



Senior French Exchange

On the 3rd of February, twenty French pupils left Limavady, carrying with them their loaves of wheaten bread (courtesy of Mrs McFarland and the Home Economics Department), following an enjoyable and rain-free fortnight in Northern Ireland. This was the ninth consecutive year that we have entertained exchange students from the *Lycée Charles Poncet*, in Cluses in the French Alps and, as always, the arrival of our French visitors created a certain *je ne sais quoi* along the corridors and in the classrooms of the Grammar School.

As well as attending lessons with their partners, highlights of the trip included visits to Belfast and the North Coast, a reception with the Mayor at the Town Hall, a recital from the Traditional Music Group thanks to Mr Harron and an orienteering session in the Roe Valley Country Park, with the help of Mr McGonigle. Dr McGuinness led a healthy discussion on the merits of our two school systems and our own pupils took part with their partners in a debate on the European Union, where questions ranged from whether or not we should adopt the Euro to the merits of the European Constitution.

We now look forward to our return visit to France in March and hope that our French friends will arrange plenty of snow for our stay.

Can I take this opportunity to thank all of the parents who so kindly and generously hosted a French pupil during their visit? Without the help of parents, such visits could not take place. The French pupils greatly enjoyed their stay and appreciated the welcome they received from their host families.

Mr I Sampson



French Exchange Visitors gather at Roe Valley Country Park for Orienteering organised by Mr McGonigle.



French Exchange Students with Mayor Coyle in the Mayor's Parlour at Limavady Borough Council



French Exchange Students during class with Limavady Grammar School Students

On est en finale!!

Rugby players dream of playing at Ravenhill or Lansdowne Road, footballers hope to run out at Wembley or Old Trafford. But our French debaters have set their sights on performing a little closer to home this season, the Great Hall at the University of Ulster, Magee Campus, and we've made it!

On Wednesday 22 March, our team will face Methodist College, Belfast in the final of the Northern Ireland French Debating Competition. Our first ever appearance in the final was clinched on the 15th of February with a semi-final victory over the current Northern Irish champions, Ballyclare High School. This time, our team of Andrew McC, Danielle H, Mary H and Joanna McC had to speak against the motion "*Les écologistes n'ont pas de solutions valables pour résoudre les problèmes d'aujourd'hui*" (Ecologists have no viable solutions to resolve the problems of today). Despite a strong argument from the Ballyclare team, we held firm and managed to persuade the judges that we are all becoming more eco-friendly and are gradually winning the war on pollution and global warming. Particular congratulations go to Joanna McC who was voted best overall speaker.



Can we pull off a famous victory over the mighty "Methody"? Time will tell. One thing is for sure though, it will not be for want of trying. My thanks and congratulations go to Andrew, Danielle, Mary and Joanna for all the effort and hard work they have put in this season, the countless practices at lunchtimes and after school, not to mention all the nervous energy they have used up in the course of previous debates.

Let's wish them all the best for the final and hope that the 22nd of March will be a day to remember.

Mr I Sampson



Northern Ireland French Debating Final

Wednesday 22 March
University of Ulster, Magee Campus

Limavady Grammar School
v
Methodist College, Belfast



A-Level Art and Design

A-level Art and Design pupils display their intricate prints after a master class in printmaking held by Mr Eric Martin, presently taking his PGCE in Art and Design at University of Ulster Coleraine, and on teaching practice in Limavady Grammar School.



Mr Martin graduated from the University of Wolverhampton with a Masters Degree. He has represented Northern Ireland in many international exhibitions throughout the world and was elected into the Royal Society of Printmakers. His work is included in public collections from New York to China.

This is a rare and wonderful opportunity for pupils to be instructed by such a prolific and knowledgeable artist, and one which they have thoroughly enjoyed.

Mrs J McCluskey

*Hannah H, Leanne D, Jill P, Nicola C,
Douglas D, Lauren M and Stephen G*

Comenius Project – Poland Visit 1st – 4th March 2006

Współpraca międzynarodowa w Europie- Nauczyciele w Polsce (Hands across Europe - Teachers in Poland)

On Wednesday 1st March I left behind the snows of a Limavady winter for the sub-zero temperatures (-10°C) and very deep snow of Chrzanow, Poland. As I landed at Krakow (Cracow) airport the view of a "winter wonderland" was breathtaking. My role was to represent LGS during the latest exchange as part of the EU funded Comenius project. This project aims to foster cooperation between schools through the completion of a common project on a topic of particular relevance to each country. The participating schools, from Estonia; Greece; Poland and 'the Emerald Isle', are researching aspects of energy production and consumption and associated environmental issues within their respective countries. Their findings will be shared using powerpoint presentations followed by an assessment on their content. During the meeting sample presentations were made by students and evaluated by staff. A strategy was then developed to enable each school to complete stage II of the project.

To compliment this exchange a visit was arranged for students and staff to the Nidzica dam on the Dunajec River. We were treated to an audio-visual presentation in English (the common language for the project - I think there is a message here!). This dealt with the aims of the scheme (river management and flood control, HEP production and water supply) and examined some of the negative aspects of the development (including environmental damage, loss of land and settlements, damage to the adjacent Dunajec Castle). The dam was completed in 1997 - just in time to deal with the 'flood of the century' (a 1 in 100 year severe and destructive flood). Flooding was successfully avoided downstream from the Dam.

A trip into the spectacular Carpathian Mountains followed, with the coach driver negotiating snow covered roads - we have a lot to learn about dealing with snow and ice.

The II Liceum Ogólnokształcące im. K K Baczyńskiego School, Chrzanow is co-educational and comprises approximately 900 students aged 16 to 19 studying for examinations leading to university entrance. In this respect it is similar to LGS Sixth Form (although their school day lasts from 07.30 to 14.00!). I met with the Director (Headmistress) mgr Irena Pacia and observed a selection of lessons. The students were very focused on the task of learning and are a credit to their school, teachers and parents - the similarities with LGS were very clear.

On Friday afternoon we joined other classes from the school for a lecture on energy sources and developments in transportation. This was held at the Science and Technology Institute of Karkow

University and conducted in Polish - my Polish must have improved considerably after 2 days as I managed to follow the lecture fairly well!

All too quickly the exchange came to an end and we went our separate ways. It was a privilege to work with a group of very dedicated teachers from different cultural backgrounds and to discuss aspects of our respective professional experiences. I certainly have come back with food for thought and ideas for the future.

Mr Devlin, Miss Doherty and I now look forward to hosting representatives of each school in the near future to develop further our cooperation through the Comenius project. They are eager to sample life in LGS and the Roe Basin and it will give us an opportunity to return the hospitality afforded during this and previous exchanges.



Visit to Krakov - Theatre

Poprzez współpracę osiągamy zrozumienie i wzajemny szacunek.- (Through co-operation we develop understanding and mutual respect.)

Dr A Bogle

French Exchange Pupil

A fifteen year old girl from the Lyon area in south-eastern France would be interested in doing a private exchange this summer with a pupil from the Limavady area (Year 11 or above). Please contact **Mr Sampson** for further details, if interested.

Spanish Visit to Belfast

On Friday 3 March the AS and A-Level Spanish students, accompanied by Mrs Sánchez, attended the Queen's Film Theatre to watch a movie in Spanish. The film was called *Como agua para chocolate* (Like Water for Chocolate) and it was based on the novel with the same title by the Mexican author, Laura Esquivel. It was a great idea as we study this novel as part of the Spanish A-Level syllabus.

Under a heavy snowfall, we arrived in Belfast at 10.30 am, just in time to participate in the first activity of the day, which consisted in talking in Spanish to other pupils from different schools.

Afterwards, the facilitator, Ximena Arias McLaughlin, a Spanish native speaker from Ecuador, went through a detailed synopsis of the film. This not only helped the lower sixth students to become familiar with the story, but also gave a new insight into the themes and characters for the A-Level students.

The atmosphere during the showing of the film was great due to the frequent outbursts of laughter at the very funny moments of *magical realism* in the story.

Following the screening, we proceeded with a workshop and a short pop quiz which summed up all the relevant issues of the film.

We would like to thank QUB and NICILT for the invitation, the school for its support and Mrs Sánchez for "un día fabuloso".

Leanne Donaghy and Alex Willis (6L)

Schools' Bowl Cup Rugby against Foyle

Limavady Grammar made it to the final of the Northern Bank Schools' Bowl and, though we went in as favourites, we were defeated by Foyle by 22 points to 19.

We started well, taking the lead after five minutes, Nicky Heaney going in for an unconverted try. Richard Brady responded with a Foyle penalty before David Funston put them in front with a try which was converted. A further try from William McCleery put Foyle 15-5 in front before Limavady Hooker Robbie Robinson scored out on the right with Niall O'Connor converting to narrow the scores to 15-12. At that point we looked as though we were ready to dominate and win the match. However, Chris Warnock, the Foyle number 8, picked up from a scrum on his 22, and powered his way to half way. When he was tackled, quick ball passed through Foyle hands, with Warnock on hand to take the final score and dive over at the posts, and the conversion gave his team a 22-12 lead.

We did not let our heads drop. Back we came and after play was switched right and left, second row Aaron Wallace went over at the posts, with Niall O'Connor's conversion bring us to within 3 points. In a frantic last 5 minutes we threw everything at Foyle, and had two scoring opportunities which we failed to take.

In the end the result probably reflected the slight edge which Foyle had on the day. However, had we scored in the last few minutes, the School's Bowl would have been well deserved. The match was extremely close, as the scoreline reflects and showed the high standard of rugby in the North-west. Congratulations to Foyle, and congratulations to our boys for such a great season.

Dr S McGuinness

LADS AND DADS CIRCUIT TRAINING

**LADS AND DADS (OR A MALE GUARDIAN OVER 18)
ARE INVITED TO CIRCUIT TRAINING CLASSES
IN LIMAVADY GRAMMAR SCHOOL GYM**

Supported by



DAY: TUESDAYS IN MARCH AND APRIL.

NEXT CLASS IS 14TH MARCH - TIME: 7.30 PM - 8.30 PM

*All boys are encouraged to come along and enjoy the fun! Bring along an older brother, friend, parent, uncle etc.
THERE IS NO COST FOR THESE CLASSES.*

Seconds March On

Following their emphatic win over **Belfast High School** in the previous round, the 2nd XV repeated the performance with an excellent 55-3 victory against **Down High School** in the second round of the Cup. Winger Philip Dunwoody repeated his 4 try haul and with Matthew Corbett, Peter Henderson, Andrew Moore and Richard Boyd also scoring tries and Mark adding five conversions, this was another very impressive performance.



Even more impressive was the 25-14 defeat of **Campbell College** in the quarter-final. In front of a large, and appreciative, crowd Mark's early penalty and converted try gave LGS a comfortable 10-point lead before Campbell stormed back with seven points of their own. A fine piece of opportunism gave Philip a try in the corner and a 15-7 interval lead. In the second half the forwards took control, putting the visitors under tremendous pressure. Mark landed another penalty before Andrew rounded off a move from a 5-metre scrum to score under the posts.

In the final quarter the defence was tremendous, with captain, Jeff Killen, Shane Martin and Stephen Cochrane outstanding and everyone playing their part. Campbell did manage one break to score under the posts in the last minute, but to no avail.

The boys now look forward to a semi-final encounter with Banbridge Academy on Saturday, the match to be played at Belfast High School.

Swipe Cards

The Limavady Learning Partnership has been of great benefit to the school over several years. One of the greatest innovations funded by the Big Lottery Fund was the introduction of Swipe Cards. This removed the necessity for students to carry cash, and thus reduced the potential for theft or bullying. There is a strong learning aspect to the use of the cards, as students will one day be responsible for their own bank account operating through debit cards, and possibly credit cards.

Unfortunately some students are not looking after their Swipe Cards well enough. The ladies on the tills in the canteen are frequently presented with broken or defaced cards. When these are reported to the school office, students are required to pay £5.00 for replacement of the card.

In future, all students presenting broken or defaced cards at the tills will have their names taken, and will be required to have the card replaced within one week.

To encourage students to take more care of their cards, it is proposed to increase the cost of replacement from £5.00 to £8.00 at the start of the summer term. Students have only a few weeks to sort out this problem.

Dr S McGuinness

Parents are advised that the Government intends to put through legislation that will prevent parents taking children on holidays during term-time.

From Monday 20 March 2006 the Ballyquin Road between the Roe View Inn and Boyd's Corner will be closed for a period of 4 weeks. Pupils who live in this area and who travel by bus will be picked up at either Roe View Inn or Boyd's Corner.

Congratulations to **Aine Toner** and **Lisa McNeill** who have both been selected to play for the Western Area Board under 17 hockey team. They will compete in the under 17 interboard tournament which will be held at Queen's University on 22 April. The hockey girls would like to wish them all the best.

Barcelona Bound!

Hola!

In less than a month's time, on 9 April, the 1st and 2nd hockey teams set off on tour to Spain. They will be based for the four days near Barcelona and each team will be playing three matches.

Under the captaincy of Judith McCracken, who has represented Ulster at under 21 level, the girls have been playing at a consistently high standard all season and hope that their training and match preparation will hold them in good stead against tough Spanish opposition.

Whilst there, they intend taking in some of the famous sights of Barcelona and its surrounding region.

The girls would like to thank their sponsors and all those who supported their many fund-raising events.

Gracias!

Parents' Association

Update from Parent's Association Committee

On behalf of the Parents' Association I would like to thank you for taking the time to read this brief update.

Limavady Grammar School has over the years developed strong links between teachers, students and parents. The main aim of the Association is to organise social events with a view to raising funds to provide amenities for the students, promote social contact between parents and provide mutual support in matters connected with extra-curricular activities.

The LGS Parents' Association Committee is a lively and friendly committee and we are always happy to welcome new parents (with new ideas!) to our meetings - usually two or three per term, depending on the nature of the events. Taking part in the social events and fundraising activities is a great way to meet other parents, which is often difficult, especially when a large number of students come to school by bus.

This is a particularly difficult financial year for the school and the Association has made a concerted effort to assist with the purchase of identified items within specific departments and hopefully assist towards the purchase of computer equipment. This school has a proven track record of student achievement and if they are to remain in the forefront of developing the skills necessary for the future, equipment such as that mentioned above is vital.

Over the coming weeks our major fund raiser, the Easter Draw will once again be circulated to all families in the form of tickets. Please support where possible by purchasing these tickets or making a contribution if you so prefer, your support will be very much appreciated.

I hope you will all continue to support the Parents' Association, either by attending, helping at events or by your financial contributions. All types of help are so important to the running of the association and the help and support we can then offer our children and the school.

Thank you once again.

Trevor Millar (Chairman LGS PA)

Limavady District Policing Partnership will be organizing a Drug and Alcohol Road show in Limavady High School on Friday 31 March.

The objective will be to raise awareness of the drug and alcohol issues by promoting local service providers who are involved with the drug and alcohol sector from an education, prevention, support, enforcement, treatment and counseling viewpoint.

Parents/Guardians are invited to attend from 15.30 to 17.00 hours.

It would be appreciated if as many parents as possible could attend, taking into account the serious and growing problem that substance abuse poses to our children.