



# Headlines

September  
2011

## Holidays 2011-2012

*Closure Day for Pupils*  
**Friday 28 October 2011**

*Halloween Holiday*  
Monday 31 October 2011

Friday 4 November 2011  
(inclusive)

*Closure Day for Pupils*  
**Wednesday 21 December 2011**

*Christmas Holiday*  
Thursday 22 December 2011

Tuesday 3 January 2012  
(inclusive)

*Closure Day for Pupils*  
**Wednesday 15 February 2012**

*Half Term Holiday*  
Thurs 16 & Fri 17 February 2012

*St Patrick's Day*  
Monday 19 March 2012

*Closure Day for Pupils*  
**Tuesday 20 March 2012**

*Easter Holiday*  
Monday 2 April 2012

Friday 13 April 2012  
(inclusive)

*May Day Holiday*  
Monday 7 May 2012

*Closure Day for Pupils*  
**Friday 25 May 2012**

*Queen's Diamond Jubilee Holiday*  
**Mon 4 & Tues 5 June 2012**

*School Finishes*  
Friday 29 June 2012  
at 12 noon

## *Principal's Introduction*

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 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 are pleased to have welcomed new pupils into other year groups also.

We welcome the following to the staff: Mr Harrington joins the Mathematics department and Mrs Angus has returned from a career break to the Chemistry department.

Prize Day on 16 September was a great success and we were proud to have Mr N Bogle, former Vice Principal back to school as guest speaker.

The Sports programme is already looking busy and we look forward to our annual School Production of 'Juno and The Paycock', 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.

During last year we had to deal with a number of issues relating to cyber bullying. While there may be benefits of social networking sites I would encourage you to make your child aware of the dangers associated with these and would urge you to exercise control over your child's use of the internet. Mobile phones, whilst extremely useful, can often be misused by young people. All parents should be in receipt of the School's Mobile Phone Policy.

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.

## *Parenting NI*

Parenting NI was established as Parents' Advice Centre in 1979, the International Year of the Child. It is now a leading parenting support organisation committed to delivering high quality services. Parenting NI has a regional remit to promote positive parenting by providing support, training and information on family issues and influencing policy, provision and practice at all levels. Parenting NI is an organisation that provides support to parents. It has three main areas of work:

- Parents Helpline which offers support and guidance to parents with any family problem <http://www.parentingni.org/helpline/default.asp>
- Parenting Education which offers tailor-made and specialist parenting courses to groups and individuals. <http://www.parentingni.org/projects/parenting/default.asp>
- Parenting Forum which provides a platform for the needs and aspirations of parents to be heard. <http://www.parentingni.org/projects/parentingforum/default.asp>
- For more information follow links above (helpline/education/forum) or Freephone: 0808 8010 722.

*Mr R Wilson (Principal)*

### *Kajiado: The story continues!*

Our group of thirty-six staff and pupils arrived in Kenya on 29 June and reached home very late on 28 July after a most memorable trip. On 2 July Oloosuyian Girls' Secondary School was officially opened by Mr Robert Wilson, who had joined us for the first five days of our stay. It comprises four permanent buildings, one of which is currently used as a dormitory, another as a dining room.

There are also temporary huts used for staff accommodation, a kitchen and a store. This is a very colourful and well-attended occasion with speeches from church and community leaders, singing and a religious service, as well as much rejoicing.



The school has twenty-four girls aged thirteen to sixteen, three teachers and an unpaid Principal, Mrs Nangurai. Three of the girls have been rescued from intended forced marriages to much older men or from abusive home situations. The girls were lively, bright, very friendly and very appreciative of our visit and of the additional school and other resources we brought for them. They very quickly made friends with our students; it was a real delight to see the interaction between them all.

Undoubtedly the time spent in school, working with staff and pupils, was the highlight of the trip. To see the fruit of years of fund-raising and the enthusiasm of the staff and pupils was wonderful. We also spent three weeks digging the foundations for what will become a dormitory block to house eighty girls. This task was almost complete when we left and we look forward to hearing of its progress in the months ahead. Our continued fund-raising will be for this work.

In addition, we spent a weekend in the beautiful Chyulu hills on the Tanzanian border, one night at Amboseli Game Park, one of the most famous in Africa, and a final three days at Mombasa on the Indian Ocean coast. For a privileged few there was even a twelve-hour round trip over rough terrain in search of lions which were eventually tracked down and photographed at close quarters. An unforgettable experience.

A reporter from 'Kenya Today' weekly newspaper spent a day with us and his article was published in mid-August.

For further information I refer you to our website at [www.full-works.com/lgskenya](http://www.full-works.com/lgskenya) which can be accessed directly until the end of September or by clicking on the Kenya photo on our school website at [www.limvadygrammar.org.sch.ni](http://www.limvadygrammar.org.sch.ni).

On behalf of us all, a very sincere word of thanks to everyone who has supported this partnership in any way. It really does change people's lives!

*Mr B Dunwoody*

### *Year 8 Induction - Bushmills 2011*

This year's Year 8 Induction programme at Bushmills from 24-26 August 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 fine 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. I would also 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*



## *Horrible Histories Competition*

At the end of last term, Miss Wright held a competition for her history class, 8V. We had to choose a book from the wide range of Horrible Histories in the library and we then had to read it and illustrate a new cover for our chosen title. The ideas were based on facts in the book and the original cover. Mrs Cromie, the school librarian, judged the entries and she was looking for bright and unique designs.

### **First Prize:**

Jella Miana Huelgo and Aaron Stevenson

### **Second Prize:**

Jodie Semple and Niamh Burnham-Hand

Both 1st prize winners received a book of their choice courtesy of the Parents' Association.



*Jella Miana Huelgo (9V)*

## *Tracking & Assessment*

This year we are introducing some very significant changes to our assessment of pupils. There will be no January exams for Years 8-11, 13 or 14. Only Year 12 will have the traditional 'mock' exams at that time of year.

Instead all Year groups will undergo a form of continuous assessment known as 'Tracking.' This will involve three formal assessment submissions in October, November and December, the outcomes of which will be used to produce a report for all pupils in January. These assessments will be an aggregate of test marks, homework marks, spelling tests etc, with each department deciding upon what will be included. There will then be three further assessments in February, March and May. Year 12 parents will receive a January report based upon 'mock' exam performances.

The recognised benefits of Tracking include regular, on-going assessment of all pupils, early remedial action for under-achievers, no loss of teaching time in January and the opportunity to extend target-setting, which has been proven to improve levels of motivation and achievement.

For Years 8-11 there will be end-of-year exams in May/June, and the June report will be based upon the results in these.

With homeworks and assessments at frequent, regular intervals counting towards reports, it is vitally important that pupils' attendance in **all** years is maintained at a very high level. Also, in Year 10, for example, subject option choices in English, Maths and Science may well be determined by the results of on-going assessments. Adequate time and attention **must** be given to homework and preparation for assessments. This will require commitment from pupils at all levels and we trust that it will lead to improved study habits and examinations outcomes.

*Mr B Dunwoody*

## *Charity Committee*

Here in Limavady Grammar School we believe that it is important to teach our young people to think about others less fortunate than themselves in the hope that they will grow into caring and responsible adults. We currently sponsor a child, Kadija Brima, in Sierra Leone, through our weekly charity collections and in October we will once again be participating in the annual Operation Christmas Child appeal. Leaflets are now available in school and filled shoe boxes should be left with me before the half-term holiday so that they can be sent on to the local collection point.

We would like to thank everyone for their generous support.

*Mrs J Mills*

## *To Parents and Guardians of ALL Year 8 Pupils*

Your child has been given a leaflet to pass on to you from CCEA called "Post-Primary – Quick Guide to the Curriculum". The purpose of this is to inform you regarding what to expect as your child starts out in Post-Primary education. It outlines the Northern Ireland Curriculum and summarises how pupils' progress will be assessed and how this information will be reported to parents. It also includes details of where parents can find out additional information if required. Please ensure that your child has given you a copy of this leaflet.

*Miss M Doherty*

### ***International Schools' Award***

The School is delighted with the news that its International Schools Award has been reaccredited for another three years. This prestigious benchmark recognises the global aspect as the School's curriculum, as well as its involvement in many international projects. The following events have contributed to the reaccreditation of this award, sponsored by The British Council and The Department of Overseas Development: the Kajiado Project, the global exchange with Bishops Council, the three modern language exchanges with French, German and Spanish schools and pen pal letter exchange with an Italian school, The European Day of Languages, Football for Peace, the RVLC Gaelic team's trip to the UAS and the Comenius Project.

The reaccreditation process involved evaluations by pupils, parents and staff and I would like to thank all those concerned for their hard work and support.

### ***Cuchlainn Trip to Boston***

The Cuchlainns, the RVLC cross community gaelic team had a wonderful week in Boston at the Continental Youth Games in Boston, Massachusetts in August.

The team comprised pupils from St Patrick's College, Dungiven, Limavady High School, Rossmar School, St Mary's High School, as well as five of our own pupils. They participated in the U16 age group competition in the three-day tournament that attracts hundreds of players from throughout North America and Britain. The squad toured historic Boston, visiting Fenway Park, the home of The Red Sox (baseball) team as well as training at Boston College.

Brendan Ferguson, Terence Duddy, Caolan Fenlon, Rory McAuley and Jack O'Hara represented the Grammar School, and they and the rest of the squad were complimented on many occasions on their conduct and behaviour. Brendan captained the team and made an excellent speech at the Irish Consulate before an audience of distinguished sporting and business leaders in Boston.

Whilst the Cuchlainns failed to win any of their three matches, they represented their town with distinction. They were accompanied by Mr Handforth and teachers from the other four schools as well as Ulster GAA President, Aoghan Farrell and Secretary, Danny Murphy, in the week long trip sponsored by The Ulster Council of the GAA. In addition, the team was coached by Paul Callaghan throughout May, June and July and assisted on tour by Stephen Donnelly and Maura Kelly of the GAA coaching staff.

### ***Bus Information***

The 4.45 pm bus will operate from this week (Monday to Thursday). Pupils will be collected in the school grounds and taken to Limavady depot. This bus continues on along the Londonderry road so pupils who normally travel on this route may stay on the bus. All other pupils should get their correct connecting bus at the depot.

### ***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.

### ***Car Parking and Safety in the School Grounds***

In the interests of everyone's safety, parents are requested not to drop off nor pick up pupils anywhere in the main driveway, front car park or around the bus bays. They are asked to drive to the rear of the school and drop off or pick up pupils in the main car park behind the Music Block. 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)**

### ***Parents' Association Diary Dates***

Table Quiz at LGS	-	Wednesday 26 October from 7-9 pm. £10 per team (max 6 people).
Christmas Market at LGS	-	Thursday 1 December 2011 from 7-9 pm (more details later).

