



Headlines

September 2008



Holidays 2007-2008

Exceptional Closure
Friday 24 October 2008

Halloween Holiday
Monday 27 October 2008

-
Friday 31 October 2008
(inclusive)

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 5 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

Superstar Visits the School

There was great excitement in assembly last Wednesday when we were visited by **Jason Smyth**, double gold medallist in the Beijing Paralympic Games. Readers will be aware that Jason holds the world record at the 100 m and 200 m for Paralympic athletes.



Jason is pictured with his two sisters.

Jason stayed for some time in school walking around with Mrs Maguire, former PE teacher who spotted Jason's gifts when he was in junior school and recommended that he join the Sparta Athletic Club in Londonderry.

Dr S McGuinness

Emma and Ruth gain Top Marks in GCSE Religious Studies

We were delighted to hear that Emma and Ruth achieved 1st and 3rd place respectively in short course Religious Studies in the 2008 examinations. This is a tribute, not only to the hard-working girls, but also to the RE department led by Mrs Dunwoody, Emma's mother and, of course, to their teacher Mrs Harvey.



Onwards and Upwards

Excerpts from the Headmaster's address at Prize Day:

At A-level our pass rate was 100%, unprecedented in the school's history.

In this year's excellent results twenty students achieved 3 A grades or better and eight achieved 4 A grades.

Outstanding were Rhoda Alcorn, Christina Connell, Abbie Coulter (4), Hannah Crawford, Rachel Currie (4), Andrew Devlin, Leigh Ferris, Kasia Glowaska (4), Aaron Grieve (4), Laura Kearney, Philip Lowry, Gavin MacQueen, Ceara McCool (4), Gillian McKinley, Matthew McNabb, Liam McNulty, Kevin McVeigh (4), Emma Mitchell (4), Daniel Mullan (4), Mark Wilkinson (4)

Overall 63.4% of our grades were A or B with individual subject departments performing marvellously, as they did at GCSE also.

When all the results at GCSE were in, it emerged that the year 12 had given a record performance with 53% of our grades as A or A*. Last year was the first time we topped 50%, so it's onwards and upwards. According to the Times on-line survey of contributing schools this result would place us 3rd in Northern Ireland above many prestigious schools.

Twenty-one candidates had straight AA* grades. They were Ruth Bunting, Ben Cartwright, Becky Coulter, Naomi Davis, Emma Dunwoody, Andrew Given, Matthew Haslett, Clare Henderson, Emma Henderson, Hannah Jack, Jake Knowles-Jensen, Genna Logue, Claire Lynch, James McCaffrey, Nicola McCallion, Pamela Nicholl, Conor Peace, Laura Shiels, Andrew Simpson, Trevor Smyth, Julie Willis, Andrew Wilson and Hannah Wilson.

Dr S McGuinness

German Exchange - June 2008

On a lovely day in June a group of sixteen intrepid LGS students set off for Dublin airport armed with sandwiches and - pizza? We were on our way to Tuttlingen in Southern Germany to complete the German exchange. On the way through the Black Forest in the dark we were treated to a spectacular lightning display, before we arrived in Tuttlingen to be reunited with our German partners.



During the week we attended lessons, ate lots of cake and ice-cream, shopped in the market and visited the beautiful Bodensee and Insel Mainau. On our last day we had a trip in a cable-car and visited the beautiful city of Freiburg.

The German food was interesting but nice and the area around Tuttlingen is beautiful. At the end of our stay there were many tears and promises to keep in touch! We would really recommend taking part in this exchange, and indeed many of our group have signed up to take part again this year.

Rebekah McKenna & Jane Semple



The ICT department are indebted to Seagate for their very generous donation of three 750Gb external hard drives. These will be used in the delivery of the ICT curriculum throughout the school and will support the ICT department as they implement the revised curriculum at Key Stage 3.

Mrs K Henry

European Day of Languages

The European Day of Languages on 26 September has been a regular feature on the school calendar in recent years and this year was no exception. With the actual day falling on a Friday this year, events began a day early with our senior assembly on Thursday having a languages theme. Manon Bartlett and Sarah Kerr (both year 11) introduced the assembly in French whilst Daniel Simpson (Year 12) did a Bible reading in German and Eva Gonzalez (also Year 12) closed with a prayer in Spanish.

Friday began with our now traditional French breakfast when the canteen was packed with pupils and staff alike who munched their way through a massive two hundred and forty *croissants* and *pains au chocolat* with all proceeds being donated to the Northern Ireland Children's Hospice. At lunchtime, nearly fifty junior pupils packed into G3 to enjoy a languages quiz organised by Miss Allen, whilst those who didn't attend were made to endure Mr Sampson's favourite French pop tunes of the 1980s being blasted out over the school radio station.

A touch of artistic flair was added to the day by Year 8 pupils who entered the European Day of Languages poster competition and this year's winners were Eloise Robertson, Jenyth Evans and Jacek Kordula.

My thanks go to all pupils and staff who contributed to the day. Hopefully, a good time was had by all.



Mr I Sampson

Counselling

A qualified counsellor from Contact Youth will be in school every Thursday morning from 9 am to 1pm. Counselling will take approximately six sessions per student (1-2 for introductions, 4 weeks for actual counselling and 1 for review/further assistance). Students availing of this service will be given a signed note by Mrs McFarland to gain permission for absence from class. Sessions will rotate from week to week to ensure pupils are not out of the same class each week and for sixth form students we will use study time first. Contact Youth work alongside the school and will implement our school policies.

There are two routes available for pupils to be seen by the counsellor, as outlined below:-

- (1) Internal referral - if a teacher or Head of Year has a concern about a pupil they complete an internal referral form and return it to Mrs McFarland. Mrs McFarland will liaise with the pupil, parent and counsellor, where appropriate, to arrange an appointment.
- (2) Pupil/parent referral - pupils will be able to complete a self referral form and place it in the locked box outside E1. The key for this will be held by Mrs McFarland and the counsellor. Parents/guardians may refer their child by contacting Mrs McFarland at school.

A leaflet for parents, giving more information on Contact Youth and the service they are providing to all schools throughout the province, is available from **Mrs McFarland**.

Art and Design Success for Noeleen

Noeleen's work has been selected for the True Colours Exhibition in the Waterfront Hall in Belfast later this year. This important event shows the work of some of Northern Ireland's brightest young artists and designers all of who have completed their GCSE, AS and A Level exams this summer. Well done, Noeleen!



Congratulations to Emma

Emma won the prestigious Dali Poster Competition hosted by Dali Universe at the County Hall in London during the summer holidays. She has been invited to London in January 2009 for the opening of the gallery where her winning poster design will be on display. Very well done!



Mrs J McCluskey

Parents' Association - Fundraising

The Parents' Association want to try and help the school purchase a new mini bus. The present vehicle has seen sterling service over too many years for all sorts of groups including hockey teams, rugby teams, law society, debating teams, French teams, Duke of Edinburgh Award pupils etc.

Our fund raising activities over the next few months include:

- A Christmas Fair which will be held on 19 November
- Halloween Quiz Sheet
- Jazz Concert
- Fashion Show

All parents are very welcome to join us at our meetings which take place once a month and last one hour. We would value input and new ideas from interested parents. If you require more details please contact me on 028 7772 2617 (day) or 028 7776 3881 (evening).

Mr Peter Jack

The Revised Curriculum

All grammar and secondary schools are in the process of delivering the second year of the **Northern Ireland Curriculum** (NIC). Over the next few editions of 'Headlines', I will try to unravel some of the implications and changes that this new curriculum will bring and how they may affect Key Stage 3 pupils and parents. To begin, therefore, there are three main objectives in the NIC:

- To develop young people as an individual
- To develop young people as a contributor to society
- To develop young people as a contributor to the economy through their employability skills.

These aspects of the curriculum are directly dealt with under the heading of **Learning for Life and Work** (this includes Personal Development; citizenship; Employability; and Home Economics). Each pupil in Year 8 and 9 has four periods of LLW per week.

At Key Stage 3, individual subjects no longer stand alone within their own discretely defined areas of knowledge and skills. They are now set out as strands within eight **Areas of Learning**:

- The Arts (Drama, Music and Art)
- Mathematics
- English and Media
- Science and Technology
- Modern languages
- Environment and Society (History and Geography)
- Physical Education
- Religious Education

These Areas of Learning share curriculum objectives with *common key elements and skills* outcomes and, although each Area of Learning has a legal minimum content, each school (and thus each department) can decide what will be taught.

At LGS, the Senior Management Team and staff have embraced the ethos of the Revised Curriculum whilst retaining a traditional approach to the knowledge and understanding of the subjects studied. In practice, the content of most subjects has remained as before, with some trimming to allow for more class activities.

All Areas of learning must not only deliver their own content, but also take into account a number of specific **Key Elements, Thinking Skills** and three **Cross Curricular Skills**.

Key Elements: these include, amongst others, personal understanding; mutual understanding; moral character; spiritual awareness; media awareness; economic awareness; education for sustainable development and cultural awareness. Not every Area of Learning or subject is expected to deal with all of these issues in detail, but all Key Elements must be addressed throughout the three years of the Key Stage 3. (For example, ethical issues may be raised in a History lesson on slavery, whilst that topic may be covered in more depth in Religious Education.)

What will this mean to Parents?

Parents of pupils in Year 8-10 will receive a report in June which will reflect these changes. As usual, Areas of Learning will continue to be reported on with the addition of comments pertaining to Cross Curricular Skills.

- October: Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities
- November: Cross Curricular Skills
- December: Assessment and Reporting

Useful websites: www.nicurriculum.org.uk www.deni.gov.uk www.ccea.org.uk