



Dingwall Academy News

SQA Results

Congratulations to all pupils who received their SQA Exam results in August. Pupils did extremely well with an increase in the number of pupils achieving both National 5 and Higher Awards.



Pictured above are pupils who achieved all A passes in their Higher Results, a magnificent achievement.

Matt Scobie, Alasdair Reid, Callum Cushnie, Adam MacRae,
Liam Shaw, Kristin Langdale, Christopher Stewart

More exam success on next page



SEPTEMBER 2018

*Dates for your
Diary:*

In-Service days -

Monday 17th and Tuesday
18th September—school
closed to pupils

Parent Council AGM—

Monday 24th September
7pm

S5 S6 UCAS Information
Evening

Wednesday 3rd October
6pm

Sponsored Walk—Friday
5th October

Friday 12th October—
School closes for October
Holidays

Monday 29th October—
School reopens

SQA Results



Pupils achieving all A passes in their National 5 examinations.

Pupils achieving 6 passes at National 5 level.



31 pupils achieved 5 Higher passes in S5.

Congratulations and well done to all pupils on their exam successes.

Notes & News



At the start of the session we welcomed a number of new staff to Dingwall Academy

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Depute Head Teacher (covering for Ms Harrison) | Mrs J Nelson |
| Temporary Depute Head Teacher | Mr C O'Neill |
| Principal Teacher ASN | Mr L Williams |
| Chemistry Teacher (covering for Mrs Canham) | Mrs L Ballingall |
| Geography Teacher | Miss C MacLean |
| English Teacher | Miss R Radcliffe |
| Art Teacher | Miss A Flynn |
| ASN Teacher | Miss R Mohin |
| ASN Teacher | Mr A Whiteford |

Baby news ...

Congratulations to Ms Harrison and Mrs Canham on the arrival of baby Robin and baby Emma during the Summer holidays.

Parent Council AGM

The Parent Council AGM will take place at 7pm in the school on Monday 24th September. We are looking to welcome any new members to the Parent Council.

The Parent Council focus this year is going to be on how we can involve parents more in the life of the school. We would be delighted to see any new faces on the 24th.



Notes & News

UCAS

There will be an information evening for parents of pupils in S5 and S6 on Wednesday 3rd October at 6pm. This event will focus on the application process for Universities and Colleges.



S6 pupils have already enjoyed a UCAS presentation from Scottish Universities and attended an information session hosted at Inverness UHI.

Key UCAS dates are:

Week Beginning 8th October

First draft of personal statements to guidance teachers.

Week Beginning 3rd December

Final draft of personal statement to Guidance teachers.

Contact Evenings

Contact evenings run from 5pm—7.30pm and appointments are made using an online booking system. Parents are emailed details of the online booking system close to the date.

S1 Contact Evening

Wednesday 12th December

S2 Contact Evening

Thursday 31st January

S3 Contact Evening

Wednesday 20th March

S4 Contact Evening

Tuesday 27th November

S5/6 Contact Evening

Wednesday 7th November

Notes & News

Holiday Dates

In-Service

Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th September

School **closes**

Friday 12th October 2018

School **re-opens**

Monday 29th October 2018

School **closes**

Friday 21st December 2018

School **re-opens**

Monday 7th January 2019



Holidays

Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th February 2019

In-Service day

Wednesday 20th February —school closed to pupils

School **closes**

Friday 5th April 2019

School **re-opens**

Tuesday 23rd April 2019



May Day Holiday

Monday 6th May 2019

In-service day

Monday 3rd June 2018—school closed to pupils

School **closes**

Thursday 4th July 2019

Holiday dates for session 2019—2020 are available on the Highland Council Website.



Notes and News

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. Pupils are issued with letters giving more information.

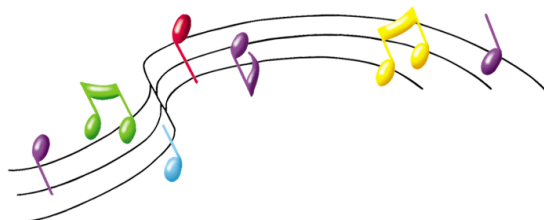
Novar and Wyvis pupils
Brahan and Tulloch pupils

Thursday 20th September
Thursday 27th September

MUSIC TUITION

If any pupil would like to start learning a musical instrument through the High Life Highland Instrumental Service, please go online to www.highlifehighland.com/music to sign up.

At Dingwall Academy we currently have spaces available in Woodwind, Brass, Piping, Pipe Band Drumming, Guitar and Drum Kit. All costs and other key information can also be found on this website.



10th Anniversary

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the school building, pupils and staff have all been involved in creating a commemorative art piece.

The painting is made from the finger prints of pupils and staff.

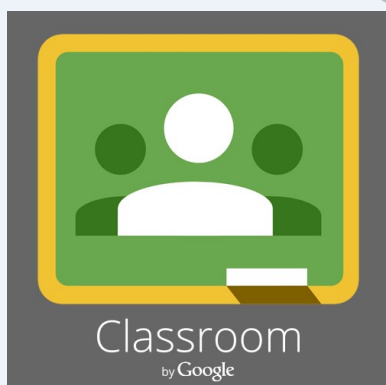
The new S1 pupils were given the opportunity to add their finger prints to the border.



The painting will now be given pride of place at the front of the school.

Thank you to the Art Department for co-ordinating the project.

S1 Information Evening



Thank you to parents and pupils who attended the S1 Information night on 11th September.

Parents were given the opportunity to look at Google Calendar and Google Classroom on the newly issued Chromebooks.

Pupils (and parents!) then moved around 3 workshops where they looked at:

- Supporting pupils with literacy.
- Accessing maths and numeracy websites.
- Using Mindmaps to summarise and review information.

All pupils are now making regular use of Google Classroom. As well as subject specific classrooms, pupils should also have joined the S1 Communication Classroom.

If S1 pupils have not yet done this the code to join is:

ct4zuku

All pupils are now using Google Calendar to record details of homework, key dates and assignments.

Pupils are being asked to share their calendar with parents.

To do this pupils open Google Calendar, go to the main menu listed down the left side, click on [my calendar](#) so that your name opens, hover on your name, 3 dots appear, click on this and [open settings and sharing](#), click on [share with specific people](#), click on [add people](#), add parental email.

Pupils are being given further instructions on how to do this in PSE and House Tutor.

The Shieling Project

On Monday September 3rd we visited the Shieling Project (An Àirigh in Gaelic) in Glen Strathfarrar as part of a Gaelic trip incorporating the topic we have been studying in school: food and drink. The Shieling Project is a learning centre with hands on experience of traditional Scottish outdoor living.

We started off the day by making dough for bread, which we later cooked in their hand made, outside clay oven. We used as much Gaelic as possible whilst doing so and learned all the words associated with the process. We then talked about the weather and learned many new words such as 'tioram' meaning dry, 'sgòthach' meaning cloudy and 'grianach' meaning sunny. This was followed by a brief trip up the hill where we learned about traditional shieling life and discussed what a shieling would have looked like.



After that we collected lichen and nettles to dye wool and make tea. The lichen we collected was called Old Man's Beard. Following that, we cooked and ate our bread. It looked a bit like pitta bread and tasted delicious. After lunch we met the animals. The Shieling Project is home to traditional crofting animals such as cows, pigs and chickens. However they have chosen rare breeds such as Shetland cows and Oxford, Tan & Black pigs. Before we left, we learned two traditional Gaelic waulking songs and made nettle string.

Overall, the Shieling Project was highly interesting and educational trip, both in English and Gaelic. We had an excellent time and enjoyed ourselves thoroughly. We would recommend the Shieling Project to anyone interested in traditional Scottish life or improving their Gaelic skills.



Lauren Blackburn S3



Sponsored Walk

Sponsored Walk – Friday 5th October

Our annual sponsored walk takes place on Friday 5th October. This year the walk will follow a new route that will be slightly shorter than usual at just under 8 miles. Pupils should easily be back at school for their transport home.

The route will take in Mitchell Hill, Pitglassie Farm, Maryburgh Woods and Dunglass Road before returning to the school. Permission forms have been given out and should be returned to **Guidance teachers 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 have also e-mailed 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 before the holidays.

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



S4 Routes to Success



S4 students in Mrs Davidson's English class are currently involved in a Routes to Success project. Part of the project involves interviewing employers about their 'route to success'. Already the class have interviewed Mr McKie from the PE department, Pat Munro and two of his construction apprentices, and this week they spoke to four different employers. Pictured being interviewed by the students are representatives from Lifescan, Frank Nicol Farm and Garden, Calico and the Care And Learning Alliance. The students now know a lot more about possible routes to success and over the next few weeks they will be writing articles on one of the employers.

All of the people who have visited the classroom have shown great patience with the students. The information which the students have heard has given them a real sense of the opportunities available in the world of work. Indeed one of the students is hoping to start a Saturday job as a result of the project!

Creativity



As part of our employability programme, 90 S3 pupils took part in a creativity event on Wednesday 12th September.

Pupils were introduced to the idea that creativity is about problem solving, innovation and open mindedness.

Pupils were encouraged to think creatively by engaging in a number of tasks.

We were very grateful to our guest speakers who were able to talk about how creativity was important in their chosen line of work.

Our guest speakers were:

Shona MacLean
Café Biagiotti
Highland Farm Café
Georgia Bell
Cullisse Farm



Pupils involved in the event have all been given an action plan to complete on Google Classroom. The plan is now to deliver the event to other S3 pupils.

Another key theme of the event was resilience.

Everyone in life is going to experience failure in some measure. It is really important that we learn from failure, and don't let a fear of failure prevent us from being creative and innovative.



American Football

Callum Wilson and Nathan Falconer (both in 5th year) are in the U17 starting team for the Highland Wildcats American Football team. This season, the team won the Scottish Division after their final league match in July this year, which booked them a place at Britbowl XV to fight it out with 7 of the other best teams in the UK. They travelled down to the University of Derby (England) for the event which took place on the 4th August. After a huge win and two close defeats, the Highland Wildcats ended up ranked 6 in the UK overall, out of 33 teams who competed this season.



Callum Wilson (Quarterback) is on the left and Nathan Falconer (Nose Tackle) on the right.

What's on

Monday

Senior String Ensemble 1.20pm MPH
 School Choir 1.30pm Rm 119
 Deàrrsadh 3.45pm Rm 119
 School Orchestra 3.40-4.30pm MPH
 S4-S6 Hockey training – after school

Tuesday

Corona Celtica 1.30pm Rm 120
 Jazzy Wind Band 1.30pm Drama Studio
 Global Wolves Club – lunchtime Rm 115
 Mountain Bike club after school from 15.40 -18.30
 Dingwall Dungeons (after school)
 School Show 3.45pm MPH
 U16 Football – after school
 Youth Forum meeting after school in Meeting Room

Wednesday

Duke of Edinburgh 1.20 – 2pm
 Senior Scripture Union group (S4-6) 1.15-2pm in room 204
 Lego club – lunchtime Rm 3
 Staff Sign Wednesday lunch time Rm 8
 Creative Writing club now meets at lunchtime
 Piping Group 1.30pm Rm 118
 Badminton Club for S1–3 from 3.45 to 5pm in the Sports Centre.
 Art tutorial - [post October Holidays](#)
 S1-S3 Hockey training – after school

Thursday

BSL choir Thursday lunchtime in R118
 Junior Scripture Union group (S1-3) 1.15-2pm in room 101
 British Sign Language Choir 1.30pm Rm 118
 Staff & S5/S6 Choir 1.30pm Rm 120
 Chess/board game club – lunchtime Rm 124
 Gymnastics after school till 5.00pm in small Gym
 U14's football training will be on after school
 School Show 3.45pm MPH

Friday

Twilight Basketball at 7.30-9.30pm in the Games Hall

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

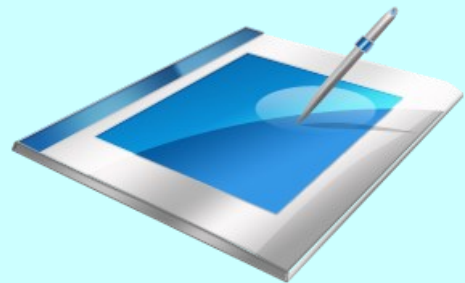
Something missing? Correction? Is there a feature you'd like to see? Get in touch!

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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