



Dingwall Academy

News

Dingwall Academy Dux Award



Dux 2016—2017
Saffron G Wittka-Jezewski



Proxime Accessit 2016-2017
Lauren A Mowat

Congratulations to the Dux and Proxime Accessit for this session.

Saffron is a former pupil of Conon Bridge Primary School and Lauren of Dingwall Primary School.

Prize Giving this year takes place on Wednesday 7th June at 7pm.

Staff are just returning names and the full prize giving list will be available to all pupils early in the new term.



SPRING 2017

Dates for your Diary:

Wednesday 5th April
3.40pm School closes for Easter

Monday 24th April
School re-opens

Monday 1st May
May day holiday

Tuesday 2nd May
Study Leave starts (all senior phase pupils have been issued with a study leave letter)

Thursday 4th May
In-Service Day – school closed for pupils

Monday 8th May
Parent Council Meeting

Friday 2nd June
Senior Phase Pupils return

Monday 5th June
Timetable Change

Wednesday 7th June
School Prize Giving 7pm

Notes & News



Staff Update

Congratulations to Ms J Lloyd who has been appointed Principal Teacher Pupil Support at Inverness High School. Ms Lloyd has been working as a Support Teacher in Dingwall Academy for 3 years, working mainly in the Behaviour Support Base.

She will start at her new school in May and we wish her well.

Also moving to Inverness Higher School is Pupil Support Assistant Mrs F Dyer. Mrs Dyer is moving to Inverness High School on a temporary basis to work as a Children's Support Worker.

NEWS FLASH: Ross school is a 'shining example' for BSL

Maree Todd, MSP, was singing the praises of Dingwall Academy in the Scottish Parliament last week.

During a debate on the consultation of the Draft BSL National Plan, Maree highlighted the initiative in school to give every S1 pupil some experience of BSL.

"Dingwall Academy sees the value of BSL – they recognise that deaf students need to study their own languages as much as English speakers need to study English. Every young person in the school is valued."



SQA Update

Senior phase pupils are completing SQA data checks. These checks are very important to confirm entry levels for SQA exams. Pupils will all be issued with personalised SQA timetables before the end of term. If any pupils are still uncertain over entry levels then they must speak with their teacher immediately. A reminder that some pupils still have internal assessments to complete; it is essential that pupils adhere to deadlines and complete any work still outstanding.

Senior Leave study leave starts on Tuesday 2nd May, with S4 and S5 pupils returning on Friday 2nd June. The new timetable for all year groups starts on Monday 5th June.

Notes & News

ACTIVITY DAYS

Pupils in S1—S4 have been issued with Activity Booklets and forms with deposits returned during last week.

However it is still not too late to sign up. Anyone who has not received the booklet or returned the form should go to the school office to get this arranged.

The final balance for activities is due 2nd—5th May.

There is a wide range of activities available with a number available at no cost or subsidised. Pupils should be encouraged to make the most of the opportunities available and we would expect the majority of pupils to sign up for something.



4th May In-Service Day

A reminder that Thursday 4th May is an In-Service Day. This date has been changed to coincide with the local elections and allow some schools across Highland to be used as polling stations.

The National 5 and Higher Music exams are scheduled to take place on this date. These exams will still take place as timetabled. Where pupils require transport this has already been arranged.

Parent Council

The next meeting of the Parent Council takes place on Monday 8th May at 7pm. We are always looking for new parents to get involved so please, even if you have never attended before, you would be very welcome to come along.

We are fortunate to have an extremely pro-active and positive Parent Council. They are very involved with fund raising events, but also campaign on behalf of the school to make sure that staff and pupils are supported.



ICT Update

Some parents will already be aware that the Highland Council ICT contract has just moved from Fujitsu to a company called Wipro.

We hope now that the planned introduction of Chrome Book devices for all pupils can be finalised. Dingwall Academy should be one of the first schools to receive the devices and the current target is to issue Chrome Books to pupils by December 2017.

We continue to have some concerns about the ICT infrastructure in the school being able to support the devices. However this is being looked at and the Parent Council are also monitoring things closely.

There is still a lot of work to be done finalising the exact details and we will keep parents updated as this becomes available.

We already have a small number of the Chrome Book devices in school and pupils are enjoying working with them. We would plan to provide some practical training and advice for parents on using the devices to support pupil learning.



Google Classroom



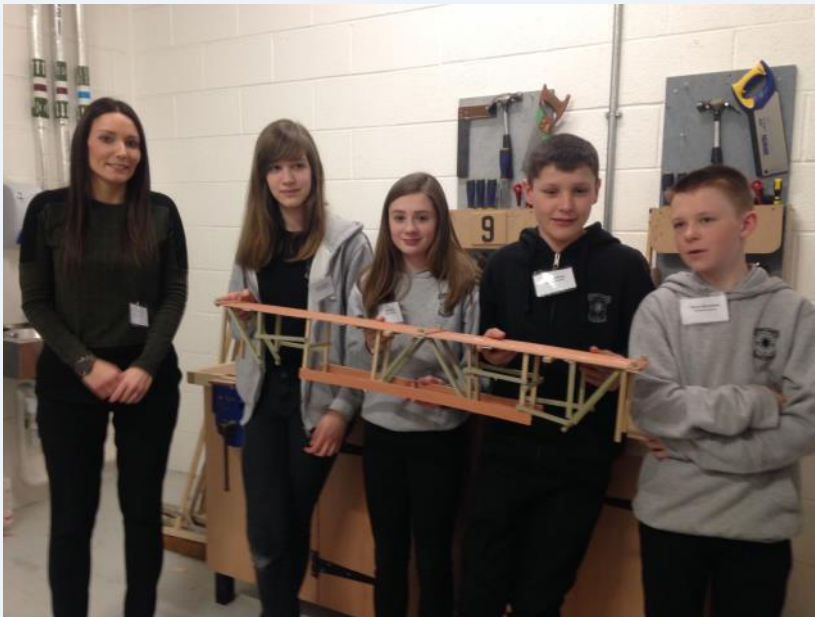
A number of staff have started using Google Classroom to support learning. This is an online system where staff can share resources, set assignments and give reminders.

There is the facility in Google Classroom to invite parents. This then allows parents to receive a weekly summary of information posted onto their child's classrooms. We are in the very early stages of using this but hope to have all S1, S2 and S3 parents signed up early next term. Further information on this will be issued to all parents involved.



Bridge Building Competition

Four S2 pupils (Alana Mutch, Ben Grantham, Daniel McLachan and Sasha Clement) from Dingwall Academy and pupils from seven other high schools were selected to participate in a bridge building model structure challenge at Inverness College UHI. The team were introduced to the task by Industry speakers and staff at the College who run practical courses with information on where careers can take them, real life industry stories and the chance to see the facilities at the college they could work with. The challenge was given a strict timeline, a list of requirements that the design, model and teamwork must meet as well as set materials which was then tested with weights to destruction.



Prizes were awarded in the following categories:

- **Bridge carrying maximum load for minimum cost**
- **Best designed bridge (originality & Creativity)**
- **Best team (co-operation and working together)**

Our four Dingwall Academy representatives made an excellent effort in all areas and won the Best Team award and received a certificate and trophy. The pupils enjoyed the day and gained an insight into practical engineering and construction.

Comments from the pupils:

'The college day was very informative about related future careers. I enjoyed hearing from the Industry speakers and I felt that the whole day was very worthwhile because I got to work together as a team and use the skills we have been learning.'

'The day gave me an insight into college life and Industry. I was very happy to win best team work and I really enjoyed working with others, trying to make a model together.'

'I enjoyed the day, I liked hearing from the speakers about their experiences of work and I enjoyed being the main team speaker.'



Testing the model

Hector MacDonald Commemoration

Every year, on the 1st Saturday in March, a service takes place to mark local hero Major General Sir Hector MacDonald. The School Captains were invited to represent the school at the service and we received the following note of thanks :

A wee but appreciative email to thank you on behalf of Dingwall Academy for your support last Saturday at the Commemoration Service for Major General Sir Hector MacDonald. Finn and Carron did the Academy proud on a day that was dismal weather-wise to say the least.

Definite mention to Carron who projected clarity with her voice in the reading to the crowd. Also, Finn distinguished himself in carrying Lord MacDonald's personal banner. Fraser Campbell, the Parade Commander and head of the Colour Party told me after that with only a couple of minute of instruction, Finn did well following the lead from his fellow bearer next to him.

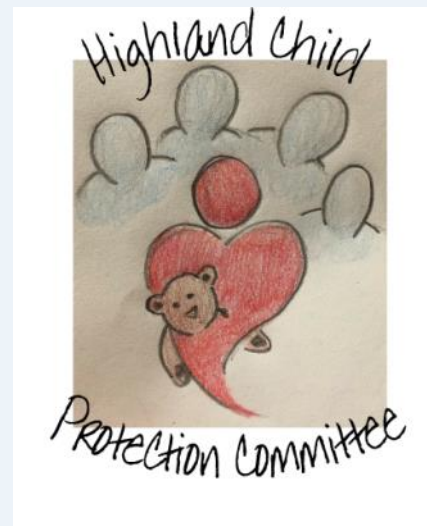
*Please thank them both personally on my behalf.
Thanks again and perhaps look forward to working with Dingwall Academy in the future.*

*Kind regards
Greg*



Highland Child Protection Committee

Congratulations to MacKenzie Blyth S4 who won a recent competition to design a logo for the Highland Child Protection Committee. MacKenzie received her award at a ceremony in the Council Chambers at the end of March.



1st Fairburn Scouts



Congratulations to Danni Mullen and Rowan Masterson (S2), who along with 1st Fairburn Scouts won the £50 first prize for the troop's DIY portable speaker project at Strathpeffer's Sound and Vision Science Festival on 18th March. Both demonstrated the speaker and explained how it worked to members of the public.



Well done!



Marybank Primary School 150th Anniversary

Join us on **Saturday 20th May 2017** at Fairburn Hall and Marybank School between 11 am and 2 pm for a coffee morning and exhibition to celebrate this wonderful achievement.

BAKING DONATIONS WOULD BE VERY WELCOME!

If you would like more details, please email

marybankprimarypc@gmail.com

Or go to our Facebook page

Marybank Primary School 150th Anniversary

Athletics



Congratulations to the following pupils who were selected to take part in a Scottish Schools Athletics training day on Sunday 19th March.

Rachel Johnstone

Angus Davren

Rhuaridh Munro

Alexander Mackay

All pupils are excelling in Athletics and we wish them well for the rest of the season.

Award-winning Author



Congratulations to Adam Bradley, S3, who won second prize the Innes & Mackay Writing Competition with his story 'An Old Friend'.

To enter the Highland-wide competition, pupils had to **submit** a short story of around five hundred words which had to open with the sentence 'The door to the solicitor's office creaked as it opened'.

Well done!

Piping



Congratulations to Hamish Drennan (S4) who successfully auditioned for the National Youth Pipe of Scotland. The NYPBoS are invited to play at various high profile events throughout Scotland and Hamish's first year will culminate in a major concert featuring traditional piping with a contemporary slant.

Hamish also competed in last month's Inverness Music Festival. Hamish came 2nd in the MSR and was awarded 1st and a grade of 'outstanding' in the Piobaireachd competition.

Spring Fair

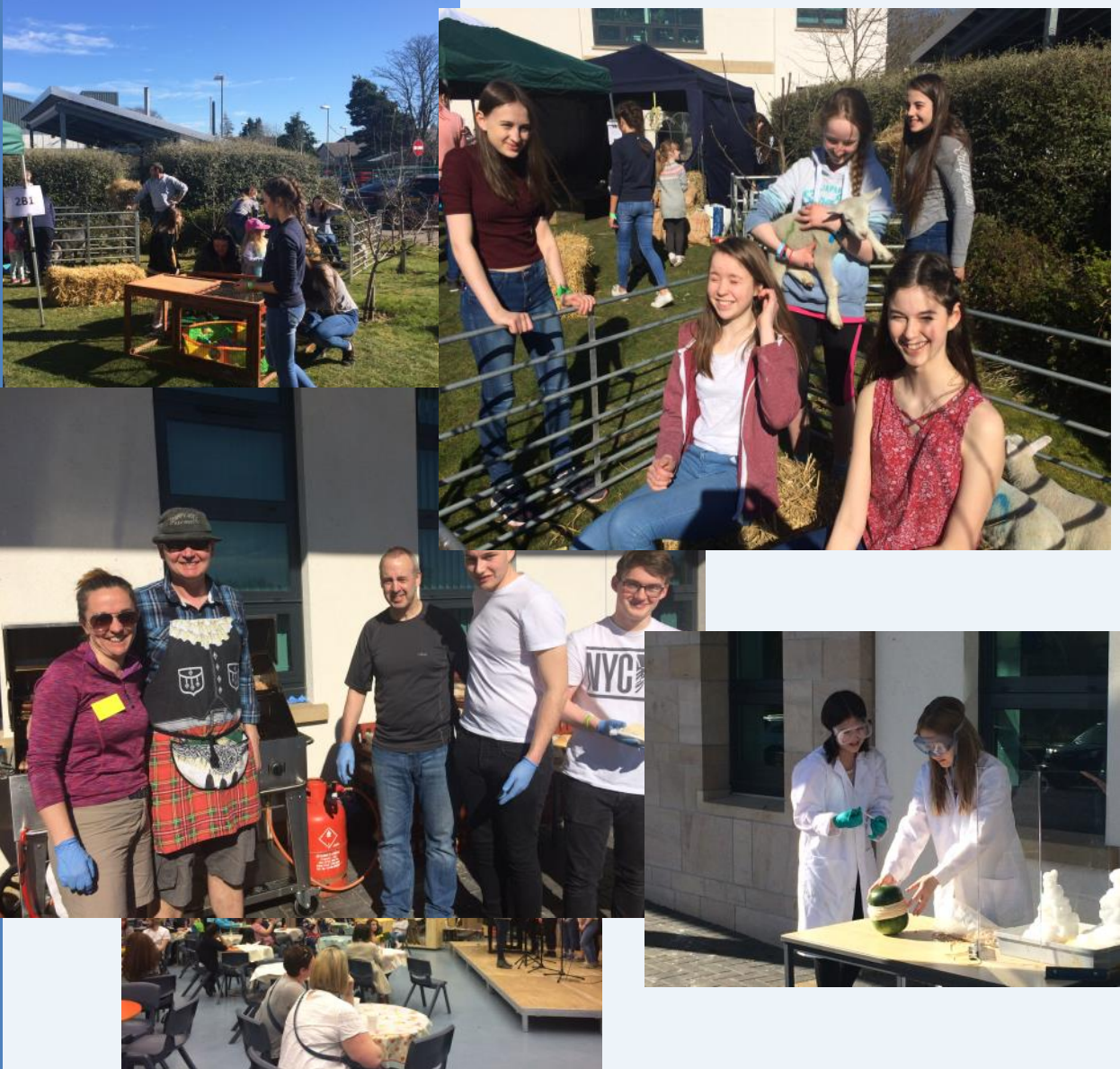
A **huge** thank you to everyone who supported the Spring Fair on Saturday 25th March.

The weather could not have been better and we were able to move some of the activities outside.

A huge hit was the Petting Zoo, organised and run by 2B1. There was no shortage of smiling faces as young and old enjoyed petting the new lambs.

The front of the school became a sun trap where visitors were able to relax and enjoy the great variety of refreshments on offer. Others chose to enjoy their refreshments inside while listening to the wonderful music provided throughout the day.

We are so fortunate to have a school community that supports this event with such enthusiasm. Thank you to everyone for their involvement. Whether it was selling raffle tickets, baking cakes or eating cakes! Great fun was had and over £8000 raised.



Spring Fair



A huge thank you to our Parent Council; the Spring Fair could not happen without their support. Thank you also to those parents who came along on the day to help with the BBQ , bottle stall and raffle. All time is so appreciated and helps so much with the running of the event.

Inverness Music Festival



School Orchestra
Won Lareoux trophy
at the Music Festival

Senior String
Ensemble
Won Eastgate
Trophy at the
Music Festival

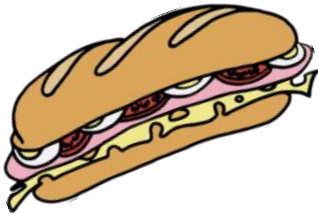


Town Hall Event 28th March
Combined concert with Millburn
Academy, consisting of School
Orchestra, Senior Strings and Jazz
Band

Sophie Cushnie S6 will be performing in Glasgow this week with National Youth Orchestra of Scotland.

School Meals

There will be no price increase this year for school meals—still great value at **£2.55** for a meal deal.



Homemade Soup and Wedge of Bread	£0.80	Traditional Dessert	£0.80
Traditional Meal	£1.75	Ice Cream, Fruit Corners, Biscuits & Cheese	£0.80
Smart Snack - Pizza, Bacon Roll, Toastie	£1.50	Yoghurt, Mini Fruit Corners	£0.50
1/2 Toastie	£0.90	All Fruit & Bagged Vegetables	£0.35
Salad Box and Wedge of Bread	£1.65	Homemade Biscuits	£0.60
Plated Salad and Wedge of Bread	£1.65	Healthy Baking	£0.65
100% Beefburger, Bun & Salad	£1.65	Crisps & Savoury Snacks	£0.70
Filled Panini	£1.65		
Chicken Bites and Salad	£1.75		
Hot Pasta Pot	£1.70	DRINKS	
Sub Central	£1.95	Milk Cartons	£0.45
Baked Potato	£0.85	Flavoured Milk Cartons	£0.55
H.WRAP/MAMBO	£1.65	Bottled Still Water 500ml	£0.60
1/2 Sandwich	£0.80	Still/Sparkling Water 330ml	£0.40
Standard Filled Sandwich	£1.40	100% Fruit Juice 85ml	£0.35
Special Filled Sandwich	£1.50	100% Fruit Juice 200ml Fair Trade	£0.65
Baguette/Hoagie/Croissant	£0.85	Calypto Aquajuce Carton 200ml	£0.35
Sandwich Bread/Pitta/Morning Roll/Bap/Wrap	£0.50	Calypto Aquajuce Carton 330ml	£0.60
Standard Filling	£0.90	Calypto Aid Drinks 330mls	£0.75
Special Filling	£1.00	Calypto Suzo	£0.90
		Innocent Smoothies 180ml	£1.00
EXTRAS		Probiotic Drinks 100ml	£0.60
Hot Veg or Salad Garnish	FREE	Froozie	£0.75
Salad portions and mixes	£0.55	Jubbly	£0.45
Baked Beans, Potatoes	£0.55		
Butter, Flora Portions/Jam	£0.20		
Sauce Portions	£0.15		



Siuthad 2017



33 Gaelic learner and fluent Gaelic pupils from S2-S5 enjoyed the Gaelic careers day, Siuthad at Eden Court last week. The pupils attended a variety of short seminars, participated in workshops and were able to browse the stalls on offer from different Gaelic companies.

Meal an naidheachd air Blythe Wilson AS2 agus Kian MacLeòid AS1. Shoirbhich leotha pàirt fhaighinn ann am prògram cloinne ùr a thèid a chraoladh air BBC Alba deireadh an ath mhìos. Bidh am prògram, 'Lorg' a' tadhal air diofar sgìrean gus faighinn a-mach mun deidhinn le cuideachadh bho Ghàidheil òga, eòlach. Chaidh am prògram, a bhios a' coimhead air Inbhir Pheofharain agus Srath Pheofhair, a chlàradh bho chionn ghoirid agus thuir Kian " Chòrd e rium nuair a bha sinn gar sgeadachadh fhìn nar caractaran ainmeil, eachdraidheil mar Choinneach Odhar, MacBheatha agus mar lochlannach. Thuir Blythe, " 'S e cothrom math a bh'ann agus tòrr spòrs cuideachd. Tha e a' còrdadh rium a bhith ag ionnsachadh mu dheidhinn obair thelebhisin".

Congratulations to Blythe Wilson S2 and Kian MacLeod S1. They were successful in auditioning for a new Gaelic childrens' show to be broadcast next month. The show, called Lorg (Search), will be finding out about different parts of Scotland with help from young Gaelic speakers from each area.

Kian - "I enjoyed acting the parts of different historical characters like the Brahan Seer, MacBeth and a Viking".

Blythe - "It was a great opportunity and good fun. I am interested in finding out more about careers in television".

Blythe agus Kian còmhla ri Màiri Nic Illinnein (BBC) agus Rosco



Citizenship

During March we introduced a Citizenship Rota. At the end of each lunchtime the duty class for the day are asked to report to the front of the school and help check for any litter left lying around the school and grounds.

It is important that we take responsibility for our school environment and don't expect someone else to always clean up after us.

Year groups have responsibility for the following days:

Monday	S5/6
Tuesday	S4
Wednesday	S3
Thursday	S2
Friday	S1

This will change slightly during Study Leave when S1 and S2 pupils will be asked to take responsibility for 2 days. During Study Leave S3 pupils will have the opportunity to apply to be temporary Prefects.

Each pupil will probably only be involved with the tidy up twice per term. So far classes have responded very well to the initiative and we are already seeing a difference in and around the school. Well done.



Charley Sutherland, Harriott Eveleigh and Logan Eaglesham received their 25 hour Saltire Awards for volunteering as Junior Leaders at the Scottish Kempo Academy.



Blair Cowan won the Community Action category at the Lord Lieutenant's Awards on Monday 20th March. Blair is a very active member of the Dingwall Youth Forum, he helps out at the local basketball club and is always very willing to support other community events and fundraisers.

Ashleigh Stirling received a Highly Commended Award from the Lord Lieutenant's Youth Award. Ashleigh is an active member of the Dingwall Youth Forum and gives up many hours to various community events and fundraisers with her Highland Dancing skills.



The Young Leaders helped to set up and run "Monkey Club", this is a youth club based in Dingwall for primary aged children. Lara Vance and Ellis Davren represented the Leaders and received the Highly Commended Award from the Lord Lieutenants Awards.

Participatory Budget Event

The Dingwall Youth Forum recently applied for and attended the local Participatory Budget event which took place in Dingwall Academy on Saturday 11th March. At the event two members of the Forum, Lily Fraser and Alan Hasson, presented their application along with 22 other community groups to over 100 members of the public. The public then voted on who should receive the funding and Dingwall were lucky enough to win!!

The Forum received over £1800 and this will go towards Cookwell at FUSION. FUSION is held monthly on a Saturday evening in Dingwall Leisure Centre, young people have access to all the facilities and it is completely free. This new funding will allow the young people attending the opportunity to take part in healthy cooking sessions, develop new skills and try some different food out all whilst at FUSION!

The Dingwall Youth Forum meet every Tuesday after school and are always looking for new members!!

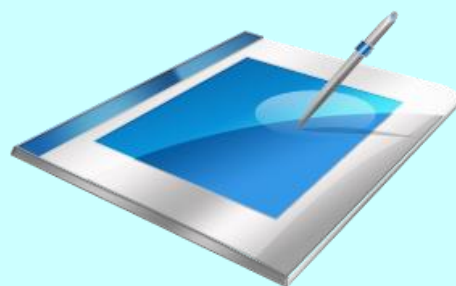
Wishing all staff, parents and pupils a good Easter Break.

Look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 24th April ...

Happy Holidays !

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