



April Newsletter

Calendar

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Tuesday 30 th April | S1 Report Cards issued |
| Wednesday 1 st May | S1 Contact Evening |
| Thursday 2 nd May | S6 Activity Day |
| Monday 6 th May | School Closed |
| Tuesday 7 th May | Change of Timetable |
| Monday 20 th May | Parent Council 7pm |
| Wednesday 12 th June | School Prize Giving 7pm |

S1 Contact Evening

The S1 Contact Evening takes place on Wednesday 1st May 5pm – 7.30pm. Pupils have been issued with appointment slips and should now be in the process of arranging appointments with teachers.

Staffing

Welcome to Mr R Brindle who joins the Music Department. We also welcome back Mrs C Magowan to the PE Department following her maternity leave. Congratulations to Miss E Welsh who, following her probationer year, has been appointed as History Teacher. Congratulations also to Mrs K Watson on the arrival of her son during the first week of the Easter holidays.

SQA Exams

Study leave has now started for S4 and S5/S6 study leave starts on Tuesday 7th May. This is an extremely important time for senior pupils and we wish them all well with their exams.

Parents are reminded that if for any reason a pupil is unable to attend an exam then the school must be alerted as soon as possible.

P7 Transition Disco

Last week, senior pupils organised a Disco for the current P7 pupils. This allowed pupils from all our associated primaries to meet and mix in a relaxed environment. The Seniors did an excellent job in organising the event and it was agreed that the evening was a great success.

Parental Questionnaire

Included with this newsletter is a parental questionnaire. We are very keen to hear the views of parents and would be grateful if this questionnaire could be returned to the school office by Friday 17th May. The forms can be returned via email to the Dingwall Academy address or printed off and handed into the school office. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Inverness College Open Days

Inverness College UHI are hosting an Employability Fair which will be represented by approx. 50 local employers on the 19th June 12-5pm. This event is combined with the usual Open Day (12-4pm) where there will be access to advice from lecturing and support staff on specific subject areas, financial, guidance and learning support.

Activity Days

The school activity days take place on Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th June. Lists showing what activities pupils will be taking part in have now been posted in the school. The balance for all activities should now have been paid – anyone who still has an outstanding balance should contact the office to arrange payment as soon as possible.

Easter Egg Tombola

Prior to the Easter Holidays the Parent Council together with the Diggers Gardening group organised and ran an Easter Egg Tombola. This was a great success raising £225 for the Diggers. Many thanks to the Parent Council and to all who donated eggs.

Spring Concert

Just before the Easter holidays the annual Spring Concert took place in the school hall. This was a fabulous evening with a tremendous range of talent on display. There was a change from the usual format with the audience seated around tables creating a lovely relaxed atmosphere. There was also a display of pupil art work in the hall and the foyer and this was much admired and appreciated by all who attended. For some it was an extremely emotional night with 18 S6 pupils performing at their last school concert. It was therefore fitting that the final item of the evening was 'Fields of Gold' performed by the 6th years. The school captains acted as comperes for the evening and the proceeds of the evening were split between the Excellence in Art & Music Fund and the Teenage Cancer Trust. Thank you to all staff and pupils who helped make the evening such a success.

Mountain Bike Club

The mountain bike club has now agreed a formal link with the local Ben Wyvis Cycle Club (BWCC). This will provide opportunities for our riders to receive coaching from BWCC club coaches and will also provide a clear pathway for our riders to join BWCC for social rides, training rides and racing. A number of our pupils are already members and are successfully competing in the Scottish Cross Country Race Series with BWCC currently at the top of the team ranking. We look forward to working with them to develop riding at all levels.

Bridge to Employment

For the last year, 9 S4 pupils have taken part in the Bridge to Employment scheme run by Lifescan Scotland. They gave up their own time to attend seminars, which included talks on Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths and gave them an insight into possible future careers within these subjects. Trips were also taken to the ERI in Thurso and SAMs in Oban to meet with graduates and also promote Further Education in the Highlands. The graduation ceremony for the scheme took place in February and 7 of our pupils graduated; Fraser Holmes, Hannah McCormick, Nicola McLachlan, Hollie Shand, Imogen Callan, Naomi Thornton and Leonie Thorpe. The pupils also had to make a presentation on one of their seminars and these presentations were assessed. One of our groups did extremely well and managed to achieve 3 awards and finished second overall! The pupils involved in this team were Fraser Holmes, Hannah McCormick and Nicola McLachlan, they were highly praised for their presentation and delivery and also managed to make the judges laugh. Overall most of the pupils enjoyed the program and could see the benefits of what they were involved in.



Judith Armstrong Memorial Scholarships for Dance 2013

Applications are invited from new and existing pupils for the above dance scholarship awards. Two bursaries are available to the value of £100 each which will go towards funding tuition fees for Session 2013 - 2014 starting in September.

For Information and Application Form please call 01463 792672

Closing date for entries is Friday 14 June 2013.

Pupil Achievements

Cross Country

Scottish Schools Cross Country Championships

Due to injuries and illness, only four pupils travelled down to North Ayrshire to mix it with the best runners in Scotland on the 9th of March. However, after an exceptionally good season so far there were high hopes for both Lauren Fraser and the talented S1 boys' team.

Lauren Fraser certainly did not disappoint with a 10th place finish out of a field of nearly 100 runners. A top ten result at the Scottish Schools is a fantastic achievement and even more so considering that she still has one year left in the same age group. It also sets Lauren up extremely well for the fast approaching track season and will hopefully spur her on to further PB's in the 800 and 1500 events.

The S1 boys were due to travel with their four strongest athletes from the North Schools – Joe Arnaud, Scott MacDonald, Tam Munro Whyte and Niall McClelland. Unfortunately, poor Joe was taken ill during the week and was unable to travel. This was a big blow as the team required four runners to count and also a great shame for Joe who has been on sparkling form this year. However, the other three boys travelled down with high hopes of achieving good individual finishes. Yet again, our boys did not disappoint!! Scott MacDonald came in 12th place, Tam Munro Whyte 27th and Niall McClelland 29th. This was out of a field of over 100 of the best runners that Scotland has to offer and it is very rare for a school to have three runners who are good enough to finish in the top 30. Next year the boys will undoubtedly be looking to target the overall boys team trophy when they return to the championships in S2.

Huge congratulations must go to all four athletes who competed so well but also committed to travelling a long distance over a weekend to represent themselves and the school so well. A big thank you must also go out to all the parents who made the trip making it possible for the pupils to

compete. We look forward to another exciting cross country year in 2014 but also to a promising track season for all the athletes involved so far.

Athletes of the Day – Lauren Fraser, Scott MacDonald, Tam Munro Whyte and Niall McClelland

U13 North of Scotland Football

Well done to the Under 13 Boys Football Team on reaching the North of Scotland Cup Final.



Although beaten 5-3 by Millburn Academy in the final, the boys can be very proud of their achievement particularly beating Fraserburgh 7-1 in the semi-final and representing the school so well throughout.

This team has also won every game in the Under 13 Development League and qualified for the national finals of the Cashback 7 a side Tournament to be played in Aberdeen or Glasgow in May. The most pleasing aspect is that there are regularly 28/29 boys attending training with the majority playing a part in different games. Well done and hopefully they can have a strong finish to the season.

Hearing Dogs for the Deaf

This year, the S5/S6 Deaf Studies class decided, with the help of our Deaf tutor Mary Whitaker, that we would raise money for “Hearing Dogs for the Deaf” as she uses a hearing dog (Scott) to help her with lots of daily tasks.



After much discussion we decided we would sell homemade dog biscuits to staff and pupils. We researched recipes on the internet and practiced making biscuits with the help of the HFT department (Scott enjoyed testing some of the practice treats). Also staff in the pupil support department made biscuits at home to boost our stock.

The biscuits went down a treat and we sold out about three quarters of the way through lunch! However, we got lots of orders for more which are currently underway! Overall, we made roughly

£80 which will pay for a puppy training pack and a selection of dog toys! We want to thank everyone who made/ bought the biscuits because this money has made a really positive contribution towards the charity!

