



# Summer 2007



## New Head Teacher Starts Work

Mr Dawson began his new job in the Academy on 18 June. On page three you can read his first impressions of the school.

*Mrs Doreen Bowie was invited to present the awards at the recent Graduation and Awards Ceremony for S5 and S6.*

*Mrs Bowie is retiring at the end of this term after 37 years as a PE and Guidance teacher at Stranraer Academy.*

*More news of staff retirements on page 5, and more news of our three awards ceremonies is on page 2.*

*Below, Vicky Balmer and Craig McClintick, Students of the Year in S6 and S5.*

## Annual Awards



## Primary 7 Induction Days

Pupils from all 14 associated primaries recently spent three days at the Academy as part of their secondary induction programme. During their first two days they followed part of their timetable for August and met some of their teachers. The third day was given over to sports and activities.

A questionnaire completed by the pupils towards the end of their visits rated the experience as highly successful. While one in three admitted to feeling nervous before they came, most soon got over their fears.

Almost everybody (98%) said they enjoyed their time in classes, with 97% looking forward to coming to the Academy in August. 97% also felt their visit had been helpful in preparing them for the Academy. Social aspects also scored highly,



with 94% making new friends during the visit and 94% enjoying the lunchtime meals. The only real concern was that about 1 in 3 admitted to getting lost at some point, however their guides were highly rated as friendly and helpful (94%), and clearly they will still have a valuable job to do in the first few days in August.



The pictures show sporting activities taking place at London Road and Mr Dawson welcoming P7 pupils.

## New School Plans Published

2

Detailed proposals for the second phase of the new Academy were published earlier this month. The simulated aerial view below shows some of the main features.



## AWARDS CEREMONIES - A NEW TRADITION!



*Students of the Year, Shona Ritchie (S1) and Marrison McNicoll (S2).*

For the first time this year Awards Ceremonies were held for all year groups.

The aim was to celebrate the achievements of students across a wide range of activities. Subject awards sought to recognise both exceptional achievement and significant improvement. There were also awards in areas such as citizenship, sport, music, extra-curricular achievement, innovation, learning skills, perfect attendance and personal and social development. All award winners received a specially designed certificate. Students of the Year received a shield engraved with the winner's name, which will be returned at the end of the year, together with an attractive glass trophy to keep.

The format of the three ceremonies also included musical interludes performed by members of the year groups.

Full lists of all school award winners can be found under 'Latest News' on the school website at [www.stranraeracademy.co.uk](http://www.stranraeracademy.co.uk)



## Awards Ceremonies—Continued

As this year's ceremonies were the first of their kind, we are looking for any ideas and suggestions that might help us to build on the success of these occasions and make them even better for next year. So if you attended any of the events and have any ideas you would like to pass on, please send them in. (To Mr Warren)



Left, S3 and S4 Students of the Year—Natalie Henry and Katherine McAndrew. Right, each Student of the Year received a glass trophy to keep.

## Mr Dawson's First Impressions

It is with great delight that I make my first contribution to the Stranraer Academy newsletter. Having only been here a week at the time of writing, I'm still finding my way around the school. I must say, however, that I've been impressed by the openness of the pupils and their willingness to talk to me about a number of topics during lunch-time and interval as I walk about the school. I attended my first School Board / Parent Council meeting last week and found the parents friendly with the same desire as me to continue to improve the school. On that subject, we've received a letter telling us that HMle will return to the school for their follow-up visit at the end of September or early October. Hopefully they will be pleased with the progress made.



Awards Ceremonies—" a positive ethos in the school"

I must congratulate all the pupils who took part in the Award Ceremonies. It is really nice to see so many smiling faces and such a positive ethos in the school. Thanks to Mike Warren and all the staff who were involved in the organisation. It was also a pleasure to meet so many P7 parents at the Parents' Evening. I received many positive comments from Parents and must thank the staff who gave up yet another evening to make the event so successful.

I'm pleased to report that staffing for next session looks positive – seven new probationer teachers have been to visit the school and are looking forward to coming here in August. We will also welcome several other new members of staff to the school in August.

## Sports Champions 2007



See page 6 for names of winners

## NOTICE FOR ALL S5 AND S6 STUDENTS

On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2007 Mr Smart and Mr Nimmo will be in school from 10.00 am onwards to assist students who may wish to change their course of study in light of their examination results.

It may be, for instance, that you have achieved grades which are better than expected and therefore may require to alter your course. Whatever happens, should you feel that you are in need of advice please come along to the G area (old S2 area) in the New Building. We will be pleased to see you.

Staff will also be available to assist with enquiries on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> August. Please call first or report to Reception to find out who is available.



## School Uniform

We know that parents/carers very often kit their youngsters out with a new set of clothes before s/he returns to school in August ..... very often to compensate for the summer holiday growth spurt!

In order that there is no confusion over what Stranraer Academy's uniform comprises, we have listed below, for your reference, the items of clothing that we expect our pupils to wear and those items which are banned and must not be worn to school.



### What should be worn?

- Students in S1 to S4 should wear a blue or white school polo shirt which may be accompanied in colder weather by a blue or white jumper/cardigan/zipper.
- Students in S5 and S6 may wear as above but may also wear a black polo shirt which may be accompanied in colder weather by a plain black jumper/cardigan/zipper.
  - Plain black or dark grey trousers/skirt.



**NB.** School polo shirts may be bought at Reception.

### What should not be worn?

- Any item of clothing, bag, accessory containing football references, offensive references or reference to brands of alcohol.
- In the case of PE, any item which advertises alcohol or may be considered offensive.
- Denim jackets.
- Jeans, cargo trousers and track suit bottoms (even black ones!)
- Any item of clothing or accessory which may be considered to be dangerous or immodest.
- Baseball caps.

Please note that all tops other than the items that are part of the uniform will be required to be removed upon entry into the class. **The uniform as described above was agreed by member of the Student Council who conducted a review of the schools uniform at the beginning of academic year 2006-07.**



## Summer School

Please note that as no funding was provided for Summer Schools this year, there will be no P7 Summer School in Stranraer this year.



## Regional Sports

The photograph shows some of the successful competitors at the Regional Sports, held earlier this month. Top performances were Robert MacKenzie (1st, 100m), John Paterson (1st, High Jump) and 1st for S2 relay team of Robert MacKenzie, Duncan Anderson, Matthew Doyle and David Henderson. The school also gained five 2nd places, four 3rd places and six 4th places. Well done to all who took part.



A paper copy of this year's Parent Handbook is given to parents/carers of new S1 pupils. An electronic version of the Handbook can be downloaded from the school website at [www.stranraeracademy.co.uk](http://www.stranraeracademy.co.uk)

## Mobile Phones—A Reminder

I have spoken to all pupils at Assembly. One of the topics I mentioned was mobile phones. I have stressed that Mobile Phones must be switched off during class time. Pupils may use them before and after school, at interval and/or lunch-time. Pupils were reminded that they are not allowed to photograph and/or video anyone without their permission. If pupils use their phone (or it rings) during class time, the teacher can take the phone from the pupil and hand it into the office. For a first offence, the Office staff will return the phone to the child at 3.25pm. If, however, the office staff receive a phone on a second occasion they should let me know and I will contact the parents and ask the parent to collect the phone from the school.

**Norman Dawson, Head Teacher**



## Curriculum Guides

The Curriculum Guides for the Autumn term are now available on the school website [www.stranraeracademy.co.uk](http://www.stranraeracademy.co.uk). These show the work to be covered in each subject for each year group. Please contact the school office if you would like to receive a paper copy or a copy on CD (PDF file).

## Emergency Contacts

Parents and carers are asked to note the importance of keeping our notification of emergency contacts up to date. If your child is ill, the school is not permitted to contact anyone who is not listed in our records as an emergency contact. It is also recommended that you choose as emergency contacts people who have access to transport as the commonest request is to collect a sick child from school when parents/carers cannot be contacted.

## Staff Retirements

We say goodbye on 6 July to a number of long-serving members of staff who are retiring. Two of them, PE and former Guidance teacher Mrs Doreen Bowie, and Mrs Jean Small, who works in Aird as a special needs assistant, have chalked up an amazing 70 years at the Academy between them. Also leaving are husband and wife team Malcolm and Sheila McNeill. Mr McNeill came to the school in 1983 as Principal Teacher of Chemistry, with Mrs McNeill joining the staff three years later as a teacher of French and German. In the Home Economics department, Mrs Sheila Hilton retires after 17 years, and another long-serving member of staff who is leaving us after more than 20 years is Mrs Jaqui Wilson, Science Technician. We extend to all these colleagues our thanks for their invaluable contributions to the school and very best wishes for their retirement.

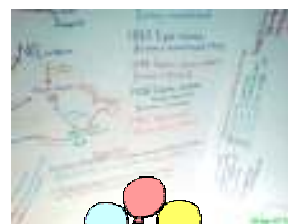
Other staff who are leaving at the end of term to further their careers elsewhere are Louise Dunn (English), Kurtis Gordon (Chemistry), Andrew Johnston (RME) and Arran Richards (PE). We wish them all well in their future careers.



Finally, Mrs Joanna Pallett (pictured, left, with former Education Minister Peter Peacock) is leaving us after nearly a year and a half in her role as Authority Manager / Acting Head Teacher. Commenting on her time at the Academy, Mrs Pallett said. "I have very much enjoyed working at the Academy for the last 18 months. I take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support during my time here and to wish you every success for the future. I know that the Academy is in good hands with the appointment of Mr Dawson and I look forward to reading many positive comments in the next HMIE report."

## What is This →

One 4th Year student devised a novel way of preparing for exams—but not one every parent would welcome! Find out more in September's Newsletter.



*Happy 60th birthday to Head Janitor Billy Blair 04/07/07*



Billy Blair

## Stranraer Academy :: Dates for Your Diary

AUGUST	
Monday 6 August	SQA results available online (candidates who have registered for this service)
Tuesday 7 August	SQA Certificates arrive
	Mr Nimmo and Mr Smart in school to advise S5 and S6 students on course changes following exam results.
Monday 20 August	Start of term (Staff)
Tuesday 21 August	Start of Term (Pupils)
Tuesday 28 August	S1 Photographs

SEPTEMBER	
Tuesday 4 September	Parent Council Meeting
Thursday 20 September	S3 Information Night (Provisional)
Thursday 27 September	UCAS Parents' Evening

### Parent Council

The new Parent Council has now been established, following the acceptance of its Constitution by parental ballot.

Mrs Kay Armitage has been elected Chair, with Mr Robert Downie as Vice-Chair. The other parent members are Mrs J Cochrane, Mr J Crawford, Ms C Fowles, Mrs F McColm, Mrs L McColm, Mr J McQuistin, Mr N McQuistin, Mrs S Patterson, Mrs S Rogers, and Mrs F Spicer.

Meetings will take place on the first Tuesday of each month, excluding holidays.



This year's school trip to Switzerland left on Thursday 28 June in torrential rain! Twenty-nine pupils from S1 to S6 are making the trip, along with Miss Irvine, Mrs McCulloch and Mr Nimmo. They are due back on 10 July

### School Office

The School Office will be open from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm throughout the summer holidays for enquiries and the purchase of school uniform, except for the week of 23—27 July.

We hold a large stock of uniform of all sizes, so should be able to satisfy all requirements. Most parents/carers prefer to purchase towards the end of the holiday, just in case of growth spurts!

What is the UCAN Club?

Find out in the next News-Letter.

### School Sports Champions 2007

	1st Girls	2nd Girls	1st Boys	2nd Boys
<b>S2</b>	Jade Collins	Lauren Parker	Dean Fyffe	Thomas McCreddie
<b>S3</b>	Rebecca McMaster	Bryony Hawkins	Matthew Doyle	Robert MacKenzie
<b>S4</b>	Eleanor Parker	Fiona Murdoch	John Paterson	Andrew Holmes
<b>Seniors</b>	Roslyn Clanachan	Katherine McAndrew	Liam Doyle	Tommy Clanachan

Visit us on the web at [www.stranraeracademy.co.uk](http://www.stranraeracademy.co.uk) for latest news over the summer.

