

## Child Protection Update 1

Schools have been asked to ensure that both parents and pupils are made aware of the **Protection of Children and Prevention of Sexual Offences ( Scotland ) Act 2005**. This law makes it an offence for anyone to

- have in their possession an indecent photograph or image of a child or young person under the age of 18 years
- take or make an indecent photograph or image of a child or young person under the age of 18 years.

This obviously has implications for any pupils using their mobile phones for such purposes. Whilst this would probably be seen as a bit of ' silliness ', it could be interpreted as offending behaviour which could, ultimately, result in a criminal conviction and might possibly lead to registration on the Sex Offenders Register. This would have significant consequences in relation to future employment and family life.

This issue will be raised with each year group of pupils when Assemblies re-commence after Study Leave.

## Child Protection Update 2

Dumfries and Galloway Child Protection Committee has recently published a new protocol on **Children Missing from Education**. This places responsibility on schools to contact parents or carers at an early stage of any unexplained absence. If the school is unable to find out where the child is, then other agencies such as Health, Social Work and Police will become involved.

It is important that this procedure is only carried out when absolutely necessary and therefore it is important that whenever your child is going to be absent from school you let the school know. We understand that sometimes in emergency situations this can be difficult but ask that you make every effort to do so to avoid other agencies becoming involved unnecessarily.

The CME protocol can be found at [www.dumgal.gov.uk/childprotection](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/childprotection).

## New Appointments



We are pleased to welcome to the Academy staff Mrs Helen-Marie Bradley, who took up her new post as Depute Head Teacher on Monday 2 June.

Mrs Bradley has joined us from Dumfries Academy, where she was a Principal Teacher of Pupil Support. An English and RME teacher, Mrs Bradley has been appointed to fill the vacancy created

by the retirement of Mrs Linda Johnston, and completes our team of five Depute Head Teachers.

Ms F Bryce has been appointed Principal Teacher of Pupil Support. A PE teacher, Ms Bryce has been Acting Principal Teacher for the last two years. We are also pleased to welcome Ms G McNaughton to Modern Languages and Mr G Radford to the Mathematics Department .

In August we look forward to new teachers joining us in English (2), Modern Studies, RME(2), PE, Home Economics, Computing, CDT (2), Chemistry, Physics, Music and Drama. For the first time in several years we are looking forward to being fully staffed in every subject.

## 2007-08 Season Football Successes

U-13 Boys - Winners of Regional League and Cup. South West Area Finalists

U-14 Boys - Winners of Regional League

U-15 Boys - Hunter Shield Winners and South West Area finalists

U-14 Girls - National Coca-Cola Sevens semi-finalists

The South West Area finals are to be played on Thursday 5 June.

## Stranraer Academy

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## Stranraer Academy

## Newsletter June 2008



Building work has made rapid progress since the start in February. This picture was taken on 26 May.

[www.stranraeracademy.co.uk](http://www.stranraeracademy.co.uk)

## SCHOOL UNIFORM

We are pleased to announce that we have negotiated lower prices with our suppliers for many items of school uniform. Also, for the first time, boys' and girls' black school trousers will be available on order from the school.

The Parent Council and Student Council are also currently looking at some sample garments with a view to recommending additions to the range of school uniform items.

**We ask you to note that the School Office will not be open for uniform orders during the summer holiday, so please place orders in good time before the end of term. Revised price lists will be available shortly.**

## INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS STORY

Allan Little is one of Stranraer Academy's most successful former pupils.

After leaving the Academy, he went to Edinburgh University, where he graduated in Politics and History in 1982.



Alan joined the BBC in 1983 and became well known as a foreign correspondent. His work for the BBC has seen him reporting on historic events from many parts of the world, including South Africa, Yugoslavia, Russia and Iraq.

He still has family connections in Stranraer and is a regular visitor to the area.

Here is what Alan said when asked by his old university what advice he would give to students:

*Study for its own sake and not for the job it might get you. Study what excites you and moves you. Enjoy your teachers and respect them, but don't regard them as a separate species. Make friends with them - teaching is only another form of learning. And in your class-mates, don't think the ones with the most self-confidence are necessarily the brightest.*

## AWARDS CEREMONIES 2008

The dates for this year's Awards Ceremonies are:

**S5/6 Thursday 12 June**

**S3/4 Thursday 19 June**

**S1/2 Tuesday 1 July**

Awards will be presented for both achievement and improvement in each subject. Other categories of award include citizenship, personal development, extra-curricular, sporting and 100% attendance. There will also be an award for 'Student of the Year' in each year group. All award winners will be able to bring 2 guests to the ceremonies, which all take place in 'B' Hall, starting at 7:00 pm.



Students of the Year will be presented with a shield and also an engraved trophy to keep.

## Appreciation

Three teachers have recently completed spells in acting promoted posts. Miss Irvine has been Acting Depute Head Teacher, while Miss Biagioni and Mr Halliday have been Acting Principal Teachers of Pupil Support. It is fitting to record here the school's appreciation of their commitment and energy. Miss Irvine is also due a special mention as she has in effect carried out the duties of her post as PT Pupil Support in addition to the Depute Head responsibilities for more than a year—a truly superhuman effort!



Miss Irvine

## Junior Maths Challenge

30 pupils took the junior maths challenge this year. A very challenging paper of 25 questions was sat by these budding Mathematicians and all in just 1 hour! 17 of the students achieved a mark good enough to gain an award from the "United Kingdom Mathematics Trust". Joseph Penikis was the best in school and he will receive his 'gold' certificate at this year's S2 award ceremony.

Also achieving gold certificates were Allan McMaster, Jordan Pirrie and Andrew McColm.

The following gained silver certificates: Campbell Reid, Kyle McKay, Owen Hastings, Gavin McQuistin, Scott Mann, Cameron Bark and Michael Baxter.

Bronze certificates went to: Dylan Griffiths, Seona Corbett, John Kennedy, Chris Barr, Duncan Hogg and Chris Henry.

To all the other participants a big thank you for having a go and better luck next year.

## Security Improvements

Work has now started on long-awaited security improvements in 'B' and 'C' Blocks. A door entry system is being fitted which is designed to ensure that the buildings cannot be entered from outside during class time other than at designated entry points. These entry points will be actively monitored and controlled by a camera and bell-push system.

Installation work is expected to be completed by mid-June.

## Parent Council—Change of Date

The next meeting of the Parent Council will be on **Wednesday 11 June** at 7:00 pm in the School Library.