

**Easter Holiday Dates**

The school closes at 2pm on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March and re-opens on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 8.50.

**S2 Reports and Contact Evening**

S2 reports have now been issued and the contact evening takes place on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

Appointment slips will be issued this week. S2 pupils are also required to make a small number of choices for next year and next week will be issued with booklets and forms.

**S5/6 Reports**

Senior reports will be issued on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. S5 and S6 options forms will also be issued at this time to be returned by Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March.

**Report Format**

Parents will this year notice a change in the report format as we move over to the e1 Pearson reporting system. This system will eventually be used by all Highland schools. We have experienced significant problems with the system and this has resulted in report cards being issued later than originally intended. We are also disappointed with the final report format and are working with the authority and e1 Pearson to make changes. As always, we would welcome any comments from parents on the structure and content of reports.

**Study Leave Dates**

S4 Study leave starts on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Pupils returning for S5 will return to school on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June. All S4 pupils will be issued with a personal exam timetable before Easter.

S5/6 Study leave starts on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May. Pupils returning for S6 will return to school on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June. All S5 and S6 pupils will be issued with a personal exam timetable after Easter.

**Spring Concert** The annual spring concert takes place on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March in the school hall at 7pm. Tickets (£3 adult £2 child) available from the school office.

**The Greenhouse Fashion Show** will take place on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm at Dingwall Academy. Tickets priced £3.

**School Fundraiser Quiz**

The pupils are fundraising for their World Challenge trip to Borneo. The quiz will take place on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April at 6.45pm. Entry forms are available from the main school office.

**Gaelic Parent Classes**

A taster course is starting in the Academy on 13<sup>th</sup> March at 7:30pm. Further information available on the Gaelic section of the school website.

**S1 Breakfast**

From the 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> February we had health week in Dingwall Academy. There were lots of activities for us to do. The first years had a healthy breakfast during the first period of every day. Each house had a day when they went to the canteen for breakfast. We were able to choose from a wide range of breakfast cereals, smoothies and yoghurts. In addition to normal P.E we had a *mission impossible* event on Thursday. This included a group of twelve people from each house racing to complete a certain number of sit ups, press ups, tricep dips, step ups and shuttle runs in 30 minutes. On Friday interhouse cross country took place. Each year group were able to take part in this event.

**Kenny Cleland 1W2**

## **Sporting Success:**

**Judo** On 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> February Callum MacLennan 6N, David Kerr 5N, Michael MacLennan 4N1 and Hannah Kerr 2N2 all attended the North West Age Board Judo Championships in St Helens. Michael brought home a bronze medal and David finished 5<sup>th</sup>. Although not placed, Callum and Hannah also fought very well. Congratulations to all pupils.

**Fencing** Congratulations to Tom Hoffmann S4 who has been selected as part of the Scotland Youth Fencing Team. Tom will compete at the UK Youth Games in London from 6<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> May 2012.

## **My World of Work**

Skills Development Scotland's new web service [www.myworldofwork.co.uk](http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk) continues to develop. Students, teachers and parents/carers can find articles such as Study Tips, Job Interviews, Job Hunting using Social Media, Top 10 Jobs Advertised in Scotland. There are interactive tools for building a CV, Careers A-Z, My Interview and My DNA – to help you discover what makes you tick. The My Strengths tool, now geared for school and college leavers, will allow you to highlight what might be important to you in choosing your work or study area.

If you register at [www.myworldofwork.co.uk](http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk), then you can save your results and activities for future use and My WoW will alert you to articles or events, tailored to your interests. Reports can also be saved for you to use in discussion with your Pupil Support, Parents or Careers Adviser. My WoW allows you to share your results on Facebook.

## **Dingwall and District Beekeeper's Association**

On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January, the How Does Your Garden Grow Elective class (2E1) had a visit from a member of the Dingwall and District Beekeeper's Association. Mr Arthur Hill gave us a very interesting talk and brought along equipment for us to see. This included a demonstration bee hive (thankfully full of bee images rather than real bees!), a beekeeper's suit and a smoker used to calm the bees when inspecting hives. We learned that bees make more than just honey (wax and propolis too, which has antiseptic properties). He told us about how the different bees work together and we had the chance to ask him lots of questions. It was part of the Biodiversity unit of the elective, as bees are very important for pollinating crops and many species of bee are currently under threat so we want to try and encourage them in the garden here at the Academy. **S2 Pupils**



## **Seed/Plant Appeal**

Unwanted packs of seeds? Too many plants and no space? Flowers or vegetables - we can try to give them a new home in the school garden! Please bring into the school office, or give to Miss Swallow, room 213. Thanks in advance!

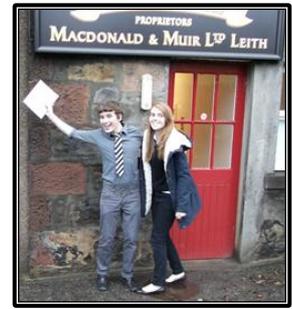
## **Magical Mandarin**

For one of the S1 electives, we have been studying all about China and the language and culture. We have learnt about pandas, the most popular animals in China, and Chinese New Year celebrations. We have also practiced Chinese writing and made presentations about tea culture and ceremonies. In language we learnt to count from one to twenty. We have even made fireworks with help from the Science department. In the final week, we got to use chopsticks and had a Chinese food tasting. We would like to say thank you to Dings takeaway in Dingwall for helping with the cost of the food and providing the food for us to try. Magical Mandarin is a fun elective to be involved in!

**Emma Stevenson and Danielle Taylor, 1N2**

### **Glenmorangie Visit**

In February the senior pupils studying Business Management and their teachers visited the Glenmorangie Distillery in Tain to see how they do business. Upon our arrival, we were taken on a tour of the production process where the malting process was explained to us. We also saw the mixing, distilling and maturing stages for whisky. Learning all about the history of Glenmorangie through research conducted prior to the trip, from the guide and from their very informative museum, we were able to have a learning experience about a luxury product from this region, conducted outwith the classroom. **Marcus Goodyear S5**



### **Advanced Higher Visit to Porterfield Prison**

On 21st February myself and Will Hoffmann visited HMP Inverness as part of our Advanced Higher Modern Studies course. The purpose of the visit was to gain an insight into the practicalities of the principles we studied in class. We were greeted by the Governor of the prison, Angus MacVicar and the Deputy Governor, Gordon Morrice who explained to us the issues they encounter running the prison. They spoke to us at length about the comparisons to other prisons in Scotland and how the local area impacts on the system.

We were then given a tour of both the male and female wings of the prison which was a genuinely enlightening experience and showed the reality of prison life. We discovered there were a variety of classes available to prisoners including Art lessons teaching expression. There was even one previous inmate who was completing his course which allowed him to fly planes!

In the womens' wing there is a very relaxed atmosphere with very few locked doors or restrictions, some inmates even hold part time jobs in Inverness as part of their reintegration into the community.

The prison certainly wasn't what I expected. It was in fact, a much more civilised affair than what I envisioned prison life to be. **Nick Rogerson S6**

### **Fairtrade Fortnight**

As part of Fairtrade fortnight Mr Joseph Cheruiyot, a tea grower from Kenya, visited Mrs Barclay's and Mrs Mackie's Business Management class. He talked to the classes about how forming a co-operative had influenced the tea growers farming methods, their way of transporting and processing their crop; how it provides affordable loans and enables them to obtain a fair price for the tea.

"I didn't know that some of these tea bushes were planted in colonial times and that it requires bull dozers to dig them up if the farmers want to replace them", said Mrs Barclay.

The pupils agreed that it was interesting to hear under what conditions their food is grown and what can be achieved when consumers make ethical choices. Certainly, Globalisation and Business Ethics are gaining more prominence in the teaching of Business Management, so this visit was very relevant to the curriculum. It concluded with a taste of some Fairtrade chocolate and a sample of the co-op's 99 tea, grown in Kenya.

### **Drama**

A huge congratulations to all members of Dingwall Academy Drama Society (DADS) who participated in the Scottish Community Drama Association One Act Play Festival on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March. The two teams did fantastically and took home three trophies in total. The two entries were as follows:

DADS A Team: The X-Traordinary Factor by Gary Diamond, Directed by Irene Cronie 4B1.

The Cast: Freddie Mack 6N, Charlie Mack 2N2, Ian Ross 4W1, Grant MacIver 3W1, Fraser Holmes 3N1, Kirstie Will 3N2, Peter Dingwall 2T1, Emily Cooper 5N2, Imogen Callan 3B1. The Crew: Lewis Mackenzie 4T2, Mandy Lewis 4N2, Ruth Christman 1N2, Sarah Hickson 1N2, Lisa Swanson 5T2, Bethany Logan 3F1, Irene Cronie 4B1.

The A Team won The Ross-shire Trophy for Second Place.

DADS B Team: Little Oscar Written and Directed by Liam McCormick 5N2.

The Cast: Freddie Mack 6N, Ian Ross 4W1, Emily Cooper 5N2, John Hallford 5B2, Liam McCormick 5N2. The Crew: Lewis Mackenzie 4T2, Sarah Hickson 1N2, Lisa Swanson 5T2, Bethany Logan 3F1, Irene Cronie 4B1.

The B Team won The Phoenix Theatre Group Trophy for First Place and the Edam Cheese Trophy for Best Acting. A huge thank you must go to Olly Warner 5B1 for his help with the Lighting for both evenings and for his role as a zombie and to the Art Department for their help with set.

Well done to everyone involved you have made Mr Lyall very proud.