



# Headlines

September 2010



Dear Parents

Welcome to the first 'Headlines' of this school year. For those who are new to the school, this newsletter is published approximately six times per year. A copy is sent home to each family, and it is also published on our website: [www.limavadygrammar.org.uk](http://www.limavadygrammar.org.uk)

Our website has just been redesigned. I hope you will find it informative and useful. Please let us know if you have any suggestions to improve it.

Our new school year is already well established. New Year 8 pupils have settled in well following their residential induction programme. The new Sixth Formers have also enjoyed an induction day and I would congratulate Miss Doherty and Mr Bogle on these events.

We welcome the following new staff: Mr McKeague (Physics), Miss Lindsay (RE and Biology), Miss McCarron (Biology), Mr Cather (Mathematics), Miss Robinson (Music), Mrs Birney (English) and Mr Rowan (Sixth Form Study Supervisor). Miss Cooke and Mr Hayes continue to cover maternity leaves. Already they have demonstrated their capacity to contribute to the success of our school.

Prize Day on 17 September was a great success and we were proud to have Professor Ellen Douglas-Cowie, QUB back to her old school as guest speaker. I was delighted to report outstanding A-level results and standards at GCSE were very encouraging.

The Sports programme is already looking busy and we look forward to our annual School Production of, 'We Will Rock You', in November.

Our pastoral care programme is effective and supportive. Should you wish to, please feel free to contact your child's Form Teacher or Year Head, or indeed Mr Handforth (Pastoral Vice Principal) or myself.

As part of this edition of Headlines, we have included a Calendar of Events which I hope you will find useful.

Best wishes to everyone for a successful year.

*R Wilson (Principal)*

## PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

ALL PARENTS are invited to  
the Annual General Meeting to be held in school  
on Wednesday 13 October 2010 at 7.30 pm.

*Your support and involvement would be much appreciated.*

*P Jack (Chairman)*

## YEAR 8 INDUCTION – BUSHMILLS 2010



This year's Year 8 Induction programme at Bushmills from 24 - 27 August, my very first as Head of Year 8, was a huge success. Every pupil made an exceptional effort to engage in all the activities, get to know each other and have lots of fun, which we most certainly did. The weather was perfect and the staff at the Outdoor Education Centre made us feel welcome in every way. I would like to thank all the teachers, staff and prefects, without whom it would not have been possible.

A very special thank you goes to Mr Ferguson for all his support. Finally, I would like to wish all our new Year 8 pupils the best of luck in their new school. Work hard and enjoy every day!

*Miss M Doherty (Head of Year 8)*

## CAT TESTS



Years 8 and 10 pupils will take CAT tests on Wednesday 29 and Thursday 30 September. CAT stands for 'Cognitive Abilities Tests.' Year 10 pupils will remember taking these when they were in Year 8. There are three tests and each will take no more than an hour to complete (including administration time). The first test is to do with words (verbal test), the second with number (quantitative test) and the third with figures and symbols (non-verbal test).

The purpose of the tests is to give teachers a fuller picture of pupils' abilities, help identify those who may benefit from learning support and enable personal targets to be set for future progress. No revision or preparation is necessary for the tests and pupils should certainly not be anxious. A **pencil** (HB or softer) and **rubber** only will be needed to complete the tests.

The school will report the test results to parents later in the year. For parents of Year 10 pupils a comparison with the scores obtained in Yr 8 will give an indication of progress made since that time.

*Mr J Calwell*

## PUPIL/PARENT INFORMATION

We have completed updating our records using the Data Information Sheets. I would like to remind parents that whilst the school can facilitate your wishes concerning preferred surnames, for legal reasons the name on a pupil's birth certificate will be used for entries to GCSE and A-Level examinations.

We have been informed by TESCO that they will be implementing a curfew for all unaccompanied school children between 8.30 am and 9.00 am. Their reason is to support local schools in their attendance policy.

*Mr R Wilson (Principal)*

## **KENYA 2011**

Plans are well under way to take a team of 36 staff and pupils to Kajiado in July 2011. It is intended that the first phase of the Girls' Boarding School will be officially opened in January and that by July we will be assisting with both further building work and with lessons in the classroom.

As always, fund-raising continues. Sincere thanks to all who supported the recent table quiz and the coffee morning at Faughanvale Presbyterian Church. These events raised over £1,200. On Saturday **16 October** we hope to hold a traditional **Barn Dance** in the school and on Friday **12 November** Londonderry Musical Society and Britannia Band will give their annual performance of '**Showstoppers**'. Proceeds from both events will go to our Kenya fund. In addition, we intend to circulate details of our **Gift Aid** scheme to every family in the school. A brochure and order form will be provided and we ask you to consider a donation as a possible Christmas present to a family member or friend. In the past this scheme has brought in much-needed revenue, and we hope for your continued support. Additional brochures and order forms are available from school.

In the present economic climate we are very aware of many competing requests for financial assistance, as are our friends in Kenya. The impact of this school upon the lives of Massai girls will be immense. For the first time they will be able to look forward to an education and the prospect of a worthwhile career. The continued support of parents and of the wider Limavady community is very much appreciated.

*B Dunwoody (Team Leader)*

## **LIMAVADY GRAMMAR SCHOOL HOCKEY CLUB**

### **1<sup>st</sup> XI tournament - Saturday 4 September**

The first event of the year for Limavady Grammar School's hockey club was the 1<sup>st</sup> XI Ulster Schools' tournament with over thirty schools taking part. This tournament is divided into different sections with venues all over the province. Our Section consisted of twenty minute matches against three other teams; Dungannon Royal, Strathearn and Enniskillen Collegiate. Limavady Grammar fielded a reasonably young team that had little experience playing together. Also a number of new players were introduced to the squad. Despite this, the team started the tournament well with a 1-0 win over Dungannon Royal with a goal from Stephanie Allen. The girls made some excellent long passes and some great attacking plays. The second game was against Strathearn. The Limavady girls again put on a good show and held Strathearn to a goalless draw; however Limavady did dominate the majority of the play. Finally LGS met Enniskillen in their last match. Two goals were scored; the first was a powerful shot by Rachel McCluskey and the second a clever flick past the keeper by Becky McMullan. This win meant that LGS and Strathearn had drawn in points and goals scored so penalty strokes had to be taken, a task that our younger girls had little experience of. Despite the excellent keeping of Katy McKay, Strathearn narrowly won, 3-2. Strathearn will now continue to the Finals to be played in Lisnagarvey later this month. The LGS girls had a great performance and were pleased with 2<sup>nd</sup> place. This performance bodes well for the upcoming season.

*Rachel McSparron (Year 14)*

## PERCENTAGE ATTENDANCE YEARS 8-14 (1 SEPTEMBER – 24 SEPTEMBER 2010)

8V	99.4%	9V	98.2%	10V	98.4%	11V	97.8%	12V	97.9%	YR 13	98.6%
8W	98.8%	9W	97.3%	10W	97.9%	11W	98.0%	12W	97.2%	YR 14	94.8%
8X	99.3%	9X	98.0%	10X	96.8%	11X	98.6%	12X	96.3%		
8Y	98.2%	9Y	99.6%	10Y	97.9%	11Y	99.0%	12Y	98.1%		
8Z	99.7%	9Z	96.9%	10Z	98.2%	11Z	96.7%	12Z	96.7%		

*Congratulations to pupils in 8Z this Form Class scored 99.7%, the highest percentage attendance during this period.*

### ROAD SAFETY WARNING

As the dark evenings approach, our attention is drawn towards those students who are walking home along dark and unlit country roads. With thoughts of road safety to the fore, we would like to offer free of charge, a hi-visibility vest to any pupil who might be at risk of being struck by a car.

Please contact the school office if you would like to have one for your child.

*Mrs K Henry (Vice Principal)*

### CAR PARKING AND SAFETY IN THE SCHOOL GROUNDS

Parents are asked to use the rear car park only to collect children after school exiting on to Roe Mill Road. Parents are reminded that between the hours of 8.30-9.15 am and 3.00-4.00 pm each day, access through the school grounds is **ONE WAY ONLY**.



Parents are kindly requested not to park cars in the area of the Boys' Pavilion or on the road leading to it. This area **must** be kept clear for emergency vehicles. This applies to after school and at week-ends. Your co-operation in this will be greatly appreciated.

You are kindly reminded that dogs should not be brought onto the school campus, in the interests of Health and Safety.

*Mr R Wilson (Principal)*

### CLOTHING AND TEXTILE RECYCLING – FRONT CAR PARK

Please don't forget about the "textile bank" in the school's front car park. We want your old clothes, curtains and other cast-offs!

Why not have an Autumn clearout and deposit your bin bags full of unwanted clothes or textiles (in any condition) in our 'textile bank'.

Cookstown Textile Recyclers will collect the bags on a regular basis and for each tonne collected the school will receive £450 and an additional £50 will go to the Northern Ireland Cancer fund for children. The school has chosen to split equally any money received between the Parents' Association and the Kajiado Trip 2011.

Parental support in this venture will not only benefit the pupils and the designated charities but will help to spread the message and raise awareness among our young people of our commitment to "reduce, reuse and recycle".

Thank you for your support.

*Mrs Henry (Vice Principal)*

## HORRIBLE HISTORY IN THE LGS LIBRARY!

To complete their History for the summer term, some Year 8 pupils were asked to write a book review of their favourite Horrible History. The work of three students has proven to be exceptional. Hannah Moore, Deborah Osbourne and Katie Smith each designed a book cover and wrote a review of their favourite "Horrible History": The Awesome Egyptians, The Angry Aztecs and The Groovy Greeks.



The school Librarian, Mrs Lisa Cromie, judged the entries and thought all were outstanding, but as Hannah's design was particularly creative and original, she was able to choose a book of her choice as her prize. These winning entries are on display in the Library and there are more to see in Miss Wright's room, N21. If you want to know more about the Vicious Vikings, The Savage Stone Age or The Gorgeous Georgians, then choose from over 30 Horrible History titles available in the school Library.

*Miss G Wright*

## COUNSELLING SERVICES

A qualified counsellor from New Life will be in school every Thursday morning from 9 am to 1.00 pm. Pupils availing of the counselling will have approximately six sessions (one for introductions, five weeks for actual counselling and 1 for review/further assistance). Sessions will rotate from week to week to ensure pupils are not out of the same class each week and for sixth form students study time will be used first if applicable

New Life 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 re 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. Information on how to complete this is available in each form room. Parents/guardians may refer their child by contacting Mrs McFarland at school. Parents may refer to the New Life website for additional information. This may be accessed on [www.newlifecounselling.net](http://www.newlifecounselling.net)

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

*Mrs L McFarland*

## Heads of Year at LGS

Year 8 – Miss M Doherty  
Year 9 – Mrs J McCluskey  
Year 10 – Mr R Donnell  
Year 11 – Mrs McFarland

Year 12 – Mr C Little  
Year 13 – Mr S Bogle  
Year 14 – Mr B Dunwoody

## **INTERNET AND SCHOOL NETWORK PERMISSION**

Below is the code of conduct for the use of the school network and Internet, to which every student must agree before obtaining access. If you DO NOT want your child/children to have Internet access, please inform the Principal of your decision, in writing.

### **Code of Conduct for Use of the School Network & the Internet**

The simplified code of conduct applies at all times, in and out of school hours, whilst using school equipment. Please read it carefully: it involves potential criminal action as well as breach of school rules.

#### **You must not:**

- Use anyone else's Username.
- Download games or other programs from the Internet.
- Use chatrooms or external email services (eg Hotmail).
- Send, access or display offensive messages or pictures.
- Give your name, address, telephone number or any other personal information about yourself or others to anyone you write to.
- Use or send bad language.
- Intentionally waste resources thus preventing use by others.

#### **You should:**

- Only, with permission, access websites that are appropriate for use in school.
- Be careful of what you say to others and how you say it.
- Respect copyright and trademarks. (You cannot copy material without give credit to the person or company that owns it.)
- Check with a teacher before opening e-mail attachments or completing on-line questionnaires or subscription forms.

#### **Please note:**

- User areas on the school network will be closely monitored and staff may review your files and communications to maintain system integrity.
- Failure to follow the code will result in loss of access and further disciplinary action may be taken if appropriate.
- If applicable, external agencies may be involved, as certain activities may constitute a criminal offence.

### **Child Safety Awareness – Internet Chat Rooms & E-Mail**

I'm sure you are aware of many publicised cases where unsuspecting children and teenagers have been "groomed" into running away with unsavoury individuals whom they have met via chat rooms and other websites.

**The Internet can be a dangerous place. Please monitor your child's web activities and be very aware of the sites to which they have access.**

**Useful sites:** Childnet International - <http://www.childnet-int.org/>  
KidSMART – <http://www.kidsmart.org.uk/>  
Think U Know – <http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>

*Mrs V Campbell (Head of ICT)*