



Dingwall Academy *News*

SEPTEMBER



Welcome back everyone, and to our first newsletter this session.

The link to the newsletter is sent to parents every month, newsletters can also be accessed via the school website.



Pictured above are pupils celebrating all A passes in their exam results.

Key dates

Key dates this term:

Monday 9th September	UCAS information evening
16th & 17th September	In-service, school closed to pupils
Tue 24th September	Tempest Photographer catch up session UCAS exhibition
Friday 4th October	Sponsored Walk
Monday 7th October	S3 contact evening
9th & 10th October	Parliament trip

Holiday Dates

16th/17th September	In-service
Friday 11th October Monday 28th October	School Closes School Opens
21st/22nd November	In-service
Friday 20th December Monday 6th January	School Closes School Opens
17th/18th Feb 19th Feb	Closed In-service
Friday 27th March Tuesday 14th April	School Closes School Opens
Friday 8th May	Closed
Monday 1st June	In-Service
Thursday 2nd July	School Closes

Contact Evenings 2019—2020

S1	Thursday 12th December
S2	Tuesday 5th November
S3	Monday 7th October
S4	Monday 2nd December
S5/6	Wed 20th November

Contact evenings are held from 5.00—7.30pm.

Bookings are made using our electronic booking system. Pupils and parents will be given further information on this closer to each contact evening.

Parents are reminded that if they have concerns then they are encouraged to contact the school as soon as possible, not to wait until contact evenings.

Where staff have significant concerns about progress then parents will also be made aware throughout the year.

Notes and news

Staffing

This session we welcome four probationer teachers who are spending their first year at Dingwall Academy.

Miss MacInnes—Geography, Miss Park—PE, Miss Leishman—Art and Miss Ross—Music.

We are delighted to welcome them to our school and wish them all a great first year.



School Uniform

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to and bought from our used uniform initiative. This has proved hugely popular and we are already preparing for our next pop up stall which will be at the Autumn Market on Friday 4th October.

We are happy to receive uniform donations to the school any time.

Holiday dates

Please note that the date of the May holiday has this year been changed from a Monday to a Friday.

Highland Council have also confirmed that from next session 2020—21, the Easter holiday will be fixed for the first two weeks of April.

Holiday dates for next year can be viewed on the Highland Council Website.

Parental Engagement

We are always looking for different ways to involve parents in the life of the school.

A number of parents have expressed an interest in helping with Award Schemes in school. These schemes look to direct pupils to different awards that can be achieved through involvement with volunteering, extra curricular and community activities. Pupils can work towards Saltire Awards, Dynamic Youth Awards and Leadership Awards. Pupils have all received further information on the Awards at Assemblies. There is also a further information sheet available on Google Classroom.

If any parent would be interested in finding out more, then please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Parental Engagement Event

On Wednesday 27th November we are hosting a parental engagement event in the school. The main aim of the event is to help parents to support their child's learning and wellbeing.

There will be a wide range of presentations and workshops. More information will be provided closer to the event.



The Parent Council are always looking for parents to help with various events throughout the year. We appreciate that everyone is busy, but imagine if every parent gave even just an hour of their time throughout the year!

When requests are made for help, please do try and get involved. Volunteering with such events helps parents get involved with the life of the school, meet other parents and, hopefully, have good fun.

“The research is overwhelmingly clear: when parents play a positive role in their children's education, students do better in school”

Results



5 S5 pupils achieved all A passes in their Higher exams.

Bea Rae,
Freya Finlayson,
Laura Beveridge and
Rory Cormack.

Not pictured is
Priscilla Du Kruijff.
Priscilla has moved
with her family to
Spain and we wish
her every success.

Achieving all A passes in
their National 5 exams
in S4 were:

Kirsty Arnaud,
Isla Beaton,
Niamh Buchanan,
Elsa Fearn,
Melvin Lynch,
Ruairidh McGee and
Daisy Wisely.

Also achieving all A
passes for their National
5s but missing from the
photograph are Anna
Bayne, Blair Mackay,
Alana Mutch and Russell
MacKenzie.



First thoughts from 1st years ...

We asked some S1 pupils what was the best thing about being at Dingwall Academy ?..

"You get to learn lots of new and different things."

"You get to go home early on a Friday!"

"You get to meet new friends."

"You don't just have the same teacher all the time."

"The food in the canteen is way better than Primary School!"

"You learn different things from Primary."

"You get to move from class to class."



A word from the Captains

Congratulations to our School Captains for this session.

Head Girl Rachel Johnstone

Head Boy Rory Cormack

Deputes Catherine MacKay
Rona Robinson

Adam Bradley
Mark MacLennan



We are so excited and proud to have been elected as your captains for the coming school year. We really enjoyed welcoming our new S1 pupils to the school and hope you have all enjoyed your first few weeks!

S6 prefects carried out extra training this week and are always on hand to provide any assistance and support along with our new wellbeing buddies who will be introduced to lower school PSE classes soon.

It has become well known in Dingwall Academy for sixth years to lend a hand in running and planning various events throughout the year. We have a number of exciting things coming up. If you have any other ideas or questions please do not hesitate to discuss this with any of the captains.

SCOTTISH CHAMPION!



Congratulations to Andrew Georgeson who recently won the Scottish Juvenile Downhill Mountain Bike Championships. The competition took place over a very testing course in Glencoe, where it is an achievement just to get down the hill in one piece!

Andrew has put in hours of hard work and training to be able to compete at this level, another brilliant example of where hard work and determination can get you.

Congratulations Andrew, we are all very proud of your success!

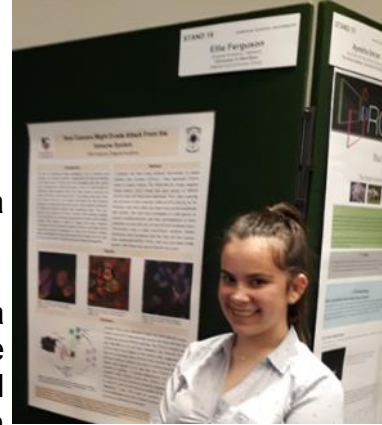


Nuffield Research

Ellie Ferguson S6 Nuffield Research Placement

In the summer I completed a 4 week placement in a lab at the Medical Institute of Science in Aberdeen.

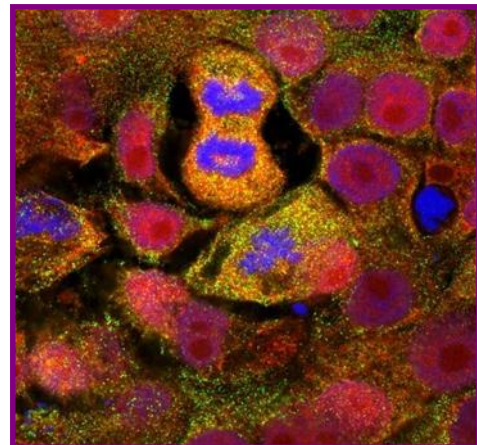
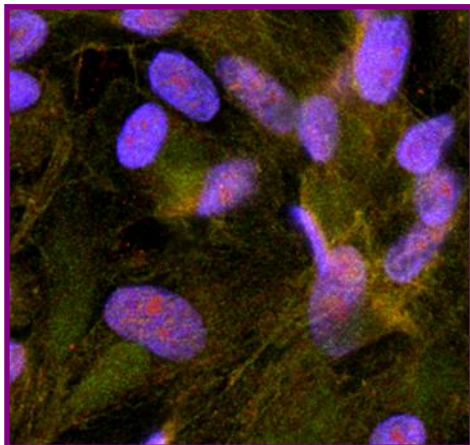
This was part of a Nuffield placement which is a program for 5th year students across the UK. These projects involve conducting research in a STEM subject, in a research environment such as a lab with a person of high level in that specific area.



For my placement I researched ways that cancer cells can avoid an immune response with Dr Frank Ward. To do this we examined the presence of a protein on the cancer cells, which is a known immunosuppressive molecule. This protein could indicate how cancer cells are not being attacked by the immune system. We did this by culturing and staining the cancer cells with chemicals specific to the 1 protein we were interested in and then we took pictures with a very high resolution laser microscope.

As well as learning what it is like to work in a research environment my placement gave me practical lab and reporting skills and also gave me a great insight of what working in a lab would be like.

Here are some pictures of the cancer cells that I cultured and stained.



Autumn Market



Highland Harvest Festival

Friday 4th of October

6.30pm - 9.00pm

Dingwall Academy

Come along and enjoy a great variety of stalls selling a wide range of seasonal, local produce including meat, fish, vegetables, eggs, honey, sweet treats, vegan food and much more! There will also be apple pressing demonstrations and plenty of tasters!

There will also be a chance to refresh yourself with tea, coffee, cakes and popcorn whilst enjoying live music from our talented pupils

Let's keep it eco-friendly bring your own reusable cups and bags



MOO Food

Sponsored Walk

Friday 4th October



Our annual sponsored walk takes place on Friday 4th October. The route was shortened slightly last year to allow for the earlier bus times on a Friday. The route is now just under 8 miles giving pupils plenty of time to complete the walk and be back in time for buses home. Pupils are allowed to go home once they have registered at the end of the walk.

The route will take in Mitchell Hill, Pitglassie Farm, Maryburgh Woods and Dunglass Road before returning to the school.

Permission forms have been issued in assemblies this week. S1 and S2 pupils should return forms to House Tutor Teachers and S3 – S6 pupils should return forms to their guidance teacher during PSE.

All S6 pupils will be either marshalling on the walk or helping out with a task on the day. S5 pupils will be expected to walk in groups to supervise and support S1 and S2 during the walk.

We fully appreciate that it is not always easy to collect sponsors so we have once again included the option of a donation at the bottom of the sponsor form. Any money can also be paid via a bank transfer – details of the account to pay into are attached to the permission forms. We will also e-mail out forms to all parents and guardians just in case forms do not make it home! All money raised will go to the school fund which helps to pay for a host of extra-curricular activities and school events over the year. Money should be returned on the morning of the walk or the week after.

Fingers are now crossed for good weather on the day!!!



Mountain Bike Club

Mountain Bike Club

Goodbye

It is always sad to lose senior members of the club, but this year's crop of riders will be leaving a legacy of development within the club that will hopefully endure long after they are gone. We wish them all well as they leave school and head off on exciting new chapters of their lives – first stop naturally, a mountain bike trip to Les Gets in The Alps – good lads!

Not worried

Although we have said goodbye to some senior pupils, we have a fantastic group of riders who are now already stepping up and taking responsibility for various aspects within the club. We have some great role models who our younger riders can learn lots from – this cycle is definitely working.



Achievements

There have been some amazing achievements by Dingwall riders so far this year and two notable ones are:

Andrew Georgeson

Scottish National Downhill Champion (Juvenile)
and Highland Hardline Series Champion.

Bethany McCully

Highland Hardline Series Champion.

There have been a host of other 'goings on' and we hope to bring more news in subsequent newsletters.



Welcome

That said, it's been great to see an influx of new members to the club this term, with some very eager looking S1s but also older pupils who have decided to get involved too – welcome all!



The club meets now on a Thursday after school and will be riding up until the October holidays. After that we will do some specific rides for more experienced riders in the dark winter months, but we will also use the dark nights to learn some bike maintenance skills indoors too.



Achievements



Congratulations to Lara Snowie who took part in a CHAMPS football competition.

Pictured here with her two medals.

Well done Lara.



Congratulations to Lewis Ferrier who was recently awarded the Schools Programme - Skills for Work winner, sponsored by Scottish Provincial Press, at their annual Student Awards Ceremony. Lewis was nominated by his lecturing team who felt that he provided an excellent example of hard work and commitment within his area of study.

Achievements

Congratulations to Dingwall Academy pupils Allan Hasson, Ben Hasson and Amy Georgeson who were part of the amazing production of Shrek at Eden Court at the end of August.

They all put in hours of work, learned lots of new skills and met lots of new people.



Achievements

And teachers too!..

We always stress that learning is not something that stops when you leave school. So let's recognise some of the hard work and learning of our teachers as they continue to push themselves and learn new things.



Congratulations to Ms Kerr and Mrs Watson on their triathlon success. Mrs Watson successfully completed her first triathlon in Aviemore and Ms Kerr was first in her class. This was only one of a number of triathlon events Ms Kerr has taken part in over the Summer.

Congratulations to Mrs MacLennan who was part of the Scottish team competing at the Eurovision Choir Competition in Sweden.

Another great example of the importance of pushing ourselves to experience new challenges.



Achievements



Andrea MacDonald (S3) had another amazing experience with the National Youth Choir of Scotland's National Girls Choir this month, performing Benjamin Britten's War Requiem in the Usher Hall with the Orchestre de Paris and the Edinburgh Festival Chorus.

The concert was given a 5-star review by critics and the Girls Choir was described as having crystal clear diction, ringing purity of tone and an ethereal sheen!



WHAT'S ON

Monday

Senior Strings Ensemble will be on at 1.20pm in the MPH

School Choir will be on at 1.30pm in room 119

School Orchestra will be on at 3.45pm in the MPH

S1 – S6 Girls Football is on after school

Senior and boys hockey is on after school from 3.45pm – 5pm. All welcome

S1 – S6 Girls Netball is on after school, 4pm – 5pm in the main gym hall

**Code Club is on in room 211 at lunchtime. All welcome. (Mrs Robertson will advise when starting)*

**The Global Wolves Club is in Room 115 at lunchtime, please bring your lunch. New members welcome.*

See Mrs Lewthwaite or Mr Hilton for more

details. (Will resume when Mrs Lewthwaite is back from maternity leave)

Tuesday

Corona Celtica will be on at 1.20pm in room 120

Jazzy Wind Band will be on at 1.30pm in room 118

Dungeons and Dragons Club will be on after school in room 136

Louise and Lindsay (Youth Work) will be in the Library from interval –

lunch for anyone wanting to access awards

Youth Forum meeting after school in the Meeting Room. All welcome

Tuesday Lunch Club is on in the Outdoor Classroom – bring your own lunch

**Equality Group is on in Room 207 at 1.30pm (next meeting is on 24.09.19)*

Wednesday

Lego Club will be on for S1/2 at lunch time in room 6

Badminton Club for S1-S3 will be on after school, 3.45-5pm in the Leisure Centre

Ink – Creative Writing Club, 1.30pm, room 207. New members welcome

S1-3 hockey training is on after school

Senior Girls HIIT training – after school

Deàrrsadh, 3.45pm, Room 119

Pipes and Drums will be on at 1.30pm in room 119

Senior Scripture Union is in room 204 at lunchtime 1.30pm, room 118

Thursday

Staff and S5/S6 Choir will be on at 1.30pm in room 120

Scripture Union will be on for S1-S3 at lunch time in room 101

Gymnastics will be on at 3.40-5pm in the Small Gym. New members welcome

Chess/Board Game Club, lunchtime in room 124

BSL choir is on in Room 118 at 1.30pm. New members welcome

U14's football training will be on after school

Mountain Bike club after school – ride information on Google Classroom

Friday

Twilight Basketball will be on at 7.30-9.30pm in the Games Hall

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

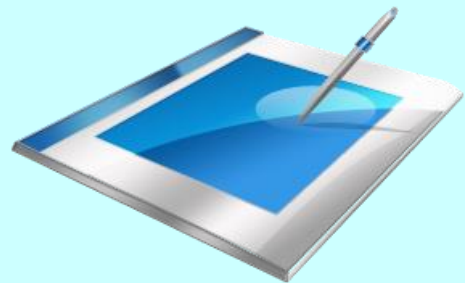
Something missing? Correction? Is there a feature you'd like to see? Get in touch!

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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