



# Headlines

November  
2011

Welcome to our latest edition of Headlines. During the last number of weeks we played host to pupils on an exchange from Germany and boys on Rugby Tour from Stratford, England. Thank you to the parents who generously hosted visitors.

Our Parents' Association continues to work hard in fundraising and I hope all parents will support the Continental Christmas Market on Thursday 1 December in school and our School Carol Concert on Monday 19 December at 7.30 pm. Just before half term our School was visited by the Northern Ireland Assembly Education Committee as part of a fact-finding mission about education in the Roe Valley. Our Hockey Club had a successful tour to Cheltenham over half term and I know our Sixth Formers are looking forward to their formal soon. Congratulations to **Connor McKee**, Lower Sixth, who won the local Rotary Club Youth Leadership Award and is one of three Northern Ireland winners. He will be visiting Strasbourg as part of his prize.

Our pupils are responding well to our new assessment arrangements. I would encourage all parents to monitor their child's work, encouraging them to strive for excellence.

With the arrival of the dark evenings I would urge all our pupils to exercise great care when travelling to and from school.

At the time of writing it is anticipated that Wednesday 30 November may be a day of Industrial Action for many public sector employees. I will endeavour to keep parents and pupils advised of the implications for the school through updates on the school website and through announcements in school.

We have reviewed our arrangements for emergency closures of school due to bad weather or other factors. In the event that the school is closed, information will be posted on the School Website and we will communicate, where possible, with parents via e-mail. Teachers will communicate with pupils regarding work via C2K email. This should lessen the impact on teaching and learning.

*R Wilson (Principal)*

## JUNO AND THE PAYCOCK AT THE GRAMMAR!

*"Th' whole worl's in a terrible state o' chassiss"*

We are delighted to announce that this year's senior school production is Sean O'Casey's *Juno and the Paycock*. Rehearsals have been underway since the start of term and an experienced and talented cast are ready to breathe life into this comic modern classic tale of poverty and tragedy.

In this the second part of O'Casey's great Dublin Trilogy, the ambitions of the Boyle family are set against the political and social events of the Irish Civil War in 1922. Set in a tenement house, *Juno and the Paycock* is an epic tale of survival and vengeance punctuated by dreadful poverty.

Juno (*Kathryn McShane*), the spirited matriarch of the Boyle household tries to keep her family together while it is being pulled apart by growing political unrest. Her husband, Captain Jack Boyle (*Seanog O'Hara*) drinks his way through his days with his side-kick Joxer Daly (*Terence Duddy*), while their children (*Rachael O'Connor and Emmett Luney*) fail tragically in their own search for a better life.

When the family learns of an inheritance from a distant relative, it seems that all their problems will be solved, but will they manage to transcend the events that conspire to keep them in their place?

This play is in turn dark, gritty and often hilarious in its depiction of tenement life. The school's production is also a wonderful chance for all students at GCSE to see their chosen exam text in performance, but we would like to extend a warm invitation to parents and friends of the school to attend.

Tickets are now on sale from the School Office priced **£5 and £3 concessionary** and performances will take place **at 7.30 pm from 23-25 November 2011** in the School Assembly Hall.

*Miss C Gordon (Director)*

## LIMAVADY GRAMMAR SCHOOL PARENTS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CHRISTMAS MARKET in Limavady Grammar School (Assembly Hall) Thursday 1 December 2011 from 7.00 – 9.00 pm

The tables cost **£15 each or £25 for two**. If you would like to book a table/tables, please contact **Miss C Johnston at Limavady Grammar School** to obtain a booking letter. This letter needs to be returned to LGS by **Friday 18 November 2011**. The school will be open from 5.45 pm to allow you time to set up your display. Parents and Friends are warmly invited to attend and support this event.

## EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES



Monday 26 September took on a distinctly continental flavour in the school as we once again celebrated the European Day of Languages. The day began early with nearly two hundred pupils packing into the canteen to enjoy a French breakfast – sipping their hot chocolate and happily munching a *croissant* or *pain au chocolat* and raising £175 for ‘Save The Children’. A special assembly was organised to celebrate the languages spoken in our school with contributions by pupils in Polish, French, German and Spanish.

Year 8 pupils had language taster lessons in a range of languages and also brightened up the school foyer by taking part in a poster competition with the lucky winners being Katelyn Doran and Shona Robertson.

And even the LGS teachers had a chance to show off their language skills by recording phrases in a range of languages from Swahili to Ancient Greek – Year 9 pupils then had the chance to identify the teachers and the languages. All in all, an enjoyable day was had by everybody and my thanks go to all the pupils and staff who contributed to the different events. *Merci beaucoup.*

*Mr I Sampson*

## MUSICAL FUTURES

September of this year saw the introduction of a new pilotscheme to the music department. Sarah Murphy and Seamus Devine from Musical Futures have been joining one of our Year 9 classes on a weekly basis. Everyone in the class has had an opportunity to play keyboards, acoustic guitar, bass guitar and drum kit. Four bands have just been formed in the class and are currently working on their own renditions of ‘Clocks’ by Coldplay.

This week we became one of two Young Champion Schools in Northern Ireland. This is a new collaboration between Musical Futures and NUMU (an online site where students can upload their own music) which will see young people mentoring each other online and learning valuable skills in the process.

We would like to thank Sarah and Seamus for all their hard work and enthusiasm and look forward to hearing some of our work online in the near future

*Miss A Hughes*

### **An Information Evening ‘HELPING MY CHILD TO LEARN’**

**will be held in the School Assembly Hall on Tuesday 6 December 2011 at 7 pm.**

**Although it is aimed at parents of Year 8 pupils,**

**ALL parents are welcome and will find it relevant and useful**

## MATHEMATICS SUPPORT

There will be a teacher from the Mathematics Department available, on a rota, for the next few months on Thursday afternoons from 3.30–4.30 pm. This starts on 17 November in N6 and the intention is to help those students in Years 11–14 preparing for external exams. Other help is available on the Internet using websites like [www.bbcbite-size.co.uk](http://www.bbcbite-size.co.uk)

## SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Report of the Board of Governors was adopted on 19 October 2011 and is now available on the school website. Any parents who require a copy may request one from the Principal’s Secretary.

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

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The Department of Education is undertaking a consultation on proposed changes to GCSEs. A young people's version of the policy document is now available on the DE website. Copies of the consultation document and response booklet can be viewed and downloaded from the Department's website at [www.deni.gov.uk](http://www.deni.gov.uk) (please select '**Consultation**' option from menu on the right hand side of the screen).

Copies can also be obtained by contacting the Department of Education:

By telephone: 028 9127 9543

By FAX: 028 9127 9100

By e-mail: [AQT@deni.gov.uk](mailto:AQT@deni.gov.uk)

By text phone: 18001 028 9127 9543

By Writing to: Assessment & Qualifications Team

Department of Education

Rathgael House

43 Balloo Road

Rathgill

BANGOR, BT19 7PR

Parents are also invited to respond - **comments and responses should be submitted by 20/12/11.**

## GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS

The following guidance for parents has been provided by one of our teaching staff. It is of particular relevance to pupils at GCSE and A-level stages but should be of interest and relevance to all.

### FIRST for Academic Success

- **Focused** – The student wants to achieve his/her full potential and is committed to working hard.
- **Informed** – The student has an inquiring mind, shows initiative in preparing thoroughly for class and is well informed about the course content and how it is examined.
- **Reflect, Review, Revise** – The student regularly reviews their work and level of performance. He/She reflects on test results, essay performance and level of understanding on first hearing. The student will revise work and self - test by revisiting the topics eg what have I learned and can I write it out accurately? Can I draw and annotate the diagram accurately? The student will study past papers and discuss their progress with teachers.
- **Support** - The student will make the most of the support offered through school eg normal classroom lessons, VLE, revision questions, past papers, individual help from teachers etc
- **Tactics** – the student will put in place a comprehensive learning programme based on the subject content and utilising past papers. Difficulties are addressed early and the student works collaboratively with teachers to overcome problems.

### FIRST for Assessment and Guidance

There is a diagnostic element here. Where would you place your child?

- Are they **focused** and engaged? If no, why not? What can be done about it? How can they help themselves? What can we do to help them focus on academic success?
- Are they **informed**? If no, why not? What can be done about it? How can they help themselves? How can we help them to make progress?
- Do they **reflect, review, revise**? If no, why not? What can be done about it? How can they help themselves? How can we help them make progress?
- Do they use the **support** provided? eg VLE, teacher support, past papers etc. If no, why not? How can they help themselves? What can we help them make progress?
- What **tactics** need to be employed to move them on? How can they help themselves? How can we help them make progress?

**LIMAVADY GRAMMAR SCHOOL'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT**  
**will be held in the Assembly Hall on Monday 19 December 2011 at 7.30 pm**  
**ALL PARENTS AND FRIENDS ARE MOST WELCOME**