

**Dates**

Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	S4 study leave starts
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	S5/6 study leave starts
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	May Day holiday

**Annual School Prize Giving**

Prize Giving takes place on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm. Guest speaker will be Mr Alastair Kennedy of Global Energy. The lists of pupils receiving prizes will be published shortly.

Congratulations to Eilidh Macfarlane 5N1 who will receive the 2012 School Dux medal and to Alexander Beaton Garcia 5W1 who will receive the 2012 Proxime Accessit medal.

**SQA Exams**

SQA exams start on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April and continue until the start of June. All pupils have now been issued with an exam timetable. Should a pupil be late into school on the day of an exam then they must ask the office to contact a member of the SMT immediately. If pupils are absent for medical reasons then the school must be informed as soon as possible. Pupils must then provide a medical note so that an appeal can be submitted.

**First Aid Update**

Parents are reminded that the school office is not authorised to issue any plasters or medication (including paracetamol) to pupils.

The exception to this is where pupils have prescribed medicine that is required to be taken during the school day. Where this is required pupils should bring the medication to the main school office first thing in the morning along with a permission letter from home. Medicine will then be stored in the locked medical cabinet until the required time.

It should also be noted that a lack of water can lead to headaches. Pupils are all encouraged to bring a water bottle to school and to make use of the water stations in the school.

**PE Changing Rooms**

Unfortunately there have been a number of thefts from PE changing rooms and as a result there has been a review of security in the department. Where possible, changing rooms will be locked – pupils are also reminded that all valuables should be given to the classroom teacher who will leave them in a secure place.

**Activity Days – 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> June**

A reminder to all parents that balances for activities are now due. If you have not already done so, please pay your balance by Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April.

**LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art)**

Congratulations to Abigail Cameron S2 who has passed her LAMADA level four with merit.

## Highwayman Production

Mrs Russell's S1 class wrote and performed a play of 'The Highwayman' based on the poem by Alfred Noyes. Every member of the class was involved in the dramatic production which included live music, soldiers, an entertaining market scene and the passionate suicide of the landlord's daughter as well as a very dashing highwayman. The costumes, props, lights and sound effects added to a very enjoyable production which was watched by an audience of the rest of the year group. Thanks to everyone for their commitment and hard work and to Peter Thornton (S5) for his work with lights and sound. **S1.7**

## Duke of Edinburgh Group

During this session a group of S3 pupils have been working towards their Bronze DofE award. They have had training in expedition skills including navigation, nutrition and cooking on a camp stove, planning a route for their expedition and team building skills. The group have also been working hard on the other sections; volunteering, physical activity and a skill. The expeditions will take place later in the session.

The group welcomes volunteer leaders who are qualified mountain leaders. If you can help, please get in touch with the school.

Photo – Learning how to use camp stove



## School Perimeter Fence

During the evenings, a number of pupils have been seen climbing over the school fence. This is extremely dangerous and there are concerns that somebody may get hurt. Parents are asked to remind children not to climb the school fence.

## Square Wheel Cycles Strathpeffer - offer

10% of all cycling accessories including any sale or special offers, 10% off all current season bicycles until the end of the first week of the summer holidays 2012. For anyone taking up this offer an additional £10 will be donated to the parent council.

**Lauren Fraser – Olympic Torch** Congratulations to Lauren Fraser who has been chosen to carry the Olympic torch during its journey around the country. Lauren is a keen athlete and has already had considerable success in cross country competitions. Lauren will take part in the relay on June 11<sup>th</sup> and will run her stretch in Crathie, Aberdeenshire.

## **Fashion Show**

On the last day of term staff and pupils took to the catwalk to model clothes from the Greenhouse Shop in Dingwall. The event was organised by S6 pupils in the ASDAN class. Thank you to all staff and pupils who took part and to the Greenhouse Shop for providing the outfits.

## **National Deaf Children's Society Event**

At the end of last term two S2 pupils and Mrs Kinsman were invited to take part in a National Deaf Children's Society event in the City Chambers in Edinburgh. The pupils were asked to speak about their campaign for formal qualifications in British Sign Language to be available in school. Abbey and Emma describe the experience -

On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> of March we caught the train to Edinburgh to stay in a hotel because the next day we were attending a NDCS event in the City Chambers. On the train down we finished our Powerpoint presentation. We checked in and found our rooms were on the fifth floor. Mrs Kinsman slept well but we heard all the noise from outside! After breakfast, we left the hotel and walked up the Royal Mile and found the City Chambers quite easily and in time for the event starting at 10am. We met the leaders and the other young people; they were deaf. Most of the people there could sign. We discussed many things on the topic of children's rights which led to our presentation on our campaign to get formal qualifications in British Sign Language. Abbey signed the first part of it with Emma giving a voice over.

We also discovered a lot of things about politics: we learned what a campaign goes through before it might become law. We had already prepared and sent a DVD to Alex Salmond and this will now be appearing on the NDCS website. Before we left we had an hour of shopping Mrs Kinsman didn't come but she did look after our cases. It was a great experience and we look forward to attending more events organised by the NDCS.

***Abbey Cameron 2N1 and Emma Durdle 2B1***

## **School Uniform**

School uniform is now available from the following suppliers :

- *Highland Schoolwear Centre, Academy Street Inverness*
- *Schoolwear Made Easy, Harbour Road, Inverness*
- *Calman Trust, 01463 709973*

The parent council have also arranged for Highland Schoolwear to include Fair Trade items as part of the Dingwall Academy range. This will be ideal for warmer days and represents our commitment to developing fair trade alternatives at Dingwall Academy. The shop will also be getting a sample blazer manufactured from recycled plastic bottles which can be ordered in your child's size.

## **Canteen Prices**

The price of a 2 course meal in the school canteen has increased to £2.00.

## **Blazers**

Those S6 pupils who purchased blazers for this session are being encouraged to hand them back to the school for the next year group to use. Pupils who hand back a blazer in good condition will receive £10. The next year will then be given the opportunity to buy these blazers. Further information will be given to all S6 pupils. Thank you to the parent council who are helping to co-ordinate this initiative.

## **Music Festival**

Our school enjoyed considerable success at the Inverness Music Festival. Taking first place in competitions were the Choir, Senior Strings and the Barber Shop Quartet. There were also a number of solo competitors with Eilidh Welsh, Bruce Foster and Abigail Fraser invited to take part in the prestigious Curtis Cup. Congratulations to all pupils who took part and represented the school so well.

## **Go Green Club**

We aim to raise the awareness of the importance of our planet and how to look after it. We already recycle much of our waste but we can do more e.g. try to reduce the amount of food packaging. We already have a fantastic garden but there is still so much litter around. We would like to further improve our school and grounds but we need your help! We are looking for proactive and enthusiastic pupils to help us to improve our environment; this is our school so we should care enough to keep it clean and tidy! We meet the first Monday of every month at 1.30 in Room 115. If any pupil or parent is interested in getting involved please come along we would really appreciate your help. (Note: the next meeting will be Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of May because of the Monday holiday). *Thank you, Miss Morgan and the members of the Go Green Club.*

## **Dingwall Academy Sports Day 2012**

Sports Day will take place on the School field on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> of June. Heats will take place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> and Friday 8<sup>th</sup> of June. Pupils from S1-S5 are welcome to enter a minimum of three events. For further information please see a member of the PE department or visit the Dingwall Academy PE website:

[www.spanglefish.com/dingwallacademypedepartment](http://www.spanglefish.com/dingwallacademypedepartment). All pupils are invited to sign up for events at the PE department.

## **Back Pack Project Update**

Pupils who have attended the Back Pack class have been busy last term learning about the charities Mary's Meals and the Back Pack Project. These charities help children in less developed countries attend school and provide them with a nutritious meal each day. Dingwall Academy help by donating Back Packs full of basic school materials and clothes as well as cash donations towards Mary's Meals. Last term we sent off 47 Back Packs and have collected £400 in loose change.

We now need you to return to school all collecting bottles of loose change – they do not need to be full. Anybody requiring a new bottle may collect one from the bucket at the front of the school.

We are also short on some items for the Back Pack project – Tennis Balls, Flip Flops (ages 5 – 15), Sharpeners, Rubbers, Soap, Spoons and Rucksacks. These items do not need to be new, apart from soap.

All donations of items for the Back Packs can be left in the pink bucket at the front of the school. Thank you to all who have donated so far.

## **Parent Evening Dates**

Please note there have been changes made to the parent contact evening dates for S1 and S3. The dates will now be:

S1 Contact Evening      Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> May

S3 Contact Evening      Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June