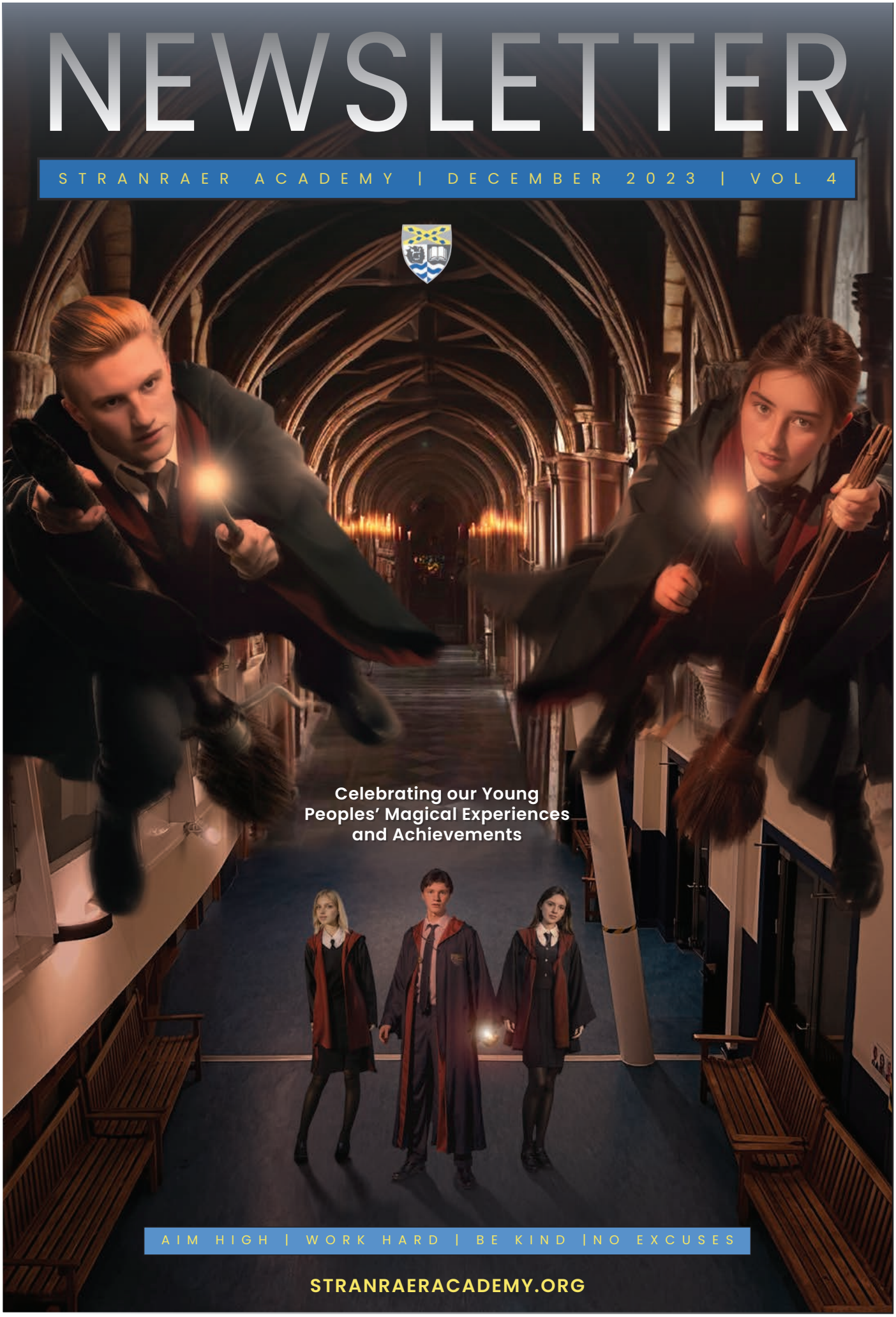
NEWSLETTER

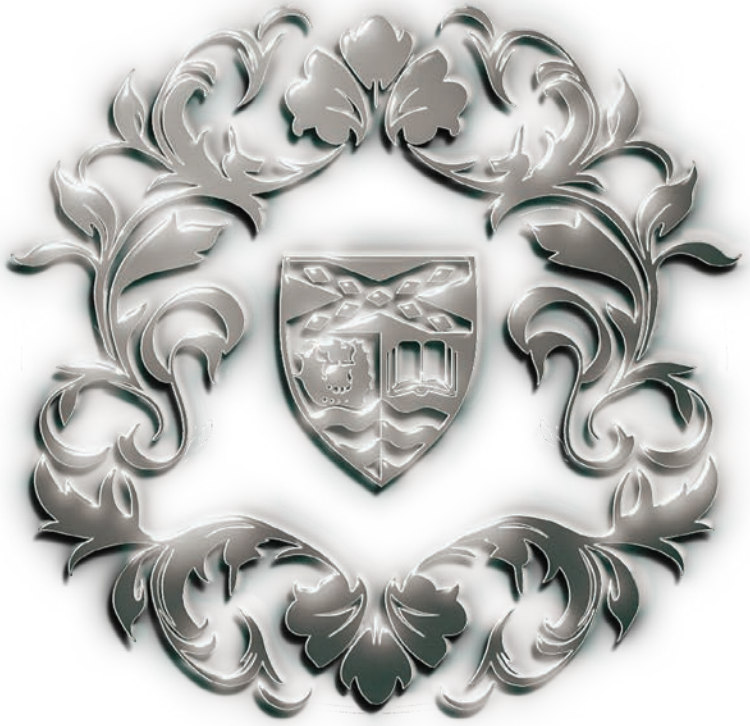
STRANRAER ACADEMY | DECEMBER 2023 | VOL 4



Celebrating our Young Peoples' Magical Experiences and Achievements

AIM HIGH | WORK HARD | BE KIND | NO EXCUSES

STRANRAERACADEMY.ORG



© STRANRAER ACADEMY 2023
CREATED & EDITED BY ROSS JAMES

Editorial

I wish to express my sincere appreciation for your continued support in joining us for the fourth edition of the Stranraer Academy newsletter. Crafting these newsletters remains a time-consuming yet thoroughly enjoyable task. As I compile the content, I am consistently inspired by the myriad achievements and successes of our talented young individuals, and I am delighted to share this overview with you.

Within these pages, you will uncover captivating artworks, compelling photography, theatrical performances, charitable endeavours, special events, enriching trips, and much more. Our exceptional group of young people consistently showcases their capabilities, and it is my pleasure to highlight their accomplishments for the community's appreciation.

In selecting a theme for this edition, I couldn't help but be enchanted by the sheer magical quality of our students' achievements. Consequently, I've transformed certain aspects of the academy into a centuries-old school for witchcraft and wizardry, adding a festive touch to our publication.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to this newsletter, from dedicated staff to enthusiastic pupils. Your invaluable support is essential in bringing this publication to fruition. A special mention goes to my three reliable photographers, Archie McCubbin, Jack Barrett, and my own helpful daughter, Erin James.

Sending warm wishes for a joyous Christmas and a spectacular New Year to everyone!

Ross James
Editor, Photographer, Filmmaker, Web Designer, Graphic Designer... Well, essentially whatever the school needs!





Content

P — 05
Headteacher

P — 06
CDT

P — 10
Fodd Drive

P — 12
Children in Need

P — 14
Christmas Fete

P — 16
Creative Arts

P — 33
Healthy Living

P — 45
Languages

P — 49
The Learning Centre

P — 53
Mathematics

P — 58
P7 Snowball

P — 60
Pupil Leadership

P — 61
Louise Church

P — 64
Science

P — 71
Social Subjects

P — 75
Senior Snowball

P — 78
NSPCC 5K Walk

P — 80
Farewell



Jamie Farquhar

Headteacher

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Stranraer Academy

I am delighted to welcome you to our Christmas Newsletter.

Please enjoy this compendium of learning and enjoyment from the last two terms.

It has been the usual busy run into Christmas at Stranraer Academy. We have had many successful social and charity events including welcoming next year's S1 to their P7 Snow Ball - it was lovely to meet them all. At the time of writing our senior pupils are eagerly anticipating their Snow Ball which makes its return this year.

We maintain our work in regard to learning and teaching with S4 pupils reflecting on their prelim success and seniors preparing for their prelims post-Christmas.

We also reflect with sadness on recent bereavements involving ex-pupils and parents of pupils. Our entire school is thinking of all those affected.

During times of sadness and success, of hard work and fun, we are fortunate to have the support of our friends, family, community and school.

From everyone at Stranraer Academy, to the wider Stranraer Academy family, I wish you all a happy Christmas and a successful and joyful New Year.


CRAFT | DESIGN | TECHNOLOGY



YOUNG ENTERPRISE COMPANY PROGRAMME

The Young Enterprise team for this year, comprising Aaron McDowall, Kerr Castle, Jonathan Sneddon, and Kerr Lyon, has launched their own business, christened "The Rhins Recyclers." Opting to create and market products fashioned from reclaimed recyclable materials, the team also provides an upcycling service to the public. Their recent efforts involved the successful introduction and sale of "wooden Christmas Trees" at local Christmas Markets, receiving a positive response from the public. Post-Christmas, the company plans to unveil new recyclable products and further emphasise the upcycling service provided to customers.





YOUNG ENTERPRISE
ENTERPRISE PROGRAMME

The pupils in the Aird Unit embarked on their first enterprise project this term.

They began planning in November. They spent time with staff researching how to make various Christmas crafts. The pupils came up with their own little mantra "never give up, never give in" when they realised that some crafts would be easier to make than others. They employed this attitude if things became difficult.

They had an expenditure sheet to fill in each week and up until last week the money out box was the only one being filled in. They had to buy lots of materials! This allowed for some interesting conversations about the price of items and let the pupils see that they had to spend money first in order to make money selling hand made items.
The pupils sold their hand made items in the school street and at the Parent Council Christmas Fayre. They made the incredible amount of £110.

Everyone in the Aird Unit would like to thank all of their customers and we all really look forward to an even bigger enterprise next year.



FROM TIMBER TO TREASURE

MISS SMITH'S STUDENTS SHINE IN WOODWORK SHOWCASE









STRANRAER ACADEMY'S FESTIVE FOOD DRIVE:

CHAMPIONING COMPASSION IN THE COMMUNITY

In the spirit of giving and community, Stranraer Academy embarked on a heartwarming journey throughout the month of December, collaborating with Apex Scotland to make a significant impact on local families facing food insecurity this Christmas.



Understanding the vital role that food banks play in supporting those in need, Stranraer Academy joined hands with the Apex Scotland foodbank to ensure that no one in our community goes hungry during the festive season. A food bank, a beacon of hope and generosity, operates as a non-profit organisation,





relying on community donations to alleviate hunger among those facing financial difficulties.The collective effort of our school community was evident as we diligently collected food items from December 1st to December 19th, contributing a generous total of 220.4 kilograms to the Apex Foodbank. This substantial collection is a testament to the compassion and empathy that defines the Stranraer Academy community.



Moreover, our commitment to making a difference did not stop there. In the true spirit of festive goodwill, Stranraer







Academy turned this initiative into a friendly competition among the school's houses. The results were heartening, with Inch House emerging as the proud winner, having collected a remarkable 278 items for the food bank. This friendly competition not only added an element of excitement but also underscored the unity and generosity inherent in our school's culture.The Apex Scotland foodbank, a crucial lifeline for hundreds of individuals and families each year, will be the recipient of our collective efforts. By working alongside Apex Scotland, we are not just providing sustenance; we are contributing to the creation of a joyous Christmas for all, embodying the true spirit of the season.

As the food bank collection was uplifted, we reflect on the impact we've made collectively. Stranraer Academy's commitment to serving the community echoes the core values of compassion, kindness, and solidarity. Our collaborative efforts ensure that the warmth of the holiday season extends to those who need it most, making a lasting difference in the lives of our neighbors. This festive season, Stranraer Academy stands as a beacon of goodwill, illuminating the path to a brighter and more compassionate community for all.





Children in Need
Bake Sale







In the spirit of generosity and goodwill, S5 Violet Raphael, former Inch Depute House Captain, spearheaded an exciting initiative for Children in Need on Friday, November 17, 2023.

The House Captain team called upon the support of S5 and S6 pupils, as well as the staff, to join in a delightful bake sale during the third period on Friday. This event not only promised a delightful array of treats but also presented a fantastic opportunity for the school community to contribute to a charitable cause.

Adding an extra touch of sweetness to the occasion, the House Captain team extended an invitation to staff members to place orders for delectable treats. This thoughtful gesture ensured that everyone, even those unable to attend the sale, could partake in the joy of giving.

To make this bake sale a truly collective effort, the House Captain team sought donations of baked goods such as tray bakes, cupcakes, and more. If you had a talent for baking or simply wished to contribute, you were encouraged to drop off your delicious creations in the library on Friday morning.

The aim was to come together to make this Children in Need bake sale a resounding success, spreading not just the joy of indulging in delightful treats but also contributing to a meaningful cause. The support from the school community was greatly appreciated by the House Captain team and embodied the true spirit of community and generosity.



EXEMPLARY REPRESENTATIVES

Recognising Ellie and Daylan's Dedication to Charity

I wish to express profound gratitude to Ellie Miller and Daylan Reay for graciously dedicating their Friday evening on December 1st to provide refreshment services at the Christmas at Carrs event. Though delayed, this expression of thanks is nonetheless heartfelt and genuine.

The two individuals conducted a commendable initiative, exchanging refreshments for charitable donations and managing to raise an approximate sum of £50 for their selected charity, Barnardo's. Their deportment was marked by politeness, exceptional capability, and an overall delightful presence throughout the event, earning commendation.

Their contribution was invaluable, and they served as exemplary representatives not only of their parents but also of the school. I extend my appreciation to those instrumental in coordinating this effort, specifically acknowledging the ladies in the office for their pivotal role in facilitating this endeavor.

I wish to convey my gratitude to Ellie and Daylan and, by extension, to the ladies in the office. Their collective efforts significantly contributed to the success of the Christmas at Carrs event. Once again, thank you for entrusting us with such capable and dedicated individuals.



by Judith Kirkbridge, Branch Manager, Carrs Billington



Christmas Fete













The Christmas fete, which took place on the 7th of December 2023, was a resounding success, thanks to the collaborative efforts of all involved.

Attendees participated in festive activities at our stall, including, estimating the quantity of sweet treats on the platter, and uncovering Santa's secret hiding spot. The evening unfolded as a delightful blend of joy and surprise.

Special acknowledgment is given to everyone that played a pivotal role in the event's success.

The fete raised an impressive £830. This accomplishment stands as a testament to the generosity and support of the attendees. We express our heartfelt thanks to each participant for making a substantial impact on the success of this event.



Photography by Archie McCubbin







Photography by Archie McCubbin







Christmas Fete













CREATIVE **ARTS**

DRAMATIC GROWTH: NEW HORIZONS FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS FACULTY

This new school session has seen the Creative Arts Faculty grow with the re-introduction of Drama to our curriculum. Ms Fiona Smith is our new Drama teacher and she has lots of exciting ideas for growing Drama within the Performing Arts. We look forward to offering Drama in the option choices for next session. Lunchtimes clubs in Drama and also Art & Design are very well attended each week.

Art and Design NQ students have been working hard in progressing their folio pieces for N5 and Higher. The Art teachers were delighted to welcome back former art teacher Miss McKune in October to complete some moderation and development work. BGE pupils have been developing their core drawing skills in Art and also, in a new curriculum initiative, studying Media with Mr James. "Photographer of the Week" has been established as a weekly event on the school app and this has proved very popular, showcasing some imaginative and skilful images from students of all ages. The Music Department continues to be a busy and melodious place with instrumental music instructors in school Monday – Thursday and NQ students working hard on their performance repertoire for upcoming practical exams in February/March.

by Rhona Smith PT Creative Arts

“Painting is just another way of keeping a diary.”

PABLO PICASSO







Mr. Lochrie's BGE classes have been creating remarkable artwork this term, exploring new ways to use materials and applying texture and colour to produce stunning imagery. Here is a small selection from Mr. Lochrie's projects on Pop Art celebrities and Aboriginal Art.



Take a glimpse into the dedicated efforts of Miss Thomson's art classes as they diligently produce their examination pieces.



Mr. Lochrie's examination classes have crafted truly remarkable art pieces, showcasing an exceptional mastery of tonal range through meticulous application of pencil techniques. These artworks skillfully bring forth a diverse array of textures and objects, rendering them with a striking lifelike quality. Notably, the colour piece positioned in the corner harmoniously aligns with the thematic essence of this newsletter.





by Izzy White S2



by Erin Caldwell S2





by Ava Lily Orr-Ewing S2





by Evan Stevely S1

MUSIC

MELODIC MASTERY

RHINS SCHOOLS CLUSTER BAND STRIKES SILVER AT YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Rhins Schools Cluster Band is a junior brass group which began rehearsals in April this year at the Academy under the leadership of brass instructor Mrs Miller with assistance from PT Creative Arts Mrs Smith and Mr Duffy (percussion instructor). It is made up of youngsters from our feeder primary schools and some S1/2 pupils from the Academy. Their first concert took place at the end of the summer term and was a great success. As the players grew in skill and confidence Mrs Miller decided to enter the band in the Scottish Youth Brass Band Championships, Novice section. The band travelled to Perth on 26th November and performed in the awe-inspiring Perth Concert Hall. All the musicians looked splendid in their new polo shirts and they performed all 3 of their pieces confidently with a rich sound on their instruments. Their hard work was rewarded with a silver award which was a tremendous achievement for such a newly formed band. Mrs Miller and Mrs Smith are very much looking forward to seeing how the band develops in 2024!

BY RHONA SMITH





by Ethan Paterson



PHOTOGRAPHY

This term has been truly remarkable for our photography enthusiasts, inspiring the entire school community to venture out and capture stunning images. The "Photographers of the Week" posts, showcased on our recently launched website, have garnered immense popularity over the past few months. Students have eagerly shared their latest photographic creations, creating a buzz within the school.

What started as a local initiative has now become a global sensation, with the weekly posts gaining widespread attention and interest far beyond our immediate community. The Higher Photographer group has particularlydistinguished itself, showcasing continuous growth in their grasp of composition, camera control, and mastery of lighting techniques.

In the following pages, I present a curated selection of the noteworthy work featured on our website in recent months. While the "Photographers of the Week" series will take a brief hiatus, rest assured it will return next year with exciting new additions designed to further celebrate and promote the success of our talented students.

For now, revel in the captivating photography skills displayed by our young enthusiasts.

by Ross Collins



by Ross Muirhead



by Megan McKinstry



by Carly Brown



by Megan McKinstry




by Archie McCubbin
by Archie McCubbin
by Aymie McHarrie
by Isla McGeoch
by Mackenzie Preston
by Lucas Arnott
by Dale Millington


by Damian Marsters
by Lucas Arnott
by Kaci Johnston
by Ethan Paterson
by Oliver Brown

HOUSE CREST COMPETITION

Article by Jack Barrett







For the past few weeks S1-2 art classes have been participating in a competition to design a new house crest for their own house. This is to help create more identity between each of the houses and to create more buzz about the new house competitions that also started this term. The houses of Stranraer Academy are: Logan (Purple); Inch (Yellow); Dunskey (Red) and Glenapp (Orange).



This competition was also open to all other year groups to join in during their free time so that everyone was included from each house. There was a vast number of eligible entries submitted giving the Pupil Leadership Team, Dr Marshal, Mr Hyslop, Mr Farquhar, Ms Livingstone, and the Art Department a difficult decision for the winners.

The winners have been selected but will not be revealed until the house crests have been finalised. Mr Lochrie has been working hard to tidy up and properly refine the brilliant designs of the winners. Next term the house crests will be revealed to all, and the winners will also be announced. Well done to all who entered, it was an all-round superb effort!









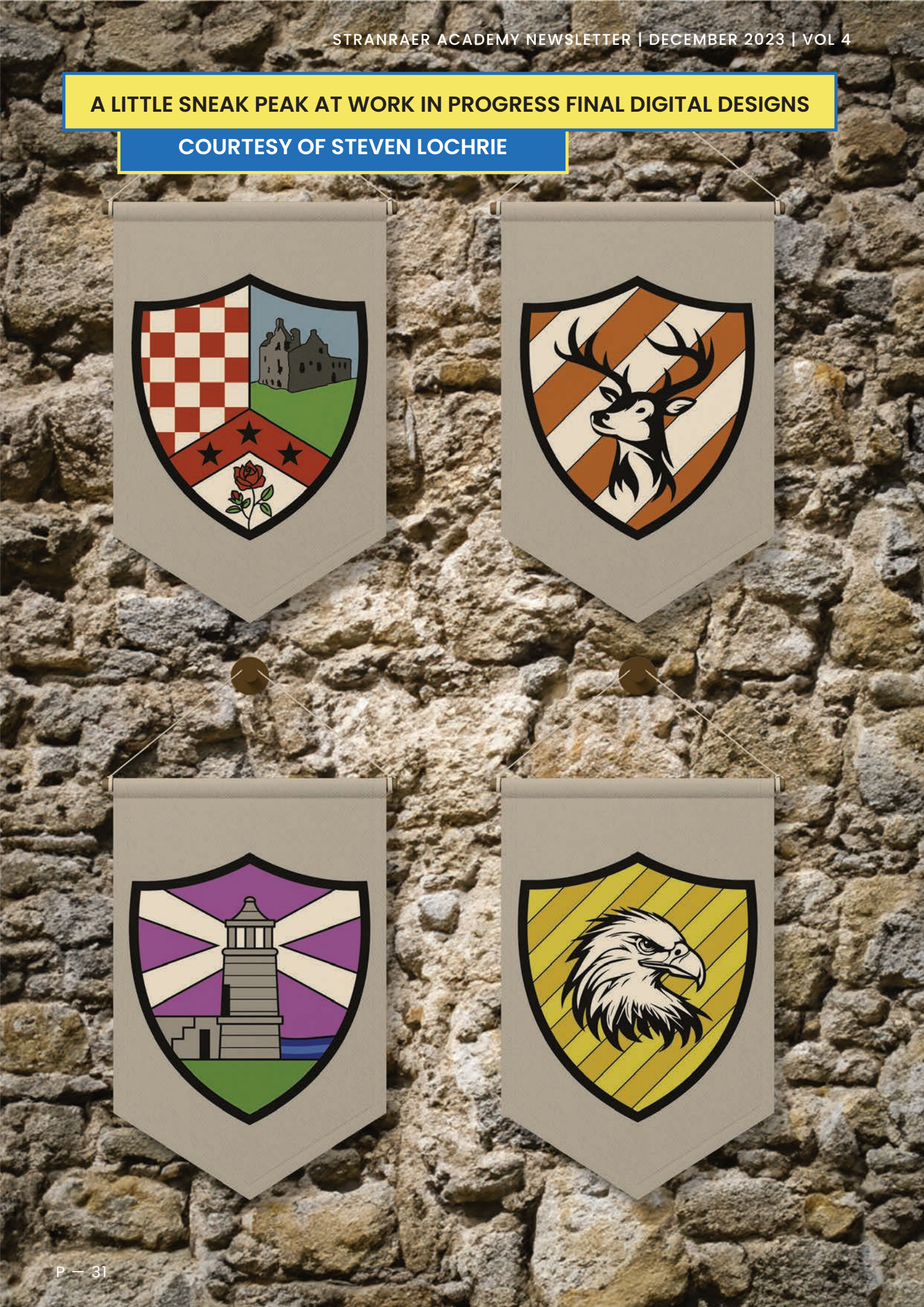






A LITTLE SNEAK PEAK AT WORK IN PROGRESS FINAL DIGITAL DESIGNS

COURTESY OF STEVEN LOCHRIE



The enchanting world of drama has made a triumphant return to Stranraer Academy, captivating our young talents. Guided by the enthusiastic Miss Smith, a dedicated space has been crafted for students to explore their dramatic potential.

Beyond traditional confines, Miss Smith has pioneered a lunchtime drama club, fostering camaraderie and a shared passion for the dramatic arts among students. S1 and S2 cohorts have delved into Soft Drama Skills, covering teamwork, listening, communication, problem-solving, emotional expression, confidence, creative thinking, scriptwriting, and pantomime techniques.

This initiative not only nurtures individual talents but also promotes a collective appreciation for drama's multifaceted nature. Stranraer Academy continues its commitment to holistic education, empowering students to discover and amplify their creative potential. As the curtains rise, we eagerly anticipate the unfolding of new theatrical chapters at Stranraer Academy.













Staff Performance 22/12/23







PHOTOGRAPHY BY ARCHIE McCUBBIN







Staff Performance 22/12/23









The Takeaway Theatre company has visited Stranraer Academy for over a decade. On November 16th we welcomed the cast of 4 once again to deliver their production “Hope” to all of our S1 classes who were accompanied by their teachers and their Senior Support Ambassadors.

The production delivers a high impact, entertaining anti bullying message with subsequent workshops to ensure pupils have understood the essence of the play and are able to unpack the contact in a meaningful way.

“Hope” is the story of a beautiful and successful pop star returning to the town where she grew up for the first time in years. A chance encounter between her and an old school acquaintance brings back painful memories of her childhood and the systematic abuse and bullying she suffered at the hands of a classmate. It is a story of courage, self-empowerment and redemption.

The drama is informative, thought-provoking and entertaining and our S1 pupils were once again enthralled by the opportunity. The company, headed up by Hazel, stated that our pupils were, once again, a credit to our community. Looking forward to the companies return in 2024!


HEALTHY
LIVING

D&G Regional West Disability Swimming Championships



In a recent display of skill and determination, three pupils from the Academy—Robert Nelson, Liam Palmer, and Nathan McKie—participated in the D&G Regional West Disability Swimming Championships 2023. Their exceptional performance earned them a spot on the Regional team for the national event held in Glenrothes, known as the SDS National Swimming Championships 2023.

The Championships in Glenrothes drew competitors from across Scotland, creating an atmosphere of intense competition. Alongside former pupil Logan Spiers, Robert, Nathan, and Liam showcased their swimming prowess, resulting in commendable achievements.

Here are the outstanding results:

Robert Nelson: Gold in 25m front crawl and Silver in 25m backstroke.
Nathan McKie: Gold in 50m front crawl.
Liam Palmer: Impressive 4th place in front crawl.
Logan Spiers: Bronze in 50m back crawl.
Despite an early start and a long journey, the participants displayed fantastic effort and dedication. Congratulations to all who took part, and best wishes to Robert, Nathan, Liam, and Logan for their remarkable success on the regional and national swimming stage. Their achievements stand as a testament to their hard work and commitment to the sport.

Success for Swimmers

D&G Regional West Disability Swimming Championships






Splashing Success

Stranraer Academy Makes Waves at Regional Meet

On the 9th of November, the talented swimmers of Stranraer Academy made waves at the Scottish Schools Regional Meet, showcasing exceptional skill and determination. Their efforts culminated in an outstanding achievement, bringing home an impressive tally of 29 medals. Adding to the triumph, two new Regional records were established by Stephan Nastjuks in the 100m Breaststroke and Molly Irvine-Watson in the 100m Freestyle.

The individual performances were nothing short of stellar:

Alana Gilliland: Secured a Bronze in 100m Backstroke.
Sophie Hardie: Claimed the Gold in 100m Backstroke.
Emma Barrowman: Earned Gold in 100m Butterfly and Silver in 200m Butterfly.
Finlay Nelson: Impressed with Gold in 100m Freestyle, Gold in 100m Butterfly, and Silver in 100m Breaststroke.
Mirren Gibb: Showcased skill with Gold in 200m Individual Medley, Silver in 100m Breaststroke, and Silver in 200m Freestyle.
Laura Donnan: Demonstrated prowess with a Bronze in 100m Breaststroke.
Stephan Nastjuks: Secured a Gold in 200m Individual Medley, set a new Regional Record with Gold in 100m Breaststroke, and achieved Gold in 200m Breaststroke and 200m Freestyle.
Sarah McClymont: Earned Silver in 100m Freestyle.
Lily McClymont: Displayed excellence with a Silver in 100m Butterfly.
George Zbiegniewski: Exhibited skill with Gold in 100m Breaststroke, Gold in 200m Individual Medley, Silver in 100m Butterfly, and Bronze in 200m Freestyle.
Millie Colvin: Impressed with Gold in 100m Butterfly, Gold in 200m Butterfly, Silver in 100m Freestyle, and Silver in 200m Freestyle.
Molly Irvine-Watson: Set a new Regional Record with Gold in 100m Freestyle and achieved Gold in 200m Freestyle, 100m Breaststroke, and 200m Breaststroke.
The success continues as the following swimmers qualify for the National Finals in January: Stephan Nastjuks (200m IM & 100m BRS), George Zbiegniewski (200m IM & 100m BRS as 2nd Reserve), Millie Colvin (100m FLY & 200M FLY), Finlay Nelson (100m FLY), Mirren Gibb (100m BRS), Molly Irvine-Watson (100m FREE & 200m FREE).

Stranraer Academy extends heartfelt appreciation to the Stranraer Stingrays coaching staff and parent helpers for their invaluable assistance in achieving this remarkable success.



D&G Regional West Disability Boccia Championships 2023.







Students from Aird and the learning centre had the honor of representing the Academy at the recent championships held at the Ryan Centre. The participants demonstrated a fantastic effort, and it was a noteworthy achievement that all students securing 1st to 4th places were from the Academy. The results were as follows:

1st place went to Stranraer Academy, 2nd place to Logan Corrigan, 3rd place to Kenzie Hughes, and 4th place to Miles Foster.

Stranraer Academy Girls Shine in Spar Cup





The junior and senior girls' teams from Stranraer Academy participated in the Spar Cup tournament at Dumfries High School on the 10th of October, competing against teams from various regions. The girls exhibited exceptional skills, with the senior team successfully advancing to the next round scheduled for the end of November at Hamilton Palace.

The junior team performed admirably, securing victories in three games, drawing in two, and experiencing two losses. Meanwhile, the seniors triumphed in four games and drew in the fifth, comfortably securing their qualification. Unfortunately, adverse weather conditions led to the cancellation of the finals, and they are slated to be rescheduled for a later date.

Congratulations to all the girls for their outstanding efforts!



On Monday, the 11th of September, S4-6 girls participated in the regional netball festival season opener at King George V in Dumfries. The girls demonstrated commendable performance, particularly in the later games of the first round. They advanced to the second round plate competition and secured the 3rd place.

The Player of the Day from Stranraer Academy was Pippa Stirling.

Senior Netball Festival





On Friday, the 22nd of September, S2-S3 girls participated in the junior netball festival season opener at King George V in Dumfries. The girls exhibited excellent play throughout the day, putting in a dedicated and hardworking effort. They advanced to the plate competition, where they secured the runners-up position.

The Player of the Day from Stranraer Academy was Lilly Weatherby.



Junior Netball Festival

Netball League Update

This year, two junior teams from Stranraer Academy were enrolled in the league and were placed in a pool with St Joseph's College and Dumfries Academy. In October, St Joseph's visited Stranraer Academy for the first league games of the season. Both Stranraer teams demonstrated considerable effort, applying the skills they had been learning. Unfortunately, St Joseph's emerged victorious in both games. Despite the outcomes, it proved to be a valuable learning experience for the girls, providing a foundation for improvement in future matches.

The Player of the Day for Stranraer A was Rosie Thompson, while Emily Carnochan earned the title for Stranraer B. Looking ahead, the junior teams are set to face Dumfries Academy on Wednesday, 20th December, and further details on their performance will follow.

In addition to the junior teams, a senior team also joined the league this year. Regrettably, the senior girls haven't had the opportunity to play any games. St Joseph's, their scheduled opponents, forfeited the game, granting Stranraer the points. Anticipation remains high for the seniors to engage in games come the new year, hoping for a more active participation in the league.



NETBALL

U13, U14 & U16's Boys Latest Results

The D&G League season kicked off with success for our boys' teams, showcasing commendable performances. Regrettably, team photos have eluded us this season due to time constraints.

In the clash between Stranraer U13s and Dumfries H.S. U13s, the Stranraer boys secured a thrilling 4-3 victory. Ethan Matthews and George Wilson played pivotal roles, proving to be formidable opponents for the determined and physical Dumfries High School side. The dynamic duo posed a constant challenge, making it difficult for the Dumfries team to contain them on the pitch. With the game tied 3-3 and only 5 minutes left, Ethan Matthews scored the winning goal, sealing the victory for Stranraer. The Player of the Match award presented a dilemma as both George, who assisted in all four goals, and Ethan, who secured a hat trick, exhibited outstanding performances. Consequently, both boys shared the well-deserved accolade. Congratulations to all the boys for their remarkable efforts!

The Stranraer U14s faced a tougher challenge, succumbing to a 2-5 defeat against a well-drilled Dumfries High side. Missing some influential players, Stranraer struggled to control the game, finding themselves down 5-0 before Jonny Wither and Aeron Baxter scored consolation goals. Despite the defeat, kudos to the boys for their resilience and effort.

Goalscorers for U13s: Ethan Matthews (3), Frazer Thomson
Players of the Match for U13s: Ethan Matthews & George Wilson

Goalscorers for U14s: Jonny Wither, Aeron Baxter
Players of the Match for U14s: Murray Williams & Kieran Patterson





HOME **ECONOMICS**

S6 TRIO ELEVATES CULINARY SKILLS AT ROWAN GLEN

Three of our S6 students—Brooke, Pippa, and Aoife—recently completed their work placement at Rowan Glen as part of their Foundation Apprenticeship in Food and Drink Technologies.

During their four-week stint, the students had the unique opportunity to work on creating a new product within a food business, and Rowan Glen generously welcomed them under their supervision.

Throughout the placement, their task was to develop an innovative food product by exploring various flavors and ideas. With the guidance of the Rowan Glen team, led by Alan and Julie, the students refined their concepts and brought their culinary creations to life.

Immersing themselves in the realms of food innovation and laboratory work, Brooke, Pippa, and Aoife gained valuable insights into the industry. Perhaps one day, the product they worked on will grace the shelves of supermarkets.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Rowan Glen for providing such an outstanding opportunity for these talented students. The experience has undoubtedly enriched their understanding and skills in the realm of food and drink technologies.













HOME ECONOMICS:

SENIOR BAKERY CLASS CRAFTS HALLOWEEN-INSPIRED CAKES



In a culinary celebration of creativity and skill, the senior bakery class at Stranraer Academy's Home Economics department recently immersed themselves in the Halloween spirit. As part of their cake unit in the National Progression Award (NPA) class, students embarked on the delightful task of designing and crafting a selection of Halloween-inspired cakes.

This festive baking endeavor not only contributed to the students' skill development but also fostered a sense of camaraderie and shared accomplishment. As the Home Economics department continues to inspire culinary passion, it remains a hub where students can unleash their creativity, one delectable creation at a time.


LANGUAGES



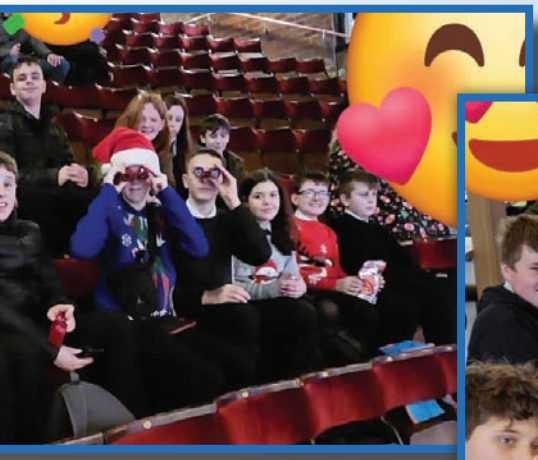


ACCELERATED READING CELEBRATION RESULTS

A group of 38 students from Stranraer Academy, comprising both S1 and S2 pupils, had the exciting opportunity to attend the pantomime performance of "Snow White" at the prestigious King's Theatre in Glasgow. The selection of students for this special outing was based on two distinct criteria. Some pupils were chosen in acknowledgment of their outstanding achievements in the Accelerated Reader programme, where their dedication to reading and the number of words consumed demonstrated exceptional commitment to literacy.

Additionally, other students were selected in recognition of their remarkable Endeavour in Scotland Reads. This initiative reflects a broader commitment by Stranraer Academy to elevate literacy standards across the curriculum. The school is actively engaged in fostering a reading culture and enhancing literacy skills through various programs, such as the Accelerated Reader and Scotland Reads initiatives.

The commitment to improving literacy is a cornerstone of Stranraer Academy's educational ethos, and the support received from parents for these initiatives is greatly appreciated. The collaborative efforts between the school and parents underscore the significance placed on nurturing a love for reading and enhancing literacy skills among students. The outing to the pantomime served not only as an enjoyable and memorable experience for the pupils but also as a tangible representation of the school's dedication to fostering a holistic and comprehensive approach to education.



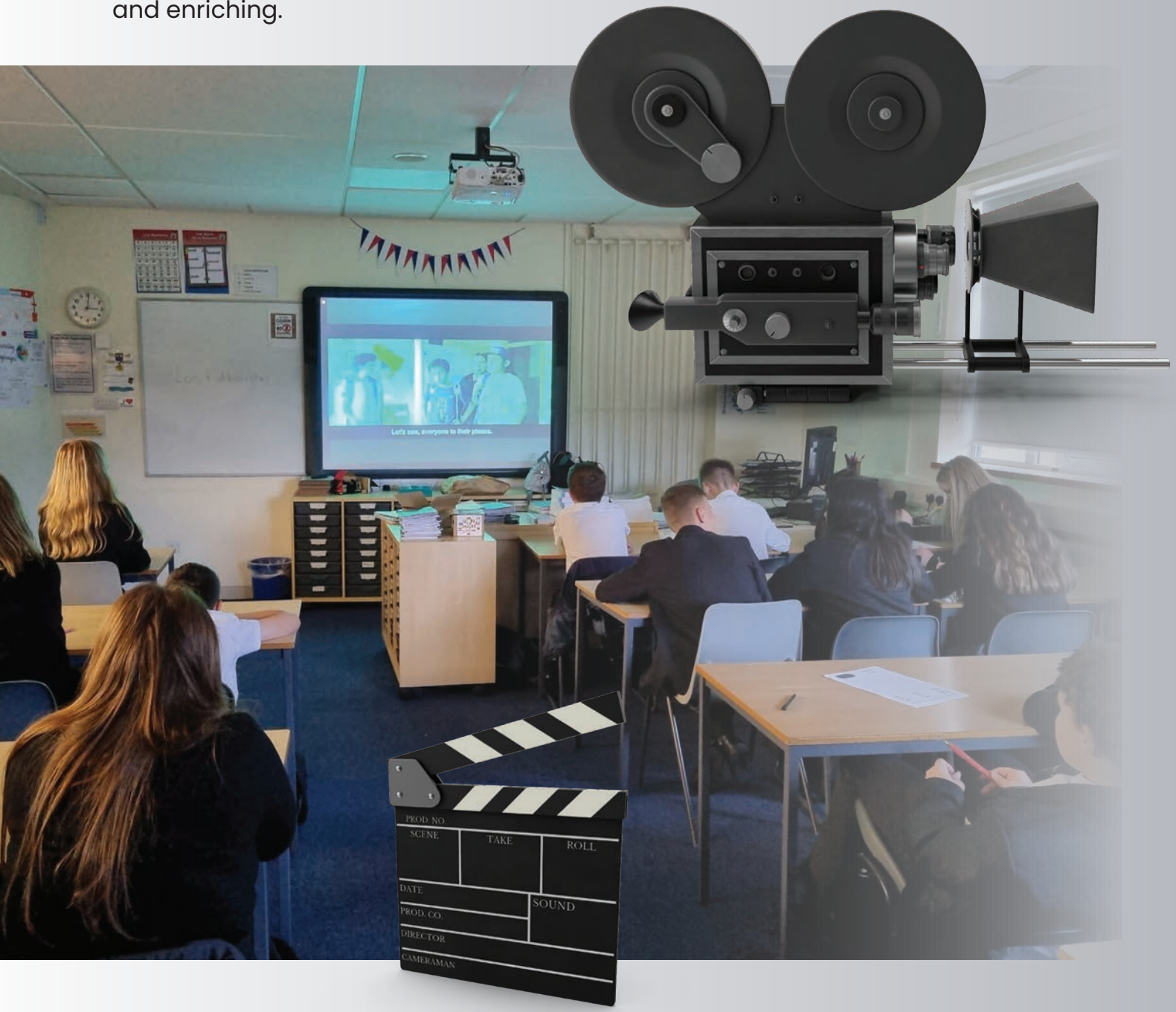






LIGHTS, CAMERA, ESPAÑOL

In a captivating educational experience, Miss Rennane's S2 class participated in the Edinburgh Spanish Film Festival, where they selected and watched a Spanish film. This engaging activity allowed the students to reinforce existing vocabulary from past lessons and absorb new words related to sports in authentic language contexts. The hands-on approach and sports-themed content added a dynamic element to the language learning process, making the experience both enjoyable and enriching.



STAGECRAFT SPECTACLE

National 5 English Students Dive into Tally's Blood

S5 and S6 students, currently enrolled in National 5 English, embarked on a trip to Dumfries to witness a live performance of "Tally's Blood" by Ann-Marie Di Mambro. As this play is part of the set texts for the Critical Reading paper, the excursion provided a valuable opportunity for all pupils to witness the narrative come to life on the stage, contributing to a more immersive and enriching understanding of the material. The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and the chance to engage with the play in a live theatrical setting.



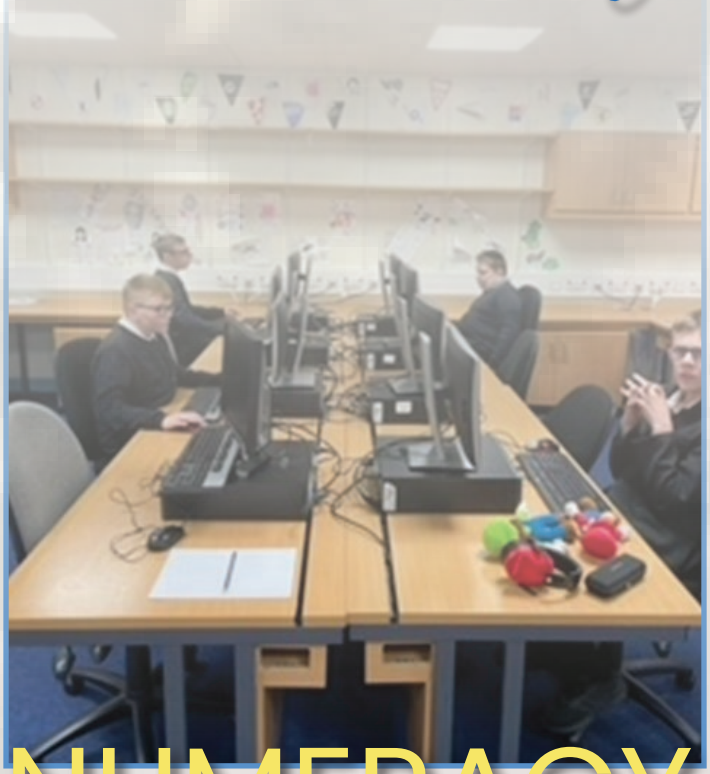






The Learning Centre

AKA TEAM GT3



Pupils in the Learning Centre have been working very hard this term. They have classes within the department, classes with mainstream teachers and opportunities within the community.

In class we have been working on our listening and talking, pupils are creating a presentation which they will give to the class. We have so many different topics from Pokemon to Snakes



NUMERACY

FRACTIONS AND SHAPE



Pupils have learned more about World War II in the area and created beautiful poppy wreaths for Remembrance.



The Learning Centre

Rose our class pet is something of legend within the school. Some of the Senior leadership team come to visit her, others are a little bit frightened. As the class work towards their SQA qualification in looking after an animal, Rose is very well looked after.











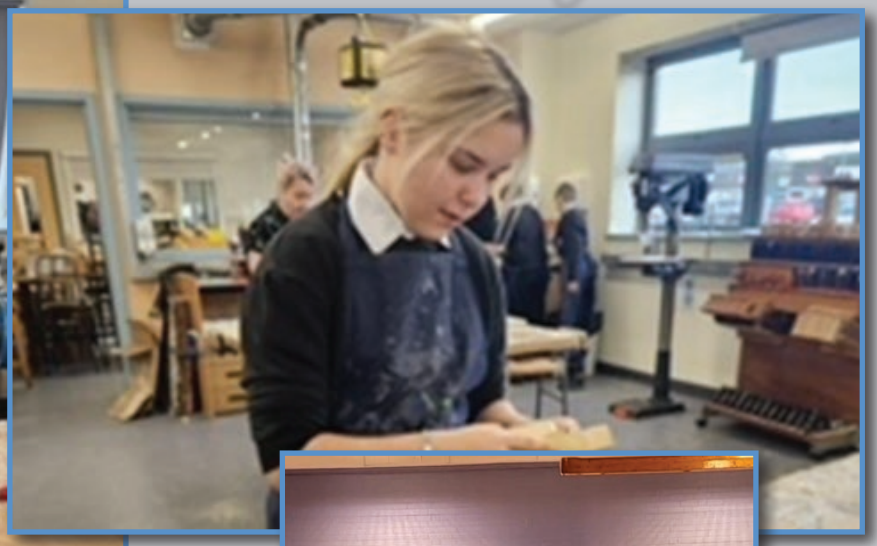
Skills of independence are very important to our young people and we had a very successful program helping to tie shoe laces independently. Those who had already mastered the skill helped and supported others who were still learning



Pupils attend classes with mainstream teachers in CDT, PE, HE, ICT, Science, Creative Arts, French and RME

The Learning Centre













AKA TEAM GT3

The Learning Centre

AKA TEAM GT3

We are lucky to have one of our teachers who is trained in Forest Schools. Mrs Heatlie and the class are taking part in the Forest school initiative. They have been very disappointed in the situation with Dog fouling and so have created some “dog poo bag” stations to benefit the community





We have also been working in the local community with Mrs Dampney at the community garden. The pupils have undertaken some work to support the garden and Mrs Dampney has helped us learn. We even went foraging for Brambles.

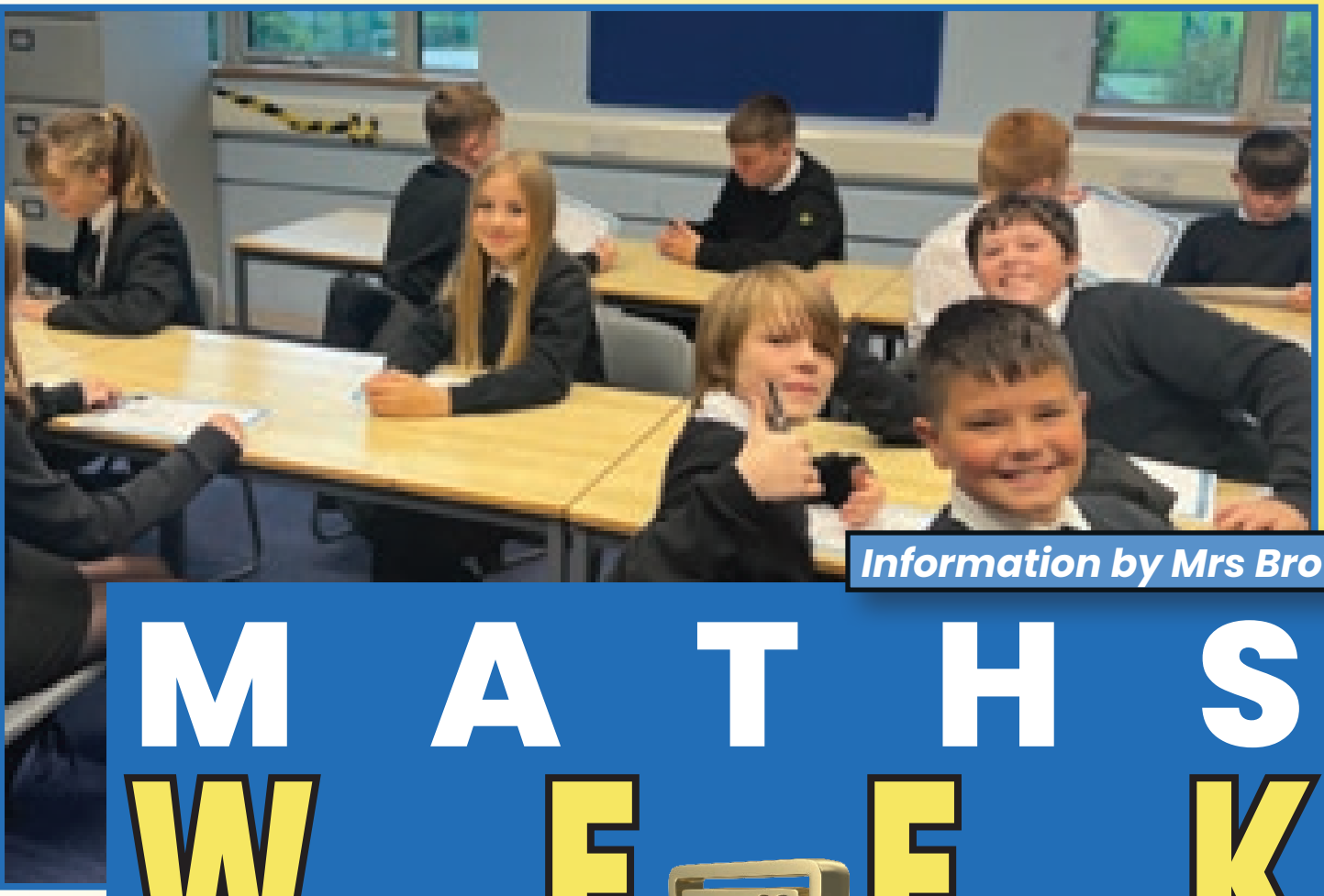






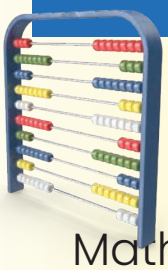


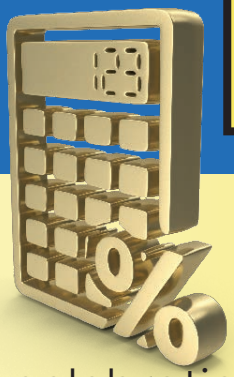

WOW Work
MATHEMATICS



Information by Mrs Brown

MATHS WEEK







Maths week Scotland is a celebration of the importance of maths in our everyday lives. Maths is all around us. We use it in our daily lives when cooking tea, playing sport or deciding whether to go for that impulse purchase. It shapes our society in our voting systems and the way we use data. It underpins the art we view and the music we listen to. This year the theme for maths week was Maths in Motion. Stranraer Academy celebrated maths week with our S1 pupils trying out some different maths activities during their maths periods: Club games (darts, dominoes, cards), building the strongest tower, a Treasure Hunt, Battleships and Blooket quizzes.





















Real-World Problem-Solving

S2 celebrated maths week by having a day off timetable on Friday 3rd November and participated in workshops run by AS Creatives. During the day pupils attended the following 3 workshops experience how maths is can be used to solve problems in the real world:

The Trading Game – fast paced, very active and loosely based on the stock-exchange

The Bunker – fiendishly challenging code-breaking (recognising, analysing and predicting pattern)

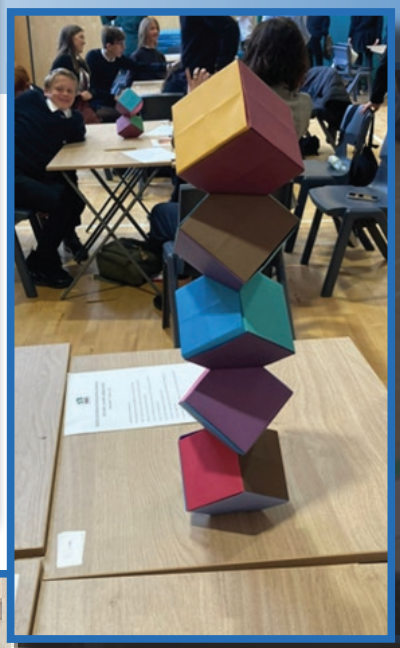
CSI:Bake Off – using a range of maths skills to uncover which of a list of suspects is responsible for the poisoned profiteroles



Enterprising Maths

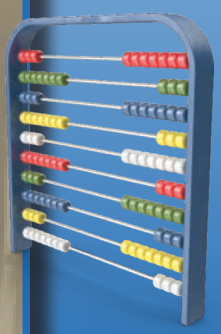
As part of maths week, this year the Dumfries and Galloway Enterprising Maths Challenge was hosted at the St Josephs High School in Dumfries, with 12 teams from over the region joining. Four of our S3/4 pupils went along to participate; Ruth Turtle, Sophie McCall, Zack Ashton and Omer Faryyad. The team were set mathematical challenges throughout the day including Puzzle stations, an Engineering round and a Maths relay. The team showed great maths knowledge and excellent problem solving skills – well done Team Stranraer Academy!











P7 Snowball 2023

In a dazzling display of winter enchantment, the P7 Snowball event unfolded on Monday, the 18th, transforming our school hall into a magical wonderland. The event, eagerly anticipated by 176 P7 pupils, was a resounding success, leaving an indelible mark on the memories of all who attended.



The festivities were brought to life through the dedicated efforts of a dynamic group of S5 pupils. Taking charge of various responsibilities, from intricate decorations to engaging entertainment, this team worked tirelessly to ensure the evening unfolded seamlessly. Their enthusiasm and commitment were evident, contributing to the creation of an enchanting atmosphere that captivated everyone present.



We express our sincere thanks to everyone involved and anticipate creating more magical moments together in future school events.

Photography by Jack Barrett





P7 Snowball 2023











Pupil Leadership Team



This year as part of the Pupil Leadership Team, the house captains have taken it upon themselves to establish greater house identity. The first step we have taken to achieve this goal is by the running of a variety of inter house competitions to allow all pupils the opportunity to take part. As a team we believe healthy competition and teamwork are vital tools in boosting pupil morale and creating a sense of belonging.



We kicked off this term with an S1 weekly quiz completed during registration time, a great way to start the day. The first quiz winners being Inch House with an impressive ten out of ten score and Glenapp House, a close runner up. The second quiz winners being Logan House, with Glenapp and Inch tied for second place. The final weeks quiz winners being Glenapp, with Logan and Inch tied for second place. Registration time gave the Pupil Leadership Team the ideal opportunity to award points through random uniform checks. Uniform was found to be most proudly worn by Glenapp. House two weeks running. Keep up the good work!!



Pupil Leadership Team



Points will be awarded regarding behaviour termly as merits and demerits are calculated. This term for S1, Logan came out on top and Dunskey were second, for S2, Glenapp were the winners followed by Inch.



Accelerated reading has been included in the competitions, in which the top ten pupils with the highest word count will be awarded, a great reason to pick up a book. Some incredibly large word counts were discovered, the results coming out as Inch receiving the most points followed by Glenapp, Dunskey and then Logan.



Our s1/s2 football tournament was welcomed with great excitement by pupils and was greatly supported by the PE base. Inch House were crowned the first tournament winners with Dunskey House being awarded runners up. Due to the number of pupils wanting to take part, a second tournament had to take place the following week where Inch came out top once again!! Glenapp coming second. Well done to all those involved.

Pupil Leadership Team

Foodbank donations have been flooding in to support local charity Apex's Christmas appeal. The Pupil Leadership Team included this in the list of competitions as a way of helping others in need at Christmas! Big thanks to Mrs Campbell for running this again this year and the fundraising team who worked alongside her. The most donations came from Inch House, the enormity of donations they gathered is really something to be proud of.



The points from each competition were calculated and overall, the winning house was Inch. This is a remarkable achievement, and we hope this hard work continues next term. Congratulations!



Thank you to all those who have taken part as well as everyone involved in the running of the competitions. We look forward to what is to come next term.







Article by David Hyslop Acting Depute



FROM PUPIL COUNCIL TO PARLIAMENT

CELEBRATING LOUISE CHURCH'S TRIUMPH

I am Louise Church and I have recently been elected for Scottish Youth Parliament for Galloway and West Dumfries. I am very thankful for this opportunity and would like to thank everyone who voted for me. My experience started with going to a pupil council meeting and being told about the Youth Council. I was encouraged to go forward and apply for this role which led to Youthworks getting in touch with me. I then attended an online meeting and this was followed by a face-to-face meeting discussing the roles I could campaign for and information about the roles. I worked alongside Youthworks to create a candidate profile to help me stand out and put across what I believe is important to my local and surrounding areas. The voting took place which I was unable to attend due to health reasons. On the 5th of December, was the election night where I found out the amazing news that I had won the election. I was over the moon and I couldn't believe that I had won Scottish Youth Councillor for Galloway and West Dumfries. I can't stress how thankful I am and the support I was given by Youthworks.



I look forward to the future and what it holds. I have a few ambitions, such as, getting more indoor activities for young people throughout Galloway and West Dumfries, as I believe young people do not have very much to do on a rainy day, or just an indoor activity in general. I also would like to change littering, as this is our planet and we only get one, so keeping it as clean as possible is very important to me. I am going to try help as much as I can over the next two years and if anyone has any concerns, I am always open to suggestions and ideas that can change our community for the better. Once again, thank you to everyone who voted for me and I won't let you down and I will work alongside Youthworks to make this community a better place.

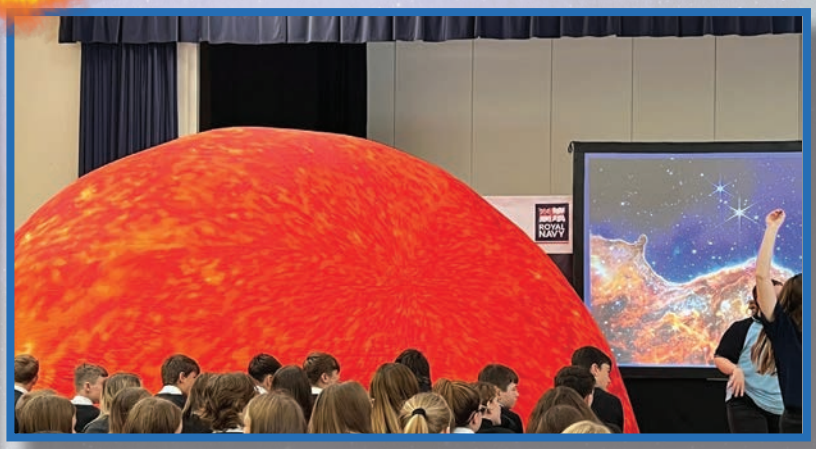

Science

STEM ROADSHOW

SCIENCE | TECHNOLOGY | ENGINEERING | MATHEMATICS







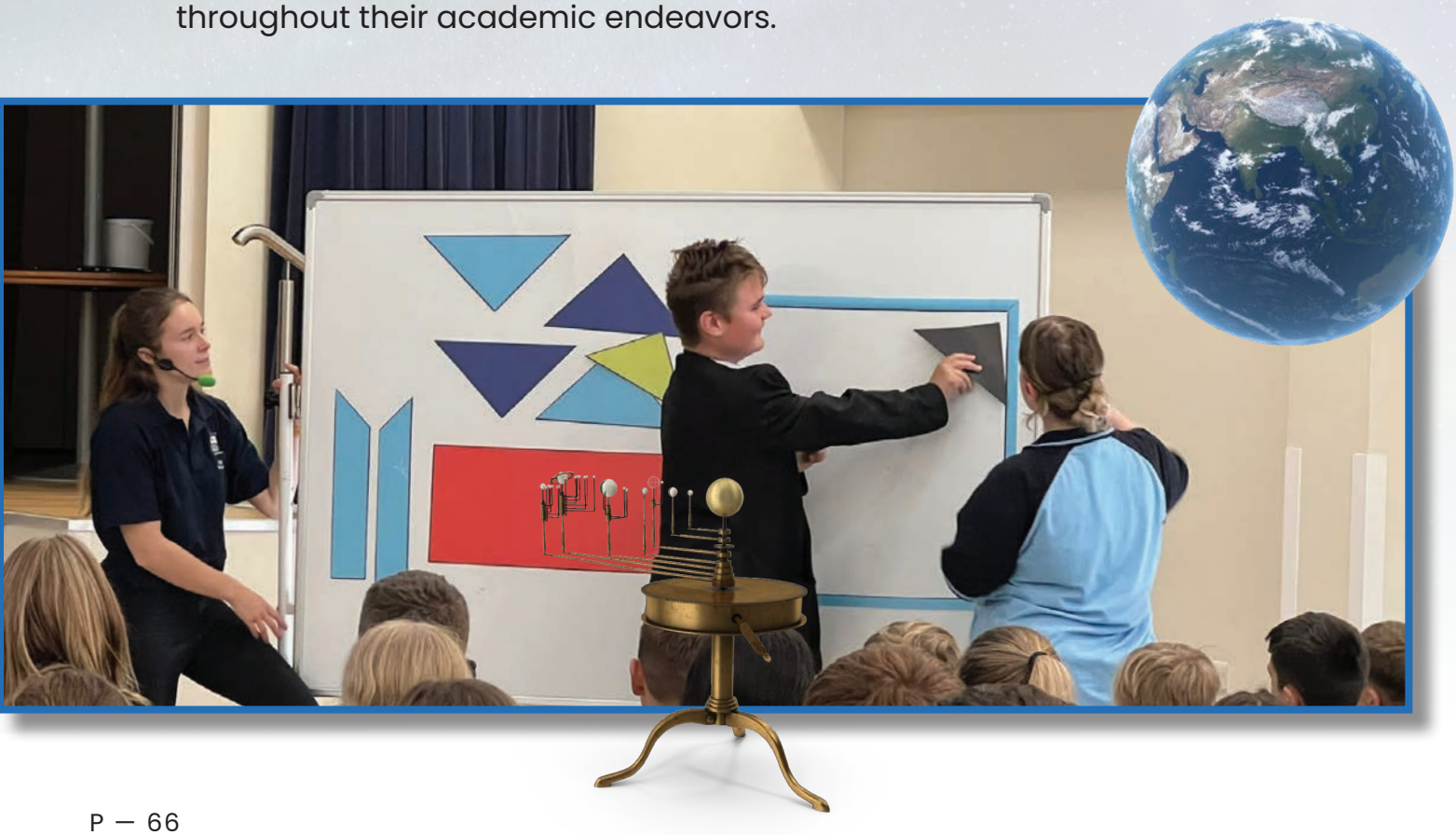
On the 29th of September this year, an enlightening and captivating experience unfolded for all S1 and S2 pupils, courtesy of the BAE Systems Education Programme Roadshow. This exceptional event, conducted in collaboration with the esteemed Royal Air Force (RAF) and the Royal Navy, seamlessly blended education with entertainment. The focus of this year's program was the vast and intriguing realm of space and space exploration, aligning seamlessly with our current curriculum for S1 and S2.



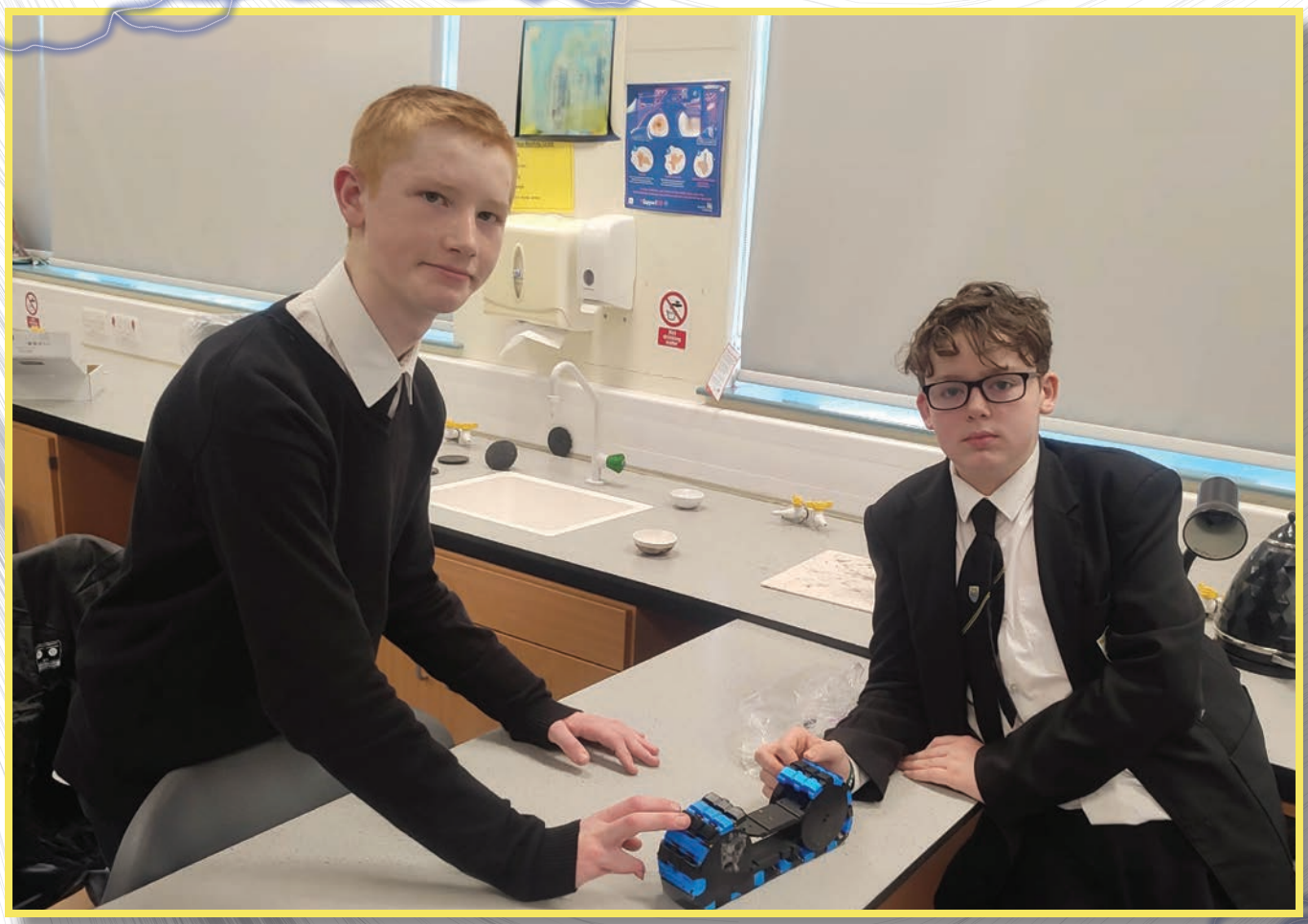


This carefully curated initiative served as a delightful introduction to the wonders of space for our S1 pupils, enhancing their understanding and fostering a sense of curiosity about the cosmos. Simultaneously, it provided a valuable opportunity for sound consolidation of knowledge for our S2 pupils, reinforcing key concepts and enriching their educational journey.

The synergy between the BAE Systems Education Programme Roadshow, the RAF, and the Royal Navy not only elevated the learning experience but also underscored the commitment to nurturing a comprehensive and engaging educational environment. As our students delved into the mysteries of space, this unique collaboration between industry and education left an indelible mark, inspiring a passion for exploration and knowledge that will resonate throughout their academic endeavors.




MR CAMERON'S
BATTLE BOTS



MECH MAESTROS LUNCHEON LEAGUE

Students at Stranraer Academy, under the guidance of Mr. Cameron, a dedicated science teacher, are involved in constructing a formidable battle bot during their lunchtime sessions. This ambitious STEM project represents a collaboration between two educational institutions—Stranraer Academy and Douglas Ewart High School—with the goal of creating combat-ready robots for an exhilarating competition akin to the renowned Robot Wars.

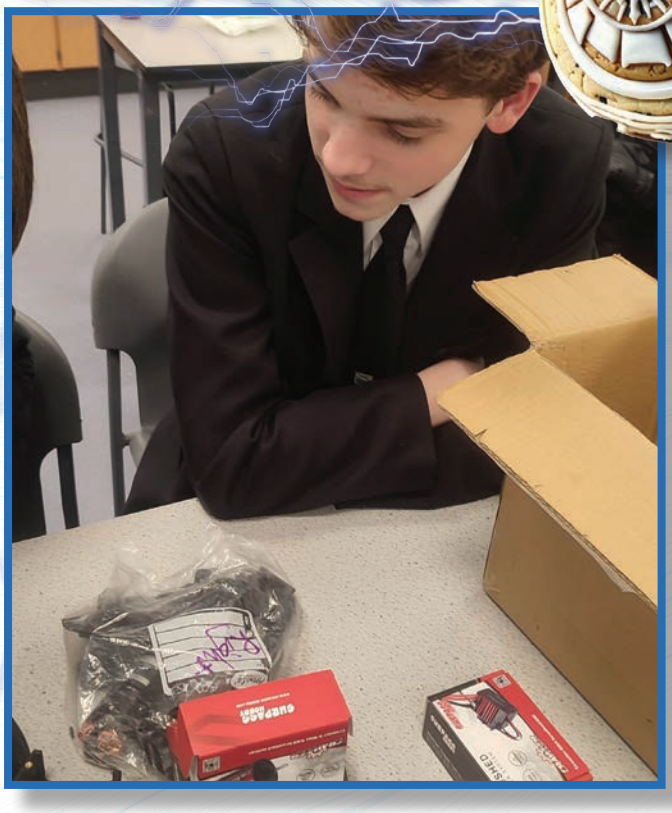
The initial components of the inaugural battle bot have been meticulously 3D printed, and the students are currently in the process of assembling them with precision, using both glue and screws. In the upcoming phases, they will delve into the intricacies of fitting the electronic components and gain valuable insights into the realm of remote control technology.

This innovative venture has been made possible through the generous funding provided by PEF (Pupil Equity Fund) and the support of EcoGen Stranraer. The convergence of financial resources and environmental advocacy underscores the holistic approach to education and technology embraced by the participating schools.

For any student aspiring to be part of this exciting initiative, Thursday lunchtimes in the year 2024 serve as an open invitation to join the ranks of budding engineers and enthusiasts in the realm of robotics.



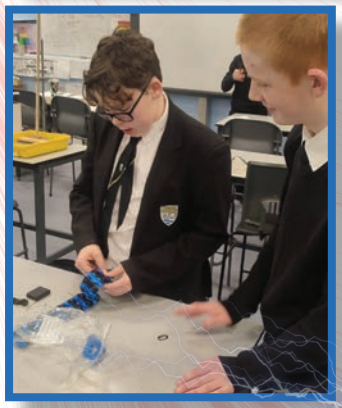























SOCIAL SUBJECTS
NO BROOMS
NO BROOMS

Awards and Ambition

SOCIAL SUBJECTS FACULTY'S NEW AWARD SYSTEM UNVEILED





The Social Subjects faculty have implemented a new system for recognising achievement in their area of the school where staff nominate pupils who have been particularly successful each term before deciding upon an overall award winner for S1/S2, S3/S4 and S5/S6. The categories for nomination are similar to the school merit system.

The winners are announced at the end of each term and presented with a professional certificate and a small prize. The winners for term 1 were Lewis Agnew (S2), Erin McCulloch (S3) and Iona Anderson (S5) who all received a box of chocolates to recognise their excellent work in the faculty throughout the whole of term 1.



Award winners pictures are displayed on the faculty TV which can be viewed by everyone entering the Social Subjects pod. This has captured the attention of most pupils entering the area, helping to create a more ambitious culture. Term 2 winners will be announced shortly.

Duke of Edinburgh

COMMUNITY, COMMITMENT, AND ADVENTURE

Highlights from Stranraer Academy's DofE Awards Night

ARTICLE BY MIKE LANE



Our recent Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Awards Night, held on November 2nd, illuminated the achievements of students in S4-S6, who earned Bronze, Silver, and Gold awards. Applause filled the room as 72 recipients were commended for dedicating over 1500 hours to volunteering, skills, and physical activities, including memorable outdoor adventures.

Deputy Lord Lieutenant Alex Haswell added a formal touch to the proceedings, presenting certificates and badges. Our heartfelt thanks extend to teachers, mentors, and parents for steadfast support throughout these students' DofE journeys.

Established by Prince Philip in 1956, the DofE program empowers youth through challenges, skill development, and community service. Open to S3 students each September, our school's approach, supported by staff volunteers, reflects dedication, innovation, and community backing.







Since becoming a DofE centre in 2010, Stranraer Academy has flourished, providing resources that empower students. Notably, from September 2021 to October 2023, 40 Bronze, 26 Silver, and 7 Gold Awards were achieved. Currently, 16 students are actively working towards completion.

An impressive 72% of D&G's Gold participants hail from Stranraer, showcasing the enthusiasm of 20 young individuals planning expeditions for this significant achievement.

Our expeditions explore the region's beauty, connecting students with its rich history. From the Mull of Galloway to Stranraer for Bronze and a challenging North Rhins coast trek for Silver, we extend our gratitude to landowners and families for their generous support.

Volunteers, including Mr. McCurry, Ms. Hutchison, Mr. Ayres, Ms. McCrone, and Mr. Wilkinson, have been pivotal. We also acknowledge adult volunteers whose unwavering support ensures the program's success.

Stranraer Academy is equipped to support 42 participants, with increasing numbers ensuring more students benefit. Special thanks to Deputy Lord Lieutenant Alex Haswell for gracing our event.

In conclusion, let's celebrate our students, honour volunteers, and anticipate a brighter future for the DofE program at Stranraer Academy. Congratulations to our awardees, and thank you to everyone involved. Together, we achieve greatness. Enrolment for the DofE program commences in S3 each September term, offering new students an exciting opportunity for personal growth and adventure.

" AN IMPRESSIVE 72% OF D&G'S GOLD PARTICIPANTS HAIL FROM STRANRAER, SHOWCASING THE ENTHUSIASM OF 20 YOUNG INDIVIDUALS PLANNING EXPEDITIONS FOR THIS SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT."





Senior Snowball 2023

The Senior Snowball brought forth a delightful reminder of the impressive abilities and sheer kindness exhibited by our S5/6 pupils. The event was a resounding success, filled with joy, laughter, and an overall festive spirit that resonated throughout. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Miss Moffat and the dedicated team behind the scenes, whose meticulous efforts and thoughtful planning made this magical evening possible. Thank you to everyone involved for creating such a memorable and enjoyable experience for all.











Senior Snowball 2023











Senior Snowball 2023











STRANRAER ACADEMY STEPS UP A FESTIVE 5K FOR CHILD SAFETY WITH NSPCC





In a demonstration of compassion and community spirit, Stranraer Academy gathered on the eve of the winter solstice, Wednesday, December 20th, for a special 5K walk in support of the NSPCC. The mild weather provided an ideal setting for this charitable event, with staff and pupils from all year groups converging on the track at 3:30 pm.

Anticipation and enthusiasm filled the air as participants, adorned in Santa hats came together to contribute to a cause deeply resonant with the community—ensuring the safety of children during the festive season.

The event not only underscored the school's commitment to social responsibility but also witnessed a fantastic turnout, highlighting the shared dedication to making a positive impact. The NSPCC, a prominent children's charity, will reap the benefits of the generous donations garnered during this heartwarming initiative.

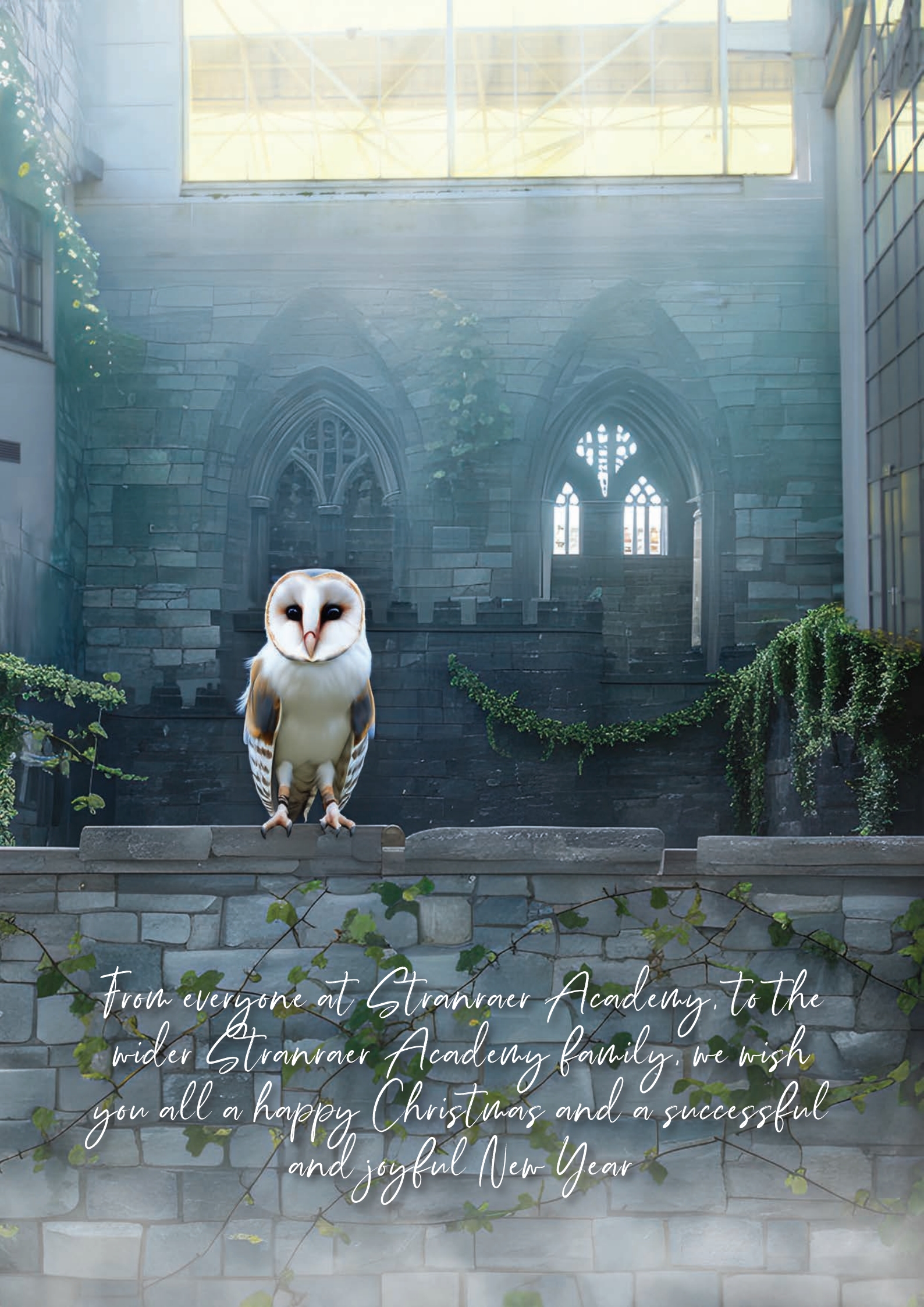
Jointly organised by teaching and non-teaching staff, the NSPCC 5K walk aimed to spread festive cheer while significantly contributing to the well-being of children. The purchase of Santa hats, priced at a nominal £1, infused a festive spirit into the occasion, with the proceeds directed toward the same noble cause.

As the everyone congregated beneath the dimming winter sky, the event transcended being just a walk—it became a collective endeavor to make a meaningful difference in the lives of children this Christmas. Stranraer Academy expresses sincere gratitude to everyone involved, and contributing to the success of this heartening event.









From everyone at Stranraer Academy, to the wider Stranraer Academy family, we wish you all a happy Christmas and a successful and joyful New Year

© STRANRAER ACADEMY 2023
CREATED & EDITED BY ROSS JAMES





© STRANRAER ACADEMY 2023
CREATED & EDITED BY ROSS JAMES