

Parental Newsletter

August 2005

Dear Parent/Guardian

Another Academic Year has now begun successfully. First of all I wish to thank you all most sincerely for the support you have given us in re-establishing school uniform in Dingwall Academy. The response has been magnificent with well over 95% of pupils conforming to the school uniform policy. It is now up to us in the school to see that this high standard is maintained and we ask you to be vigilant in helping us to do this.

I am very proud to be able to enclose with this mailing the first copy of our Dingwall Academy Standards and Quality Report. This is an in-house publication which seeks to promote and showcase the many activities going on within our school. I hope that you will take the time to read this specially prepared production and would value any comments you have on its content. I would particularly welcome comments on how parents view its readability and interest.

All S3 pupils will soon be given a form relating to immunisation against diphtheria, tetanus and polio. Any pupil in the senior school who has not received inoculation in the past, or who is unsure about this should pick up a form from the Main School Office and they will be screened. You should also have received a form entitled School Data Capture Form. This allows us to update all of our information relating to all pupils in our charge. As you can imagine contact details are extremely important to us and in particular we would appreciate notification of an emergency contact number outwith parental contacts. It is particularly important to us that before we organise medical attention for youngsters that we are able to speak to a responsible person connected to the child.

The first Parent/Teacher Association meeting of the session took place last week. It was reported that the back-packing activity in May had raised around £250 while a number of staff, pupils and parents gave up time at the Black Isle Show in order to man the entrance stalls to the show ground. This raised a total of a £1,000 for school funds. A number of events are planned through the PTA for later in the year and the Association would be very grateful for your support. During the course of the session the following events are likely to take place:-

Pupil Sponsored Walk – October 2005
Camel Race Night at Strathpeffer – Autumn 2005
Dance at Marybank Hall – Spring 2006
Quiz Night at Dingwall Town Hall – Spring 2006

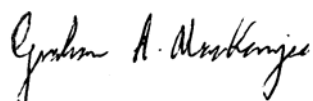
The next meeting of the PTA will take place at the school on Thursday 22 September at 7.30 pm. If anyone would like to be involved in any of these activities please feel free to come along to that meeting.

The School Photographer will be in Dingwall Academy on Wednesday 7 September. Family group photographs will also be possible at this time but parents and guardians are asked to notify the school in advance if they wish to take advantage of this facility. I know that all parents, pupils and guardians are interested in knowing the holiday dates and regional in-service training days for the session and these are attached.

As ever I am keen to maintain an open door policy in Dingwall Academy so that parents and guardians feel comfortable about coming to the school to report concerns or even to share in our activities. I also know that some parents can feel uncomfortable about approaching the school. During the course of this session I intend to make myself available for parental consultation on any topic without having any formal sort of appointment. Parents/Carers should feel free to come along to the school at times which will be notified to you in order to discuss any aspect of school life. The first of these opportunities will take place on Monday 3 October when I shall be available in my office between 5.30 pm and 7.00 pm. It is worth repeating that there is no need to make an appointment for these times. There is at present no substantive news on the calendar for the new school build but on that and other issues I shall endeavour to keep you fully informed as the session unfolds.

With all best wishes for what will be an exciting session for everyone concerned.

Yours sincerely



Rector

SCHOOL CALENDAR

2005

| | | | |
|-----------|----|-----------|------------------------------------|
| Monday | 12 | September | Full Staff Meeting |
| Friday | 7 | October | Close |
| Monday | 24 | | Open |
| Tuesday | 1 | November | S1 Contact Evening (4.30 – 7.00) |
| Monday | 7 | | Full Staff Meeting |
| Wednesday | 16 | | S5/6 Contact Evening (7.00 – 9.30) |
| Monday | 21 | | S4 Prelims to Friday 9 December |
| Monday | 28 | | In-Service |
| Tuesday | 29 | | “ |
| Thursday | 22 | December | Close |

2006

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| Monday | 9 | January | Open |
| Friday | 13 | | S4 reports to Main School Office |
| Monday | 23 | | S5/6 Prelims to Wed 8 Feb |
| Friday | 3 | February | S4 reports issued |
| Thursday | 9 | | In-Service |
| Thursday | 9 | | S2 reports to main school office |
| Friday | 10 | | Holiday |
| Monday | 13 | | “ |
| Thursday | 16 | | S4 contact evening (7.00 – 9.30) |
| Friday | 24 | | S5/6 reports to main school office |
| Tuesday | 28 | | S2 reports issued |
| Thursday | 9 | March | S2 Contact evening (7.00 – 9.30) |
| Friday | 17 | | S5/6 reports issued |
| Monday | 20 | | S3 contact evening (7.00 – 9.30) |
| Friday | 31 | | Close |
| (Good Friday/Easter Monday 14/17 April) | | | |
| Tuesday | 18 | April | In-Service |
| Wednesday | 19 | | Pupils return |
| Monday | 1 | May | Holiday |
| Friday | 12 | | S1 reports to main school office |
| Monday | 22 | | Full staff meeting |
| Friday | 26 | | S3 reports to main school office |
| Friday | 2 | June | S1 reports issued |
| Tuesday | 6 | | S1 contact evening (7.00 – 9.30) |
| Monday | 12 | | S3 issued during week beginning 12/6 |
| Friday | 30 | | Close |
| Monday | 14 | August | Staff return |
| Tuesday | 15 | | Pupils return |