



Headlines

May 2010



Holidays 2010-2011

May Holidays

Half Day for Pupils

Thursday 27 May

School finishes at 12 noon

Friday 28 May 2010

Monday 31 May 2010

School Finishes

Wednesday 30 June 2010

at 12 noon

New School Term begins

Wednesday 1 September 2010

at 8.55 am

SDD 3

Friday 29 October 2010

Halloween Holidays

Mon 1 - Fri 5 November 2010

(inclusive)

Christmas Holidays

Thurs 23 Dec 2010 -

Monday 3 January 2011

Half Term

Mon 14 – Wed 16 Feb 2011

(inclusive)

St Patrick's Day Holiday

Thurs 17 & Fri 18 March 2011

Easter Holiday & May Day

Mon 18 April –

Mon 2 May 2011 (inclusive)

May Bank Holidays

Fri 27 May & Mon 30 May

2011

School finishes for summer

Thursday 30 June 2011

at 12 noon

Principal's Introduction

The last few weeks have been busy in the life of the school.

Immediately after the Easter break we hosted the Inspectors. Their final report will not be published until the end of May, but I expect that the good work in our school will be endorsed. The Staff and Board of Governors, through the School Development Plan, have identified priorities to make our good school an even better school, and I can assure you that we will continue to work hard in the interests of all our pupils.

Exchange trips to and from Spain have taken place. Our Spanish guests' return was delayed by three days due to the air travel disruption. During this time the host families did everything to support their guests. To this group of parents I extend a special thanks.

The Cricket Season is now underway heralding the arrival of summer and pupils are practising for a range of track and field events during after school athletics. Two swimming galas concluded another successful year for The Swimming Club.

Just before the Easter holiday the whole school gathered at the presentation of Colours and other awards. Richard Archibald, Irish Olympic Oarsman was our special guest and his address to the pupils was inspirational.

Congratulations are extended to our Sentinus R & D team who undertook, under the supervision of Mr Ferguson and in conjunction with Wrightbus, a complex engineering initiative and presented their project at QUB. Mr Alcorn, Chairman of the Board of Governors, and I were proud to be at this final event.

I trust that the parents who attended the recent meeting, when we provided them with some ways by which they could support their children's learning, benefited from the evening.

Our senior pupils will soon commence study leave in preparation for the external examinations. We wish them well and look forward to welcoming back Year 12 into the Sixth Form and Year 13 as our Upper Sixth Form. We prepare to say farewell to this year's Upper Sixth. They have been a truly exceptional group and have contributed much to the life of Limavady Grammar School. Led by Andrew and Ruth (Head Boy and Head Girl) and Matthew and Hannah (Deputies), their presence and actions during their final year have enriched the lives of many other pupils. Now they are ready to move on to the next chapter of their lives. This will always be their school and we look forward to welcoming them back as visitors. The whole school extends best wishes to the Class of 2010 and to all who will be undertaking public examinations.

R Wilson

French Debaters Triumph Again!

There were two things standing against us when our French debating team travelled to the University of Ulster on Wednesday 24 March for the final of the Northern Ireland Schools French Debating Competition. Firstly, we had won the competition the previous year, and so even the law of averages seemed to be against us triumphing again and, secondly, we had the not insignificant task of having to overcome our old adversaries, Methodist College, once again in the final. Added to this, this year's motion – « *Au lieu d'ouvrir de nouvelles perspectives sur le monde, le tourisme d'aujourd'hui ne fait que nous conforter dans nos idées reçues* » (Instead of opening up new perspectives on the world, tourism only serves to reinforce our preconceived ideas) – seemed strangely reminiscent of last year's final, except that this time we had to argue for the motion, which caused us more than a little difficulty as we sought to put together convincing arguments.



However, our team of Emma McMullan, Laura Ross and Jade Turner (all Year 14) and Daniel Simpson (Year 13) put in a magnificent performance, refusing to give in to some spirited heckling from the “Methody” team, and were unanimously declared winners by the panel of three judges, thus becoming Northern Ireland French Debating Champions for the second successive year and for the fourth time in the last five years. Congratulations must also go to Kristoffer Wright (also Year 14), who took part in our victories in the earlier rounds of the competition against St Columb’s College and Foyle and Londonderry College.

The final, which lasted well over an hour, was conducted entirely in French and involved each member of both teams giving a three minute speech, before the two captains rounded off proceedings with a concluding speech for their team. However, as with any debate, it was not simply a matter of delivering a speech. Each team member was expected to refute what their opponent had just said and could be heckled at any moment during his or her own speech, with the heckles themselves sometimes lasting several minutes! Whilst the team members were able to learn off their speeches, the need to refute and heckle required them to be able to react spontaneously and was a big test of their language skills.



I would like to pass on my own congratulations and thanks to all the members of the team, and indeed to Hannah and Naomi, our ever-willing subs, who have played their part in helping us to prepare for each debate. Their success has not come without considerable effort and hard-work and I have lost count of the number of lunchtime and after-school practices we have had, starting back in October and continuing right through to the end of March.

Hopefully, the experience will stand them in good stead as they now prepare for their AS and A-level oral exams, although they can be assured that their examiner is unlikely to heckle them with the ferocity that they faced in the debating final!

Mr I Sampson

Senior French Exchange

Just before the Easter break, we were joined by fifteen pupils and two teachers from the *Lycée Charles Poncet* in Cluses on the return leg of the Senior French Exchange. The French pupils spent ten days with us and, as well as spending some time with their partners in lessons, also enjoyed excursions to Londonderry, the North Coast and the Ulster American Folk Park, were received by the Mayor of Limavady at the Town Hall and were introduced to wheaten bread with a cookery session organised by the Home Economics Department.

Could I take this opportunity to thank all the parents who kindly welcomed an exchange student into their homes during the visit. The school operates an exchange programme which is the envy of many other schools, but such exchanges can only take place thanks to the co-operation and goodwill of parents. Thank you again for your hospitality and kindness.

Mr I Sampson

Congratulations



Congratulations to Genna Logue, Year 14, who has been selected by The Arts Society of Ulster as AS Student of the Year. This award is made annually to select students who have had work on show in the CCEA True Colours exhibition. This important event shows the work of some of Northern Ireland's brightest young artists and designers, all of whom have completed their GCSE, AS and A Level exams this summer.

Genna has been invited to exhibit her final work and selected preparation pieces with members of the Society in their Annual Exhibition which will be held in Belfast in August. At the preview, Genna will receive a cheque for £100.00 and an Arts Society of Ulster Certificate. The school will also be presented with an Arts Society of Ulster Certificate.

Well done Genna!

Mrs J McCluskey

Sentinus Engineering Project

A team of students from Lower Sixth, comprising of Stacey Stevenson, Emma Brolly, Adam Blair and Andrew Paul, attended the Sentinus Engineering Assessment Programme at Queen's University, Belfast on Wednesday 21 April 2010. The team was designing a door for the new Routemaster bus being built by Wrightbus in time for the 2012 Olympics. They were highly commended for their design, especially the electronic system which ensures that all passengers entering the bus pay the fare and also making it impossible for passengers to enter the bus using the wrong door. This is the second year the team has worked with Wrightbus in Ballymena and we are grateful for all the help given by our engineer contact, David Barnett.

Twenty-nine schools from all over the province participated in the Engineering Programme and it is very satisfying for the team to be given such a high commendation.

Mr P Ferguson

Fire Safety Awareness Awards

Congratulations to the following Year 9 pupils who took part in the Arson Prevention and Fire Safety Awareness poster competition organised by the Northern Ireland Fire and Safety Department.

1st Prize: Eleanor McManus 9W – Apple IPOD Shuttle.
2nd Prize – Joint winners: Laura Millar 9Z & Rebecca Allen 9X – £30 Gift Voucher each for HMV.
3rd Prize: Lauren Mc Laughlin 9Z – £10 Gift Voucher for Eason’s Bookstore.



The competition was run in conjunction with a series of lectures given as part of Year 9 Personal Development Programme to alert pupils to fire safety issues and the dangers and consequences of arson in the local community.

Congratulations to all Year 9 pupils who took part.

Mrs J McCluskey

Board of Governors

The following have been appointed to the Board of Governors:

WELB: Mr C Canning; Dr L Clarke; Mr D Lowry; Dr A McNeill; Mr A Smyth; Dr H Wood
DENI: Mr R Alcorn; Mr P Jack; Mr S Kelly; Mr J Rankin
Parents: Mr P Donnelly; Dr P Finlay; Mr G Hill; Mrs E Priestley
Teachers: Mr B Crawford; Mr R Donnell

At its first meeting on 25 February 2010, Mr R Alcorn was appointed as Chairman and Mr D Lowry was appointed as Vice Chairman.

R Wilson
(Principal and Secretary to the Board of Governors)

House Swimming Galas

Congratulations to all pupils who participated in the House Swimming Galas on 19 and 21 April. Both behaviour and performance were outstanding. Overall winners were:

Boys

1st Green House (42 pts)
2nd Yellow House (30 pts)
3rd Blue House (17 pts)
4th Red House (10 pts)

Girls

1st Green House (40 pts)
2nd Blue House (28 pts)
3rd Yellow House (17 pts)
4th Red House (8 pts)

Fastest Times:

Backstroke - Evan Donnell (16.34) and Emma Donnell (18.00)
Breaststroke - Carl Mulholland (17.14) and Emma Donnell (20.41)
Front Crawl - Daniel Irvine (12.59) and Lisa Kerrigan (15.47)

Well done to everyone involved and a very special word of thanks to Miss Johnston, Mrs Sanchez and Mr Bogle for all their help.

Miss M Doherty

Charity News

The amount of money raised from the 'Hats for Haiti' day amounted to £750. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this deserving charity.

Mrs J Mills

Spanish Exchange 2010

On Sunday 21 March, a crew of LGS pupils along with Mrs Sánchez and Mr Devlin jumped on a plane to Santander, in northern Spain, to take part in an exchange with a secondary school called *IES Ría del Carmen*. We would spend a week with our host partners and their families and looked nervously at what was ahead of us – new people to meet and new experiences to enjoy!

During our stay, we visited many spectacular sites such as the *Picos de Europa* mountains, where we had an epic snowball battle surrounded by wonderful views, and many medieval towns such as *Comillas* and *Santillana del Mar* for some free-time 'mazin' shopping! We visited the *Soplao* and *Altamira Caves*, and even more caves – but we weren't complaining! During our time in Santander we learned a lot about the history of the city from our excellent tour guides.



Most of us were brave enough to try many typical Spanish delicacies, such as *tortilla española* (a potato omelette), *paella* (a rice and seafood dish), *chorizo* (spicy sausage) and even pig's intestines (Jade McDonald's favourite!) We also discovered that possibly the best pastry on the planet is in Spain and is called *chocolate con churros*, a crispy pastry usually dipped into and eaten with warm hot chocolate – ¡qué rico!

We had a fantastic and fun-filled time in Spain and were sad to see the week go in so fast. Everyone was disappointed to leave the shining sun and our wonderful new friends in Santander and many tears were shed at the airport.

After a full two weeks of longing to see our Spanish friends, the time came for them to return our visit. They enjoyed the activities that Northern Ireland had to offer, such as the Giant's Causeway in County Antrim, W5 in Belfast and the Ulster American Folk Park in Omagh. Everyone though, was suddenly glued to the television as a freak volcano erupted in Iceland, causing the flight home to be cancelled! We were all very happy and glad to get a few extra days with our exchange partners but once again, it was time to say goodbye on Tuesday afternoon and many promises were made to stay friends forever and for us to return to Santander in the summer!

Without a doubt, the Spanish exchange was unforgettable; a trip of a lifetime! We would like to say a massive "thank-you" to Mrs Sánchez for organising this fantastic exchange and to Mr Devlin for accompanying us.

¡VIVA ESPAÑA!

Susan Deacon and Matthew Feeney (Year 11)

University of Ulster Science and Engineering Day

On 15 March, a group of Year 10 pupils attended a Science and Engineering Day at the University of Ulster Coleraine Campus. As part of National Science and Engineering Week (12-21 March), the University hosted a relevant range of short talks and 'hands-on' activities for secondary school pupils. Pupils from secondary schools (all Northern Ireland) were invited to come and experience at first hand some of the cutting edge research going on at the University of Ulster.

The school visits are all part of the University's ongoing aim to create a better understanding of the benefits of studying STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) and to raise awareness among school pupils of the many exciting and varied career options open to science and engineering graduates.

The school minibus left for the University in the morning and we were accompanied by our Technology teacher Mrs Barr. When we arrived, we were led into a large hall for two short lectures which were a short introduction to the day to tell us why we were there and what we would be doing.

The first of the talks was based on health and the application of certain nutrients to improve health and helped show us the link between science and healthcare. The second of the talks was named "How to improve the accuracy of your golf swing." This talk used a golf computer simulator to show us how to correctly swing the golf club for its best effect.

After the talks were finished we moved into another room for a different activity. In this activity we were put into groups of about eight and were put against the clock to design and build a model racing car out of Lego. This was a great method to show how engineering can be practical and fun. The best model cars were kept by the University for display. We then were given around half an hour for lunch.

After lunch we were moved into another large hall for a range of activities. These included the testing of computer games made by university students, quizzes about computers and electronics, looking at digital forensics and fingerprint scans, looking at small robots made at the University and testing a specially designed interactive computer game to help rehabilitate stroke sufferers. These activities were hands on or interactive and were very interesting.

We then returned to the lecture hall for another short talk on natural disasters like earthquakes and tsunamis. This showed how to forecast natural disasters (but not volcanoes!) and how to protect against them. After this, the day was finished with a final talk. We returned to school, laden with a 'goodie bag' of items related to our great day away.

Mark Hyndman (Year 10)

Parents' Association

The revamped Parents' Association Committee will meet on **Tuesday 11 May at 7.30 pm** in Limavady Grammar School. An enthusiastic committee is looking forward to helping the pupils and teachers of LGS but any other willing helpers will be greatly welcomed to the meeting.

Mr P Jack (Chairman)

Internal School Exams

Examinations for pupils in Years 8-11 will take place in school from **Tuesday 1 June until Friday 4 June 2010.**

Careers - Year 13 and Year 14

Year 13 students are required to book a higher education interview before they go on study leave. These interviews will take place on Monday 21 and Monday 28 June and students will be able to register on the UCAS website which means that they can begin to complete the online form at home, over the summer. Students should prepare for the interview by making a list of the courses that they are thinking of applying to and also think about their contribution to school life and the life of the local community. We want to present them in the best possible light when writing the UCAS reference so they should take some time to prepare properly. If they have been involved in activities inside or outside school they need to make sure that we have that information. If work experience went really well, if they have been volunteering or have arranged activities over the summer then we need to know.

A new website www.bestcourse4me.com claims to “empower students to make an informed choice about higher education and how it affects their future career prospects.” That’s what we all want so please encourage them to prepare over the summer. Each student will receive a booklet at the interview which will help them complete the online form: encourage them to read it and we will eliminate many of the silly mistakes that are made each year. The Parents’ Section” of the UCAS website www.ucas.com/parents/ provides excellent information and the short (3 minutes approximately) videos found on UCAS tv provide comprehensive coverage of each of the main sections.

Finally it is very important that our students realise that their AS grades will be seen as a statement of intent by university admissions staff. In an increasingly competitive environment it will be those students who work hard and plan their career pathway who will have more offers and more options next year.

Year 14 - Replying to Offers

Most students will now be in a position to reply to their offers having received all decisions on their application. The applicant’s deadline to reply will be displayed in Track. Applicants however, who received all decisions on their application by 31 March will have a reply date of 5 May. Applicants who have not received all decisions by this date will have a later reply date, dependent on when the last decision is received. UCAS tv has an excellent video “Replying to Offers”.

Year 14 - Preparing for what happens in August

Year 14 students and parents should visit the UCAS website over the summer to acquaint themselves with the options after results are received. Once students receive their results, they will be in one of the positions below:

- you are accepted by your firm choice
- you are accepted by your firm choice and you meet and exceed the conditions of the offer
- you receive a ‘changed’ course’ offer
- your results don’t meet the conditions of your firm choice but you are accepted by your insurance choice
- your results don’t meet the conditions of any of your choices
- you are not holding any offers

By visiting www.ucas.com/students/results/whatsnext over the summer students and parents will be better informed and be ready to make appropriate decisions. The careers staff will be in school to give advice and guidance immediately after students receive their results but if students and parents have already thought about what they will do in the event of each of the scenarios shown about, we can then move quickly and get a satisfactory resolution.

“How to use Clearing” and “Adjustment” on UCAS tv should be watched over the summer.

Starting University

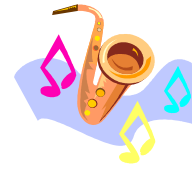
The UCAS website also provides excellent information on starting university – www.ucas.com/students/startinguni/

One of the case studies on UCAS tv is entitled “Starting University” and it follows one student’s experiences.

Mr S Robb



Limavady Grammar School



You are invited to attend our



MUSIC FOR MAY



on Wednesday 5 May 2010
at 7.30 pm

IN THE ASSEMBLY HALL

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED DURING THE INTERVAL

Voluntary retiring donations in aid of
The School Musical Instrument Fund

LIMAVADY GRAMMAR SCHOOL RUGBY TOUR 2012 FUND

**NEAREST THE
PIN
COMPETITION**

GOLF TOURNAMENT
on
Wednesday 19 May 2010
at
ROE PARK GOLF CLUB

**LONGEST
DRIVE
COMPETITION**

OPEN STABLEFORD COMPETITION

Men's Open 18 Hole Stableford
Ladies' Open 18 Hole Stableford
Juveniles' 18 Hole Stableford (Club Handicap only)

Green fees including competition fees:	Non-members	£20.00
	Members	£5.00
	Juvenile members	£3.00
	Juvenile non-members	£8.00



Tee-off times may be booked by telephoning: 028 7776 0105/028 7772 2222
Prize-giving at 8.45 pm

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