



Dingwall Academy

News

Welcome to the March edition of Dingwall Academy News. We know everyone is looking forward to a well-deserved Spring/Easter Break. Inside you'll find a wide range of news and information about the school and wider community. Enjoy!

What a Champ!

Congratulations to **Joanna MacLennan** S1 who took part in the British Schools Judo Competition at the start of March. On the day, Joanna won four fights to come home with Gold as British Schools Champion. **Adam Dyer** S1 also took part in the competition. Adam had to face older opponents and met some tough opposition. He won a fight by Ippon (full score) and we were very proud of his efforts. **Michael MacLennan** S6 won through to the bronze medal fight but was unlucky to only come away with a fifth place.



It is a tremendous achievement for three Dingwall Academy pupils to compete at this high level and we wish them every success for the rest of the season.

Shinty Debut



Well done to Donna Mackenzie, Joanna Macdonald, Kiera Brennan, Jodie Kearney, Chloe MacPhee, Lara Vance and Ceilidh Gunn who took part in the Donella Crawford Sixes Shinty Tournament in Ardnamurchan on Tuesday 4th March. It is to their credit that, despite playing together as a team for the first time, they put on a good performance and did themselves and Dingwall Academy proud.



MARCH 2014 EDITION

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 1st April
Spring Concert 7pm

Friday 4th April
School Closes

Tuesday 22nd April
School re-opens

Thursday 24th April
Business Partnership
Event – 7pm

Friday 25th April
S6 Last Day activities

Monday 28th April
Study Leave Starts

Monday 28th April
Parent Council Meeting –
7pm

Monday 5th May
School Closed

Wednesday 7th May
S1 Contact Evening

Junior UKMT Maths Challenge



On 10th March, Eilidh Mackenzie, Ellie Taylor, Rachel Olivant and Kirsty Wilson travelled to Aberdeen to take part in the Junior UKMT Maths Challenge. The challenge consisted of 4 rounds: a group round, crossnumber, shuttle round and finally the relay round. The rounds were challenging and the girls really had a lot of thinking to do! Eighteen schools took part and the girls performed amazingly well and finished in 9th place. Their teacher, Mrs Hannah, is delighted with how well they represented Dingwall Academy.

Your Future in IT?



A group of Senior boys attended an event hosted in Inverness College on 13th March which was aimed at pupils who have aspirations towards employment in IT either at apprentice or at graduate level, or who may be seriously considering a role in IT within another profession (eg business or engineering).

E-skills Scotland and a range of employers including BT, Cap Gemini, Fujitsu and Alchemy Plus provided a clear picture of opportunities in this field and apprentices shared their experience of what it is like to be employed in an IT role. The event included hands-on activities and individual and small group chats with the employers along with a role-playing speed-interviewing session.

Congratulations to all pupils who took part in the Rock Challenge Event at Eden Court on Friday 28th February. Pupils were required to choreograph an 8 minute performance and were also responsible for set design, music, lighting and costumes. The standard of performance from all the schools was extremely high and we were therefore delighted when Dingwall Academy were awarded 3rd place. Pupils have been preparing for the performance all year and so this placing was well deserved.

Mr Hugh Fraser, Director of Education wrote the following:

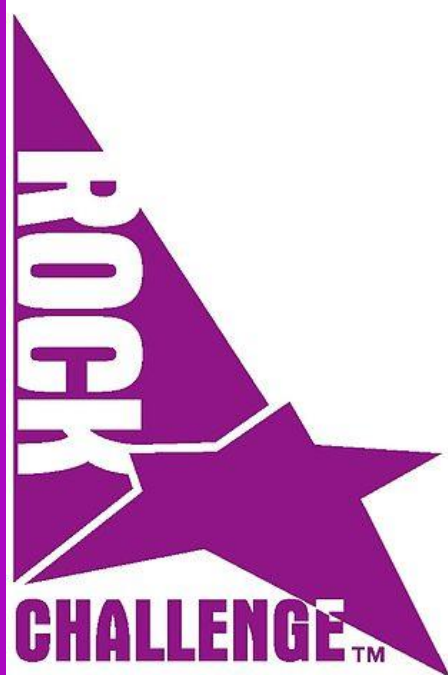
Dear Mrs Cormack

I wonder if you would be good enough to pass on my congratulations to your pupils. They really did themselves, their families and the school proud on Friday night.

The quality of their performance was excellent and their energy and enthusiasm were a joy to behold.

Thanks also to all your staff and to families who have given a huge amount of support.

Hugh Fraser



Business Dynamics



On the 25th and 26th of February, senior Business Management students and their teachers attended the Business Dynamics Conference at the Theological College in Dingwall. Pupils were treated to seminars on a variety of topics such as Public Relations, Growing a Business – Working in the Oil Industry, Management, Human Resources, Marketing, Finance and Franchising. The seminars were led by Senior Executives from local businesses (MacDonalds, Global Energy Group, SGL Group, John MacLean & Sons Electrical Ltd, HISEZ, Wester Ross Salmon and Keith Consultancy) who were extremely enthusiastic, good fun and inspiring. Pupils were involved in participating in the seminars and enjoyed lots of business games.

The highlights of the day were:

- Working in large teams of 12 to start and manage a new (fictional) business. Pupils elected a leader (Managing Director) and a Senior Management Team. Pupils were then allocated into different departments (Marketing, HR, Finance, Production) to work on tasks related to the new business. The business was a bike company in the tourist industry. Lots of decisions had to be made within very tight deadlines. The Senior Management Team enjoyed getting the experience to delegate work to others in their team. All pupils thoroughly enjoyed this task and the experience of how it might be to work in a real life business. The importance of working as a team is crucial. Both teams were so good that a winner could not be chosen!
- Building an oil rig out of marshmallows and spaghetti in teams of 4. This proved great fun and Alasdair Kennedy (also known as Sugar Kennedy – he is a Director for Ross County FC too!) from Global Energy gave a great presentation about working in the Oil Industry.
- Getting to be competitive with other teams.
- Working on a marketing brief for Wester Ross Salmon. Pupils had to come up with a logo, slogan and advert for marketing Wester Ross Salmon in the Middle East. Wester Ross Salmon gave a similar task to pupils from Dingwall Academy last year and used the winning team's slogan to market their product in the USA. Will this year's winning slogan "Fresh, Blessed and Best" be used by Wester Ross Salmon in the Middle East? Watch this space!
- Having a good laugh with the seminar leaders – some were quite a bunch of characters!

Pupils were impressed by how a small business located in the Highlands of Scotland can grow and expand to all parts of the world and how employees from Scotland can access great opportunities to work abroad for these firms. Pupils said that the day was extremely useful and gave them lots of ideas for the future. They learnt that there are many different routes into business. Many pupils who were not considering a career in business have now changed their mind as a result of attending the conference. Pupils could see how the theory that they were learning in the classroom was applied by businesses and how the knowledge and skills that they are learning in the classroom can be transferred to the world of work. A great time was had by all who attended and it was seen as very beneficial part of the Business Management course.

TeenAge Cancer Trust Day: Mad March Hair!

In what is quickly becoming an annual tradition, Dingwall Academy once again raised funds for Teenage Cancer Trust. Pupils and staff alike donated time, money, and in some cases, hair (!) to the event. Mr Green's S2 boys' class ran a number of events, learning valuable skills such as organisation, teamwork, and of course communication in both speaking and writing. They all worked hard to embody the school's values in the process, demonstrating respect for themselves and others, taking responsibility for the activities they had dreamed up, honesty in assessing their duties and reflecting on their achievements, and by no means least, the sheer determination to see it all through. They took pleasure in writing thank you letters to those who helped them, in particular: Mrs McNab, Mrs Tucker, Mr Gilchrist, Liam Mackay (S6), Ross Jarrett (S6), Mr Dillon, Mrs Watson, and Mrs Gollan. Thank you all, pupils and staff alike, for a fantastically successful day.

The following pieces were written by pupils in Mr Green's S2 class.

Overview of the Day

On the 20th of March Dingwall Academy did activities such as head shaving, for beat the goalie, shoot the hoops, tea & coffee for staff and a bake sale.

We raised loads of money.

We raised £35.80 for the tea sales

We raised £35.60 for the Tea Jar

We raised £9.10 for the football (still more to come)

We raised £17 for beat the goalie / hoops

We raised £45.28 for the head shaving.

It was a good amount of money that we raised for the activates.

The total amount of money raised by Mr Green and our class was £142.78 (thank you also to Mr Green's S1, Higher and S3 for their help).

For the head shaving all the people that took part were

Mr Green

Mrs Rowe

Mrs Morton

Mr Gaffney

Mr Lyall

Mr Mackintosh

Daniel Hunter, S6

More activities happened later once the weather was better. They lasted 50mins (one period).

Activities were on after lunch. People who chose activities donated money for Teenager Cancer Trust.

The activities were

- Football
- Dodge ball
- Rounder's/softball
- Murder mysteries
- Skateboarding
- Minecon
- Nails
- American football
- Silence
- Computing
- Just dance



Adam, Kieran, Curtis, Szymon and Jakub

On Thursday the 20th of March we took part in Teenage Cancer Trust Day. The activities we organised were Beat the Goalie and Shoot the Hoop. After prizes, we raised £17 and we think the activities went very well. Many people turned up to take part in our event.

Everyone in our group contributed well and helped set up and help with the activities. It took quite a while to organise it by putting posters around and advertising our activities.

A shout out to Jake Henry, Benjamin Cowie, Callum Brady, Owen Lonie, Ramsey Rait, Liam Ross and Craig Dryburgh and a very big thank you to Mr Green for helping us with the ideas and plan, Mr Gilchrist for giving up his lunch time to be the goalie and Mrs Tucker for taking the scores and counting the money and also helping us raise a good amount of money for a good cause. We learned that we can work well in and as part of a group and we hope to do it all again next year!!

Callum Jacob, Ben, Owen, Ramsey, Liam and Craig

How many tea bags are in the jar?

As part of our fundraising for Teenage Cancer Trust, our group activity was Guess How Many Tea Bags Are in the Jar! We decorated a jar with glass paints kindly donated by the Art Department. We raised £45.60 (prize money of £10 was re-donated by Miss McCulloch). Mr Macfarlane won the second prize of the tea bags and jar.

Our group has learnt to work together and how to organise things well and responsibly.

Lewis, Sam, Josh and Finlay

Tea Cup Tournament

Mr Green's S2 English class have organised a number of events to raise money for Teenage Cancer Trust. Our group decided to host an indoor football tournament. The games were being held at lunch times from Monday the 17th to Friday the 21st of March. The tournament consisted of 8 teams and we charged each player that wanted to play in a team 50p. There will be prizes given to the winning team.

We had a great time organising the event and our group all had our jobs during the build up to the tournament. Jamie MacLeod was in charge of the group and made sure everybody was doing their jobs. Connor Gillespie, Stephen Clyde and Craig Dryburgh went around the school hanging up posters and Scott Macdonald made the posters and refereed the games.

Scott, Jamie, Connor, Stephen and Craig

Notes & News



Staffing

Next month we look forward to welcoming our new Depute Head, Ms W. Harrison. She will be overseeing S5/6 pupils.

S1 Contact Evening

Advance Notice for S1 parents that the S1 Contact Evening is on Wednesday 7th May. In the week prior to the Contact Evening, pupils will be issued with an appointment sheet. Pupils will then make appointments with those teachers that parents would like to see. Appointments are 5 minutes long. Pupils are advised to leave 5 minutes between appointments.



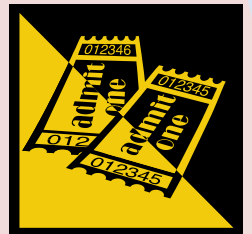
Study Leave

All pupils in S4, S5 and S6 have been issued with letters detailing the arrangements for study leave. Study leave permission slips must be returned to the school office.

Study leave for all pupils starts on Monday 28th April.

Spring Concert

The Annual School Spring Concert takes place on Tuesday 1st April. This is always a wonderful evening showcasing the many talented youngsters in the school. The Christmas Concert was a sell-out and so parents are advised to buy tickets beforehand. Tickets are available from the school office priced £4.



Lost Property

If you recognise any items on the list below then please contact the school office. Any items that remain uncollected will be donated to charity.

1. Yale door key.
2. Black zip through school hoody, age 12-13 years.
3. Black large F + F boy's jacket.
4. Grey V-neck knitted jumper.
5. A copper heart ring.



It has been quite a month for pupil achievements. Dingwall Academy pupils have been very busy in the worlds of Music, Drama and Sport with some outstanding results.

Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums

Dylan Finnie S1 and **Andrew Laird S1** were both part of the Ross and Cromarty Schools Pipes and Drums who were crowned champions in the Debut Grade at the Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Championship in Edinburgh on Sunday the 9th of March. This was their first ever competition and they were 'over the moon' with the result. They will next compete in the British Championship on the 31st of May, the Europeans on the 28th of June and finally the Worlds in Glasgow on the 16th of August.



The band's next performance will be a fundraising event to help raise money for uniforms and transport and will take place at Asda in Tain on Saturday 29th March, please come along and see the young champions.

Athletics

Andrew Smith S5 went down to Glasgow to compete for Dingwall Academy in the Scottish Schools Championships where he achieved a Bronze medal in the 400m in a personal best time. The weekend after that, again in Glasgow, he attained a Silver medal in the Scottish athletics meeting in a personal best time in the 400m.

He is now first in Scotland for the under 18s 400m and fourth in GB for the same.

Y Dance Visit Dingwall

On Monday 3rd March 2014 girls from second and third year at Dingwall Academy had a fun-filled day dancing at a recent organised event. The two instructors were Jo and Laura who both work for a company called Y Dance. Y dance work all over the country and Dingwall Academy were so privileged that they came to teach us. Firstly we did a fantastic warm up which got our hearts pumping before the fun really began. The first dance was street dancing which was really cool and made us laugh. Then we went off into groups to make up our own dance as well as learning new moves. After lunch we learnt contemporary dance which was even more exciting, we even did the dirty dancing move!!

In the Easter holidays there is a chance for us to do a week-long course of dance, qualifying with a level 1 certificate. All of us signed up for it and are hoping that we get picked. It will be very interesting and hopefully some of us get the chance to do it. I have spoken to most of the girls who said they extremely enjoyed it, even though some of them had never danced before. I personally was very enthusiastic about it and loved every moment. We definitely recommend it to anyone who gets the opportunity.

Carron MacDonald 3T1

Cross Country Season Yields Two Internationalists

As per usual the school entered a strong contingent into the Ross-Shire Schools, North Schools and Scottish Schools Cross Country Championships this year. We were once again very successful both in the individual and team events, demonstrating that Dingwall Academy has lots of very talented and physically fit pupils amongst its ranks. Huge congratulations must go out to all pupils who competed in cross country events this year. All pupils represented the school fantastically and displayed a very determined, positive and sporting attitude at all times.

We also had a great success at the Scottish Schools Championship held in Irvine. The incredibly strong U15 boys team of **Joe Arnaud**, **Tam Munro Whyte**, **Scott MacDonald** and **Niall Maclelland**, who had won the Ross-Shire and North schools team events by a country mile, managed an excellent third place in the team event. **Lauren Fraser** also ran a magnificent race in the U17 women to finish 3rd overall. To top the day off with more positives both **Joe Arnaud** and **Lauren Fraser** have been selected to represent Scotland at the British Schools Cross Country championships in Bolton on the 22nd March. This will be the first time that either of them have represented their country and will be a special day for both them and their family. We wish them the best of luck for their trip.

Ross Shire Schools (Alness Academy)

Teams Events

First year Boys Team – Second Place

First Year Girls Team – First Place

U15 Boys Team – First Place

U15 Girls Teams – First Place

Senior Boys Team – Second Place

Senior Girls Team – Second Place

Individuals

Gold – Lauren Fraser: Senior Girls, Joe Arnaud: U15 Boys

Silver – Scott MacDonald: U15 Boys, Nicola Ramsey: First Year Girls

Bronze – Luke Shaw: Senior Boys, Tam Munro Whyte U15 Boys

North of Scotland Schools (Gordonstoun School)

Team Events

First Year Boys Team – Third Place

First Year Girls Team – Third Place

U15 Boys Team – First Place

U15 Girls Team – Second Place

Individuals

Gold – **Lauren Fraser**: Senior Girls

Silver – **Joe Arnaud**: U15 Boys

Bronze – **Luke Shaw**: Senior Boys

Scottish Schools (Irvine)

U15 Boys Team – Third Place Team overall

Joe Arnaud 5th, **Tam Munro Whyte 12th**, **Scott MacDonald 41st**, **Niall Maclelland 43rd**

U17 Girls Race – **Lauren Fraser** – 3rd place

Bolton Cross Country

Lauren Fraser and **Joe Arnaud** attended the Schools International cross country meeting at Canon Slade School, Bolton on Saturday, 22nd March 2014. Lauren got a 19th placing, also taking the silver in the team event. Joe was placed 24th while his team took Bronze. Conditions were really bad with driving rain and sleet but a great weekend was had by all.



This is a picture of them in the team photo taken at Bolton Wanderers football ground.



Educating Dingwall

When Toby and I started writing 'Educating Dingwall', we had 3 weeks until the cut-off date to hand a finished script to the people who ran the Scottish Community Drama Association's One Act Festival: Moray Firth District competition. When we finally handed the finished scripts to the people who would be performing, we had 4 weeks until the show. We normally spend months on a production like this and I seriously thought we would have to drop out of the competition. However, we just managed it and it was performed on Monday 3rd March at the school the play was based on.

We are extremely pleased with how the script and performance turned out and the judges' comments.



Peter Dingwall & Toby Holloway

Dramatic Success

Dingwall Academy Drama Society won 1st and 2nd place at the Scottish Community Drama Association's One Act Festival: Moray Firth District competition. 'Ugly Duckling' received the 1st place, as well as the prize for acting and costume, and the pupil written play, 'Educating Dingwall', came 2nd. Congratulations to all who took part.

Music to our ears

Congratulations to **Laura Rea** S5 and **Olivia Paulin** S5 who both succeeded in gaining their Grade 7 in oboe and flute. Way to go!

Brave Abseilers

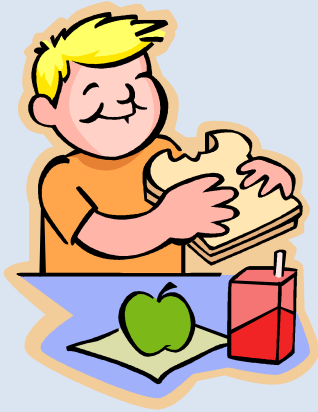
The intrepid members of the World Challenge expedition to Romania are planning an abseil to raise much-needed funds for their trip. Watch this space!



Canteen News

Please keep our canteen clean! Unfortunately some changes have had to be made to the seating arrangements for the school canteen. Too many pupils were purchasing food out of school at lunchtimes, but then eating the food in school and leaving a mess in the canteen area. The canteen space is now reserved only for those pupils who have bought something from the canteen. Pupils bringing in packed lunches or buying food elsewhere are asked to use the social area at the entrance to the canteen. This change has already resulted in a much tidier space; thank you to all pupils for their co-operation with this.

After Easter the price of school meals will increase. The revised prices are as follows -



Secondary School Meal Price List 2014/15	
Homemade Soup and Wedge of Bread	£0.70
Traditional Meal	£1.45
Meal Deal - 2 course + bread + drink	£2.15
Smart Snack - Pizza, Bacon Roll, Toastie	£1.30
1/2 Toastie	£0.75
Salad Box and Wedge of Bread	£1.40
Plated Salad and Wedge of Bread	£1.45
100% Beefburger, Bun & Salad	£1.45
Filled Panini	£1.45
Chicken Bites and Salad	£1.55
Hot Pasta Pot	£1.50
Sub Central	£1.70
Baked Potato	£0.70
H.WRAP/MAMBO	£1.45
1/2 Sandwich	£0.65
Standard Filled Sandwich	£1.20
Special Filled Sandwich	£1.30
Baguette/Hoagie/Croissant	£0.70
Sandwich Bread/Pitta/Morning Roll/Bap/Wrap	£0.45
Standard Filling	£0.75
Special Filling	£0.85
EXTRAS	
Hot Veg or Salad Garnish	FREE
Salad portions and mixes	£0.45
Baked Beans, Potatoes	£0.45
Butter, Flora Portions/Jam	£0.10
Sauce Portions	£0.05
Traditional Dessert	£0.70
Ice Cream, Fruit Corners, Biscuits & Cheese	£0.70
Yoghurt, Mini Fruit Corners	£0.40
All Fruit & Bagged Vegetables	£0.30
Homemade Biscuits	£0.50
Healthy Baking	£0.55
Crisps & Savoury Snacks	£0.65



Community News



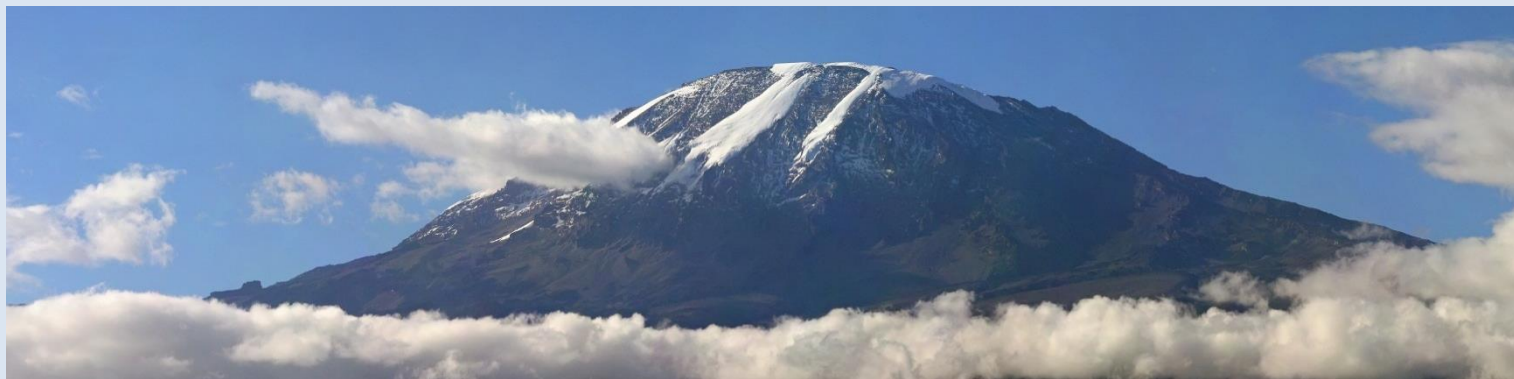
Climbing Kilimanjaro for Kids

As recent pupils of Dingwall Academy, we have very much been inspired by the amazing charity work the school has always done and wish to continue this whilst at University. As a result, we will be trekking up Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest free-standing mountain in the world, in aid of Childreach International: a grass roots charity which focuses on sustainable development of children's education, healthcare and furthering the protection of their rights. It is easy to take our education system for granted and we can be quick to complain, however, whilst it is important to continue to revitalise our system as is currently being done, we can support other countries which have no system at all and make a real difference to real lives. To help us fundraise we are returning to the school to hold a Ceilidh for the first and second years, and with a bake sale being held on Monday the 31st of March, we hope to make a considerable difference. Details about the Ceilidh will be sent to pupils closer to the time. Alternatively, for those wanting to read more about the project or make online donations go to: <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/candkclimbkili>

Many thanks and we hope to see most of you soon,

Cailean Welsh and Katrina Gallacher

ex-Pupils and current Law students at The University of Edinburgh



Strathpeffer Singing Group

Strathpeffer Singing Group meets in the Goods Shed at Strathpeffer station from 10 – 12, on Friday mornings. It is open to everyone and they are recruiting new members. We are certain there are people who would really enjoy coming and who would find the health benefits useful.

It costs £3 per session: requires no audition or ability to read music although we do sing in parts. The first session is free so people can come along to see if it's for them, at no expense.

If interested, please contact Sally Dovey on 01997 423209.

Sunflower Competition

On Thursday 27th March, we launched our annual charity fund-raising competition. This year, we are raising money for Sense Scotland. Our money will help them buy sensory toys for Deaf-Blind Children.



Ten sunflower seeds were “adopted” and they have now germinated. We will pot them on and people can guess which will grow the tallest. 50p a guess; there will be a £20 voucher prize for the person who guesses the correct plant and whose name gets pulled out of the hat at the end of the summer!

Potato Day



On Saturday 1st March, we helped out at the Transition Black Isle Potato Day. It was a great success and they kindly gave us seed potatoes to grow in the school garden. We also have many varieties for sale at 15p per tuber – both Earlies and Maincrop. If you would like to place an order, please email Miss Swallow: sswallow810@highlandschools.org.uk. They can be left at the office for collection for your convenience. Varieties to choose from are: **Earlies** - Rocket, Vanessa and Sagitta. **Maincrop** - Amour, Highland Burgundy Red, Lady Balfour, Maxine, Pentland Dell, Purple Majesty, Record, Red Emmalie, Romano, Salad Blue and Pink Fir Apple.

Back in the day...



Mr Glass at Sports day; School Band; Rural Skills visiting Mr Houston'scroft; Early Media Studies class (one of the first in the region); Duke of Edinburgh Expedition; One of the first computers to be used in the school (Amstrad). With thanks to G. Dolan.

In the next issue of the *News...*

- TCT Photo Special
- Pupil Achievements
- New 'Back in the Day' photos
- And much more!

Something missing?
Correction? Is there a feature
you'd like to see? Get in touch!

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Dear March - Come in

by Emily Dickinson

Dear March - Come in -
How glad I am -
I hoped for you before -
Put down your Hat -
You must have walked -
How out of Breath you are -
Dear March, how are you, and the Rest -
Did you leave Nature well -
Oh March, Come right upstairs with me -
I have so much to tell -

I got your Letter, and the Birds -
The Maples never knew that you were coming -
I declare - how Red their Faces grew -
But March, forgive me -
And all those Hills you left for me to Hue -
There was no Purple suitable -
You took it all with you -

Who knocks? That April -
Lock the Door -
I will not be pursued -
He stayed away a Year to call
When I am occupied -
But trifles look so trivial
As soon as you have come

That blame is just as dear as Praise
And Praise as mere as Blame -

See more at poets.org



Photo credit: Amherst College Library



Dingwall Academy

*A school with a sense of community—a school, where by
taking collective responsibility, pupils and staff have the
opportunity to achieve extraordinary things.*

Headteacher: Mrs K. Cormack

RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

HONESTY

DETERMINATION