



They have been showing talent and celebrating achievements recently. Find out more inside.

## GREENEST IN THE REGION



Stranraer Academy has been awarded its second green flag, the highest award of the Eco schools programme.

Two years ago the Academy became the first secondary school in Dumfries and Galloway to win a green flag. Now we are the first secondary to gain a second flag.

The picture shows members of the Eco Committee who have worked hard over the past two years to gain this recognition. Congratulations to all involved.

# Showcase Highlights



Three stalwarts bring down the curtain on their Showcase careers. 6th year comedy duo Gordon Houston and Tom Millington have their sights set on higher education, while compere John Nimmo is preparing for a well-earned retirement after 33 years at the Academy.



Rebecca Smith's dancing was a highlight.



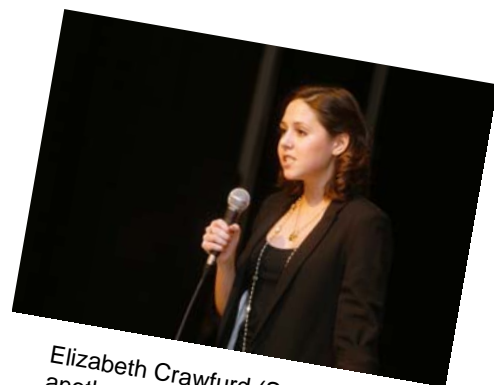
Andrew McColm's Michael Jackson moves just get better and better.



Kyle Rickard reveals singing talent to add to his acting skills.



Ashley Cranston (S3) - impressed once again in her third Showcase.



Elizabeth Crawford (S4) — another multi-talented performer.

More pictures and Mr Binnie's full report of the Showcase appeared in the Free Press on 6 April.

## MR BINNIE'S SHOWCASE REPORT



Stranraer Academy Showcase was recently held in the new assembly hall in front of a packed audience of just over 300.

This year's showcase contained a variety of items ranging from bands, singing, dancing, comedy and gymnastics floor work.

Although some of the items came from pupils who attend Mrs Bowie's school of dance, and one item from an extra-curricular dance club run by Miss Bryce and Miss Dalrymple (P.E. department), the majority of items came from the pupils themselves, who have initially had to practise very hard since early January, before going through auditions at the beginning of March, in order to be selected for the final programme.

This year's showcase was compered by John Nimmo, Pupil Support PT and he was ably assisted by senior pupils Tom Millington and Gordon Houston (S6) who helped introduce the items and also provided some comedy dialogue.



Senior boys' memorable 'Mr Freeman' dance routine paid tribute to a member of staff's prowess on the recumbent cycle.



Senior dancer Robert Boyd enjoys a reflective moment.



A striking pose from one of the dance groups.



Members of the school's Fairtrade Group, pictured with local MSP Alex Fergusson.

The group has been selling Fairtrade produce at school events this year, and have recently applied for the school to be awarded official Fair Trade status.

Fairtrade aims to help farmers and workers in the developing world achieve better prices for their products, decent working conditions and local sustainability.





## AMNESTY GIG (ROCK FOR RIGHTS)

by Bryony Hawkins (S5)



Every Friday afternoon at lunch time a group of students from S1 to S6 come along to an Amnesty group run by Miss Cairns where we come up with ideas to raise money and awareness for this good cause -human rights!. Our latest thought was to raise money by organising a gig, which we called 'ROCK FOR RIGHTS'.

This took place on the 18th of February and was such a success. We raised a total of £1000.06. A lot of effort was put into this by the students. So thank you to the bands, Whits Happening, Nemesis, Bad Reputation and The Missionary Men and to everyone who supported us by coming to the event and thank you to the students who organised it.

## CROSS-COUNTRY by Miss E Dalrymple, PE Department

A team of 22 Stranraer Academy pupils competed in the Regional Cross Country Championships. The annual competition was held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March in Bladnoch, near Wigtown.

There was tough competition from other schools throughout Dumfries and Galloway and all competitors from Stranraer Academy put in a very good performance. Badges were awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> places.



Lewis McColm maintained his unbeaten record at the Cross Country Championships again this year. With a fantastic run over 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  miles, he secured first place for the S3 boys, with Lewis McIntyre close behind to take 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

Erika McIntosh was 3<sup>rd</sup> in the S3 girls event (1  $\frac{1}{2}$  miles) and older sister Aileen was 4<sup>th</sup> in the S5/6 Girls race (2  $\frac{1}{2}$  miles).

S1 Boys- Ben Herries, Fraser Anderson, Mark Fyfe, Robert Ramsay, Kieran McClorey.

S1 Girls- Megan Arthurs, Alicia Fisher, Caroline Drennan, Chloe Dunn.

S2 Boys- Gary Dewar, Euan Kyle, Neil Ramsay

S2 Girls- Kirsty McColm, Rachael McCurry

S3 Boys- Lewis McColm, Lewis McIntyre, Bobbie Lammie.

S3 Girls- Erika McIntosh, Ruth McMillan, Susan Marshall, Mayghan Wilson.

S5/6 Girls- Aileen McIntosh.

Well done to everyone who competed on the day!



### Spot the Difference!

The impressive school crest next to the main entrance originally included lettering that was hard to read. The new version is a big improvement!





From over 200 Student Ambassadors to participate in this year's Lessons from Auschwitz Project, **Marrissa McNicoll** and **Lewis Wilson** were amongst four chosen to talk about their experience at the Holocaust Educational Trust Conference in Edinburgh. Here is an extract from the talk they gave.

*Marrissa*

Hello, I am Marrissa and this is Lewis and we are from Stranraer Academy. We participated in the Holocaust Educational Trust's Lessons from Auschwitz Project. On 6th October 2010, we along with 222 other students flew to Auschwitz from Glasgow Airport. We felt honoured to be chosen to be Stranraer Academy's LFA participants for 2010.

The first seminar we were presented with was about pre-war Jewish life and this, being something we've never really taken into consideration before, meant we were truly astounded by what we heard, it really brought home to us the fact that the Jewish Communities across Europe were thriving and diverse before the war. The idea of the millions of individuals effected by the events of the Holocaust was brought home further by hearing the testimony of Holocaust survivor Zigi Shipper. It was almost surreal to us, to hear a firsthand account from someone who had been through the entire trauma, yet to see him emerge from it as such a strong person was incredible. He is an inspiration and seeing how positive he is made us realise that he is right, we must not hate, we must not allow prejudice to happen in our community.

Arriving at our destination of Auschwitz, despite all the efforts to prepare us for such a sight, the reality of actually being there to bear witness allowed us to imagine the horrific events that took place on the ground we were walking on. It left us with images and stories that I don't think we'll ever really forget throughout our lives, like the countless photos of people brought to the camp and just gazing at the days of arrival and deaths, rarely seeing anyone make it past a few

months. A broken doll, smashed at the face, which some little girl would once have treasured. We were also moved by the vastness of Birkenau, here the mass scale of this dehumanisation began to sink in.

When we arrived back home from such an exhausting day, we had the chance to really let everything sink in and we both were sure of what we wanted to do with the lessons we learned. We felt that we should focus on the serious issue at hand, of prejudice and how the Holocaust

about how each and every victim was a person with a story and also contemporary lessons that we can all learn and so this is what we tried to do.

We were aware however that talking to primary school children would pose great difficulties in terms of what level of depth would be appropriate for them and also the need to be respectful of their childhood and innocence. To overcome this we decided to plan our lessons around the themes that we had learned from Zigi as opposed to the events of the Holocaust itself. We felt these themes would enable the pupils to learn from the Holocaust without the use of shock tactics. During our lessons we worked from powerpoint presentations as well as having creative activities to keep their attention on the topic at hand. We allowed the pupils to discuss their own views, feelings and ideas to keep our lessons interactive.



was able to happen because the majority did not stand up to the hatred. We felt it was crucial to focus our attention at the younger pupils and even primary to tackle this idea of prejudice in the form of bullying and class discussions because this is where prejudice can begin to take root.

*Lewis*

Marrissa and I both felt that in targeting younger pupils we could encourage the young people of our community to take active roles in their own lives to help benefit others. We also thought it was a good idea to speak to younger people to raise their awareness of the Holocaust and its themes such as courage and hope, in a more personal way in order to rehumanise the victims. From our own recollection of a primary school lesson we had about the Holocaust, we felt there had not been enough

The main product of our work with the primary schools was a mural depicting what the children's ideas about courage and hope were. This was displayed in the public library for 6 weeks and then has been in our own school since. We have had a lot of positive feedback and we have both been approached on a number of occasions since to speak both about our visit to Auschwitz as well as the Next Steps work we have done following the trip. Last term we were asked to go around English classes who have recently studied Anne Frank's diary. It has all been enormously rewarding for us and in a way has helped us feel less powerless about this catastrophic episode, and we have been able to put across the invaluable lessons we can learn from the Holocaust. Since taking part in the project we have both become a lot more active about human rights around the world. ■

## DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY SCHOOLS CHOREOGRAPHY COMPETITION

*by Miss E Dalrymple, PE Department*

The Dumfries and Galloway Schools Choreography Competition is a relatively new competition. It is held annually at the DG1 Leisure Complex in Dumfries. The rules for the competition ensure that all dancers choreograph the dances themselves, without the input from staff.

Stranraer Academy entered 3 groups into the competition on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March and are very proud of Alicia Fisher (S1) who was third in the junior competition after performing a modern highland dance piece.

Other groups were unfortunately not placed in the senior competition but should be commended for their enthusiasm and hard work. Well Done!

(Elizabeth Crawford, Alison Fyfe, Rebecca Smith (S4), Louise King, Kelsey Johnston, Lauren Fowles, Grant Redmond, Natalie McKie and Chelsea Milligan (S5).



## UNDER-18 RUGBY SUCCESS *by Mr P Baird, PE Department*



On Friday 25 March, 10 senior boys ( 8 x S5 and 2 x S6) travelled to Stewartry RFC, Castle Douglas, to take part in a Stewartry/Wigtownshire 7-a-side competition. Unfortunately the teams from Douglas Ewart HS, Dalbeattie HS and Castle Douglas HS withdrew, leaving only Kirkcudbright Academy and Stranraer Academy.

John Muir, SRU Development Officer and organiser, led two skills sessions in the morning, before a 10-a-side match between the two remaining teams.

Despite playing against a bigger and older Kirkcudbright side, and going three tries behind, the Stranraer team grew in confidence as the game progressed, and began to demonstrate excellent teamwork and continuity phases. They were rewarded by winning the match 37-26, scoring seven tries to four.

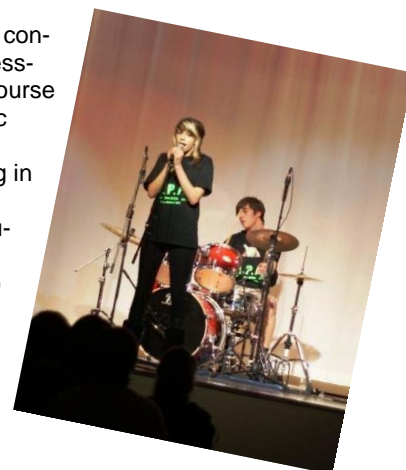
Scorers were Jude Iyiuku (5 tries), Jason McKie (1 try), Stewart Cameron (1 try) and Blair Forsyth (1 conversion). Team: Jude Iyiuku, Ross Shankley, Hamish McGeoch, Rory Dewar, Alan McMaster, Stewart Cameron, Robbie Forsyth, John Dalrymple (all S5), Jason McKie, Blair Forsyth (both S6).



## CLASS ACT *by Rhona McCulloch, Music Department*

This year's NPA Music Performing class held a concert on 22nd March as part of their course assessment. The NPA in Music Performing is a new course which ran for the first time this year in our music department. The course is designed so that the students develop skills in the area of performing in addition to the technical skills relating to the organisation of a live performance and to help students

to be better equipped to work in the music industry. The class consisted of Ally Bullivant (guitar), Craig Dickson (drums), Matthew Doyle (bass), Andrew Henry (guitar) and Thomas Robertson (vocals/drums). The band, who named themselves "Nuclear Powered Apples", were supported in the concert by 2 other bands - Catch 22 and Nemesis and also had 2 guest artists, Bryony Hawkins and Fraser McMillan. All concerned with the concert worked hard to make it a very successful night which was



This year the SQA exams start on **Tuesday 3 May** with **Standard Grade Computing**. The last exam is **Higher Sociology** on Friday 10 June. The busiest day is Wednesday 18 May, when over 400 students will sit their **Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2, Higher or Advanced Higher Maths**.

Study leave for S4 starts on **Tuesday 3 May**. For S5 and S6, study leave starts on **Wednesday 11 May**. Study leave ends for all years on **Monday 30 May**.

The new timetable starts on **Monday 30 May** for the new S2, S3 and S4. For the new S5 and S6 the timetable starts on **Tuesday 31 May**.



## After School Classes

A wide range of after school classes are running to help students with final preparations for the exams. At the last count this involved 46 teachers, with classes running in the following subjects: Administration, Art & Design, Biology, Chemistry, Business Management, Craft & Design, Graphic Communication, Technological Studies, Drama, English, Geography, History, Mathematics, Modern Studies, Music, Physics and Religious Studies.

## SQA EXAMS



### *What happens if someone misses an exam through illness?*

Fortunately this is not a common event. But, it does usually happen to a few students each year, so it is worth knowing what to do.

First, the school needs a note or certificate from a doctor to confirm that the student was unable to attend. This should be sent for the attention of the SQA Coordinator to the school office and needs to be received within a week of the exam that was missed. If it is known in advance that one or more exams will be missed, the note can be sent beforehand.

The school can then apply for 'Absentee Consideration'. This is similar to an appeal. The school sends the SQA the student's work to show what he or she has achieved, and the SQA may then decide to award a grade based on this evidence. One word of caution, though. The SQA procedure will only make an award where the required level of attainment has been convincingly demonstrated. No grade can be awarded to a student who did not pass the prelim.

### *What happens in the event of an injury that prevents someone from writing, e.g. a broken arm.*

The school will seek SQA permission for 'alternative assessment arrangements'. For example, if someone is unable to write they will be allowed to sit their exam in a separate room and dictate their answers to a scribe. It is important to contact the school as soon as possible so that the necessary arrangements can be put in place.



**Please note that all pupils are expected to wear school uniform whenever they are in school. This includes during study leave when S4, S5 and S6 students are sitting exams, or are in school for any other reason.**



### Technology Tournament Winners

Stranraer Academy sent three teams to the recent Technology Tournament. Competing against teams from the Douglas Ewart HS, Castle Douglas HS and Dalbeattie HS, each team had to use materials provided to design a crane capable of lifting and moving a weight. The senior team (left) was 1st in the senior category and received a trophy. The S1/2 and S3/4 teams received certificates. The competition was sponsored by local Rotary Clubs.

## 2011 Visit to the World War One Battlefields

In mid May, 41 enthusiastic S3 students from History and English are undertaking a 6 day trip to explore the World War One battlefields of the Salient in Belgium and the Somme in France. We depart on Sunday May 15, catching the overnight Hull-Zeebrugge ferry, and returning by the same route the following Thursday, May 20. We are based in the beautiful Flemish town of Ypres.



The trip offers a fantastic opportunity to see and experience many of the aspects and themes that we study in the Standard Grade History and Int. 2 English courses. As well as gaining a clear understanding of the progress of the war, the often futility of the campaigns, and the resultant carnage, there is great emphasis placed on the themes of reflection and sacrifice.

Some of the many places we visit around Ypres & the Salient, and the Somme are:

- The famous Menin Gate ceremony, and the "In Flanders Field" Museum
- Passchendaele Memorial Museum, Hill 60 and Trenches
- Tyne Cot & Langemarke Cemeteries
- Wellington Quarry
- Vimy Ridge Memorial
- Thiepval memorial & Cemetery
- Lochnagar Crater, and Beaumont Hamel

We are looking forward to having many students' perspectives on the world, and their own lives challenged. Keep an eye out for student reports in the next newsletter.

*Mr Lane*



# DEMOCRACY IN ACTION!



Higher Modern Studies students recently visited the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh.

Organising teacher Susan Boyd felt the trip was successful in broadening the students' knowledge of the Parliament.

A highlight was the change to experience First Minister's Question Time—the second last one before the election in May.



## Election Success

Caitlin McDowell (S3) has been elected as a Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYP). Voting took place on 31 March and Caitlin was one of two members elected to represent Galloway and West Dumfries. For more information about the Scottish Youth Parliament visit their website: [www.syp.org.uk](http://www.syp.org.uk)



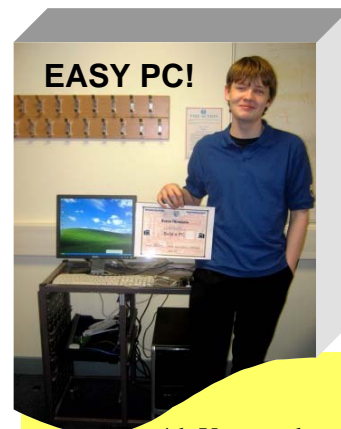
## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The school has experienced great success this year at enrolling a record number of students to the DofE Award. We are looking for people in the community to become involved in helping to deliver the Award at the school. It would be ideal to have people of all, ages, experiences and walks of life involved.

If you are keen on developing the potential of young people, and have some time available to help supervise participants occasionally, even just one weekend in the year, or an evening every couple of weeks, then we would love to hear from you.

How you can help will be as varied as what the participants are interested in. Funded training and other nationally accredited personal development opportunities are available.

If you are interested please contact Mike Lane at the Academy.



4th Year student Kevin Thomson was part of a team that recently built a PC from scratch. The project aimed to broaden the experience of Access 3 Computing students.

The PC is now being used to develop stand-alone PC skills in other Computing courses.

The other team members who received certificates on successful completion of the project were Adam Connor, Robbie Graham, Connor McGhie and Jordan Smith.

## ACADEMY TEAMS ON THE BRINK OF HISTORY *by Stuart Binnie* 10

Two Stranraer Academy football teams are on the verge of creating some history for the school as they have both recently reached the semi-finals of national competitions at U-13 and U-18 levels.

Over the last thirty years two previous school teams have reached finals but as yet no team has ever won the big prize of lifting a national trophy!!

The U-13 team reached the semi-final stages after narrowly beating St Ninian's High (Giffnock) 3-2 in a terrific match. Both schools went into the game unbeaten in all previous league and cup fixtures and although one team had to lose the game was played in great spirit throughout with both teams a credit to their respective schools.



The U-18 team reached the semi-final stages, following a two day excursion to the Nicholson Institute in Stornoway. This involved an overnight stay in Stornoway, with the game played the next day. We are grateful to Amey and Patton for generous sponsorship that helped make this long journey possible. The game finished 1-1 in normal time and then 2-2 after extra time which resulted in the dreaded penalty -kicks shoot-out.



It was the Stranraer team however who held their nerves with Chris Reid saving two penalties and Angus Cochrane scoring the crucial winning penalty for another memorable win.

Coincidentally, both teams now face the same school in the semi-final stages, Bishopbriggs Academy.

Games have been provisionally pencilled in for after the Easter holidays with the U-13 team playing at Stair Park ( Stranraer F.C.'s ground) on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April and the U-18 team travelling to Broadwood stadium ( Clyde F.C.'s ground) on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April, both games having a 7p.m. kick-off. It is very much hoped that pupils and parents will get behind both teams in offering their support in what could turn out to be a memorable year for the school!!



Under-13 semi will be at Stair Park

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## ACADEMY PUPILS HELP LESWALT PRIMARY TO NATIONAL SUCCESS!

Leswalt Primary has been named runners up in the National "Big Pedal" competition. This aimed to get as many people cycling to school, relative to pupil ratio. The school is delighted to win for Scotland, and come 2nd out of over 1100 UK schools that entered.

This was possible with pedal power from some Academy pupils. I thought I would let you know so praise and grateful thanks could be passed on! With help from siblings and friends of Leswalt Primary, it enabled us to storm up the rankings and into the prizes. So many thanks to the "Effective Contributors" -

S6 - Kyle Rickard, Vicky Wright  
S3 - Katie Wright, Lauren Morgan, Dean Rickard  
S2 - Kirsty Mc Colm, Rachael Baillie, Bailey Mc Quillan  
S1 - Caroline Drennan



All the pupils regularly cycled to Leswalt Primary, left their bikes and caught the bus into the Academy. Special thanks must also go to Kyle Rickard who attempted to rally more troops in the final week of the competition when results were close!

Further details of our final place can be found on <http://www.thebigpedal.org.uk>, photographic evidence of cyclists in action can be found by googling "Leswalt Primary Blog" . - *Sheila Baillie, Head Teacher, Leswalt PS*

## PIONEERING PRINCIPAL TEACHER RETIRES

Mrs Sandra Dutton, Principal Teacher of Social Subjects, recently retired after 25 years at Stranraer Academy.

As a Modern Studies teacher, Mrs Dutton was highly regarded across Dumfries and Galloway and beyond. She was an early pioneer of innovative teaching methods that have since been adopted as national policy within the Curriculum for Excellence and she was active for several years in fostering links between the Academy and the Danish education system.

A champion of citizenship for young people, Mrs Dutton was instrumental in establishing the Academy's Student Council.

Her 15 years as a Principal Teacher included a spell as Acting Assistant Head Teacher. Originally from Glasgow, Mrs Dutton also taught in Orkney during her long career. She and her husband, Rev David Dutton, formerly of Stranraer High Kirk, have moved to the Edinburgh area to be closer to family.



The picture shows Mrs Dutton receiving a painting of Portpatrick by J Nimmo as a farewell gift from colleagues. In her words of thanks she paid tributes to the support of colleagues and the friendliness of the local community and its young people in particular.

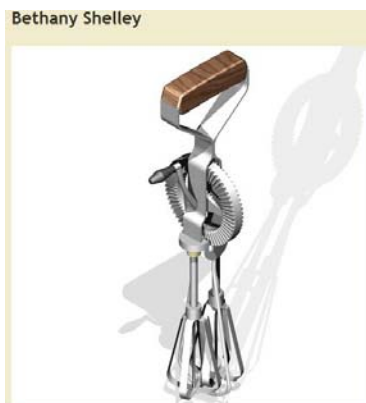
Mr Matt Cross will take up his post as Mrs Dutton's successor next month. Mr Cross currently teaches at Williamwood High School, East Renfrewshire.



### Congratulations . . . .

To Depute Head Teacher Mrs Helen-Marie Bradley who recently completed the Scottish Qualification for Headship (SQH). The SQH is awarded by the Scottish Government to teachers who, following a period of academic study and professional practice, have met the 'Standard for Headship'.

The photograph shows Mrs Bradley receiving her Award from education minister Michael Russell at the awards ceremony in Edinburgh.



The image above is by 6th Year Graphic Communication student Bethany Shelley. This, together with other examples of students' work, can be seen on the new CDT Department website. You can access the site by following links from the school website.



The latest in our occasional series of successful ex-pupils:

### Eilidh Wiseman

Eilidh is a Senior Partner and Head of the Employment Group at Dundas and Wilson, one of Scotland's top legal firms. She advises on employment and industrial relations issues with particular emphasis on the management of organisational change. After leaving Stranraer Academy she studied at Edinburgh University before embarking on her law career. She has also studied at Harvard Business School in the USA.



# Spring 2011

## Stranraer Academy :: Dates for Your Diary

### APRIL

Monday 18 April	Start of S3 exams
Thursday 21 April	Parent Council Meeting 7pm School Library
Friday 22 April	Holiday—Good Friday
Monday 25 April	Holiday—Easter Monday
Tuesday 26 April	U-13 Scottish Cup Semi-Final v Bishopbriggs Academy at Stair Park
Wednesday 27 April	U-18 Scottish Cup Semi-Final v Bishopbriggs Academy at Broadwood Park
Thursday 28 April	End of S3 Exams
Friday 29 April	Holiday—Royal Wedding



### MAY

Monday 2 May	May Day Holiday
Tuesday 3 May	Start of SQA Exams and S4 Study Leave
Wednesday 11 May	Start of S5/6 Study Leave
Thursday 12 May	Parent Council Meeting 7pm School Library
Thursday 12 May	SQA Curriculum for Excellence Information Evening for S1 and P7 parents
Sunday 15—Friday 20 May	S3 Battlefields Trip
Tuesday 17 May	S1 Reports out
Monday 30 May	Last day of S4 Study Leave
Monday 30 May	New timetable starts for new S2, S3 and S4
Tuesday 31 May	New timetable starts for new S5 and S6

### JUNE

Thursday 9 June	Parent Council Meeting 7pm School Library
Friday 10 June	In-Service Day (Curriculum for Excellence)
Friday 10 June	SQA Exams end
Tuesday 14 June	S3 (old) reports out
Tuesday 14 June	S5/6 Awards Ceremony
Thursday 16 June	S3/4 Awards Ceremony
Thursday 30 June	P7 Induction Day 1

### JULY

Friday 1 July	P7 Induction Day 2
Tuesday 5 July	S1/2 Awards Ceremony
Thursday 7 July	Activities Day
Friday 8 July	Activities day and End of Term

### Parent Council

All parents/carers of Stranraer Academy pupils will be very welcome at meetings of the Parent Council—see above for dates. Contact details for Parent Council members can be found on the school website.

**Donna Vivers** is the SQA's Curriculum for Excellence Liaison manager for Dumfries and Galloway. On the evening of 12 May, Parents/carers of pupils currently in P7 and S1 will have an opportunity to hear from Donna about the SQA's new Curriculum for Excellence qualifications.



Stranraer Academy Newsletter—Published September, December, April, June  
Comments and suggestions welcome—contact Mr. M. Warren (Depute Head Teacher)

*The SQA examination timetable and the S3 exam timetable are both available in the News section of the school website: [www.stranraeracademy.co.uk](http://www.stranraeracademy.co.uk)*