



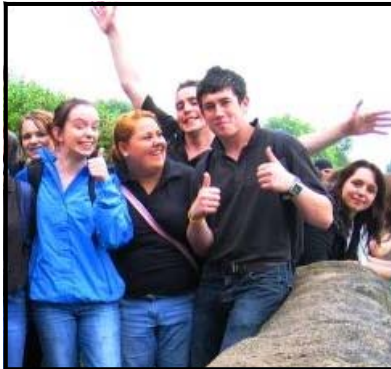
# October 2009



**A 4th year student has just returned from a unique work experience in London — read the full story inside.**



## ACTIVITY DAYS HAILED A SUCCESS



For the first time this year, the end of the summer term was marked by two days of fun activities for the whole school.

On Thursday 2 July pupils opted from a wide range of activities, which included trips to Belfast Zoo, Culzean Castle and to the Xscape ski slope near Glasgow. On the last day of term, events for each year group were organised in school.

## NEW BUILDING NEARS COMPLETION

Steady progress has been made in recent weeks with external landscaping and the fitting out and equipping of classrooms and other internal areas. Meanwhile, refurbishment work in the existing 'new' building is also nearing completion. All necessary work is expected to be completed in advance of the moving in date near the end of January.

To facilitate the move, the school will be allocated up to five non-pupil days in January. Parents/carers will be notified as soon as we have confirmation of these arrangements.

Pictures below show machines in a Craft and Design workshop and equipment in the canteen kitchen.



**Stranraer Academy Parent Council meets on the second Thursday in each month in the school library. All parents/carers are welcome to attend.**

## ACTIVITIES DAYS - JULY 2009

### Slow Boat to Belfast by Rebecca Hogg (S5)

The day started off pretty bleak with grey clouds overhead, soggy socks and Mr.Spratt, but it didn't dampen our spirits en route to Belfast Zoo. The journey there was enjoyable in itself; playing cards, eating sweets and singing cheesy pop songs in the glorious disharmony of breaking adolescent voices realizing they couldn't quite make that note. This amused a number of other passengers on board as you can imagine.



*2nd Year pupils on the way to Belfast.*

At the zoo we were split into five groups, all led by a teacher eager to show off their zoological knowledge and keep us all informed. We were greeted by a member of staff who introduced us to a couple of creepy-crawlies and we found there were wannabe photographers amongst the group - snapping action shots of animals leaping from trees and gliding underwater. Although it rained a little, the day was far from spoiled! We reached some weird balance between exotic, endangered animals in every colour and good old British weather that kept us re-

mindful of where we were. It turned out to be quite a successful mixture in fact, because smiles were worn, laughter filled the air and we enjoyed ice-cream in the rain. I found myself walking around the zoo saying "Wow, I would love to be one of those - No, no wait, one of THOSE..." with such a fantastic variety of wildlife on show and me considering the serious issue of reincarnation (the Buddhist within me). There were a number of new additions to the zoo which we were lucky enough to get sight of – a pair of baby sea-lions and a chick of some kind of elaborately decorated bird that wandered a signposted "Recommended Route".



After some time in the zoo, we scrambled to the souvenir shop for bits and bobs for Mums and Dads at home, and then we attempted another round of classic songs up the back of the bus on returning to the boat. Mr.Spratt even gave us his best Michael Jackson tribute "Aow!" when we played Billy-Jean.

Picture below— both junior and senior pupils enjoyed a full programme of events on the Activities Days.



**SCHOOL UNIFORM UPDATE** — following a request by pupils and consultation with the Parent Council, it has been agreed that, in addition to self-coloured trousers, grey or black pin-stripes are also acceptable.

## DESIGN STUDENT ROBERT ADVISES DISNEY ON SALES STRATEGY!



4th year Student Robert Tossnie recently enjoyed a unique work experience week at Lick Creative, a graphic design company based in London.

Robert had access to state-of-the-art technology to develop his design skills. He started by designing a poster (pictured on front page) before moving on to design and create leaflet holders promoting a playstation game called 'Speedway' (left). He also sat in on meetings with important clients such as Disney and Red Bull where he got the chance to put across his ideas on how to sell their products.

The other picture shows Robert, assisted by classmate Jude Iyiku holding up a large print of his design work on a laminated sheet costing £500 to produce!



Following his successful week, Robert is now determined to become a professional graphic designer.

## Fund-raising for Charities



**Changing the world for children with genetic disorders**

This year's Jeans for Genes Day was once again organised by the Higher Business Management class and took place on Friday 9 October. A total of £775 was raised to support research into genetic disorders.

The final total raised by Stranraer Academy pupils for Christian Aid last term was £898. The next major school fund-raising event is Children in Need on 20 November.

Meanwhile Depute Head Teacher Mike Warren was one of a team of 9 runners who raised over £5000 for Yorkhill Children's Foundation at a sponsored run in Perth on 10 October. And on 9 October Principal Teacher Alex Hughes braved rain and gale-force winds to complete a gruelling 70-mile sponsored cycle run to visit each of the Academy's associated primary schools to raise money for next year's Activities Days.

**GOLF**—Congratulations to Nicholas McCulloch (S5) who recently won the Wigtownshire Junior Golf Championship, coming first out of 137 competitors.



**FOOTBALL** The annual girls' challenge matches against Dunmurry High School, Belfast took place earlier this month. With this the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the meeting, a strong link has been forged between the two schools with the main aim to encourage physical activity, friendships and a fun girls' day out!

This year's results were satisfying ones for Stranraer Academy, with the junior team winning 2-0 and the seniors achieving an emphatic 5-0 victory.

Picture left are the two senior teams.

**We're Green. We're keen. Let's keep it clean!**

## Stranraer Academy :: Dates for Your Diary

### November

Wednesday 11 November	S1 Parents' Night
Thursday 12 November	Parent Council Meeting
Thursday 12 November	S4 Prelims start
Friday 20 November	Children in Need
Monday 30 November	Holiday
Tuesday 1 and Wed 2 December	In-service days (pupil holidays)
Thursday 10 December	Parent Council Meeting
Thursday 10 December	S5/6 Parents' Night
Thursday 17 December	Snowball (S5 and S6)
Friday 18 December	End of Term

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

### Reports and Parents' Nights 2009-1010

	Full Report	Parents' Night
S1	Fri 21 May 2010	Wed 11 November 2009
S2	Fri 19 February 2010	Tues 23 February 2010
S3	Fri 12 June 2009	To be confirmed
S4	Fri 22 January 2010	<i>Took place in October</i>
S5/6	Fri 26 March 2010	Thurs 10 December 2009

#### PRELIM DATES

Prelims for S4 and for S5/6 will take place a little earlier this year. S4 prelims will start on Monday 16 November and S5/6 prelims on Monday 1 February. This is in order to provide earlier feedback to parents/carers and more time for students to work on any problems highlighted by the prelims.

#### NEW—Stranraer Academy Computing Podcasts!

4th year Standard Grade Computing students have harnessed the power of the internet to support their preparation for this term's prelims and the final exams. Under the guidance of teacher Mr J Henderson, they have created a series of podcasts covering various aspects of the Computing course. These podcasts can be heard at

<http://www.podomatic.com/profile/stranraercomputing>

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