

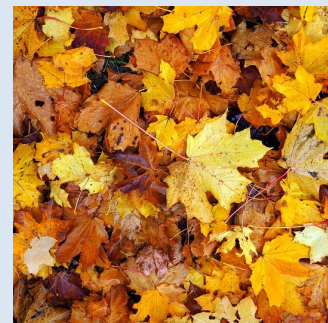


# Dingwall Academy

# News

## Further Higher Delight ....

At the start of term we were proud to picture the 5 Pupils who achieved all A passes in their Higher Exams. Bethany MacKay now joins this group having learned that one of her Higher subjects is to be upgraded to an A. Congratulations Bethany!



## OCT/NOV 2017

Tuesday 14th November—  
S4 Contact evening

Tuesday 21st November—  
S1 & S2 Chrome Book  
evening

Wednesday 22nd  
November—S3, S4, S5 & S6  
Chrome Book evening

Friday 24th November—  
Prefect and S6 group  
photographs.

Thursday 7th December—  
S1 Contact Evening.

13th and 14th December—  
Senior Phase Parliament  
Trip.

# Notes & News

## Contact Evenings

Contact evenings take place this term for S1, S4 and S5/6.

Parents are reminded that we operate an online booking system.

Parents will receive a letter when the system becomes available to use for each year group. Should you be unable to access the system, or have any queries then please do not hesitate to contact the school office.



# Notes & News

## Christmas!

Apologies, we know that it is still November but there are some key dates that parents will want to take note of:

Friday 1st December	Dingwall Academy Christmas Fair
Monday 11th December	Concert Rehearsals
Tuesday 12th December	Christmas Concert
Tuesday 19th December	S1 & S2 Christmas Social
Wednesday 20th December	S3 & S4 Christmas Social
Thursday 21st December	S5 & S6 Christmas Social



## SEVERE WEATHER

As the clocks go back and the weather turns colder it is time to remind parents of the severe weather arrangements.

Should the school be closed, then parents will be informed via the phone line and the Council Website. Parents should note that should there be power cuts then it may not be possible to update the website and the phone line should be checked first. Parents are also asked not to phone the school directly.

The phone number is 0800 564 2272, school code 04 10 10

And the web address is [www.highland.gov.uk/schoolclosures](http://www.highland.gov.uk/schoolclosures)

Please note that at times we may choose to delay the school day rather than close. For Facebook users we would also recommend that you follow the D&E page. They provide early information on any changes to buses.



# Chrome Books

## CHROME BOOKS

The much anticipated Chrome Books are expected in school before Christmas. Work has been taking place in school to make sure that the network is able to support this increased number of devices.

Chrome Books will be issued to all secondary pupils, and will also be issued to pupils in Primary 6 and Primary 7.



To help parents understand how the Chrome Books can be used to support learning, we plan to hold two information evenings at the end of the month.

**Tuesday 21st November 7pm**

Parent of pupils in S1 and S2.

**Wednesday 22nd November 7pm**

Parents of pupils in S3, S4, S5 and S6.

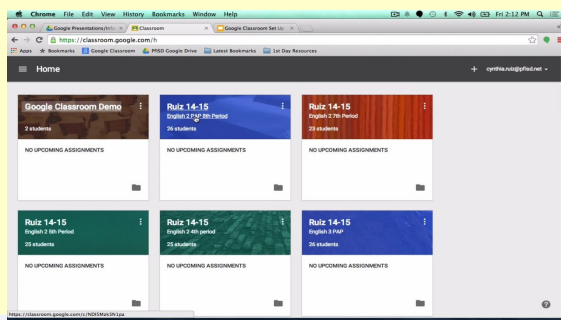
Each session will last approximately 1 hour and aim to answer some of the key questions parents have about the Chrome Books.

## GOOGLE CLASSROOM

Google Classroom is an online tool that a number of staff are now using to support learning.

Pupils in S1 and S2 have all been encouraged to sign their parents up for weekly alerts. This will allow parents to receive a weekly summary of homework, tests and key events.

If you have a child in S1 or S2 and are not receiving these summaries then please ask your child to check with their House Tutor.



Google  
Apps for Education



# Hospitality Prefects



This year we have introduced the role of Hospitality Prefects. The Hospitality Prefects help provide catering for school events and have already been working hard. They provided lunches for visitors at the Sport Fair earlier in the year. They have also provided catering for the Secondary Head Teachers Meeting held in the school.

Later in the year they will be involved with both the Christmas and the Spring Fair. They will also be very involved with the running of the School Café when it opens after Christmas.

The group take their work very seriously and have impressed everyone with the quality of their food and their excellent customer service. Pupils are learning really important skills that will be of tremendous benefit to them in the future.



# *Sponsored Walk I*



Our Annual Sponsored Walk took place on the penultimate Friday of last term and what a day it was! Autumn was just starting to take hold and we were treated to a perfect day of warm temperatures and a light breeze.

The walk followed the same route through Knockbain, Lochussie, Brahan and Maryburgh as per usual, however, this year it felt slightly tougher as the underfoot conditions were very soft due to the amount of rain that had fallen throughout September! This did not stop our hardy pupils marching round the walk and

making it back for the buses on time ... we even had a number of runners who set off an hour after the walkers and blitzed round the course in less than 90 minutes!

Well done to all pupils who completed the walk this year. It is a fantastic achievement for so many pupils to complete the 10.5 mile walk and get back to school in time. For those of you who have done this walk you will know how challenging it is and I know that there were many sore legs and feet at the end and for days afterwards!





# Sponsored Walk II

Thanks must go out to the many staff, parents and pupils who made the day run so smoothly. Thank you to our Parent Council who always do a great job of providing well needed snacks and water at Brahan for the pupils and staff. Thank you also to our amazing S6 pupils. Almost every S6 pupil fulfilled a role on the day from marshalling to entertaining pupils as they got back to school ... your contribution is very much appreciated. Thank you to our excellent staff in the school who either walked, registered pupils, or herded pupils safely across roads. Without your help the walk simply does not take place. Thank you also to Mr Di Carlo and his S5 helpers for putting the BBQ on. The burgers and bacon rolls went down extremely well and were just what was needed at the end of the walk. Finally, a big thank you to the PE dept. who take charge of organising the walk. It is a huge undertaking and your time and effort are very much appreciated.

We now have the challenging task of collecting the sponsor money in. This is never easy and it is important that all pupils take responsibility for getting their sponsor money in on time. Sponsor money should be handed in to the main school office, before school starts, at morning break or at lunchtime. The bank transfer option can also still be used - please see details for this below. The deadline for payment is Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov – please ensure that pupils have money in on time. The register class and top three individuals

who raise the most money will be taken on a trip to the Infinity trampoline park this term. Money handed in after the deadline will not count towards the totals for this trip.



## Online Payments

It is now possible to pay in Sponsor money using on-line banking.

## School Details

Sort Code: 80-06-35

Account Number: 00389788

Account Name: Highland Council – Dingwall Academy

When asked to provide a reference it is important that we are able to identify the pupil and that it is for the Sponsored Walk. Please use the following code when entering your reference:

(There is a maximum of 18 characters for reference)

First Initial	Surname	Class Purpose
e.g. E	MacKenzie	2W1 SW



# Sponsored Walk: Photos





# *S2 at Culloden Battlefield*

S2 pupils visited Culloden Battlefield over three days in September, led by the Social Subjects department. Pupils attended an archaeology workshop, a walk around the exhibition and a guided tour of the battlefield. The trip supplemented work that had been completed in class and was an opportunity for pupils to engage with the course content in an active environment. All pupils were positive about this experience and it was noted by members of the community that the behaviour of the pupils was excellent. Well done everyone.



# DINGWALL FOOD ASSEMBLY

We are very excited that Dingwall Academy is the first school to host a Food Assembly. The Food Assembly is a form of online market, where anyone can shop and order locally produced goods.

Payment takes place online, and produce is then collected from the school between 4pm—6pm every Wednesday. The Food Assembly also gives the school a fantastic opportunity to work with local businesses as part of our Learning for Sustainability initiative. We look forward to welcoming some of the producers into school to work with pupils on topics relating to both business and food production.

If you would like to join the Food Assembly then visit

<https://thefoodassembly.com/en/assemblies/10533>





# Royal National Mod

Dingwall Academy and Dingwall Primary pupils enjoyed fantastic success at the recent Royal National Mod in Fort William.



The Mod is a national Gaelic competition that takes place once a year. This year it was held in Fort William. Dèarrsadh is a music group that took part in the Under 13 Folk Group competition. It is made up of 5 members from Dingwall: Andrea MacDonald (vocals), Isabelle Rose and Ruairidh Drennan (fiddles), Finlay MacLennan (pipes and keyboard) and Mhairi MacKenie (vocals and clàrsach).

The competition was tough but when the results came in, we were overjoyed and smiling and cheering to show it. The prize was a large trophy and £500! It was fun (though nerve-wracking) to be recorded by BBC Alba.

It was a fantastic experience and hopefully Dèarrsadh will take part again next year if Mrs MacLennan is willing to lead us again.

**Mhairi MacKenzie S1**

# Super Star Awards

Start-to-Finish is just one of the initiatives the English and Literacy Department are undertaking this year to foster enjoyment in reading and help pupils improve their literacy skills. The programme functions online, and provides supported reading opportunities both at school and at home. The e-books can be read on tablets, PCs and even phones!



Mr Dolan, English, with S1 pupils-Hugh, Roan, Alisha, Aimee and Alisha- who had just been presented with their Star Reader and Star Writer awards by Rector, Karen Cormack.

Here's what the pupils are saying so far:

"I don't really read at home but I can use Start to Finish to help me read more."

"Start to finish is a useful site for pupils with dyslexia, as the words in the story are read out loud."

"I use this on my tablet and my phone. I like that the book is read to me."

"Start to Finish is good for kids who are not keen on reading. It introduces them to a new way of reading and it is a more fun way to read."



## NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE (SCOTLAND) ACT



Unlike her hearing peers, Lucy has to rely on her cochlear implant and BSL to access everyday life. Travelling independently can be challenging; she might hear the bing bong of the announcement on the train but not hear the actual words spoken and there are no lips to lipread on a tannoy!

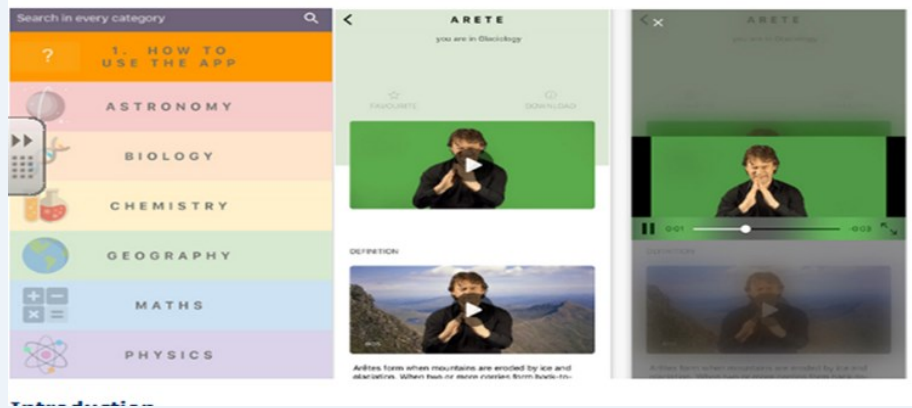
The Scottish Government launched the first ever BSL National Plan which sets out how the language should be promoted across Scotland over the next 6 years. Local plans must also be created by October 2018. Dingwall Academy has played its part in this plan when it was going through the various stages; the young people got involved and shared their views in writing and in BSL culminating in an invitation to attend the final debate.

Three young women are standing in front of a blue banner for the Spanish Secondary Centre (SSC). The banner features the SSC logo, the website [www.ssc.education.ed.ac.uk](http://www.ssc.education.ed.ac.uk), and a list of services including International Care, Academic Welfare, Research & Publications, Information Systems, and Career Guidance. The woman on the left is wearing a black jacket and a striped tie. The woman in the middle is wearing a grey hoodie. The woman on the right is wearing a dark blue jacket and pink shoes.

The train left promptly and we found our way to the exit where we found a taxi to take us to Dynamic Earth. There we met other young people from different schools (Windsor Park, Falkirk, St Roch's, Glasgow, Calderside Academy Blantyre and Claypotts Primary Dundee). Holly Urquhart said, 'It was great to meet so many other deaf young people.'

# BSL Education App Launch

Lewis, Isla and Abbie introduced the new BSL app and explained how they had been involved in the design and ease of use of the app. We thought the app was very interesting because the signs were clear and easy to understand. There are now over 1300 BSL signs covering topics in Physics, Chemistry, Maths, Biology, Geography and Astronomy. They showed us films in BSL about different signs and their explanations.



Lucy Taylor; studying Biology said this section was 'brilliant' as the signs were clear and so too were the explanations.

The science show was presented by Dr Audrey Cameron, Gary Quinn and Dr Rhian Meara. Both Audrey and Gary are deaf and use BSL. Rhian was hearing but also presented in BSL. There was also a lady typing what everyone was saying. Her job is an electronic notetaker. There were 2 BSL / English interpreters who either signed or provided voice overs for people who didn't understand the BSL. Claire got to meet one of the lecturers, Dr Gary Quin, from Heriot Watt BSL Interpreting and Translating course. He was full of compliments about the two students from Dingwall Academy who are currently studying there and asked if she was planning to follow them.



Research and feedback from schools, young people and teachers have suggested that not only is this app excellent for Deaf learners but hearing learners like the clear explanations too!

During the science show they taught us different signs for glaciers, volcanoes and clouds etc. Rhian showed us a practical experiment with slime and rocks to show us how a glacier is formed. Gary showed us a practical experiment to show how a tsunami works. It didn't work the first time and the houses were not destroyed. Gary had to add more water for the experiment to work. Audrey showed us a model of a volcano and as they were explaining how it works there was a sudden explosion of lemonade. The whole front row was soaked.

We also got a chance to see around Dynamic Earth; it was sometimes difficult to see and to hear what was going on. We don't think this place is very deaf aware. We then had to head back for our train home. Unfortunately, the train broke down so we had to wait for another train. It was a very long day but it was fantastic. The BSL Education app is excellent.

*Lucy Taylor, Holly Urquhart and Claire Finlayson.*



## Army Cadets



Cadet Lance Corporal Lewis Squire, Cadet Samuel Wortman and Cadet David Miller were awarded their BTEC Level One Certificates in teamwork, personal skills and citizenship at the recent Ross Company Cadet weekend in Dingwall. This qualification is the equivalent of a SCQF Level 4 with the SQA.

The qualification builds life-skills in leadership, teamwork, communications, problem-solving and fitness and is free to complete. It provides recognition of early youth group and cadet skills which are often transferrable into the workplace.

Dingwall Detachment meets every Monday at the Cadet Centre on Ferry Road from 7pm to 9pm.



## Swimming

In other news Lexi Wallace represented her country in the National Swimming competition in Aldershot as part of the Scottish ACF Swimming team. Lexi gave an excellent account of herself and was a valuable part of the swimming team.

Well done!

## Most Inspirational Musician

Grace Stewart-Skinner S6 has won the award for the Most Inspirational Musician at this year's National Traditional Music Awards. Grace is an accomplished harpist. She will be going to the awards ceremony in December. She was nominated by Fiona Dalgetty from Feis Rois.

Congratulations!

**Have you or someone you know achieved something? Let us know!**

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

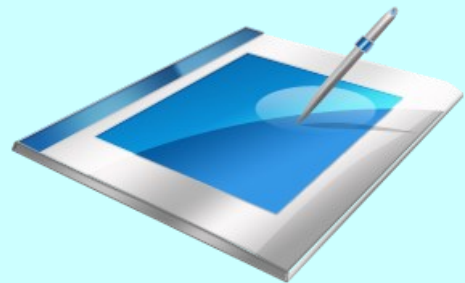
Something missing? Correction? Is there a feature you'd like to see? Get in touch!

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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**