

Dingwall Academy News

RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

HONESTY

DETERMINATION

Welcome back!

AUGUST
2013
EDITION

The new school year begins...

Welcome back to all staff and pupils for what we hope will be the start of another good session. Special welcome to the S1 pupils who have settled well into their new classes. All pupils are to be commended for their very smart turn out and thank you to all parents for their support with the uniform policy. S1 pupils are also reminded that they are required to stay on site during lunchtime.

What a result!

Congratulations to all senior pupils on another excellent set of exam results. Unfortunately we cannot name everyone but special mention goes to those pupils who achieved 5 Higher passes in S5:

Donald Campbell	Frank Fraser	Josie Fraser	Irene Cronie
Shaun Hunter	Craig Langdale	Amanda Love	Susannah Mack
John Mackay	Donna MacKenzie	Sandy Mackenzie	
Michael MacLennan	Kathryn Martin	Rhona Millar	
Callum Monteith	Ian Ross	Andrew Sarjeant	

Also congratulations to **Alexander Beaton Garcia** and **Eilidh McFarlane** who both achieved A passes in 3 Advanced Highers.

The newsletter

The monthly newsletter is now an established part of Dingwall Academy life. We are always keen to hear of pupil achievements – both in and out of school. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you would like something included in the newsletter.

The newsletter is edited each month by an English class. This month's newsletter was edited by Miss O'Boyle/Mr Green's S4 English class.

Contents

- School Trips
- Garden News
- Flying High in Maths
- MOD
- PE News
- UCAS info
- ...and more!

Dates for your diary:

School Photos
5th September

Transition event
18th September

UCAS school deadline
29th November



School Trips 2013-14

We are very fortunate that in the Academy we are able to offer a number of trips throughout the session. The majority of trips are timed to take place at the end of the session. In response to parental requests we are now able to provide a summary of the trips likely to take place this session. This should help parents to plan and budget. Further information on all the trips will be made available to pupils throughout the session. Once the information is made available to pupils allocation is usually on a first come first served basis.

Trip	Year Groups	Date	Approx Cost	Organising Teacher
Maths Department trip to PortAventura, Spain.	S4 and S5 Maths pupils following a National 5, Intermediate 2 or Higher Course.	27 th June – 1 st July 2014	£750	Miss J Campbell
Languages Department trip to Germany, Belgium and Holland	S1 and S2 pupils	30 th June – 6 th July 2014 Please note school holidays start on 3 rd July	£495	Mrs J MacKintosh
Languages Department trip to France, Belgium and Holland	S1 and S2 pupils	6 th October – 12 th October 2014	£495	Mrs J MacKintosh
PE Department watersports trip to France	S3 and S4 pupils	June 2014	£750	Miss L Bennie
Social Subjects camping trip to Alladale	S3 pupils	12 th – 16 th May 2014	£90-£95 approx	Miss S Tullis
Social Subjects Department trip to Ypres and the Somme, Belgium	S3 History pupils	26 th June – 1 st July 2014	£500	Mr S Lyall
Science Department trip to London	S1 pupils	28 th June – 2 nd July 2014	£360	Miss L Gordon



News from the Garden

Over the holidays, a team of volunteers did a wonderful job of looking after the garden particularly during the hot weather. We would like to thank Denise, Primrose, Catherine and Edith for your hard work without which

Voucher Schemes

We are now registered with the following schemes, so please bring in any vouchers for us to be able to earn gardening equipment:

- Morrisons "Let's Grow!"
- Klondike Garden Centre vouchers

Many thanks in advance.



A sunflower grows above our yellow courgettes.



Hanging baskets on the shed

Dingwall Academy warmly welcomes this year's new pupils. Mr Green's S1 English class thought about their first week in the Academy, and had this to share:

"We enjoy having a lot of teachers every day." –Kelsey, Abbie and Louis

Rachel, Mackenzie, Rhuie and Chloe said, "We like the Academy because there are lots of opportunities like sports and lots of other things. We like all our classes and the great facilities."

Darren's group said they really enjoyed meeting new friends from other schools (with Damon, Leonard, Rhianna and Zoe)

Kacper said "I like all my teachers; they are all very nice and calm. The school is big and filled with nice people" His group agreed!

"The best thing about school is getting out at two on Friday! We love PE, which has been great," said Gregor, who added, "I am also really happy to be training to play in the football team."

Ealasaid, Callum, Ben and Nathan reported that they "like the Academy because there're more subjects and because we change from class to class. We also like the fact that we have met new people and that we go home early on Fridays!"



News from the Maths Department

Our top S2 class have been reaching for Infinity and beyond, or at least 50 metres above their heads. As part of our 3D shape lessons we decided to take our skeleton models to new heights. Working in groups of four, we each made a “tetrahedron” (Triangular based pyramid) using straws, string and skewers. Once we had each made a tetrahedron we covered 2 of the faces and then joined all four of them together to make a much larger one. Mr Ross in CDT helped us out by making some winder handles and with the quick addition of string we were ready to fly.



Our first try on the grounds at the front of the school had mixed successes as the wind was not very strong that day and a little

unpredictable. We put our kite flying antics on hold for a few days waiting for optimum conditions and were rewarded with a nice windy day. So impressive were our efforts that Mrs Cormack even came out to join us. Mr Kilpatrick had made a box kite and a delta kite for us to try so we could see some different designs.



During our Maths lesson in the Activities week we went out to fly our kites again. Mr Kilpatrick brought in some Delta kites, Box kites, Box Delta Kites, Baden Powell Manlifters (small versions so maybe Action Manlifters), Sled kites and traditional Diamond kites for us to try. We had a good day for flying the kites though some designs were better than others. The Manlifter was more like a ManTwister as all it wanted to do was spin. A few kites needed rescuing from the trees and string was frantically pulled in when some of the kites tried to head over the fence. The Deltas, Diamonds and Sled kites flew real During all of this Mr Kilpatrick encouraged us to use our mobile phones to take pictures and videos. We have a folder in the Maths section of the Pupil shared network marked “KITES” for us to put our photographs in.



Keep checking it out as we upload more. Here are a few to keep you going. ly well and would have kept going if we hadn't reached the end of our string.

News from the Physical Education Department

As the new academic year gets into full swing it is important to remind pupils and parents of some important items regarding PE and sport.

Valuables in PE

We are constantly reminding pupils to leave any valuables in the boxes that the PE staff provide at the beginning of every lesson. We do ensure that changing rooms are locked during PE lessons; however, there are times at the beginning and end of lessons where they are not locked. **Any valuables left in the changing rooms are done so at the pupils own risk.** We also lock valuables boxes in the PE office during lessons but there have been occasions where phones etc. have been damaged whilst in the box. **Please note that we cannot take responsibility for any valuables that get damaged in the box and again pupils put them in the boxes at their own risk.** The ideal solution is that pupils do not take any expensive items to school or alternatively store them in their lockers for the duration of the school day.

PE Kit

Recently there has been a large number of pupils forgetting to bring PE kit for lessons. I would like to emphasise how important it is for pupils to be organised with kit so that they can take regular part in PE lessons. We ask that any pupil who is injured or not able to take part in lessons bring in a note. However, pupils should still bring their kit as this avoids bad habits forming, prevents school uniforms getting wet when outside with their class and allows pupils to more competently help out in the class without uniforms getting dirty. We do have a very clear staged discipline system in place for pupils who forget their PE kit on a regular basis and the system allows us to make contact with home at an early stage. We ask that you support us in trying to keep Dingwall Academy pupils as active as possible. Scotland being at No. 2 for the most overweight and unfit nations in the developed world is a ranking we would like very much like to swap with some of our national sporting teams world rankings!!

Inter House Sports

Inter house sport is something we are very keen to maintain as a very important aspect of school life. This year will again see Football, Hockey, Cross Country, Swimming and Athletics inter house competitions take place. However, we hope to build on this and add other sports to the program currently in place. As well as sports we aim to provide many other opportunities outside of the sporting arena where pupils can also represent their house. Inter House competition give pupils a chance to represent their house and gain valuable points for the coveted House Championships. Pupils should look out for notices advertising the competitions throughout the year. So it's up to Brahan, Fairburn, Novar and Tulloch to raise their game and pry the House Championship away from reigning champions Wyvis. Good luck and play fair!

Extracurricular Sports

As always we try to provide a good range of sports and teams for pupils to take part in after school. Please encourage your son/daughter to get involved with as many clubs as possible as it is a great way to meet new friends, keep fit and healthy, improve self-confidence and improve their overall levels of performance. Please see below for this terms timetable.

If you have any questions regarding any of the items mentioned please feel free to contact me at the school.

*Yours Sportingly
Mr M Dillon
Head of Physical Education, Health
and Nutrition*

Even more pupil achievements...

Inverness Mod

Congratulations to all the Gàidhlig pupils from S1 and S2 who represented the school so successfully at the Inverness Local Mod just before the summer holidays. Well done Eilidh Sutherland and Ewan MacKenzie who won first and second prize in the Reading competition and congratulations to Sam McCourt and Alasdair MacKenzie who won first and second prize for their conversation skills. Islay Grant in S2 won the under 13 Reading competition and this, along with her performance in the other competitions, won her the shield for the best overall Gaelic in the under 13s.

For the second year running Dingwall Academy won the folk group competition, taking home with them the Loch Ness Shield. In the band this year were Kirsty Wilson, Alasdair MacKenzie, Michael Bentley, Islay Grant and Ella Fraser. They came in for particular praise from the judges as they won with a song featured on the Brave movie sung by Julie Fowlis that they themselves translated into Gaelic.

Congratulations also to Kirsty Wilson in S2 who came third in this year's National Gaelic writing competition run by the National Association of Gaelic teachers. Kirsty wrote an excellent piece entitled Cogadh (War).

'S math a rinn a h-uile duine agaibh, a' toirt cliù dhuibh fèin agus don sgoil!

News from the Department of English and Literacy

C2C Book orders: you can now order all the books in your Book Clubs leaflet and many more at <http://clubs-school.scholastic.co.uk/dingwallacademy> and, what's more, you'll be able to have your books delivered to school for FREE!

You need to order your books by Friday 6th September 2013. After that date, I'll confirm that all orders are in and the books will be delivered to school for me to hand out in class. For every £1 you spend 20p goes back to our school to spend on much-needed books for our library!

Take a look at what's on offer here <http://clubs-school.scholastic.co.uk/dingwallacademy> – there are some great bargains with books costing as little as £1.99!

The Curious Case of... the missing books

Help! Could **all pupils**, present or past, please check their homes for books belonging to the Academy. As everyone knows, budgets are extremely tight these days, and a full class set of new texts can cost up to, or even beyond, £300—a figure not in the budget!

Every year we receive books (albeit gratefully) from pupils who left the Academy years before returning their materials—in these intervening years we will have had to replace these texts if possible. Expensive!

We are still missing a large number of

exam texts (novels and textbooks) lent to pupils in S5/6. Please return them as soon as possible so next year's classes can enjoy them too. Please feel free to hand any books you find into the office. No questions asked—we just need our books back! Thank you.

Check under the bed!



MISSING IN ACTION:

- *Lord of the Flies*
- *Of Mice and Men*
- Higher and Int1/2 textbooks
- *Holes*
- *A View from the Bridge*
- *The Changeling*
- *Stone Cold*

... and many more!

Whole School Notes & News

Staffing

We welcome a number of new staff to the Academy. Miss Bennie - PE, Mr Fairfield - Music, Mr Ferguson - Physics, Ms McCrow - Biology, Miss MacDonald - Geography, Miss Munro - English, Ms McPherson - Auxiliary, Mrs Reid - Gaelic, Mr Ross - CDT, Mr Sim - Art, Miss Tullis - Art and Ms Walters - Science Technician.

School Photographs

The school photographer will be in school on Thursday 5th September. Individual photographs will be taken on this date and it is a requirement for all pupils to have their photograph taken even if they do not intend to purchase one. Family and group photographs will be taken later in the term.

Transitions from School Event: 18th September

The School is hosting an event aimed at pupils who are considering leaving at Christmas and pupils with additional support needs. There will be over 40 stalls and workshops who will be giving pupils as much information as possible so they are well prepared for when they leave school.

While relevant pupils will be allowed out of class to attend the event, parents are more than welcome to come at any time and see the presentations and speak to the presenters.

For further information please contact Steve Gaffney, Depute Rector.

Activity Days

Just prior to the Summer Holidays pupils took part in the annual school activity days with activities on offer ranging from Go Karting and Drama and Make up. Pupils enjoyed 2 wonderful days and thank you to all staff for their enthusiasm in organising and supervising.

Data Capture Forms

Data Capture forms are being distributed this week. Parents are asked to complete and return to the School Office as soon as possible.

School One Way System

Parents dropping pupils off at school are reminded that there is a one way system in operation and this should be adhered to at all times.

S1 Time to chat

S1 pupils will soon be inviting parents into school to take part in 'Time to Chat'. This is a chance to have an informal meeting with the PT Pupil Support and also an opportunity to tour the school.

World Challenge Expedition to Borneo and Malaysia 2013



During the summer, a group of 8 senior students and teacher Heather Fulton took part in a 4 week expedition to Borneo and Malaysia as part of World Challenge Expeditions. Once in country, the students were solely responsible for their budget, transport, travel, accommodation and most food provisions throughout the 4 weeks. The Expedition started off with an acclimatisation phase travelling through the Sarawak region of Borneo. Here, they were able to meet the orang-utans at the Semmengoh Sanctuary. The second week consisted of the group's "Trekking Phase." They flew to the jungle area of Bario where they spent 3 days trekking through the beautiful Borneo rainforest, setting up camp where they slept in hammocks under the stars. They learned how to use a machete, a blowpipe, and how to set up a trap. Everyone was leached, bitten or stung at some point but no-one complained once!

The third week of the expedition consisted of the "Project Phase". The pupils spent a week painting dormitories for a charitable organisation, the Grace Commission Community. The GCC are building a school for local jungle children - many of whom have been abused. The dormitories will house them while they learn in their new school. The group found this experience overwhelming and learned how not to take things for granted. The children were extremely friendly, intelligent and great fun to be around.

After 3 weeks of hard work, it was time to relax. The group spent a few days at the Bubbles Resort Turtle Sanctuary on the Perhentian Islands before heading by to Kuala Lumpur for some tourist sightseeing at the amazing Batu Caves, the Petronas Towers and the KL Tower.

Overall, it was an extremely successful trip with pupils complimented throughout the expedition about their maturity, politeness, hard work and determination.

World Challenge Expedition 2015 - Change of Destination

Before the summer, pupils in S3 and S4 were given an assembly about the next World Challenge Expedition which will take place in 2015. At that time, the destination was to be Nepal. However, in light of the time of year the expedition would take place, it was decided that Nepal was not the best option for pupils. The 2015 expedition will now take place in **Southern Tanzania**. Here, pupils can expect mountain trekking, project work in the local community and perhaps spot "The Big Five" on Safari. World Challenge will hold a launch assembly in September to explain the expedition in more detail and how pupils can raise funds for the Challenge. More information on this will follow shortly.

Extracurricular Sports Programme Aug-Oct

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>Netball – All Pupils 3.45 – 5pm Meet in GH1 (See PE Dept. for details)</p>	<p>S2 Girls Hockey 3.45 – 5pm Meet on Astro Turf (See Miss H Bennie - PE for details)</p>	<p>S1/2/3 Boys Rugby 3.45 – 5pm Meet on Grass Pitches (See Mr Dillon - PE for details)</p>	<p>S1-6 Girls Football 3.45 – 5pm Meet on Grass Pitches (See Miss Alexander - Guidance for details)</p>	<p>Staff Five A-Sides 2.20 – 3.30pm Meet in Games Hall (See Mr McKie - PE for details)</p>
<p>U16 Boys (S3/4) Football 3.45 – 5pm Meet on Grass Pitches (See Mr Simpson - Guidance for details)</p>	<p>S3 Girls Hockey 3.45 – 5pm Meet on Astro Turf (See Miss L Bennie - PE for details)</p>	<p>Senior Girls Hockey (S4/5/6) 3.45 – 5pm Meet on Astro Turf (See Mrs Barlow - PE for details)</p>	<p>Gymnastics Club 3.45 – 5pm Meet in Small Gym (See Mr Robertson - CDT for details)</p>	
<p>U13 Boys (S1) Football 3.45 – 5pm Meet on Grass Pitches (See Mr M Ross - CDT for details)</p>	<p>Mountain Bike Club – All Pupils 3.45 – 5pm (See Mr Graham - Support for meeting place and details)</p>	<p>S1 Girls Hockey 3.45 – 5pm Meet on Astro Turf (See Mrs Magowan - PE for details)</p>	<p>U14 Boys (S2) Football 3.45 – 5pm Meet on Grass Pitches (See Mr McKie for details)</p>	
	<p>Senior Boys (S5/6) Football 3.45 – 5pm Meet on Grass Pitches (See Mr MacIntosh - SMT for details)</p>		<p>Staff Badminton 3.50 – 5pm Meet in the Games Hall (See J Campbell for details)</p>	

Last minute news...

UCAS Deadlines and Information

The UCAS website www.ucas.com offers applicants and parents a comprehensive overview of the whole admissions process, including course selection, completing the application and advice on writing the personal statement. This information will also be covered by your son or daughter's Pupil Support teacher.

Key Dates:

Applications for 2014 entry need to reach UCAS by **January 15th 2014**. The school has its own internal deadline of **29th November 2013**. Pupil Support teachers must have seen a first draft of the personal statement element of the application by **25th October 2013**.

However, there are some subjects with earlier application deadlines: Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Science. Applications for these courses should be with UCAS by **15th October 2014**.

Applications for the University of Oxford and Cambridge should be with UCAS by **15th October 2014**.

CUKAS

This specialist admissions service for practice-based dance, music and drama courses has two deadlines. The Music deadline is **1st October 2013**. The Dance and Drama deadline is normally **15th January 2014** although candidates should check the conservatoire website.

Art and Design courses

All art and design courses use one of two deadlines: **15th January 2014** or **24th March 2014**. Pupils should check the date via the UCAS search tool.

