



# TAIN ROYAL ACADEMY

## ACADAMAIDH RÌOGHAIL BHAILE DHUBHTHAICH



# Parents' Newsletter

## Cuairtlitir

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An t-Ògmhios 2010

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**Summer Holiday**  
School closes 2 July  
Re-opens 17 August

### Rectors Comment

As we rapidly approach the end of another session it is important to reflect on the year. It has been extremely busy, with staff offering pupils not only quality learning and teaching in the classroom, but also many and varied contexts for learning outwith the class. I am very grateful to all our staff for all they have contributed this session.

We are delighted for Alastair McKinlay on his appointment as Rector at Inverness Royal Academy, and we wish him success in his new job. He will be missed by colleagues and pupils in TRA. Likewise we extend our good wishes to Marion Turner, PT Support for Learning, as she starts her retirement. Marion has been a long-serving colleague and teacher in TRA. We extend best wishes to Adrian Allan as he takes up a new post in Dornoch.

Finally, I would like to wish every pupil and parent a very enjoyable summer holiday. We look forward to welcoming P7 as our new S1 in August.

A big thank you for your assistance and involvement as parents and carers this session

*Donnie Macleod, Rector*

## TAIN ROYAL ACADEMY

Invites You and Your Family to Our

### School Fete

Have a great family day out and help us fundraise for our Malawi Exchange Fund

Attractions Include:  
**Grand Raffle, Cake, Book, Clothes Stalls, Table Top Games, Face Painting, Tombolas, Car Boot Sale (Hartfield Rd), Refreshments and BBQ**  
From 11.30 outdoor races and  
**Beat the Goalie**  
Get your teams ready for:  
3 legged race (adult and child) wheelbarrow race, tattie and spoon, wellie throwing, sack race and tug of war.  
(Enter on the day)

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Entrance Adults £1  
Children 20p  
Bar-B-Q £1.50

### Malawi news.

There are three newsletters on the school website featuring information and reports on TRA's link with Ekwendeni Community Day Secondary School (ECDSS) in Malawi. To read these go to:

<http://www.tainroyalacademy.org.uk/>

**EMA applications:** The EMA application forms are not yet available. These will be issued directly to the pupils who have applied and will go to their home addresses.

### PIECES OF STRING TOO SHORT TO BE USEFUL

Some months ago, Ross-shire Waste Action Network (RoWAN) approached the school and asked Mr Whiteley to write and produce a play on the theme of 'want and need'.

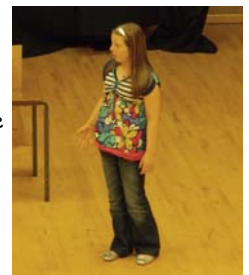
The play that emerged from this project is entitled 'Pieces Of String Too Short To Be Useful'.

The play is a series of short sketches looking at the various ways in which young (and not so young) people are cajoled into buying things they don't really need.

After many months of rehearsing, re-writing and re-casting, the play was ready to go 'on the road'.

The premiere performance took place on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June at Ullapool High School and the play will also be staged in Invergordon Academy on 24<sup>th</sup> June. Other performances are planned for early next term.

Three third year pupils are involved.



**TO ALL PUPILS:** Free School Meals/Clothing Grant application forms are now available from the school office. There are also Special Diet Request Forms for those of you who require a special diet for health reasons. If you currently are in receipt of free school meals please note you have to reapply for the new session.

# SCHOOL SPORTS 2010

Tain Royal Academy's annual sports day took place on Thursday 18th June and it was an exciting time for all of our young athletes. The day provided an opportunity for all pupils to excel outside the classroom, to compete and set personal bests and overall have an enjoyable and fun time - and they did!!

The day began with the threat of rain, however the sun broke through and in the morning track events included the senior 800m events, won by Calumn Thomson and Jenna Murcar. The 1st year boys 200m saw Daryn Jack take the gold. He also went on to break 2 school records - 75m hurdles in 11.48s and an impressive 4.71m in the long jump. Finlay Murray (3<sup>rd</sup> yr) beat the school record for the 1500m in a spectacular time of 5min. He also won gold in the triple jump and the 800m. Shirley Smart (3rd yr) took the gold in the triple jump gaining the school record with an impressive 9.15m jump. She was also 1st in the hurdles and the high jump.



Field events included the high jump, triple and long jump, shot putt and discus. The winners of the javelin were Ross Fraser and Rebecka Taylor (1st yr), Scott Ferries and Sophie McCoy (2nd yr), Scott Warren and Anna Stewart (3rd yr), Ryan A Ross and Aimee Ross for the seniors.

Throughout the day many personal bests were achieved and this was down to the dogged determination and drive of the pupils. Well done to all who took part for making it such an exciting, nail biting day.

Refreshments came via the home economics departments' ice cream stall and room 18 cake stall, much appreciated by staff, pupils and spectators.

It was a great day and one of the occasions when the whole school comes together. A big thank you has to go to all staff, helpers and pupils who were involved in making the 2010 sports day a great success





★ The day finished on the usual high of the relays, with the following results:-

- ★ 1st yr girls - Duthus
- ★ 1st yr boys - Struy
- ★ 2nd yr girls - Struy
- ★ 2nd yr boys - Garrick
- ★ 3rd yr girls - Struy
- ★ 3rd yr boys - Duthus
- ★ Sen Girls - Duthus
- ★ Sen Boys - Garrick



Our sports day championships competition saw Struy take the house trophy with an impressive 240 points, Duthus came second with 184 points, third was Garrick with 132 points and in fourth was Morrigh with 114 points.

★ Our sport's championships competition was one of the closest competitions for years. The results were as follows:

★ **S1 Boys**

- ★ 1 Daryn Jack
- ★ 2 Cameron Mackintosh
- ★ 3 Josh Holloway

★ **S1 Girls**

- ★ 1 Chloe Bryce
- ★ 2 Rebecka Taylor
- ★ 3 Eilidh Ferries

★ **S2 Boys**

- ★ 1 Scott Ferries
- ★ 2 Lewis Mackay
- ★ 3 = Benn Joy, Terrance Brady

★ **S2 Girls**

- ★ 1 Jacqueline Greenlees
- ★ 2 Georgia Dryburgh
- ★ 3 Elspeth Hayes

★ **S3 Boys**

- ★ 1 Stuart Greenlees
- ★ 2 = Scott Fraser, Finlay Murray
- ★ 3 Scott Warren

★ **S3 Girls**

- ★ 1 Mary Maclellan
- ★ 2 Shirley Smart
- ★ 3 Anna Stewart

★ **Senior Boys**

- ★ 1 John Maclellan
- ★ 2 = Callum Thomson, Donald Mathieson

★ **Senior Girls**

- ★ 1 = Eva Dwyer, Laura Morrison
- ★ 2 = Jo Hoggarth, Jenna Murcar
- ★ 3 Corina Smith



★ This year we have had a very successful athletics season and the pupils have performed way beyond our expectations. When the pupils went to represent the school in the North of Scotland they finished second in the medals table, which is a great achievement when we are competing against schools with double the role of Tain Royal Academy.





## S3 Battlefields trip to Belgium

At 6am on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2010 the third year History pupils started their journey to Belgium. Even after an 8 hour bus journey to Hull we were still filled with excitement about the trip.

We boarded the ferry and set sail from Hull at 6pm. We showed off all our funky dance moves while having a dance-off with a French school at the disco on board.

During the trip we had the special chance to visit lots of WW1 memorials like the German, French, British and Canadian ones. These were very interesting and emotional visits as we had to find people listed on the British memorials with the same surnames as us.

On Tuesday we visited the Cloth Hall museum. This gave us great knowledge about WW1. After this we went shopping where a chocolatier jumped out of his shop with a sign saying 'Welcome TRA'!

We also visited preserved trenches from WW1 and the Menin Gate, a memorial that commemorates all of the great men that passed through it during WW1 to go to battle who did not return. There is a ceremony that happens every night to remember the soldiers who fought and died. Seeing this moving service showed us how we should never forget those incredible people.

Wednesday was a very busy day with a trip to some Canadian trenches and tunnels. We also went to the Somme battlefield where Calum Ross played his pipes while we laid a wreath at the 51<sup>st</sup> Highland Division monument.

On our last day we went to Tyne Cott, the largest British cemetery containing 12,000 graves and the names of 35,000 men who have no known grave. Then on to Plopsaland theme park which was amazing fun. The rides were crazy and I think everyone had voice box damage afterwards! We all had a go on almost every ride bar one of the teachers who will remain anonymous.

It was then time to leave Belgium and board the ferry home. There was more dancing and we ended the night on a high with Steven Munro doing 'the worm' in the middle of the dance floor.

This trip was absolutely awesome! Our History classes and year group are now much closer. The trenches were thought provoking and really made you imagine what had happened there.

Finally we'd like to say 'thank you' to Mr Jones for organising the trip and to Mr Agnew, Mrs Gardiner, Mrs MacKenzie and also to the coolest and friendliest bus driver, John Macleod!!

By Emma Beesley and Stephen Butchard

## Awards Ceremony Special Prizes (continued)

### Swimming

Ross shire Mixed Relay Champions Girls

Katherine Wilkie

5D

Ross shire Mixed Relay Champions Boys

Chad Stewart

6C

### Golf

Tain Royal Academy Golf Trophy

Julie Vass

5C

A & M Smart Golf Trophy

Jonathon Hackett

6B

### Sports Champions

S1 Boys

Scott Ferries

2C

S1 Girls

Elsbeth Hayes

2A

Jacqueline Greenlees

2A

S2 Boys

Stuart Greenlees

3A

S2 Girls

Shirley Smart

3A

S3 Boys

Donald Matheson

4C

S3 Girls

Corina Smith

4A

Senior Boys

Alec Beattie

6E

Senior Girls

Anna Giograndi

### House Prizes

D Leitch Badminton Shield

Struy

Ethan Ross

Leo Pieraccini Football Cup

Struy

Ethan Ross

H W Munro Hockey Cup

Struy

Anna Stewart 3C

Athletics Shield

Struy

Alec Beattie 6E

Christie Grant Indoor Football Shield

Struy

David MacLennan 4B

JF Kirk Softball Trophy

Garick

Calum Macdonald 6C

TRA Swimming Cup

Duthus

Reece Stewart 4A

R Robertson Cross Country Shield

Struy

John McLennan 5C

**MORRISON CUP Overall House Champions**

Struy

Anna Stewart 3C

## Belgium trip pictures



## Over the sea to Skye

Most of our S1 and S2 Gaelic pupils took part in this years Laig Mòd in June. The folk group Iongantas performed thè Runrig song "Cearcall a' Chuain" beautifully and came third in their competition. Eòghann Beaton won two first prizes, two second prizes and a third prize. Johan Mearns won two first prizes and two second prizes. Michael Bremner won a first prize. Kirsty MacLeod won a third prize. We have just heard that Aimee MacDonald has won a third prize in the Inverness mòd. Feis Rois have set up three after school sessions with Fiona MacKenzie and Roya Fowler to help our senior Primary and Secondary pupils to sing and play together. The Gaelic department visited the Gaelic College Sabhal Mòr Ostaig in Skye on the 31st of May. It was a beautiful day which meant that the pupils could walk "over the sea to Skye" (on the bridge!) We were given a warm welcome, lunch and the benefit of classes with several of the colleges lecturers and the artist in residence. We had a paddle and visited Rubha Phòil Environmental Centre in Armadale. MGAlba, an independant film company based at the college, will be visiting us soon to give us some training in camera and editing work. This is to enable the pupils to make a documentary of our forthcoming trip to Iceland.



# TRA Summer Concert 2010

Tain's Collegiate Church was again the venue for the Academy's Summer Concert. The school was very grateful to Morag Bremner for having made the Church available for rehearsals and for the evening concert. For some performers this was a farewell, as they are about to leave school. But there is a wealth of talent continuing to develop in the Academy.

Gizzen Briggs senior players provided a familiar opening with their excellent rendition of *Sommervalls*. Immediately the rich acoustics of the church building were evident and this was confirmed by Shona Berque's clarinet solo, *Forlana*. Shona's enormously assured playing was followed later by her saxophone solo, a modernistic interpretation of the Charleston.

Suzie Love's beautifully sweet flute solo and Laila Hudson's fine playing of *Pastorale* on the oboe also exploited the acoustics perfectly. Laura Beesley's atmospheric saxophone on *Old Castle* by Mussorgsky and her sister Emma's very mature bassoon piece, *Symphonia*, further demonstrated the depth of talent amongst wind and brass players in the Academy. The collective talent of the woodwind players was evident in a lively, crisp performance of Sieber's *Danse Suite*.

The double bass featured in two solos. Tamara Hardy, a student at the RSAMD Junior School, gave an extremely expressive interpretation of *Jurassic Park*, while an up-and-coming young player, Jessica Fraser, gave an assured performance of a well known piece from *Judas Maccabeus* by Handel.

Singers were also given their place in this concert. Rosie

Flanagan's *Once Upon A Dream* and Phoebe Rodgers' *I Dreamed A Dream* both drew very warm applause. A trio of Emma Beesley, Kirsty Smith and Phoebe Rodgers also gave an excellent rendition of *Over The Rainbow*.

As always, the string players were impressive. The strings group produced a full rich sound and they clearly had fun with *Country Rock Garden* under Roddy McLean's conducting. Playing solo, Chloe Rodgers had her fingers dancing on the strings in Gossec's *Tambourin* and Katie Bremner's commanding performance of a Shostakovich piece was rounded off with a wonderful flourish.

Adding yet more variety to the evening were the jazz players. Feet were tapping to *Blues Machine* and *Homecoming*, with a number of solos from players who are clearly gaining in confidence as the years go by. An example of this growing confidence came from Stephen Butchard's solo, *Cantaloupe*, which demonstrated his technical skills.

Finally it was a great pleasure to hear the whole orchestra playing *By Loch And Mountain*, with all the talents working together.

The concert was impressive evidence of the work done with Academy players, not just by Music Department staff Roddy McLean and Mairi Mackenzie, but also very much by the instrument tutors, David Evans, Debbie Ross, Wendy Ritchie and Neil Matheson. A collection was taken for a fund which has been established to help Academy pupils who are selected to play for orchestras or bands outwith Highland Council with their travelling costs

Angus Gray



## TRA Litter Clean up, Keep Scotland Beautiful

On 22<sup>nd</sup> April 20 S2 pupils left TRA. Their mission? To remove litter from the streets of Tain. We all donned yellow vests and were armed with mechanical litter pickers, protective gloves and an ample supply of bin bags. We were just one of many groups throughout the country taking part in Keep Scotland Beautiful's Spring Clean Up. We were accompanied by a representative from TEC services, who provided us with some interesting facts about litter as well as the litter pickers. Most of the rubbish we collected was plastic - drinks bottles, crisp packets, poly bags - which takes hundreds of years to degrade. We split up into 5 groups so we could cover all the routes between the town and the school.

We collected 10 bin liners of rubbish! I don't like seeing litter in the street. In future I will

always put my rubbish in a bin, as I know how much work it is to clean it up!

## Rag Bag Appeal

Thanks to all who sent in bags of clothes to be recycled. Not only did we divert 350Kg of stuff from landfill, but made over £100 for the Malawi appeal

