



TAIN ROYAL ACADEMY

ACADAMAIDH RÌOGHAIL BHAILE DHUBHTHAICH

Parents' Newsletter

Cuairtlitir

May 2008
An Cèitean 2008

Volume 7 Issue 7

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Tuesday 3 June
at 7.00pm
TRA Room 22
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RECTOR'S COMMENT

We held our Annual Awards Ceremony on 23rd April 2008. This is an important date in our school calendar, and this year we were



Guest Speaker, Mr Calum Davidson and School Captains, Shaun Murray and Graeme Morrison

delighted to have as our guest speaker, Calum Davidson, Head of Knowledge Economy, Highlands and Island Enterprise. Mr Davidson's theme in his speech was on being motivated to be successful, and to reach one's own potential. This of course ties in very well with what we wish for every pupil in TRA, to work hard, to have high expectations for themselves

and to make use of every opportunity whilst at school to improve skills and learning. Congratulations to each of our Award Winners this session.

Our S6 pupils have now left us and we wish them, along with our S4 and S5 pupils success in their SQA examinations. Pupils learn best when they are supported in their learning by their parents and carers. I am pleased that our Parent Council has had a successful first year in operation and I would like to thank all the parents involved. I hope that in the new session we in the school can work more closely with you, through the Parent Council, to help you support your child in their learning, and to help you to become more aware of the work of the school.

Looking forward, we will shortly be welcoming our Primary 7 pupils for their three day visit in June. We were very pleased to work with them during their Problem Solving day last month and that it was a successful introduction to TRA.

Finally, we have been working to establish a link with a school in Malawi and have been corresponding with the head of Ekwendeni Community Secondary School. We are excited about this development and hope to be able to give you more news over the coming months.

Donnie Macleod, Rector



EXAM PREPARATION 2008

With the exams fast approaching, Learning and Teaching Scotland has put together an online collection of resources and web links to help teachers, students and parents prepare for the exams. This includes online revision resources and a range of interactive materials to help students to become effective learners and manage their own learning, focusing on important exam issues such as essay writing and memory skills. The resource also provides links to an Exam Guide produced by the Sunday Herald to help pupils with revision, the SQA online exam timetable and past paper service, and further information on National Qualifications in Scotland.

www.LTScotland.org.uk/nq/exampreparation.asp

'FRESH' SURVEY

The Sunday Herald is currently conducting a nationwide readership survey among young people and our school has been invited to take part in the research.

Children from three classes within the school will be randomly selected to complete a questionnaire while they are at school.

An independent research agency, Progressive, has been commissioned to undertake the research and a Progressive interviewer will be at school in the last two weeks of April and the first two weeks of May. Progressive is a member of the Market Research Society and is bound by the Society's Code of Conduct. This means that all comments and feedback from the survey are treated in the strictest confidence.

If you would prefer that your child does not take part in the research please contact the school or Helen Troughton at progressive on 0131 316 1900.

DRESS CODE

Thanks to all who are supporting our school dress code policy. A large majority of pupils are continuing to comply. Please ensure that, with the coming warm weather all our pupils are required to come to school appropriately dressed for the learning day.

ELECTRONIC REPORTING SYSTEM

Through 2007 and 2008 we have introduced a new electronic reporting system. This system has been established for all years except S3 - and the new style of report will be issued for S3 pupils later this term, followed by the last report of the session, for S1.

The purpose of this was to make the report easier to understand and to give it a more consistent layout, subject by subject. The electronic system also has administrative advantages for us in the school.

Parents' opinions have been sampled with the S1, S2 and S4 reports. In a previous newsletter we reported on the very positive response from S1 and S2 parents last session. This session, S4 parents have also given a warm welcome to the new style of report. Responses to a simple questionnaire were as follows:

	strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree
The report is easy to understand	29	41	1	0
The report is helpful	28	42	0	0

We are very pleased that this new development has been found to be helpful. At the same time parents and staff have made suggestions for improvements and we are constantly looking at such comments. The limitations of the software mean that some recommendations cannot be implemented, but we are working on others.

The development of electronic reporting has required the Academy's staff to learn new skills and come to terms with new software. We are glad that our work on this area has been appreciated by parents and we will continue to look for ways of improving the system.

Angus Gray, Depute Rector

TRA PARENT COUNCIL

The April meeting of the TRA Parent Council was held at the Seaboard Hall in Balintore. By taking the meeting 'onto the road' it was hoped more parents, especially from the Seaboard area would come along. The meeting did attract one more parent than usual. The next Parent Council meeting is at the Academy on the evening of June 10th at 7.00 pm. As usual all parents and carers are very welcome to attend and participate.

At the Balintore meeting Rector, Donnie Macleod, briefed the audience on the current and future Academy issues including pupil and staff matters. Concern was expressed by the Parent Councillors when the Rector turned to the budget for the coming academic year informing the meeting of a proposed reduction in monies and the 'significant effect' this could have on the school. The Parent Council offered to express their concern to the local authority on this and some property matters which were taking time to resolve.

The main item for discussion was how the cash currently earning interest in the Parent Council bank account can best be used to assist the pupils and staff of TRA now and in the future. A set of guidelines were agreed and will be drawn up for the next meeting to approve.

An interim award had already been made to assist pupils from TRA in the Ross-shire Schools Band towards their forthcoming tour. Further awards were made to the S1 pupils to assist with their planned trip to Badaguish and to the well known traditional Gizzen Briggs group to help with equipment.

Could we please draw the attention of all parents and carers to the Parent Council's wish to financially assist pupils and staff from their resources which may not be large but as the well known 'brand' puts it 'every little helps'. Should any individual pupil or group of pupils put forward a request for Parent Council funding to assist with some aspect of their education it will be considered at the following meeting of the Council. All requests via a member of staff please.

In order to continue this offer of financial help the Parent Council will from time to time hold fund raising events such as the quiz at the end of February, so please do your best to support us when the next event comes along which is most probably in September.

Paul Hoggarth, TRA Parent Council

ALL FIGURED OUT!



The reputation of TRA was greatly boosted by their presence at Lagganlia, an idyllic setting in the Cairngorms, of the advanced higher maths pupils. Eight sixth year boys along with Mrs Sutherland were stimulated and challenged, both mentally and physically, by demanding problem solving activities. They rose to the occasion with great determination and humour, and were excellent ambassadors for the school.

The importance of maths in society was emphasised by many interesting speakers. Maths is "BEST", so said a Professor from Strathclyde University. Business, Engineering, Science and Technology rely heavily on maths. The speakers, who came from a large cross-section of professions, pointed out the importance of maths in their respective careers. Undoubtedly, the warmth and enthusiasm radiated from 'Heather the Weather' was one of the highlights of the week-end.

The message was certainly clear: mathematics has a pervasive influence in our everyday lives, and contributes to the wealth of the country. **Go on, engage with maths & figure it out!** You can do it.

SPONSORED WALK 2007

The final total raised in last year's Sponsored Walk was £6,106.57. This was an excellent total and indicates how active our pupils were in raising sponsorship. It demonstrates the great generosity of parents, friends and others in the community.

Very many thanks to all who contributed. The money raised goes into the school fund to help support extra-curricular activities. It will make a big difference to the sorts of activities we can provide for TRA pupils.

S1 ACHIEVEMENT

DISTINCTION

Rachael Morrison
Emma Beesley
Kirstie Eunson
Catriona Macrae
Finlay Murray
Emma Stout
Kitty Trimble
Seamus Trimble
Stephen Butchard
Evangeline Sellers

MERIT

Kirsten Ross
Elijah Carey
Connor Horton
Rebecca Murray
Dylan Morrison
Kirsty Smith
Rachelle Fairley
Calum Ross
Anna Stewart

S3 ACHIEVEMENT

DISTINCTION

Tamara Hardy
Eilidh Stewart
Katie Melville
Connor Phillips
Rebecca Sydenham
Chloe Rodgers
Catherine Mair

MERIT

Joanna Hoggarth
Melanie Anderson
Gillian Blyth
Lachlan James
Suzannah Love
Steven Ross
Steven Sellar

S1 EFFORT

DISTINCTION

Catriona Macrae
Emma Stout
Emma Beesley
Kirstie Eunson
Connor Horton
Ross Munro

MERIT

Stephen Butchard
Kirsten Ross
Rachael Morrison
Kitty Trimble
Liam MacLeod
Michael Main
Anne O'Brien

S3 EFFORT

DISTINCTION

Tamara Hardy
Gillian Blyth
Eilidh Stewart
Lachlan James
Chloe Rodgers
Catherine Mair

MERIT

Katie Melville
Amy Jack
Martin Campbell
Kayleigh McCourt
Connor Phillips
Rebecca Sydenham
Ashleigh Jedan
Suzannah Love
Connie MacDonald
Nicola Chisholm
Steven Ross

S2 ACHIEVEMENT

DISTINCTION

Daniel McKinney
Caorann Fosbrooke Smeets
Calum MacDonald
Thomas Pryde
Lyndsay McClymont
Abigail Thompson
Eve Cooper

MERIT

Toni Denton-Saville
Amber King
Phoebe Rodgers
Paige Fletcher
Kieran Cunningham
Tina Jamieson

S4 ACHIEVEMENT

DISTINCTION

Shona Berque
Katie Bremner
Sam Brennan
Sophie Robertson
Calum Ross
Naomi Gibbon
Laura Beesley

MERIT

Bryan Leishman
Alexander MacLeod
Jack Raven
Daniel Rice
Shona Taylor
Andrew Graham
Alec Beattie
Maire Trimble

S2 EFFORT

DISTINCTION

Calum MacDonald
Thomas Pryde
Lyndsay McClymont
Daniel McKinney
Cornelius Pelka
Tina Jamieson
Kirsteen McInnes
Andrew Beattie

MERIT

Amy Wingate
Toni Denton-Saville
Phoebe Rodgers
Eve Cooper
Jade MacLennan
Corina Smith
Ryan Grant
Mark Mackay
Jade Dolan
Amber King
Kieran Cunningham
Donald Matheson
Shannon Sutherland
Rebecca McKie
Aishlinn Abbott

S4 EFFORT

DISTINCTION

Shona Berque
Andrew Graham
Robert Johnson
Katie Bremner
Laura Beesley
Debbie Morris
Lee-anne Fraser
Calum Ross

MERIT

Amy McAngus
Mark Duff
Rachele Murray
Jenny Andrew
Lee Durrand
Lana Hurren
Jason Hewitt
Bryan Leishman
Iain Campbell
Rory Cunningham
Naomi Gibbon
Sarah Groves
Laura Simpson
Alec Beattie
David Murray

S5 ACHIEVEMENT

DISTINCTION

Patrick Butchard
 Joanna Spicer
 Jacqueline Ross
 Michael Chisholm
 Karen Wedderburn

MERIT

Eoin Colvin
 Adam MacDonell
 Leanne Ross
 Laura Walker
 Ruth Gilmour
 Seana Forbes
 Paul McLaughlin

S5 EFFORT

DISTINCTION

Brogan Campbell
 Patrick Butchard
 Ruth Gilmour
 Eilidh Munro
 Neil Patience
 Ashley Ross
 Joanna Spicer
 Karen Wedderburn

MERIT

Eoin Colvin
 Adam MacDonell
 Marcas Robertson
 Leanne Ross
 Douglas Sparling
 Michael Chisholm
 Alister More

S6 ACHIEVEMENT

DISTINCTION

Graeme Morrison
 Catriona Love
 Shaun Murray
 Jonas Schnabl
 Christopher Grubb

MERIT

Kayleigh Cattanach
 Robert King
 Karina Murdoch
 William Ross
 Euan Cumming
 Amy Beattie
 Rachel Ferguson
 Donald Gordon

S6 EFFORT

DISTINCTION

Kayleigh Cattanach
 Shane MacDonald
 Shaun Murray
 Euan Cumming
 Anina De Giacomi
 Christopher Grubb

MERIT

Kelsey Bowen
 Robert King
 Kari Macleod
 William Ross
 Emma Smith
 Catriona Love
 Nadia Macrae
 Eilidh Bell
 Rachel Ferguson
 Donald Gordon
 Robert Thompson

SPECIAL PRIZES

John Paterson Prize for Creative Writing

Hepburn Prize for Oral French

Consulate Prize for Oral German

Chief of the Clan Ross Prize for Gaidhlig

Bannerman Prize for Spanish

The Owen Karl Finlayson Memorial Trophy

Blanche J Douglas Trophy for Community Service

Shelagh Munro Walkington Prize for Perseverance

Parkin Loy Prize for Excellence in Woodwork

Garrick Singers Prize for Instrumental Music

William Beaton Prize for Outstanding Contribution to Music

Oldale Shield for Brass/Woodwind

Tain Choral Society Trophy

The Ali McGregor Memorial Prize

Rev and Mrs A G MacAlpine Music Bursary

Music Department Prize for Outstanding Commitment

Andrea Webber Dance Memorial Trophy

David Fair Memorial Cup for Excellence in Sport - Girls

PE Department Award for Contribution and Commitment
 to School Sports - Boys

PE Department Award for Contribution and Commitment
 to School Sports - Girls

Jeremy Watssman
 Robert King

Catriona Love

Michael Chisholm

Katie Bremner

Robert King

Cameron Macleod

Kari Macleod

Robert Johnson

Ross Macleod

Lucy Smith

Robert Thompson

Alister More

Mary MacGillivray

Kari Macleod

Laura Wilkie

Melissa Whitehead

Lauren Fernie

Sammy Vass

Graeme Morrison

Kayleigh Cattanach

SPORTS CHAMPIONS

S1 BOYS	Donald Matheson	S1 GIRLS	Aimee Ross
S2 BOYS	Martyn Smith, Alan Duff	S2 GIRLS	Rachael Vass
S3 BOYS	Liam McIntosh	S3 GIRLS	Bryony Keys
SENIOR BOYS	Liam Rostock	SENIOR GIRLS	Kayleigh Cattanach

SPORT

**Highland Schools Champion and
Tain Royal Academy Golf Trophy**
Sammy Vass

North of Scotland Sailing Competition
Gregor Murray

North of Scotland Athletics Winners

<i>Liam Rostock</i>	-	800m
<i>Megan Drever</i>	-	High Jump and Triple Jump
<i>Amy Beattie</i>	-	200m
<i>Emma Smith</i>	-	400m
<i>Siobhan Matheson</i>	-	300m
<i>Anna Giograndi</i>	-	Javelin
<i>Alan Duff</i>	-	100m and Long Jump

<i>Rebecca Vass</i>	}	Group B Girls Relay Winners
<i>Bryony Keys</i>		
<i>Kayleigh Cattanach</i>		
<i>Leighanne Garrow</i>		

<i>Megan Drever</i>	}	Senior Girls Relay Winners
<i>Amy Beattie</i>		
<i>Emma Smith</i>		

<i>Liam Rostock</i>	}	Senior Boys Relay Winners
<i>Tyler Stewart</i>		
<i>Graeme Morrison</i>		
<i>Ruaraidh Macmillan</i>		

Ross-shire Athletics Team Competition

S1 Boys - Donald Matheson
Senior Girls - Kayleigh Cattanach

Ross-shire Pentathlon Senior Boys Winners

Liam Rostock

Ross/Sutherland Hockey League Winners 2008

S1 Team
S3 Team
Senior Team

Ross-shire Swimming Champions

Tain Royal Academy

Ross-shire Mixed Relay Boys Champions

Tain Royal Academy

Ross-shire Mixed Relay Girls Champions

Tain Royal Academy

**Ri Cheile International Gaelic Prize
for Best Scottish Speaker**
Winner - Alexander MacLeod
Runner-up - Katie Bremner

**3rd Place in the Scottish Community
Drama Association Youth Festival**
Carina Smith
Finnoula Swinney

SHIRLEY LEAPS TO THE TOP!

On Saturday 8th March, Shirley Smart (S1) travelled down the A9 to Perth to compete in the Scottish Gymnastics Championships.

Competing in the beginners section against eighty-two competitors from all over Scotland, Shirley triumphantly leapt to a gold medal in her handspring vault and floor routine!

This led to her winning the overall section!! Shirley also achieved a merit certificate, enabling her to move up into the intermediate section!

Well done Shirley - good luck in your next





Wednesday 12th March saw TRA's swimmers annual trip to Dingwall to compete in the Ross-Shire and Sutherland School's Swimming Gala. All swimmers performed well throughout the day, including those who had been bravely roped in at the last minute to represent their school.

The competition was yet again closely contested between Tain and Dingwall, and by the time the relays started, Dingwall were comfortably in front. However, the TRA team was determined to change that. The S1 boys relay (Finlay Murray, Seamus Trimble, Calum Cowper, Keiran Allison) didn't go exactly to plan and they lost to Dingwall. The S1 girls team (Michelle McMenemy, Rachael Morrison,

Moira Chainey, Anna Stewart) had an easy win in their relay. The S2 boys Team (Reece Stewart, Charlie Hudson, Calum Thompson, Jack MacIntosh) won their relay, giving TRA the lead over Dingwall in the overall points. Dingwall however won the S2 girls despite the fact TRA's team gave a good performance in second place (Mairi Pickett, Megan Mackay, Shannon Sutherland, Rebecca Sutherland).

Both the S3 boys (Alasdair MacKintosh, Martyn Smith, Craig Simpson, Calum Smart) and S3 girls (Kathryn Wilkie, Julie Vass, Katie Mellville, Becca Sutherland) won their relays. The penultimate race saw the senior girls taking third place behind Dornoch and Dingwall (Laura Simpson, Ruth Gilmour, Kelsey Bowen, Karina Murdoch). The overall points came down to the final Senior Boys race. Chris Grubb, Gregor Murray, Tyler Stewart, Alister More stormed ahead to bring the trophy home for TRA for the first time in eight years.

After Tain dominating the first set of relays, and with one trophy in the bag they set out to secure a further two in the mixed relays. The mixed relay teams consist of one person from each age group. The girls team was made up of Michelle McMenemy, Mairi Pickett, Julie Vass and Ruth Gilmour. The boys team was Finlay Murray, Reece Stewart, Alasdair MacKintosh, and Chris Grubb. Both relay teams went on to be triumphant and both secured victories over Dingwall.

It's great to have all three trophies safely back at TRA! Well done to all of the swimmers!

Chris Grubb (Team Captain)

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS - PUPILS MEET PRINCE EDWARD

As part of the visit of HRH Prince Edward to Tain Golf Club on Tuesday 22 April, Duke of Edinburgh's Award pupils from Tain, Gairloch and Fortrose put on displays of the Skills, Expedition, and Service parts of the Award. Kitty Prentice, Laura Simpson, Katie Bremner, Sam Brennan, Rory Cunningham, Andrew Graham, and Calum Ross, who were all bronze participants last year,



represented Tain Royal Academy along with teachers Fay Wilkinson and Peter Whiteley. Calum did a great job of piping the Prince into the Golf Club. After lunch the Prince talked to all the participants and leaders about their experiences of the Award, before going outside to talk to young golfers.



TAIN ROYAL ACADEMY COMMUNITY COMPLEX
Management Committee
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday 3 June at 7.00pm
TRA Room 22
ALL WELCOME

FITNESS SUITE

Mon	07.00 - 21.00 (15.45 - 17.30)	Open (Mini-muscles 14-16)**
Tues	07.30 - 14.00 (14.00 - 15.00) 15.00 - 21.00	Open (Dornoch Academy)** Open
Wed	09.00 - 20.30 (15.45 - 16.45)	Open (Mini-Muscles 14-16)**
Thur	07.00 - 10.00 10.00 - 11.00 11.00 - 21.00	Open 3rd Agers** Open
Fri	09.00 - 13.00 13.00 - 14.00 14.00 - 21.00 (15.45 - 17.30)	Open St Duthus** Open (Mini-muscles 14-16)**
Sat	09.30 - 13.30	Open
Sun	09.30 - 13.30	Open

FITNESS CLASSES

Monday	3rd Age Keep fit
10.30 - 11.30	Multi Purpose Hall
Wednesday	Aeroga
12.00 - 13.00	Multi Purpose Hall
Wednesday	Aqua Aerobics
19.00 - 19.45	Swimming Pool
Friday	Well Being Stretch & Tone
11.30 - 12.30	Multi Purpose Hall

TRACC
AFTER SCHOOL CLUB
(Monday - Friday 14.30-18.00)
for Primary 1-7
£2.75 per hour

A healthy snack is provided on arrival after school.
 All children must be registered in advance.
 Registration form, consent form and full details on request from the **TRACC Office on 01862 893767**

NEW CLASSES AVAILABLE:

Tiny Tots swimming lessons - Ages 4 mths - 3 yrs
 Thursdays at 12.00-12.30

Snorkelling Sessions - Sundays 09.15-10.00

Stroke Development- new class available

Please ask at reception for more information

COMING SOON

ROOKIES - CHILDRENS LIFESAVING CLASSES

Please leave your name and contact number
 at reception if you are interested.

SWIMMING POOL TIMETABLE

Monday	
07.15 - 08.45	Swim Breakfast*
08.45 - 09.45	Over 50s
09.45 - 12.00	Open Session
12.00 - 13.00	Happy Hour (50p swim)
13.00 - 14.30	Family Session
15.45 - 18.00	TASC
18.00 - 19.00	Tain Turtles
19.00 - 19.45	Family Session
19.45 - 20.30	Open Session
Tuesday	
07.15 - 08.45	Swim Breakfast*
08.45 - 09.30	Over 50s
15.45 - 18.00	TASC
18.00 - 19.00	Tain Turtles
19.00 - 19.45	Stroke Development
19.45 - 20.30	Open Session
20.30 - 21.15	Adult Session
Wednesday	
09.00 - 10.00	Open Session
10.00 - 11.00	Over 50s
11.00 - 12.00	Length Swimming
12.00 - 13.00	Family Session
13.00 - 14.00	St Duthus Swim
14.00 - 15.00	Open Session
15.45 - 18.00	TASC
18.00 - 19.00	Tain Turtles
19.00 - 19.45	Aqua Aerobics
19.45 - 21.30	Staff Training
Thursday	
07.15 - 08.45	Swim Breakfast*
12.00 - 12.30	Tiny Tots
12.30-13.45	Staff Training
15.45 - 18.00	TASC (Stroke Development 17.00 - 18.00)
18.00 - 19.00	Tain Turtles
19.00 - 19.45	Open Session
19.45 - 20.30	Adult Lessons
20.30 - 21.15	Adult Open
Friday	
09.00 - 09.45	Length Swimming
10.00 - 11.00	Over 50s
11.00 - 12.00	Width Swimming
12.00 - 13.00	Open Session
13.00 - 14.00	Family Session
14.00 - 15.00	Open Session
15.45 - 18.00	TASC
18.00 - 19.00	Tain Turtles
19.00 - 19.30	Stroke Development
19.30 - 20.15	Family Session
20.15 - 21.00	Open Session
Saturday	
09.30 - 11.00	Terrapins
11.00 - 12.00	Happy hour
12.00 - 13.30	Terrapins
Sunday	
09.15 - 10.00	Snorkelling Session
10.00 - 11.00	Family Session
11.00 - 13.30	Open Session

*07.15 - 08.30 Swim Breakfast served until 08.45