

TOP LAWYER RETURNS TO THE ACADEMY AFTER MANY YEARS

One of Scotland's top corporate lawyers recently walked through the doors of Stranraer Academy for the first time since leaving to study law at Edinburgh University.

Eilidh Wiseman, Head of the Employment Group at Dundas & Wilson, arguably Scotland's top law firm, is a former pupil of the school who in her day-to-day work advises some of the UK's leading firms on important matters of law.

Eilidh began by visiting Ms Boyd's Higher Modern Studies class where she spoke about her work in the law and stressed her pride in being a former pupil of the school.

She was then given a guided tour of the new Academy by senior students who are themselves keen to study law and who enjoyed the opportunity to speak first hand with an experienced solicitor.

The highly successful visit reached its climax in the evening when Eilidh was guest of honour at the annual prize-giving ceremony. Before presenting the awards she delivered an inspiring talk to the assembled pupils and parents, focusing on her Stranraer roots and encouraging the youngsters to combine hard work, talent and high aspirations as they pursue their chosen path in life.

The Head Teacher, Mr Dawson, warmly thanked Eilidh for taking the time to return, and for offering such a valuable insight into the workings of the legal system. He also congratulated her on being an excellent role model for those following in her footsteps.

In reply Eilidh said she was delighted to help and honoured to have been invited back. "It was a very special day. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting the young people and was pleased to encourage them to aim high and make the most of the opportunities which lie ahead."

The visit was organised by the Schools Law Web, a teacher-led initiative which helps school pupils understand the vital role law plays in the community and also highlights the fact that laws bring responsibilities as well as rights. Project Director, Patrick Gaffney commented, "We greatly appreciate Eilidh's readiness to put so much into encouraging the pupils of Stranraer Academy."

Eilidh is also a Council member of the Law Society of Scotland which is a strong supporter of legal education in schools. Her contribution was recognised by Liz Campbell, Director of Education and Training at the Society, who said, "We are delighted Eilidh Wiseman and Dundas & Wilson are prepared to provide schools with practical help in the classroom. Legal education can help produce informed, confident and active citizens, and school visits such as Eilidh's are a great way of making this happen."

Further information on the Schools Law Web is available at: www.schoolslawweb.co.uk.

INFO: Patrick Gaffney, Director, Schools Law Web. M: 0780 909 6993 E: schoolslawweb@gmail.com