

## STRANRAER ACADEMY INITIATIVES Jan – June 2010

### (1) “Do The Right Thing”

This initiative was held at Stranraer Academy over 2 days in February this year and was an interactive event aimed at the S3 year group. The day revolved around the year group watching 2 plays which were put on by S4 and S5 Drama pupils which focused on issues such as Alcohol, Drugs, Sexual Health, Personal Safety and Anti-Social Behaviour.

From there the year split into groups and participated in 6 different workshops which were led by a number of partner agencies including Police, Procurator Fiscal Service, NHS and ASB Team.

The event was aimed at making young people aware of issues affecting them within the local community. By giving them an insight into local issues, the young people would use this experience to “Do The Right Thing” should the situation arise.

Feedback from the young people was very encouraging and plans are already in place to repeat the event next year.

The initiative has also received national attention and has been nominated for a “Community Involvement” Award by the Procurator Fiscal Service in Scotland.



Picture – S5 Pupils perform “A night to remember” play

## **(2) Duke Of Edinburgh Awards**

15 young people are more than half way through their Police Skill programme as part of this years Duke Of Edinburgh Awards scheme. The programme started in March this year and is being run by Schools Community officer PC Garry Mitchell.

During the course of the 10 week programme the young people will gain a detailed knowledge of the many different departments involved in a busy Police Station and will be put to task to do a number of different practicals. The event culminates in June when the young people will do a presentation on what they have learnt during the programme. This is due to be held at Stranraer Academy on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2010.



**Pupils from Stranraer Academy carrying out a systematic search of a Police Vehicle during Duke Of Edinburgh Awards Programme.**

## **(3) Sponsored Fishing Event**

26 pupils from Stranraer Academy recently took part in a sponsored fishing day at Soulseat Loch, Castle Kennedy to raise funds for Save The Children charity.

The event was organised by School Community Officer PC Gary Mitchell along with Liam Scott (S4) and Colin Agnew (S6) and was kindly sponsored by Stranraer and District Angling Association.

The day itself brought perfect fishing conditions and 10 trout were caught in total, the heaviest fish was caught by Steven Wallace (S4) with a trout weighing in at just under 3lbs.

The young people have collected well over £600 so far and more money is still coming in.



**Picture – Pupils from Stranraer Academy and Partner Agencies who participated in the sponsored fishing event.**

(4) “Safe Drive Stay Alive”

Coming this way to Stranraer Academy this June is the “Safe drive Stay Alive” event for all S5 and S6 pupils. The event is an interactive half day addressing issues around driving behaviour in young people. The hard hitting half day will be held at the Ryan Centre in Stranraer on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June and is the first time it has been held for the School.

(5) Bench Making Project

4 pupils from Stranraer Academy recently built 5 wooden benches at the school which have been donated to local establishments.

Daniel Makinson, Andrew Donnan, Samantha Thomson and Claire Proudlock, all pupils from Craft and Design team led by Mr Vaughan Jenkins, spent the majority of the easter holidays making the benches from wood supplied by the school.

All the work was done on a voluntary basis and at the end of the holidays the pupils produced benches of a very high standard. The grateful recipients of the benches were Belmont Nursing Home, Coronation Day Centre, Adult

Resource Centre, Thorneycroft Nursing Home and Trust Housing, all based in Stranraer.



**Picture - Pupils from Stranraer Academy donate bench to Thorneycroft Nursing Home in Stranraer. Also in the picture Mr Vaughan Jenkins, PC Garry Mitchell and residents from the home.**