



Dingwall Academy

News

Welcome to our second issue. This newsletter has a great deal of pupil input, with everyone from S1 to S6 contributing in a variety of ways—we look forward to hearing more pupil voices in the future. As always, there are a number of achievements, trips and events inside. Please do make a note of the upcoming October holiday dates, as well as the INSET days.

Nuffield Scholarship 2014



Nuffield Celebration Event took place in Edinburgh on Friday 29th August and **Jamie Stewart S6** presented his Nuffield Placement Project at this event.

"My project involved researching a parasite called *Toxoplasma gondii*, specifically its effects on the eye. This was carried out under the supervision of Dr Roger Evans at Raigmore Hospital in Inverness as part of the Nuffield Placement Scheme. I presented my topic at the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh along with 120 students from other

Scottish schools. There was a vast range of project ideas. Some people tested the effects of alcohol on the liver, some of the mathematical principles on the flight patterns of animals and one created a Bluetooth system that locked doors. It was a fantastic opportunity for many reasons. Experts came across the country to discuss our work with us and this is where our knowledge of our subject could be revealed. Although the report didn't contain everything we knew about the subject we were able to have meaningful conversations with them. Some visitors offered students patents for their work and a chance to develop them further. Others drew inspiration from our work and plan to use our papers in studies, even crediting us in some of their own papers. It was quite an overwhelming experience."

Jamie Stewart S6



**SEPTEMBER
2014
EDITION**

*Dates for your
diary:*

**Thursday 25th and Friday
26th September**
INSET—school closed to
pupils

Friday 10th October
Sponsored Walk
School Closes

Monday 27th October
INSET—school closed to
pupils

Tuesday 28th October
School re-opens for pupils



Notes & News



Staffing

From Monday 29th September until Christmas, pupils in Wyvis will have Mrs V MacLennan as their Guidance Teacher. Mrs Fyfe will be away for 10 weeks taking up a short term development post looking at the delivery of Health & Wellbeing in schools. We wish Mrs Fyfe well with this post and look forward to welcoming her back in January.

Newsletter

Corrections Apologies – a number of errors were noted in the August Newsletter and the following corrections should be made -

Sports Day – S1 Girls – 1st **Jessica Golden**, 2nd equal **Nicola Ramsey** and **Katie McBride**

Josephine Campbell won a 1st prize for her Reading at first Sight competition at the Inverness Mod.



School Photographs

Individual pupil photographs have now all been taken and pupils issued with proofs and information on how to order. Please note that as well as returning order forms to the school office, photographs can also be ordered online at www.tempest-schools.co.uk

Orders should be placed by Monday 29th September. There will be an opportunity for family photographs on Thursday 27th November.



In-Service Dates

There are 5 in-service dates throughout the session. The school is closed to pupils on these dates:

Thursday 25th and Friday 26th September 2014

Monday 27th October 2014

Wednesday 18th February 2015

Monday 1st June 2015

A full list of holiday dates is available via the school website.



Notes & News



Inter-house Events

A number of inter-house events take place throughout the year with senior pupils organising house teams.

Monday 29 th September	S2 Hockey and Football
Tuesday 30 th September	S4/5/6 Hockey and Football
Wednesday 1 st October	S3 Hockey and Football
Thursday 2 nd October	S1 Hockey and Football

Further information will be provided to pupils in Physical Education.

A reminder that the annual sponsored walk takes place on Friday 10th October. Pupils have all been issued with a letter providing more information about the event. Pupils are now asked to complete the permission slip attached to this letter and return to the PE Department. Pupils will then be issued with a sponsored form and can then start pestering family and friends ...



Parent Council

At the recent Parent Council AGM the following office bearers were re-elected:

Chair	Mrs Helen Cameron
Vice Chair	Mrs Samantha Blyth
Secretary	Mrs Linda Watson

Thank you to all who attended. The Parent Council are planning to include a short piece in the monthly newsletters, so watch this space ...

Data Capture Forms

Data Capture forms were issued to all pupils and should now have been returned to the school office. These forms contain important information including emergency contact details. If you have not yet returned the form please do so as soon as possible.



We are so pleased by how well our new S1 pupils are settling in to the Academy. Everyone now is confidently finding their way around, and enjoying the broad range of subjects offered. Over the next few pages are some pieces prepared by our budding S1 journalists—the Dingwall Academy News Team—who are learning more about print and radio media in their Interdisciplinary blocks. The pieces cover a range of topics, and some, such as Mikolaj's piece below, are addressed to the P7s they have left behind in our Associated Primary Schools. Enjoy!

Moving On

Dear P7,

I know it may seem a long time, but I'm going to be talking to you about moving on into the Academy. Believe me, before you know it you're going to go on the three day visit to the Academy. Time passes quickly in P7.

First off, the academy starts at 08.50. When the Academy starts, once you go into the building you will find the corridors are busy and full all the way to your class. On the three day visit there will be prefects (S5 and S6) taking you to your class.

There are a couple of things that P7 are always worried about when they're going to the Academy and the biggest one is getting lost while finding your class. To be honest with you, it's really easy to get to your class. When you go to the first floor, or second, you are more likely to use the main stairs which take you up two floors and once you get to either the first or second floor you have a choice to go left or right. If you're going right the room numbers get bigger and bigger and when you go left you the rooms get lower and lower. Well, I think that's all you need to know about getting to class for now.

On break and lunchtimes there are a LOT more options to take, like pizzas, burgers and slushies as well as chocolate and normal muffins. When you get to S2 you will be able to go up the street or wherever you want to go for lunch. When you get to the academy you will be given a 6-digit code, and that will be the code for paying for your lunch. Remember not to forget the code, because you will need it!

Finally, when you go into the Academy there will be a whole lot more subjects you will get compared to Primary School. There are a lot of new cool subjects like CDT (Craft Design and Technology) and Home Economics (Cooking). PE is lots of fun because you do lots of different sports like Football, Hockey, Rugby and m more!

I hope this gave you a lot more information and good luck for the Academy next year!

Mikolaj Jasz S1



Football



Up and coming games, on Saturday the 27th of September:

St Mirren VS Celtic

Aberdeen VS Inverness CaleyThistle

Dundee United VS St Johnstone

Killmarnock VS Partick Thistle

Motherwell VS Hamilton Accies

Ross County VS Dundee

Ross County's signings this season:

Antonio Reguero (GK), Jordi Balk (RB), Jim Felon (CB), Darren Barr (CB), Uros Celcer (LB), Tim Dreesen (CB), Ben Frempah (CB), Filip Kiss (CDM), Jackson Irvine (CDM), Joe Cardle (RM), Michael Gardine (ST), Liam Boyce (ST)

A bit about the Ranger's stadium:

Ranger's stadium is called Ibrox and its stadium Capacity is 51,082. Ibrox stadium is a football stadium in Glasgow, Scotland. Ibrox was opened on December 30, 1899 about 115 years ago.



Day Out With Dingwall Youth Kafé

Dingwall Youth Kafé hosted a day out at Fairburn Activity Centre. The children who attended there were involved in many activities such as archery, raft building, bubble on water and lots more. The weather there was dry and sunny throughout the activities and an enjoyable day was had by all. It was for those aged 8-12 for the younger group and 12-16/18 for the older group.

Dingwall Youth Kafé is found in the Dingwall High street on the road to Lidl. You can sign up there plus your first time there is free but its 50p to get in for the other days. Check out pictures at <http://dingwallouthkafe.com/gallery/> **Cameron Wilson S1**

Watch this space, and elsewhere in the newsletter, for more from the amazing pupils at Dingwall Academy. If you are a pupil, and would like to have your work (writing, artwork, photography) included in the newsletter, see Mr Green in Room 202 at lunch or break. Alternatively, email him your work at nicholas.green@highland.gov.uk.

Mini-Guidelines for Written Pieces

Pieces should be submitted (where possible) electronically. They should:

- Be drafted and proofread carefully
- Be in 11pt Calibri or similar
- Identify the author and year group in bold at the end of the piece



S1 News



Heroic Skydive for Charity

With the loss of her niece's and friend's babies, Ailsa Sugden from Kinnahaird jumps out of a plane from 10,000 feet.

Ailsa donated to the charity SANDS for neonatal death and stillbirth for the three babies that died. One of the babies was from her niece and he died of cot death at the age of

three months old. Then there are the other two, who were twins and were announced stillborn. So Ailsa decided for her 40th she would jump out of a plane for the babies who lost their lives. She had a teddy bear strapped to her suit while she jumped to represent the children. She decided to do the jump in Bridlington because a lot of family lives down in Yorkshire. Speaking after the event, Ailsa said "It was the most amazing experience I have ever had!" and that she "loved it she was never nervous." Not only that, she wants to do it again! Ailsa hopes to do another skydive soon and dedicate it to her father who was diagnosed with dementia four years ago.

Harriet Sugden S1

Dear P7: All About Homework

Dear P7,

Today I am writing to you about the homework in the Academy.

The homework in the Academy is quite hard, but once you get used to it gets easier. Like right now--this letter is homework! I am writing this on behalf of my ID class. My teacher is Mr. Green, who is very fair with the homework.

You will enjoy the Academy and the homework--you guys just have to get used to it, which I am sure you all will. I have enjoyed the homework so far and I hope this continues (which I think it will). All of the teachers are really fair with the homework. Tonight I have Art homework. We have to draw an object in the household which has to include shape, line, colour and texture which learn about in your S1 Art classes. I also have Science homework. What we have to do is write a conclusion about an experiment that we did, which was adding magnesium to hydrochloric acid and then holding magnesium over a blue flame. I won't ruin the rest for you 😊.

I will look forward to seeing you next when I will be in S2. Good luck for the rest of P7 and see you soon!



From

Logan MacRae S1

Off we go...

We are very fortunate in the Academy that so many staff are prepared to organise and run residential trips. The proposed trips for this session are listed below. Please note that dates and costs are only approximate at this stage. More detailed information will be provided by teachers as arrangements are finalised.

Outline of trip	Dates	Target Group	Organising Teacher	Approx. Cost
English Premier League Football trip	9/1/15 – 11/1/15	S1 – S3	Mr K McKie	£299
London Trip	28/6/15 – 1/7/15	S1 – S3	Mrs S Canham and Mr K McKie	£390
Costa Brava Water Sports Trip	26/6/15 – 1/7/15	S3 – S5	Ms L Bennie	£750
Glasgow, including 'Shrek' the Musical (Art and Music)	May 2015 1 night	S3	Mrs K Trimble	£130
Germany – Holland (Language Department)	29/6/15 – 5/7/15	S1 – S2	Mrs J MacKintosh	£549
France – Holland (Language Department)	5/10/15 – 11/10/15	S1 – S2	Mrs J MacKintosh	£549
Alladale Challenge 1 week Camping Trip	early May	S3	Miss Tullis	£90
Belgium and the Somme	28/6/15 – 3/7/15	S3 – S6	Mr S Lyall	£500
Ski/Snowboard Course	7/2/15 – 15/2/15	S1 – S6	Mr B Reid	£850 - £890

In addition to the above trips there will be the annual school Activity Days on 29th and 30th June 2015. All pupils will have the opportunity to opt into a wide variety of activities. Information on this is provided after Christmas.

Coming up next month:

Pupils in Mr Green's National 5 English class are excited about the performance of Verdi's *Macbeth* at Eden Court on the 9th of October. The show is said to have been a great success in the past, and pupils are looking forward to experiencing this very unusual opera for the first time. Watch out for their verdict in the next newsletter.

School Trips

Geography News



Pupils have had a busy time in the Social Subjects department this term, taking part in a variety of fieldwork opportunities to enhance their classroom learning.

Sixty seven National 4/5 Geography pupils were accompanied by their class teachers to Cairngorm National Park. Along with Cairngorm Park and Highland Council Rangers the pupils undertook a variety of Physical Geography fieldwork activities including a river study and a visit to the weather station. They enjoyed dry weather, unlike the

Advanced Higher pupils, who completed their residential trip in torrential rain in the same area. However they proved themselves to be dedicated to the task and were good humoured throughout.

All S3 Geography students will enjoy a visit from the Geobus team from St Andrew's University who will conduct a workshop on the theme of Earthquakes. Our annual visits to Culloden Battlefield also take place at this time with six S2 classes (202 pupils in total) visiting the battlefield site and working with the National Trust for Scotland education team over the course of three mornings.

We are very lucky to have enthusiastic staff in the Social Subjects Department. They have been very giving of their time in organising these events. A big thank you is also due to the pupils who have been such good ambassadors for our school.

Mrs S Reid, PT Social Subjects



National 4/5 Geography Class Fieldtrip

On Monday 1st and Tues 2nd September 67 pupils travelled to Cairngorm Mountain to 'see the text book come to life'.

Kelsie Campbell (S4) continues the story...

When we arrived at Cairngorm National Park we were greeted by a ranger called Nic. He told us about the things he does in his day to day at work. He mentioned about the weather station and how that is important to the national park. He said 'I come here every morning to record the weather.' He took us up and showed us all of the weather instruments and explained how they worked. We then had a talk on the glacial features and landscape we could see from the carpark. After that, we took a walk down to the small river where we measured the width, depth, and speed and studied the pebbles and boulders on the river bed. Highland Council Rangers Duncan and Saraane helped us with this.

After a picnic lunch outside, we drew a field sketch of the glacial landscape and added labels to explain its formation. Some people spotted a few reindeer near the car park. The afternoon continued with a second river study so we could investigate how the river changed downstream. All the information was recorded in our fieldwork booklet.

Everyone had a great day out and we'd like to thank the Cairngorm Mountain Rangers and the Highland Council Rangers who helped out.

Kelsie Campbell S4



Visit to Culloden

On the 17th of September, the S2's went to Culloden. The first activity we did was to dress up and perform the parts of an English soldier, a soldier's wife and flag bearer at the time of the battle and to tell the story of what happened to them after the Battle of Culloden.

The second activity was in the Exhibition Centre, where we could see the weapons they used, and pictures at the time of the Battle of Culloden. In the exhibition, there was a four screen movie which was a re-enactment of the battle which was really cool but really scary and gory at the same time because they just charged and started to kill everyone. Also, we completed a questionnaire about Culloden while walking round the centre. To end our trip, we got a tour around the battlefield. There are red and blue flags to mark out where the redcoats and Jacobites were at the battle and there were lots of clan graves which was sad.

Samantha MacIntyre S2





A LOOK AHEAD TO TIMES GONE BY

It's now a long established tradition that Dingwall Academy Drama Society (D.A.D.S.) put on a performance at the end of term in October and this year is no different. Since being established in 2010, the society has performed a range of plays from many different genres including comedies and musicals, resulting in them making quite a name for themselves. With this year marking one hundred years since the outbreak of the First World War, it seems fitting that the society hones in on this with their production.

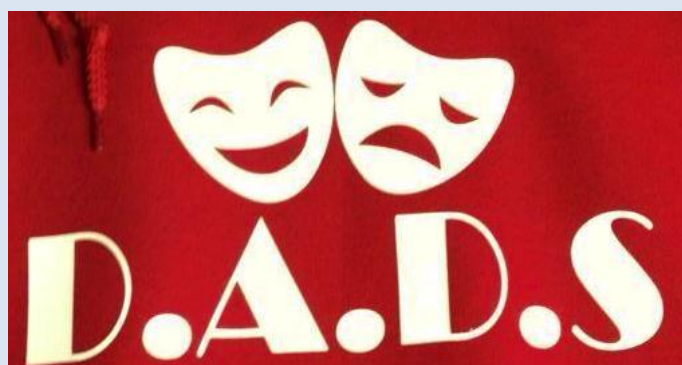
With casting completed before the summer holidays, all things are set for a fantastic experience for both actors and audience as experience the happenings of the early twentieth century. The production is going to be an entire school affair as many pupils from different ages take part in both backstage and on-stage roles. On top of this, there are many teachers helping out from different departments which allow the group to do things such as putting on productions for the public.

Mr Lyall, a driving force behind the choice of play, said D.A.D.S. chose *Private Peaceful* (adapted from the book by Simon Reade) as he feels "it's important people learn about and engage with the First World War". It also links in with the Belgium trip which took place in June and it's been confirmed that this fantastic trip will run again in twenty fifteen.

This view of making sure people learn about what happened between 1914 and 1918 is echoed in the running of the performances. As seen in other D.A.D.S. Productions during October, the play will be open to members of the public on two evenings during week of term (the 8th and 9th of October). However a new thing for the society is the matinee performance which they will perform for over 180 pupils from local primary schools which feed into Dingwall Academy on the 7th of October.

This performance many seem to be a big ask for members of D.A.D.S., many of whom have been working hard learning their lines over the holidays and staying after school to prepare, but as we have seen previously from D.A.D.S. they will put their best effort into making it a massive success.

Fraser Holmes S6



Highland Wildcats American Football

Four Dingwall Academy students have been selected as part of the Highland Wildcats American Football team that will compete at the UK Championship in Doncaster at the end of September. Scott Robertson, Kyle Hollyoake, David Robertson and Alex Macpherson have all been a part of the Wildcats undefeated season where they competed with teams from Edinburgh, Hamilton, East Kilbride, Elgin and Inverclyde.

The Highland Wildcats currently have a Youth team (14-17) and Junior team (16-19) competing in the National League. Plans are underway for the second season of the Highland Academy Community League where a team from Dingwall Academy will be entering. Keep an eye on the daily notices and notice boards for recruitment that will begin in November.



From left to right:

Alex Macpherson, Scott Robertson, David Robertson and Kyle Hollyoake

Achievements

Thèatar Òigridh Inbhir Pheofharain Dingwall Youth Theatre Group

Since Easter there has been an after school Gàidhlig drama group running which gives pupils both a chance to learn how to produce their own play while developing their Gàidhlig language skills. With the help of Angus MacLeod from Fèisean nan Gàidheal, *Thèatar Òigridh Inbhir Pheofharain* successfully staged their play “Am na Buana – Harvest Time” at Eden Court on Monday 10TH September. Pupils were involved in every aspect of the play from scripting, producing, creating technical props, and of course performance. Well done to Chloe Lonnen, Eilidh Johnson, Sam McCourt, Josie Campbell, Kirsty Campbell and also Mairead Morgan who was performing with Inverness Youth Theatre. Her sister Ealasaid Morgan actually performed a lead role both in Dingwall and Inverness productions. No mean feat and a lot of lines to remember! Rinn a h-uile duine fìor mhath dha-rìribh agus chòrd na dealbhan-cluiche ris a h-uile duine a bha an làthair. Ma tha ùidh aig sgoilearan eile a dhol an sàs anns a’ bhuidhinn nuair a thòisicheas i a-rithist thèirig a bhruidhinn ri Mgr MacArtair.



Callum going downhill, fast!!

Callum Galloway, S3, competed in the last round of the 2014 Scottish Downhill Association Mountain Bike race at Fort William on 21 September.

The weather over the weekend was brilliant with wall-to-wall sunshine on race day, with the track running really fast, but loose. Callum put in a great time of 5min 37sec on his first race run but gave it his all for his second run improving on his time by 10 seconds to finish in a time of 5min 27sec, securing 3rd place in the hard fought Juvenile men category.

On top of that, Callum was also clocked, traveling at over 50kph at the speed trap - the fastest in his group!

This is an incredible result for Callum, achieving a time within a minute of the world's best downhill riders who raced the same course in June. Well done!



Congratulations to Eleanor Wilson and Hannah Oliver, both in S6, for their winning essays in response to the LFA competition. Both will now embark on a trip to Poland to Auschwitz, as well as two seminar days in Glasgow. We look forward to the project the two will undertake on their return. Well done!

Achievements



Cowal 2014

A few weeks ago I was at the Scottish National Highland Dancing Championships and the Scottish Open. These championships are held in Cowal which is near Dunoon. We were staying in a Premier

Inn and we had to get up early as we had a 10 minute drive to the ferry which took about half an hour to get over to Dunoon. This was my second year at these championships and it is a great experience to dance there.

I really enjoyed this year as I got to dance on the main stage in front of a huge grandstand. One of my favourite parts of Cowal is probably watching the world finals on Saturday, where you see the best of highland dancing and then see the three world champions being presented with their trophies. I had pretty big groups and it sadly rained quite badly on the Friday. Thursday was nice and Saturday was dry but still a bit chilly, so we were wrapped in warm blankets. We got some great photos taken by professional photographers while we were dancing so there were some good action shots.

You may think this was a distraction, but when you are concentrating on all your steps and everything you have been told to do to look good up there you kind of forget about it. My funniest moment would be when I almost fell over in my Highland Fling. I had a really good time and I am hoping to go back next year.

Ashleigh Stirling S1

Running for Charity



I'm running the Inverness 5K cross country run and I'm running for Macmillan Cancer Support.

I am running the Inverness 5K because it would be a big achievement for me and it's a good way to keep fit, have fun and you are raising money for a good cause.

What is Macmillan Cancer Support? Macmillan is a cancer research charity that raises money for cancer research. They have lots of different ways of raising money like having a Macmillan coffee morning, sponsored runs and even the ice bucket challenge. In primary school we held a coffee morning and we raised £540.70.

Training: sometimes you have good days and bad days. That's what cross country is all about, but it's never stopped me to keep trying again and again. I have 4 training sessions a week. So I am ready to run my best on the day.

I am running in the Baxters River Ness 5K on 28th of September 2014 and I hope I see some of you there next year to help raise some money for Macmillan. I will update after the event wish me luck!

Callum Wilson S1

Pupils in S6 wishing to apply for courses through UCAS should now be busy completing their applications. PSE work until Christmas will be largely devoted to helping pupils make appropriate course choices, understanding the application process and writing their personal statement. Pupils have also been issued with information booklets giving them clear and detailed guidelines on the process and helpful advice on tackling the personal statement.

There are several key deadlines which pupils and parents must be aware of:

- Any applicant wishing to apply for Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine or Oxford or Cambridge University will need to apply early. They must have submitted their application by 15th October 2014
- CUKAS (applications to the Conservatoires) 1st October 2014
- All other UCAS courses 15th January 2015

The school's Pupil Support team has set its own internal deadline of 28th November for pupils to have completed their applications and to have written their final drafts of personal statements. This is to ensure that there is time for teachers to check applications and to write references.

The UCAS website www.ucas.ac.uk gives comprehensive advice on the whole application process and includes an excellent section aimed at parents.

Open Day
Wednesday 8 October 2014
1 pm until 7 pm

The University of the Highlands and Islands is holding an undergraduate open day at our Inverness Campus. Hosted by our academic partner, Inverness College UHI, the open day will be based at the Longman Campus.

Come along and take the opportunity to talk to the lecturers and staff of the university about higher education courses, UCAS, UHI careers, UHI student support and financing your studies.

Inverness College UHI will also be showcasing their new state-of-the-art campus. A mini bus tour of the grounds will be available at 1.30pm, 2.30pm, 3.30pm and 6pm, to book a place complete the online form on our open day webpage.

For more information visit:
www.uhi.ac.uk/openday

Cycling News

Dingwall Active Schools Team in conjunction with Dingwall Academy and Ben Wyvis Cycle Club Opportunities for Staff and Parents

We have recently been awarded a grant from awards from all to support cycling based training.

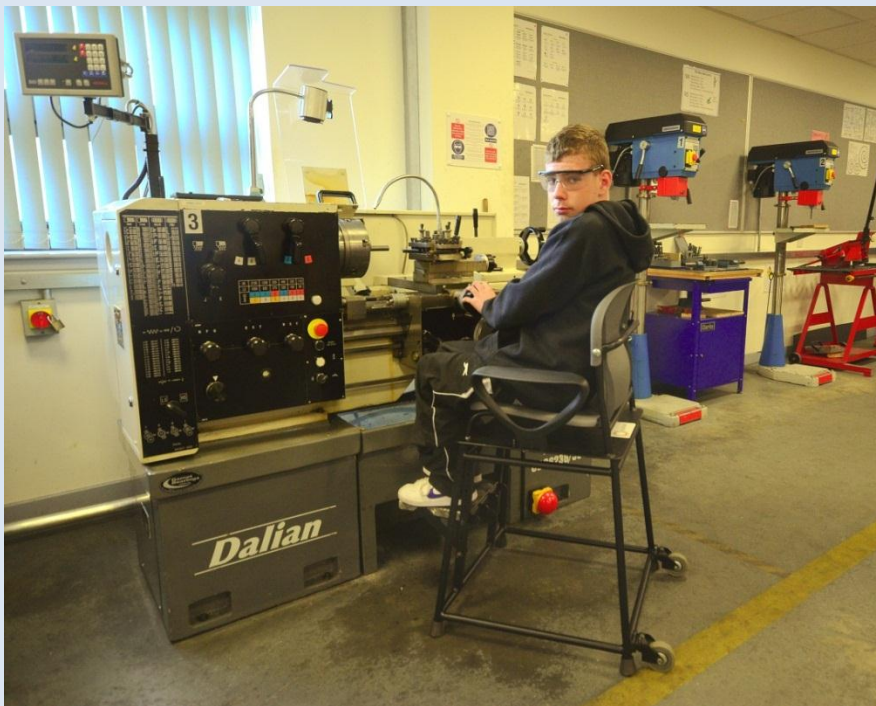
On offer are Trail Cycle Leader (TCL) training and outdoor first aid. We are looking for volunteers willing to work towards this training, and then make themselves available to support and lead sessions in the area for pupils.

We do have a qualified volunteer willing to support individuals who wish to take part in this training, and is happy to help plan routes.

Part of this project is in partnership with both Dingwall Academy and Ben Wyvis Cycling Club. There would be opportunities to volunteer with both the school and the club, and this also opens up possibilities to work closely with highly experienced staff who can offer additional support.

If you would like to take part in this training, please contact Drew Graham at the school or Wilma Kelt /Colin Morrison (Active Schools) at Dingwall Primary School (Tel 862081) for more information.

Isleburn Step Up to Challenge



Isleburn (part of the Global energy group) team up with Dingwall Academy's Technical department to include youngsters and help them reach their full potential.

After consultation with occupational health, Mr Ross (Principle Teacher of Technology) turned to Isleburn with the draft design of a chair that would allow Evan Shanks (S4) to fully participate in Engineering Craft Skills, one of his curriculum subject choices. Isleburn stepped up to the challenge and after liaising with the school, manufactured a chair that now allows Evan to safely and comfortably operate the metalwork lathe. Evan, who is already a very independent pupil, can now develop his practical skills and complete a unit of work required to achieve the course.

A huge thanks to all at Isleburn who made this possible, particularly Graham Armstrong and Evan MacRae who carried out the fabrication work. The goodwill of Isleburn has made engineering more accessible and opens up opportunities, not only to Evan but to any pupil in the same situation.

Bid to Get Kids in Ross-Shire To Read Is A Big Success

This month we received a visit from Keith Gray. Keith is a famous author living in Dunfermline who as a teenager did not achieve good enough grades to do the course he wanted. He also did not like reading books as a child, which is very surprising now that he writes books for a living.

In his earliest years, Grimsby-born Keith Gray turned from reluctant reader to passionate reader – then straight on to being a dedicated writer. He published *Creepers*, which was shortlisted for the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize, when he was only 24 and since then has written a number of thrilling novels which have won, or been shortlisted for, awards all over the world. This long list of accolades includes the Carnegie Medal, the Costa Children's Book Award, the Scottish Book Trust Awards and the Smarties Book Prize.

His biggest success so far was when his novel *Ostrich Boys* won a silver medal (second to J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter*) in the Smarties Book Prize.

Dingwall Academy really enjoyed and appreciated Keith's presentation. It was very interesting to know that he did not like reading when he was young. Keith is a very enthusiastic person and kept inserting jokes throughout his talk. In the presentation Keith read a snippet of his book *Ostrich Boys* which had us all on the edge of our seats. Keith's books are great for people who usually do not enjoy reading and obviously for people who do enjoy reading.

Keith Gray's talk was funny, entertaining and had everyone in a fit of laughter. He taught everyone the importance of reading but in a way that really connected with the audience. He told tales of how he wrote some of his books which made us laugh and even talked about stuff that has nothing to do with reading. Like the fact ostriches were almost extinct until we started eating ostrich burgers and that maybe to save pandas we should have a KFP (Kentucky Fried Panda) fast food chain.

The audience really got involved and felt part of the presentation, listening to every word Keith had to say and I think it has definitely helped to convince people to read more.

Overall it was a big success and the school should organise more things like this to really get students to see that learning can be fun, especially reading.

Catherine Bruce S1

Keith Gray Surprises Dingwall Academy

Keith Gray visited us on the 8th of September and told us about what it feels like to be an author and how he didn't really like reading in school, but one of his friends told him to read a book called *Machine Gunners* and it was completely different experience from the comic books he would read.

He started writing stories by doing his mates' homework and if they got a good mark they would pay him. He told us that writing a book is like making up a huge lie and that's appealed to him. Then he told us two stories and after telling them said "now one of those stories is lie," and that you could just make a story up and make it believable—that is something anyone could do.

One thing he told us about making a story is that you should always start your story with some truth and you could bend and change it until you like and just evolve the story on from there. He told us that he wasn't that amazing at school or bad at school, but he never stopped writing and now he's got loads of books published and he's living a great life doing what he loves.

Jacob Henry S3

A little more about... Keith Gray

The first book of his that was published was called Creepers. Creepers is about a game played by a group of kids, where you have to get from one end of the street to the other jumping through peoples back gardens without getting caught. As a first book this was both popular and successful. He has gone on to write many other books including Warehouse, The Runner, Malarkey, and Ostrich Boys. Ostrich Boys is one of his most famous and popular books and was shortlisted for the Costa Children's Book Award, CLIP Carnegie Medal, Booktrust Teen Prize, Royal Mail Scottish Children's Book Award and Young Minds Book Award. His book The Runner is about some kids who live illegally on trains hopping from place to place and never staying in the same town or city for too long. His books are mainly focused at teenagers, and he gets his ideas from hearing about others experiences and then builds his story around them. He has been writing for over fifteen years with his late parrot Baxter keeping him company.

Keith currently lives in Edinburgh with his partner Jasmine and their parrot Bellamy as a full time author, and his visit to Dingwall Academy was both interesting and inspiring.

Kirsty Johnstone S1



Last Words...

The author Keith Gray visited Dingwall Academy last week to give us a presentation on how he started reading and on his first book and also onto the one he is writing now. He has used a staggering 46 pads on this one he is doing now. The highlight was when he told us this. He was an inspiration to me when he said that he didn't like reading when he was younger. He has actually made me read a wee bit more now at night; Mr Green will be happy. The presentation was very good and very interesting and we learned a lot of things. What made the presentation good was his banter, jokes and interesting stories about his family. **Craig Dryburgh S3**

He read us a passage from his book, *Ostrich Boys* and left us on a cliff-hanger. So we didn't know what happened next. Before that he told us about when he moved to Edinburgh and smashed his knee, when he was stuck in his flat. The pizza delivery guy was scared of him and he couldn't get out because of his leg. So writing the books was the only thing that kept him sane. **Daisy Hepburn S1**

He told us a story about a stone and a cigar and he left us all undecided about which one was the true story, so after everyone was talking trying to guess which one was true. I liked Keith Gray's presentation and I would like if he came back... **Lewis Mackenzie S3**

You can get his books from the library and you could probably get them from Waterstone's or another book shop. **Kyle Macleod S3**

In my opinion it was a very enjoyable talk. **Ramsey Rait S3**

He just made me want to pick up a book that same instant. **Callum Coli S1**

It was really exciting for me because I really like to read books. **Mikolaj Jasz S1**

The highlight of the presentation for me was when he showed us the book which he used to make notes for his stories because it shows how much work and dedication he put in to his writing. **Liam Ross S3**

I think I'm speaking for everyone in saying Keith Gray is a fantastic writer and will go on to write many more books over the coming years. **Brendan Starke S1**

To me the highlight of Keith Gray's visit was when he told the audience about his child hood because it was quite funny and entertaining. **Scott Macdonald S3**

KEITH GRAY AKA RELUCTANT READER AKA AWARD WINNING AUTHOR

When I heard that the author Keith Gray was coming to speak to our third year group at first I did not know who he was, so I googled him. Then I made the connection between the book I had read and enjoyed a few years ago by him called 'The Runner'. It had very good reviews and was also award winning.

In Primary School, he was called a reluctant reader - someone who does not want to read. This could be for a variety of reasons, such as lack of positive role model, limited availability of books or lack of interest. It could also be related to difficulties in reading, for various reasons, such as gaps in education or dyslexia.

For Keith Gray it was a combination of factors. He said that his parents did not read and that there were no books in his house. He had the idea that books were for work and not for pleasure and was not interested in reading, until an older boy that he looked up to gave him a book to read. That book was *The Machine Gunners*, by Robert Westall, a historical adventure story set during World War Two. From there he discovered his love of reading, and became an avid reader and writer in his teenage years.

He wrote his first book when he was just twenty-one, and when he was just twenty-four, *Creepers* was the first book he had published and it was shortlisted for an award. He also told us about his book *Ostrich Boys* (published in 2008) which was shortlisted for no less than four awards. Two other books, *Warehouse* and *Malarkey* have also received awards. In total, he has written 18 books for children and teenagers, and has been shortlisted for several awards.

I think the fact that Keith Gray initially thought that books were boring and ended up enjoying reading so much that he became an award winning author is inspiring. It shows that everyone has the ability to change their reading habits, and that the more they read, the better their reading and writing skills will be. It is fitting that he is writing books that will appeal to young people who do not read as much as they should and that he is encouraging them to read more.

It was a great experience to hear him talk about his life and his books, in such an entertaining manner. I am definitely going to read some more by Keith Gray, and who knows: maybe one day I will see my name in print.

Daniel Macleod S3

Keith Gray's Phenomenal Visit

Keith Gray visited Dingwall Academy on the 8th of September 2014. Keith was born and grew up in a place called Grimsby. He knew from the age of about 13 that he wanted to become an author. When he received 0% for his accountancy exams, he knew it was time to start writing.

Keith spoke about his background and about how he hated reading when he was a primary school child. He always used to think that if you sat still to read a book you would die, because he thought the way people died was sitting down for a long, long time.

He also talked to us about his inspiration for his books. His ideas came from lots of different things: past experience, pets and lots, lots more. Keith has over 20 books, and has won many awards. He also came second to *Harry Potter*, written by J.K Rowling. I think that this is an amazing achievement, and is something to be very proud of.

Keith has written and published many wonderful books: *The Runner*, *Ostrich Boys*, *Creepers* and many more. Since his visit his books have been flying off the shelves of our local library and they have had to order in lots more. I found Keith Gray's talk very inspiring and very interesting too!

Rachel Johnstone S1

Extra-Curricular

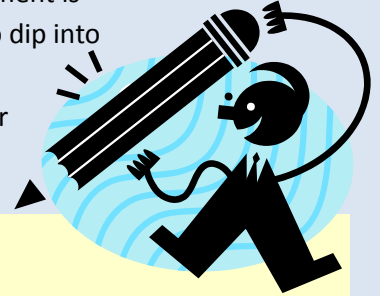
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch	<p>FONN, room 119 at 1.30pm</p> <p>Piping Group, room 118 at 1.30pm</p> <p>Senior Strings Ensemble, MPH at 1.20pm</p>	<p>Junior Choir (S1 and S2) room 120 at 1.30pm</p> <p>Senior Choir (S3-S6) room 119 at 1.30pm</p> <p>S1 and S2 Horrible Histories Club, lunch time, room 123 1.20pm</p>	<p>Jazz Band, PR A at 1.30pm</p> <p>Lego Club, lunch time, room 6</p> <p>Page Turners, Library 1.30pm</p>	<p>Staff and S6 Choir, room 120 at 1.30pm</p> <p>Writers' Group, room 202, 1.30pm</p>	<p>S1 and S2 Guitar Club, room 118 at 12.40pm</p>
After School	<p>School Orchestra, MPH at 3.40pm</p> <p>Netball, after school until 5pm, games hall</p>	<p>DADS, after school</p> <p>Girls football training, S1 – S6, after school</p> <p>Ross-shire Strings Orchestra, 7-8.30pm, MPH</p> <p>Maryburgh Youth Club, Maryburgh Amenities Hall, 8-9.30pm</p>	<p>Ceilidh Band, after school in room 118</p> <p>Hockey, after school, S1-S6</p>	<p>Gymnastics, 5pm</p> <p>DADS after school</p>	<p>Hub, 2-4pm, 10 Hill Street, Dingwall</p> <p>Twilight Basketball, 7.30-9.30pm, games hall</p>

If you know of an extra-curricular activity which is not listed here, please let us know!

Scholastic Book Fair

Week beginning 24th November

Just in time for Christmas book orders: the English Department is hosting a Book Fair. A number of books will be available to dip into during the week, with orders being taken for the duration. Delivery to the school is free for all orders, and every order benefits the school. More soon!



We Are Writers

Coinciding with Book Week is the publication of Dingwall Academy's first compilation of pupil writing. Every pupil in the school currently in English will be writing a short piece on the topic 'Home'. This topic is to be interpreted very widely, and creativity encouraged. More information will be distributed by the department in the coming week. If you are not currently in an English class, but are interested and would like to contribute, see the Writing board in English, or any of the teachers. We are looking forward to reading everyone's submissions, which will ultimately be available in print from mid-November.

ATTENTION ARTISTS!

Our book (above) will need a cover. Interested?

There's a prize (besides near-instant fame!) More interested?

The rules are simple:

1. Your piece of cover art must be no larger than A4, and it must be able to be digitised/scanned.
2. It must be submitted to Mr Green in Room 202 by no later than Wednesday 29th October.

The winning artist will receive a £25 voucher from Scholastic.



Writer's Group

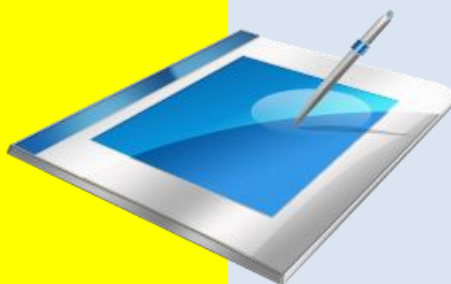
Come along to Room 202 at 1.30pm on Thursdays to meet with other writers in the Academy. We'll be exploring a wide range of genres and types of writing as the year progresses, and it's a good chance to hear and be heard (or read) by a sympathetic audience. Check out the Writing board in the department for more inspiration and information.

In the next issue of the *News*...

- Sponsored Walk
- S1 Mini-mag Section
- Pupil Achievements
- New 'Back in the Day' photos
- And much more!

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



To Autumn

O Autumn, laden with fruit,
and stain'd
With the blood of the grape,
pass not, but sit
Beneath my shady roof;
there thou may'st rest,
And tune thy jolly voice to
my fresh pipe,
And all the daughters of the
year shall dance!
Sing now the lusty song of
fruits and flowers.

"The narrow bud opens her
beauties to
The sun, and love runs in her
thrilling veins;
Blossoms hang round the
brows of Morning, and
Flourish down the bright
cheek of modest Eve,
Till clust'ring Summer breaks
forth into singing,
And feather'd clouds strew
flowers round her head.

"The spirits of the air live in
the smells
Of fruit; and Joy, with
pinions light, roves round
The gardens, or sits singing
in the trees."
Thus sang the jolly Autumn
as he sat,
Then rose, girded himself,
and o'er the bleak
Hills fled from our sight; but
left his golden load.

William Blake, 1783



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.

Headteacher: Mrs K. Cormack

RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

HONESTY

DETERMINATION