

DINGWALL ACADEMY JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2013



Happy New Year to all pupils, parents and staff. We hope that 2013 will be a successful year for all.

Calendar

Monday 14 th January	S5/6 Prelims start
Monday 21 st January	SCOPE litter week
Wednesday 23 rd January	S4 Report Cards issued
Monday 28 th January	Parent Council Meeting 7pm
Monday 4 th February	S4 Contact Evening

Staffing

Mrs M Easton PT Support and Mrs J Raeburn PT Maths both retired at the end of last term. Mrs Easton has been teaching at Dingwall Academy since 1991 and Mrs Raeburn since 2002. Both have been very involved in the life of Dingwall Academy and we wish them both well for long and happy retirements.

Congratulations to Mr M Boardman who has been appointed acting PT Mathematics and at the end of January we will welcome Miss M Alexander as PT Pupil Support. Thank you to Mrs Maclennan for her time as acting PT Pupil Support.

Mrs Rickard Music Teacher has left for a new post at Kirkwall Grammar School and we welcome Mrs L Boardman who will be working part-time in the Music department. We also welcome Mr W Chalmers to the Science department.

Also leaving at the end of last term was Mrs P Young who has worked as a support auxiliary in the school for a number of years. Mr Watt who has been teaching RMPS since the summer will leave at the end of this week to take up a permanent post at Lochgilphead High School. We wish them both well for the future.

Socials

Christmas may already seem a distant memory but hopefully the memory of the Christmas Socials will stay with pupils for years to come. We held three very successful socials during the last week of term with over 750 pupils attending. The behaviour of all pupils at the three socials was excellent and we are very grateful to all parents and staff who help make these events such a success.

Cailean Welsh S6 describes the Senior Social:

The senior social is always the highlight of the school calendar and this year was no different. Every single person turned out in their finest for the ceilidh organised by the pupil run Social Committee and supported with music from the fantastic Rhythm and Reel. The Head Boy and Deputy made an emotional thank you speech which was followed by a rousing rendition of Auld Lang Syne – the last ever for our 6th years. Mr Robertson took some fantastic pictures which will only be outlived by the memories we made; a wonderful night for all.

Photographs from all three social are available to buy from Mr Robertson in room 27.

SCOPE Litter Campaign

During the week beginning 21st January the school will be participating in an authority led litter initiative. This will involve pupil and adult volunteers having a high profile during lunchtimes in and around the school. There will be reward incentives for pupils to dispose of litter responsibly.

Pupil Achievements

Joe Arnaud 1T2 recently won the North District under 13 Cross Country Championship and was selected to represent the North District at the Inter District Cross Country Championships in Edinburgh on the 5th of January. This championship was part of the Bupa Great Winter Cross Country Championships where international athletes were also competing. He came a very respectable 21st running against the best U13 boys in Scotland.

Christmas Concert

On Tuesday 11th December the school hall was filled with the wonderful sound of the annual Christmas Concert. The programme was varied and included pipers, choirs, ceilidh band and orchestra. Thank you and congratulations to all pupils and staff involved. Two worthy organisations will benefit from the funds raised at the concert. The first is the Osigli Masai Charity Fund. We were fortunate to have a visit from a group of Masai dancers earlier in the year and it is appropriate that we are now able to give something back to these wonderful people. The second is the newly established Supporting Excellence in Art and Music fund. Funds will help assist pupils taking part in additional art and music activities.

Ross-shire Swimming Gala

The Ross-shire Swimming Gala took place on the 13th December in Golspie swimming pool. All pupils in this Gala travelled up by bus after harsh weather conditions battered Scotland. Everyone did extremely well in the swimming gala and everyone should be proud of themselves.

The Under 13 girls 1st place went to Gemma Logan (25m butterfly) and Rowan Todd (50m freestyle). The Under 13 girls also came first in their 4 x 25m freestyle relay.

The Under 13 boys 1st places went to Dean Brannen (25m butterfly) and Scott Macdonald (50m freestyle). All under 14 boys and girls did very well with Hamish Kerr placing 1st in the 25m butterfly and the boys winning their relay too.

A very well done to the Under 15 boys and girls. Jill Tolmie, Adrian Moody, Sam Gunn and David Laszkiewicz all coming in first in their races and the girls relay placed 1st too.

All seniors did very well. Senior boys did very well in their relay with just over a second between 1st and 2nd place they came first place.

Overall (all age groups combined) in 1st place was Dingwall. This is the first time since 2005 that Dingwall Academy will be keeping the Roland Mardon Swimming Trophy. Huge congratulations to all pupils who were swimming in the event, they represented the school very well and their behaviour was excellent and hopefully next year we can keep the trophy. Thank you to all swimmers who participated.

Siobhan Campbell S5

Scholastic Book Club

As we always like to encourage pupils to read for pleasure, I've sent home to all S1 pupils the new Scholastic C2C Book Club for you to browse through.

There's never any obligation to order, but if you'd like to buy anything an online school group has been set up at <http://clubs-school.scholastic.co.uk/dingwallacademy>. Here you'll be able to pay securely online by credit or debit card and benefit from FREE postage and packaging when your order is delivered to school. Alternatively, pupils can return their order form and payment to their English teacher. If you are paying by cheque, please make it payable to Dingwall Academy School Fund and write the account holder's name and address on the back. By ordering you will also be supporting our school, as we receive free books with every order placed. Orders can be placed until Wednesday the 20th of March. After that date, I'll confirm that all orders are in and shortly after the books will be delivered to school and handed out in class.

Miss McCulloch, English Teacher

Mountain bikers going round in circles

Four mountain bikers from Dingwall Academy/Ben Wyvis Cycle Club – Callum Russell, Sam Lawton, Finn Crockett and Fin Graham - recently found themselves going round in circles in Glasgow.

The 4 had all been invited by British Cycling to attend a training session at the new Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome. Skinny tyres and a lack of mud might have confused these northern riders however they adapted quickly and after a few laps they were all happily riding at the top of the banking.

They spent four hours either on track or in lectures about training/nutrition/tactics and gained a great deal from the experience.

The session finished with an Italian pursuit and saw each of our riders pulling out a gap on the rest of their team as the teams struggled to stay with the pace.



All have subsequently been invited back for further sessions with British Cycling's Talent Development Coach. Well done boys!