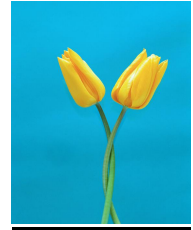




HEADLINES



March 2007

**Limavady Grammar School's Annual Spring Concert will be held on Thursday 29 March 2007 at 7.30pm
All parents and friends welcome.**

European Success for Limavady Grammar Brass Players



Two pupils from Limavady Grammar School have been selected to represent Northern Ireland in the European youth Brass Band. Shauna Kelly, a cornet player, and Steven Young playing baritone auditioned in Belfast last Monday and were awarded the only two positions in the Band allocated to players from Northern Ireland.

Shauna and Steven study with Mr Stuart Haigh, Brass Tutor with the Western Education and Library Board and are keen members of the Grammar School Senior Brass Band.

They will soon be spending a week in Birmingham with other young brass players drawn from across Europe, preparing for performances.

Congratulations to both on their success and best wishes for their forthcoming week in Birmingham.

Dr D Collins

Maths Challenge

A number of our Year 12 pupils recently took part in the UK Intermediate Mathematical Challenge. This is a competition which encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency in basic mathematical techniques to solve non-standard problems.

Over 202,000 pupils across the UK took part in the competition and the pupils in Limavady Grammar School achieved 8 Gold, 17 Silver and 21 Bronze awards.



The top three gold awards went to Andrew Kennedy, Neal McGinnis and Natasha Carton.

Limavady Grammar School – Northern Ireland French Debating Champions 2007!

Yes, lightning can strike twice! Our French Debating team proved this in style at Queen's University on Wednesday 21 March by defeating Methodist College for the second successive year to win the Alliance Française Post-16 French Debating Competition, the first school ever to retain the title in the history of the competition.

Cheered on by an enthusiastic crowd of nearly two hundred people, our team of Sarah Robb, Laura Mitchell, Laura Hamill and Hannah Crawford rose to the occasion and pulled off a dramatic victory in what was acknowledged by the judges afterwards to have been one of the best finals ever.

The scale of the task was not lost on the team in the lead-up to the final. As on most occasions when drawn against Methody, we were the clear underdogs. We had the daunting task of debating against the motion "*Les bienfaits de l'immigration l'emportent sur les désavantages*" (the benefits of immigration outweigh the disadvantages), no easy task without seeming racist or xenophobic, and the fact that one of the Methody team was of Polish origin did nothing to help our cause.

The quality of debate from both teams was excellent. The Methody speakers, as we expected, were slick and confident, but our girls refused to succumb to the pressure and held their ground well in a debate that lasted more than an hour.

The length of time taken by the judges to consider their verdict was an indication that it was going to be very close but the sheer delight on the girls' faces as the result was read out was worth all the effort and hard work.

Sarah Robb was judged joint best-overall speaker, along with the captain of the Methody team, Ciara Mulvenna. Sarah was also awarded a "*prix d'honneur*", a kind of "debater of the season award", in recognition of her achievements throughout the year which included a hat-trick of best speaker awards and being the only pupil from Northern Ireland to be selected for an all-Ireland team that took on and defeated a French team in an international debate in Paris in January.

But this was a real team effort and one must not overlook the efforts of our other two squad members, Gillian Given, who helped us defeat St Michael's Grammar, Enniskillen, in the semi-final, and Kathy Cooke.

I would like to thank all six girls for their efforts and hard work throughout the year. They started practising for the first round of the competition in early October and have been hard at work ever since. They have given up endless lunchtimes and hours after school to write and revise speeches, brainstorm ideas and research topics, to say nothing of the time spent at home learning their speeches. In an age when young people are often criticised for being apathetic and disinterested, it has been a pleasure to work with such well-motivated, independent and determined pupils. They fully deserve their success and I hope they now enjoy spending the €500 prize money, a somewhat easier task than winning the debate in the first place, I suspect.



Once again "*Félicitations*" to you all and I hope that your efforts have spurred on our pupils in the audience to emulate you next year as we attempt to become the first school ever to win the trophy three times.

Comenius Project



At the beginning of March teachers from our partner schools in the Comenius Project came to Limavady Grammar School. The teachers were from three different countries: Poland, Estonia and Greece.

The project we are doing in Technology on the environment and alternative energy is also being carried out in our partner schools in Europe. The visiting teachers showed us their pupils' project work using PowerPoint and on the interactive whiteboards in Technology!

Afterwards our Year 10 pupils presented their projects to the visiting teachers and the rest of the class.

Later this year Mr Devlin will be going to visit our partner school in Marathon, Greece, to show our completed presentations.

All Mr Devlin's Year 10 pupils have produced a PowerPoint presentation and have presented it in front of their classes. They have been awarded a grade for their powerpoint work and for how well they presented their work to their audience. We hope to get our work and some work from our partner schools on the school website very soon. The photograph shows Mr Yiannis Kotzias from Greece showing the work of his students to our class.

Conor Crampsie and Matthew Keys (Year 10)

Sports Hall Athletics

Good luck to Daniel Reid and Rachael McSparron who will be representing Limavady Grammar School at the Ulster Schools U15 Sports Hall Athletics final in the Antrim Forum on Friday 30 March 2007.

Netball

Congratulations to the Intermediate Netball team who were recent winners of the Coleraine and district schools netball league and also to the minor netball team who were runners up in the minor schools' league. Well done to all netball players for their commitment and effort throughout the year.

Archery

Congratulations to two of our Year 12 pupils, Matthew Warke and Rowena Moison, members of the Roe Valley Archery Club who won medals in the Northern Ireland Junior Indoor Archery Championships in Banbridge on Sunday 25 March. Matthew came second in the U18 Boys and Rowena came second in the U18 Girls competitions.

Football

Congratulations to Matthew Ferris (Year 12) who represented Northern Ireland U17s in the European qualifying matches in Portugal in March.

Cricket

Congratulations to Stuart Thompson (Year 11) who was part of Northern Ireland U17 squad that trained in Derbyshire in March.

The Limavady Learning Partnership (A-levels shared between the schools)



The Partnership has gone from strength to strength. Two weeks ago Limavady High School organised a concert featuring acts from all the local post-primary schools and from two local primary schools. The crowd enjoyed a great evening of entertainment, and our girls' rock band performed very well indeed, drawing great applause.

A month ago, teachers from the schools met in the Radisson Hotel and drew up a joint Learning Policy for the Roe Valley. The agreed policy asked teachers to focus on the way they used their **Time** and their **Resources**; an emphasis was placed on **Assessment** of progress so that students can be guided to improve; we must use a clear, inviting tone in the way we develop **Communication** with students, and we must ensure that the **Environment** is appropriate so that learning can happen.

The idea is that as more and more post-16 students move between the schools and the FE college to take a great variety of courses, now including five vocational A-levels as well as the 22 other A-levels, they will find a similarity in the approach from school to school. We want to ensure that issues such as **attendance** and **promptness** to class are addressed by students, and that we have a standardised approach to the way we **report** academic progress to parents. The school now uses the school minibus to help with student **transport**. It is planned to welcome students from St Patrick's High School, Dungiven next year, and give them access to as many of our A-levels as they wish.

We have developed a joint post-16 prospectus for the partnership schools and will be making it available in the area in the next few weeks. We are developing a joint website which will allow students to select three or four A-levels from the different timetabled blocks in the various schools. The reader will understand that a great amount of planning has gone into this venture, but we know that it will pay off for the young people of the Roe Valley.

Copies of the prospectus are available in the school office.

Dr S McGuinness

Host Family Wanted

A fourteen year old boy from Cluses in the French Alps is looking for a family who would be prepared to host him for 10-14 days this summer in order that he can improve his English. Loic is a quiet, sensible boy who is interested in music and outdoor pursuits, especially skiing and hiking.

In return, Loic's parents (his mother is an English teacher who has visited Limavady on several occasions) would be prepared to return the favour and host Loic's partner in France at a mutually convenient time. Or, as an alternative, they have offered to provide his partner and his or her family with free accommodation in one of the apartments that form part of their home.

If any of our pupils would be interested in this opportunity, please contact me at school for further details.

Mr I Sampson

Spanish A-Level Conference

On Friday 23 March, all of the A-Level students studying Spanish, along with Mrs Sanchez and our Spanish Assistant, Monica, travelled to the Coleraine campus of the University of Ulster for a Spanish A-Level conference. We were anticipating the day with great enthusiasm as not only would we broaden our knowledge in Spanish, but we would also get a taste of university life.

Sri Lanka

On 5 March the school was very pleased to welcome Mrs Nimnaaz Fouzik from Bishop's College, Colombo in Sri Lanka.

Limavady Grammar School has a curriculum partnership agreement with Bishop's College and Mrs Fouzik's week long visit was sponsored by the DFID Global Partnership Scheme.

During her stay Mrs Fouzik participated in classes in Geography, Art, Citizenship, Home Economics and Religious Studies, working on projects that are being undertaken by the pupils of the two schools.



In addition to this, Mrs Fouzik accompanied a Year 8 class to a Citizenship workshop in Thornhill College, met representatives of the Board of Governors, the Mayor of Limavady, Councillor John McElhinney, and visited the Giant's Causeway.

Joint project work with Years 8, 9 and 10 will continue during the summer term and will hopefully be completed in time for Dr Bogle to take the results of this work on his visit to Colombo in June.

Mr N Handforth

Citizenship Project with Thornhill College

Wed 7 March: 8W went to Thornhill College where Ciaran Flanagan from the Verbal Arts Centre taught us about identity and told us to fill in a questionnaire and a passport which contained details of our hobbies, religion and sporting interests. He also told us to design a mask that showed our personality and things that we like. We worked in groups and did a presentation on objects expressing different cultural identities.

Wed 14 March: Thornhill came to our school and Ciaran taught us about political parties. We learned about the DUP, SDLP, Sinn Fein and UUP etc. In groups we prepared for "Big Brother" and each group took on the role of politicians like Ian Paisley and Gerry Adams.

Wed 21 March: Both schools travelled to the Verbal Arts Centre. In our groups we discussed different groups who wanted to ban, keep or change the route of a twelfth of July Band Parade in a fictional town.

From this exercise we learned the importance of compromise and respecting the views of others. The project was good fun and we enjoyed working with the pupils from Thornhill.



Alice Guy and Jade McDonald 8W

School closes for Easter break on Friday 30 March 2007 at 3.30 pm and reopens on Monday 16 April 2007 at 9.00 am

