



Dingwall Academy

News

Result!



Congratulations to all pupils who received SQA exam results in August. We are extremely proud of our pupils' achievements.

Photographed (left) are those who achieved all A passes in their National 5 exams. 77 S4 pupils achieved at least 5 passes at National 5.

And (below) senior pupils who achieved A passes in their Higher exams.

27 S5 pupils achieved 5 passes at Higher level.



SEPTEMBER 2017

Dates for your Diary:

Monday 18th September
INSET, school closed to pupils

Tuesday 19th September
INSET, school closed to pupils

Friday 29th September
Sponsored Walk

Friday 6th October
School closes for October holidays

Monday 23rd October
School re-opens

Notes & News



At the start of session we welcomed a large number of new staff to Dingwall Academy. We are delighted that they are now part of the school and look forward to working with them all.

Ms S MacKenzie—Biology
Miss A Parker—History
Mrs A Gardner—Pupil Support
Mrs S Rathbone—Pupil Support
Mr G Zappas—CDT

Probationers

Miss L Scanlan—English
Mrs L Fleming—Maths
Miss L McShannon—Chemistry

Pupil Support Assistants

Mrs E Boyle
Miss J Jack
Miss J Reilly



Parent Council AGM

MONDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER

7pm. All Welcome.

The parent council are always keen to recruit new members. If you would like to discuss what membership involves then please contact:

Emma Whitham, Secretary emmlou2703@gmail.com or
Helen Cameron, Chairperson huffduffs@gmail.com

Notes & News

Parent Information Evenings

For the last few years, information sessions have been held for S1 and Senior Phase parents. In response to parental feedback these sessions have been held earlier in the session and pupils are encouraged to attend along with parents. Thank you to all who took part.

Haven't you got any homework? S1

This evening focused on how homework can be different in secondary school; with pupils expected to take more responsibility for their learning. Parents and pupils participated in practical workshops looking at how they can support learning at home.

Senior Phase Monday 11th September 7pm

This evening was of most interest to S4 parents, however parents of pupils in S5 and S6 were very welcome to attend. The evening focused on senior phase qualifications and also looked at how parents can help their child study in the lead up to the exams.

If you were unable to attend, the presentations from both evenings are available on the school website.

Dates of note

The Tempest Photographer came on 30th and 31st August to take pupil photographs. Orders should be returned to the school office by Friday 15th September.

Data check forms have now been distributed to pupils. Please could they be checked and any amendments marked clearly. They should be returned to the school office by Friday 15th September.

Contact Evening Dates

S5/S6	2/11/17
S4	14/11/17
S1	7/12/17
S2	1/ 2/18
S3	20/ 3/18

Holiday Dates

School **closes** Friday 6th October 2017
School **re-opens** Monday 23rd October 2017
School **closes** Friday 22nd December 2017
School **re-opens** Monday 8th January 2018
Holidays – Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th February 2018
In-Service day - Wednesday 21st February 2018
School **closes** Wednesday 28th March 2018
School **re-opens** Monday 16th April 2018
May Day Holiday – Monday 8th May 2018
In-service day – Monday 4th June 2018

Notes & News

Named Person

There has been a great deal of publicity relating to the Named Person and their role in supporting young people in Scotland.

The Named Person is the clear point of contact if a young person or parent wants information or advice, or if they want to talk about worries and seek support.

The Named Person will be available to listen, advise and help a young person/parents and provide direct support or help them access other services.

When a pupil comes to Dingwall Academy, their Named Person would normally be the relevant Depute Rector –

S1/2 Mr Di Carlo S3/4 Mr MacIntosh S5/6 Ms Harrison

However, depending on the needs of a pupil, the Named Person can change and they could be moved onto the caseload of Mr Gaffney who is Depute Rector Pupil Support.

If this is the case, you will receive a letter alerting you to any change.

This is in place to support the work being done by the Guidance Staff and parents/carers should feel free to contact your child's Guidance Teacher at any time. You need not go through the Named Person to seek advice/support.

UCAS Applications

Senior pupils are now starting the process of applying for University. All S6 pupils received a talk on 21st August from the Scottish University tour. There will also be the offer of a drop in session for parents later in the term. Further details will be issued to senior phase parents.

Chance to Chat

The chance to chat sessions are an opportunity for parents of pupils in S1 to come along and have an informal meeting with the PT Pupil Support, meet other parents and then have a tour of the school. These sessions will take place on the following dates, starting at 2.50pm. Parents will receive more information closer to the time.

Novar and Wyvis pupils	Monday 11th September
Brahan and Tulloch pupils	Thursday 14th September

Sunflower Café

We are currently working hard to create a working café in the school. Pupils are involved in the design and build, pupils will then be fully involved in the management and running of the café. The aim is to have the café running by January 2018.



Pictured here are Blair and Holly who are working on the design of the café.

It will be built around the Sunflower theme and will provide a special space for the school to use.

We have already taken delivery of a shiny new coffee machine! The kitchen units were recycled from Portree High School and fitted over the Summer.

The facility will be used to help pupils develop employability skills such as catering, finance and customer service. We have also had discussions with ROWAN (Ross-shire Waste Action Network) about using re-cycled materials and furniture. ROWAN will also act as advisors on re-cycling once the café is operational.



As part of the café project we have appointed Home Economics prefects.

They will be involved in the running of the café and are already helping by providing catering for school events.

We are grateful to Mears and Alpha Schools for their support with this initiative.

Employability is a key part of our School Improvement Plan for next session. We want to ensure that all pupils have a curriculum appropriate to their needs, and that we are giving all pupils the best opportunity to succeed. The Sunflower Café is an important part of this initiative, however we are also planning a working nail salon.



12 pupils took part in an intensive 2 day programme, learning the basics of nail care and nail art. Pupils are also taught about customer care, and will have further sessions concentrating on this important skill.

We have also invested in equipment that will allow pupils to operate the salon as a Social Enterprise.



Pupils were then given the opportunity to practice their skills and a number of staff members were willing volunteers.

Pupils did an excellent job and took a really professional approach to these sessions.

For the next step, pupils will be given the opportunity to practice on prefects and parents.

Part of the project will involve pupils trying out their new skills at Ben Wyvis care home, where some of the elderly resident will receive some well deserved pampering.

We are very grateful to Inverness Chamber of Commerce and to Alpha Schools who are supporting this initiative.



Are you a parent who might be able to help us with our Employability Programme?

If you would like to discuss further then please contact Depute Rector,
Douglas MacIntosh. Douglas.macintosh@highland.gov.uk

DINGWALL FOOD ASSEMBLY

We are very excited to be involved with the Dingwall Food Assembly. Anyone can join and shop online using local producers and suppliers.

Dingwall Academy will then become the collection point, at the end of the day each Wednesday. Pupils will be involved in the running of the Assembly, and local producers will also become learning partners helping to support Learning for Sustainability in the school.

Sign up using the information below ...



THE FOOD ASSEMBLY

Yes to Local!

DINGWALL

DINGWALL FOOD ASSEMBLY

Award-winning food community bringing you the best produce from your local farmers and foodmakers

Join this Assembly

YOUR FOOD ASSEMBLY IS COMING SOON!



We're on the way...

Your Food Assembly organiser is selecting the best producers in the area and soon will offer great, local products through the online market.



Get ready to fill your basket

Soon you will be able to browse through the products and fill your basket with the best local food: vegetables, fruit, eggs, cheese, meat and bread, plus much more!



Once you ordered your products

Your collection day will be part of your weekly activities! Pick up your order at the venue and meet the passionate people who rear, catch, make, and bake your food.

Curious? Find out more
on facebook:



Dingwall Food Assembly



Or simply check out: <https://thefoodassembly.com/en>

Sponsored Walk

Sponsored Walk 2017

This year the annual sponsored walk will take place on Friday 29th September. The 10 mile walk will follow the usual route taking in Knockbain, Lochussie, Brahan and Maryburgh. This year there will be a BBQ available for pupils when they return from the walk which will allow them to refuel. Burgers and Hot Dogs will be available for £1 as well as other light refreshments. There will also be a number of interactive stalls and challenges set up on the front grass which will allow pupils to win prizes, try out a new challenge or even sponge a teacher!!!

Permission letters have now been handed out to all pupils in the last week. However, if any pupil has lost or not received a letter, please collect a new one from either the main office or the PE dept. Can all pupils please hand in their permission slips as soon as possible. S1-3 pupils should hand their permission forms back to **House Tutor teachers** and S4-6 should hand them back to **Guidance teachers during PSE**.

We ask that all pupils contribute to the sponsored walk as it helps raise vital school funds. These funds go towards paying for mini buses, school events and extracurricular activities as well as subsidising the huge travel costs that we face each year to ensure that the school continues to offer many opportunities for our pupils. Please keep your fingers crossed for a dry, warm and sunny day!!



Sports Fair

On Tuesday 29th August, Dingwall Academy held our annual Sports Fair for the second year. The purpose of this event was to allow Dingwall Academy pupils to engage with our local community sports clubs and sports providers in order to strengthen community links and the local pathway from school to sports club. The event also enabled pupils to engage with Dingwall Academy's extra-curricular sports program and see what sports clubs are on offer.

This year, 14 local clubs and governing bodies attended the day and were able to set up their own stall in the Games Hall or Gym where pupils could try out small aspect of the sport through skill challenges. All S1-3 pupils had the opportunity to spend approximately 25 minutes at the fair which allowed them to meet local club representatives and find out more information about the club.

We hope that pupils make the most of these opportunities and do their best to try out a new sport or attend a new club over the next month. Parents/guardians: please encourage pupils to attend some of our extra-curricular sports clubs at the school as well as supporting our local sports clubs who are always very welcoming of new members.

The 2017-18 Extra-Curricular Program has been posted on the schools face book page and should be present in the newsletter. Pupils can also pick up a copy from the PE dept. Lunch time clubs are now also starting up and being run by our S6 sports prefects. Details will be on the extra-curricular notice board in PE.

Thank you to all those who attended and helped with the event today, particularly our new Sports Prefects who did a great job throughout the morning.

[#powerofsport](#)

[#takethefirststep](#)

[#believeachieve](#)



Literacy Ambassadors

Dingwall Academy's fantastic team of Literacy Ambassadors have taken on their first joint project with Ben Wyvis Primary School. The sixth years will be supporting P6 and P7 pupils to enhance their literacy skills over the course of the year, both at Ben Wyvis and in the Academy.

They got off to an excellent start with their expedition-based project 'Explorer's Island'. Here they are below on their very first day at Ben Wyvis, where they introduced their project, including an audio message from special guest archaeologist Professor Martyn M. Marten.

Watch this space!



Our legendary Literacy Ambassadors are:

Erin Bayne
Adam Chalmers
Islay Grant
Tiana Mackenzie
Lucy Morrison
Ella Moxon
Emily Sinclair



They are taking on a course of study which addresses literacy from late primary to adult level, and will gain SQA accreditation in Supporting Adult Literacies.

JUDO

Cameron Foster S5 and Corey Foster S2, were both competing at the Highland Budokan Grand Prix judo competition on 19th August.

Corey (on the left) won the GOLD in the A band -42kg category.

Cameron (on the right) won the GOLD in the Cadet -55kg category.



Way to go!

We would like to encourage parents and pupils to share the many achievements that take place in our communities. Please do not hesitate to contact the school to share any good news.

ARMY CADETS

At the weekend Lance Corporal Lexi Wallace took part in a Scottish Swimming competition in Glasgow with 1st Battalion The Highlanders Army Cadet Force. Lexi won her position in the Battalion team after winning a medal at the Inter-Company competition at our Annual Camp in the summer.

Lexi won a 1st in her individual race as well as a team 1st in the relay swimming against competitors from all over Scotland.

As a result, Lexi will compete in the National Swimming Competition in England and will compete against cadets from all over the UK.

If you are interested in joining cadets please visit Dingwall Detachment beside Ross Memorial Hospital on a Monday night from 7pm to 9pm.

Lance Corporal Andy Tait, Cadet David Millar and Recruit Rory Tait all took part in the Alness Parkrun on Saturday 2nd September. The Parkrun is a civilian run event where over 100 people take part in a 5k walk or run with the aim of beating their previous weeks' time.

All three boys achieved good times, all were under 20 minutes. Andy and David are doing this event as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award which they are completing through the Army Cadets. Rory has joined recently and thoroughly enjoyed his run on Saturday.

If you are interested in joining the Parkrun please come along to Alness Crawl Park on Saturday morning for a start at 9.30am. You will need to register at parkrun.org.uk/alness before you come along.

Extra-Curricular Sport 2017-18

Activity	Time	Year	Area
Monday			
Senior Hockey	3.40 – 5pm	S4 – S6	ASTRO TURF
U14/U16 Boys Rugby	3.40 – 5pm	S1 – S4 (plus young SS's)	Grass Pitches
Netball (Boys and Girls)	3.40 – 5pm	All	Games Hall
S1 – 6 Girls Football	3.40 – 5pm	S1 - 6	Grass Pitches
Fitness Suite	Afterschool	Staff Only	PE Dept.
Dance Class	Lunchtime	S1	Small Gym
Tuesday			
Mountain Biking	3.40 - 5pm	All Years	Various
Fitness Suite	Lunchtime and Afterschool	S4-6	PE Dept.
Wednesday			
S1, S2, S3 Hockey	3.40-5pm	S3	ASTRO TURF
Running	3.40 – 5pm	All	Meet in Games Hall
Dance Class	4-5pm	S1-S6	Small GYM
Badminton	3.40-5pm	S1-S3	Leisure Centre
Fitness Suite	Lunchtime and Afterschool	S4-6	PE Dept.
Thursday			
U13 Boys Football	3.40 – 5pm	S1	ASTRO
U14 Boys Football	3.40 - 5pm	S2	ASTRO
Basketball (Boys and Girls)	3.40-5pm	S1-4	Games Hall
Gymnastics	3.40 – 5pm	S1-6	Small GYM
Fitness Suite	Afterschool	S4 – 6	PE Dept.
Friday			
Rock Challenge	2 – 4pm	All Years	PE Dept. (Rm 21)
Indoor Football - Staff + Invited senior pupils	2.15 – 3.30pm	Staff + invited pupils	Games Hall
Fitness Suite	Lunchtime and Afterschool	S4-6	PE Dept.
Various Days			
U16 Football	After School	S3 – S4	ASTRO/GRASS
Senior Football	After School	S5 – S6	ASTRO/GRASS

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

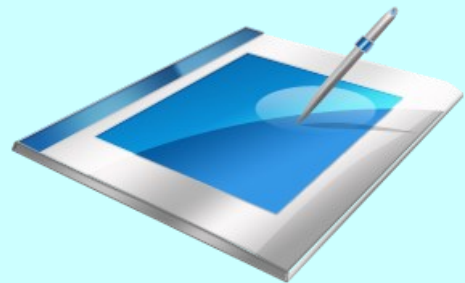
Something missing? Correction? Is there a feature you'd like to see? Get in touch!

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