



# HEADLINES

October/November 2008



## **HOLIDAYS 2008-2009**

*Christmas Holiday*  
Monday 22 December 2008

-  
Friday 2 January 2009  
(inclusive)

*Exceptional Closure*  
**Wednesday 11 February 2009**

*Half Term Holiday*  
Thursday 12 & Friday  
13 February 2009

*St Patrick's Day*  
Tuesday 17 March 2009

*Easter Holiday*  
Monday 6 April 2009

-  
Friday 17 April 2009  
(inclusive)

*May Day Holiday*  
Monday 4 May 2009

*Exceptional Closures*  
**Thursday & Friday  
21 & 22 May 2009**

*School Finishes*  
Tuesday 30 June 2009  
at 12.30 pm

## **MODERN LANGUAGES SPONSORED SPEAK**

On Thursday 16 September, over fifty pupils from Years 12, 13 and 14 took part in a Sponsored Speak to raise money for the Northern Ireland Children's Hospice. This involved going for a whole school day, including break and lunchtime, without speaking a single word of English. This gave a rather cosmopolitan feel to some senior classes as the pupils involved negotiated all of their lessons for the day using a mixture of French, German, Spanish and even Cantonese (in one case), as well as a liberal amount of nods, grunts and panic-stricken expressions.

My thanks to all the pupils involved for having a go at this very challenging task, to their parents and friends who sponsored them and to all of the staff for their sympathetic questioning techniques during the day!



## **ONATTI THEATRE COMPANY**

Just before half-term, our Year 9 pupils were joined by pupils from Limavady High School, St. Mary's High School and St. Patrick's College, Dungiven, to watch the Onatti Theatre Company perform their French play, *Ecris-moi*. This was the first time that the theatre company, who are based in Warwickshire, have performed in Limavady, and all the pupils enjoyed watching the story of Tony, an English exchange student looking forward to his first visit to France and staying with his partner René, only to discover that René is actually Renée ... a girl!!

As the plot unfolded, the Assembly Hall rapidly became transformed into the *Louvre*, the Eiffel Tower and the *Champs Elysées* and pupils were kept alert as they were regularly called upon to translate for the hapless Tony. At the end of the play, we congratulated ourselves on how much we had understood and the French teachers are looking forward to seeing the benefits in future lessons!



*Mr I Sampson*

## GERMAN EXCHANGE

On Wednesday 15 October 2008 we welcomed a group of 19 German students to Limavady. During their stay in Limavady they were hosted in families and enjoyed the local hospitality. They were welcomed to the borough by the Mayor and visited County Down, taking in the aquarium in Portaferry, crossing Strangford Lough on the ferry and visiting St Patrick's grave in Downpatrick. They were impressed by Belfast and enjoyed a guided tour of the capital city. We would like to thank all of the families who took part in this venture and gave our guests such an unforgettable experience. Now we are looking forward to our return visit in June.



*Mrs J Mills*

## CHARITY NEWS

We believe that it is important to teach our children to consider others less fortunate than themselves in the hope that they will grow into caring and responsible adults. We continue to support our sponsored child, Dilani, in Sri Lanka through our Friday charity collections. We have collected 140 shoe boxes filled with small gifts for the Operation Christmas child appeal and would like to thank everyone who contributed to this worthwhile cause. Last Friday's collection was for Children in Need and we collected £200 for this popular cause and again we would like to thank everyone who contributed.



The Concern Fast will take place on Thursday 4 December this year. Anyone who wishes to take part in this 12 hour fast must receive permission from their parents and be in good health. Sponsor forms may be picked up from Mrs Mills in G2 and all sponsor money should be returned to Mrs Mills before the end of term.

Every year we donate a number of Christmas Hampers to the Salvation Army and St Vincent de Paul Christmas appeal. These hampers are distributed to families in difficult circumstances in our local area. To be able to do this we request that each child should bring either £1 or a non-perishable food item to their form tutor on or before Friday 12 December.

*Mrs J Mills*

## **"OKLAHOMA!" AT THE GRAMMAR!**

Hold onto your hats folks - there's a lot of that ol' pioneering spirit sweeping into Limavady next week, as Limavady Grammar School proudly presents Rodgers and Hammerstein's "OKLAHOMA!" in the school hall at 7.30p.m. (Thursday 27th - Saturday 29th).

This is a much loved musical with many memorable and uplifting songs that will have your toes tapping and your heart soaring - and your face aching from smiling too much! The show is set in the Indian Territory at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century when cattlemen and farmers were fighting over fences and water rights. In the middle of that controversy are two more rivalries. One between a cowboy called Curley (Chris Donnell) and a hired hand named Jud (Robin Craig), both in love with Laurey (Naomi Given). The second involves Ado Annie (Lisa McNeill), Will (Matthew Haslett) and Ali Hakim (Arjun Kattakayam), a trio that will provide plenty of laughs.

Overseeing all the action is Laurey's Aunt Eller (Laura Douglas), never afraid to speak her mind and throw in a bit of wisdom to boot. Curly and Laurey have a secret passion for one another but they are too nervous to admit their feelings and whilst Curly would like to take Laurey to the Box Social that night, he sorely misses out to Jud Fry, a menacing field hand, who harbours his own secret obsession with her. To see what the fuss is over Jud, Curly makes a trip over to his smoke house with frightening results. Laurey is now uncertain and wishes she had not agreed to accompany Jud but accepted Curly's invitation instead.

Meanwhile, Will Parker has just returned from Kansas City, full of tales about the amazing sights and sounds he has just encountered in the "modern" city. Will is in fact in love with Ado Annie, who herself is involved with a travelling salesman, Ali Hakim. Her problem is that she just "cain't say no" to any fella - she just loves the one she happens to be with at any particular time!

At the Box Social onlookers bid on hampers containing home made food. When it comes to Laurey's hamper, Jud and Curly both fight over bids. Jud runs off with Laurey who, frustrated, fires him and breaks down. When Curly comes to her rescue they admit their love for each other. But danger lurks in the form of a rejected Jud, who will stop at nothing to get his girl! As for Will, Ado and Ali...well, the path of true love doesn't exactly run smoothly there either!

This is a joyous production, filled with song and dance to lift the soul and a show not to be missed. Everyone who sees it will find it difficult to avoid humming the tunes over and over again - classics such as "Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin!", "The Surrey With the Fringe on the Top", "Kansas City", "Many a New Day" and the stirring anthem of the title, "Oklahoma!".

**Tickets are now available from the School Office  
(tel: 028 7776 0950) or any pupil,  
priced £5 and £3 (concession).**

*Miss C Gordon*

***Limavady Grammar School's Annual Report to Parents is now available from the school office - anyone wishing to collect a copy, please contact the school secretary.***

## NORTHERN IRELAND CURRICULUM

### Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities

One of the key developments in the Northern Ireland Curriculum is the view that pupils should not only build up their knowledge and understanding of a particular subject but also that they should develop transferable skills that can be applied across the curriculum.

*The Northern Ireland Curriculum website reads:*

'**Thinking skills** are tools that help children to go beyond the acquisition of knowledge in order to search for meaning, apply ideas, analyse patterns and relationships, create and design something new and monitor and evaluate their progress.

**Personal and interpersonal skills and capabilities** underpin success in all aspects of life. It is important, therefore, that children's self-esteem and self-confidence are explicitly fostered along with the ability to understand and manage their own emotions and to interact effectively with others.'

There are five strands to **Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities**:

- Managing Information,
- Thinking, Problem Solving and Decision Making ,
- Being Creative,
- Working with Others,
- Self-Management.

Each of these strands contain a number of areas. Let me focus, as an example, on Managing Information. This involves asking, accessing, selecting, recording, integrating, and communicating. Pupils are encouraged to:

- Ask focused questions.
- Plan and set goals, break task into sub-tasks.
- Use own and others' ideas to locate sources of information.
- Select, classify, compare and evaluate information.
- Select most appropriate method for a task.
- Use a range of methods for collating, recording and representing information.
- Communicate with a sense of audience and purpose.

In each Area of Learning (subject) pupils will develop these skills in an appropriate way.

We, in Limavady Grammar School, believe that these skills have been part of learning and teaching for many years and, consequently,, they have been effectively delivered through good questioning skills, group/paired work and active learning methodologies. Our existing good practice will continue.

### INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AWARD 2008-2011

Limavady Grammar School was one of six schools from Northern Ireland to receive the International Schools' Award at a ceremony in London on Wednesday 8 October 2008.

This celebration of the best in international activity was attended by representatives from schools across the UK, and the successful winners were presented their awards by broadcaster and journalist George Alagiah.

The International Schools Award is a prestigious accreditation that supports the delivery of a global dimension to the school's curriculum.



To qualify for the ISA a majority of students must be involved in international work and be actively engaged in curriculum based work with a number of partner schools throughout the year.

Limavady Grammar School curriculum includes three annual language exchanges and two bi-annual exchange to France and Spain.

The Comenius scheme sees a new joint project with schools in Germany, Italy and the Netherlands studying renewable energy and sustainable development. The well established global link with Bishop's College in Colombo Sri Lanka involves joint project work in Citizenship, Geography and Home Economics. Two colleagues from Sri Lanka will teach in the school in November for a week whilst two teachers from the Grammar school will visit Bishop's early in the New Year.

The international project that has received most public acclaim is the long standing link with diocese of Kaijedo in Kenya. This year thirty students, staff and parents spent a month building a school for Masaai girls. Over £30000 had been raised in the community for this venture which followed the successful building of two water towers in 2004.

Staff and students at Limavady Grammar School were delighted with the news that the school has gained the International Schools Award. Dr S J McGuinness, Headmaster, congratulated the school community, noting that the three year accreditation reflected the width of international issues that are embedded in the school's curriculum.

The International School Award ([www.globalgateway.org](http://www.globalgateway.org)) was started in 1999 to recognise the schools leading the way in installing a global dimension into the learning experience of all children and young people. It is funded by the DCSF and managed by the British Council. The scheme is highlighted in the DCSF international strategy as 'a major prize for excellence in this field' and is open to all schools in the UK.

Martin Davidson, Chief Executive of the British Council, said; "We congratulate and thank all the schools for their commitment to the International School Award. We believe that international links bring a vitally important dimension to the education of our young people ensuring that they build the skills and understanding to become global citizens ready and able to take their place in the world. I am delighted that so many schools, local authorities and individual teachers agree with us."

A record 585 schools, a rise of a third from the previous year, were accredited in 2008, and the Award is also operating in India, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Lebanon, Cyprus and Pakistan. Around 1200 International School Awards have been presented to successful schools in the UK since the scheme began in 1999.

The ISA encourages and supports schools to develop the following:

- An international ethos embedded throughout the school
- A majority of pupils within the school impacted by and involved in international work
- Collaborative curriculum-based work with a number of partner schools
- Curriculum-based work across a range of subjects
- Year round international activity
- Involvement of the wider community
- Provides ideas for developing collaborative curriculum-based international work with partner schools

### **The British Council**

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural relations. We work in 110 countries worldwide to build engagement and trust for the UK through the exchange of knowledge and ideas between people. We work in the arts, education, science, sport and governance and last year we reached over 128 million people. We are a non-political organisation which operates at arm's length from government. Our total turnover in 2007/8 was £565 million, of which our grant-in-aid from the British government was £197 million. The HSBC/British Council Link2Learn Awards recognize excellence in international school partnerships with grants to schools, international co-coordinators and local authorities.

**John Rolfe** the Manager of the International School Award for the British Council wrote:

*'Many congratulations on your fantastic and very well deserved success in the 2008 International School Awards...you are one of the best schools in the country in your commitment to ensuring that all our young people develop as global citizens and the ethos in your school celebrates and recognises the importance of the international dimension in education'*