



## School Uniform

Welcome back to all pupils and staff for what we hope will be another successful year. The standard of uniform from pupils has been extremely high, thank you to all parents for their co-operation with this.

## Exam Results

Congratulations to all pupils on an excellent set of exam results. The number of pupils achieving 5 Highers in S5 rose to 17% with 7 pupils achieving 5 'A' passes in their Highers. Achieving 5 'A' passes were: Sophie Horne, Alexander Beaton Garcia, Sarah Jack, Rachel Macleod, Lois Moyes, Rebecca Petrie, Cailean Welsh.

## Values

Last session pupils, parents and staff were asked to choose new school values. These have now been decided and are **respect, responsibility, honesty and determination**. The values are now displayed at the front of the school and it is hoped that they will underpin all that goes on in the Academy.

## School Captains

At the end of last term senior pupils and staff elected the new school captains.

Boy Captain: Alexander Beaton Garcia

Boy Vice Captain: Cailean Welsh

Girl Captain: Lois Moyes

Girl Vice Captain: Sophie Horne

Congratulations to them all, they have already proven themselves to be excellent ambassadors for the school.

## Staffing

We are delighted to welcome the following new members of staff to Dingwall Academy – Miss Welsh - Social Subjects, Miss Tweedie - English, Mrs Slaven - Art, Mr Watt - RMPS and Miss McCulloch - English.

We also have a number of staff off with long term illness and would like to wish them all the very best and hope that they are able to join us back in school soon. During Mrs Raeburn's absence, Mr Kilpatrick has been appointed Acting PT Maths.

## Data Capture Forms

All pupils have now been issued with data capture forms. These must be returned to the school office as soon as possible.

## Photographs

Individual photographs were taken on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> August and have now been issued to all pupils. Photograph orders should be returned to the school office by Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> August. The prefect, S6 and family photographs will be taken on 30<sup>th</sup> October.

## S1 Pupils

S1 pupils have settled in well. Pupils and parents are reminded that for the first term S1 pupils should remain on the school premises during lunchtime. This will be reviewed in October.

## **End of term activities**

The end of term was extremely busy with a large number of activities and trips taking place. This included the whole school activity days during the last week of term. We are extremely fortunate that staff are willing to give up so much extra time to organise these activities. The following pupil reports outline some of the events that took place.

### **Dalai Lama**

On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June the Dalai Lama visited Inverness. 14 Dingwall Academy pupils were fortunate to be chosen as part of the pupil audience.

I was selected to be on stage at Eden Court with the Dalai Lama who was giving a teaching 'Be the Change' which was lectured toward teenagers. He is very well known in Mongolia (where I am from) so it was a great opportunity to listen to him. Unfortunately there was not enough time for my question to him which was a bit disappointing as I wanted, at the same time to present him with a blue 'khadag' which is a traditional Mongolian scarf given as a greeting to honoured persons. Luckily after his teaching he was outside talking to people, so I was able to present him with the khadag which he blessed! And he said to me "You Mongolian?" as he recognised the blue khadag! After speaking to the Dalai Lama I met a Mongolian monk and I spoke to him in Mongolian which was a special opportunity. I hope to meet the Dalai Lama again as his teaching was both understandable and inspirational.

*Oyuntsatsral Tsatsa Little S4*

### **MFR Interschool Challenge**

Pupils from S6 last June participated in the MFR Inter-Schools Quiz challenge, competing against 15 schools from around the area. It was a fantastic day out, not only for the competitors, but also the supporters who provided great support and even managed to get their 5 seconds of fame on the radio. The quiz team reached the final after a gruelling 8 rounds of questions where they met Fortrose. They faced two challenges, a pizza making round and a quick fire round. Despite taking a ½ point lead into the quick fire round, the team were left devastated as they were defeated by a Fortrose side who were quick on the buzzer and took advantage of Dingwall's mistakes. Overall a second place was well deserved and congratulations must go out to the winners.

*Alexander Beaton Garcia S6*

### **German Trip**

In June 2012, pupils in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year German classes visited the city of Freiburg, South-West Germany. Although the journey was long and tiring, it was definitely worth it when we got there. Our first full day was spent looking at the various attractions and shopping destinations that Freiburg had to offer, such as Freiburg Münster a medieval cathedral located in the centre of the city. Luckily for us, the weather was good but many of us got burnt! In the afternoon we went tobogganing. A ski lift took us to the top of a hill where we then came down on a two person toboggan, going through loops and turns as fast as possible, without falling off the track. In the evening we then went to a bowling alley where we played two rounds. Some people played pool instead. The next day we visited Europa Park. The weather, again was good and most people were glad of the water rides as a way to cool down. We spent a day in the park going on rides such as The Atlantica Splash and the Timber coaster. It was definitely the highlight of the whole trip. We ate our dinner in the park and then went back to the hotel, worn out. The next day I think we were all a bit sad to leave but happy that we were going home to see our family and friends and tell them about all the new things we had experienced while in Germany. I would recommend going on this trip to anyone who was considering it. Everyone who went this year enjoyed it and would leap at the chance to go again.

*Sophie Brown S3*

### **Inverness Mod**

Congratulations to Mr MacArthur's 2nd year Gàidhlig class. Just before the Summer holidays they had great success at the Inverness Mod where they picked up a range of prizes. Over the weeks running up to the competition pupils organised themselves into two folk bands, practising every Friday lunch time. Their hard work paid off when Seomar 109 ( Room 109) won 1st and A' Mhionaid Mu Dheireadh (The Last Minute) won second in the folk group competition. We also had Mairead Morgan, Ruth Williams and Sam McCourt along with Kirsty Campbell winning 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively in the poetry competition. Sam McCourt also won 3rd in the conversation competition and Ruth won 1st in the solo singing. They were all a real credit to the school. Meal an naidheachd oirbh uile!

## **World Challenge – Mt Tubkal Trek, Morocco 2012**

At the end of the Summer term, a group of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year pupils embarked on a World Challenge expedition to climb the highest mountain in North Africa. Arranged through the World Challenge organisation, pupils were challenged physically and mentally. The program encourages teamwork and communication skills, and organising schedules, fundraising and team building were all a part of the experience.

The expedition incorporated six days of trekking and two days in the souks of Marrakesh over which time the pupils were immersed in the culture and lifestyle of the local Berber people in the Atlas Mountains and the traders and sellers in the souks.

The trip was an overwhelming success however the experience was not without its difficulties. Struggles began back home with many students having to take on part time jobs to raise their expedition funds. The organising of fundraising events such as quiz nights and bake sales proved enjoyable but challenging especially as the students tried to get backing from local businesses. On the trek itself pupils faced adversity from long days, extreme weather and adjusting to the local diet. Pupils had to be prepared for every condition – from the 50 degree heat of Marrakesh to the freezing nights and electrical storms of the summit base camp. It was however, all worth it for the view from the top!!



Pupils were quick to work their haggling and bartering skills in the bustle of the souks, bringing back some weird and wonderful souvenirs.

A fantastic experience was had by all and we wish every success to the Malaysian challenge group on their expedition in 2013.

*Ross Turner S6*

## **Rock Challenge**

In June the Dingwall Academy Rock Challenge team travelled to Dundee to take part in the national finals. The standard of competition was extremely high and although not placed, the pupils did extremely well. We are delighted to announce that during the summer the group were awarded the national award for video performance. This is a tremendous achievement, well done to all involved.

## **Teenage Cancer Trust**

On Friday 14<sup>th</sup>, as part of our rolling programme of educational visits from the Teenage Cancer Trust, S1 and S4 pupils will hear presentations from Iona MacMillan.

There will also be some fund raising activities for the Teenage Cancer Trust taking place on the day. S1 pupils are all invited to bring £1 donation and participate in a tea party and games during the last period of the day. This event will be organised by S6 pupils. There will also be a huge bake sale at break, so please remember to bring some money.

## **Road Safety**

After school this week one Dingwall Academy pupil was involved in an accident after getting off the school bus. All pupils are reminded that they must not step out onto the road behind a bus. Pupils should always wait until the bus has moved off and check that the road is clear.

Pupils around the time of the accident were all commended for the responsible way they handled the situation. Thank you and well done to all involved.