

DINGWALL ACADEMY MARCH NEWSLETTER 2013



Calendar

The Easter holidays start at 3.40 on Thursday 28th March and school re-opens on Monday 15th April.

Tuesday 26 th March	Annual Spring Concert & Art Exhibition
Thursday 25 th April	S4 Study Leave Starts
Tuesday 30 th April	S1 Report Cards Issued
Wednesday 1 st May	S1 Contact Evening (please note change of date)
Monday 6 th May	May Day Holiday
Tuesday 7 th May	S5/6 Study Leave starts



Spring Concert

The Spring Concert takes place on Tuesday 26th March starting at 7.00pm. Tickets are available from the school office. Adults £4, Children £2, Primary Children Free.

Maths Department Supported Study

As the SQA exams approach Dingwall Academy maths department would like to provide extra supported study sessions. This will help your child to reflect on their learning so far in their maths course and identify any areas they could improve in order to improve their grade in the final Exam in May. Details of the sessions are below.

Tuesday Lunch:-

Intermediate 1 - Room 225

Intermediate 2 - Room 222

Higher - Room 234

Help is available for pupils from S1-S3 in the Maths drop-in on Monday and Tuesday Lunch times in Room 228.

There are additional Supported study twilight sessions on Thursdays (3.45-4.45pm) for Higher and Advanced Higher pupils. Room 234 for Higher and Room 233 for advanced Higher.

If your child is entered for an SQA Exam this year they should have a study timetable in place by now and should be studying every night.

Study Leave The SQA exams are fast approaching and pupils and senior pupils should all now be following regular study routines at home. The exam timetables will be issued prior to the holidays. Pupils will also be issued with permission letters for study leave, these must be returned to the school office

S4 Study Leave starts on Thursday 25th April

S5/6 Study Leave starts on Tuesday 7th May

S1 Homework Evening

On Tuesday 12th March parents of S1 pupils were invited to attend the information evening 'Do you have any homework tonight?' The evening focussed on pupils taking responsibility for their learning and parents were given examples of activities they could do at home. Parents were asked for feedback on the evening and this was overwhelmingly positive – among the comments was the suggestion that the evening should be held earlier in the session and we will take this on board for next year. Thank you to all who attended.

Staffing

Mrs K Watson has now started her maternity leave and we send her our best wishes. Mr D Simpson will be taking charge of the Fairburn caseload in her absence. Mrs C Magowan returns from her maternity leave after Easter and we say goodbye to Mrs K Wood who has been covering in her absence. Miss Wood has taken responsibility for the Rock Challenge pupils and we are extremely grateful to her for all her work with this.

Uniform

Highland Schoolwear have advised us of a new website where parents can view and purchase Dingwall Academy uniform. There is a link to the site from the school website.

http://www.highlandschoolwear.co.uk/catalogue?skl_id=14&pager=view_all

School Meal Price Change

The cost of a school meal has been increased to £1.87

Comic Relief

Friday 15th March was Comic Relief Day. We held a 'Dress Up' day with pupils and staff arriving at school in a fantastic array of costumes. During interval and lunchtime there was the 'Great Dingwall Academy Bake Off' and the standard of entry was extremely high. The office staff had the difficult task of judging (eating!) the entries and the winners were Erin Haslam, Seonaid Mackinnon and Kelsie Campbell.

The day ended with a staff v pupil football game. A late goal (and a pupil referee!) saw the pupils win 2 – 1.

The tremendous sum of £2227.40 was raised – well done to all pupils and staff who helped make the day such a success.

Rock Challenge

After months of rehearsals, costume designing, set painting the Dingwall Academy Rock Challenge team travelled to Eden Court to take part in the North Finals. The group performed a modern day interpretation of the Hansel and Gretel story and it was very well received by the Eden Court audience. The group did extremely well and came away with the awards for Student Leadership, Concept Interpretation and Lighting Design. The group also won the Northern Constabulary Award for the Spirit of Rock Challenge. This award is presented to the school that all the other entrants have nominated as giving most to the event. The group thoroughly deserved this recognition and should feel very proud of their achievements.

Pupil Achievements

Congratulations to Molly Nolan S4 who won a recent competition organised by Feis Rois to compose a tune inspired by something considered important to tourists in Scotland. Molly's tune was inspired by Blackwater Bridge and she was invited to play her piece to an audience as part of the Scottish Tourism week.

Congratulations to Megan Macleod who won a competition to design a logo for the Highland Classic Motorcycle Club's 30th Anniversary Loch Ness Rally. Her logo will feature on the t-shirts that all bikers will wear at the rally. Megan's final piece of expressive art work has also been selected for use on the front cover of the Spring Concert Programme.

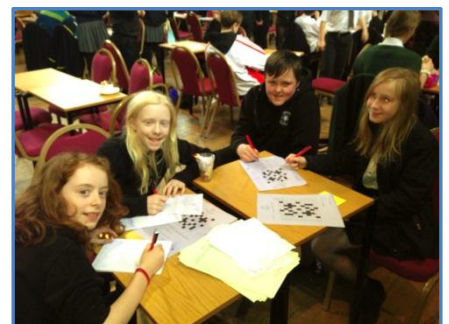
Congratulations to Abigail Cameron S3 who has been selected to Dance at Eden Court in the Strictly Come Dancing Tour!

Congratulations to Archie Drennan S3 who is one of 12 UK cadets to be chosen for the Royal Canadian Leadership Course in New Brunswick. Archie will spend 6 weeks in Canada this summer participating in all types of outdoor activities including an 18 day expedition.

Congratulations to Tom Hoffmann S4 who last month attended the Merseyside Open which is the oldest Open Fencing Tournament in Britain. This required Tom to compete against adults fencers from throughout the UK and abroad. Tom was the top UK competitor finishing 5th out of the maximum field of 108 The top four adults ahead of him came from France, Bulgaria and Croatia; he also won the Under 18 Award. This is a fabulous and well deserved achievement.

UKMT Junior Maths Challenge

On Monday 4th March, four S1 pupils, Ashton Askew, Adam Chalmers, Ceilidh Gunn and Kirsty Wilson travelled to Aberdeen to take part in the UKMT Junior maths challenge. After a slight detour around Aberdeen (twice!) we finally arrived at the stunning venue in Aberdeen University. Our pupils worked their way through 4 rounds which consisted of a crossnumber, a group round and mini relay and relay round. The latter round was the most enjoyable as they got to run around lots! Overall it was a fantastic day which was rounded off with a trip to McDonalds in Elgin! Well done to the pupils to took part, they were a great credit to the school.



Farm and Construction Model Show

On Saturday 16th March the school hall was transformed as exhibitors from the length and breadth of the country set up their model displays. The day was the idea of S3 pupil Callum Morrison who was also responsible for the organisation of the day. The day was an outstanding success from start to finish with over 400 people coming to view the event. Catering on the day was provided by pupils and the pupils involved in World Challenge organised the cake stall and the cafeteria for the event. The day has been highly praised and may become an annual event.

World Challenge Quiz

Next Friday 22nd March there is big fundraising event for the team from the Academy who are going to Borneo in June. The Big Borneo Bamboozler Quiz Night is being held in The Main Hall. Last years quiz was a great success and this is a quiz with a difference with a lot of fun and games. The evening itself is littered with terrible tales alongside the quiz by the quizmaster to raise the atmosphere on the night. To create more fun this year there is a prize for the "jungliest" table and a loud shirt competition as well as a few more top spot prizes. So get a team of six together (£30) come and have some fun, help raise some funds and it'll certainly be better than staying at home next Friday. For further details ring Howard Russell (01349 877119).

Lepra

This week S1 pupils took part in a sponsored slideathon! At present over £800 has been raised for Lepra. Well done to all S1 pupils involved.

Business Dynamics Course 2013

Between the 19th and 20th of February pupils from the Higher Business Management classes attended the Business Dynamics course at the Theological Collage in Dingwall. We heard from many interesting speakers from a range of different local Companies such as Global Energy, HISEZ (who funded the event), Maclean Electricity, MacDonald's and Scottish National Heritage.



The lectures were all very informative and over the two days we covered a range of topics including Marketing, Finance, Human Resources and Social Enterprise. Lindsey Brown from HISEZ spoke to us about Social Enterprise and we were put into groups and had to come up with our own social enterprise idea and pitch it to the other groups. This activity encouraged us to work as a group and help us understand the importance a Social Enterprise can have in an area. Brian Weaver, also from HISEZ was able to bring finance to life in a very enthusiastic presentation where we as the audience were encouraged to participate. The entire course was very enjoyable and by the end of the two days I understood a lot more about the concepts of business.

