

Newsletter

Welcome

Robert Downie Vice-Chairman



Dear Fellow Parents,

We are now in summer term and at a crucial time of year for our 4th, 5th and 6th year pupils. It is at this time all their hard work over the year comes to a head.. It is also a time for teachers to evaluate how effective their teaching skills have been over the year and how the pupils have responded. For Stranraer Academy the exams also acts as an

assessment as to how well the school is performing.

We have been very lucky this year to have overcome our previous staffing problems and have had virtually a full team for most of the year. The school has also benefited from a contingent of excellent probationers and, hopefully, many will stay with us next year.

As everyone can see the new build is progressing well and should be ready early in the New Year. We look forward to the benefits and challenges of using the new building.

At parent council we have been working hard along with the school to the good of parents and pupils. We would encourage as many parents as possible either to

attend meetings or to become involved in their child's education in any way possible. We hope all goes well in the next two months and wish success to all our pupils.

After the summer we look forward to welcoming the new intake of S1 pupils and encourage their parents to take an interest in school activities.

All the best for the summer,

Fundraising

We held our second quiz night this year and it was aimed at involving our primary schools with parents and teachers and students at the academy.

This was a hugely enjoyable night and saw a number of teams brought together.



A small sub-committee put on their thinking caps and came up with a variety of topics including local knowledge, sport, general knowledge.



Winners of the quiz were a delighted team from Park Primary School, Stranraer, who were just one point off last year.

We would very much like to hear your thoughts on what future fundraisers you would like held and if anyone is willing to help then please contact a parent member.

Sponsorship

We have been most fortunate, also to have received a lot of worthwhile sponsorship this year.

Without this we would not have been able to raise the money we did at our quiz night.

Mr Tony McAndrew donated the challenge shield last year and Stena Line donated the top raffle prize.

Parent Council members donated refreshments and all other prizes

How will the money be spent?

We agreed last year to keep some of the money we raised last year for a display cabinet so we can exhibit students' achievements as well as memorabilia, such as old medals school magazines and blazers.

We put money toward the student's yearbook, the Burns' supper, which was a fantastic night and we would like to help fund the some of the costs for the end of term activities.

We would like to hold other events such as a sponsored walk and sing-along.

The parent council invites relevant guest speakers to explain their work in the school. Last month it was the school chaplains.

STRANRAER ACADEMY CHAPLAINCY TEAM

Pastor Paul Coventry

The school now has a team of five chaplains providing a Christian voice and spiritual support to both pupils and staff. We are grateful for the school's invitation to take up this role and look forward to how it will develop.

The team represents no single denomination as we are made up of two Church of Scotland ministers (Revd Tom McWhirter of Glenluce and Revd Gordon Kennedy of St. Ninians and Portpatrick), Father Mark Kelly of St, Joseph's, Pastor Paul Coventry of Stranraer Baptist Church, and Dr. Athena Carnaghan, a GP who is a member of the Baptist Church.

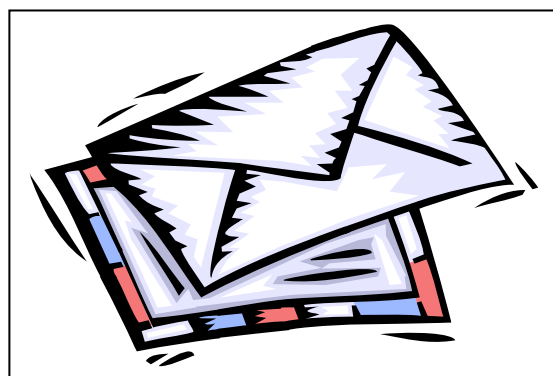
Each chaplain is responsible for a specific year group and will follow that same group as it progresses through their time at the school. We aim to provide one assembly per month to each year group as well as presenting a joint effort to the whole school at Easter and Christmas. We are also available to support the work of PSE and RME.

Keeping in Touch

We want to know how best to keep you up-to-date with what we are doing.

We would also like to know what concerns you want raised.

We would love to know how to get more people involved. So please let us know?



What do we talk about

There are certain topics such as staffing that we talk about every month.

Other items have perhaps arisen because of concerns raised by staff, parents or students. The main items this year have been:-

- Building work
- Discipline procedure
- End of term activities
- Chaplaincy
- Green Flag
- Changes to Sports Day
- Litter

To let you know what has been discussed we put a report into the "Free Press", every month, issue an annual newsletter and our minutes and agenda are available.

If you feel that you would like to get more involved, or would like to ask us a question or perhaps you would like us to raise a concern you have, then we would very much like to hear

from you. All our addresses are on the school website and we have included them below :-

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At the AGM of Stranraer Academy Parent council on the 14th of May 2009 it was decided that we should make a small amendment to our constitution. It is proposed that the first sentence of item 11. of our constitution should be changed to read:

The annual meeting will be held in the autumn of each year.

Parents have a month from this notice to respond to this proposal before any changes can be made

We would really like to hear your views and would invite you to put forward any fund-raising event ideas or concerns you wished raised. Please write below and either post this sheet to the school or ask your child to hand it in.

Fundraising Idea / Concern

Name:-

Address:-

Tel No:-