



# TAIN ROYAL ACADEMY

## ACADAMAIDH RÌOGHAIL BHAILE DHUBHTHAICH



# Parents' Newsletter

## Cuairtlitir

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An Gearran 2010

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**Easter Holiday**  
school closes 26 March  
re-opens 12 April

**May Day Holiday**  
Monday 3 May

**Summer Holiday**  
school closes 2 July  
re-opens 17 August

In addition, the Scottish Government has granted each school a further in-service day. This is likely to be in June. You will be informed as soon as the date is set.



## FilmG Winners!

The short comedy film "Gaisgeach gun fhios" (The Unwitting Hero) made by the Gaelic medium pupils of S1 and S2 recently won first prize in the FilmG competition.

The Awards Ceremony was held in Eden Court Theatre on Friday the 5th of February. The film won the category "Best Treatment of the Subject" and has been selected for screening at the Glasgow Film Festival next week.

Michael Bremner, Claire Maltby, Marion Gordon and Daibhidh McAuley were present to receive the prize on behalf of the twelve pupils that were involved in making the film. Elspeth Hayes, Aimee MacDonald, Kaitlin Ross, Kirsty MacLeod, Eoghann Beaton, Cameron Munro, Chloe Bryce and Johan Mearns complete the group.

The Gaelic Department are planning to attend the Glasgow Film Festival and answer questions on the making of the film.

*R Robertson*



## CONGRATULATIONS

**Suzie Love (BRONZE)**  
**Alec Beattie, Neil Gordon,**  
**Andrew Graham, Jo Jo Hurren (SILVER)**  
**Calum Ross (GOLD)**  
on gaining their Duke of Edinburgh's Awards

**Please note that parents/carers should not park in the Scotsburn Road bus bay when waiting to collect their children returning from a school trip. Also, please do not drive into the school car parks in the mornings or afternoons when dropping off or picking up your children. Thank you.**

**RECTOR'S COMMENT** I hope that you are all surviving our extended Scottish winter! We have added a link to our school website front page, which takes you directly to the Highland Council School Closures website which lists all schools closed. Unless the adverse weather occurs very near the start of the school day, the 0870 telephone line, website and Moray Firth Radio are updated by 7.00am.

We are very aware of the large number of achievements of our pupils in school. We also know that our pupils achieve in many varied ways outwith school. We would really appreciate learning about these achievements so that we are more aware of them and can record and celebrate them with your child.

Attainment as always remains a strong focus and I would like to wish our senior pupils success in their forthcoming prelim exams.

*Donnie Macleod, Rector*



## MUSIC DEPARTMENT FUTURE CONCERTS

The annual Spring Concert will be held on **Thursday 18th March**. The school orchestra and various groups and bands will perform as well as the Junior Strings. The entertainment will begin at 7.30pm and there will be a charge at the door of £3 and £1 concession. There will also be a raffle.

Also this year the music department are so impressed with the talent amongst their pupils that they have organised an **evening of solo performances on Thursday 11th March**. Many of our Higher and Standard Grade pupils will perform a piece they have prepared for their practical exam and also some other pupils who receive instrumental tuition have agreed to go under the spotlight.

There will be a charge at the door of £3 and £1 concession with all the **money going towards the Malawi exchange**. There will also be a raffle.

We hope to see a big audience at both of these events so come along and support the talent which is on your doorsteps!

*Mairi Mackenzie*

## TRA PARENT COUNCIL

In my last notes I mentioned the issue of fund raising for various activities at the Academy. The Parent Council have been trying to do their bit by introducing various social events with some success but we are not in the same class as the pupils themselves. The sponsored walk last September demonstrated the amount of money which can be raised if pupils are encouraged to participate in fund raising. This encouragement needs to come from parents/carers as well as the Academy staff

Various groups/teams and organisations associated directly or indirectly with the Academy are trying to raise funds for their own interests at any one time of the year. Sometimes planning for fund raising takes place many months before the event and pupils and parents/carers set out on a long series of commitments.

The Academy minibus is not funded by Highland Council but by the Academy and without this facility many sporting, musical and cultural events involving pupils would not happen. Without fund raising activities the minibus would have to go.

Currently there are a number of planned activities which require additional financial support and in order to achieve this support many pupils are working hard with encouragement from parents/carers and staff to fund raise.

As a result the Parent Council has decided that the best way of supporting the amount of fund raising activity is to encourage the pupils in their efforts rather than run an additional fund raising programme. The local Tain and district economy is under pressure as it is right across Scotland and the amount of money available for funding teams and visits etc is currently becoming limited.

This decision will continually be reviewed by the Parent Council and a fund raising programme reintroduced when economic matters improve.

*Paul Hoggarth, TRA Parent Council*

## TRA CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2009

The Academy's Christmas Concert on December 17th was an extremely impressive musical evening. The assembly hall was packed with musicians: the Academy orchestra; Tain Junior Strings; the TRA Jazz Band; The TRA Wind Ensemble; the Craighill Primary School Brass Group; and the Edderton Primary School Woodwind Group - not to mention the TRA Staff Choir.

After a stirring opening by pipers Allan Robb and Scott Murray the combined resources of the whole orchestra, conducted by Mr David Evans, gave us *Polar Express*. This told the story of a train journey from the first chuggings of the engine through smooth, romantic stretches, up to the end of the ride. The full orchestra demonstrated a tight rhythmical control and a whole range of musical textures in a very substantial and varied piece.

For Giovanni Gabrieli's *Canzoni per Sonar* staff members Mrs Wendy Ritchie and Ms June McMillan were joined by Joe Stainke and Steven Butchard. In a very sophisticated performance the audience was treated to a "conversation" between the brass instruments across the width of the hall.

A trio of singers, Rosie Flanagan, Skye Evelyn and Suzie Love, then gave a very sweet rendition of *Love Came Down at Christmas*. And in another change of mood, Dr Drew Turnbull gave a fine reading of the Nativity story in Scots.

The Windband's performance of JS Bach's Minuet in F was elegant, measured and mature, most fitting for this classical piece. Another twist in the musical course of the evening followed with the Strings Orchestra playing *Happy Hoedown* which was played with vigour and an exuberant "Yee-Ha" to finish.

The Jazz Band, joined by St Duthus School's Ally

Polson-Mackenzie, took the audience into the world of modern rock music with *Thriller*. Caorann Fosbrook-Smeets drove the piece with his drumming and the band gave a superbly exciting and dramatic performance.

The Staff Choir showed the range of their talent with the religious *Adoramus Te* followed by the swinging rhythm of *Jingle Bell Rock*. They earned enthusiastic applause.

*The Sorcerer's Apprentice*, played by the Windband, was perfect evidence of the hours of rehearsal that had gone into the evening. This was a very controlled, rhythmical performance of the familiar piece which captured the sense of magical mischief.

The last item in the evening's programme was the full orchestra playing Bizet's *Farandole*. It was excellent to see the youngest players joining the older ones in such a high-calibre performance, and rising to the challenge of the frantic acceleration at the end.

Interspersed throughout the programme there were opportunities for the audience to participate in the singing of carols. As if inspired by the high quality of musicianship from the orchestra, the audience was in extremely fine voice.

The Rector's vote of thanks highlighted the very large number of staff who had helped backstage, in technical matters and in organising the raffle. Above all he thanked the Music staff who had prepared the pupils for such an outstanding evening's entertainment.

The orchestra responded to the Rector's request for an encore with part of *Farandole*, played again with enormous gusto. A very fitting finale to an evening of musical excellence.

*Angus Gray*

### MALAWI EXCHANGE FUNDRAISING

Thank you to all who bought raffle tickets for the Christmas Hamper. £181 was raised.

1st prize was Mr A Douglas (TRA)

2nd prize was Mrs Pryde (Golspie)

**TOTAL RAISED SO FAR: £1,817**

A few months ago Pupil Council made a successful bid to Parent Council and have now become the proud owners of 2 folding table tennis tables.

They have been delivered to school and are going to be housed at the back of the assembly hall where they will be used at lunchtimes on a rota basis by year groups and hopefully table tennis will settle into another activity on offer and for House participation.

*I Anderson on behalf of the Pupil Council*

## FITNESS CLASSES

Please contact TRACC Reception (01862 893767) for a swimming pool timetable.



with North Highland College we will be running some exciting new classes.

Spanish Evening Classes for Beginner/ Intermediate level, this runs on

Thursdays from 25th February, 6.30 - 8.30pm for an 8 week block.

Creative Writing Workshop on Thursday 25th February from 10am - 3pm.

Please contact us if you are interested in either of these.

We may also have the opportunity to run another computing evening class if there is enough interest, please get in touch if interested.

<b>Monday</b>	
3rd Age Keep Fit	10.30 - 11.30am <i>(Changes to 10.00 - 11.00am from 1st March)</i>
Cardio Cycle	6.30 - 7.30pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	
Cardio Cycle	6.30 - 7.30pm and <i>(if enough participants) 7.30 - 8.30pm</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	
Aqua Aerobics	7.00 - 7.45pm
<b>Thursday</b>	
Gentle Cardio Cycle	10.00 - 11.00am
Cardio Cycle	6.30 - 7.30pm
Body Tone	7.30 - 8.30pm
<b>Friday</b>	
Stretch and Tone	10.00 - 11.00am

## TAIN AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB

Are you interested in Swimming, do you want to learn and train more? Contact a Supervisor at TRACC or the Swimming Club for more information.

## AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

There are limited places available at After School Club. Please contact reception for further information.

## GYM INSTRUCTION SCHEME

Do you need some guidance, direction or motivation in the fitness room, have you heard about our new Gym Instruction Scheme? It includes an initial consultation and goal setting session then looking at a programme to suit your needs. Contact TRACC and ask to speak to our Gym Instructor, Kimberly McMenemy for further information.

## PRICE INCREASE - VAT

Please be aware, as of 15th February, our prices will increase slightly as the VAT amount goes back up to 17.5%.

## TRACC OPEN EVENING

A big thank you to everyone who visited TRACC for our open night on Wednesday 27th January 2010. We had a good turn out and welcomed people who had never visited the facility before. We also received some good comments and feedback on the facilities and service so it was a very worthwhile night.

## WELCOME

Welcome to Lewis Andrew and Rachael Murray, our relief Leisure Assistants who have recently joined our team at TRACC.

## ADULT LEARNING CLASSES

We are pleased to announce that in conjunction

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[www.ProspectusUK.com](http://www.ProspectusUK.com) is a new, free and unique, web-based order and delivery service designed to make requesting university prospectuses quick and easy. Pupils can choose up to ten UK university prospectuses for immediate delivery. This means you don't have to contact each of your chosen universities individually and wait for delivery.

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