

## Holidays 2009-2010

*Staff Development Day*  
Friday 23 October 2009

*Halloween Holiday*  
Mon 26 Oct - Fri 30 Oct 2009  
(inclusive)

*Christmas Holiday*  
Wednesday 23 December 2009

-  
Monday 4 January 2010  
(inclusive)

*Half Term Holiday*  
Mon 15 Feb & Tues 16 Feb  
2010

*Staff Development Day*  
Wednesday 17 February 2010

*St Patrick's Day*  
Wednesday 17 March 2010

*Easter Holiday*  
Monday 29 March 2010

-  
Friday 9 April 2010  
(inclusive)

*May Day Holiday*  
Monday 3 May 2010

*Staff Development Day*  
Friday 28 May 2010

*May Day Holiday*  
Monday 31 May 2010

*School Finishes*  
Wednesday 30 June 2010  
at 12 noon

# HEADLINES

September 2009



## PRINCIPAL'S INTRODUCTION

As we start the new term, we welcome 130 new pupils to Year 8 together with 15 others throughout the School. The Year 8s benefited from the excellent induction residential at Bushmills in August. Already they are making a valuable contribution to the life and ethos of LGS. We also welcomed some new Staff; Mrs Connolly joins the mathematics, physics and ICT departments. Miss Campbell and Dr Irvine have joined School as Study Supervisors, Mr Deery has been appointed ICT Technician and Mrs Owen has been appointed as an additional Lunch time Supervisor.

I am pleased to report that the release of public examination results last month brought very pleasing outcomes. In most instances the efforts made were reflected in the grades received. 27 pupils attained 3 or more A levels at Grade A; 10 of these obtained 4 A grades. 77% of all candidates achieved 3 A levels at Grades A-C, up 11% on last year.

The results at AS level were again commendable; two thirds of all candidates were awarded 3+ grades A-C and almost two thirds of all grades were A or B.

Our GCSE students were not to be outdone and 48% of all grades were A\*A. Particular success was recorded in the following subject areas: Spanish 77% A\*, and Chemistry 61% A\*.

Already our extra-curricular programme is up and running. This provides an important dimension to the educational experience of our pupils and I would encourage parents to stress the importance of this to their children. Robin Craig and Shay McIntosh gained first caps for Ulster Rugby at U19 level and this week Chris Rodden joins the IFA U17 soccer squad. Daniel Reid won the Northern Ireland Multi Games event last week in Bangor and travels to Tullamore soon for the all Ireland event. Stuart Thompson was a member of the Irish U19 Cricket team in Canada that successfully qualified from the U19 World Cup in New Zealand.

As we continue to work together I am confident that this will be another successful year for all in the LGS community.

*R Wilson (Principal)*

The Department of Education wants to ensure that pupils travel safely to and from school. Therefore, along with the Education and Library Boards (ELBs), Translink, and private coach operators, we have been working on a programme to ensure that all designated school buses (ie those carrying only pupils) are fitted with seat belts. This programme is now almost complete.

As a new school year begins, I would remind you of the importance of pupils wearing seat belts, whether travelling to school by bus, or indeed by car.

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS' ELECTION

At a meeting of parents of children attending Limavady Grammar School on Monday 28 September 2009, the following four Parent Representatives were elected to serve on the Board of Governors:

Mr Peter Donnelly, Dr Paul Finlay, Mr Gavin Hill, Mrs Elaine Priestley.

## HIGHER EDUCATION

- (1) Early application is advised and I would encourage all students to complete the form.
- (2) Any student applying to medicine, dentistry, veterinary or Oxbridge courses should have their application "sent to referee" by Wednesday 7 October.
- (3) We hope to have all forms completed and sent to UCAS by the end of October 2009 so please encourage students to spend time preparing for the transition to higher education.
- (4) The UCAS website provides excellent information about the process of applying to higher education; the video clips on UCAS tv are excellent: [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)  
Other useful websites include: [www.nidirect.gov.uk](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk)  
[www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)  
[www.timesonline.ac.uk/](http://www.timesonline.ac.uk/)  
[www.studentfinanceneni.co.uk](http://www.studentfinanceneni.co.uk)
- I will speak to the students about finance later in the year.
- (5) The QUB nursing application is outside UCAS and information will appear in the Belfast Telegraph in November and also on the website; students must watch out for it and send for the application form: [www.qub.ac.uk/schools/School ofNursingandMidwifery/](http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/School ofNursingandMidwifery/)
- (6) Anyone thinking of applying to St Mary's College in Belfast for teaching or the popular Liberal Arts Degree should be preparing their application. This application is outside UCAS. We have to provide a reference so it is important that students complete the form as soon as possible. The application form is available on the website: [www.st.marys.ac.uk](http://www.st.marys.ac.uk)
- (7) I am available to speak to pupils on four periods during the week and from 3.30-4.30 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

**Mr S Robb**

## CYCLING FOR ULSTER

Just recently one of Year 11 pupils, K. Cole cycled for Ulster during the Mayo Youth Tour. The tour consisted of four races over three days. There were two road races, a time trial and a circuit race.

He gained his spot in the quad after proving himself at previous races with a few high-placed finishes. An under-16 race lasts for roughly 50 km and is normally very fast. Training takes place five days per week and can last up to five hours at week-ends but during the week it is much shorter – training is essential to maintain race ability.



## PERCENTAGE ATTENDANCE YEARS 8-14

8V	91.9	9V	89.3	10V	89.4	11V	90.4	12V	89.1	YEAR 13	90.3
8W	90.8	9W	89.1	10W	90.6	11W	90.0	12W	89.4	YEAR 14	87.4
8X	90.6	9X	88.2	10X	90.2	11X	84.4	12X	87.0		
8Y	90.3	9Y	89.5	10Y	88.5	11Y	88.6	12Y	85.6		
8Z	90.4	9Z	86.6	10Z	86.8	11Z	89.8	12Z	86.6		

***Congratulations to pupils in 8V with the highest attendance percentage (91.9) in September.***

**Mr R Wilson**

## GOLFING SUCCESS



On 7 September 2009 the school golf team comprising R. Brown, J. Lindsay, C. Mulholland and M. Riley competed in the Irish Schools Matchplay Qualifying competition held at Edenmore Golf and Country Club in Craigavon.

They played off scratch ie handicaps were ignored! All played extremely well and finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place out of an entry of 29 schools. They have now qualified for the matchplay stages of this competition and will face the Northern Regional College (which includes the Junior Golf Academy based at Antrim). Well done and good luck in the regional finals.

*Dr A Bogle*

## CLOTHING AND TEXTILE RECYCLING SCHEME

The School Environmental Committee has commissioned a “textile bank” to be placed in the school front car park. Parents are asked to deposit bin bags full of unwanted clothes or textiles (in any condition) in the ‘textile bank’.

Cookstown Textile Recyclers will collect the bags on a regular basis and for each tonne collected the school fund will be paid £450 and £50 will go to the Northern Ireland Cancer fund for children.

Parental support in this venture will not only benefit the school and the designated charity but will help to spread the message and raise awareness among our pupils of our commitment to “reduce, reuse and recycle”.

*The Environmental Committee*

## HOCKEY TOUR 2009

After two years of waiting, saving and fundraising we set off for what we knew would be a trip of a lifetime to South America. We departed from LGS at 12 noon on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009 and began our long, tiring journey to Santiago in Chile. We first had to make a short hop over to Paris before getting on the 14-hour plane to Chile, it was a close call as our party of 41 pupils and teachers jogged through Charles De Gaulle airport to make our next flight before settling down for the long journey ahead!

It was a long night in the air but we all knew it was worth it as we looked out the windows of the aeroplane and saw the breathtaking views of the snow capped Andes. After everyone had filled up on what had been our second breakfast (which was the first of many buffets to come!) in Chile airport, we met our first tour guide and set off to see the sights of Santiago. None of us had quite expected how beautiful the views from Chile would have been until we took a trip up the mountainside on a slightly rickety cable car to see a full view of the Andes and the city of Santiago below! We then climbed a few more steps up the mountain to see a huge statue of the Virgin Mary and then arrived at the Hotel Atton for some rest and well needed sleep!

During our stay in Chile we played two matches. The first match we played was against St Margaret’s School in Vina del Mar who hosted us for one night. We got a glimpse of the totally different South American culture; the strangest thing being that the hosts didn’t have their main meal till ten o’clock in the evening! We also got the chance to dip our toes in the Pacific Ocean; this was something a lot of us would never have been able to do in our lifetime! Our second match was played against Redland School, who would be hosting us for the next two nights. The standard of hockey was extremely high and we bonded really well with our new South American friends!

An early start and some tears when saying goodbye to our hosts, we were then hurried onto the bus to leave the beautiful country of Chile. After spending just less than a week in Chile we set off for our new country of residence, Argentina. The magnificent mountains were soon replaced by a lot of traffic and a McDonald’s on every corner. The excitement we felt for the big city soon disappeared and was replaced with disappointment when we heard that our hockey matches that had been scheduled for during our stay in

Buenos Aires were cancelled due to the swine flu outbreak. This also meant that we were no longer staying with hosts, but instead we spent a few extra days in the Hotel Presidente, situated right in the middle of Buenos Aires. We did get a few matches organised around the various activities we took part in during our stay in Buenos Aires. A former player for the Argentinean hockey team, who had played in two World Cups, took time out to give us a training session and a local club played a match against us. Mrs Moore and our tour guide organised a trip to a nearby ranch where we spent the day riding wild horses, watching the Gauchos at work and eating meat from the barbeque. Before leaving Buenos Aires to head up north, we did a spot of shopping and soaked up some of the culture by making an attempt to tango with a few of the local dancers. After that it was another early start, to get another plane to the north of Argentina on the border between three countries to view the breathtaking Iguazu Falls. This truly was an amazing sight!

Once we got off the plane from Argentina we all arrived to find it was raining at the airport. We got into our tour bus and drove straight to Hotel Esturion. We just had enough time to get showered and changed then it was off towards the Iguazu Falls. It was another bus journey and another stamp in our passports before we reached Iguazu from the Brazilian side. Some of the girls took a helicopter ride over the rainforest and the falls, an experience that was not for the faint hearted! Later on that night we returned to Brazil to watch a live dance show as we ate 'another' buffet.

The next day we went to Iguazu National Park and saw more of the remarkable waterfalls. After seeing the falls from various viewpoints we got a jeep through a sub tropical rainforest, which then took us to our boats that would be taking us right into the main cateracts of the waterfall. We all got very wet! The next morning after another early start some of the more adventurous members of the party travelled deep into the jungle to take a zip line over the canopies and abseil down the side of a waterfall. The other, more sensible girls stayed in bed! That afternoon we got a plane back to Argentina. With it being our last night before heading back home the teachers had arranged for us to go and see a tango show whilst having a meal. The show was most entertaining with tango dancers, singers and a live band (it was even better than 'Strictly'). The next day was an early start; we got our breakfast and said our goodbyes to the Hotel Presidente and Argentina. We were now on our journey to our hometown 'Limavady'. We were all pleased to be home after such a long journey but disappointed that our adventure was finally over after two years of waiting. I think I can speak for all of the girls when we say it definitely was an adventure of a lifetime!



*Emma Priestley, Katherine McShane, Emma Gallagher & Alice Finlay*