



A team from Stranraer Academy has achieved 2nd place at the Scottish Schools Teams & Individual Show Jumping Championships. A full report will appear in the next Free Press Academy News.

Bits & Pieces

- Thanks—to **DA Autoparts**, who have donated a catalytic converter to the Chemistry Department. This expensive piece of equipment will be used to improve the teaching of catalysts, using a real life example.
- **Morrison's Let's Grow Vouchers** The school Eco Group is collecting these. The scheme provides schools with bulbs and tools to help improve the environment. Please send us your vouchers—you can claim one for every £10 spent at Morrison's. (You may have to ask.) They can be handed in to the school office at any time.
- **Parents/Carers** are asked if at all possible to make sure their child has change for dinner money. Change is not readily available from the Office or the Canteens.
- Ms J Creighton has been appointed as Temporary Teacher of Behaviour Support during Mrs Gibb's maternity leave.
- Starting soon - a dietician will be available at regular after school **Health Drop-in sessions** to support and advise pupils concerned about being over-weight.

New Staff

We are very pleased to welcome twelve new members of the teaching staff, who started at the Academy in August.

Mr S Appleton (Physics) and Mr S Richardson (Chemistry) have joined the Science faculty. Ms F McGuffie, a former pupil of the Academy, is new in the Home Economics Department and Mr M Shannon has joined PE.

In RME we welcome Ms M Cairns and Mr A Ibrahim while Mrs S Boyd has joined the Social Subject faculty as a Modern Studies teacher.

New in English are Ms K Parker—another former pupil—Mr J Curtin. New staff in the Technology faculty are Mr J Henderson (Computing), Mr J Kaine (CDT), Mr L Tait (CDT).

The full staff list is published in the Parent Handbook, which can be downloaded from the school website:

www.stranraeracademy.co.uk

Dates for Your Diary

Tuesday 30 September	UCAS Parents' Evening
Wednesday 1 October	S1 Parents' Information Night
Thursday 9 October	Parent Council Meeting
Friday 10 October	Last day before October holiday
Monday 27 October	Return to school
Tuesday 28 October	S4 Parents' Night
Tuesday 11 November	S1 Parents' Night
Thursday 13 November	Parent Council Meeting
Monday 24 November	S4 Prelims start

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Newsletter September 2008



There has been good progress with the building over the summer.

NEW! PROGRESS REPORTS FOR PARENTS EVERY SIX WEEKS —SEE INSIDE



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Eco – School Update

During the last school term the eco-school committee has been working extremely hard to organise new events for the public as well as the pupils, tackling the litter problem in the school environment, as well as entering challenges and making the school staff more aware of recycling.

The litter action group have thought up a new campaign, which will be launched in the next week, aimed at encouraging all pupils to be responsible for the upkeep of the school environment. Each register class will be responsible for keeping a designated area of the school clear of rubbish by holding weekly litter pick collections. It is hoped that this will teach the pupils to take pride in their school grounds.

At the moment the Eco-Schools project is once again involved in the collection of yellow pages for the 'yellow woods challenge'. This year a total of 182 yellow pages were handed in – **thanks to all members of the public who handed their yellow pages**

into Tesco. The figure of 182 is slightly higher than the 170 which were collected last year. For every yellow pages handed in money is donated by yellow pages to the Woodland Trusts to allow further trees to be planted.

The recycling group over the last few months have been encouraging pupils and staff to recycle printer cartridges and old mobile phones. The money which is earned from this will go towards the Eco School Fund and for new P.E. equipment. If you have any old cartridges or mobile phones they could be handed in to the school for recycling.

In the near future the Eco-School Committee will be organising a Halloween disco for younger pupils (S1/S2). This will be fancy dress and will take place in the school and we are hoping for a good turnout of pupils. And in the last week before Christmas we are hoping to hold a Christmas Fair where various crafts and stalls will be open for public use.

A busy year has been planned and we would love to see you and support us in our quest for the green flag award. Your help is always appreciated.



Hi Fives for Seven!



Higher results at the the best for many were the seven pictured above (l to r: Rosie Rogers, Tom McColm, Claire Small, Zanda Knight, Mary-Holmes and Katherine McAndrew, who all achieved 5 Grade A



Academy this year were years. Top achievers pictured above (l to r: Rosie McColm, Claire Small, Jane Clarke, Philipine McAndrew, who all Highers.

In S4 the top achievers were Eleanor Parker (6 Grade 1 Standard Grades and three As at Intermediate 2), Natalie Henry (8 Grade 1 Standard Grades and one A at Intermediate 2), Andrew Cunningham (7 Grade 1 Standard Grades, one A and one B at Standard Grade) and Rachel Caldwell (6 Grade 1s and a Grade 2 at Standard Grade, and two As at Intermediate 2).

Thirty-five students from last year have now moved on to university. Glasgow has regained its traditional top spot as the most popular choice, having been briefly overtaken by Strathclyde last year. The most popular subject choice this year was History (5), followed by English, Law and Sports Science (3 each).

NEW! PROGRESS REPORTS FOR PARENTS EVERY SIX WEEKS

This session the school is introducing 'Tracking and Target Setting', a new system for monitoring pupil progress. We aim to have the first Progress Report for parents of pupils in S3-S6 ready before the end of October. Current progress in all subjects will be summarised on a single A4 sheet. Thereafter, further updates will be provided throughout the year, approximately every 6 school weeks. The new system replaces the previous interim reports. The 'final' report, with full comments, will be provided as before, at the following times: S4—late January; S2—mid February; S5/6—late March; S1—late May; S3—mid June.

The Youth Drop-In Working In Partnership

Read More in the

Stranraer & Wigtownshire
Free Press
WIGTOWNSHIRE'S BEST SELLING NEWSPAPER

Stranraer Academy is very fortunate to have the services of a considerable range of partnership agencies offering a Youth Drop-In during lunchtimes, five days per week. Pupils from all year groups are made welcome and may participate in a full range of activities.

The Youth Drop-In aims to:

Provide a safe, supervised environment where young people can socialise, find out more about local services available to support them and take part in issue based sessions

Promote active citizenship through formation of a users committee

A programme of events/activities has been agreed by the partner agencies and incorporates themes such as bullying; leisure opportunities in the community; arts and crafts; a litter project; healthy living; and various seasonal themes. The Drop-In also has an enviable range of resources like a pool table, arts and crafts, board games and the ever popular (with both adults and youngsters alike!) Wii sports.

The service that is provided by the Youth Drop-In is greatly appreciated by both the pupils and staff of Stranraer Academy.

For more about the Youth Drop-In, see the next Academy News Page in the Free Press.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Stranraer Academy provides a wide range of extra-curricular activities, both at lunchtime and after school. A full report will be sent to the Free Press for the next Academy News

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PRELIM DATES

Prelims for S4 and for S5/6 will take place a little earlier this year. S4 prelims will start on 24 November and S5/6 prelims on 2 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.

Appeals

The results of Higher appeals will be known before the end of September. Appeals results for Standard Grade, Intermediate 1 and Intermediate 2 courses are due on 7 November.

