

Dingwall Academy News

RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

HONESTY

DETERMINATION



Dingwall Academy's finalists

Young Consumer Success

On Wednesday 20th March, four S6 pupils, Cailean Welsh, Megan Cooke, Olivia MacKinnon and Kirsty MacKinnon travelled to the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh to take part in the Scottish Final of the Young Consumer Competition. The competition tests students on a wide range of issues including: Consumers and the Law; Food and Health; Safety and the Environment; Managing Money and Finance; and Credit and the European dimension. This makes students aware of their consumer responsibilities and rights. The team faced tough opposition from St John's RC High School (Dundee City West); Ayr Academy (Ayr) and Boroughmuir

High School (Edinburgh Central) who finally went on to win.

All team members thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the Parliament, the experience of taking part in the competition and making new friends along the way.

Well done to all team members – you were a credit to the school and as you prepare to enter the wider community, we hope you will be able to put your new Consumer skills into action.

We also want to pass on our best wishes to Boroughmuir High School who now go on to the National Final of the competition. We hope they can bring the champion's title back to Scotland!

Welcome to the new-look 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.

JUNE 2013 EDITION

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Dates for your diary:

Activity Days take place on

**Tuesday 25th and
Wednesday 26th June**

School closes at 12pm on **Friday
28th June** and re-opens at 8.50 on
Tuesday 20th August

SQA Results in **6th August**

Option changes MPH **19th August**



Success at Speak Out for Engineering Competition



Ryan Fearne, winner of the *Speak Out for Engineering* competition.

6th year pupil Ryan Fearne, Advanced Higher Technological Studies, recently took part in a North Regional competition organised by IMechE. The competition required the participant to present a project they had created as part of an engineering course to a panel of judges. The project would be marked on technical content and presentation skill.

The project Ryan presented was the analysis and design of a new rear suspension system for mountain bikes.

Ryan had only one week to prepare himself for the competition, held in Inverness College, UHI.

The judging panel consisted of Regional councillors John Ford and Kate Stephen as well as Ann Walters, lecturer in Communications, UHI. Ryan was in competition with two

Higher National students and one other S6 pupil from Charleston Academy. After a nail-biting two hours his hard work was rewarded with being placed **FIRST!**

This was only the start of the adventure, however, as his first place finish made him the North's representative in the Scottish final, held in the Royal Scots Club, Edinburgh, one week later.

This stage of the competition pitted Ryan against competitors with Masters-level degrees in Engineering. Unfazed, Ryan gave a confident performance in front of an audience consisting of lecturers, professors and engineering company representatives. Once again, Ryan triumphed, becoming overall winner of the Scottish *Speak Out For Engineering* competition. Ryan now plans to follow a dual degree in Engineering at Strathclyde University. We wish him all the best in his studies.

Environmental Champion

Congratulations to David Laszkiewicz S4 who has been crowned an environmental champion, beating off stiff competition from other young people around the country to win a video competition run by Eurostar and Young People's Trust for the Environment's (YPTE).

David produced, filmed and starred in a short film as part of his submission to the *Have Your Say on Sustainability* competition, in which he shared his thoughts on a range of environmental topics.

David travelled by Eurostar to visit the European Parliament in Brussels to claim his prize: the unique opportunity to present his views on the environment to Members of the European Parliament (MEPs). To view a short video on David's experience, click here:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n3KzBblMc_0&feature=youtu.be



David speaking to MEPs in Brussels. What a pro!

News from the Garden—New Garden Area

On Friday 14th June, pupils from 2W2 spent a glorious sunny day with the local “Woodbloxx” team building a fantastic seating area with inbuilt planters. It is the beginning of a new fruit and wildlife garden that the pupils have designed and raised money for.



It was great fun, and the Woodbloxx system was very easy to fit together. We hope to fill the planters before the end of term, and have been choosing plants for the senses: smell, taste, sight and touch. Pupils are



invited to enjoy the seating and watch the rest of the garden grow around it. A “waste not want not” elective class have also been helping 2W2 to prepare the ground for planting a native hedge and we have fruit trees (apples and plums) waiting to be transplanted into the area.



Extra Funding Welcomed

On Wednesday 12th June, the DiGGers lunchtime gardening club were awarded £500 by Mr Nigel Greenwood, chairman of Dingwall Community Council. The Council had heard of positive developments in the garden and felt they wanted to support us in our activities. We are thrilled, as this will allow us to buy much-needed tools and some specimen plants for the site.

New Course in the Pipeline

With the increased facilities for teaching that the garden offers, we will soon be able to offer a new course to senior pupils. The *Certificate in Practical Horticulture* will be accredited by the Royal Botanic Gardens of Edinburgh. Want to know more? See Miss Swallow.



Mr Nigel Greenwood presents the much-appreciated cheque to Miss Swallow and the DiGGers

News from the Art Department

Mercat Cross for the 21st Century

The Dingwall Academy Art Department, in collaboration with the Dingwall Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme, held an exhibition of S3 pupil artwork which took place in Dingwall Town Hall on Saturday 15th June, 10am–4.30pm. The event was extremely successful, with a very well-attended opening evening on Friday 14th June. The evening also featured musical accompaniment by Dingwall Academy pupils who created a relaxing and pleasant atmosphere appropriate for the event. The exhibition featured 27 entries from a competition to design an imaginary Mercat Cross for the 21st century. All 250 of the school's S3 pupils took part in the competition. Their brief emphasised the role of the Mercat Cross as a meeting place for Dingwall's young people. The winners were announced on the opening evening where they received their prizes. All 27 final entries are now on display at the front of the school. Well done to all pupils and staff involved.



SCHOOL DESIGN COMPETITION WINNERS

1st Prize – Megan MacLeod

Comment from the Judges - This design provides a thoroughly satisfying response to every aspect of the brief and presents an exceptionally elegant, simple form that makes sensitive use of materials.

2nd Prize – David Laszkiewicz

Joint 3rd Prize – Beth Maclean and Rachel Park

Commended – Jodie Ferguson



The Mercat Cross competition was part of the Dingwall Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme, a heritage-led regeneration project that runs until 2016 with funding from Historic Scotland, the Highland LEADER 2007-2013 Programme, Dingwall Common Good Fund and The Highland Council. In addition to awareness-raising and education on caring for the historic built environment, the scheme provides grants for shop front reinstatement and small building repairs.

The professionally rendered image of the winner's work will be on display in the Dingwall Museum window.

Loch Ness Motorcycle Rally Competition

Dingwall Academy Art Department ran a competition to design the logo for the 30th Loch Ness Motorcycle Rally on the 9th of June. Pictured are the winner Megan Macleod and runner up Sophie Brown with the classic motorcycle club committee and one of the oldest bikes in the club 1922 Raleigh.



Mountain Bike Club

The summer term has seen lots of activity for the Mountain Bike Club.

Tuesday evenings have been spent on the trails between Contin and Strathpeffer, with pupils enjoying the dry conditions recently. Some pupils have confidently taken on additional responsibilities including loading the trailer, buddying less experienced riders and leading on short sections of trail.



Thursday evenings have seen 8 pupils from the club participating in a Scottish Cycling Race Series: two races in Contin, two at Glenmore Lodge and the final two in Forres. Our riders have performed very well, with a number of victories and podium finishes.

Sadly, we have to say goodbye to Ryan Fearne (S6) at the end of this term, as he has officially finished school and is about to embark on the next stage of his learning in Glasgow. His enthusiasm for the sport and passing on knowledge to others will be greatly missed, but he is joining 12 of us on one last trip to Fort William during



the Activity days. We wish him well!

Finally, we look forward to welcoming any new first years to the club after the summer break.

Watch this space!



Even more pupil achievements...

U13 Football

The U13 football team have had a tremendous season. Not only did they reach the final of the North Schools Cup, but they also qualified for the final stages of the SSFA Cashback 7's. This took place at the SFA soccer centre in Glasgow and proved to be a memorable experience for all involved. Well done to all the players.

Class Clowns

In a first for Dingwall Academy, Ian Ross, Grant MacIver and Peter Dingwall competed in a *Stand Up Comic* competition at Eden Court. The boys attended a workshop throughout the day before taking on the nerve wracking task of performing to friends and family. Peter Dingwall was awarded 1st place and a trip to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Congratulations to all involved!

S2 Super Citizens

On Thursday 30th of May the P7s from Mulbuie, Strathgarve, Ferintosh, Tore, Marybank, Strathconon and the Inshes Gaelic School came for a visit to the Academy. We spoke about our experiences at the Academy and what we enjoyed about S1. We also gave them some advice to help them when they started Dingwall Academy. We gave them a guided tour around the school. We showed them different classes, corridors and where the toilets are. We showed them the money machine and how to use it. They split into groups and they now know more about the school and some of the extra-curricular activities on offer. We hope they feel they have a better idea of where to go on the school and what they can do.

By Lara Vance and Claire Stewart S2

News from the Department of English and Literacy



Congratulations to Eden Forbes, S5, who won a much-deserved 3rd prize for her story 'Christopher'. A photo of the winners and more details about the biannual competition can be found at: <http://www.ross-shirejournal.co.uk/News/You-have-thrown-a-stone-into-your-pool-work-hard-and-who-knows-where-your-ripples-will-take-you-18062013.htm>

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!

Last minute news...

Judo Stars



Michael Maclennan (S6) recently achieved his Black belt in Judo and is now a 1st Dan. On the same day, his brother Callum also won his at a different competition. At the Minimon tournament in Invergordon last weekend, Michael was presented with a trophy for the player in Ross-shire exhibiting the true "Spirit of Judo," The Dawn MacDonald Spirit of Judo Trophy.

Dave Kerr has been selected to represent Scotland at the National Junior Team Championships in Birmingham.

Well done to all three boys.



Whole School Notes & News

Staffing

At the end of this session we say goodbye to the following members of staff: Mr J Murray (Craft, Design & Technology), Mr J Kerr (Physics), Mr I MacIlleChiar (Gaelic), and Mrs D Fordyce (Music). We would like to thank them for all that they have contributed to the school and wish them all the very best for a long, happy and healthy retirement.

SQA Results

SQA results will be delivered on *Tuesday 6th August*. If pupils would like to enquire about an appeal, they will be required to complete a form (available from the school office). Following exam results, some senior pupils may require option changes. Pupils Support staff will be available in the school hall to discuss option changes at 11am on *Monday 19th August*.

National 4 and National 5 Unit Assessment

Parents of pupils in the new S4 will appreciate that pupils have to complete a number of Unit Assessments throughout the year. These are important assessments and pupils have all been issued with further information on this. This includes a pupil contract that must be signed and returned to school before the end of term.

Activity Days

Activity Days take place on Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th June. Pupils should all know what activities they are taking part in. Where activities involve buses, the departure and return times have been posted on the school website.

Have a wonderful summer!

School closes at 12pm on Friday 28th June and re-opens at 8.50 on Tuesday 20th August. We would like to wish everyone a wonderful summer break, and look forward to welcoming our new S1 pupils in August.

