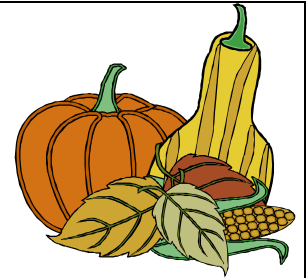




Headlines

OCTOBER 2006



Holidays 2006-2007

Please note:

*Friday 27 October -
exceptional closure day*

Autumn mid-term break:

Monday 30 October

-

Friday 3 Nov 06 (incl)

Christmas Break:

School Closes at 1 pm
Friday 22 December 06

School reopens at 9 am
Mon 08 January 07

Spring mid-term break:

Friday 16 February 07

St Patrick's Day:

Monday 19 March 07

Easter Holidays:

School closes at 1 pm
Tuesday 03 April 07

-

School re-opens at 9 am
Monday 16 April 07

May Day Holiday:

Monday 07 May 07

*School closes for
summer on*

Friday 29 June 07
at 1 pm

GRAMMAR PUPILS SPEAK OUT ON "LET'S TALK"

Early in June 2006, Limavady Grammar received an invitation from the BBC for some of its pupils to join the audience of "Let's Talk", a topical debate broadcast fortnightly on BBC One. Those who attended were Andrew Barr, Christopher Devlin, Philip Dunwoody and Andrew McClarey.

The evening was a very enjoyable experience for all the boys. They were treated to a panel of "big names", in the political world at least! Secretary of State, Peter Hain, Jeffrey Donaldson (DUP), Martin McGuinness (Sinn Fein) and David Lidington (Conservative MP), made up the four-man panel.

Each audience member was asked to fill out a question form before the show was filmed, and fortunately Christopher's question was chosen to be put to the panel. His question was, "Is the future of secondary education in Northern Ireland being used as a pawn in the political process?" This of course sparked up the huge debate over government plans to scrap academic selection and what effect this will have on Northern Ireland's hugely successful grammar school system. All four boys enjoyed the discussion, particularly when Christopher engaged the Secretary of State in a heated debate over the issue! Questions concerning progress over devolution and the spying allegations against Martin McGuinness were also included in the broadcast.

The future of education in Northern Ireland should be of huge concern to everyone, particularly to a town like Limavady, where academic selection has worked successfully for many years, both in our own school and those nearby. It was therefore pleasing to see pupils from Limavady Grammar School joining the debate with such vigour!

Philip Dunwoody (Year 14)

JOINT CHARITY EVENTS RAISE £5,000

Pupils at LGS have raised nearly £5,000 in two linked charity events. In December, £571 was raised by Miss Coid's Year 13 tutor group who sold friendship bracelets for Clic Sargent Northern Ireland.

In the second term, pupils in the Junior school raised £4,412.50 for Clic Sargent and the Roald Dahl Foundation. These charities help children and families who are undergoing cancer treatment, and children who have suffered head injuries, respectively.

Thank you for your generosity to all who took part and supported these events, which help children and families in Northern Ireland.

Miss J Coid

HOCKEY

Congratulations to Lauren Butcher, Sarah Kelly, Emma Haslett and Rebecca Hunt on being selected to train with the U15 Regional Development squad. Kayleigh Thompson and Rachael McSparron have been placed on the reserve list of players.

ATTENTION OF PARENTS - Are/were you a hockey player? Would you be interested in helping coach for a few hours per week? If you have the time to spare and lots of enthusiasm please contact Mrs Higgins or the School Office.

ANDREW IS THE TOP A-LEVEL CHEMIST IN NI

Following the A-level examinations in June of this year, it emerged that Andrew Hardeman had scored the top mark in chemistry in Northern Ireland.

This is the third time in our history that the school has achieved this award. Gail Hutchinson and Cecelia O'Kane performed the same feat in the past.

Andrew is reading Natural Sciences at Cambridge University.



LIMAVADY GRAMMAR SCHOOL RUGBY TOUR TO SOUTH AFRICA

In July the school completed its third, and most successful, rugby tour to South Africa. The party of 48 boys and six staff spent three weeks there and played a total of 14 games. The first XV won three out of five matches, the strong second XV won four out of five, and a young thirds squad won one out of four.

The tour began with all three teams winning against CBC Boksburg in Johannesburg, a school with strong Irish connections. Playing at altitude in strong sunshine and on a very firm pitch the 3rds won 13-5, the 2nds 17-5 and the 1sts 17-7. Almost a week later Andrew Rabie School in Port Elizabeth provided very stern opposition. The 3rds lost narrowly, 14-12. The 1sts could have played all day and still would not have won in a match where the quality of refereeing left much to be desired. The final score was a 15-3 defeat. A superb first-half display by the 2nds gave them a 19-0 lead which even the 'robust' tactics of their opponents in the second half could not dent.

Three fixtures in the final week stretched playing resources to the limit but produced some high quality rugby. Overberg High School at Caledon defeated the 3rds 15-5. However, the 2nds continued their winning ways 17-7 and the 1sts played some fine running rugby to win 31-7. On to one of the giants of South African schools rugby, Paarl Gim. All three teams tasted defeat. The 3rds 31-0 and the 1sts 31-7 against Paarl seconds. The 2nds played the local coloured school, Paulus Joubert. After conceding early tries against lightning fast backs, the LGS pack took control in the second half, driving over twice from 35 metres. But the early lapses left too much ground to make up and the local boys won by 31-20.

On to Cape Town and two final games against the coloured club, Primroses. Having learned from previous experience both 1sts and 2nds opted for tight forward games to get some points on the board, before letting the backs loose in the latter stages. The tactics paid off despite some, at times, brutal intimidation. The 1sts and 2nds both recorded 29-7 victories.

There are few more testing environments in which to play rugby than South Africa, where rugby is a national obsession. Each game provides a different challenge. The Limavady boys earned praise wherever they went, from players and spectators alike, for their fitness, commitment, teamwork and bravery often against much bigger opponents. Even in defeat at Paarl the 1st XV scored by driving the opposition pack over the line just seven minutes from the end. They deserve great credit for their performances and earned the respect of all their opponents, not least for their rendition of 'Ireland's Call.' The team captains, Johnny Hunter, Jeff Killen and Michael Magee led by example. Richard McCollum, Niall Armstrong and Gareth Wilson were named 'players of the tour' for their respective teams. Mark O'Connor, Peter Henderson and Johnny King were the top points scorers.

Aside from successes on the field the Limavady boys enjoyed warm hospitality and proved a big hit with the various hosts who housed them. Particular highlights were an afternoon tour of Soweto and the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg, three days sightseeing at Kruger National Park, travelling the south coast along the famous 'Garden Route', whale-spotting at Hermanus, cheetah-petting at Cango Wildlife Ranch and three days staying close to Table Mountain and the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront at Cape Town. They enjoyed tours of St George's Park in Port Elizabeth and Newlands stadium and attended Currie Cup matches at Ellis Park and Newlands. All in all, a memorable tour.

The members of the party would take this opportunity to express their appreciation to everyone who supported the venture in any way.

Mr B Dunwoody

DEBATING SOCIETY

Limavady Grammar School Debating Society enjoyed another successful year, attracting a membership that represented every year group within the school.

This intrepid group tackled many controversial as well as light hearted issues. Topics as diverse as the war in Iraq and the expansion of the European Union were keenly discussed but it was interesting to note that the issue which caused the most heated debate was the existence of Santa Claus.

It was pleasing to note the development in self-confidence made by each member in the field of public speaking and rational argument.

Mr B Crawford

YEAR 13 INDUCTION DAY

Limavady pupils entering year 13 in preparation for their A-levels, were given the opportunity, on Tuesday 5 September, to attend an induction day held at Limavady Grammar School. The event not only prepared us, as pupils, for the future, but integrated the Limavady secondary schools and brought together pupils not only from different schools but different backgrounds and religions. Pupils from Limavady Grammar School, Limavady High School and St Mary's took part in a range of outdoor and indoor activities to promote team building and also to prepare us for 6th form, examinations, and eventually for most, the prospect of university.

Firstly, we were given a range of issues to discuss and we designed posters on these relevant topics. These issues included life as a sixth former, employability but most importantly the responsibilities a 6th former should hold. This activity taught us the values we as older pupils should now have and taught us to set examples to the younger students.

Pupils were then given a motivational speech about time management, reflection, resourcefulness and readiness. The presentation also talked about where we would like to see ourselves in two years time. We were able to reflect on our GCSEs and how prepared we were for them. The speech also taught us to learn from our GCSEs experience in preparation for our A-levels.

Then, we were taken outside and split into smaller groups where pupils participated in a range of games and exercises whilst in mixed teams. The exercises ranged from archery to giant Jenga and from walking on planks to giant puzzles. These very successful activities brought pupils much closer together as each group had to work as a team and required communication amongst each and every group member.

Finally, we were given a lecture on how to take notes as a 6th former. The lecture highlighted the difference between 6th form and junior school and taught us how to keep ourselves up to date with our studies without so much dependence upon our teachers.



The day was extremely inspirational and gave students the chance to meet and interact with fellow students from other schools. The integration between schools proved a success with all and highlighted the friendships between the schools in Limavady. The effort put in by the teachers involved as well as the staff of the Bushmills Educational Centre was exceptional and they have helped prepare us immensely for the future.

All the 6th form students would like to extend their sincere gratitude to everyone who helped organise and run the event. This was a brilliant day and a lot of useful advice was given.

Andrew Devlin (Year 13)

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

On Tuesday 26 September, schools across Europe were encouraged to celebrate the European Day of Languages. In what has now become a tradition at LGS, the day began for us with a French breakfast in the canteen.

If you had closed your eyes, you might have been forgiven for thinking you were on the *Champs Elysées* as over a hundred and fifty pupils and staff enjoyed a *croissant* or *pain au chocolat*, whilst sipping their coffee or hot chocolate and listening to Edith Piaf singing *La Vie en Rose*.



Assembly was devoted to the theme of languages and celebrated the diversity of languages spoken in the school. It was introduced in Polish by Kasia Glonacka (Year 13) before a group of senior pupils bravely "volunteered" to lead the singing with a rousing rendition of "This is the day that the Lord has made" in Indonesian.

Hannah Crawford then read the story of the Tower of Babel in Spanish before Conor Gallagher, Sarah Robb and Hannah closed by saying the Lord's Prayer a line at a time in German, French and Spanish.

At lunchtime, the school radio station introduced the pupils to some stirring French and Spanish pop music, whilst over forty junior pupils crammed into G3 to enjoy a European quiz, no doubt spurred on by the promise of fantastic cash prizes (well, chocolate Euros seemed to keep them happy).

EDL stickers and badges were worn with pride and a good day was had by all. My thanks go to all the pupils who helped us out on the day and to my fellow language teachers who willingly gave up their free time to make this day a success.

Mr I Sampson

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our first school council meeting of the year took place on the 25 September where both senior prefects and council representatives from each year were present. The topics discussed were how students are treated in shops and the environment.

Most students believed that shop keepers tend to be more suspicious of younger pupils, especially if they have a uniform on, however, they did feel that if you behave well in shops, you will be treated with the respect deserved.

The school council representatives were strongly in support of introducing recycling measures in our school. They brought up the suggestion of having two separate bins in classrooms and corridors which separate recyclable commodities and general waste. We also considered what topics pupils would like to have brought up at the next meeting.

Overall, we had a successful first meeting, as a result of the students' enthusiasm and eagerness to engage and we are looking forward to our meeting next term.

Laura Byrne and Steven Young (Year 14)

SPORTING CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to **CLAIRE ANNESLEY** (Year 12). Claire has been selected for the Western Area Board U17 netball squad. Claire will attend squad training for the next eight weeks to prepare for the VI-Sport tournament in November.



NORTHERN IRELAND U17'S go for glory with the help of Limavady Grammar's very own **MATTHEW FERRIS** (Year 12). We wish Matthew and the Northern Ireland squad the best of luck and success for the upcoming games.

YEAR13/YEAR 8 PEER MENTOR TRAINING

On Tuesday 29 August a group of 54 year13 pupils met in the school library. They met to receive training for their new positions as mentors to the incoming first year pupils. They were greeted and seated by a team of enthusiastic staff. Mrs Henry, Mrs Crown, Mrs Macqueen, Mrs Cromie, Mrs Farmer and Mrs Gallagher were all well prepared to train the mentors with information on child protection and awareness, counselling, and other issues that would be necessary in the year to come.

The mentors were separated into groups and given tasks to complete, team work, empathising and talking and listening activities were carried out well by all present. As part of a training exercise, the students excelled at listening to their partner's fictitious problems as an attentive Mrs Crown watched on.

The training session ended leaving the new mentors feeling confident and well prepared to face their new mentees in the new term at LGS.

The Year 13 mentors and Year 8 mentees alike would like to thank the staff involved for the opportunity and new friendships that will come from being involved in the program over the next year!

Josie French (Year 13)

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

An Ulsterbus service along the Londonderry road will be provided for pupils who stay for after school activities. This service will not come into the school grounds as it did last year but will leave the depot at **5.00 pm sharp**.

Pupils **must** ensure that they leave enough time to walk to the depot for this bus as this is the last available bus for students to travel home.

Mr E Bogle

www.backcare.org.uk

This week is Backcare week and we have been highlighting the issue in assembly and in form classes. There are many causes of back pain, including the lifting of loads incorrectly and poor diet leading to obesity, but we have been focusing on the sensible use of schoolbags and lockers.

Students should:

- Have a sturdy schoolbag
- Plan their load for each day using their timetable
- Pack their bags with heavy objects first, and close to their back
- Use their school locker for sports gear to reduce their load
- Use their school locker at break and lunchtime to reduce their load

Above all, watch your back.

CASSIUS

The visit from Cassius (David Flanders) to all of Year 8 on September 15 was really exciting. He was dressed up as a Roman Soldier in full armour and told the story of his part in the crucifixion of Jesus. He explained that how, when he saw Jesus' name on the crucifixion list, he said that he was an innocent man, and shouldn't be killed but they had already released a murderer so Jesus had to die. Cassius was not happy about what he had to do. He told us that when Jesus came out he was grey because of the blood he had lost, but he still lifted the cross to carry it but then he collapsed. He called a black man over called Simon of Cyrene to help carry the cross and while he was carrying it Jesus was whispering in his ear. When they got closer to the hill, Cassius and the soldiers were going to nail them onto the crosses but when they turned round to nail Jesus onto the cross he was already lying on the cross as if he wanted to die. When they were nailing him to the cross there wasn't a noise out of him.



When he died there was an earthquake and Cassius realised that this was the Son of God. After Jesus died he rose again and Cassius couldn't believe his eyes. Cassius trusted Jesus and told his story wherever he went. I thought that David was fantastic and I would like to hear a story from him again.

James Thompson (8X)

CAT TESTS FOR YRS 8 & 10

The school will run the CAT tests again this year on Tue 7, Thur 9 and Friday 10 November. Pupils will shortly receive details from their Form Tutors. The tests results can give teachers a better picture of what your child is capable of at this stage of their development. No prior preparation is necessary and all that is needed on the days of the tests is a pencil and rubber (oh! ...and a cool head!) The results will be reported to parents in Feb/March 2007.

Mr J Calwell

PARENTS' MEETINGS – 2006-2007

Wednesday 8 November 2006 from 4-6 pm	-	Year 8
Thursday 7 December 2006 from 4-6 pm	-	Year 10
Wednesday 14 March 2006 from 4-6 pm	-	Year 13
Tuesday 27 March 2006 from 4-6 pm	-	Year 11
Wednesday 16 May 2006 from 4-6 pm	-	Year 9 - (Please note change of date)

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Limavady Grammar School
Parents' Association
TABLE QUIZ
In
Limavady Recreation Club, Killanz Road, Limavady
On
Thursday 26 October 2006
At
7.30 pm
Admission £10 per table of 4
(includes supper)
(OVER 18s ONLY)

Limavady Grammar School
Parents' Association
CRAFT FAIR
In
Limavady Grammar School
On
Wednesday 15 November 2006
from 7.00 – 9.00 pm
Admission to Public - £1
Tables are £15 or book 2 for £25
Would-be Exhibitors please contact Mr S Barr at LGS
to book table

SCHOOL MUSICAL

Coming soon:



23-25 November 2006
at 7.30 pm

