



Headlines



January 2010

PRINCIPAL'S INTRODUCTION

Over the last number of days all our pupils have been involved in school examinations. Teachers are now providing feedback to their classes. I would encourage all parents to discuss with their children the examination outcomes and support them in identifying targets for improvement and strategies to reach these. If these examinations can be viewed as a valuable learning process, then they will have been worth the effort of pupils, teachers and parents.

The difficult weather at the end of December meant that we had to cancel our evening Carol Concert. This was regrettable, but unavoidable. We were pleased, however, that some parents and friends were able to join us for our inspiring final Christmas Assembly.

Sport too was a victim of the weather. Despite a prolonged period of cancelled matches, our 1st XV had a great win against Banbridge Academy on Saturday and now meet Ballymena Academy, at home, on Saturday 6 February in the Schools' Cup 4th round.

We look forward to the Quarter Finals of the Ulster Schools' Hockey Cup on Saturday 30 January. With a home game against Lurgan College I would encourage a large and vocal band of supporters for a 10.45 am pass back.

Our Board of Governors will be reconstituted soon. I would pay tribute to Mrs H Craig, Ms R Knowles, Mr T Millar and Mr I Sampson who are leaving the Board. Their commitment and loyalty to the school has been much appreciated and I would extend the thanks of us all for their service to the school.

As parents I would encourage you to contact us at school should there be any specific way in which we could support your son or daughter.

Mr R Wilson

LET'S TALK



Limavady Grammar School was recently delighted to welcome Mark Carruthers, local councillor, and students from St Mary's, Limavady High School and St Patrick's in Dungiven to a recent 'Let's Talk' event in our school Assembly Hall. Year 11 students were able to discuss local and national issues with one another before investigating the opinions of the area's party representatives. A wide range of issues, such as the use of the new Civic Centre and the abolition of the Transfer Exam, were debated and the 'party line' of local political parties sought. Councillors and representatives from the Democratic Unionist Party, Ulster Unionist Party, Sinn Fein and Traditional Unionist Voice attended.

Ms G Wright

HOLIDAY DATES

Half Term Holiday: Monday 15, Tuesday 16, Wednesday 17 February 2010.
Easter Holiday: Monday 29 March – Friday 9 April 2010 (inclusive).
May Day Holidays: Monday 3 May and Monday 31 May 2010.

GIRLS' FOOTBALL

Mrs Moore and all the players wish to pass on their congratulations to **Becky McMullan** (Year 11) who has recently been selected for the **Under 15 Northern Ireland Squad**.



HOCKEY GIRLS MAKE HISTORY!

It is a long time, 27 years in fact, since LGS progressed this far in the Bank of Ireland/Belfast Telegraph Senior Schools' Hockey Cup. In 1983 they reached the final losing to Strathearn 4-0. This year under the dedicated coaching of Mrs Moore and former 1st XI captain Judith McCracken, this young squad have fixed their eyes firmly upon the final.

How did we get here?

1st Round – Bye

2nd Round – Royal School Dungannon (Home)

Score: 2-0

Goal Scorers: Becky McMullan, Rachel McSparron

3rd Round – Down High (Away)

Score: 2-2 (AET) / LGS won 3-0 on Penalty Strokes

Goal Scorers: Becky McMullan x 2, Lauren Butcher, Lisa Hartop, Emma Haslett

Quarter Final (Home Draw)

LGS V Lurgan College

This match against Lurgan College will be no walkover, as they have, within their squad, one Irish and four Ulster representatives. In recent years they have reached the final on four separate occasions.

The Limavady squad has struggled with injuries and illness from the start of the season and it is only now that they are able to field their strongest side. Although starting as underdogs, the girls are now geared up physically, mentally and tactically and will face this next round with confidence. Training sessions on our astro surface have been curtailed recently due to extreme weather conditions; however, under the excellent leadership of Captain Lauren Butcher, training has continued indoors to prepare the team for this, the quarter finals.

Team spirit has been high since the squad returned from Chile and Argentina in July. This tour helped bond the established players with the new, young, talented girls; this bodes well for a new exciting phase of hockey in Limavady Grammar School.

The Quarter Final match will be played at Limavady Grammar School on Saturday 30 January, pass back at 10:45 am. All support very welcome.

1st XI Squad: Katy McKay; Emma Haslett; Hannah Dickson; Sinead Corr; Amy-Lee McIvor; Rachel McSparron; Lauren Butcher (capt); Claire Lynch; Sarah Kelly; Rachel McCluskey; Stephanie Allen; Victoria Macqueen; Becky McMullan; Lisa Hartop; Emma Donnell.

CAREERS DEPARTMENT - IMPORTANT DATES

The transition years at age 14 and age 16 are particularly important periods in the life of a student. I would encourage all Year 10 and Year 12 parents/guardians to be actively involved in the important decisions that have to be made this year. I hope you can be present at the meetings that have been arranged to inform and assist you in helping your child choose the most appropriate subjects/career pathway.

- Thursday 11 February – 7pm in the Lecture Theatre
Life after GCSE: An Information Evening for Parents of Year 12 Pupils
- Tuesday 23 February – 7pm in the Lecture Theatre
Choosing GCSE Subjects: An Information Evening for Parents of Year 10 Pupils

Mr S Robb

Let's Get Reading Again! READATHON 2010

Supporting literacy is at the core of the curriculum at Limavady Grammar School. One event our Junior School has embraced which not only supports literacy but raises money for a very worthy cause, is the Readathon.

Readathon is a national sponsored read where children read books in exchange for pledges of money. The money raised is donated equally to Clic Sargent and the Roald Dahl Foundation. Money raised in Northern Ireland stays here.

Parents, you can help by:

- encouraging your son/daughter to read regularly. Readathon is for fun, it's not homework or a chore!
- taking an interest and asking about their chosen books
- allowing your child to listen to a taped book
- encouraging non-fiction for those who like sport, ghosts, dinosaurs, history etc
- encouraging the use of the school library
- visiting the local library or bookshops.
- visiting readathon.org

Any pupil who is unable to participate in this event must bring a letter from their parent/guardian to their English teacher by **Wednesday 27 January**.

Please raise money safely – do not approach strangers. We would also ask pupils to encourage sponsors to tick the Gift Aid box. All sponsor cards and monies should be returned to your English teacher by **2 March**.

Last year, we were fortunate to have received a visit from the founder of Readathon, Brough Girling, who congratulated the school on raising over £50,000 to date for this worthy charity. One of the reasons the English Department has developed such a strong commitment to the Readathon charity over the years is that we believe, as Mr Girling does, children who read recreationally are more likely to succeed at school. The National Literacy Trust's report, "Literacy Changes Lives", concluded:

"Reading for pleasure has been revealed at the **most important** indicator of the future success of a child and is more important for children's educational success and happiness than their family's socio-economic status".

Future literary events: World Book Day (March 4) and World Poetry Day (March 21).

Miss J Coid

HOUSE COMPETITIONS : Diary of Events

Date	Event	Teacher
28 January from 3.30-5.00 pm	Netball	Mrs Sandy
February	Quiz	Miss Wright
February	Hockey	Mrs Moore
March	Rugby	Mr Barr
March	Chess	Dr Floyd
March	Swimming	Miss Doherty
June	Tennis	Mrs Barr

Ms G Wright

PERCENTAGE ATTENDANCE YEARS 8-14 (17 December 2009 - 23 January 2010)

8V	97.0	9V	92.0	10V	93.3	11V	94.4	12V	96.3	YR 13	93.3
8W	96.9	9W	94.8	10W	96.7	11W	96.6	12W	90.2	YR 14	89.3
8X	97.5	9X	96.7	10X	92.0	11X	90.0	12X	94.2		
8Y	95.6	9Y	98.2	10Y	93.8	11Y	95.7	12Y	92.8		
8Z	97.1	9Z	95.9	10Z	95.4	11Z	94.7	12Z	94.9		

Congratulations to pupils in 9Y – this Form Class scored the highest percentage attendance during this period.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – Consultation on Every School A Good School: The Way Forward for Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Inclusion

The policy proposals, as contained in the consultation document entitled: ‘Every School A Good School: The Way Forward for Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Inclusion’, have been undergoing a period of public consultation since 10 August 2009. Parents are invited to read the document and consider their own response. The period of consultation has been extended to 31 January 2010. The web link to the document is:

http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/7special_educational_needs_pg/review_of_special_educational_needs_and_inclusion.htm

LIMAVADY GRAMMAR SCHOOL



OPEN NIGHT

Monday 01 February 2010

**P7 pupils and parents are invited to attend
at the following times:**

Surnames	A-H	6.45 pm
	I-M	7.00 pm
	N-Z	7.15 pm

P6 pupils and parents are invited to attend at 7.30 pm

The School Prospectus will be available on the evening.

If you are unable to attend, please contact the Principal’s Secretary to obtain a Prospectus or you may download it from the school website.

‘Learning, Caring and Preparing for Life’

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www.limavadygrammar.org.uk