




Dingwall Academy

News

 **OCTOBER
2013
EDITION**

Welcome back to everyone after the October break, hard to believe that we are now in the Christmas term and starting to finalise dates for all the Christmas events. The main Christmas events are:



| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Tuesday 10 th December | Christmas Concert |
| Tuesday 17 th December | S1/S2 Social |
| Wednesday 18 th December | S3/S4 Social |
| Thursday 19 th December | S5/6 Social |

Rotary Youth Leadership Award



Congratulations to Charlotte Finlayson S6 who, following interview, was selected to take part in the Rotary Youth Leadership Award. This involved Charlotte spending a week at Nethybridge where she took part in a number of activities and challenges. Charlotte describes the experience as life changing and she also met a number of new friends from across Scotland. Following the course Charlotte was asked to speak at a Rotary Lunch in Inverness at the end of September. This was another challenge but Charlotte was able to stand up and speak about her week with confidence and humour. Well done Charlotte!

Dramatic Success

Congratulations to Kinnon Clark S6 who successfully auditioned for a place at the Scottish Youth Theatre's 3 week course in Glasgow. This was a very intensive 3 weeks that worked towards a performance of 'Now's the Hour' in the final week. The performance received excellent reviews and attracted a lot of interest. Congratulations to Kinnon and good luck with your future acting career.

Contents

- Royal Photo Special!
 - Fairburn Project
 - New Feature: Back in the Day
- ... and more!

Dates for your diary:

**Tuesday & Wednesday
29th & 30th October**
S4 Tree of Knowledge
Seminars

Tuesday 29th October
S4 Parent Information
Evening

Thursday 31st October
S5/6 Halloween Disco

**Wednesday & Thursday
6th & 7th November**
Senior Parliament Trip

Tuesday 19th November
S4 Business & Computer Ed
Lifescan Visit

Wednesday 27th November
Family Photos

Tuesday 3rd December
S5/6 Contact Evening
5.00 – 7.30



A Flying Royal Visit

On Tuesday 1st October and in glorious sunshine, the school welcomed Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal to the school. HRH arrived by helicopter, landing on the playing fields at the back of the school. The Princess was greeted by the sound of the pipes, played by Sara Di Carlo and Euan Gill, both S5. She then walked down to the front entrance, the route lined by S1 and Senior Pupils. On arrival in the school HRH the school Ceilidh band played their specially commissioned tune 'Corona Celtica'. HRH stopped to chat with some of the young musicians before moving on to tour the community library. She then visited pupils who were highlighting the two main charities the school has fundraised for: the Teenage Cancer Trust and Lucky2BHere. She then moved into the Games Hall to see pupils working in PE and to be introduced to the School House Captains. Again, HRH spoke with pupils and was very interested to hear about their achievements. From there it was up to Social Subjects to talk with pupils involved with the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Rural Skills and to observe a Higher History class. After Social Subjects, HRH moved onto the Art Department where she was shown the work from





pupils involved in the Mercat Cross Project (as seen in the last newsletter). Of particular personal interest to HRH were the stone carvings that pupils had produced with Historic Scotland. The final classroom visits were in Craft, Design and Technology where HRH visited a Woodwork room and the Technological Studies classroom. She was presented with two beautifully crafted miniature chairs made by Hannah MacKenzie (S5), decorated with the school logo. HRH appeared delighted with the gift and promised to pass them onto her grandchildren. For the final part of the visit HRH escorted to the new garden area, currently under construction at the canteen end of the school. The garden was surrounded by staff and



pupils who then enjoyed watching HRH plant an apple tree to commemorate her visit. Finally she was presented with a posy from the youngest Academy pupil, Kelsey Ross before leaving by car to the sound



of the pipes.

The conduct of all the pupils throughout the visit was outstanding and a number of staff and pupils have commented on how proud they felt to be able to showcase the school in this way. Since the visit we have received a letter from Buckingham Palace and part of it reads:

“Her Royal Highness was overwhelmed by the warm welcome she received on such a glorious day and sends her congratulations to all the students involved in the wonderful music played on her arrival. During her tour of the building The Princess was delighted to talk to students and staff. There was great enthusiasm throughout and the talent and skills demonstrated in so many different subjects and activities was a pleasure to see.”

Thank you to everyone involved in making the day such a success. It was a tremendous team effort and demonstrated what a special place Dingwall Academy is.

Karen Cormack, Headteacher



For more on the visit, including an excellent gallery, go to <http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourcouncil/news/newsreleases/2013/October/2013-10-02-03.htm>



All Royal Visit photos courtesy of G. Dolan

Kelsey Ross meets Princess Anne



On the day that Princess Anne came, everyone was on their best behaviour. I was wearing my tie. When she came down the steps near the door, everyone clapped. When she walked past, my heart was beating so fast! When she came in the MPH, we all had our Teenage Cancer Trust sunglasses. At 11 o'clock, I went to my HFT class, and our teacher took me out to see her plant the tree. My heart was skipping a beat as I started forward and curtsied and gave her flowers. She said “Hello, how are you?” and I said “Fine, thank you.” Everyone had their eyes on me. I was so nervous! She went and the whole day everyone said “well done.” I was so proud that now I think I will never look down. Kelsey Ross, S1

Whole School Notes & News



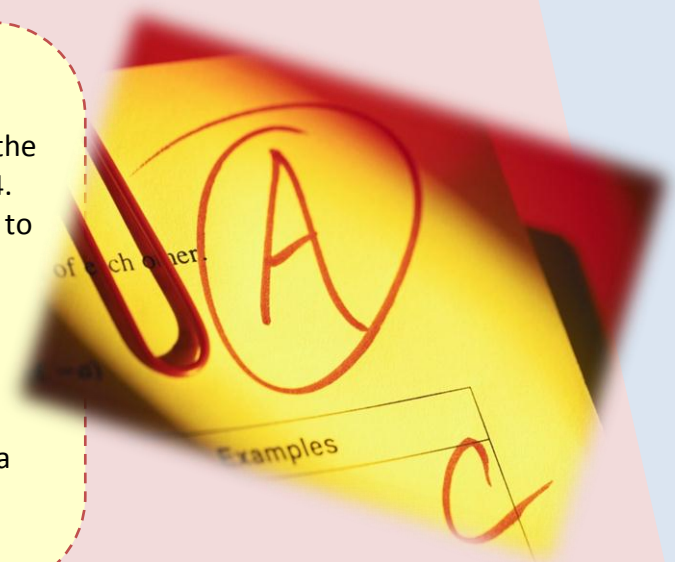
Staffing

At the end of term we said a fond farewell to Mr Donald Thomson who has taught in the Physics Department since August 1999. Mr Thomson is taking up a new post at Duns High School in the Borders and we wish him all the best for the future.

We welcome Mrs Laura Kennan who is working in the CDT department on a temporary basis.

Prelims

Parents should already be aware that the present S4 will be the first year group to sit the new National Qualifications in 2014. This change to a new exam system has also brought changes to the timing of prelims. S4, S5 and S6 will now all sit prelims after Christmas, with the prelims timetabled to start on Monday 13th January 2014. Only pupils being presented for subjects at National 5, Intermediate, Higher and Advanced Higher will sit a formal prelim examination. Pupils being presented at National 3 or National 4 are not required to sit a prelim in that subject. All pupils will be issued with a prelim timetable before Christmas.



treeofknowledge



Tree Of Knowledge

On Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th October all S4 pupils were given the opportunity to take part in a Study Skill Seminar with the Tree of Knowledge Company. These sessions focused on helping pupils prepare for exams and considered both revision and relaxation techniques. Parents of pupils in S4 were invited to a parent information session in the school hall on Tuesday 29th October at 7pm. Parents were given an opportunity to find out what pupils have been doing and given some advice on how they might support pupils with their learning. Further information on the Tree of Knowledge company can be found at <http://www.treeof.com/>

Fairburn Literacy Project

Mr Dolan's S1 class went to the Fairburn Activity Centre where they combined outdoor confidence-building activities with indoor literacy skills. Organised by Mrs Cormack and Mr Dolan, the day was a great success. We would like to thank Roy MacGregor, chairman of Ross County Football Club, for the financial support which allowed this year's event to take place. As you will see from the comments, the pupils involved thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



Ryan: "I got more confidence."

Zoe: "Going to Fairburn helped me build my confidence but I was shaking at the top of the tree."



Finlay: "I met new people and it was fun."



Sandra: "I felt that it was fun and helped me to believe in myself."

Ross: "I learned to listen to people better."



Amy: "I feel more confident about reading in front of people now."

All Fairburn photos courtesy of G. Dolan



It is now established tradition that the first term ends with the annual sponsored walk. The weather building up to the walk was not good and pupils were reminded to bring wellies or boots – it was going to be muddy! However we were fortunate that the weather on the actual day of the walk was very good and over 700 staff and pupils enjoyed the 11 mile walk past Loch Ussie and through the Brahan estate. A new initiative this year was the selling of bacon and sausage rolls as pupils set out on the walk, with money raised going to the Teenage Cancer Trust Charity. This proved extremely popular with the bacon rolls running out – it will definitely be repeated! Thank you to Tesco and Cockburns who donated rolls and sausages to support this event. Continuing the food theme... the Parent Council were on hand at the ½ way point to distribute water and chocolate. Thank you to all parents who helped with this. All pupils made it back for the 2pm deadline and it was a lovely way to end what was an extremely busy term. Congratulations to all pupils who completed the walk. If sponsor money has not yet been handed in, please remember to bring it in before the end of this week.



All Walk photos courtesy of Mr Robertson's S6 Photography class

News from the Department of English and Literacy



Page Turners: the first meeting of the year took place on Monday 30th September, 1.20-1.55pm in the AV room in the library. The group has just started reading the thrilling novel *Spider*. This is your chance to have your say! What will we do? What will we read? Author visit? Competitions? Come along and help decide. All welcome.

Are you creative? Do you want to see your work published? Have you got something to say? If so, we want YOU. We are currently looking for enthusiastic reporters, editors, photographers and web and graphic designers to help create a new 21st century school magazine. If this sounds like you, come along to **Room 209 Wednesday lunchtimes**.

Those sitting Intermediate 1, 2 and Higher will be aware that NABs will soon be upon us. NAB dates for this term are as follows:
11/12 November—Textual Analysis
25/26 November—Close Reading

A reminder from Miss McCulloch: C2C book order catalogues are now in. Get your orders in by 22nd November—every purchase helps the department!

Macbeth Trip a Success

Recently, our Higher English class took a trip to Perth to see an excellent production of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. The whole trip was thoroughly enjoyable: from sitting restlessly on the bus, to browsing the many shops of Perth High Street, to raptly watching the performance. The play itself was a very clever interpretation of what Shakespeare originally wrote. The director de-feminised an already male-dominated play by reducing the six female cast members to only one: Lady Macbeth. The iconic witches were played by men and, ingeniously, the actors played multiple characters within the play. Lady Macbeth herself was portrayed as quite a simpering character, irrevocably in love with her husband. In general, we felt that Lady Macbeth should have been shown to be a stronger character, but this was our only real criticism.

The play as a whole was great, and the ice cream at the interval was a definite highlight! The trip was a brilliant experience that will certainly help us to gain a deeper understanding of the play. We all really enjoyed it and hope that we can go on many more English trips in the future. Thanks to Miss Fyvie and Miss McCulloch for organising it. By Hannah Oliver, S5

S4 Sports Journalists Published!

Congratulations to Shaun Grant and Ryan Dow, both S4, on their recent publication in the Ross-shire Journal. The smashing piece covered Dingwall Academy's win against Culloden Academy. Well done, boys.

Competitions and Events

The Christopher Tower Poetry Competition 2014, the UK's most valuable prize for young poets, opens for entries on National Poetry Day, and this year students between 16-18 years of age are challenged to write a poem on the theme of 'News'.



Established in 2000, the Tower Prizes are recognised as among the most prestigious literary awards for this age group. The first prize is £3,000, with £1,000 and £500 going to the second and third prize-winners. In addition to individual prizes, the students' schools and colleges also receive cash prizes of £150. Longlisted entrants' poems are published on the Tower Poetry website.

The entries will be judged this year by poets Olivia McCannon, Kei Miller and Peter McDonald. The 2014 competition will build on the success of earlier competitions. Previous prizewinners such as Caroline Bird, Helen Mort, Richard O'Brien, Charlotte Runcie, Anna Lewis, and Annie Katchinska are now gaining further acclaim in other competitions or within the publishing/ writing world.

The competition is open to all 16-18 year-olds who are in full or part time education in the UK, and students and schools can find out more information about the prizes and associated future events at www.towerpoetry.org.uk/prize, or email info@towerpoetry.org.uk or call 01865 286591. Follow us on [Facebook](#) or [@TowerPoetry](#) on Twitter or [YouTube](#). The closing date for entries is Friday 28 February, 2014. The winners will be announced on Thursday 24 April 2014. <http://www.towerpoetry.org.uk/>



S1 Spookies

The witches are out, and they're flying about
With a black cat in a hat.
If you go out, beware, watch and look out,
For a ghost
You'll see them fly into the night.

By Louis Rae

A big black cat gave a rat to a bat.
Spider spider in the web, please do not drop on my head!
Chucky, Chucky, on the road, please do not chase me any more.
Zombie, Zombie, eating the plants, please do not eat my pants.
Spider, spider on the wall, I do not like you at all.
Spider, spider, go away.
You have been annoying me all day.

By Gregor MacKinnon

The vampire stalks
On blood to dine
The Zombie walks
Saying your brain will be mine.
The werewolf howls with all its might
At the moon in the middle of the night
The black cat hisses and claws
Through the graveyard walk its paws.

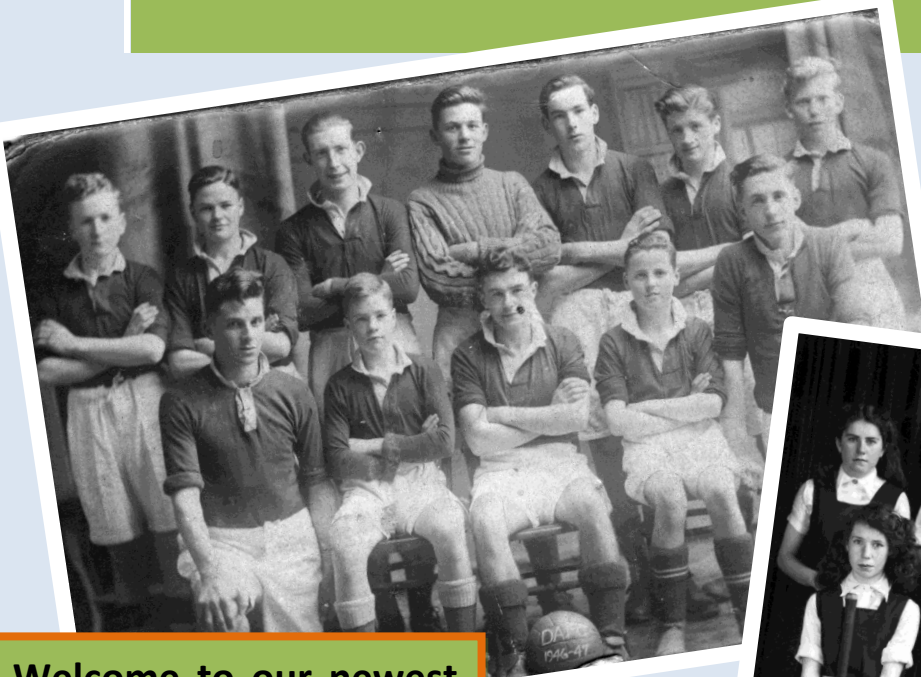
By Rhianna Ewen

When you walk down the street on Halloween night
You get a big Halloween fright the Halloween fright includes
Five phantoms in morph suits
Doing
Creepy dances
To a big beat box

By Laney Coburn

Back in the day...

1940s



Welcome to our newest feature page, where we invite you take a trip down memory lane... are you, or anyone you know, in these pictures?

Have a picture you'd like to share?

Let us know!

Make contact with your anecdotes and information via the school office.



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

- Halloween Disco Feature
- Movember
- Sports Report
- Pupil Achievements
- And much more!

Something missing?

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

Dingwall Academy
Dingwall
Ross-shire
IV15 9LT
Tel: 01349 869860
Fax: 01349 869886
Web: www.dingwallacademy.com/contact_us.html



Many thanks to English section
4.3 for their help in proofreading
and editing this newsletter.



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