

Staff Changes

We are pleased to welcome six new members of the teaching staff this session: Ms E Austin (PE), Ms T Bremner (Technical), Ms L Burgess (Physics), Ms C Goulden (Geography), Mr M Mitten (Business Education) and Ms A Wales (English).

In addition, Mr N Hyslop has now been appointed to a permanent post in Modern Studies and Mrs L Gibb (Behaviour Support and English) has returned from maternity leave.

Congratulations to Mr A Stephenson, who is leaving us to work for the SQA where he will take charge of the development of new Business Studies qualifications for Curriculum for Excellence. This creates a vacancy in Business Education/Computing, which we expect to fill in the near future. An acting Principal Teacher will also be appointed to take over Mr Stephenson's Pupil Support duties.

The Parent Council is holding a **FASHION SHOW**

in association with **EAST by WEST** on
Thursday 3 November in Stranraer Academy
Hall at 7.00 pm.

Tickets are now available at the office – **Adult
£4.00 / Child £3.00.**

*Ticket holders are eligible for a 10% discount
At EAST by WEST.*

Instrumental Music Lessons – Guitar & Percussion

Pupils who get instrumental lessons from Mr Paxton (Guitar) and Mr Duffy (Percussion) are reminded that, along with their own guitar, they should bring their own amplifier leads or their own drum sticks / beaters to lessons. Similarly, if pupils are doing SQA Music Performing Exams S.4 - 6, pupils should have their own guitar cables and sticks / beaters and it would be helpful if they would bring them to relevant classes for practice.



Rachel Agnew (S2 last year) and Jack Dunn (S1 last year) proudly show off the Student of the Year trophies which they received at the S1/2 Awards Ceremony on 5th July.

Dates for Your Diary

Monday 24 October	Return to school
Tuesday 25 October	S4 Parents' Night
Thursday 27 October	Traditional Music Night at Town Kirk (D of E)
Thursday 3 November	Parent Council Fashion Show
Monday 7 November	Standard Grade, Int 1 and Int 2 appeals results due
Wed 9 November	S1 Parents' Night
Mon 14 November	S4 Prelims start
Wed 30 November	Staff In-Service (Pupil Holiday)
Thurs 1 December	Staff In-Service (Pupil Holiday)
Fri 2 December	Holiday
Thurs 8 December	S5/6 Parents' Night
Tues 20 December	S5/6 Snowball
Wed 21 December	Last day of term

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Newsletter October 2011

The Stranraer Academy Parent Council meets every month, normally on the 2nd Thursday of the month in the school library at 7:00 pm. All parents/carers are very welcome to attend.

Summary reports for S1, S4, S5 and S6 are due to be given to pupils by the end of October. S2 and S3 will receive theirs before the end of November.



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This year marks 20 years of the S1 **Newcastle Trips.**

This year's trips are also the last to use the ever-popular Newcastle Youth Hostel which is closing down at the end of the year to be converted into student accommodation.

The picture shows pupils on this year's Dunskye House trip stepping into the past at Beamish.



Coffee and Cakes Bring in Over £300 for MacMillan Cancer Support

Over £300 was raised in 20 minutes by S2 pupils taking part in the 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' for MacMillan Cancer Support.

Members of Mrs Siwo's English class (right) raised over £170, with raffle proceeds still to be added. Their coffee morning, to which all staff and pupils were invited, was the successful outcome of a class project involving detailed planning and the development of teamwork, listening and talking skills.



Meanwhile, a further £140 was collected by members of Mrs Forsyth's registration class (left). Class member Sarah Robinson came up with the idea to set up a stall selling home baking.

Both events took place during morning interval on Fri-

day 30th September.

Expeditions

September has proved itself the usual busy month for the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards. On the weekend of September 17-18, eighteen super keen Bronze candidates (pictured below) strapped on their boots, at Gradoch Bridge (near Kirroughtree) to undertake their expedition, walking to Mossdale near Loch Ken. They camped overnight at the old Dromore railway viaduct, and other all night, experienced quiet. Thankfully the too much, and every-fully to the finish, al-spirits than others! giving up his weekend news letter goes to print, the Silver candidates should have completed their expedition from Knowe (north of Newton Stewart) to Stranraer Academy. This three-day expedition sees them wild camping in the Galloway forest, and walking up to 20km each day. Thanks to Mr Spratt for giving up his weekend to supervise. As this



Traditional Music Night

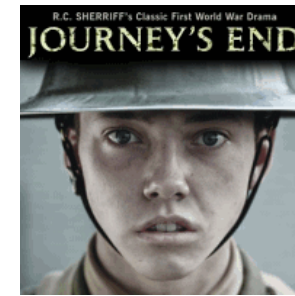
The Gold Award group is planning a traditional Music night on Thursday October 27th, at the Town Kirk. Funds raised will go towards their planned expedition to Morocco in 2012. Tickets are available from Gold participants directly, or from the school office.

New Enrolments

Lots of students are asking about when they can enrol in the next years programme, new enrolments will open at the end of October, keep an eye on school notices for further details.

Adult Helpers

Any parents or adult friends of the Academy who are interested in becoming part of the DofE at Stranraer are very welcome, we are always on the lookout for keen assistants/helpers who can help with the operation of the Award (ranging from the odd session on First Aid, Hill Craft, or even getting accredited to Supervise or Assess the candidates). If you are interested please contact Mr Lane at the Academy.



'Journey's End' Theatre trip.

On Thursday 8th September, 21 S4 and S5 students (accompanied by Mrs. McHarrie, English Department and Mr Lane, Social Subjects) went to Theatre Royal, Glasgow to see the R.C. Sherriff's play, 'Journey's End'. The play centres around four days leading up to a major battle in WW1, concentrating on the interaction amongst officers in a dug-out. The play is currently on National Tour.

The students, most of whom had previously visited World War 1 Battlefields in Belgium, agreed it gave them insight to the challenges facing officers, and found the play at times to be humorous but mainly very moving. They felt the set of the dugout was realistic and effective.

4th year student Sarah Haigh was so moved by the play that she wrote a review on the bus home, describing it as a 'must see play'. Read Sarah's review by going to the Latest News page on the school website: www.stranraeracademy.co.uk

Lessons from Auschwitz

S6 students Louis Barron and Gillian Arthington have been chosen to participate in this years Lessons From Auschwitz Project. The project will begin in November with an orientation seminar in Glasgow where the students will have the opportunity to hear Kitty Hart-Moxon, an Auschwitz survivor, speak. A week later the students will visit Auschwitz Birkenau for the day. The visit will then be followed up with a seminar where the students will begin to plan their next steps project for their schools and community.

Uniform Reminder - We welcome plain white shirts or blouses as part of the uniform, provided they are capable of being buttoned to the neck. Sorry girls, but low-cut tops—even white ones—are not acceptable. We are grateful for the continuing support of parents and carers in maintaining this standard.

PRELIM DATES

Prelims for S4 start on Monday 14 November and last for approximately 2 weeks. Prelims for S5 and S6 will take place in February.