

Holidays 2009-2010

School finishes for summer
Tuesday 30 June 2009
at 12.30 pm

School reopens
Tuesday 1 September 2009
at 8.55 am

Exceptional Closure
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

Exceptional Closure
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

Exceptional Closure
Friday 28 May 2010

May Day Holiday
Monday 31 May 2010

School Finishes
Wednesday 30 June 2010
at 12 noon

HEADLINES

June 2009



PRINCIPAL'S INTRODUCTION

As we approach the end of the school year we can look back with considerable satisfaction. Our mission statement: Learning, Caring, Preparing for Life has been at the forefront of all our planning and actions. Our Year 8 pupils, having arrived in September, are now fully integrated into the school community while Upper Sixth, having completed A-Level Examinations, are now poised for the next phase of their lives.

We had the pleasure of welcoming the parents of our new Year 8 intake to school recently and the young people themselves had a very enjoyable and profitable day in school last week. They are now looking forward, with enthusiasm, to their Residential Induction Programme at Bushmills.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Group in school has been very active over the last months and the expeditions in the Mourne, North Antrim and presently in the Lake District have helped develop many personal and social skills in the participants. I had the privilege of attending a retirement celebration for Mr E Rainey, MBE, DL who has served the Award diligently and faithfully as NI Director since 1980. Mr Rainey is wished well by all in Limavady Grammar School.

Sports Day was a great success. Blessed with fine weather, it was wonderful to see the healthy rivalry among the participants and the enthusiastic support from the spectators, which included many parents. I hope more parents can join us next year.

The cricket season has been very busy and despite set-backs caused by rain, the teams have enjoyed many victories. The semi-final of the Schools' Cup, saw arguably the top two teams in the province battling it out. Despite valiant efforts, RBAI emerged as narrow victors.

Many thanks go to members of the Parents' Association whose fundraising activities have helped us to purchase a new minibus, a valuable resource to support the extra-curricular programme. I would encourage all parents to try to support the small band of volunteers in the Parents' Association.

I thank all parents who responded to the consultation exercise as part of our School Development Planning Process and the Senior Leadership Team looks forward to considering the views expressed.

I take this opportunity to wish all the families which make up our school community a pleasant, restful and safe summer holiday.

R Wilson (Principal)

ART AND DESIGN

Congratulations to all AS art and design pupils on their end of year exhibitions showcasing their commitment and endeavour throughout the year. Well done to **Jenna Logue** whose work has been recommended for display in the prestigious True Colours exhibition in Belfast later in the year.

Mrs J McCluskey

SWIMATHON 2009

During the months of February, March and April, 19 pupils took part in the Swimathon 2009 Challenge, the world's biggest fundraising swim, to support Marie Curie Cancer Care and the Swimathon Foundation. They swam for 30–45 minutes every Thursday at swimming club for 9 weeks in total and together the team managed to swim an outstanding distance of 4416 lengths of a 25 metre pool which is 110,400 metres, equivalent to 69 miles. They raised over £200. This was a fabulous achievement. Well done to all!

YEAR 8

Caolan Harkens	(203 lengths)	James Martin	(180 lengths)
Oliver Hill	(196 lengths)	Alexander Hill	(250 lengths)
Rebecca Heaney	(206 lengths)	Laura Millar	(128 lengths)

YEAR 9

Luke Feeney	(315 lengths)	Emmet McGonagle	(241 lengths)
Reece Sufferin	(286 lengths)	Zara Brown	(186 lengths)

YEAR 10

Patrick McCallion	(284 lengths)	Matthew Feeney	(274 lengths)
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YEAR 12

Carl Mulholland	(144 lengths)	Louise Bonham	(74 lengths)
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YEAR 13

Emma Dunwoody	(430 lengths)
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YEAR 14

Matthew Warke	(400 lengths)	Rowena Moison	(221 lengths)
Natasha Carton	(250 lengths)	Niamh O'Kane	(148 lengths)

Miss M Doherty

FOOTBALL

Congratulations to the all those involved in Girls' Football for what has been another very successful season.

The Under 15 Girls' Football Team, for the second year running, has won the North Coast Premier League. They fought off tough competition, especially from local rivals Dalriada and Coleraine High, to secure the title. Top goal scorer for the season was Becky McMullan. Player of the season was Amy-Lee McIvor.

Squad list:

Amy-Lee McIvor (Captain); Danni O'Kane; Becky McMullan; Nadine Mullan; Rachel McCluskey; Nicole Connor; Victoria Macqueen; Emer Lowry; Clare Nicholl; Amy Gannon; Jodie Shannon; Emily Allison; Hannah McArthur; Lisa Hartop.

The Under 13 Team represented the school at the annual soccer 7's in Coleraine. This is a very prestigious tournament with thirty schools taking part. The girls acquitted themselves admirably, making it to the quarter finals only to be beaten by a very strong Coleraine High School 'A' Team.

Squad list:

Nicole Connor (Captain); Emer Lowry; Amy Gannon; Jodie Shannon; Hannah McArthur; Shannon Tracey; Hannah Sharp; Ciara Robertson; Oliva Hesketh

Year 8 and 9 Team and Year 10 and 11 Team have all made it through to the Carnegie Schools' Cup National Finals. Years 8 and 9 Team has been invited to the tournament as holders of the 2008 title. This will be the first time our Year 10 and 11 side has progressed to this stage of the Cup. To have two teams compete at this level is a tremendous achievement. ***Good Luck.***

Mrs S Moore

HOCKEY TOUR

On the 30th June, a party of 33 girls and 7 staff members will set off from Limavady Grammar School on Hockey Tour for what will be a “trip of a lifetime” to Chile and Argentina. The party will consist of teams competing at both U18 and U17 levels. These teams will play matches in both Santiago and Buenos Aires.

After flying from Dublin to Paris, the tour party will cross the Atlantic en route to Santiago, the capital of Chile, on the Western Coast of South America.

Santiago is an amazing city with spectacular scenery and the party will have the opportunity to take a cable car to the top of San Cristobal and enjoy the splendid views of the surrounding city and mountains. Their stay in Chile will last four days before flying east into Argentina to the capital, Buenos Aires.

Buenos Aires is often referred to as “the Paris of South America”, and the heart of the city, as in colonial times, is the Plaza Major. The Avenida 9 de Julio is the widest avenue in the world and they will find many exclusive shops, theatres and the famous Colon Opera House.

It is hoped that they will take a city tour including the ‘La Boca’, the city’s oldest area and the home of the tango. Shopping is a must for the girls in one of the many craft markets.

Before leaving Buenos Aires, a river cruise of the Tigre is on the cards, as well as a guided tour through the upper market suburbs of Palermo and Martinez.

From here, they travel northwards to visit one of the natural wonders of South America, the gigantic and magnificent Iguazú Falls. For this an internal flight is necessary from Buenos Aires to the border with Brazil. Climate will be very different here from the cool temperatures of Santiago and Buenos Aires. Here the tour party will experience the heat and humidity of a tropic region.

A boat trip and guided tours along the Upper and Lower Fall Walkways are not to be missed, together with a journey by truck through the forest.

Back to Buenos Aires, a tango show is on the cards on their last night in South America; a fitting finale to a fantastic fortnight.

This tour will be a wonderful and valuable undertaking for the girls providing them with the opportunity to test their sporting prowess on an international stage and to learn about other countries and cultures. It should therefore prove to be both an enjoyable and educational experience.

It would not be possible to commit to a tour such as this, without the enthusiastic and dedicated help of parents, friends and sponsors. The organising staff would therefore like to thank publicly, everyone who has helped raise funds or contributed materially in any other way.

Good luck to all the girls.

Mrs S Moore & Mrs J Higgins

HOCKEY

I have recently been appointed Teacher in charge of Hockey and I am anxious to continue to develop the school Hockey Club. As part of our development plan we would very much like to involve you, the parents/guardians. One area in which we need your help would be to assist with tea and coffee for home matches on Saturday mornings. This could be organised on a rota system. We would also like to encourage you to come out and support the girls during matches, as this lifts the players’ morale. If you feel you could help or support us in any way please contact the school. *Thank you.*

Mrs S Moore

PERCENTAGE ATTENDANCE YEARS 8-11

8V	96.1
8W	97.5
8X	95.7
8Y	98.2
8Z	97.1

9V	94.4
9W	97.2
9X	96.9
9Y	96.9
9Z	96.9

10V	95.9
10W	95.1
10X	94.0
10Y	95.3
10Z	95.6

11V	96.7
11W	93.8
11X	92.3
11Y	94.0
11Z	94.3

Congratulations to pupils in 8Y with the highest attendance percentage (98.2) in 2008-2009.

Mr R Wilson

SRI LANKAN VISITORS



On 8 June two teachers, **Mrs Anushika** and **Mrs Niveditha**, from our partner school, Bishop's College, Colombo, Sri Lanka began an exchange visit to our school.

After being welcomed by Mr Wilson, Mr Handforth and Mrs Moles, they enjoyed a tour of the school, meeting many staff and pupils during classes.

Later they were welcomed by the Mayor of Limavady Council, Mr Cathal O'hoisin, where they exchanged gifts and compared aspects of local government within our countries.

As our guests, Mrs Niveditha and Mrs Anushika took part in Geography, History, RS, HE and Citizenship classes, giving our pupils an insight into the customs and diversity of our two cultures. They also enjoyed Sports Day and accompanied our Year 8 pupils on their "Church Visits" tour. Mrs Niveditha also attended Rossmar School Prize Day.

Mrs Anushika advised Year 9 Art and Design pupils in the traditional craft of lantern making (pictured right). This exciting activity involving construction, decorating techniques and using recycled materials was enjoyed by all.



Mrs Anushika and Mrs Niveditha on Derry City Walls



Mrs Anushika, Mrs Moles and Mrs Niveditha having lunch in the School Canteen



Mrs Anushika and Mrs Niveditha giving a cookery lesson in Home Economics

Mrs Niveditha gave a very interesting talk to Year 10 on marriage customs in Sri Lanka as part of an exchange project on "Marriage" which will be completed within the next school year.

Visits to the Giant's Causeway, a tour of the Walls of Derry and an ice-cream in Morelli's were equally enjoyed by both our visitors. Having been warned of our very cold, wet climate, I am pleased to say that, for a change, it did not live up to its reputation, so our guests saw our beautiful country at its very best.

We would like to extend our gratitude to all those who made the visit such a success and we look forward to furthering our links with Bishop's College in the years to come.

Mrs Y Moles

ATHLETICS AND NETBALL

I would like to thank all those pupils who showed excellent dedication and commitment to their athletics and netball training and competition over the past year. May be have continued success for the 2009-2010 season.

Mrs M Sandy

RUGBY TOUR

On 20th July 47 boys and 7 staff/coaches will set off on a trip of a life-time. The rugby tour to South Africa promises to be a special event and possibly life changing experience for all involved.

On arrival in Johannesburg the party transfers to Pretoria where matches for the 1st/2nd and 3rd XVs will be played against Cornwall Hill College and Zwartkop High School. The experience of playing at altitude will be difficult for the boys as will be the rock hard pitches. Sight seeing to major sporting arenas plus the Apartheid Museum is on the agenda.

The party then transfers to Entabeni Game Reserve where the safari will take in the Big 5. Before flying south to Port Elizabeth, the boys will have the opportunity to visit Gold Reef City. On arrival in PE, Limavady Grammar School will play against Pearson high School, a strong rugby playing school, and will enjoy the 'Supertubes' at Jeffrey's Bay – one of the worlds best surfing areas. The tour will continue on through Knysa and Mossel Bay to Cape Town where matches will be played against Primroses RFC. Visits to Robben Island, The Cape of Good Hope and Table Mountain are scheduled before the party travels back to Caledon for matches against Overberg High School and trips to the Natural Spa's and Hermanus – the Whale capital of the world. One further night in Cape Town before the tour comes to an end on 7th August.

Mr S Barr

HORRIBLE HISTORY IN THE LGS LIBRARY!

To complete their history for the term, Year 8 pupils were asked to write a book review of their favourite Horrible History and the work of four students has proven to be exceptional. Katie Murray and Jennifer Smyth, both 8W, Aidan Little, 8Z and Clarissa Guy 8V designed a book cover and wrote a review of their favourite 'Horrible History': Witches, the Groovy Greeks, the Vicious Vikings and the Second World War. The school librarian, Mrs Lisa Cromie, judged the entries and thought all were outstanding. She commented: "All work was of a very high standard and judging the top reviews was very difficult. However, I liked Katie's because of the exceptional attention to detail and Aiden's review contained a lot of gruesome facts about the Second World War. Both Clarissa and Jennifer created eye catching front covers."



*Katie Murray, Jennifer Smyth (both 8W),
Clarissa Guy 8V and Aidan Little 8Z*

Clarissa is also the top reader in Year 8 as she has managed to work her way through 72 books this year! Congratulations to all the students who completed the reviews and in particular to Aiden, Jennifer, Clarissa and Katie who will be able to choose a book of their choice as their prize. These winning entries will be on display in the library next term and there will be more to see in Miss Wright's room, N21. If you would like to know about the Slimy Stuarts, the Barmy British Empire or Mary of Scots and her Hopeless Husbands, then choose from over 30 Horrible History titles available in the school library.

Miss G Wright

READATHON RECORD BREAKER!

The English Department is extremely proud of the phenomenal response from our Junior School pupils to their annual Readathon event. This year the Junior School raised **£6,364.42**, breaking all previous records of our annual total.

Mr Brough Girling, the director of Readathon, contacted Limavady Grammar School to say: "*For Limavady to have broken all records in the current financial climate is nothing short of a miracle and speaks volumes of your enthusiasm. Your support makes such a difference to our charities and the children they support. I believe Limavady Grammar School has raised more than any other school in Northern Ireland this year and the lifetime total of £52,295.08 is a fantastic contribution*". Mr Girling was so impressed he would like to pay LGS a visit in 2010 to launch Readathon 2010.

Readathon sponsor money goes to Clic Sargent, helping families who have been affected by cancer. It also goes to the Roald Dahl Foundation, helping children who have suffered head injuries. All the money raised stays in Northern Ireland and in the past has even helped families within our own school community.

Miss J Coid