



Christmas Socials

S1 & S2 Monday 17th December, 7.30pm
S3 & S4 Tuesday 18th December, 7.30pm
S5 & S6 Wednesday 19th December, 7.30pm



Christmas closing time

Dingwall Academy will close at 2pm on Thursday 20th December and re-open at 8.50 on Monday 7th January.

Adverse Weather Arrangements

Adverse weather arrangements have now been issued to all parents. The information is also available on the school website. D&E coaches now have a Facebook page that will provide another source of information during adverse weather <https://www.facebook.com/decoachesltd>

SCOPE litter scheme

Dingwall Academy will be involved in a litter campaign the week beginning 21st January. It is being run by the Council and the initiative is called SCOPE for Improvement (Schools and Community Ownership for Pride in our Environment) Litter Campaign. Volunteers from the council will be around Dingwall that week in January to encourage pupils to use the litter and recycling bins over lunch time in return for incentives. The volunteers will hand out vouchers each time a pupil places a piece of litter in a bin and each school will have an agreed target number of vouchers to collect. Please show your support for this campaign and help make Dingwall a litter free zone while also being in the chance of winning some great prizes!

Eden Court Ambassador

Congratulations to Irene Cronie who is now the official Eden Court Ambassador for Dingwall Academy.

Senior Prelims

S5 and S6 prelims start on Monday 14th January. All pupils have been issued with a copy of the prelim timetable. The timetable is also available on the Upper School section of the website.

Interviews

Over the past week, 65 senior Dingwall Academy pupils were involved with interviews held by members of the Dingwall Rotary Club and the Forestry Commission. These interviews provide a brilliant opportunity for those taking part to gain experience and prepare them for a real university or job interview. It is very generous of the interview panel to give up their time to lead the interviews. Every pupil who has gone through the Rotary Interviews is grateful for the feedback given and feels better prepared for when they go for an actual interview.

Isabella Macleod 6N2

Pupil Achievements

Congratulations to Dean Brannen who won 2 gold medals and a silver medal in the junior section of the Scottish Amateur Swimming Competition in Glasgow last month. Dean is only 12 but was competing against 17 year olds – well done Dean!

Congratulations also to Alasdair MacLeod 6W2 who has produced his first novel. 'The Hunger Games' is a 188 page book full of adventure and excitement. So far only limited copies are available but who know where this might lead ... well done Alasdair!

Na Mo Chuid Aodaich

Sarah Kate MacLennan and Rosie Shepherd of S3 and Eleanor Wilson and Nicki Walker of S4 took part as models in the Gaelic historical costume drama, Na Mo Chuid Aodaich, which was held in Inverness Royal Academy on Saturday 8 December.



FilmG Competition

Keep an eye out for budding stars of the silver screen! In November the S2 fluent Gaelic speakers class shot and edited a short film as part of the FilmG competition. Not giving too much away, but it contains a mad scientist and a plan for Beatha Mhaireannach (Eternal Life) which might just turn out to go wrong. Soon to be seen on <http://www.filmg.co.uk/>

Gaelic Debating

Ella Scarr and Megan Dale represented Dingwall Academy in the semi-finals of this year's National Gàidhlig debating competition. They gave a great account of themselves in Edinburgh against Tain Royal Academy debating for the motion that the days of newspapers are over. Despite many people in the audience giving the edge to Dingwall, the judges put Tain through by just half a point. Megan, Ella and Joanna Macdonald, who came with us as a reserve, were a great credit to the school and things look good for another go next year. Well done to Tain though, who went on to beat the Nicolson Institute from the Isle of Lewis. At least we can say the cup came back to Ross-shire!

Go Green Club

In the New Year there will be a change of day for the Go Green meetings. The lunchtime meeting will be on a Tuesday and will take place fortnightly. The first one will take place on Tuesday the 15th of January at 1.30 in Rm 115. Please join us if you feel you want to change something about the environment in and around our school or want to help out in any way. See Mrs Lewthwaite for further details.

Science London Trip -

Dr Jane Goodall's Roots and Shoots Awards

On Monday the 3rd of December 4 pupils travelled to the Dr Jane Goodall's Roots and Shoots awards ceremony held at London Zoo. The Roots and Shoots programme looks at projects that help the environment, animals and the community. Projects that include all three aspects can be awarded a gold award in her programme. Dingwall Academy won a gold award earlier this year for the projects that are taking place. Fiona Reid, Lewis Mackenzie, Sasha Forbes and Charlotte Finlayson gave a presentation about some of the projects that they had been involved in and met Dr Jane Goodall. The pupils did extremely well at this high profile event and were a credit to the school.



Scottish Parliament Trip



Senior social subject pupils recently took a 2 day trip down to Edinburgh for a visit to the Scottish Parliament. Before the visit, they enjoyed a look round the National Museum of Scotland followed by a showing of "42nd St". After staying overnight at the Central Youth Hostel, they had a chance for some shopping before the Parliament. Pupils met regional MSP for the Highlands and Islands, Jamie McGrigor and MSP for Ross, Skye and Badenoch, Dave Thompson who were happy to answer questions. The group then had the opportunity to watch a debate in the Chamber. Overall, a fantastic trip for all.

World Challenge Ceilidh

On Friday, 7th December, the World Challenge group held a very successful Ceilidh in order to raise funds for their 4 week trek to Borneo and Malaysia in June 2013. The World Challenge Parent's Committee did a fantastic job helping organise the event which boasted a line-up of Sandy Brechin, the Kiltearn Fiddlers, Terry Small, Charlie McKerron and the Dingwall Academy Ceilidh Band. The pupils showed great organisational skills during the event which was enjoyed by all.

Young Enterprise Scotland Trade Fair

On Saturday, 8th December, the ASDAN pupils took part in the Young Enterprise Scotland Trade Fair in Inverness. Pupils had to create their own business product and sell to the public on one of the busiest shopping days before Christmas. The business "Candy Candles" made their own candles, moulded into traditional sweet jars with sweet flavoured scents including "Toasted Marshmallow" and "Lemon Sherbet." For their Christmas line they introduced "Christmas tree" and "Cinnamon and Apple" scents. I'm pleased to say they sold out with nearly 2 hours of the market still to go! The pupils had a great day and gained good experience of the business world.



Higher and Advanced Higher Technological Studies Trip Tor Achilty Power Station

On Wednesday, 27th of November a group of 20 Higher and Advanced Higher Technological Studies pupils visited the Tor Achilty Hydro Power Station. The trip was organised by Mrs. B. Kendall to give pupils the opportunity to investigate the interaction of different types of engineers in the renewables industry, and also to discuss with engineers the importance of renewable energy in today's society. The pupils were interested to learn that water is "recycled" by putting multiple hydro schemes on the same river, and they were taken from the top of the facility, above water level, to the bottom, where a turbine shaft could be seen turning.

After a tour of the facility the group were treated to a very interesting presentation on the construction and operation of Fairburn wind farm; unfortunately we were unable to visit the wind farm due to the ice present. The pupils were also shown real-time software which controls and monitors the turbines. The best bits?

- "seeing the turbines and generator operating" – Daniel Hunter
- "Borland fish ladder" – Ben McCourt
- "Water recycling" – Donna Mackenzie

The Giving Machine

The Parent Council would like to encourage parents to sign up to the Giving Machine. This is a way in which people can help raise funds for the school without cost to themselves so that all our pupils will benefit. With Christmas coming up and people no doubt buying goods on line, all you do is "Join as a Giver" for Dingwall Academy via <http://www.TheGivingMachine.co.uk> and then go on to Amazon etc as normal and make your purchase. There are a lot of other companies signed up to the scheme too, eg. Tesco, Asda, B&Q to name but three. For more details of companies involved please see TheGivingMachine website as per the link above.

Dingwall Academy wishes all parents,
staff and pupils a very Merry Christmas.

