



Dingwall Academy

News



SEPTEMBER 2015

*Dates for your
diary:*

2nd October
Sponsored Walk

Wednesday 7th October
S2 Contact Evening

7th October
S6 UCAS convention

9th October
School Closes

26th October
School Re-opens

3rd November
S5/6 Contact Evening



Welcome to our Newsletter. As always, there are a number of achievements, pupil pieces, and events inside. We wish everyone a safe, happy and restful October holiday. Enjoy!

What an Achievement!

Congratulations to Eilidh Forsyth (S6) who, following a re-mark by the SQA, has been awarded an A pass for her Higher English. Eilidh now has five Highers with A passes, a fabulous achievement. This also means that 9 Dingwall Academy pupils achieved five A passes at Higher Level this year, our highest number on record.



Cycle to School Week Success

Well done to all pupils who cycled to school for our Cycle to School Week. We had a great response: the bike shed was overflowing. Thank you to Ben Wyvis Cycle Club who helped keep the crossings safe throughout the week. Thanks also to James and Colin who carried out safety checks on all bikes during the week. Keep Cycling!



Notes & News



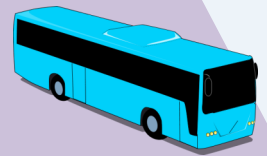
Staffing

German Student Teacher

We are delighted to welcome German student Nicki Picha to the school. Nicki will spend the next 6 months working with pupils and staff in the languages department. It is Nicki's first visit to Scotland and we look forward to working with her.

Buses

Very occasionally buses are not able to leave at the end of the school day on time. Pupils are reminded that if there is ever a problem with buses then they must report this to the school office. Pupils should not start to walk home, this can be very dangerous particularly as we move towards winter.



Well done to pupils...

The new manager of Tesco Dingwall was so impressed with the behaviour of our pupils that he took time to contact the school with the following comment ...

"I've been in Tesco Dingwall for 8 weeks now and have been really impressed by the way the Dingwall Academy pupils conduct themselves in the store. There's no mucking around, no bad language, just courteous, well mannered boys and girls and a credit to your school."

Stephen, Store Manager, Tesco Dingwall



We Are Writers!

As you may know, we are all writing another book. All pupils from S1-6 have been invited to submit writing on the theme of *Adventure*. Many S1 pupils are submitting the fairy tales they wrote as part of their transition, and others have relished the opportunity to delve into their imaginations, lives and the lives of others in what will certainly be another fantastic production.

We do still have a few copies of last year's book, on the theme of *Home*, available. Contact the office with your details if you'd like to purchase one. Our new book will be available to order in late Oct/early November at a price of £5.99.

Reminder to pupils: you should upload your pieces to writers.scholastic.co.uk by Friday 2nd October



We Are Writers!

We're Away...!

Trip	Year Group	Outline	Dates (may change)	Approx cost	Leader
WWI Belgium Trip	S2 – S6	Visits to museums, war graves and battlefields of Belgium and France	26 th June – 3 rd July 2016	£530	Mr Lyall
Alladale Estate	S3	Wild camping, outdoor activities and estate work	3 rd – 6 th May 2016	£110	Miss Tullis
Languages Department French Trip	Open to all year groups but priority given to S1 and S2	Based in Paris – visit main attractions and Disneyland.	3 rd – 9 th October 2016	£550	Mrs MacKintosh
Languages Department German Trip	Open to all year groups but priority given to S1 and S2	Based in Freiburg – visit main attractions and Theme Park.	27 th June – 3 rd July 2016	£575	Mrs MacKintosh
Art & Music Trip	S2-S3 pupils	Visit Glasgow – creative and cultural visits plus Sister Act - the Musical	4-5 Oct 2016	Approx £120	Mr Brindle
Scottish Parliament Trip	Seniors	Visit Edinburgh – parliament visit plus theatre		£70	
Trans World Soccer USA Trip		Elite coaching, matches, Live Sport, Universal Studios	24 th June – 1 st July 2016	Trip full	Mr McKie

Above are the residential trips planned for the year so far.

Off to Culloden



This photo is from the S2 History Trip to Culloden Battlefield on the 2nd of September. In this trip we took part in a series of activities ranging from acting to doing the famous Highland Charge. First we looked at scenarios from the Jacobite/Hanoverian era. We also re-enacted them with historical props and costumes. Next we looked at exhibitions of how it all began, the battle, the weapons used by both sides and what happened after the battle. We also watched a re-enactment of the battle on a 360 degree screen. Finally we went out to the actual battlefield where we learnt how the Hanoverian army fought, how difficult the Jacobite's night march to Nairn was and how to do the famous Highland charge.

We found this trip educational and helpful, especially for our upcoming essay. Overall we had a great time and really enjoyed it!

By Catherine Bruce and Alishbah Zahid

Social Subjects Fieldwork Days

The social subjects faculty has been busy with pupils taking part in fieldwork opportunities in the local area. 186 S2 pupils all visited Culloden Battlefield and Visitor centre over a four day period where they took part in a programme of activities. They enjoyed a role play exercise and had a guided tour of the battlefield site. The highlight for many was the immersion theatre 360 degree reproduction of being in the middle of the battleground during the fighting.

79 National 4 and 5 Geography pupils were accompanied by staff to Cairngorm National park over a two day period. They took part in a river study to collect data to prepare for their assignment and visited the weather station. Two Cairngorm Rangers were on hand to help pupils out and to discuss land use conflict in the park. The pupils were lucky enough to enjoy glorious weather, although they did suffer the scourge of the Highland midge.

Advanced Higher pupils were less lucky with their weather during their Physical Geography fieldwork day around the environs of Inverness. They plan to follow up this activity with a Human Geography fieldwork project in Beaulieu before the October break.



D.A.D.S.

(Dingwall Academy Drama Society)

A word (or two) from Peter Dingwall

I have been in DADS for very nearly five years. I joined in 1st year, a very confident, loud and disruptive boy, when the club was still fairly new. (It was formed five months before by 7 pupils and Mr Lyall). Today, all of those pupils have left and DADS is about to enter its sixth year of performing.

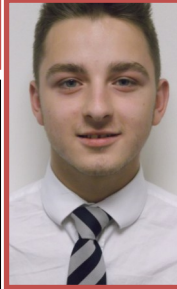
Just one of the things that I think sets DADS aside from every other school drama group is the real sense of community of the club and the sheer professionalism everyone brings to it.

DADS puts on two shows a year, and raises money for Teenage Cancer Trust with a Talent Show, but it is constantly looking for other opportunities for its actors such as the stand-up competition Class Clowns.

DADS is a club for anyone: shy people looking for more confidence, people who want to pursue a career in acting, or people who are just waiting for their mum to finish work. (BTW, I won Class Clowns, and that was a joke). Whatever reason you go for, you will learn skills that will serve you for your entire life.

When I joined DADS I had no idea about the impact it would have on me. I am grateful for the club because I genuinely believe that if I hadn't joined DADS I would have left school in 4th year and would be doing something that I wouldn't enjoy doing. DADS has given me an alternative education from the standard classroom stuff, which I'm not that good at.

If you are thinking of joining, just do it, it will change your life, like it did mine. I haven't had a Consequence in 9 months thanks to DADS! (That's not a joke).



What is DADS?

DADS is an all inclusive drama group which welcomes members from S1-S6.



DADS hosts a Halloween Disco

- S1/2 on 29th October from 7.30-9.30pm.
- Competition for best costume.. (Costume mandatory)
- Tuck shop.
- Halloween Stalls, eg Ducking for apples etc.
- Games.
- Tickets £3 and all proceeds go to DADS.

What's Coming Up?



November 18th and 19th 2015
Tickets available soon!

An opportunity for you:

Fancy promoting your business to the local community?

DADS is offering the chance for interested businesses to advertise in our programme for our up-coming musical. If you'd like to be involved, or know someone who would, please email the address below for further details.

Please register to support us at www.easyfundraising.org.uk to help us keep doing what we love.

Email us: dingwallacademydrama@gmail.com

ESOL

English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

Dingwall Academy is now a very multilingual place with Polish, Tagalog, Slovak, French and Thai being some of the languages spoken fluently by our pupils. This year the school presented pupils for Higher ESOL for the very first time. The four pupils entered were a credit to the school, all gaining an A pass. The Higher course is open to those whose first language is not English, and aims to develop the skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking to a very high level. Our ESOL teachers are Ms Jan Wilson and Mrs Fiona Knotts. This year we have another Higher class running, as well as National 4/5 ones.



Dingwall Academy offers a course for students with English as their second called ESOL. ESOL stands for *English for Speakers of Other Languages*. The course offers qualifications in Speaking, Writing, Listening and Reading. I had the pleasure to interview two members of the ESOL programme, Victoria Kaczmarek and Andrea Aquino. I asked the two of them how they found the course to which they replied, “It’s really good; I did National 5 last year.” I asked them if they knew that ESOL was a course in school and both of them said they weren’t aware at first.

Andrea made an interesting point about how she decided to join ESOL after National 5 English when I asked her if she would have taken the course if she knew about it earlier. She said : “I actually like the way I found out about ESOL. I like how I was able to experience the English ‘upstairs’ before deciding to do ESOL.”

The ESOL programme in Scotland is there to ease the transition to an English speaking school and students can, of course, opt in for the English course. In terms of the transition to English speaking schools, I asked how they found English conversations, and both agreed that “speaking is absolutely fine, but writing is a lot harder.” I then asked them how effective and worthwhile they found the programme, both girls replied with genuine smiles: “We really enjoy it! ESOL is definitely worthwhile.” So all in all, ESOL can be said to of had a positive impact on Victoria and Andrea’s school life, although with the last members of ESOL being straight A students, the two girls have a little pressure living up to the course’s impressive results! We’re sure they can do it!

Joshua Henry

BSL Final Debate

British Sign Language (BSL) Bill: Final Debate Thursday 17th September 2015

Dingwall Academy Pupils witness history being made

During the summer holidays, word reached Mrs Kinsman's ears that the date for the BSL Bill stage 3 debate had been announced –Thursday 17th September in the main chamber in the Scottish Parliament. Due to the school's involvement in submitting views and opinions and engaging with the organisers for the BSL Bill, a special invitation to the school: 6 tickets to attend Parliament.

The 5 pupils eventually selected (a very difficult task) were senior pupils: Fraser Holmes, Georgia Campbell, Caitlin Boggan, and Lara Horne and Holly Urquhart representing pupils from the deaf base. They are committed to BSL and are positive role models in and around the school.

Before entering the chamber to watch the debate, pupils were met by MSPs Dave Thompson (SNP) and Mary Scanlon (Scottish Conservatives) who have both expressed an interest in Dingwall Academy and its Deaf base by visiting on a number of occasions.

Pupils discussed with Dave Thompson and Mary Scanlon what they hoped the BSL Bill would mean for both Deaf and hearing communities in the future: formal SQA qualifications on par with other language qualifications, easier access to information in BSL, more training for Deaf BSL users and sign tuition to families.

As soon as we arrived at Holyrood, we were absorbed in the buzzing atmosphere and overwhelmed by the numbers and all generations of sign language users freely and easily communicating with everyone. We met people from all areas of the Deaf community; interpreters, trainers, Deaf speakers who have visited the school and one of the presenters from the Deaf TV show 'See Hear'.

The final debate gave the MSPs the opportunity to voice their own opinions or objections to the Bill - for once they were all in agreement and the Bill received unanimous backing from the members. Mary Scanlon praised the work of the Deaf base, the teachers and the pupils and supported the notion that Dingwall Academy was well placed for hosting the pilot of the formal qualification in BSL when it happens.

In one humorous moment, one of the MSP suggested that when Mary Scanlon retired from the Parliament she might get the rector's job at Dingwall Academy!

Fraser Holmes, Caitlin Bogan, Georgia Campbell, Lara Horne and Holly Urquhart.



Pupils meet Dave Thompson



Pupils with Mary Scanlon



Pupils with Clive Mason TV
Presenter of the Deaf Programme

See Hear

Senior Football Off to a Flyer!



The senior boys football team has made a promising start to the league season. The first fixture was away to Millburn where we lost narrowly (3-2) despite dominating large periods of the game. The second fixture was away to Nairn where, despite a number of call-offs, we managed a 5-1 victory which included a stunning 35 yard pile driver from John Junor and a magnificent solo effort from captain Kenny Cleland.

Kenny has been selected to be in the North of Scotland Schools select team for this season.

Lord Lieutenant's Award 2016

Nominations are now open for the Lord-Lieutenant's Award. The award seeks to identify and reward the very best examples of achievement by young people in Ross & Cromarty, Skye and Lochalsh. Six prizes to the value of £500 each will be awarded to reflect outstanding achievement in the following categories:

- **Community Action**
- **Helping others**
- **Achievement in skills for work**
- **Improved achievement in sport**
- **Achievement in the arts**
- **Group Award**

To be eligible pupils should be aged 11 – 18. Nominations can be made by family, friends, coaches or teachers. Nomination forms along with further details are available on the website: www.llyouthaward.org

Moving On ...

Congratulations to Chloe MacPhee 5T2, who was recently appointed to the post of apprentice receptionist at ERG.



STV Real Heroes—Keep Your Eyes Peeled!

John Anderson 2W2, was filmed today (21/09/15) by STV, and will be on telly towards the end of October, beginning of November. His mum has been nominated for an award 'Carer of The Year' by the National Autistic Society in the STV Real Heroes awards, and they were being filmed so that everyone will be able to see what she does, and then it will be down to a public vote to see who wins. So look out for STV Real Heroes at the end of October, and vote for John's mum Karen.

Wester Ross Provincial Mod

Prizewinners

Poetry, learners (16-18 years)

- 1st Seonaid Mackinnon
- 2nd Kiera Brennan
- 3rd Caitlin Macleod
- 4th Craig Macarthur

Piping (Under 14 years) March

- 3rd Finlay Rollo

Piping (Under 14 years) Strathspey & Reel

- 2nd Andrew Laird

Piping (14-18 years) March

- 1st Archie Drennan

Piping (14-18 years) Strathspey & Reel

- 1st Archie Drennan (Meur Loch Lu and An Teallach Trophies)
- 3rd Eilidh Johnson

Fiddle, Advanced

- 1st Sophie Cushnie (The Winnie Ewing Trophy)

Solo singing, learners (16-18 years)

- 1st Caitlin Macleod

Secondary piano

- 1st Fraser Mackintosh

Solo singing girls & boys, fluent (11-12 years)

- 3rd Abigail Williams

Conversation, fluent (11-12 years)

- 3rd Ruairidh MacKenzie

Conversation, fluent (13-15 years)

- 1st Eilidh Johnson

- 2nd Adam Dyer

Conversation, fluent (16-18 years)

- 1st Mairead Morgan

- 2nd Sam McCourt

- 3rd Rachel Kellow

Poetry, fluent (11-12 years)

- 2nd Carrie Mackinnon

- 3rd Lucie Corbett

Reading at sight, fluent (13-15 years)

- 3rd Eilidh Johnson

- 4th Adam Dyer

Reading at sight, fluent (16-18 years)

- 1st Mairead Morgan (Meur Loch Lu Quaich)

- 2nd = Sam McCourt

- Rachel Kellow

Poetry, learners (13-15 years)

- 1st Emma Maclennan

- 2nd Bethany Macdonald

- 3rd Meghan Gwyther

Achievements



All My Sons at Eden Court

An enthusiastic group of S3/4/5 and 6 students attended Arthur Miller's "All My Sons" at Eden Court on Wednesday evening.

A superb evening, and a historic first for Eden Court as it was the first time a live performance had been both signed and captioned.

Thanks to supporting staff: L. MacCallum, C. McCulloch and J. Wilson, and to organisers G. Dolan and Ruth Christman (S5) one of our Eden Court Ambassadors.

The party arrived back at school just after 11.00 pm a little weary, but already looking forward to the next English Department theatre outing on November 5th, again at Eden Court, but this time to see Arthur Miller's "The Last Yankee". All those who attended the first play, can see the second for only £6.00 including transport to and from Inverness.



Last Minute News...



Dingwall Academy is helping to put a spotlight on pancreatic cancer by turning purple this November!

Pancreatic cancer is the UK's fifth biggest cancer killer, which has been little known, poorly understood and chronically underfunded for far too long. This is why survival rates have not improved in 40 years. Pancreatic Cancer Action was founded by a survivor who proves that there is hope, early diagnosis is achievable and survival is possible. By lighting Dingwall Academy purple we hope to increase awareness of pancreatic cancer for Pancreatic Cancer Action. So look out for the purple Dingwall Academy in November!

Outdoor Classroom



Visitors to the school may have notice a new structure behind the library. This is our new outdoor classroom that will be put to a variety of uses to help support and enhance learning in the school.

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

- Pupil Voices
- Pupil Achievements
- Welcome Back!

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

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Just for fun...

The BSL Bill tartan

In the run up to the BSL Bill final debate, on Thursday 17th September, textile students with some Heriot Watt BSL students created 3 possible BSL tartans and invited everyone to cast their vote. Dingwall Academy staff and pupils got behind this just for fun exercise. There was plenty of chat about which tartan would suit being made into a kilt, a handbag, a pair of shoes!



The winning Dingwall Academy tartan... will be revealed after the debate on Thursday but which tartan would get your vote?



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