



# Dingwall Academy *News*

## Breaking news!..



Dingwall Academy last night won the Regional Rock Challenge heat at Eden Court.

The team now progress to the National Rock Challenge finals in Dundee on Friday 14th June.

It has taken weeks and months of rehearsals to get to this point and we are very proud of everyone involved.

Congratulations to Mrs Magowan and her amazing team!



## **APRIL— MAY**

**FRIDAY 5TH APRIL—  
SCHOOL CLOSSES**

**TUESDAY 23RD APRIL—  
SCHOOL RE-OPENS**

**THURSDAY 25TH  
APRIL—START OF SQA  
EXAMS**

**MONDAY 29TH APRIL  
SENIOR STUDY LEAVE  
STARTS**

**MONDAY 6TH MAY—  
MAY HOLIDAY**

**13TH, 14TH, 15TH  
MAY—S1 FYRISH  
WALKS**

# Notes and News ...

## HMI Report

Parents are all aware that the school was inspected in December last year. The full inspection report has now been published and is available to view on the Education Scotland website.

We have already started work on some of the key areas identified in the report, and are all committed to making our school as good as it can be.

## Staffing

At the end of this term we say goodbye to Mrs Nelson who has been Acting Depute Head Teacher covering during Ms Harrison's maternity leave. We have really enjoyed having Mrs Nelson with us and wish her all the best as she returns to her post at Glen Urquhart High School.



## Hanging around Primary Schools on Friday afternoons?

Some of our local primary schools have been in touch to say that, with the early finish on a Friday, some Academy pupils are loitering in and around their grounds.

While primary teachers always like to catch up with former pupils, they do not welcome pupils hanging about outside on a Friday afternoon.

Pupils are asked not to do this.

## Armed Forces Support for Families



Highland Council have various support systems in place for pupils who have family members in the Armed Forces. Further information can be found at:

[https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/886/schools\\_additional\\_support\\_needs/833/armed\\_forces\\_support\\_for\\_families\\_and\\_schools](https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/886/schools_additional_support_needs/833/armed_forces_support_for_families_and_schools)

# Exam Information

School is closed for the Easter holidays from Friday 5th April. When school returns on Tuesday 23rd April there will only be 2 days until the start of the SQA exams.

## EXAMS START Thursday 25th APRIL

Pupils have now completed data checks to confirm their entries for all exams. All pupils will be issued with a personal timetable prior to the Easter holidays. If pupils have any questions or concerns regarding the SQA exam arrangements they must talk to Mrs Nelson before the end of term.

*If pupils do not yet have an established study routine then they need to talk this through at home now. It is too late to wait until Easter or study leave to start the revision work. Think of it like saving money; if you start to save small amounts now it will all build up. It is really important that pupils with exams use their time wisely during the Easter break. Pupils should aim to set aside study time every day. As a rough guide, pupils sitting 4 or 5 Highers, or 5 or 6 National 5s, should be aiming for 2—3 hours each day. However time spent on study will depend on progress to date, and the subjects being studied. Pupils should still be able to have plenty of time for relaxing during the holidays, but there must be a balance between leisure time and study time.*



Parents of all senior phase pupils were recently sent a study skills check list to work through at home.

My SQA is a website that allows pupils to check their exam details, personal details and to request that exam results are sent by text or email.

[https://www.mysqa.org.uk/cs8/content/secure/my\\_homepage.jsp](https://www.mysqa.org.uk/cs8/content/secure/my_homepage.jsp)

To register, pupils need to know their SCN (Scottish Candidate Number) these are all available in school, or can be found on the label of Chrome Books.

The SQA website also has lots of study advice

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/68908.html>

Including how to access the study plan app.





# Spring Fair



**Thank you to everyone who supported the Spring Fair on Saturday 23rd March.**

**As always the school received tremendous support from staff, pupils, parents and friends.**



A special thank you to local businesses who supported the fair through donations and raffle prizes.

**Ross County  
Cockburns Butchers  
Tesco  
Café Biagiotti  
High Life Highland  
Loch Morlich Watersports  
Jacobite Cruises  
Country Stores Fruit Shop  
Landmark Adventure Park  
Knockfarrell Produce**

**The school uniform stall proved to be very successful with many parents taking the opportunity to buy good quality, good value uniform.**

**The next pop-up uniform shop will be available on the evening of the P7 parent information evening on Thursday 27th June; parents of all year groups would be welcome to come along and buy at this event.**

**In the meantime we will continue to take donations of good quality used uniform at the school office.**

**Thank you**



# Level Crossing Awareness

S6 pupils recently received a talk focused on safety at level crossings. With two level crossings close to the school it is important that pupils recognise the dangers if they do not act responsibly.

Further information will also be given to pupils in lower year groups.

After the presentation pupils were invited to take part in a competition with the chance to win a prize of driving lesson vouchers.

Congratulations to Kristin Langdale of S6 who received this excellent



It is so important that all pupils adhere to the barrier warnings at the level crossings. We still receive some reports of pupils trying to sneak through the barriers. This is incredibly dangerous and we would encourage all parents to discuss this with youngsters at home.



# Climate Change

## Climate Change action at Dingwall Academy

On the 15th March there was a global school strike. Around 1.6 million students took part across 120 countries and I am proud to say that me and my friends are a part of that.

I am becoming more aware of the issues surrounding climate change and have been following Greta Thunberg (who started the Friday strikes). I feel passionate about the need for change in our society in order to save our planet and the need to stick to the Paris agreement. This want for change is why we went on strike. As young people we do not hold much power and so cannot enforce change, unlike the government.

So we strike for our future, giving up education for an hour or so is surely worth it if it gets the attention of world leaders. If it makes them realise what must be done to save our planet, to save ourselves. For why should we be educated for a future which is rapidly being taken away from us by the effects of climate change?





# Apprenticeship visit

## Highland Apprenticeship Showcase Event

On Thursday the 7th of March we went to the Highland Apprenticeship event in Tain.

At the start of the event, a woman talked about how, when she was younger, all she wanted was to leave school and be outside, and her school told her about apprenticeships.

She then joined an apprenticeship working on a farm and she really enjoyed it and she thought it was good. Now she is a shepherdess and she seemed as if she really liked her job.

After watching a short film on all the different sorts of jobs we could do when we leave school, we were put into 4 groups and looked around a large room with lots of tables about different types of apprenticeships.

There were two that were interesting to us. On one of the tables there was a woman who had multiple things about computer programming and video game design. She told us about useful software to do with video games and showed games that she had made. There was also a table that had a man who was talking about computers and software. He had a BBC micro bit and a Raspberry Pi operating system that was connected up to a small robot arm that you could control.

Visiting this event was helpful and has taught us lots about what we could do when we're older.

**By Daniel Jack and Brian Guthrie S4**



# Social Enterprise Academy



We were recently given the opportunity to work closely with the Social Enterprise Academy. The SEA work to give pupils an understanding of what Social Enterprise means and the opportunity to develop skills that might enable pupils to organise and lead their own Social Enterprise Activity.

10 pupils took part in this initiative which involved school based work and visits to various local Social Enterprises including the Muir Hub, Inverness Kartway and Reboot Elgin.

At the end of the project pupils were invited to present to a group of invited guests and to then pitch their own idea for a Social Enterprise based in the school.

All pupils involved did an excellent job and impressed all with their presentation skills. And as for the proposed school based Social Enterprise—watch this space!..



For more information on the Scottish Enterprise Academy visit -

<https://www.socialenterprise.academy/scot/>



Thank you to David Bryan of the Social Enterprise Academy, and all who helped make this project a success.



# The Heartstone Odyssey



Ten S1 pupils are taking part in a fantastic initiative in the library. The Heartstone Story Project, first created over twenty years ago, is a project based in Dingwall which uses a novel, 'The Heartstone Odyssey', as a base for raising awareness and exploring social and racial injustice. The story circle brings pupils together to discuss the book, promoting understanding of cultures and nationalities. For the sessions, run by Joolz Christie, our pupils are joined by eight P7s from Obsdale Primary. The project has enjoyed considerable success across the UK, and we are delighted that our pupils now have the opportunity to participate in the story circle—the first ever to be run by a library.



# EDF Renewables Corriemoillie Education & Training Fund

## Now open for applications

- Do you live in any of the community council areas of Contin; Garve & District; Lochbroom; Marybank, Scatwell & Strathconon; or Strathpeffer?
- Are you aged 16 or over and want to do an education or training course, or undertake an apprenticeship?

If you answer yes to both these questions, then you can apply for a grant from this charitable fund to help with travel and subsistence, study materials, child care, course fees not already being paid for, accommodation costs, or essential equipment or clothing.



	<u>Closing Date</u>	<u>Decision Date</u>
<b>2019</b>		
<b>Round 1</b>	<b>11 March</b>	<b>24 April</b>
<b>Round 2</b>	<b>26 August</b>	<b>9 October</b>

Decisions are made by a Panel of local people. This Fund is provided by EDF Renewables in connection with the Corriemoillie wind farm, and is managed by Foundation Scotland, an independent grant-making charity. Application forms and guidelines can be downloaded from

<https://www.foundationScotland.org.uk/programmes/corriemoillie-education-and-training/>

For further information or to request an application form please call 0131 524 0300.





# BSL

## QA NATIONAL AWARD IN BSL (Level 3)

Senior pupils in Deaf Studies prove that assessments can happen in the most unlikely of places – The Sunflower Café!

Dingwall Academy is one of two schools in Scotland piloting this new SQA award which includes the study of linguistics, understanding and using BSL in everyday situations and delivering a short presentation; this year about your home area, to an audience using BSL. (It is hoped that Level 4 will be ready for August 2019)

The local Tourist Board would be impressed by the many examples highlighting what a visitor could see if they came to Dingwall. Well done, Senior Deaf Studies class!





# Outdoor Learning

## Fyrish Walk

All S1 pupils are given the opportunity to take part in a walk up to the Fyrish Monument.

This year the walks will take place on Monday 13th, Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th May.

Pupils will be issued with letters with further information, and told what day they will be walking on after the Easter holidays.



## Alladale Challenge

The Alladale Challenge for S3 pupils is on 29th April to 3rd May, and involves camping and exploration on the Alladale Estate.

## ACTIVITY DAYS

Activity Days this year take place on Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd July. Booking sheets and deposits should already have been returned, however there are still places on a number of activities. It is not too late to book onto an activity and we would encourage all pupils in S1—S3 to do something.

If you would still like to book onto something then please check availability at the school office.

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Our DOE team are all busy preparing for their expeditions to take place next term. The expedition is often seen as the highlight of the DOE award programme and we wish our happy walkers and campers well. May they have midge free expeditions!!



# S3 Gaelic Learners

Members of the S3 Gaelic Learners class invited the Gaelic nursery, Croileagan, to Dingwall Academy's Sunflower Café.

Croileagan were keen that their children (aged 3&4) should have the opportunity to use simple transactional Gaelic. This worked well with the S3 class who have been working on their Food and Drink topic. Thanks to Mrs Costigane who provided lovely homemade cakes and biscuits. The S3 welcomed the Croileagan and entertained them, playing games and reading Gaelic stories.

***"It was a great opportunity to share our Gaelic skills with the children from the Cròileagan. We also enjoyed the hot chocolate!" Leah Bremner and Morag Hickey, S3.***



THE HIGHLANDS *and* ISLANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE BURSARY

*Are you going to University in 2019?*

*Then this could apply to you*

- Bursaries of £200 per annum for up to 4 years
- Bursaries awarded on academic merit
- Application forms available from your Head Teacher or member of staff with responsibility for UCAS applications
- Applications must be accompanied by a Head Teacher's Report Form
- Applications must be submitted to the Trust Secretary – address on the form
- Closing date for applications *19 April 2019*

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## Ballet

Being a part of the Glasgow Ballet West Associates means going to Glasgow once a month and taking part in their classes and training to perform in Ballet West's production of The Nutcracker written by Tchaikovsky .

The performances happened on Saturday the 9th of February which was in Glasgow at the SECC Armadillo and also the following week on Friday the 15th of February and that was at the Beacon Arts Centre in Greenock.

The stage at the SECC Armadillo was massive even 20 of us still made it feel quite empty however the stage in the Beacon Arts Centre in Greenock was a bit smaller and it at least made us feel like we almost filled it.

Although I had a very small part in Ballet West's production of The Nutcracker it was a very good experience and definitely worth the work!

**Nikita Bryan S1**





## Handmade Bags

This was our first year of an experimental ungraded arts and crafts enterprise class who created lovely tote bags which were sold at the school's Christmas fair.

Not surprisingly all the individually printed, sewn and made bags were sold. Each student had to create their own print out of lino, chose fabric and paint to match, cut, sew and make up the bags - a lot of work but the results were impressive! The sale table was littered with all types of lovely patterns on coloured fabric bags. The most popular designs were Laney Coburn's elephant pattern and Shaun Rose's bear pattern.

Mrs Kinsman, the school's own shoe enthusiast was impressed and made a personal plea (she called it a challenge!) to design, print and create 10 large bags for her to use on her travels to keep her shoes safe.

Laney Coburn, S6 Advanced Higher student currently working on her portfolio, accepted the challenge and designed the lino block of a shoe to use for the bags.

All the students enjoyed all the different tasks involved in the making of the bags. Mrs Lowe provided wonderful help and words of encouragement. We don't think Mrs Lowe wants to see another pair of shoes as she was tasked to sew all ten bags!

Despite being one art teacher short, Mrs Trimble still gave us great support to help us achieve this important order!

Mrs Kinsman, arrived into the class to receive her order of her bags and said she was: "thrilled, delighted and impressed by the quality of the bags."



### UPDATE:

Mrs Kinsman was recently attending an event in Edinburgh and three bags were put to good use. Well done to all the students, your shoe bags are fantastic!

## Piping Success



The National Youth Pipe Band of Scotland held their annual concert 'Made in Scotland' at the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow earlier this year. It is the first time the NYPBoS has played at Celtic Connections. Well done to Matthew Moir, Andrew Laird (Development Band) and Hamish Drennan (Senior Band).



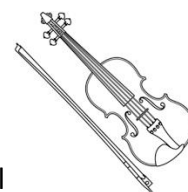
## National Piping Centre Junior Competitions Glasgow



Congratulations to Hamish Drennan (S6) on his recent success at the National Piping Centre Junior Competitions. It was a packed day with over 30 entrants in each competition. Hamish won the Under 18 Piobaireachd and was placed 5<sup>th</sup> in the MSR. Hamish also won the Curtis Craig Memorial Quaich at the Inverness Music Festival.



## Inverness Music Festival



The Inverness Music Festival changed its format this year and enjoyed a strong entry in competitions. Dingwall Academy was well represented, well done to all pupils involved. Congratulations to Ruairidh Drennan (S1) who won the intermediate fiddle.

Sasha Clement S4 won the Woodwind Open class at the Inverness Music Festival gaining a distinction mark. Sasha qualified for the Curtis Craig Premier competition on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March.



## Miss Johnstone at the BBC ...

In the winter season of 2017, following attendance at interview and a selection day, I was fortunate enough to be chosen by the BBC , in co-operation with *Young Scot*, along with twenty five other 14-25 year olds onto a panel focussing on some of the important issues facing this generation. This is all part of the *Young Scot's Year of Young People 2018* initiative.

The purpose of the panel is to shape the future for BBCs output across television, radio and online to match audience's views and opinions. As I already had a keen interest in the Scottish media, as well as wider issues faced by young people, I felt this was a great opportunity to have a chance to work with both BBC and Young Scot professionals. It would allow me, not only to obtain a feel for life in the corporation, but to also have a role in its future development.

To date, the group has had four official meetings to discuss its overall direction. The main purpose of these meetings was, however, to meet and come to know the others in the group that I would be working with. At these events we have also heard presentations from managers, and conversations and meetings with Chairs from sectors of the BBC, as well as being given a tour around the fabulous building in Glasgow.

In addition, I was also been lucky enough to be invited to a BBC Sport workshop hosted by *Sportscene* presenter Jonathan Sutherland. As sport is another important aspect of my life, I saw this as a brilliant chance to become involved in an area which would allow me to expand my knowledge. During this day, we brainstormed ideas for Sport department before working with a producer to film and edit our own commercial. This was an inspiring and terrific learning experience.

We currently have in store a residential trip planned for during the Easter holidays, to evaluate the launch of the new BBC Scotland channel and to reflect upon how some of our ideas have come to be realised on the big screen.

**Rachel Johnstone S5**

**BBC  
Scotland**

Congratulations to Ethan Fleming S2 who has been accepted into the Dance School of Scotland based in Glasgow.

Ethan played a key role in the recent Rock Challenge performance and will be part of the team travelling to the finals in Dundee. We will miss him when he leaves for Glasgow but wish him the very best.



## Judo Championships

Corey Foster (S3) was competing on the 10th February at the Hibari Kan Grand Prix, the first of the JudoScotland Grand Prix circuit where he took the silver medal and some points towards the Grand Prix.

Cameron Foster (S6) was in Denmark with JudoScotland for the Matsumae Cadet Cup on the 16th February, where he took a hard fought bronze medal.



Cameron



Corey



# Community Events

## Jenny Graham Event - 27th March

Round the world adventurer, Jenny Graham, visited Dingwall Academy to share some experiences of her record breaking round the world adventure.

A packed audience in the multipurpose hall was treated to a fabulous evening of tales from her recent adventure. This included realising how scary a fully grown Kangaroo is to using the oil from a sardine tin to lube your chain. Jenny captured everyones imagination and provided a humorous and sometimes moving account of her epic journey.

We were all left to consider what is our own personal adventure? [#inspired](#)

Huge thanks to our community partners The Peffery Way Association for their help in planning and running this evening.

Please visit their website at <http://pefferywayassociation.scot/> for more information on the development of a safe path from Strathpeffer to Dingwall which will be of huge benefit to Dingwall Academy pupils.





# Archive news



1963—S6



1963



1968

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

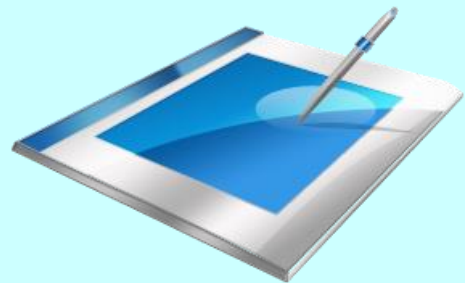
Something missing? Correction? Is there a feature you'd like to see? Get in touch!

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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**