHN  
MUIR  
AWARD

*wild places:*  
DISCOVER  
EXPLORE  
CONSERVE  
SHARE

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

# Dingwall Academy

## ART EXHIBITION 2019



*Friends and family opening—Friday 29th November 6.30—8.30  
Multi Purpose Hall.*

*Open to the general public—Saturday 30th November 10am—3pm.*



# Cycle to School Week



A number of pupils (and staff) from Maryburgh and Conon Bridge took the opportunity to take part in Cycle to School Week.

There were accompanied rides before and after school where pupils were able to ride safely into school. Staff from the Velocity Café were on hand on help with the rides and with cycle maintenance. There was also a smoothie bike where riders could generate their own smoothie!



We look forward to working with the Velocity Café on more cycle initiatives.



# Aigas—Environmental Science



National 4 and 5 Environmental Science classes spent a day on fieldwork at Aigas.

Although it was a cold day on the 2nd of October there were good results gained as we sampled the loch and the stream for freshwater invertebrates. At the same time measurements of pH, flow rate and dissolved solid were made to help understand the pattern of invertebrate distribution.

It's good to know from our initial results that our samples show the high quality of the water in the area, although more work will be done on the data in school.

Fieldwork is a key part of these courses. How else can we study our environment without getting out and about.

Mr Maxwell



# Geography Fieldwork



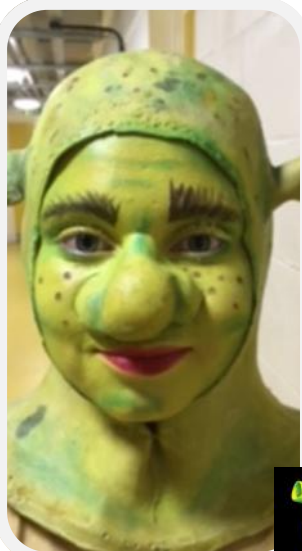
The Higher Geography classes enjoyed a day of Physical Geography fieldwork at Cairngorm Mountain on 24<sup>th</sup> September. The weather was kind with sunshine and a beautiful rainbow (we looked for the pot of gold but to no avail).

Pupils learnt about river processes and took measurements of the speed and width of the river along with a study of the soil in different locations. We were also joined by a ranger from the Land and Forestry Scotland group who outlined about the various land use conflicts that exist in the area. The data collected will be used for a Higher Assignment.

Miss Forsyth



# Achievements



Well done to Hope Murray  
1B2

She Played 'Baby Shrek' and  
'The Grumpy Dwarf' in  
Shrek the Musical at Eden  
Court , August 2019



Holly Morton in 2N2 recently joined the British Showjumping Association. She takes part in the Just for Schools League representing Dingwall Academy.

Holly has only been horse riding for just over 2 years and started show jumping in July of this year. There are regular events locally and she will be taking part in The North Cup Cross Country event in October.

Below is a link showing Holly's progress through the year. She has so far placed in 2 classes (90cm & 80cm) and has already reached 4th place in the 80cm.

<http://www.britishshowjumping.co.uk/leagues/justforschools/individual>



**MÒD GHLASCHU  
GLASGOW MOD**  
Baile Mòr nan Gàidheal • The Heart of Gaelic Scotland

**2019**

Well done to all pupils who competed at the Royal National Mod in Glasgow during the October holidays.

After months of practice, pupils took part in a range of competitions.

Congratulations to

Aimee Georgeson S4 who won the James MacPhee Medal for under 15 Learners' Vocal Solo.

Ruaraidh Drennan S2 who won silver in the 15 years and under piobaireachd Rionnagan Rois who won silver in both the Under 19 Unison and Puirt.

Dèarrsadh who won bronze in the Under 19 Folk Group.



# Achievements



# Achievements



Corporal Squire receiving his second place medal

Corporal Lewis Squire was triumphant at the recent Scottish Battalion Swimming Event in Glasgow. Lewis got a second place in the back-stroke and will now go on to represent Scotland in the National Swimming Event near Liverpool. This win contributed to 1 Highlanders earning a team first place. Congratulations Lewis!



Congratulations to all pupils who were part of the Velocity Café cycle maintenance initiative.

As part of the course pupils worked on and restored a bike.

Pictured is Joshua Forsyth proudly displaying his reconditioned bike.



# Fundraising



**Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Children In Need fundraising, just over £1000 was raised—well done!**

Our next main fundraising event is the Craft Fair on Friday 6th December. Much of the proceeds from this event go to the Teenage Cancer Trust charity.



We are very grateful to pupils and parents for all the support you give to our fundraising events. However, we are also conscious that pupils are being asked to bring in money for a range of events—Children In Need, Sponsored Walk, S1 Lepra Fundraising ...

We acknowledge that this can put pressure on families, particularly at this time of year. We will be discussing with the parent council how we can better co-ordinate fundraising events.

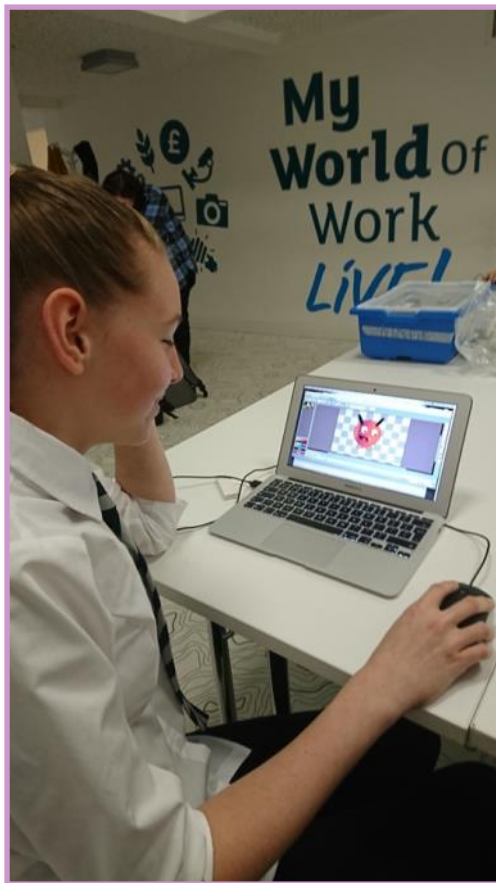
# Computer Games Visit

## COMPUTER GAMES DEVELOPMENT TRIP TO SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SCOTLAND

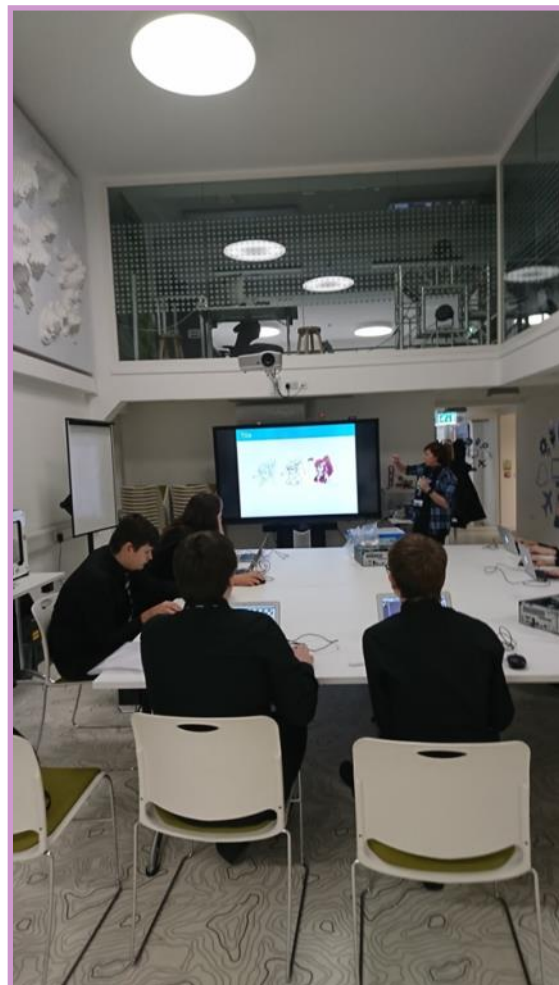
Wed 18<sup>th</sup> September

The students from Mrs Nakau's Games Development class enjoyed a trip to Skills Development Scotland where they had an opportunity to create sprites using Aseprite, software which is popular among independent game developers. They then imported their sprites into a Professional Game Engine named Unity.

The class were enthused and keen to go home and continue working with the software. Aseprite is available for a £10 one off payment and Unity 2D can be downloaded for free.

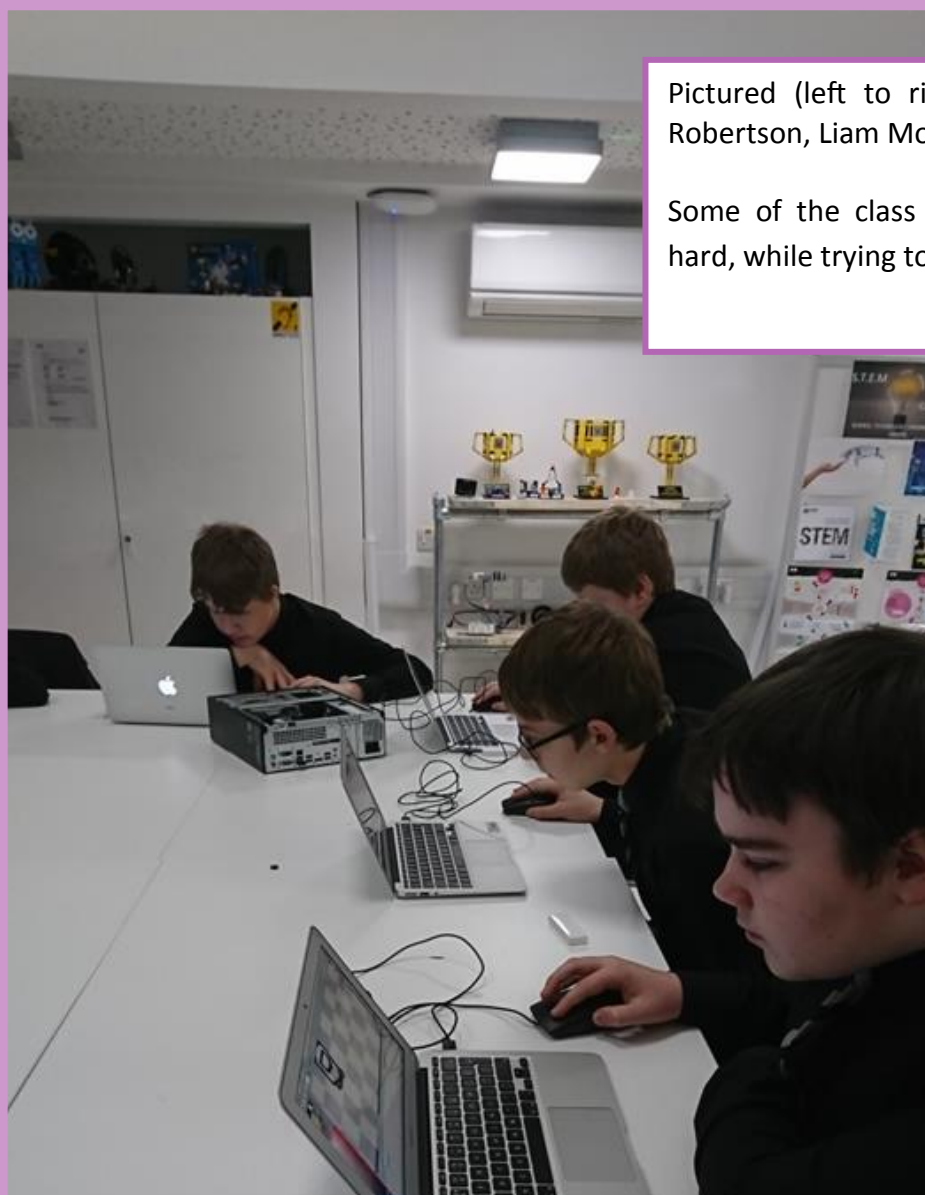


Jessica Stirling creating her Sprite



Class getting to grips with unfamiliar software and using i-macs

# Computer Games Visit



Pictured (left to right) Jamie Halford, Bradley Robertson, Liam Moir, and Seumas Morgan.

Some of the class pictured here concentrating hard, while trying to create their sprites.



Bradley Robertson 19 Sep

The trip was very insightful into how to professionally make sprites and game mechanics. The trip has given me ideas with what to do for my own game, the pixel art skills will come in very useful.



Harry Gray 19 Sep

I really enjoyed the trip and it inspired me to start working on games and sprite art at home"



Liam Moir 19 Sep

It was exciting to go and use professional software. It was also nice to miss double maths. The software's seemed relatively easy to use and the person hosting the workshop was helpful.



# Sport Ambassadors



*Rachel Johnstone (S6) and Kai McAuley (S4)*

*In August of 2019, we were proud to be chosen as Dingwall Academy's Young Ambassadors for the current school session. As we are both heavily involved in a diverse range of sports, we found this an incredible chance to use our knowledge and experience to hopefully have a positive impact and influence other young people in the school, not only those sporty individuals.*

*The Young Ambassador initiative oversees 650 students a year who's aim is to promote sport, and motivate and inspire other young people to get involved in sport in a wide range of settings within their local communities, including schools, clubs and community organisations.*

*On the 26th of September we attended the Highland Young Ambassadors Conference at the Kingsmills Hotel in Inverness. This marked the start of our Young Ambassador journey and allowed us to gain a wider sense of the issues faced within sport in the Highlands and in collaboration with other YA's, discuss and come up with innovative ideas on how to tackle these problems. The day was a fantastic experience for both of us and it not only influenced our YA progress, but also improved our social skills and allowed us to mix with other like-minded individuals.*

*From this event, we have a wide array of ideas and plans in which we are excited to implement in the coming months. The first of these being the introduction of a **sporting Instagram page** for the school. This way we hope to be able to showcase Dingwall sport including promotion of events, clubs, and also show off the incredible sporting achievements of our fellow students! Keep an eye out on the facebook page for more information!!*

# Solar Bear Drama Week

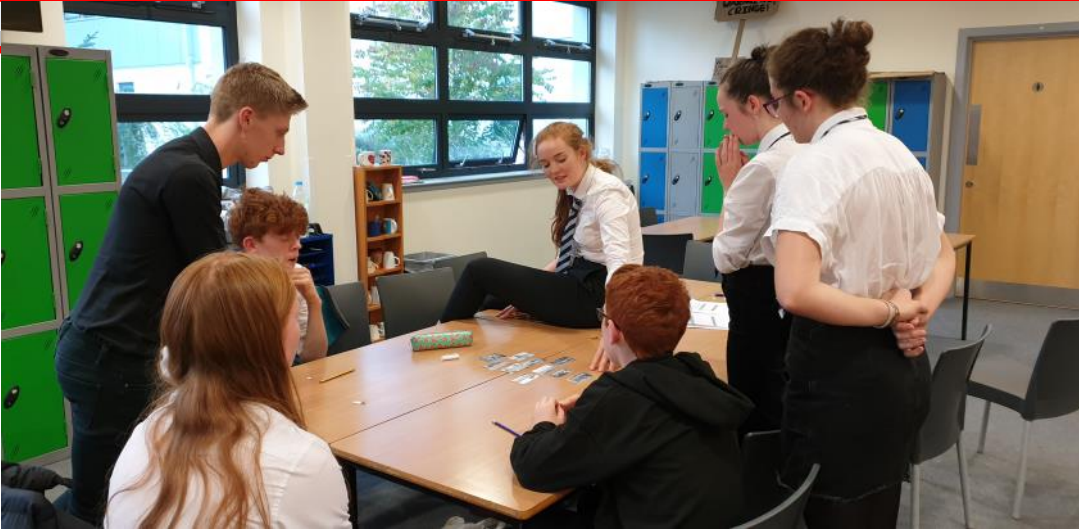


Congratulations to all pupils who took part in the Solar Bear Drama Week. Pupils spend Monday—Thursday working with the company, preparing for a performance on the Friday.



The Solar Bear company includes both deaf and hearing actors and they provided a really valuable learning opportunity for our pupils. Dingwall Academy deaf and hearing pupils worked together to create a performance based on the theme of Happiness. Pupils were pushed well beyond their comfort zones and created a unique performance. A number of pupils who started the week saying that they didn't want to go on stage did—well done!

# Climate Change



**We now have a pupil climate group in school who meet regularly during lunchtimes in room 224. If you would like to join the group or the discussion then please join the Google classroom class code— 9yglwxf**

**Pictured above are some of the group taking part in the Big Climate Conversation. This gave pupils the opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas, and for this to then be fed into the national debate.**

**<https://www.gov.scot/publications/the-big-climate-conversation-community-conversation-pack/>**



**Thank you to Dave Rex, dietician, who spoke to the group about how food choice can affect climate change. Dave also gave some advice to those pupils choosing to reduce their meat intake. Dave's presentation can be seen on the Google Classroom.**



# English Department Website

**Literacy is important for every subject.** Pupils already know they should be reading every night, and that they should have a 'book on the go' in their bags at all times. Your skills in writing, listening and talking are important, too.

The teachers of the English and Literacy Department are **determined** to help you sharpen those skills. We've built you a website, called SkillSharpener, which is designed to give you opportunities to continue to develop in an enjoyable, interactive way. Whilst it's still under construction, there are **lots** of fun games, quizzes and links to help you up your game in English and Literacy, and we're adding more every day. There is a feedback questionnaire on the homepage--once you have had a go, please do fill it out and let us know what you'd like to see more of.

**Pupils**, your job now is to be **responsible** for your learning. Look at your feedback sheets from your teacher. Identify an area to work on. Get onto the site. Boost yourself to the next level!

**Parents**, please encourage your pupils to access the site regularly to improve Literacy and English skills in a way that's fun and easy to manage at home (not a dreary worksheet in sight!).



[https://sites.google.com/  
dingwallacademy.org.uk/skillsharp/  
home](https://sites.google.com/dingwallacademy.org.uk/skillsharp/home)

# Ross Company ACF News

On 27<sup>th</sup> September ten cadets from the 1 Battalion, The Highlanders ACF took part in the annual Scottish Cadet Military Skills Competition, held at Barry Buddon Training area near Dundee.

The two day competition saw the ten strong Highlander team compete against thirteen other cadet teams, from Army Cadet and Combined Cadet Force, units across Scotland. The teams were put through their paces in a series of stands, ranging from Obstacle Courses and First Aid scenarios to Patrol Skills and Shooting.

At the end of the competition the Battalion team were placed 3rd overall, however, the team were awarded the 'Top Army Cadet Team' for being the highest placed ACF Team of the competition. The Highlanders were also named the inaugural winners of the competition's new 'Fallen Plates' Shooting Competition.

Both trophies were presented to Team Captain Cadet Regimental Sergeant Major Tristan Jack (17), from Caithness Company, by Colonel Patrick O'Meara, Colonel Cadets 51 Infantry Brigade and HQ Scotland.

Along with RSM Jack the team included Cadet Colour Sergeant Mathew MacLean (17), Cadet Sergeant Connor Hutchison (16), Cadet Corporal Samuel Stubbs (15), from Inverness Company, Cadet Sergeant Max Scott (16), Cadet Sergeant Jakub Bialkowski (16), Cadet Corporal Barnaba Smardzewski (17), from Moray Company, Cadet Sergeant Kieran Sutherland-West (17), from Caithness Company, Cadet Sergeant Andy Tait (17) and Cadet Lance Corporal Alexander Robertson (14), from Ross Company.



Pictured, Sgt Tait with his team-mates





MasterChef

# Achievements



Congratulations to Masterchef winner Lauren Bell 6B

## Masterchef Competition

This year we had an excellent turn out for the Culloden Rotary club junior masterchef competition. It ranged from years 1-6 and we were very impressed by the enthusiasm and skills of all pupils. There are 4 rounds to the competition and so far we have completed the preliminary round and round 1, this means one of our pupils will be heading out to compete with those from other schools.

Here is what we have done so far!

### The Preliminary Round

This Round was an in-school competition. This allowed us to pick 4 pupils to go through to round 1 (with the help of judging teachers). There were around 15 pupils in this round - a great turn out.

The chosen winners of this round were Lauren Bell (S6), Evie Richardson (S2), Patricia Aquino (S3) & Rosie Haines (S3).

### Round 1

This heat was organised by the rotary club but hosted at the school with guest chef judges from top restaurants in and around Inverness. Each competitor had to cook a two-course meal for two judges. The judges chose one winner to go forward into the next round of the competition.

The dishes created were to an incredibly high standard and the competition was very close! A huge congratulations to all the pupils involved. The participant through to round 2 was Lauren Bell (S6), she will now compete in a local secondary school against participating schools. We look forward to seeing her go through to the final!

Miss Sumner

# Achievements



MasterChef

Congratulations to Lauren Bell S6, who won the school heats of the Master Chef competition. Lauren went on to represent the school at the regional finals in Inverness.

Lauren impressed the judges with her dishes of seared mackerel on a bed of beetroot and horseradish relish

This was followed by roast chicken breast served on spinach and creamy potato puree, decorated with seasoned potato lattice and pine nuts. Delicious!



## JUDO

Congratulations to Corey Foster who was crowned Judo Scotland Grand Prix Champion 2019 for the Pre-cadet -50kg.

Fantastic achievement -  
Well done Corey!



# Archive News



2nd X1 Hockey 48-49



2B2

# Dingwall Academy Mountain Bike Club

Is proud to present

## The Adventure Syndicate film “Divided”

Riding the Tour Divide



**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December at Dingwall Academy**

**7pm for 7.30pm start**

**Tickets £5 Adult £3 Concession**

**on sale now from Dingwall Academy reception**

**Refreshments will be available on the evening and all proceeds will go towards funding future adventures for Dingwall Academy students.**



# Watch out for the next issue of the *News...*

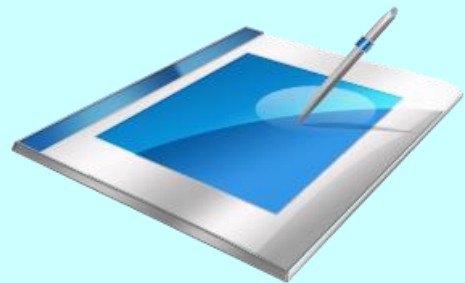
Something missing? Correction? Is there a feature you'd like to see? Get in touch!

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## 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**