



# Formal Opening of Dingwall Academy

Fosgladh Foirmeil

# Acadamaidh Inbhir Pheofharain

**Thursday 2 July 2009**

**Diardaoin 2 Iuchar 2009**

With Convener of The Highland Council, Councillor Sandy Park  
and Councillor Margaret Paterson.



## Exciting times for education

### Amannan inntinneach airson foghlaim

**Convener of The Highland Council, Councillor Sandy Park**

I am delighted to be taking part in the formal opening of Dingwall Academy. The first turf was cut on this site in April 2006 and I watched with interest as the building started to take shape bit by bit. It was on the 9th June last year that pupils officially moved in to start their education in this magnificent new school so I think it is very fitting we are gathered today to celebrate a full year of education in Dingwall Academy. The opening of a new school is a major achievement for everyone concerned which is why I am pleased so many people involved have been able to join us to mark the school's first anniversary. The development of new technologies is changing the shape of education. There are lots of exciting opportunities for study and more access to information than ever before. Dingwall Academy is one of our biggest secondary schools and pupils deserve to receive their education in surroundings that match the high quality of the teaching provided by our staff.

I wish everyone attending Dingwall Academy, now and in the future, a very successful and enjoyable time.

## Our hopes for the future

### Ar dòchas airson an ama tha romhainn

**Councillor Margaret Paterson**

On a day of celebration a year ago led by a tremendous pipe band I joined pupils, staff, councillors, local primary children and members of the community for the procession to the new Dingwall Academy. What struck me on that day was the amount of good will and support there was from the whole community as many people came out to watch the procession. Since that day staff and pupils have had time to settle in and a new era of secondary education in Dingwall is well underway. A good and prosperous school needs to be at the heart of its local community and we are lucky as here in Dingwall the excellent community facilities incorporated in the school are well used and supported. Dingwall can boast it has a community school in the true sense of the word.

I wish all the pupils and staff many happy and productive years in their school and I hope they all enjoy and make the most of the wonderful educational, leisure and cultural opportunities that Dingwall Academy now provides.

# A new era of education in Dingwall

## Linn ùr foghlaim an Inbhir Pheofharain

### Message from Rector, Graham MacKenzie



It is now just over a year since pupils, staff, friends, parents and members of the community made a very colourful and musical procession from our old school on the hill to our new school for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We left an old school that was much loved and which had served the Dingwall community so well over 70 years. We approached a new building which held much for us in terms of aspirations, excitement and possibilities for the future.

Already some of those aspirations have been fulfilled and Dingwall Academy looks forward to the future with huge confidence. The new building has brought about a renewed sense of optimism, an increased enthusiasm for learning and a reinvigorated and enabled teaching force. The strength of any organisation is in its people and in Dingwall Academy we are well served in that regard. The new building and its facilities have been a tremendous increased resource for the wider community of Dingwall Academy. The availability of the new sports fields at the back of the school will further enhance our opportunities.

The young people of Dingwall Academy have responded very well to their new environment. They are respectful of the building and the classroom resources and there are clear signs of increasing attainment and achievement both in the academic curriculum and within their broader interests.

We are grateful to so many people who were instrumental in bringing this project to fruition and today is our opportunity to express our gratitude to all of them.



# Best wishes from the Parent Council

## Dùrachdan bho Chomhairle nam Pàrant



It seems odd to be welcoming you to the new school when it has been up and running for a year! But new it is and new it feels. On behalf of the Dingwall Academy Parent Council I welcome you to the new school building and all that it offers - now and in the future.

### **Nick Fearne**

#### **Chair of Dingwall Academy Parent Council**

As the father of a child in a wheelchair what delights me about the new school is the way in which the design takes into account additional needs. Whether it be pupils, carers, public or staff, access throughout the school has been made easy for everyone. The high light levels and good signage also make it easier for people with visual difficulties.

At the heart of the school ethos and the Council's policy is to create a community where what we share is far more important than the differences between us and where we look beyond those differences and value people for themselves.

### **Councillor Peter Cairns**

This new school is bright, clean and accessible to the whole community. Pupils have the opportunity to achieve their full potential in an environment that will encourage them to give their best.

With top arts, learning and leisure facilities available, this is a building that everyone who has been inside is proud to have in Dingwall.

### **Councillor Angela MacLean**

This centre of excellence will provide pupils with the ideal surroundings to learn and prosper.

### **Councillor David Chisholm, a former pupil of Dingwall Academy**



# A magnificent learning centre for the community

## Sàr ionad ionnsachaidh dhan choimhearsnachd

Facilities at Dingwall Academy, built at a total cost of £28 million, include:

- a wide range of modern fully serviced classrooms including specialist teaching rooms for Art, Music, Health & Food Technology, Craft & Design, Graphic Communication, Science and Information and Communication Technology;
- a school games hall, gymnasium and fully equipped fitness room with changing rooms and access to the outdoor floodlit all-weather pitch, new grass pitches and a running track;
- joint library provision for community and school including access to a crèche, video conferencing facilities and free public internet access through The People's Network; and
- a full scale performance venue with retractable raked seating for 250 and a wide range of professional sound, lighting and projection equipment.



# The school & community library

## Leabharlann na sgoile & na coimhearsnachd



Dingwall School & Community Library is open 6 days a week and is well stocked with over 24,000 fiction, non-fiction and reference books for adults, teenagers and juniors to enjoy. There are 6 full time and 5 part-time members of staff who also provide a mobile library service throughout the area, including regular visits to all the local primary schools.

As well as providing a wide selection of books, the library lends DVDs, books on CD and Playaways which are digital audio books

Large and spacious, the library has a dedicated children's area and a soft seating area where people can relax and read magazines and newspapers. There is also a suite of six computers which are all connected to the People's Network providing free Internet access for adults with a further two computers reserved for the use of children aged 16 and under. Photocopying and fax facilities are available for a small charge and tea, coffee, water and soup can be purchased from a drinks machine by library users to enjoy during their visit.



Adults can borrow up to 20 items and children up to 10 at any one time and, although staff are available to give advice and assistance, a self-issue machine is also provided.

### Opening hours:

Monday, Wednesday & Friday:	9am – 6pm
Tuesday & Thursday:	9am – 8pm
Saturday:	10am – 5pm

## Library events

### Tachartasan leabharlainn



The Library hosts a variety of regular events. Rhymetime sessions for accompanied children aged 0 to 3 take place on Thursdays from 10.30 to 11am in the children's reading area. After the school holidays it is hoped a new Gaelic Rhymetime session will also be available for parents to bring their young children to.

There are two adult book groups which meet on the last Tuesday in the month from 7pm to 9pm and the last Wednesday in the month from 2.00pm to 3.30pm and a poetry group which meets up in the library on the second Tuesday in a month from 6pm to 8pm. A reading group specifically for teenagers takes place once a fortnight during term time on a Thursday from 3.45pm to 4.45pm

# Building acknowledgements

## Taing airson an togail



### **The Highland Council:**

- The Highland Council's PPP Team
- Macroberts – Legal Adviser
- Caledonian Economics – Financial Adviser
- Turner & Townsend – Project Management

### **External Funding:**

- Scottish Arts Council - equipment for the Venue

### **Alpha Schools (Highland) Ltd:**

- Galliford Try Project Investments and Nobel Fund Managers – PPP Partners
- Cyril Sweett – Independent Certifier
- Morrison Construction – Main Building Contractor
- Keppie Design – Architect
- Crudens – Structural Engineers
- Wallace Whittle – Mechanical and Electrical Engineers



# Programme for the celebration

## Prògram airson a' chomharrachaidh



### Dingwall Academy Formal School Opening

**Welcome and Introductions by Councillor Margaret Paterson**

**Dingwall Academy School Orchestra playing:**

1. Loch Lomond
2. Dansarye

**Opening remarks and hand over of School by Convener, Councillor Sandy Park**

**Dingwall Academy Junior Choir singing:**

"Hakuna Matata"

**Prayer of Dedication led by:**

Reverend Alexander Glass, Former Rector Dingwall Academy

**Dingwall Academy Junior choir singing:**

"Hallelujah"

**Speech of Acceptance:**

Mr Graham A MacKenzie, Rector Dingwall Academy

