

# NEWSLETTER

STRANRAER ACADEMY | JULY 2024 | VOL 5



**CELEBRATING OUR YOUNG PEOPLES JURASSIC EXPERIENCES AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

AIM HIGH | WORK HARD | BE KIND | NO EXCUSES

STRANRAERACADEMY.ORG



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CREATED & EDITED BY ROSS JAMES**

# EDITORIAL

*Welcome to this summer's newsletter, 65 million years in the making, where we celebrate the outstanding successes and achievements of our pupils. For a long time, I've been asked if I could bring back the extinct wonders of dinosaurs for a newsletter and allow students to interact with these marvels. Finally, I decided it was now or never. Welcome to Jurassic Academy, an opportunity to engage, experience, and learn about these once-great species.*

*Jurassic Academy is brimming with exciting creatures, from the gentle Brachiosaurus to the terrifying Velociraptors, and of course, the iconic T-Rex. You'll discover a wealth of facts and information about each species as you navigate through the newsletter.*

*However, our primary focus remains celebrating our students' incredible achievements. This edition marks our largest volume ever, showcasing everything our young people have accomplished—from outstanding works of art, captivating photography, and remarkable sporting achievements to science accolades, battle bots, social studies expeditions, and captivating stories from our Writers of the Year, and much more.*

*Prepare to be amazed and astounded by our young people's achievements!*

*I couldn't have completed this volume without tremendous help to make Jurassic Academy a reality. A heartfelt thank you to Innes Jack, Adam Ferguson, Eve McCamon, Korbyn McCredie, Scott Gardiner, Violet Raphael, and Daylen Reay. Special mentions go to Archie McCubbin and Jack Barrett for their unwavering support in photography and ideas. Thank you, lads.*

*I must also extend gratitude to Mr. Cameron, who posed for photographs in a science coat and stared into the distance, all on the promise that dinosaurs would be digitally added later. Thanks to all the staff at Stranraer Academy for their consistent and remarkable contributions.*

*Lastly, a big thank you to my daughter, Erin James, whose ideas, photography skills, and conceptual designs always enhance the newsletter.*

*So, what are you waiting for? Jurassic Academy is open—go and explore!*

Ross James

# JURASSIC ACADEMY

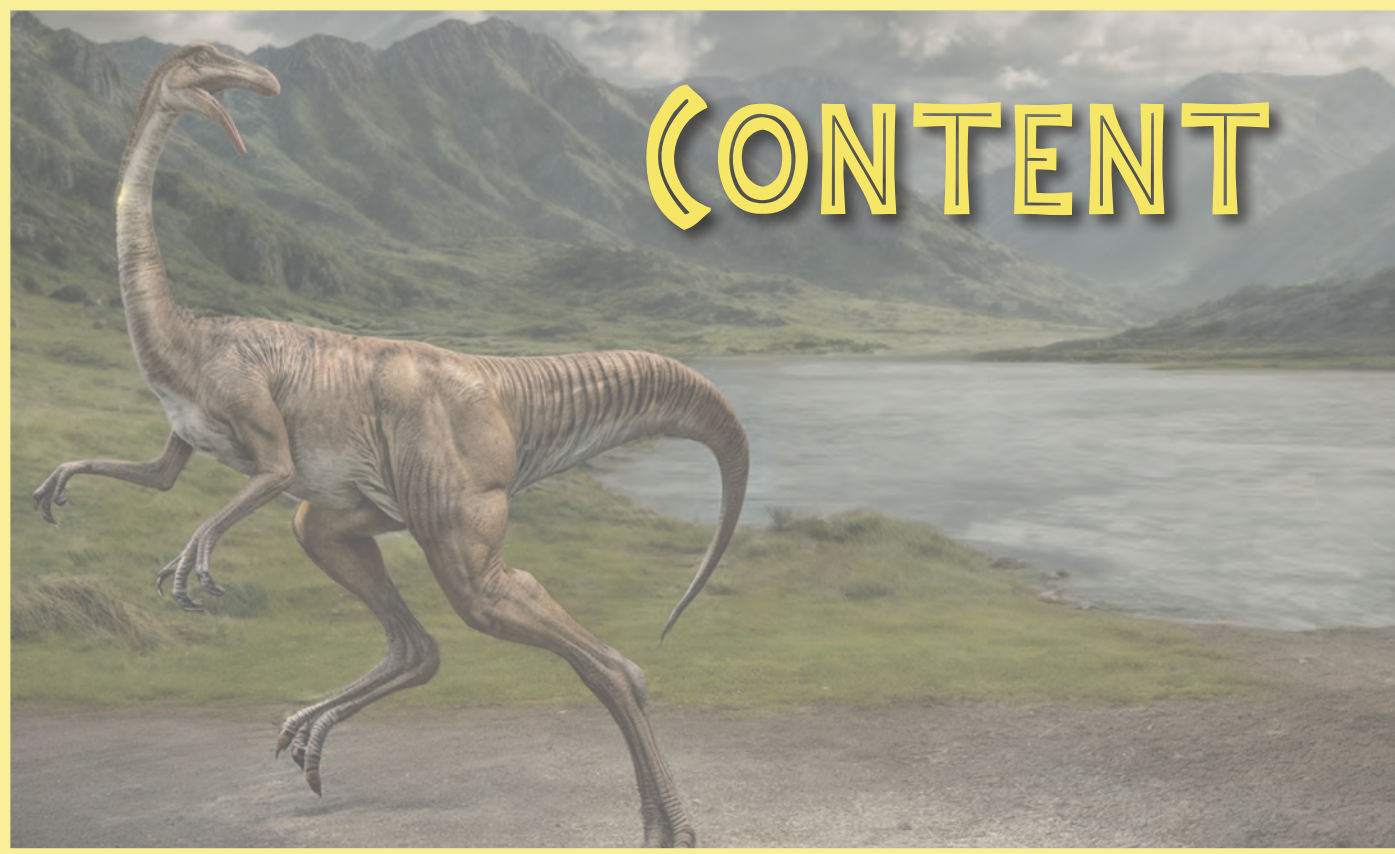


# ISLA STRANRAER

— MONORAIL  
— ROAD



**JURASSIC ACADEMY**



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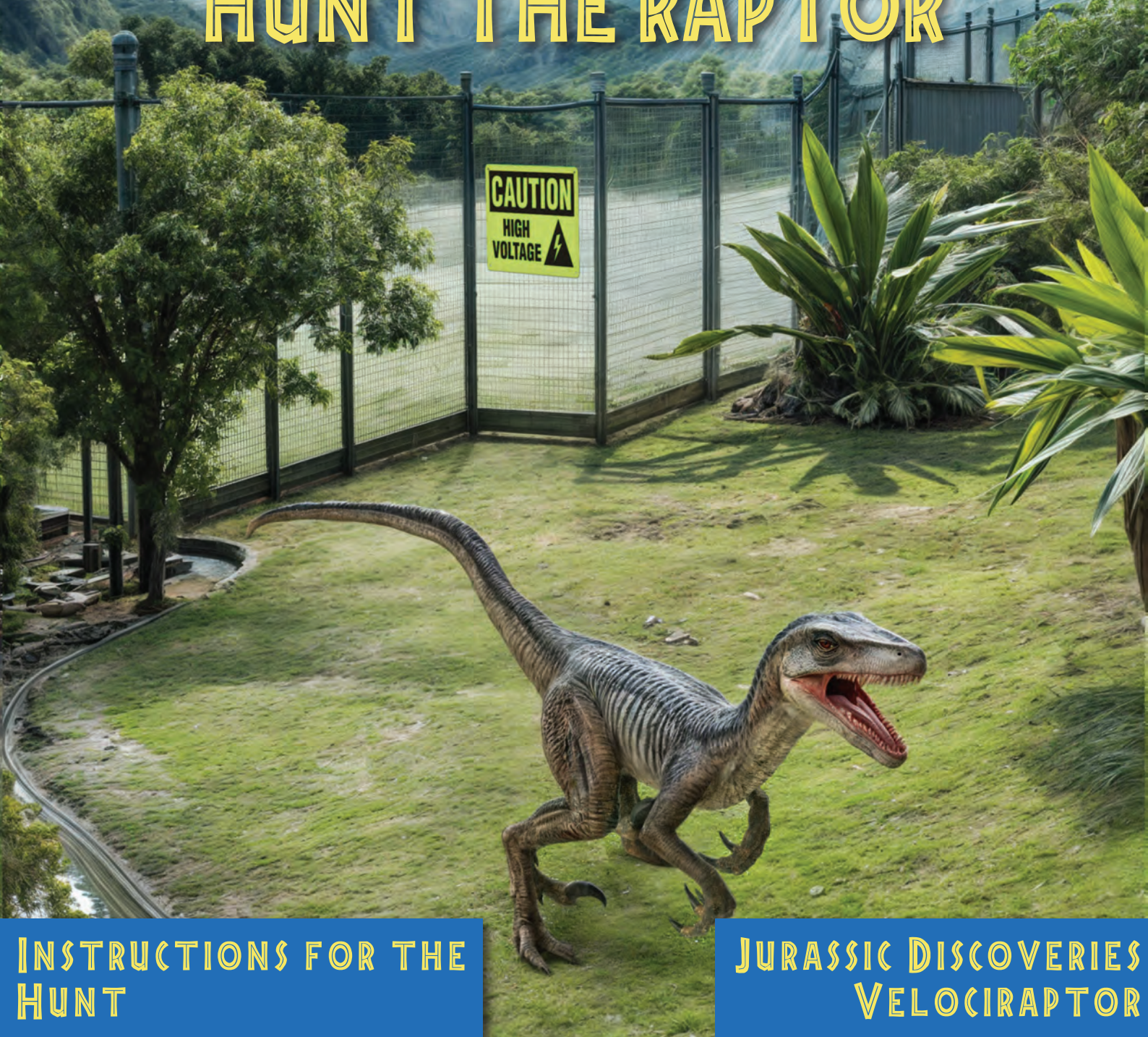
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# HUNT THE RAPTOR



## INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE HUNT

Hidden throughout this newsletter are 22 Velociraptors, including the fine specimen on this page. The question is, can you find them all? Some are in plain sight, while others are cleverly concealed. This won't be an easy task, as the Velociraptor is renowned for its stealth and cunning, always lying in wait to catch its prey.

If you're up for the challenge, I dare you to find all 22 Velociraptors. But remember, this dinosaur is a clever girl! The answers can be found at the end of the newsletter and yes, if you do find one there, it also counts, but any unhatched Velociraptor eggs do not!

Happy hunting!

## JURASSIC DISCOVERIES VELOCIRAPTOR

**Size and Speed:** Velociraptors were relatively small, about the size of a turkey, measuring around 2 metres (6.5 feet) in length and weighing up to 15 kilograms (33 pounds). Despite their size, they were incredibly fast and agile.

**Intelligence:** Known for their intelligence, Velociraptors had a large brain for their body size, making them skilled hunters capable of complex behaviours and problem-solving.

**Hunting Tactics:** These dinosaurs were likely pack hunters, working together to take down prey much larger than themselves. They used their sharp claws and teeth to immobilise their victims.

**Feathers:** Recent discoveries suggest that Velociraptors were covered in feathers, similar to modern birds, rather than the scaly skin often depicted in films.



# Jamie Farquhar

*Headteacher*

Dear Pupils, Parents, Carers and friends of Stranraer Academy,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to our Summer Newsletter.

I am proud of the range of opportunities, experiences and successes our pupils have been part of this session. I have also become accustomed to reports returning to me of our pupils' exemplary conduct, friendliness and positive representation of their school and community.

I am grateful to our team at Stranraer Academy, our many community partners and our parents/carers for organising, transporting and in all ways supporting our young people to shine. Thank you.

I hope you will enjoy the many illustrations of Stranraer Academy's creation of cultural capital, its class-act classrooms and this cornucopia of community.

With special thanks to Mr Ross James for the creation of this newsletter. Mr James' previous newsletters are available to view on our website.

Can I take this opportunity to wish our entire community an enjoyable and restful summer.

Mr Farquhar





## JURASSIC DISCOVERIES DINOSAURS IN SCOTLAND

**Early Discoveries:** Scotland boasts a rich history of dinosaur discoveries dating back to the 19th century. Some of the earliest fossils were unearthed on the Isle of Skye and the Isle of Eigg, which have since become renowned sites for paleontological research.

**Abundance of Footprints:** Particularly notable is the Isle of Skye, famous for its abundance of dinosaur footprints preserved in coastal rocks. These footprints provide valuable insights into the size, behaviour, and diversity of dinosaurs that once inhabited the area.

**Diversity of Dinosaurs:** Various types of dinosaurs have been identified in Scotland, including sauropods (long-necked herbivores), theropods (bipedal carnivores like *Tyrannosaurus rex*), and ornithomimids (herbivorous dinosaurs with bird-like hips).



# CDT

CRAFT | DESIGN | TECHNOLOGY

## JURASSIC DISCOVERIES ALLOSAURUS

**Size and Strength:** Allosaurus was a large theropod dinosaur, reaching lengths of up to 12 meters (39 feet) and weighing around 2 tons. Its powerful jaws and sharp teeth made it a formidable hunter.

**Hunting Skills:** Allosaurus was known for its agility and hunting prowess. It likely hunted large herbivorous dinosaurs like Stegosaurus and Apatosaurus, using its strong jaws to deliver fatal bites.

**Unique Features:** Unlike some other large theropods, Allosaurus had a lightweight skull with large fenestrae (openings) which helped reduce its weight and increase agility during hunting.

**Social Behaviour:** Fossil evidence suggests that Allosaurus may have been social animals, sometimes hunting in packs or at least tolerating each other's presence in areas with abundant prey.

**Discovery and Name:** Allosaurus was first discovered in the late 19th century in North America. Its name means "different lizard," reflecting its unique skeletal differences from other known dinosaurs at the time.



**Caution  
Allosaurus**

# CRAFTING EXCELLENCE

## CELEBRATING SUCCESS IN CDT

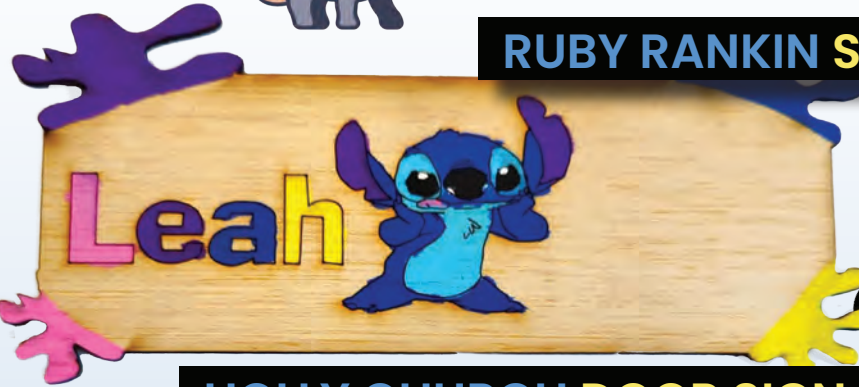
### RUBY RANKIN SMALL BOX



#### S2 WORK

This year students worked hard in S2 to complete a small trinket box, a Laser cut door sign of their own design and a picture frame

### HOLLY CHURCH DOOR SIGN



CDT has had a fantastic year, showcasing students' skills in craft, design, and technology. Their amazing creations highlight CDT as an inspiring, rigorous, and practical subject. Using creativity and imagination, pupils design and make products that solve real-world problems, considering various needs and values. They draw on knowledge from maths, science, engineering, computing, and art, learning to take risks and become innovative, capable citizens.

Our design and technology curriculum ensures pupils:

Develop the expertise to perform everyday tasks confidently and succeed in a technological world.

Build and apply skills to design and make high-quality products for diverse users.

Critique, evaluate, and test their ideas and others' work.

This year, students created products like door signs, jewellery boxes, clocks, spice racks, toolboxes, and picture frames. Enjoy a glimpse of their impressive work!

Dohh!

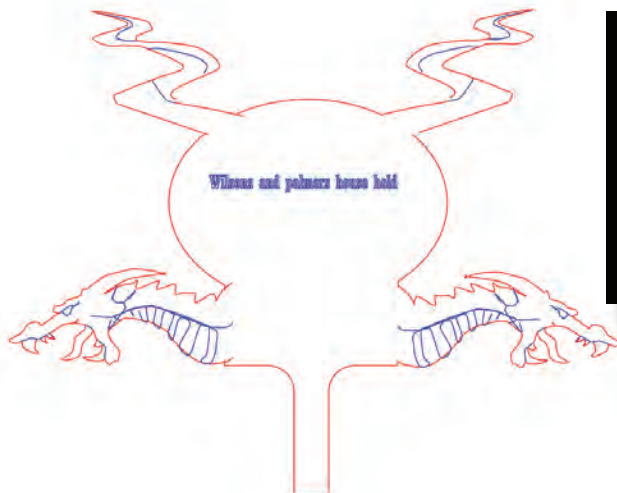


### CARYS ROBERTS DOOR SIGN

Kieran's Tang Tang Room V8



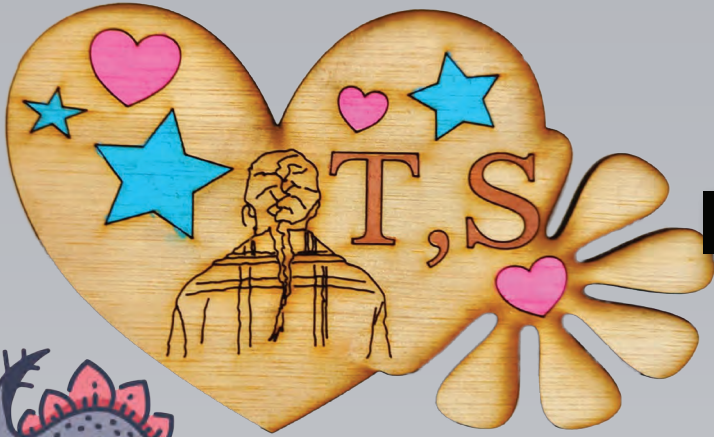
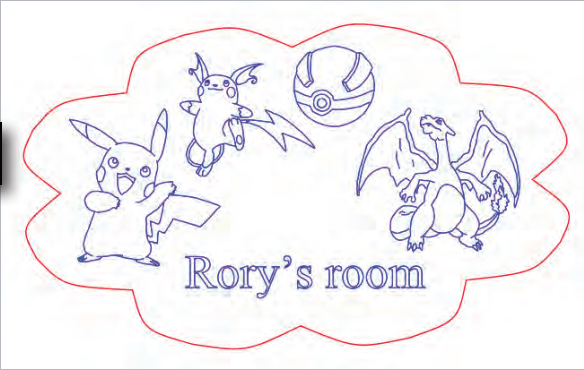
### KIERAN PATTERSON DOOR SIGN



### LEON WILSON DOOR SIGN DESIGN

# SS WORK

**RORY DOYLE DOOR SIGN DESIGN**



**MADISON WILSON DOOR SIGN**

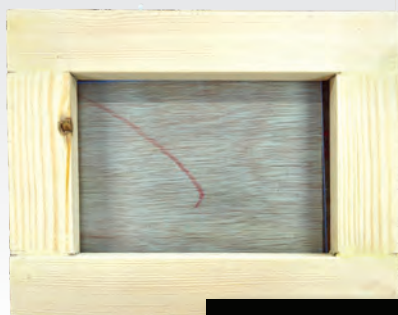


**MARION GOAD DOOR SIGN**



**LOGAN MCKIE PICTURE FRAME**

**OLIVIA TURTLE SMALL BOX**



**OLIVIA TURTLE PICTURE FRAME**

**LEXI GREENHILL PICTURE FRAME**

# S3 WORK



**MASON  
MCDOWALL  
WOODWORK  
CLOCK**



**SOPHIE WILDE  
WOODWORK STOOL**

## S3 WORK

This year S3 Woodwork students improved their individual craft skills by working on 3 larger models. Producing some fantastic Spice Racks, Stools and Clocks.



**FRASER LINDSAY  
WOODWORK SPICE RACK**

**ROBIN MCLEAN  
WOODWORK STOOL**

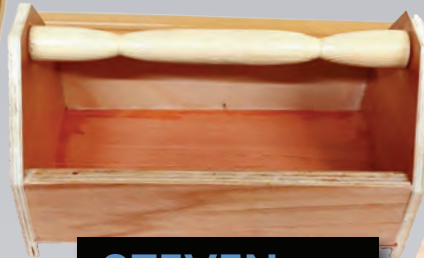


**JACK  
MCDOWALL  
WOODWORK  
CLOCK**



# NATIONALS PRACTICAL WOODWORK

## RHIANNA BODLE EXAM ASSIGNMENT



## STEVEN JONES TOOLBOX



## FINLAY SCHOFIELD EXAM ASSIGNMENT

## TOBY MITTON JEWELLERY BOX



## NATIONAL 4 & 5 WOODWORK

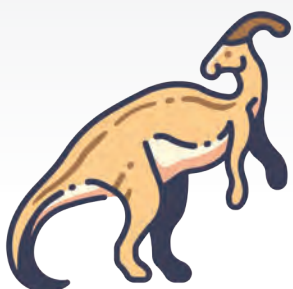
This year approximately 60 students completed their National 5 practical woodwork assignment with Rhianna Bodle S4 scoring the highest mark of 63/70 for her internally assessed component. Additionally the cohort also produced a range of Jewellery boxes, and tool boxes.



## KIRSTY MAGUIRE JEWELLERY BOX



## SKYE KYLE TOOLBOX



# LEARNING CENTRE



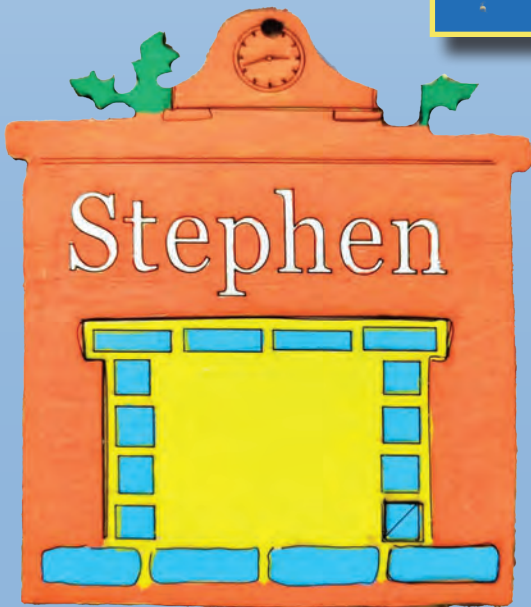
**ELLEIGH  
FERGUSON  
CLOCK**



**TYLOR ALEXANDER  
PICTURE FRAME**

## LEARNING CENTRE

This year learning centre students worked well in CDT to produce a range of models, including a clock, picture frame, box, and birdhouses.



**STEPHEN KYLE  
CHRISTMAS DECORATION**



**TYLER HAMILTON  
CLOCK**



**KAYLA HENRY  
PICTURE  
FRAME**



# NEWS // OUTDOOR LEARNING

## OUTDOOR LEARNING

New S2 students have been attempting to make their own optical illusions through "Forced Perspective" photography as part of a Digital Graphics unit.



## ENTERPRISE TEAM

During Term 3 the Young Enterprise team attended the regional finals in Dumfries at the Cairndale Hotel. They performed very well completing a presentation, interview and group discussion about their business as the 'Rhins Recyclers'. The boys also won the 'D&G Board Special Award 2024'. They placed 2nd in the presentation and 3rd in the interview which was a great achievement.

# THE YOUNG ENTERPRISE





# ADAM FERGUSON ~~SAH~~ ENJOYING THE JURASSIC ACADEMY PETTING ZOO



## JURASSIC DISCOVERIES TRICERATOPS

**Impressive Size:** Triceratops was a large dinosaur, reaching up to 9 metres (30 feet) in length and weighing as much as 12 tonnes. Its robust build made it a formidable presence.

**Three Horns:** The name Triceratops means “three-horned face,” referring to the two large horns above its eyes and a smaller horn on its nose. These horns were likely used for defence and combat with other Triceratops.

**Frill Function:** Triceratops had a large bony frill at the back of its head, which may have been used for protection, temperature regulation, and display during mating rituals.

**Diet:** As a herbivore, Triceratops primarily fed on low-lying plants such as ferns, cycads, and palms. Its beak-like mouth and rows of shearing teeth were perfect for chopping and grinding vegetation.

# SETTING SAIL FOR ADVENTURE

## THE MILLENNIUM CENTRE AND OCEAN YOUTH TRUST SCOTLAND EMPOWER YOUNG MARINERS



*"The Millennium Centre works with the Ocean Youth Trust Scotland to give young people the amazing opportunity to be able to get away for a few days and learn how to work a sailing boat while having lots of fun.*

*This year there has been a number of trips that have already happened, and I've been to one of them so far. I loved it that was my 3rd trip with OYTS, and I think they are totally worth it I will definitely be coming back in the future as a young leader and to do my Bosan training. On the trips you get to learn how to work everything on the boat how to steer it, cook onboard host sails and work as a part of a team, different knots, learning lots of social and boat skills. Along the way of your learning, you get to stoop in all sorts of different beautiful places which you get a say in where you go. On board everyone works together and bonds by helping each other cooking with one another cleaning and playing lots of games on board and on land if you get to stop and have a little wonder on the island you stop at."* by Zuzanna Kowalska

The partnership between Ocean Youth Trust Scotland (OYTS) and the Millennium Centre offers young people an extraordinary opportunity to embark on a transformative sailing experience. These voyages go beyond the seas—they shape minds and spirits.

Sailing with Ocean Youth Trust Scotland can be a life-changing experience. Their acclaimed sail training voyages challenge participants, regardless of prior sailing experience, fostering teamwork, adaptability, and personal growth.

Each year witnesses successful voyages that leave a lasting impact. Participants engage in various activities aboard, from learning navigation and sail handling to honing social and life skills. The educational experience is comprehensive and hands-on, ensuring every participant gains valuable insights into sailing and personal development.

Safety is paramount on OYTS

voyages, though the inherent unpredictability of sail training presents real physical, mental, and emotional challenges. Through these challenges, young people discover newfound strengths and skills, returning home with a deeper understanding of themselves and their capabilities.

### **Building Bonds and Lifelong Skills**

Life aboard the ship is a communal endeavor, where participants work together in cooking, cleaning, and engaging in recreational activities. These shared responsibilities foster a sense of camaraderie and teamwork that extends beyond the voyage itself.

Friendships forged during these adventures are enduring, enriched by shared experiences and mutual support. Whether navigating the seas or exploring new shores, participants create memories that strengthen their bonds and leave a lasting impression.

### **Charting a Course for Personal Growth**

For many participants, OYTS voyages ignite a passion for sailing and leadership. Returning as young leaders or pursuing advanced training opportunities signifies a natural progression for those inspired by their initial experience.

In collaboration with Ocean Youth Trust Scotland, the Millennium Centre offers more than just a sailing opportunity—it provides a transformative journey that builds confidence, skills, and lifelong connections. If you seek adventure, personal development, and the chance to forge meaningful friendships, consider setting sail with OYTS. Your next great adventure awaits!





# CREATIVE ARTS

This Summer term has seen some changes in our staff. Miss Hannah Thomson left at Easter to follow a new path with her Fiancé as they move to pastures new. At the end of the term Ms Fiona Smith left the Drama Department to explore other pathways too. Both of these staff have brought much to the Creative Arts Faculty and we wish them the very best in their future endeavours. Miss True Anderson, a former pupil of Stranraer Academy herself, joined the Art Department at the start of June having previously taught at Hawick High School. She brings an abundance of enthusiasm and expertise in Art & Design. We have recruited a new Drama Teacher who will take up post in August.....more to news to follow soon ;- ) Finally, Mrs Rhona Smith was successful in applying for the permanent position of Principal Teacher of Creative Arts & Design. This will see the Craft & Design staff (Miss Smith & Mrs Ayres) joining our Faculty. Mrs Smith is excited at the prospect of this new curricular link and the collaborative work that can be achieved together. Exciting times ahead indeed for the new, extended Faculty!

# ART AND DESIGN SHOWCASE BGE

BY AMY RAE



BY AVA-LILY ORR-EWING



BY LUCY SULLIVAN



BY IZZY WHITE



BY OLIVIA TURTLE



BY JACK TRAFFORD



# ART AND DESIGN SHOWCASE BGE

BY CHELSEY GORMAN



BY BOYD MAXWELL



BY RUBY RANKIN



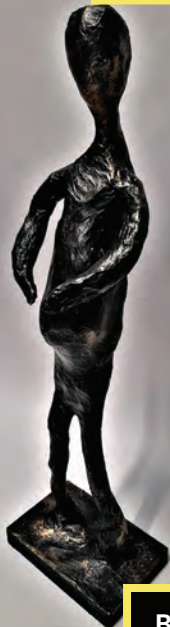
BY JAMIE HANNAH



BY EUAN ENSTONE



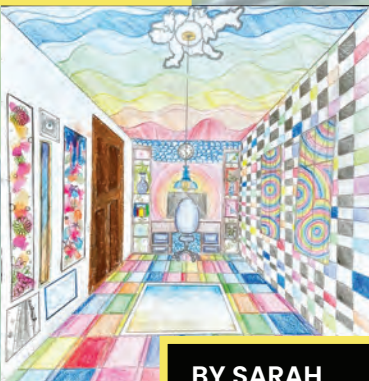
BY MILEY ADAMS



BY KYRA LUND



BY MADISON WILSON

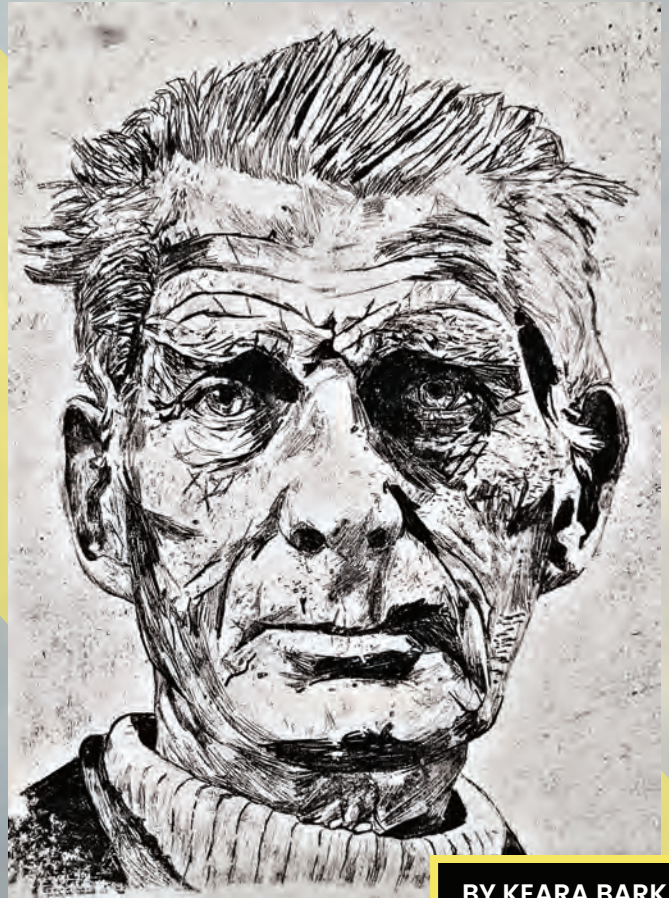


BY SARAH McCLYMONT

ART AND DESIGN GALLERY SENIOR PHASE



BY MADISON WILSON



BY KEARA BARK



BY CATRIONA McCOLM



BY OLIVIA CUMMING



BY VIOLET RAPHEAL



BY INNES JACK



# HIGHER PHOTOGRAPHY GALLERY



BY ETHAN PATERSON

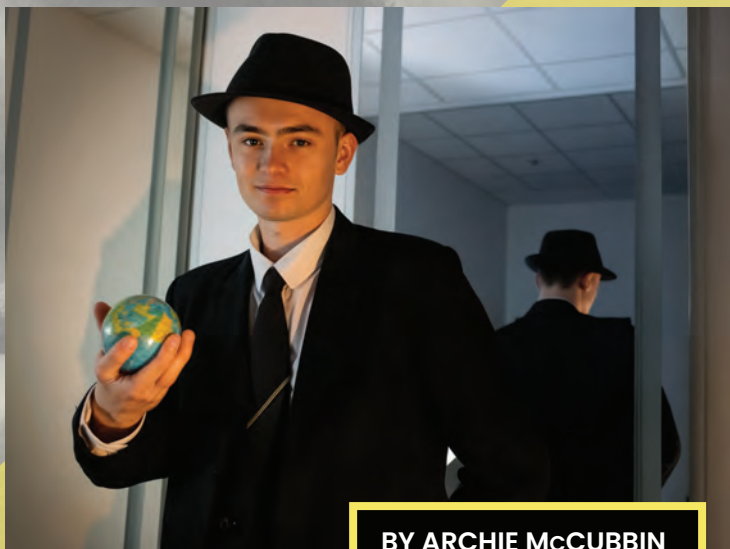


BY ROBYN BEVERIDGE

BY DAMIEN MARSTERS



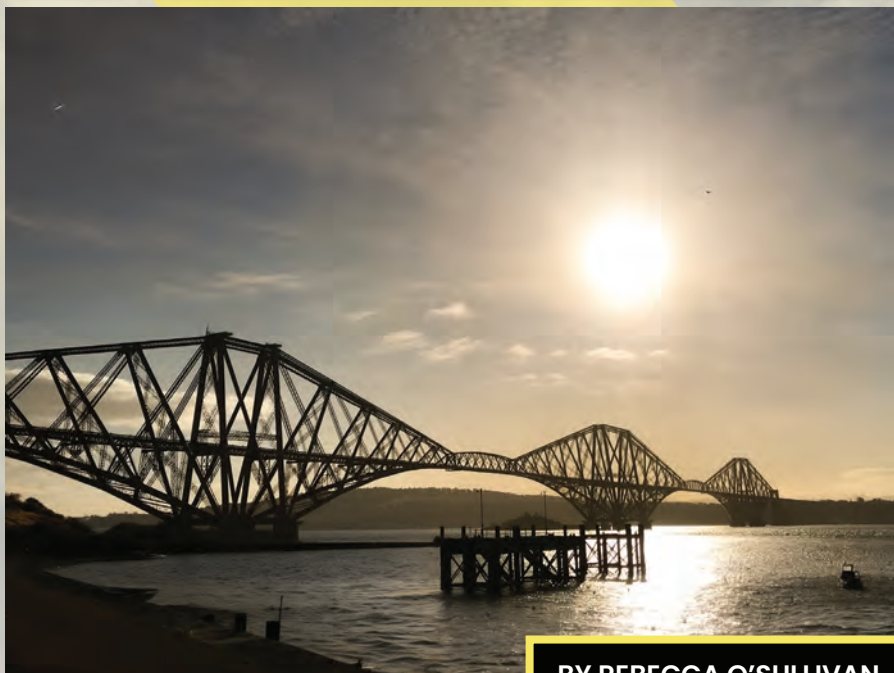
BY JONATHAN SNEDDON



BY ARCHIE McCUBBIN

# HIGHER PHOTOGRAPHY GALLERY

BY CARLY BROWN



BY REBECCA O'SULLIVAN



BY OLIVIA WHITELAW



BY ROSS COLLINS



BY JACK BARRETT



BY LUCA ARNOTT



## STUDENTS INSPIRED BY VISITING ARTISTS

On March 8th, 2024, Stranraer Academy had the pleasure of hosting Recoat, a renowned team of artists who have been making waves in the world of urban art since their inception in 2007. Founded by Amy Whiten and Alistair Wyllie, Recoat began as a pioneering gallery space in Glasgow, dedicated to showcasing Contemporary Urban Art and Design in Scotland.

For six years, Recoat served as a beacon of creativity, curating projects and exhibitions that supported and promoted Scottish artists while inviting inspirational talents from around the globe to share their work. Their mission? To make art more accessible to more people while maintaining high-quality standards and, of course, having fun along the way.

In 2013, Recoat underwent a transformation, shifting its focus to three distinct areas: Commissioned, Curated, and Community projects. Despite this evolution, their core values remained steadfast—championing creativity, fostering connections, and making a positive impact on communities.

Stranraer Academy welcomed Recoat, bringing their urban art expertise and passion to contribute to the Spring Fling Rural Mural Project. Under Recoat's guidance, our S2 students enthusiastically participated in vibrant workshops, delving into the creative journey and experimenting with interactive tasks. They brainstormed ideas revolving around landmarks, events, and memories, translating their inspirations into personalised drawings reflecting the essence of Stranraer. These drawings were then incorporated into the collective year group mural, further enhancing the collaborative artwork.

As we reflect on the workshop, we celebrate not only the transformative power of art but also the vision and dedication of Recoat. Thank you to the entire Recoat team for sharing your talents and igniting the spark of creativity within our students.



# CREATIVE ARTS

# IS NOW ON INSTAGRAM

## JURASSIC DISCOVERIES SPINOSAURUS

### Size and Speed

Spinosaurus was one of the largest carnivorous dinosaurs, measuring up to 18 metres (59 feet) in length and weighing between 7 to 20 tonnes.

Despite its massive size, it was a capable swimmer, adapted to both terrestrial and aquatic environments.

### Intelligence

While not much is known about the intelligence of Spinosaurus, it had a relatively elongated skull and narrow jaws, suggesting a specialised predatory behaviour. Its brain size relative to body size was similar to other large theropods.

### Hunting Tactics

Spinosaurus was likely a semi-aquatic predator, feeding on a diet that included fish and possibly small to medium-sized dinosaurs. Its conical teeth and powerful claws were well-suited for catching and holding slippery prey, such as fish.

# IT'S SPINORIFFIC



@STRANRAER\_CADD



## JURASSIC DISCOVERIES TYRANNOSAURUS REX

**Name Meaning:** Tyrannosaurus Rex, often abbreviated as T. Rex, means “tyrant lizard king” in Latin. It was named by paleontologist Henry Fairfield Osborn in 1905.

**Size:** Tyrannosaurus Rex was one of the largest land carnivores of all time, reaching lengths of up to 12 metres (40 feet) and standing about 4 metres (13 feet) tall at the hips. Adult T. Rex individuals could weigh between 8,000 to 14,000 kilograms (8 to 14 tonnes).

**Physical Features:** T. Rex had a massive head with powerful jaws lined with sharp, serrated teeth, some of which could be up to 30 centimetres (12 inches) long. It had a robust body, a long tail, and strong hind limbs adapted for running.

**Diet:** As an apex predator, Tyrannosaurus Rex preyed upon large herbivorous dinosaurs such as Hadrosaurs and Ceratopsians. Its powerful bite could exert a force of over 6,000 newtons, capable of crushing bones.

**Habitat:** Fossils of Tyrannosaurus Rex have primarily been found in western North America, including present-day Montana, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Alberta, Canada. It inhabited these regions during the Late Cretaceous period, approximately 68 to 66 million years ago.

**Senses:** T. Rex possessed keen senses, including excellent vision for detecting movement over long distances. Its forward-facing eyes provided depth perception, a rare trait among dinosaurs.

DINO DNA

SCIENCE





# STEM ROADSHOW

**BAE SYSTEMS**

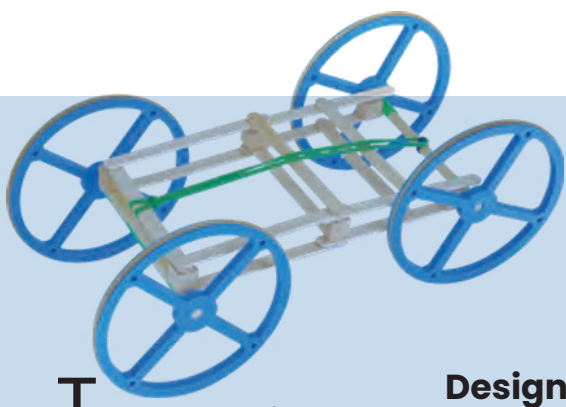
**THE WONDERS OF SPACE**

All S1 and S2 pupils recently had the opportunity to participate in an exciting STEM Roadshow that explored the wonders of space. The event, presented by BAE Systems, the Royal Air Force, and the Royal Navy, captivated students with engaging content and hands-on activities, sparking a deeper interest in science.

The UK's longest-running science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) roadshow for schools has launched its 18th annual season with space as its central theme for 2023. Since its inception in 2005, the roadshow has visited over 420 schools across the UK each year, aiming to inspire excitement in STEM subjects among students aged 10 to 13.

The Wonders of space takes pupils on an interactive journey from the ocean's depths to the far reaches of outer space. Students learned about our solar system, how engineering facilitates exploration, and the science and technology needed to survive in extreme environments.

One of the highlights of the presentation was a five-meter diameter inflatable model of the Sun, placed next to a marble representing Earth, providing a striking visual representation of the solar system's scale. These demonstrations vividly brought scientific concepts to life for the students.



# STEM CHALLENGE

## RUBBER BAND CAR

The S2 pupils recently participated in an engaging STEM Challenge to design and build cars powered by rubber bands. This hands-on activity encouraged creativity, problem-solving, and practical application of physics principles. Students worked in teams to construct their rubber band cars. The challenge highlighted the importance of engineering and innovation in everyday projects, fostering enthusiasm for STEM projects among the pupils.

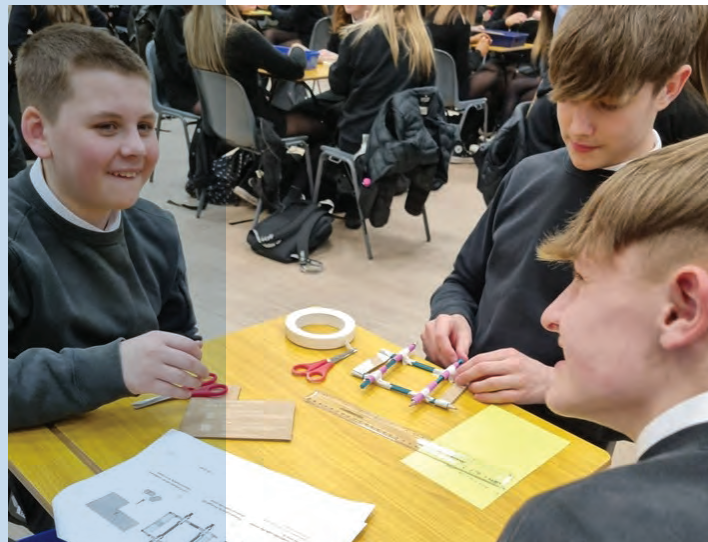
### What is a Rubber Band Car?

A rubber band car is a simple model vehicle powered by the elastic potential energy stored in a stretched rubber band. When the rubber band is released, the stored energy converts back into mechanical energy, turning the wheels and propelling the car forward.

### Designing Rubber Band Cars

Rubber band car designs can vary widely, but typically consist of a chassis and two pairs of wheels connected by an axle. One axle is attached to one end of the rubber band, while the other end is secured to the chassis. By rotating the axle, the rubber band wraps around it, creating elastic potential energy. Releasing the axle converts this energy back into mechanical energy, causing the car to race forward.

This STEM Challenge not only provided a fun and interactive way for pupils to explore basic engineering and physics concepts but also emphasised the value of teamwork and innovation. The activity successfully sparked interest and enthusiasm for STEM among the students, demonstrating how simple materials and creative thinking can lead to exciting educational experiences.



# SCOTTISH BACCALAUREATE IN SCIENCE

## STUDENT PROJECTS OVERVIEW

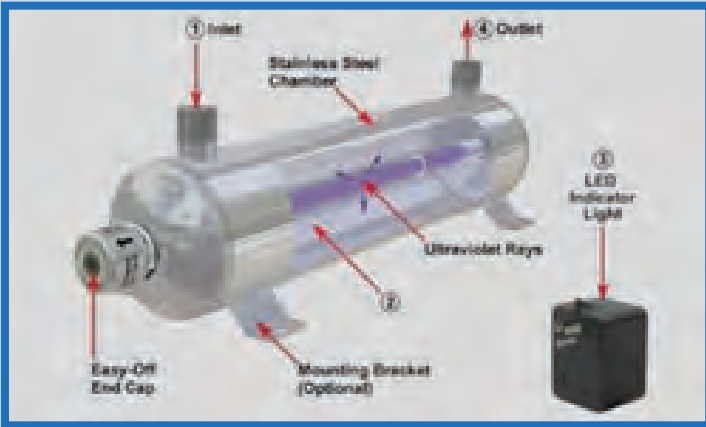
**May Tang:** Scottish Tap Water Versus Scottish Bottled Spring Water

**Aim:** Compare the quality, costs, and environmental impacts of Scottish tap water and Highland Spring bottled water.



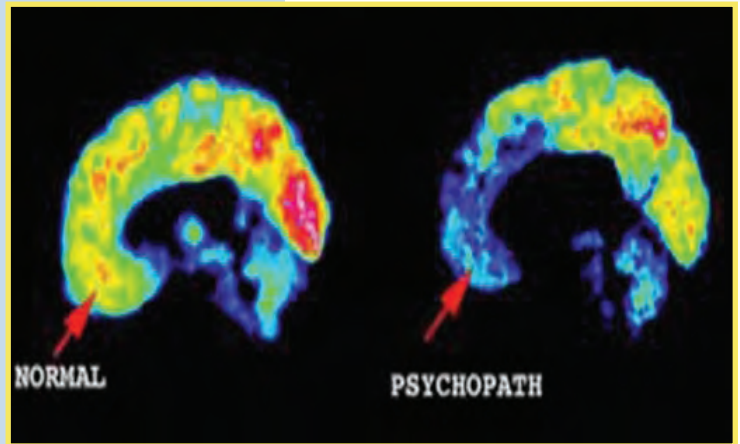
**Abbie Artless:** The Neuroscience Behind Criminals Versus Non-Criminals

**Aim:** Investigate brain structure differences between criminals and non-criminals.



**James McCall:** The Donor Kebab in a Lab

**Aim:** Explore the biochemistry and environmental benefits of lab-grown meat.



May, Abbie, and James demonstrated exceptional research and presentation skills, addressing important scientific issues and providing valuable insights to these areas of science.



# SCIENCE INVESTIGATIONS IN AIRD



It has been a busy term in Aird carrying out Science experiments. We have been learning about forces. Our favourite experiment involved dropping parachutes from the bridge above Aird and timing how long they took to reach the ground. We then added 20g backpacks to our parachutists and timed to see if they reached the ground sooner. Everyone enjoyed this experiment, especially when we had a race at the end (pictured).

We have also been busy learning about organisms that go through metamorphosis.

We have been watching tadpoles, waiting for them to turn into frogs, and learning about caterpillars turning into butterflies. We are expecting 17 frogs and 5 beautiful butterflies.





# MR CAMERON'S BATTLEBOTS

# "THESE BATTLE BOTS ARE REMINISCENT OF MODERN-DAY JOUSTING"

Students from Stranraer Academy have been hard at work building battle bots during lunchtimes at Mr Cameron's STEM robot building club. Around 10-20 students regularly attend the club, actively participating in constructing blue and black battle bots, reflecting the school colours. They have been enjoying learning how to use tools, 3D printing, electrical wiring, soldering, and RC communication.

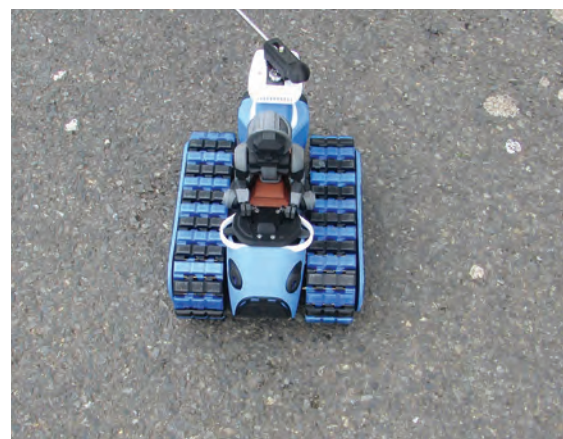
The club is fully inclusive, with each member contributing to some aspect of building the robots. Under Mr Cameron's guidance, students are becoming more independent, following written and video instructions. Their work is on display, with the exception of a tricky piece of soldering involving heavy gauge wire from the battery, which required Mr Cameron's assistance.

Over the past year,

Stranraer Academy students have dedicated their time to building a battle bot, while students from Douglas Ewart High School have been working on a battle droid. The aim of the project is to allow students to explore 3D printing technology, material science, electronics, and RC communication, all while having fun.

These battle bots are reminiscent of modern-day jousting. Equipped with a weapon that can swing 180 degrees, the bots aim to knock the head off their opponent's droid. A kill switch in the neck ensures that once triggered, the match is over.

The project has not only provided a platform for students to engage in STEM activities but also fostered a spirit of teamwork and innovation.



# MECHANICAL MAYHEM

On the 29th of May, Stranraer Academy hosted an exciting STEM event in collaboration with Douglas Ewart High School. Students from both schools gathered at Stranraer Academy to participate in a series of engaging tasks:

## Figure of 8 Race:

Students raced their battle bots around a "figure of 8" track set up in a science room, creating a thrilling atmosphere as bots zoomed around the classroom.

## Battle Bot Hockey:

Battle bots competed in a hockey-style game, aiming to move a small box into their opponent's "net," promising even more excitement with additional bots in future events.

**Battle Finale:** The highlight of the day was a fierce battle where the objective was to knock the head off the opponent's robot. Both teams pushed their bots to the limit, resulting in some robots going home a bit worse for wear, adding to the fun of the competition.

While Douglas Ewart emerged as the overall winner, all students were celebrated for developing their STEM skills and essential meta-skills crucial for their future endeavors.

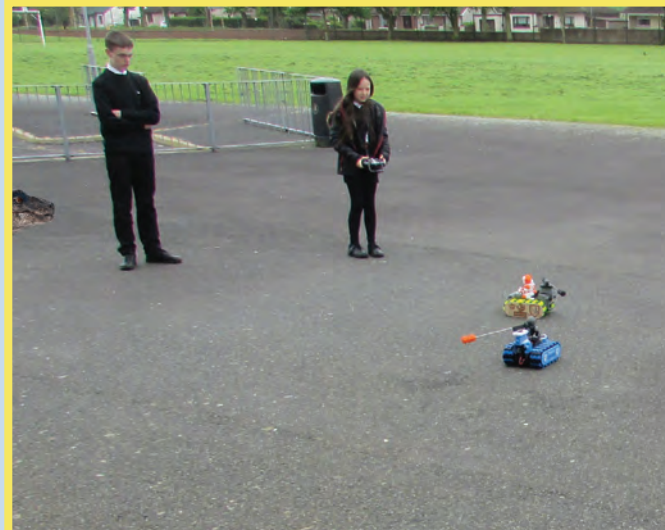
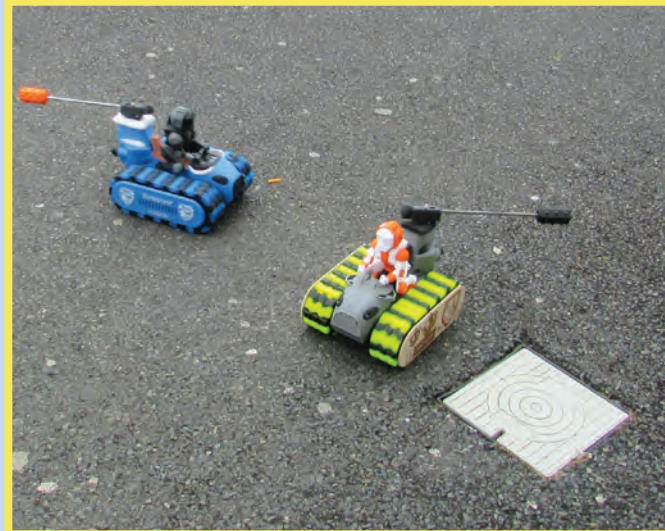
Mr Cameron's robot building STEM club will resume its activities in August, focusing on repairing and constructing new battle bots. This opportunity was made possible through the generous funding from Stranraer Academy and Ecogen contractors in Stranraer.

Looking ahead, Stranraer Academy and Douglas Ewart are planning a series of future competitions and battles, building on the success and enthusiasm generated from this event.

The event is part of Mr Cameron's droid building club, where students have crafted small astromechs inspired by Star Wars characters like R2D2. The commitment of members such as Zach Ashton, Adrian Dargie, Tyler Hamilton, Heily Ip, Katie Monair, Robyn Poag, and Struan Young has been instrumental since the project's inception.

Thanks to support from Stranraer Academy, PEF funding, and EcoGen Stranraer, the future looks promising for expanding this initiative and introducing more students to the exciting world of robotics and STEM.

## DOUGLAS EWART VS. STRANRAER ACADEMY BATTLE BOTS





## GENEROUS DONATION FROM CLASS OF '75' REUNION SUPPORTS FRIENDS OF AIRD

In a heartwarming gesture of community spirit, the 'Class of '75' reunion recently presented a cheque for £289 to the Friends of Aird. This significant contribution was made possible through the kindness and generosity of attendees, who came together to reminisce and support a worthy cause.

At the heart of this donation was a painting generously donated by Stuart Morrison, a local artist. The painting was raffled off during the reunion, adding a touch of artistic flair to the fundraising efforts.

The cheque was ceremoniously handed

over to representatives from Aird Pupils by Sandra Carson, Susan Cameron, and Karen Chung, pictured left to right. Their dedication and efforts in organising the reunion and fundraising activities were crucial in achieving this meaningful donation.



# KORBYN McCREDIE ~~SHHH~~ ENJOYING THE JURASSIC ACADEMY PETTING ZOO



## JURASSIC DISCOVERIES BRACHIOSAURUS

This colossal herbivore from the Late Jurassic period captivates with its remarkable size and distinctive characteristics:

**Impressive Dimensions:** Brachiosaurus ranked among the largest dinosaurs, stretching up to 40 feet tall and measuring around 85 feet in length. Its elongated neck allowed it to reach high into trees for food.

**Resemblance to Giraffes:** With its long neck and front legs longer than its hind legs, Brachiosaurus bears a striking resemblance to modern giraffes, adapted for browsing vegetation high above the ground.

**Herbivorous Appetite:** Despite its immense size, Brachiosaurus sustained itself on a diet of plants and foliage, using its peg-like teeth to strip leaves from branches.

**Discovery and Name:** Unearthed in the early 20th century, Brachiosaurus derives its name from Greek roots meaning "arm lizard," reflecting its elongated forelimbs compared to other sauropods.

**Natural Habitat:** Fossil evidence indicates that Brachiosaurus inhabited what is now North America, roaming lush, forested regions during its era.

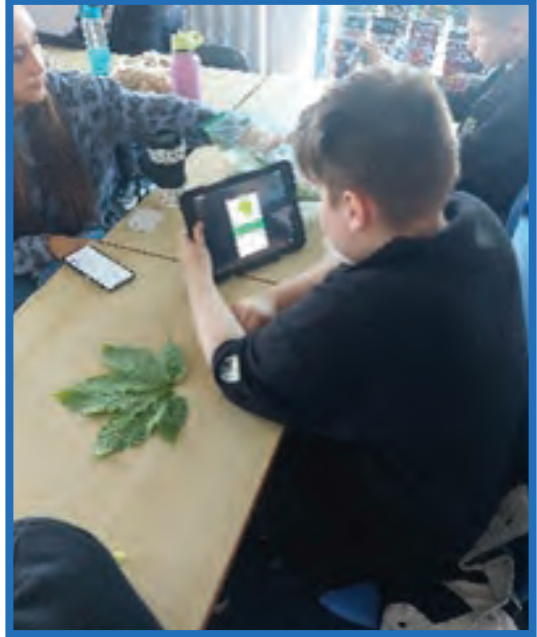
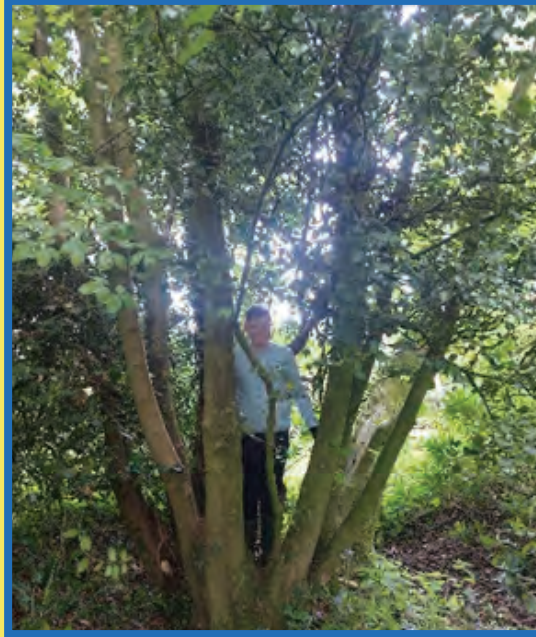
# THE LEARNING CENTRE



# JOHN MUIR TRUST AWARD

Over the last couple of months, the pupils in Learning Support have been working to achieve their John Muir Trust Award as well as their Scottish Junior Forester Award .

Each week we have been out to either the woods at The Approach, building dens and identifying trees or staying on the school grounds, and making some small improvements to attract more wildlife. We have learned how to use a range of different tools safely including bow saws and knives.



*The John Muir Award is an environmental award scheme focused on wild places. It encourages people of all backgrounds to connect with, enjoy, and care for wild places.*

“



*“Thank you for such a lovely visit this morning,  
lovely to have such an engaged and curious  
group!”*

Jessica, RHET Dumfries and Galloway  
Countryside Initiative



## CHALLOCH FARM VISIT

**We had an interesting visit to Challoch Farm, Leswalt as part of our Farm to Fork topic. Everyone found out about life on the dairy farm.**

**We got to see the dairy cows and some young calves, how milk is taken, and then processed and delivered. The milk storage tank was so cold to the touch!**

**Did you know they can hold up to 18 million litres of milk?**

**We also found out about the cow's diet - one particular cow enjoyed eating digestive biscuits as well as the nutritional feed that they have every day.**







# SCHOOL INITIATIVES FOR A HEALTHIER ECOSYSTEM

As part of the award, we thought about taking some personal responsibility for conserving an area on our school grounds. We have build two bug house out of old pallets, litter picked, made bird seed fat balls, cleared over grown and invasive plants and grown new plants for wildlife.



## DISCOVERING FOREST WORK

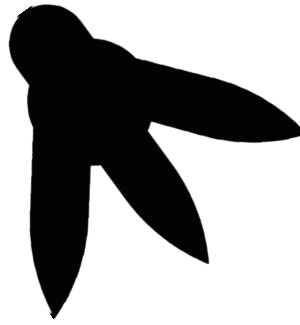
In March, we had some employers, from Forestry Scotland and the Royal Highland Educational Trust visit our class. They talked to us about all

the different jobs available in the forest including, deer control, footpath and road maintenance and tree felling and logging. We also found out about how useful a drone can be as part of forest maintenance and sustainability. The deer antlers were very heavy but so cool to hold!





# WELCOMING BIRDS



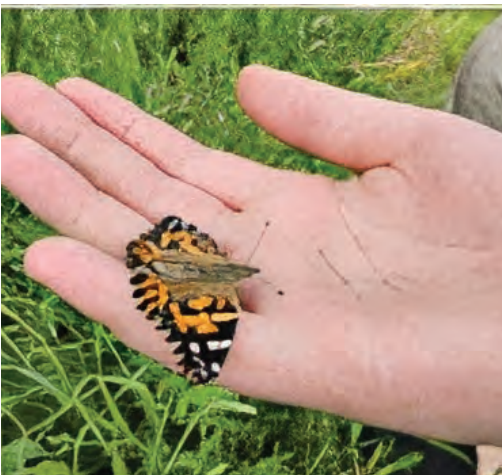
Ms Smith in CDT helped us to make bird boxes. We're hoping to see some new bird families move in, once they know they are there. All these boxes wouldn't have been possible, without the kind donation of wood from Jewsons, Stranraer.



# A SPRINGTIME METAMORPHOSIS



After the Easter break, we watched and waited a few weeks to see the amazing transformation of caterpillars to butterflies and when the weather had warmed up and the sun was out, we released them on the long meadow grass





Mr David Hyslop visited our learning centre to see the developments on our school grounds. He was amazed by the vibrant plants and flowers we had cultivated.

We are sharing all we achieved with some of our Senior Leadership teachers and parents, through presentations, guided walks and social media.

Hopefully, next year we will be completing the next part of the award.

## A BLOSSOMING VISIT



# FROM QUALIFICATIONS TO GARDENS

ARTICLE BY DONNA FERGUSON



As well as our usual busy timetables in Aird, 2 of our pupils in S4 have been completing work towards 9 national 1 qualifications. They have both put in lots of effort and worked very hard. They will receive certificates in the post when the exam results come out.

As part of the qualifications the pupils chose to create an outdoor learning and recreational space. In the planning stages we drew out how we wanted the area to look and the pupils decided they would like to plant some flowers and shrubs in tubs to make the

area look nicer. We visited the local garden centre and would like to thank Michael at Soleburn for donating some plants for our tubs. The pupils brought in old clothes and enjoyed getting changed in to them before each session. We had a list of tasks to complete and everyone took it in turns to work through the list. Our first job was a big tidy and clean of the area before we changed the layout. Once they had decided on the layout we got busy painting and planting. We had to research what kind of plants and flowers would do well in this country at this time of year. We decided what colours the various items should be painted and what planters each of the plants and flowers should go in. All staff were very impressed with the pupils' hard working attitudes! It has been lovely to watch the pupils use the space for both recreational and educational purposes.

# EVEN DINOSAURS STRUGGLE TO KEEP A YOUNG PERSON'S ATTENTION



# S1 AND S2 AWARDS

Our annual Awards Ceremonies are highly anticipated events, celebrating the achievements of our most successful learners. These evenings are dedicated to honouring our young peoples remarkable accomplishments and contributions to our school community.

## SPECIAL AWARDS

History Awards  
Presented by Tom Stevenson, Treasurer of Stranraer and District Local History Trust

Top History Students

S1: Lily McClymont  
S2: Ethan Allison

Let's get Sporty PE Award  
Presented by David Hyslop

S2: Olivia Turtle

Endeavour in Accelerated Reading  
Presented by Lyndsay Gibb

S1: Amelia Stapleton

Reading Champion  
Presented by Lyndsay Gibb

S2: Fraser Lewicki

Student of the Year  
Presented by James McQuistin (Bespoke Home

Finance – Main sponsor)

S1: Amy Rae  
S2: Erin Caldwell

Each award recognises outstanding achievements and contributions across various subjects and disciplines, showcasing the talent and dedication of Stranraer Academy's students.

## GUEST SPEAKER

### SALLY HAIR



Sally Hair, a former pupil of Stranraer Academy in the early 1970s, has established herself as a prominent figure in both the agricultural and catering industries. Alongside her family, she manages a thriving farming business and ventured into catering in the early 1990s. Sally has catered for numerous local events, weddings, and large-scale music and community gatherings throughout her career. In addition to her entrepreneurial pursuits, Sally serves as a Deputy Lord Lieutenant for the local area, representing His Majesty the King. Her responsibilities include delivering special anniversary or birthday cards on behalf of the King and attending various significant local events.



# AWARDS

# S3 AND S4 AWARDS

## SPECIAL AWARDS

Aird's Outstanding Citizen Award

Presented by Jamie Farquhar

Winner: Ruby Smellie

Andrew Glasgow Computing Award  
Presented by Harry Glasgow

Winner: Keeton Geddes

BLP – Overcoming Barriers to Learning  
Presented by Kirsty McClelland

Winners: Andrew Brown, Ayleigh Robinson

Christine Pickersgill Memorial Award  
Presented by Kerrie Biagioni

Winner: Sophie McCall (Art and Design)

History Awards  
Presented by Julia MacDonald

S3 Winner: Erin McCulloch  
S4 Winner: Harry Jamieson

Let's get Sporty PE Award  
Presented by Rob Lockwood  
Winner: Rosie Thompson (S3)

Stranraer Academy's Young Writer of the Year  
Presented by Rob Lockwood

Winner: Ruth Turtle (S3)

WBS Graphic Design Awards  
Presented by Year Heads

Winners: Yuri Blackwood (S3), Alex Brown (S3), Abbi Johnstone (S4), Lewis Miller (S4)

Student of the Year  
Presented by Gareth Steel

S3 Winner: Ruth Turtle  
S4 Winner: Mateusz Kaczmarczyk

## GUEST SPEAKER

# GARETH STEEL



Born in Stranraer in June 1980, Gareth Steel has led a remarkable journey. He attended Rephad Primary and Stranraer Academy before pursuing Veterinary Medicine at the University of Glasgow. Gareth served as a Veterinary Surgeon and underwent training at the Commando Training Centre Royal Marines. Since 2007, he has combined his role as a locum Veterinary Surgeon with service in the British Army, earning the Conspicuous Gallantry Cross in 2014. Gareth is also an accomplished author, having published "Never Work with Animals" in 2021, and currently serves as Clinical Director at Forest Vet Group. His hobbies include outdoor sports and challenging feats such as climbing Denali, Makalu, Mt Kenya, Mt Blanc, and the Matterhorn, as well as participating in events like the Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race and the Dragons Back.





# AWARDS

# S5 AND S6 AWARDS

## SPECIAL AWARDS

Christine Pickersgill  
Memorial Award –  
Presented by Kerrie  
Biagioni

Photography: Jack Barrett

David and Hazel Irving  
Biology Award – Presented  
by Isobel Irving

Abbie Arkless  
(neuroscience at St  
Andrews University)

Douglas Cochrane  
Citizenship Award –  
Presented by Paula Erskine

Violet Raphael  
Euan and Kerri Burns

Adversity Award –  
Presented by Linda  
Patterson

Ellie Miller

History Awards – Presented  
by Elaine Barton

Senior History Award:

Georgina Lane

History Trust Bursary:

Lachlan Ross

Leadership Award –  
Presented by David Hyslop

Jack Barrett, Hayden  
Eccles, Adam Ferguson,  
Aoife Fisher, Brooke Hainey,  
Innes Jack, Kayleigh  
MacDonald, Caitlin  
McCulloch, Ellie Miller,  
Violet Raphael, Lachlan  
Ross, Pippis Stirling

Linda Johnstone Memorial  
Award for Home Economics  
– Presented by the Home  
Economics Department

Brooke Hainey

Oliver Lane Award –  
Presented by Georgina  
Lane

Millie Smith

Stuart Binnie Physical  
Education Award –  
Presented by Susie Petrucci

Lachlan Ross

Parent Council Academic  
Excellence Award –  
Presented by Susie Petrucci

Abbie Arkless and Aoife  
Fisher

Student of the Year  
– Presented by Ryan  
McCutcheon

S5: Violet Raphael  
S6: Kayleigh MacDonald

Rotary Staff Award –  
Presented by John Ross

Kim Dornan

# GUEST SPEAKER

## RYAN McCUTCHEON



Ryan McCutcheon brings over 16 years of rich experience in the hospitality industry, honed through key roles in Scotland's premier 5-star hotels and as head chef for Albert Roux OBE. His career highlights include successfully managing an award-winning restaurant with rooms, where he crafted exceptional dining experiences. With a foundation in classical French culinary training, Ryan blends modern techniques with a profound appreciation for Scotland's culinary heritage. His commitment to enhancing every dish with bold flavors and the finest local ingredients ensures a culinary journey that harmonizes tradition, innovation, and excellence.



**AWARDS**

# ROTARY STAFF AWARD



## KIM DORNAN

**The Exemplary Service Award recognises a staff member's voluntary and outstanding service to others, embodying the Rotary motto: "Service Above Self."**

**Congratulations to Kim Dornan.**

**"Kim consistently puts everyone before herself. She manages the breakfast club and is often at work by 7:30 am (or earlier) to ensure everything is organised. She even buys the supplies in her own time.**

**Kim never seeks praise or recognition, believing instead that 'she does it for the pupils,' to ensure they receive what they need to make the most of their time at school and achieve their goals. The reward for her is simply seeing the students succeed, supported by her efforts and dedication.**

**A wonderful member of staff who continually goes above and beyond.**

**Every day, Kim Dornan exemplifies the attitude of 'Service Above Self,' and there is no doubt she is truly deserving of this award."**

# SENIOR PROM

PHOTOGRAPHY BY VIOLET RAPHAEL

The senior prom at Stranraer Academy is a truly special event where S5 and S6 students come together to celebrate and reflect on their journey. This memorable evening is filled with elegance and excitement, offering a perfect blend of enjoyment and socialising. Students have the opportunity to dress up, dance, and create lasting memories with their peers. It's a time for laughter and joy, as well as a moment to appreciate the friendships and experiences that have shaped their high school years.



PROM 2024



## JURASSIC DISCOVERIES

### MOSASAURUS

**Name and Legacy:** The name Mosasaurus means “Meuse lizard,” named after the Meuse River where its fossils were first found. It remains one of the most iconic and well-studied marine reptiles from the dinosaur era.

**Habitat:** Mosasaurus inhabited shallow inland seas and coastal waters during the Late Cretaceous period, thriving in warm, tropical climates. Its fossil remains have been found in ancient oceanic deposits worldwide.

**Respiration:** Mosasaurus was a reptile but had adaptations for aquatic life. It breathed air and had to surface periodically to take in oxygen, much like modern marine reptiles such as sea turtles.

**Life Cycle:** Like many reptiles, Mosasaurus likely laid eggs rather than giving birth to live young. Fossilized remains of juveniles suggest that they grew rapidly and reached maturity relatively quickly.

**Predatory Behaviour:** Mosasaurus used its powerful body and tail to propel itself through the water swiftly. It would ambush prey from below, using its strong jaws to deliver a decisive bite, often severing limbs or causing fatal injuries.

**Cultural Influence:** Mosasaurus gained widespread recognition beyond scientific circles due to its appearance in popular media, notably in movies like “Jurassic World,” where it was depicted as a fearsome aquatic predator.

**Extinction:** Like many dinosaurs and marine reptiles of the Cretaceous period, Mosasaurus became extinct around 66 million years ago, possibly due to environmental changes and competition with other marine predators.

**Scientific Research:** The study of Mosasaurus fossils continues to provide valuable insights into the evolution and ecology of marine reptiles, shedding light on their adaptations to oceanic environments.

# UNFORGETTABLE ADVENTURES

## STRANRAER ACADEMY'S ACTIVITIES WEEK



During Activities Week at Stranraer Academy, students embarked on a variety of trips and engaged in diverse experiences that left them with lasting memories. Those who visited Alton Towers found themselves immersed in thrilling rides and entertainment, enjoying the adrenaline rush and camaraderie. The trip to Braehead, exclusive to S4 and S5 students, offered an exciting blend of shopping, dining, and recreational activities that fostered both relaxation and bonding among peers.



For the younger students in S1 to S3, the visit to Flip-Out was a hit, with everyone delighting in the trampoline park's fun and energetic atmosphere. The Blackpool trip was another highlight, where students explored the iconic attractions and enjoyed the lively seaside resort.

LA Bowl provided an afternoon of competitive bowling and laughter, as students cheered each other on and celebrated their strikes and spares. The adventure continued with a visit to Blair Drummond Safari Park, where students encountered exotic animals and enjoyed the park's various attractions, learning about wildlife conservation in a hands-on environment.

On the water sports day, participants had a blast engaging in activities like kayaking and paddleboarding, making the most of the outdoor fun and teamwork.

Students also made a positive environmental impact during the beach clean, working together to improve the local coastline and learning about the importance of environmental stewardship.

Back at the academy, a range of in-school activities provided something for everyone. The crafts session allowed students to express their creativity, while the salon experience offered relaxation and pampering. Board games and computer games sessions provided a perfect mix of strategy and fun, fostering both individual and group engagement.

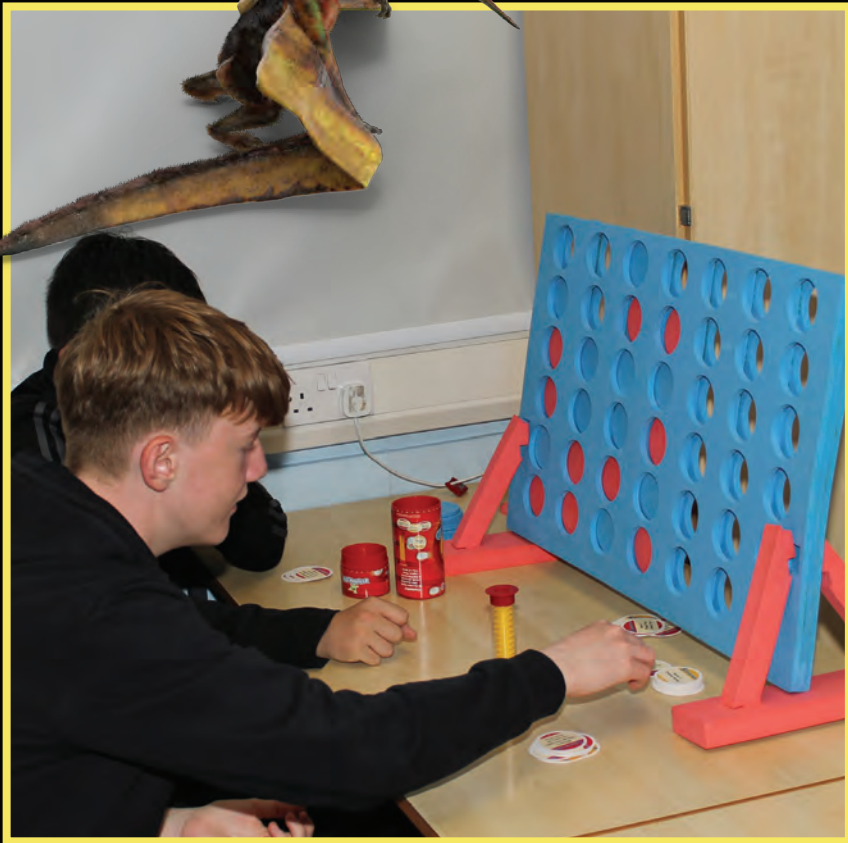
Overall, Activities Week at Stranraer Academy was a resounding success, offering students a rich tapestry of experiences that balanced adventure, learning, and enjoyment.

# ACTIVITIES WEEK





# ACTIVITIES WEEK



# ENGLISH

WHEN DINOSAURS RULED STRANRAER



READ  
AND  
LEARN



READ  
AND  
LEARN

WELCOME



**WINNER  
RUTH  
TURTLE**

# YOUNG WRITERS COMPETITION

The English department writing competition once again attracted a host of entries covering all of the genres. It was a difficult task to decide on a winner, such was the quality of entries. There was a wide range of creative stories and some of the poetry in particular was very evocative and written with sensitivity. However, a winner had to be found and this year it was not a short story, drama script or poem. It was, in fact, an informative essay entitled: 'Do the Public Have a Fair Perception of Cows?' The writer, Ruth

Turtle, put forward a mature and sophisticated argument. Ruth was awarded our Young Writer shield and a £30 voucher.

Runner up, Aleeah Robison, was awarded a £10 voucher and a goody bag for her lively and captivating poem on the subject of rugby. Erin Caldwell, Eva Christine, Shauna Kinahan, Kyra Lund, Erin James, Ava Lily Orr-Ewing and Nathaniel Gliszczynski were also awarded prizes for the impressive creativity and quality of their entries.

# DO THE PUBLIC HAVE A FAIR PERCEPTION OF COWS?

## YOUNG WRITERS COMPETITION WINNER RUTH TURTLE

Cows. Gentle giants. Intelligent creatures. Well, at least that's my initial thoughts. But for many, it couldn't be further from theirs. Big, fat, stupid milk-making methane machines. Does that sound more like it to you? Nowadays, people are misjudging bovines and travelling further from the truth about them for many reasons, one being stereotypes. First of all, I have grown up on a farm with cows my entire life and this have allowed me to gain an understanding of just how wonderful these animals are. They are so much more than just big, dirty animals. If people had even just a slightly better understanding of the truth about these creatures, it would maybe help to eradicate the negative feelings that they have towards them.

To start, cows are blamed for a lot of things. But undoubtedly, the largest and most significant accusation they receive is for causing climate change. Methane is a greenhouse gas produced by cows. 23 times more efficient at trapping heat than carbon dioxide, it lasts in the atmosphere for about 12 years before it breaks down, compared to carbon dioxide which takes roughly 200 years before it decomposes. Scientists estimate that a cow produces approximately 100kg of methane per year, the equivalent of 2,300kg of carbon dioxide. These emissions are the cause of 14.5% of global greenhouse gas emissions and 40% of global methane emissions. The average human, on the other hand, produces about 0.015kg (15 grams) of methane per year but has a carbon footprint of around 4,000kg per annum. With between 1 and 1.5 billion bovines burping up the gas every day, they would produce roughly the equivalent of 3,450,000,000,000kg of CO<sub>2</sub>.

Human beings, with a global population of over 8.1 billion annually create an average worldwide carbon footprint of 32,400,000,000,000kg of the heat holding gas. Methane has a strong but short-lived impact on climate change whereas carbon dioxide has a weaker but longer-lasting effect on the planet. Bovines do not purposely try to increase the rate of climate change though – they don't even realise that they are doing it – and humans are certainly not innocent either! Cows naturally produce a lot of this heat trapping gas but a significant increase in methane emissions over the past few centuries is all down to humans. We have had to increase the number of cows we farm to feed the growing world population, so it is not their fault but ours.

All cows are black and white and exactly the same. Have you ever thought that when you have a passed a field of grazing dairy cows? Well, I can assure you that that is completely false. Cows come in many different shapes, sizes and colours which makes them unique. They definitely all have a personality of their own too. Every human's personality is individual, and that's the same for dogs. And cats. And any other animal. So why should we think that for cows, each one is boringly identical? After I have been caring for a new group of calves for only a few days, each animal's personality becomes clearer, and their characters start to shine – I am then able to identify the friendly one, the greedy one, the quiet one, the curious one and the escapee! Each animal is individual and special. One of its kind. Another fact that I can confidently state is that cattle are not stupid. They are actually very intelligent. Although they don't reach the top spots when placing animals by their

intelligence levels, it doesn't mean they are brainless. Cattle may not be knowledgeable in the same way as humans are, but they display their intelligence in other forms. They show many cognitive skills, such as learning how to push the end of a pipe so that it will release more water for them to drink. They can even understand not just other cattle's emotions, but ours too! On top of being intelligent, they are very curious and will take any opportunity to discover new environments or approach unfamiliar objects that they find. They will lick, sniff and touch these unfamiliar items until they are sure it is safe and not a threat, figuring it out themselves. From luxurious ice creams to tender steaks, smooth chocolate milkshakes to your leather handbag, we have lots to thank cows for. Since first being domesticated almost 10,000 years ago, cattle have played a major role in society by providing valuable resources for us. No matter the age, they should all be treated with the deepest respect. Instead of thought of with a negative perspective, cows should be commended on the amazing animals they are – and that is why we should open our eyes to the truth and strongly believe that bovines are brilliant.



# THE INTERNAL IDEAL OF BEING 'PERFECT'

## YOUNG WRITERS COMPETITION TOP CONTENDER SHAUNA KINAHAN

Akira looked in the mirror. A natural habit for a young teenager such as himself, a quick check before school to make sure everything is all right. And that glance does not stop into adulthood. It continues forever, even when you are turning grey, you always stop to look. Life is full of judgmental people, who will crucify whatever you do. Some can tune them out and some cannot. A simple two-sided coin. Akira felt wherever he went, an all-seeing eye could watch every movement and point out every critique of his failures. The burden of this other entity carried on their back 24 hours a day. Nothing was done without their powerful and gracious ideals. Akira would only be stripped of this weight if they became perfect and unflawed, something no human can ever achieve. Akira did not suffer alone, nobody who knew this creature did. But they would never find that out because of its manipulation. They all prayed at the same foot of delusion and standard that was not something you could reach, like small children desperately trying to reach the biscuit tin on a counter they could not yet tower. This entity fed off the negative energy, the beautifully cruel power they held above everyone who suffered on their knees. Akira, so truly and desperately, wished to be torn from its reign. Separated from his shadow, from the entity, that tortured him wherever he went. But was it that simple? Could he ever be free? It never felt like that. The debate of to stay and feel comfort of no change, not risking an

even worse outcome. Or the chance to leave, break free of the chains pulling him further into the ground. How could he break free, how could he even dare to disobey the monster's trust. The monster had become his God, everything Akira did was to please it. He could scream and repent for the sin of being imperfect, but it was not good enough. He had not done what was being asked of him, he was an unruly character that did not deserve happiness and to be perfect. He did not deserve to be free, in fact he did not deserve anything anymore. He was a shell of what he used to be. A happy child, but every child is happy right? He had become a slave to ideals which he could not bear anymore. He did not want to idolize this creature, this horrible, horrible, creature. What would his family think? To know he was failing everything he wanted to promise him. To know the things he had done, the terrible things he had done, to make himself perfect. How did this even begin? How had he become of this? He was not worthy anymore. Nobody should have to look at someone so flawed. They should be disgusted. Akira took his burdens to the edge of a bridge, the gorgeous river crashing in beautiful sounds below. It was perfect, the nature of the world was perfect. And ruining it, admiring the fog and brambles was Akira. He was ruining the untouched beauty of this world, just with his presence. What a failure. What a disgrace. Now the creature, the god, he had praised for so long

had rejected him. Its words echoed beyond nature into somewhere far worse. Akira's legs dangled down, his head turned and cast towards the crashing like lightning spawning from the river. Normally this would disturb and force people away from approaching. But to Akira, it comforted him. A break from that creature, his one God, and its taunting words. It felt oddly relaxing, a feeling Akira had not felt in many months. A quiet hush. What was he doing? Did it really have to be like this? Was this his only way to be free? To Akira it was, it was everything. His hands pushed away from the stone of the bridge, his body collapsing into the fall as his eyes shut tightly. The wind pulled his hair from his face, for a moment he was flying. Flying into a place far better, a place where he was free. A place where he was perfect. Akira made the decision to open his eyes. They fixed onto the sharp waves below, the cool water he felt that he could already feel. It was a beautiful demise, something that broke his chains upon impact. His eyes could not move from the one spot of water he was fixed on. He could see his reflection for that moment, like staring into a pool of his life, something so terrifyingly real, it made him question his decision. Although those thoughts were too little too late. For the last time, Akira looked in the mirror.

# LUNA AND THE TRIBE OF YUOXANS

## YOUNG WRITERS COMPETITION TOP CONTENDER ERIN JAMES

Luna Silva was always drawn to the mysterious and the unknown. With her wild curls and sparkling eyes, she had an insatiable curiosity that often led her to explore the hidden corners of her imagination. But nothing could have prepared her for the adventure that awaited her when she stumbled upon the ancient The Tribe of Yuoxans hidden away in her grandmother's attic.

The book was bound in faded leather and adorned with intricate symbols that seemed to pulse with otherworldly energy. Luna's fingers trembled as she traced the patterns, feeling a strange pull from within the pages. Without hesitation, she opened the book, and in an instant, she was engulfed by a blinding light.

When Luna opened her eyes, she found herself standing in a world unlike anything she had ever seen. The sky above was a swirling canvas of colors, with stars that shimmered like diamonds against the velvet darkness. Strange creatures darted through the air, their bodies glowing with a bright light.

As Luna took in her surroundings, she felt a chill run down her spine. She wasn't alone. From the leaves in the trees emerged the Tinkaos, monstrous beings with blackened skin, a bone jutting from their necks (the only part of their body), eight razor-sharp teeth, over 40 feet long, and a single white eye that glowed like a diamond. With a hiss, they lunged towards Luna, their wings unfurling with a deafening roar.

Panic surged through Luna's veins as she stumbled backward, her heart pounding in her chest. She had stumbled into a world of danger, a world where she was the prey. But she refused to give up without a fight.

With a defiant cry, Luna summoned every ounce of courage within her and raced through the unfamiliar landscape, the Tinkaos hot on her heels.

She dodged their razor-sharp teeth and ducked beneath their swooping wings, her breath coming in ragged gasps as she pushed herself to the limit.

Just when it seemed like all hope was lost, Luna spotted a glimmer of light in the distance. With renewed determination, she sprinted towards it, her feet pounding against the ground as the Tinkaos closed in behind her.

As she reached the source of the light, Luna found herself face to face with the Yuoxans, creatures of pure radiance who emanated warmth and kindness. With a gentle hum, they formed a protective barrier around Luna, shielding her from the relentless onslaught of the Tinkaos.

For the first time since she had arrived in this strange world, Luna felt safe. The Yuoxans guided her through the treacherous terrain, their light illuminating the path ahead as they led her towards safety.

But the Tinkaos were relentless in their pursuit, their blackened forms twisting and contorting as they tried to break through the barrier of light. Luna knew that she couldn't outrun them forever, that eventually, she would have to face them head-on.

As they continued their journey, Luna encountered a group of Cinatos, small bird-like beings with sharp teeth hanging out of their beaks and eyes all over their bodies. Each one of their eyes stared at her, making her hands shake with fear.

Eventually, they made it to a pond unlike any Luna had ever seen. It swirled with orange and pink, sparkling like glitter. Suddenly, a massive, elegant lady-like creature emerged. She was made of water but exuded beauty and power—a true Everealyn, a powerful water spirit that aids the kind and fights the evil. Her bright white eyes held a kind smile within her swirling orange and

pink body. She looked like a living masterpiece.

In a soft yet resonant voice, she spoke, "Hello, my dear. Have you come seeking help?" Luna, feeling awkward, responded, "Y- Yes, I have. These bright fairy creatures brought me here. There are massive creatures attacking me with sharp razor teeth and bright white eyes!" The Everealyn nodded quickly, clearly not wanting to linger on the subject. She then created a pathway with leaves for Luna to cross the pond. "Tinkaos are scared of water. You'll be safe here, my angel," she said softly yet powerfully.

After what felt like hours, the group of Tinkaos flew over, their bones dragging along the floor, making the jungle feel like an earthquake. Luna stayed low in the water, hoping they wouldn't see her. The water spirit Everealyn got attacked by a vicious group of cinatos!

"My darling, run! Run to the yuoxans!" I ran away as fast as I could. Seeing her pop like a bubble was terrifying. A tear falls down my face. The poor Everalyn. I trip over a huge rock as I lose focus. The Tinkaos right above me. Staring. As they dive in to grab me with their huge sharp teeth the yuoxans go in front of me making a huge bright light blinding the tinkaos.

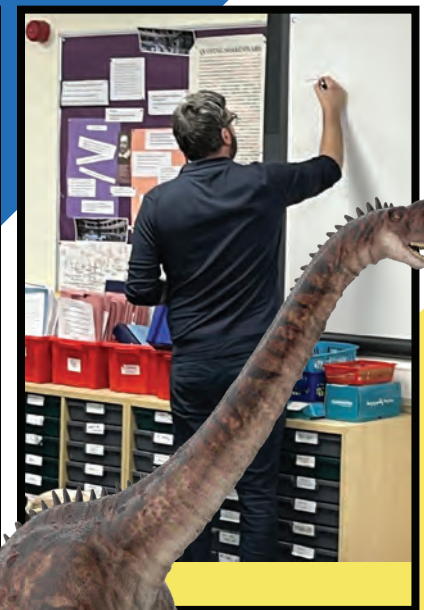
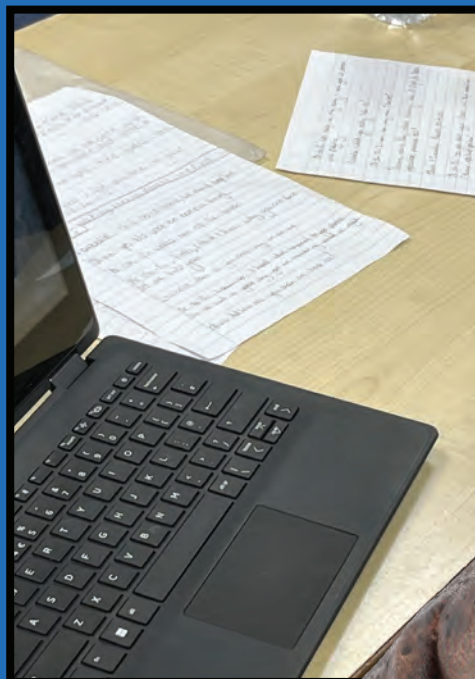
They go full force into attack burning into their dark black skin. They screech. Louder than anything I've ever heard something that could make your ears bleed. The Tinkaos fly away as the group of Yuoxans fly back to me. I run to hug them, sobbing into their bright shoulders and arms. Suddenly a bright flash happens but it's not them. It's brighter, more blinding. I'm in my room resting on my bed. Was it a Dream? The book was next to me. I grab it and put it high away on a shelf. Until another time Yuoxans.

# THEATRE MAGIC

**S3 ENGLISH STUDENTS  
THRIVE IN CLASS ACT  
2024**

Back in March, a group of our S3 English students were given an exciting writing opportunity: they were selected to take part in the Class Act 2024 project organised by the Traverse Theatre. The project aims to help students in schools across Scotland develop not only their creative writing skills, but also their confidence, and their participation in culture. Two professional writers, James Ley and Helen Shutt, came into school and worked with students, encouraging them to express their ideas on topics they feel passionate about. The students hard work really paid off as they produced a series of short plays covering themes as varied as war, friendship, justice and conflict. Some were intense, some humorous and some action packed.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



# THEATRE MAGIC

S3 ENGLISH STUDENTS  
THRIVE IN **CLASS ACT**  
2024



*"The Class Act theatre performance was absolutely outstanding. It was a great and most-likely once-in-a-lifetime experience to see a script that 3rd year pupils from around Dumfries and Galloway had created being performed by professional actors, on stage, in a theatre. The actors were absolutely brilliant, putting 100% enthusiasm and passion into each and every play that they performed, whether they were hilarious or sad. The atmospheric live music, sound effects and basic props which supplemented the acting made each play come to life. It was amazing to see how the actors and director interpreted our work, transforming it into extremely enjoyable live performances. If I was ever given the opportunity to take part in Class Act again, there would be no doubt that I would take it!"*



## CONTINUED

The project culminated in an amazing experience for the students who then got to see their scripts brought to life by professional actors as part of the Class Act Showcase at Dumfries Theatre Royal. All who attended agreed that it was a truly enjoyable and memorable experience.

ARTICLE BY FIONA FAY







## JURASSIC DISCOVERIES DILOPHOSAURUS

**Discovery:** Dilophosaurus, meaning “two-crested lizard,” was discovered in Arizona, USA, in 1942 by paleontologist Sam Welles. It lived during the Early Jurassic period, approximately 193 to 188 million years ago.

**Size and Appearance:** Dilophosaurus was a medium-sized theropod dinosaur, reaching lengths of about 6 to 7 metres (20 to 23 feet) and weighing around 400 to 500 kilograms (880 to 1100 pounds). It is known for the distinctive pair of crests on its head, although these were likely display structures rather than for physical combat.

**Crests:** The crests of Dilophosaurus were thin and elongated, projecting upwards from the skull. They may have been used for species recognition, communication, or display during courtship rituals.

## JURASSIC DISCOVERIES DINOSAURS IN SCOTLAND

**Significant Discoveries:** Recent discoveries on the Isle of Skye have included fossil remains of sauropods and theropods, offering new understanding of the dinosaurs that lived in Scotland during the Jurassic period.

**Jurassic and Cretaceous Periods:** Scotland’s dinosaur fossils span both the Jurassic (approximately 200 to 145 million years ago) and Cretaceous (approximately 145 to 66 million years ago) periods. These fossils contribute to global understanding of dinosaur distribution and evolution.

**Scientific Importance:** Scottish dinosaur fossils are crucial for understanding ancient European environments and ecosystems during the Mesozoic Era. They provide insights into climate, vegetation, and dinosaur interactions.



**WE WANT YOU  
TO SHARE YOUR  
SUCCESS**

[stranraeracademy.org/wider-achievement/](https://stranraeracademy.org/wider-achievement/)

**Did you know about Stranraer Academy's Wider Achievement Page. This platform is exclusively designed for you to proudly share your academic, creative, sports, philanthropic, and entrepreneurial triumphs.**

**Whether it's a creative masterpiece, a sporting victory, or a community initiative, we want to hear about it! Each achievement will be highlighted on our website and in our dynamic gallery, showcasing the diverse talents of our school community.**

**This initiative aims to celebrate your successes and inspire others within our vibrant community. Sharing your achievements is easy – simply visit [stranraeracademy.org/wider-achievement/](http://stranraeracademy.org/wider-achievement/) and complete the user-friendly form. Provide details of your accomplishment and upload a photograph or two to accompany your story.**

**We look forward to celebrating your accomplishments and sharing them with both our school and the local community!**



#### ACADEMIC

Achievements in formal learning, including excellence in subjects, research endeavours, and intellectual accomplishments, highlighting commitment to scholarly pursuits.



#### SPORTS

Achievements in physical pursuits, showcasing excellence in sportsmanship, athletic accomplishments, and commitment to physical fitness, reflecting prowess and dedication in the realm of sports.



#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Encompassing a diverse array of accomplishments, providing a platform for our young people to showcase a variety of different endeavours, highlighting the multifaceted excellence within the school and local community.



#### CREATIVE

Achievements in imaginative and original expressions, including visual arts, performing arts, literature, photography and other innovative pursuits, showcasing diverse and inventive talents in creative realms.



#### PHILANTHROPIC

Accomplishments in charitable and humanitarian efforts, showcasing commitment to social responsibility, community service, and altruistic initiatives, reflecting dedication to making a positive impact in the world through acts of kindness and generosity.



#### ENTREPRENEURIAL

Accomplishments in business and innovation, showcasing our young peoples entrepreneurial spirit, ventures, and commitment to creative problem-solving, reflecting dedication to fostering economic awareness and forward-thinking initiatives.

### JURASSIC DISCOVERIES EXCAVATION

**Discovery and Early Excavations:** The exploration of dinosaur fossils began in the early 19th century, with significant discoveries made in Europe, North America, and later across the globe. The first recognised dinosaur fossil, *Megalosaurus*, was unearthed in England in 1824.

**Methods of Excavation:** Paleontologists employ a variety of techniques to excavate dinosaur fossils, depending on the site's conditions and the type of fossil. These methods include meticulous digging using tools like picks, brushes, and occasionally pneumatic tools for tougher sediments.

**Field Work:** Dinosaur excavation entails extensive fieldwork, often conducted in remote or challenging environments. Expeditions can span weeks or months, involving teams of scientists, volunteers, and local experts working collaboratively to uncover and document fossils.

**Preparation:** Once fossils are unearthed, they undergo careful preparation in laboratories. This process involves cleaning, stabilising, and sometimes reconstructing fragmented or delicate fossil remains to ensure their preservation and study.



# CELEBRATING SUCCESS



The Social Subjects faculty at Stranraer Academy has recently celebrated the exceptional achievements of three students with the presentation of the Recognising Achievement Awards. Sophia Schofield (S1/2), Josh Sullivan (S3/4), and Eva Ferguson (S5/6) have been honoured for their outstanding performance in their academic studies.

These awards not only recognise academic excellence but also highlight the dedication and hard work demonstrated by Sophia, Josh, and Eva throughout the academic year. They have distinguished themselves among their peers with their exemplary knowledge and passion for social subjects.

Congratulations are extended to all the award recipients for their well-deserved recognition, as well as to all students who have contributed to the academic success of Stranraer Academy this year. The Social Subjects faculty looks forward to continuing to inspire and support students in their educational journey.





# ECHOES OF COURAGE



Stranraer Academy recently embarked on a poignant journey to Ypres, Belgium, immersing themselves in the rich history of wartime sacrifices and resilience. The trip took students through significant battlefields and museums that commemorate the enduring legacy of past conflicts.

metery, they respectfully honoured the memory of fallen soldiers in a solemn setting.

A poignant highlight of the trip was the participation in the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate. This daily ritual, where buglers play the haunting Last Post, serves as a timeless tribute to the soldiers of the British Empire and its allies who gave their lives in the Ypres Salient during World War I.



Beginning with a solemn ceremony at Blackwatch Corner, students paid tribute to the heroic efforts of soldiers from the 1st Battalion The Black Watch, who played a crucial role in the First Battle of Ypres. This pivotal engagement was a testament to courage and sacrifice amidst the relentless challenges of war.

## STRANRAER ACADEMY'S JOURNEY TO YPRES

Interacting with locals at

memorials like the Brothers in Arms and exploring historical landmarks such as Hill 60 further enriched the students' understanding of the human stories behind the battles. These encounters fostered a deeper appreciation for the enduring impact of war and the importance of remembrance.



Throughout their exploration, students visited impactful sites such as The Passchendaele Museum and the In Flanders Fields Museum, where they encountered artefacts and exhibitions that vividly brought to life the experiences of those who lived through war. At Tyne Cot Cemetery, the largest Commonwealth War Graves Commission ce-

Stranraer Academy's journey to Ypres was not just an educational trip but a profound experience that underscored the significance of preserving history and honouring those who made ultimate sacrifices for peace and freedom.





# ECHOES OF COURAGE

# MATHS



OVERDUE BI  
ELECTRI





## REAL WORLD MATHS

Exciting news in maths this term as Mrs Beggs and Mr McCulloch begin our journey with the Higher Applications course, they will be leading some of our new S5/6 students through a brand new course we are now offering at Stranraer Academy. This is a great opportunity for our pupils and this will enhance their problem solving skills, refine their logical reasoning and improve their ability to analysis information and data, though practical and real world scenarios including finance, data analysis, and technology development.

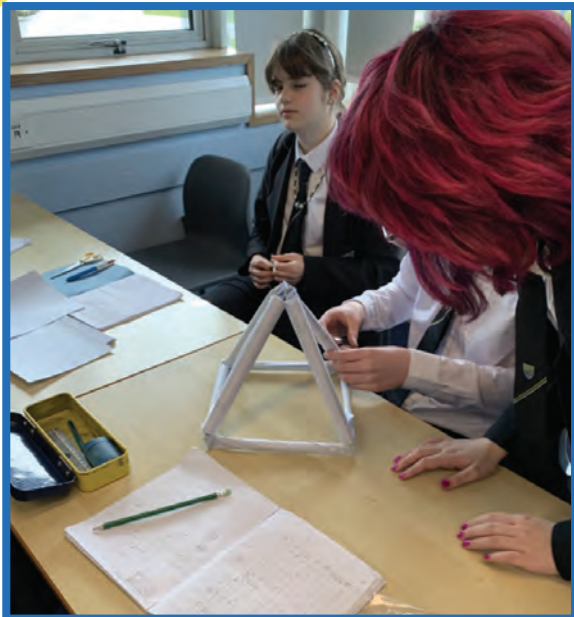
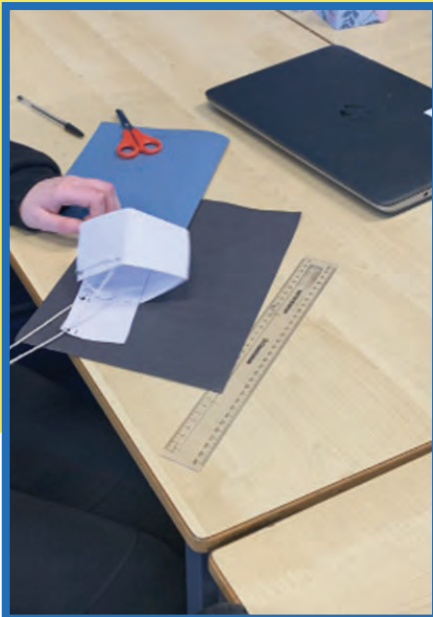
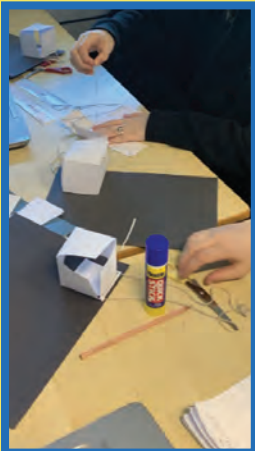
In maths with our BGE students we have been



focusing on how our maths skills can be used in real life through measurement, statistics, ratio and Speed, Distance and Time.

Classes have also been looking at the structure of 3D objects through nets and skeletons.





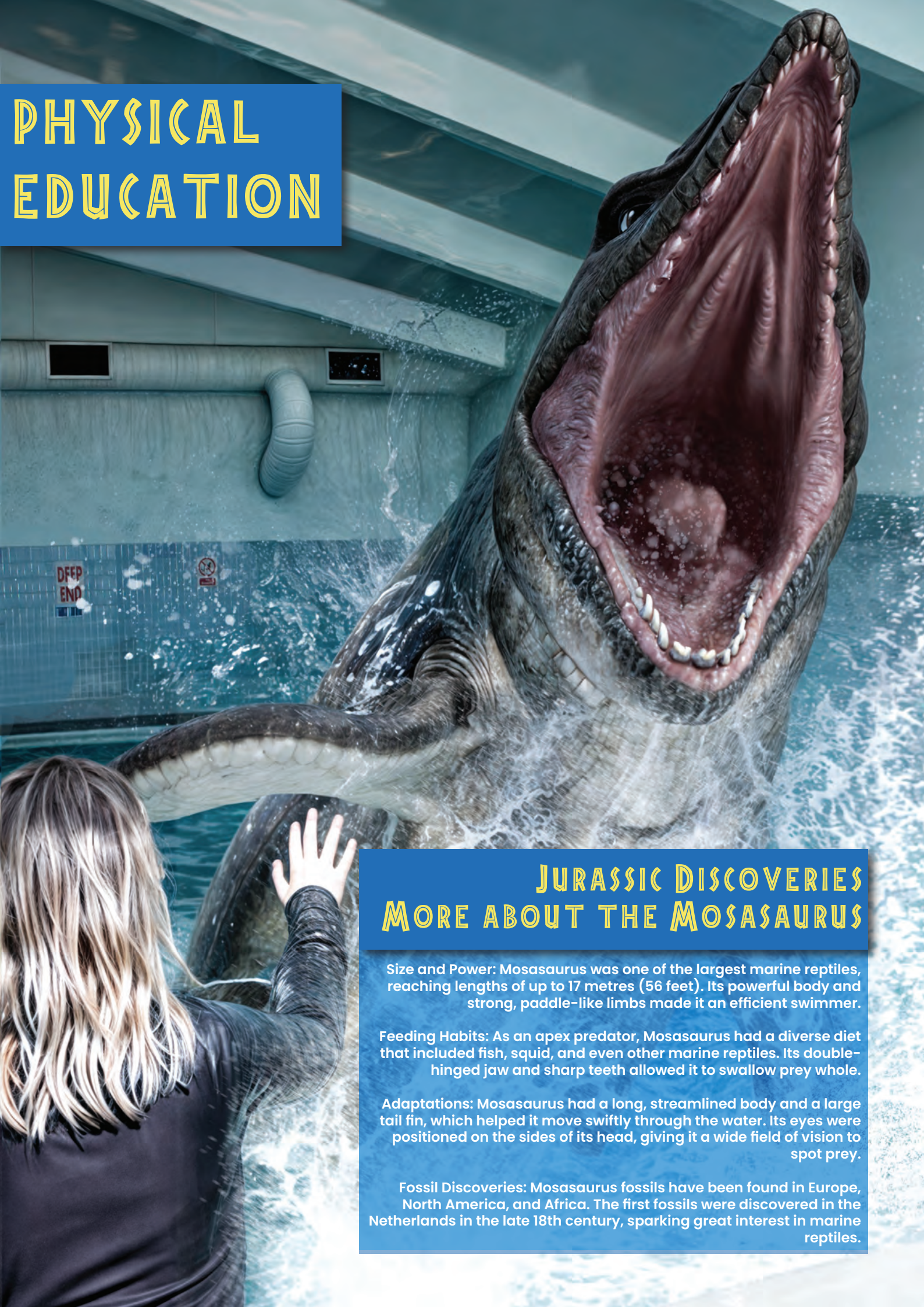
# WELCOMING SELINA VAAS

## A GERMAN STUDENT'S EXPERIENCE AT STRANRAER ACADEMY

We were delighted to welcome Selina Vaas a German student to Stranraer Academy for two weeks in March. Selina attended the school to further her English and experience life in a school out-with her own country. Pupils and staff all thoroughly enjoyed having Selina with us at Stranraer Academy, especially her two guides Rhianna Bodle and Erin Jamieson, and her pupil support teacher Dr Marshall. She was super to have in school and immersed herself thoroughly in school life. Selina is pictured receiving a small token to remind her of her time with us from Mr Farquhar.



# PHYSICAL EDUCATION



## JURASSIC DISCOVERIES MORE ABOUT THE MOSASAURUS

**Size and Power:** Mosasaurus was one of the largest marine reptiles, reaching lengths of up to 17 metres (56 feet). Its powerful body and strong, paddle-like limbs made it an efficient swimmer.

**Feeding Habits:** As an apex predator, Mosasaurus had a diverse diet that included fish, squid, and even other marine reptiles. Its double-hinged jaw and sharp teeth allowed it to swallow prey whole.

**Adaptations:** Mosasaurus had a long, streamlined body and a large tail fin, which helped it move swiftly through the water. Its eyes were positioned on the sides of its head, giving it a wide field of vision to spot prey.

**Fossil Discoveries:** Mosasaurus fossils have been found in Europe, North America, and Africa. The first fossils were discovered in the Netherlands in the late 18th century, sparking great interest in marine reptiles.

**S**chools Champion in the 100m Freestyle. She also competed admirably in the 200m Freestyle, finishing in 5th place.

Stepans Nastjuks had a remarkable day, earning Silver in the 100m Breaststroke and Bronze in the 200m Individual Medley, showcasing his versatility and skill in the pool.

George Zbiegniewski demonstrated his strength with commendable performances, securing 11th place in both the 200m Individual Medley and the 100m Breaststroke events.

Millie Colvin achieved impressive results, clinching 4th place in the 100m Butterfly and finishing 6th in the 200m Butterfly, displaying her proficiency in the challenging butterfly strokes.

Mirren Gibb also showcased her

talent, securing 11th place in the competitive 100m Breaststroke event.

Although not pictured, Finlay Nelson deserves recognition for his outstanding performance, achieving 4th place in the 100m Butterfly event.

The entire team represented Stranraer Academy with determination and skill, earning accolades and demonstrating their dedication to swimming excellence. Congratulations to all the swimmers for their hard work, commitment, and outstanding achievements at the championship!



# VICTORY IN THE POOL

## STRANRAER ACADEMY DOMINATES SCOTTISH SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS



# NETBALL TRIUMPH

## STRANRAER ACADEMY'S DAY OF SUCCESS IN DUMFRIES

On Friday, 10th May, two junior teams from Stranraer Academy travelled to King George V in Dumfries to compete in the annual junior netball festival. The event was a day filled with intense competition, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

In the morning, the teams were split into random groupings, and their performance in these initial games determined their afternoon groupings. Stranraer A played five games, experiencing both victories and challenging defeats. Despite the tough competition, they progressed to compete for the bowl in the afternoon. Demonstrating resilience and skill, they triumphed and won the bowl competition.

Stranraer B faced some tough games in the morning, but the team gained valuable experience that served them well in the afternoon. They advanced to play for the cup and showcased outstanding netball, ultimately securing a commendable 2nd place.

The girls enjoyed a fantastic day of netball in the sunshine and represented Stranraer Academy with pride and excellence. Their dedication and teamwork were evident throughout the festival.

### Team Highlights:

#### Stranraer A:

**Player of the Tournament:** Elle Kirk

**Players' Player of the Tournament:** Romy McCutcheon

#### Stranraer B:

**Player of the Tournament:** Darcy Loughrey

**Players' Player of the Tournament:** Hollie Smith

The players' hard work and positive attitude made the event a memorable and successful experience. They were a credit to Stranraer Academy, exemplifying the spirit and sportsmanship of their school.



# FIRST-TIME UNITY: STRANRAER ACADEMY'S SENIOR GIRLS COMPETE WITH HEART



Our senior girls had an excellent day recently, competing at the Senior Netball Festival in Dumfries. This marked the first time the girls played together as a team, and they displayed remarkable commitment and teamwork on the court.

Although they did not secure a placement, the experience was invaluable, offering them the opportunity to grow and bond as a unit. The girls' effort and dedication were evident throughout the competition,

making the school proud of their performance.

### **Team Highlights:**

**Player of the Day:** Sophie Hardie

### **Players' Player of the Day:**

Amber Smith and Rachel Stewart

Congratulations to all the girls for their super effort and for representing Stranraer Academy with such enthusiasm and sportsmanship. Well done!

## ROMY MCCUTCHEON SECURES NETBALL LEADERSHIP ROLE



Romy McCutcheon travelled to Dumfries on Sunday 16th June to trial for the Under 15 Netball Squad.

Romy was successful in gaining a place in the regional team. She has also been selected to be co-

captain for the squad in the upcoming new season.

Romy dedicates so much time to netball so it is very well deserved. Congratulations to Romy - what a fantastic achievement!



On Friday, 24th May, Stranraer Academy had the pleasure of hosting local netball star Lucy Gaw, who delivered an engaging and educational netball session. With four caps at the U21 Scotland level, Lucy brought a wealth of experience and skill to share with the pupils.

Over 30 students from S1 to S3 eagerly signed up for the session, resulting in a fun and enjoyable afternoon for all. Lucy was highly impressed by the commitment and effort shown by the participants.

At the end of the session, Lucy selected a player of the day from each of the four

teams and also recognised the most committed player of the day, who stood out for their hard work and dedication.

Player of the Day Awards:

- Pink Team: Romy McCutcheon
- Green Team: Rosie Thompson
- Purple Team: Erin McCulloch
- Yellow Team: Sharath Kawanza
- Most Committed Player of the Day: Hollie Smith

A heartfelt thank you to Lucy Gaw for dedicating her time to provide such a fantastic netball experience. Her visit was both inspiring and memorable for all the students involved.

## LUCY GAW INSPIRES STRANRAER ACADEMY







## STRANRAER ATHLETES TRIUMPH AT CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

In February, our young athletes embarked on a journey to Dalbeattie to compete in the Regional Cross Country Championships. The conditions proved to be challenging, with soft and very wet terrain testing the competitors' endurance to the limit.

Despite the tough conditions, Stranraer achieved remarkable results. Mirren Gibb successfully defended her title as S4 Girls Champion, showcasing exceptional determination and skill. Olivia Turtle secured an impressive 2nd place in the S2 Girls category.

The S4 Boys Team demonstrated outstanding teamwork and performance by clinching victory in their age group with only three out of a maximum of five competitors, marking a noteworthy achievement.

Similarly, the S5/6 Girls Team achieved a commendable 3rd place overall with

just three runners, underscoring their resilience and competitive spirit.

### Top Results:

#### S2 Girls

**2nd Place:** Olivia Turtle

#### S4 Girls

**1st Place:** Mirren Gibb

#### S4 Boys

**3rd Place:** Josh Kelly

**4th Place:** Finlay Brown

#### S5/6 Girls

**4th Place:** Laura Donnan

Congratulations to all the athletes for their outstanding performances and dedication. Your achievements are a testament to your hard work and perseverance. Well done!



We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to and participated in the Secondary Schools Badminton event hosted at St Joseph's College on Sunday, 4th February. Here are the results:

**U14 Girls Doubles**

**GOLD:** Katie Monair & Olivia Turtle  
U14 Boys Doubles

**BRONZE:** James Turtle & Thomas McClelland

**U14 Mixed Doubles**

**SILVER:** James Turtle & Olivia Turtle  
U19 Girls Singles

**GOLD:** Rhian Palmer

Congratulations to all the winners and participants for their outstanding performances and sportsmanship during the event. Your dedication and effort made the day a great success!



**GLORY ON COURT: ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE BADMINTON EVENT HIGHLIGHTS**



**GOALS AND GRIT: STRANRAER ACADEMY'S DAY AT BROADWOOD STADIUM**

On Wednesday, 27th March, 10 pupils and their supporters journeyed to Broadwood Stadium, Cumbernauld, for the National Finals. Despite challenging wet conditions, the girls showcased their determination throughout the day, with the sun eventually breaking through.

Winning 3 games, drawing 2, and losing 3, the team displayed commendable performance. Although they didn't advance to the quarter-finals, their achievement in reaching the final round of the competition is noteworthy.

**Goal Scorers:**

Aliyah, Zara, Sophie, Carly, Chloe

Congratulations to all the girls for their outstanding effort and accomplishments. Each player should take pride in their contributions to the team's success!

Stranraer Academy's U13 team showcased their talent and determination in a resounding 6-1 victory over Douglas Ewart High School, securing their spot in the semi-finals of the U13 Gordon Cup. The match saw a standout performance from debutant Corey Rennie, who scored a hat trick and was named co-Player of the Match alongside the influential Ethan Matthews.

Ethan Matthews displayed dominance across the pitch, complemented by his midfield partner George Wilson, contributing significantly to the team's commanding display.

**Players of the Match:**

Corey Rennie & Ethan Matthews

**Goalscorers:**

Corey Rennie: 3 goals

Ethan Matthews: 2 goals

Kayden McColm: 1 goal

Despite their impressive run, the boys faced a tough challenge in the subsequent round against a strong Lockerbie side, ending their journey in the Cup. Congratulations to all the players for their outstanding performance and dedication throughout the competition.

**COREY RENNIE ACHIEVES HAT TRICK HEROICS**

**STRANRAER U13 PROGRESS IN GORDON CUP**



**STUART BINNIE AND JAMES HANNAY MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT**

On Wednesday, 15th May, Stranraer Academy welcomed teams from 11 secondary schools to its annual memorial tournament, held this year on the 3G pitch. The tournament featured both A and B teams from Stranraer Academy, with the A Team comprising all boys and the B Team consisting of a mix of boys and girls.

The A Team had a strong showing in the group stages but faced defeat in the semi-finals against Castle Douglas. Meanwhile, the B Team, despite their efforts, did not advance past the group stage.

Mrs Jenna Mitchell, daughter of Stuart Binnie, attended the tournament and presented the trophies to the winning teams, making for a memorable conclusion to a day filled with spirited youth football.

**James Hannay Trophy Winners:**

Castle Douglas High School - Small Schools

Congratulations to all participants for their sportsmanship and dedication throughout the tournament.

*Always in our thoughts and will forever  
remain in our hearts*

*Mr Stuart Binnie*





## JURASSIC DISCOVERIES MORE ABOUT THE VELOCIRAPTOR

**Discovery and Name:** Velociraptor fossils were first discovered in Mongolia in 1924. Their name means "swift thief," reflecting their speed and predatory nature.

**Claws and Teeth:** Velociraptors had a large, sickle-shaped claw on each foot, which they used to slash at their prey. Their teeth were serrated, perfect for slicing through flesh.

**Habitat:** Velociraptors lived in what is now Central Asia, in arid to semi-arid environments, with evidence suggesting they inhabited deserts and open plains.

**Social Behaviour:** Some evidence indicates that Velociraptors may have exhibited social behaviours, such as coordinating attacks and possibly caring for their young.

**Adaptability:** Velociraptors were highly adaptable, capable of thriving in various environments and taking advantage of different types of prey, showcasing their versatility as hunters.

**Cultural Impact:** Velociraptors gained widespread fame and recognition through their portrayal in popular media, particularly in the Jurassic Park film series, although the films exaggerated their size and appearance.

## ATHLETICS

# ATHLETICS PENTATHLON CHAMPIONSHIP

On Monday, 17th June, pupils enthusiastically participated in the annual Athletics Pentathlon Championship. The day unfolded under pleasant weather conditions, fostering a fantastic atmosphere and showcasing a strong House spirit.

highlighting outstanding performances across various disciplines.

Thank you to all pupils, senior helpers, and staff whose efforts ensured the smooth organisation and continued success of the event. Your commitment contributed significantly to its overall triumph.

Individual titles were awarded as follows,



**S2 Girls**  
Champion - Lainey Gibb  
Runner Up - Casey Longridge



**S4 Girls**  
Champion - Tegan Fox  
Runner Up - Maddy Erskine



**S2 Boys**  
Champion - Lee Reynolds  
Runner Up - Alexander Clark



**S4 Boys**  
Champion - Jake McColm  
Runner Up - Tyler Rennie



**S3 Boys**  
Champion - Murray Williams  
Runner Up - Jonny Wither



**Senior Boys**  
Champion - William Tears  
Runner Up - Louie Clarke-Sloan



**S3 Girls**  
Champion - Olivia Turtle  
Runner Up - Mariella Petrucci



**Senior Girls**  
Champion - Sophie Lowe  
Runner Up - Kaylyn Fox

# ATHLETICS PENTATHLON CHAMPIONSHIP

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ARCHIE McCUBBIN





# ATHLETICS PENTATHLON CHAMPIONSHIP



# STRANRAER ACADEMY ATHLETES SHINE AT REGIONAL ATHLETICS EVENT

Athletes from Stranraer Academy demonstrated exceptional skill and determination at the Regional athletics event held on Tuesday, 11th June, at the David Keswick Centre, Dumfries High School. Despite challenging heat conditions, the pupils achieved commendable results, showcasing their talent across various disciplines.

## Notable Achievements:

Murray Williams: 1st in 800m, 3rd in Shot Put  
 Olivia Turtle: 1st in 800m  
 Mariella Petrucci: 2nd in Long Jump  
 William Tears: 2nd in Long Jump  
 Rosie Thompson: 3rd in 800m

Sofie McCutcheon: 3rd in High Jump  
 Zac McCutcheon: 4th in 1500m  
 Luke McGarrie: 4th in Shot Put  
 Riley Dorans: 4th in 100m  
 Relay Achievements:  
 Senior Boys Relay: 2nd Place (Luke McGarrie, Rowan Harbottle, Riley Dorans, William Tears)  
 Senior Girls Relay: 3rd Place (Sophie Lowe, Mirren Gibb, Sophie Copeland, Jessica Maxwell)

Congratulations to all participants for their outstanding performances and contributions to Stranraer Academy's success at the Regional athletics event. Your hard work and dedication are truly commendable.





## CELEBRATING CHAMPIONS RESULTS FROM REGIONAL DISABILITY ATHLETICS

On Wednesday, June 5th, over 60 students from various schools across the region showcased their athletic prowess in running, jumping, and throwing events at the Regional Disability Athletics competition. The day started with dry weather allowing completion of the 50m and 100m sprints, but as rain returned, the event smoothly transitioned indoors for the jumps and throws. A special thanks to Dalbeattie High School for graciously accommodating the event at short notice.

Here are the highlights from the competition:

### 50m:

1st Year: Kenzie took 1st place.  
 2nd Year: Tylor secured 1st, with Logan 2nd and Casey 3rd.  
 3rd Year: Nathan claimed 1st.  
 Senior Boys: Conar emerged victorious.

### 100m:

1st Year: Robert clinched 1st place.  
 3rd Year: Jasmine and Andrew both took 1st.  
 Senior: Miles achieved 1st place.  
 Javelin:

1st Year: Robert came in 1st, followed by Kenzie in 2nd.  
 2nd Year: Tylor secured 1st, with Casey 2nd and Logan 3rd.  
 3rd Year: Myley claimed 1st, with Andrew and Jasmine taking 2nd, and Nathan 3rd.  
 Seniors: Conar and Ruby both took 1st place, with Miles in 2nd.  
 Shot Put:

1st Year: Robert secured 1st, and Kenzie took 2nd.  
 2nd Year: Tylor clinched 1st place.  
 3rd Year: Andrew claimed 1st, with Myley and Jasmine in 2nd.  
 Seniors: Conar took 1st, with Miles in 2nd.

### Long Jump:

1st Year: Robert took 1st, and Kenzie secured 2nd.  
 2nd Year: Tylor claimed 1st, with Logan in 3rd.  
 3rd Year: Nathan came in 2nd, followed by Andrew in 3rd, and Jasmine in 3rd.  
 Seniors: Conar secured 1st, with Miles in 2nd and Ruby in 3rd.

Congratulations to all participants for their outstanding performances, showcasing determination and skill throughout the competition, even in challenging weather conditions. A heartfelt thank you to the 10 schools that supported the event and all volunteers whose efforts made this day possible.



## SP ENERGY NETWORKS DEVELOPMENT DAY WEDNESDAY 15TH MAY (SCOTSTOUN).



**ARTICLE BY DAVID HARVEY**

The Academy entered three teams into this, at U13 girls and U13 / U14 boys. All of the Academy teams played against Alva Academy, Clydebank High, Eastwood High, and our local derby friends Douglas Ewart respectively.

The day got off to a challenging start, when Marion, a stalwart of the girl's team sustained a significant injury. It is testament to Marion how brave she was, in the face of adversity at the time and since then. Marion is well on the road to recovery and will come back even stronger and better in the future. The U13 girls coached by David Irvine, showed massive bravery, pride, and team spirit in the way they played, especially after what happened to Marion. It would have been more than understandable if the girls had 'played it safe', but this just isn't the Shire way and they went into every game determined to represent themselves and Marion in a disciplined manner.

The girls won all 4 of their games, showing how far they have come individually, collectively and under the guidance of David. They played their hearts out in defence and attack, communicating with each other, tackling everything that moved, turning over ball, supporting each other and scoring some great try's in the process. Impressive stuff ladies.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



## SP ENERGY NETWORKS DEVELOPMENT DAY WEDNESDAY 15TH MAY (SCOTSTOUN).

ARTICLE BY DAVID HARVEY

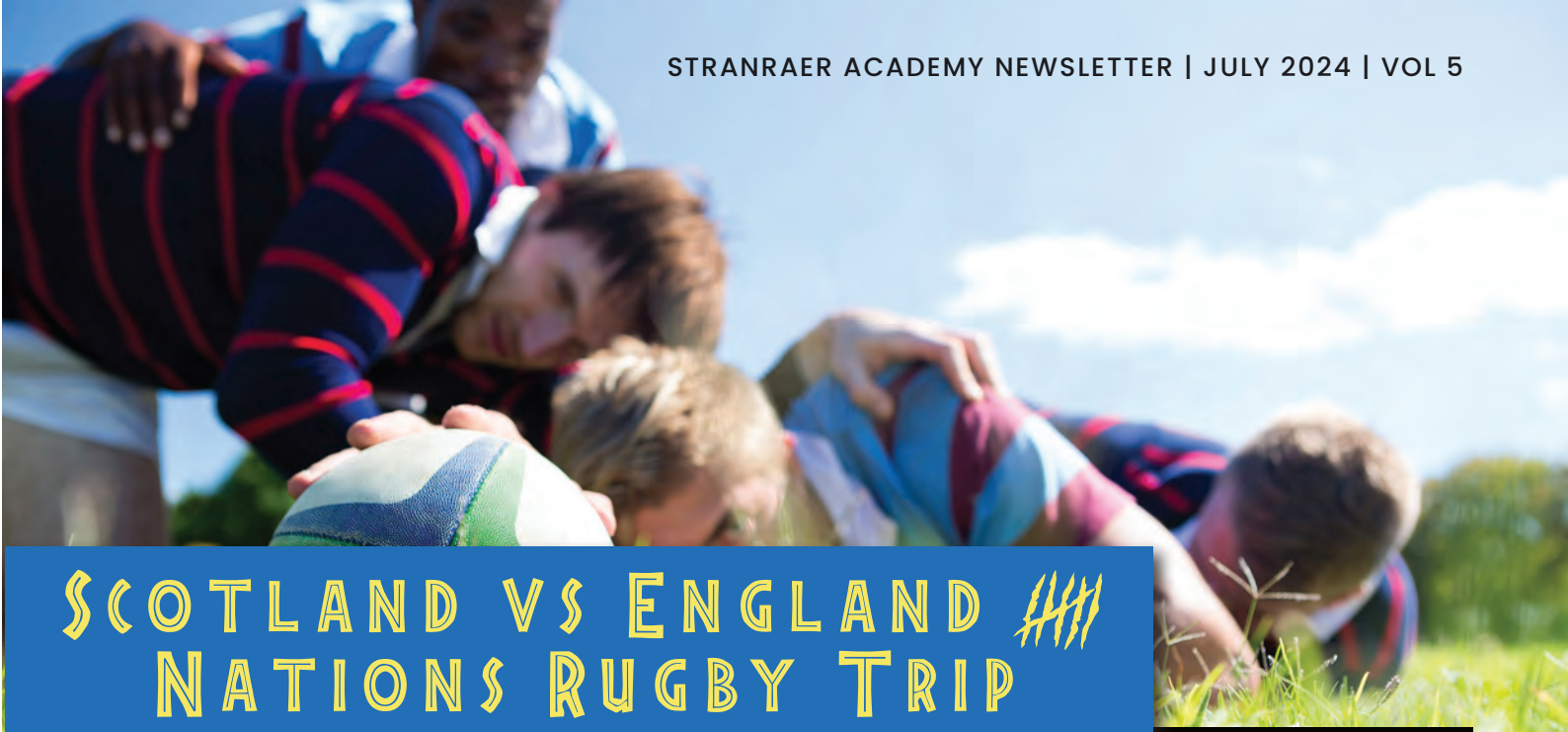
CONTINUED



The U13 boys must have sensed something in the air, as they too took to their assignment with gusto. With DO Neve chaperoning Marion, the boys self-managed their squad, rotating when necessary and all showing a maturity beyond their years. The collective team spirit in defence was impressive, but what was even more impressive was how defence was turned into attack at every opportunity, stunning their opponents with some top drawer tries. The U13 boys won 3 with one dubious draw, consolidating them as one of the best teams on the day in their age category.

Last but not least were the U14 boys. Under the tutelage of Gordon Keith, they won 3 and narrowly lost 1. In the first game they were up against arguably the best team on the day, and if it hadn't been for a bit of hesitancy they could have won. A slow start was punished by the opposition and by the time the boys got on the scoreboard, it was too late due to the time restraints of each game. A steely determination and resilience, saw the boys far more proactive in defence and attack in the three games which followed. Support play and moving the point of attack from narrow to wide, allowed the boys to use their balance of big ball carriers to suck the defence in, creating space out-wide for the speedsters. What was pleasing, was the positivity and team spirit which enabled the defence to hold out under sustained pressure at times. Great effort gentlemen!

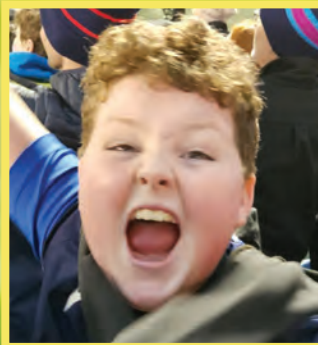




# SCOTLAND VS ENGLAND NATIONS RUGBY TRIP

**ARTICLE BY CAMMY DONNELLY S3**

On Saturday 24th of February, 20 pupils and staff left the school at about 10.15am to go to Murrayfield, Edinburgh. We stopped off at Monkton to get some snacks, and then again at Harthill in West Lothian for a toilet break. The traffic was mild and we reached Edinburgh in good time. Thanks to Mrs Gibb, we parked right outside the stadium. Pupils were then given about 1 hour and 30 minutes to wander, go to the Macron shop, get some food or even watch the players come in to the ground! I loved the pipe band leading them in and it was exciting to see them close-up as they got off the team bus. Then it was time for kick-off! The first 20 minutes weren't great but the rest of the game was brilliant! Van Der Merwe scored 3 tries and Finn Russell converted all of them, and he also scored 3 penalties! The game ended a fantastic 30-21 to Scotland, and we all left the stadium in great spirits – apart from Boots, whose beloved England didn't give him the birthday present he hoped for! On the way home we stopped at McDonalds in Heartlands, and met up with pupils from other schools, also delighted with the result. Everyone was tired on the way home but had a wonderful day, and we can't wait until the Autumn Internationals for more of the same, hopefully!



# ISSIE LAMBERTON

## RISING STAR OF HIGHLAND DANCING

Over the past five months, Issie Lamberton has stormed through the Highland Dancing circuit, demonstrating exceptional growth and determination. Beginning her journey in the Intermediate level earlier this year, Issie's rise has been punctuated by a series of impressive victories that have propelled her into the esteemed Premier category, where she now competes alongside top-tier dancers.

Her move to Premier wasn't merely about seeking recognition; it represented a bold step towards personal development. Issie's commitment to excellence was evident from the outset, having clinched an astonishing eight consecutive Overall Winner Trophies at the Intermediate level. Encouraged by her success, she approached her dance teacher, Mrs. Bowie, expressing her desire to challenge herself further in the Premier division. "I am prepared to face challenges and not always win to push myself to improve," Issie courageously affirmed.

Recognising her potential, Mrs. Bowie agreed that the time was right for Issie to progress. Since then, Issie has embraced the challenge of competing against Champion dancers in the Premier category. Her journey has been nothing short of remarkable, marked by standout performances across various competitions.

In her Premier debut, Issie has already amassed an impressive track record: 7 first-place finishes, 7 second-place finishes, 18 third-place finishes, 12 fourth-place finishes, 11 fifth-place finishes, and 18 sixth-place finishes. These achievements underscore not only her technical skill but also her resilience in a highly compet-

itive environment where securing top placings is no small feat.

Adding to her growing collection of accolades, Issie has claimed significant trophies such as 2nd place, 3rd overall, and 5th overall. However, her crowning achievement came during the weekend of May 18th and 19th, when she secured her first Overall Premier Trophy. This milestone solidified her status as a Champion, placing 6th Overall in the Championship lineup.

In a recent triumph at the Strathclyde Pre-championships, only her second attempt in this category, Issie once again demonstrated her prowess by claiming the Pre-championship Title. She swept both sets with straight 1sts, showcasing her exceptional talent and unwavering dedication.

Beyond her achievements on the dance floor, Issie is preparing to embark on a new chapter as a teacher. Alongside her rigorous dance exams in Highland, Scottish National, Jig, Hornpipe, Tap, Modern, and Acrobatics, she is also setting theory exams as part of her journey towards becoming a Highland Dance Teacher—an aspiration fuelled by her profound passion for the art form.

Looking ahead, Issie's journey will take her to the pinnacle of Highland Dancing: the World Championships at the Cowal Highland Gathering in Dunoon this August. Her dedication, perseverance, and remarkable achievements continue to shine brightly, not only representing the Wallace School of Dancing but also inspiring her local community in Stranraer.

Congratulations, Issie, on your remarkable journey so far—we eagerly anticipate your continued success on the world stage!





# SWINGING

# SUCCESS

Stranraer Academy's annual school golf championships teed off at Stranraer Golf Club on May 31st, attracting a talented field of 13 pupils eager to showcase their golfing prowess. The event was a testament to both skill and sportsmanship, with participants navigating the challenging course with determination and precision. Amidst the competition, S5 student Murray Ramsay stood out, claiming victory with an impressive score of 78 scratch. His achievement not only highlighted his dedication to the sport but also inspired his peers, reflecting the vibrant sports culture at Stranraer Academy.

Congratulations are extended to Murray Ramsay and all participants for their outstanding performance and commitment to excellence on the greens. The championships not only celebrated individual achievement but also fostered camaraderie and a passion for golf among the school community.





# HOME ECONOMICS

Some of our S3 Home Economics pupils and senior Food Manufacture pupils were involved in a Sustainability workshop, run by Abi Modrin from Propagate.

They were introduced to the idea of building a sustainable future and the role that our food choices play on supporting the environment.



## JURASSIC DISCOVERIES DINOSAURS IN SCOTLAND

**Public Interest:** Dinosaur discoveries in Scotland have sparked public interest and are featured in museums and educational programmes. These fossils engage the public and foster interest in palaeontology.

**Ongoing Research:** Palaeontologists continue to explore Scotland's geological formations to uncover new dinosaur fossils and footprint sites. These ongoing efforts expand our knowledge of Scotland's dinosaur heritage.

**Middle Jurassic Significance:** The Isle of Skye is particularly important for its Middle Jurassic fossils, a period that is less well-represented globally. This makes the discoveries here particularly valuable for understanding this specific time in dinosaur evolution.

**Marine Reptiles:** In addition to dinosaurs, Scotland has also yielded fossils of ancient marine reptiles like ichthyosaurs and plesiosaurs, adding to the region's rich palaeontological diversity.

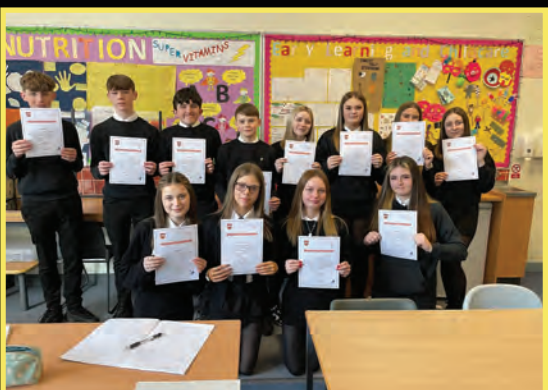


# HOME ECONOMICS

S3 pupils in Home Economics worked hard to complete their Elementary Food and Health course and received a certificate from The Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland. Each pupil was awarded credits at SCQF Level 5.

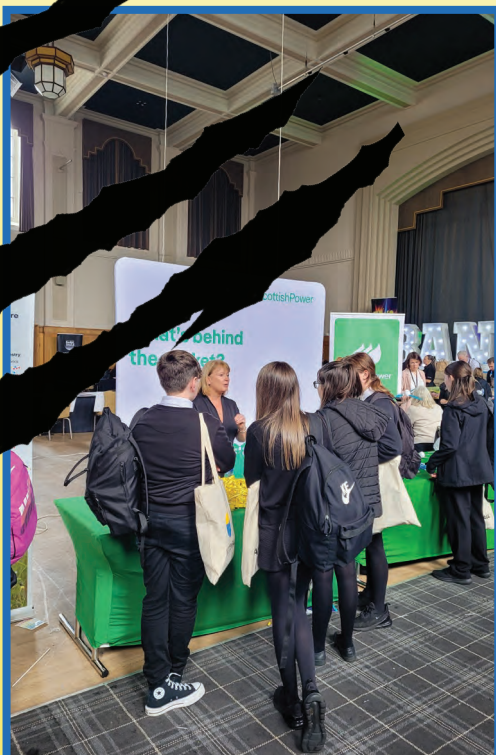
Ryan McCutcheon was invited along to the Home Economics department and gave the S3 pupils within Home Economics a demonstration using seasonal ingredients and taught the pupils how to layer flavours when making a dish.

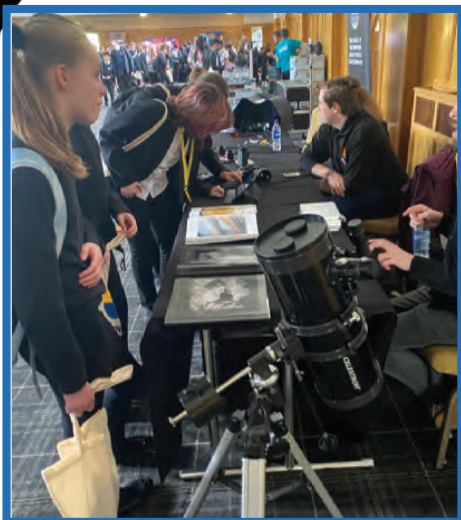
Ryan has over 16 years of extensive experience in the hospitality industry, Ryan has cultivated his skills through roles in Scotland's leading 5-star hotels and as a head chef for Albert Roux OBE. This was a valuable experience for our pupils. We hope to continue working with Ryan in the future.



# BANG GOES D&G! 2024

The event was aimed at informing young people what science, technology, engineering, maths (STEM) are, and how they are involved in numerous employment sectors and the employment opportunities available in D&G. S2 young people had the opportunity to visit and interact with the numerous stall contributors at the event.





# BANG GOES DGG! 2024



# PUPIL LEADERSHIP



**HEAD GIRL VIOLET RAPHAEL**

**H**aving been part of the Pupil Leadership Team last year, as a team we introduced a number of new initiatives, most notably was the house competitions. There was a wide range of competitions available for pupils to get involved in such as sports, behavioural, educational and art contests (I am sure you will agree our football tournament was a hit). This was to encourage all students to get involved and proudly represent their house. On top of this, at Christmas time we worked hard to encourage both pupils and staff to bring donations for the Apex Foodbank.



**HEAD BOY INNES JACK**

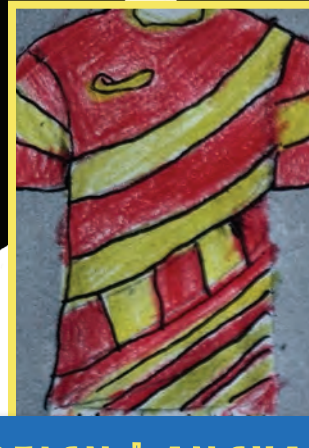
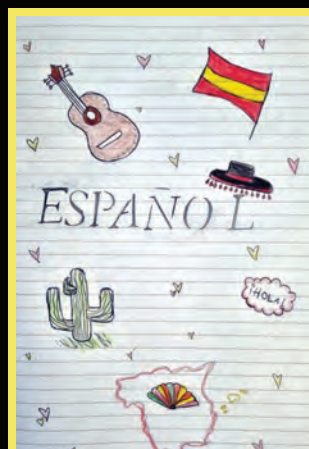
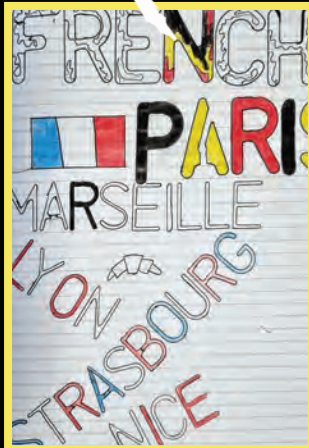
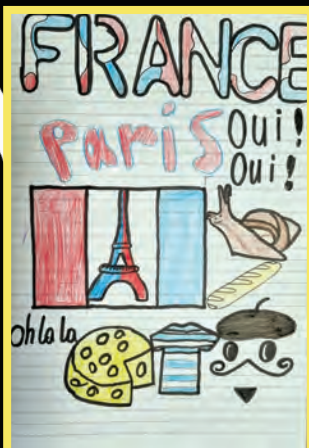
**A**s your new Head Girl and Head Boy we are really looking forward to the year ahead and to working alongside the new Pupil Leadership Team. We hope to take forward some exciting new ideas and to make our final year at Stranraer Academy one to remember. We would like to wish you all a fantastic summer holiday and the best of luck to those awaiting exam results. See you all next term!!!- Violet & Innes



# MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

**O**ur S3 French and Spanish students have created introductory pages to French and Spanish, enhanced by an engaging Euros 2024 project. They designed football kits for their chosen teams and described them in detail using their new language skills. This creative activity allowed students to practise vocabulary related to colours and clothing while building confidence in speaking and writing. By integrating real-world events and creative tasks, we aim to make language learning an engaging and enriching experience.





MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

# TRANSITION





# P7 TRANSITION

## A WARM WELCOME AND EXCITING EXPERIENCES



**From the 17th to the 20th of June 2024, Stranraer Academy opened its doors to P7 pupils for an immersive three-day visit. This initiative aimed to give future students a taste of secondary school life, allowing them to experience a wide variety of the curriculum and follow their timetables. The visit provided an invaluable opportunity for the pupils to navigate the school building, understand the daily schedule, and get a feel for the vibrant school community.**

**Throughout the visit, the P7 pupils conducted themselves exceptionally well. By the third day, they had begun to find their way around the school with confidence, familiarising themselves with the layout and routines. The staff were impressed with their enthusiasm and adaptability, and it was clear that the pupils were eager to embrace their new learning environment.**

**One of the highlights of the visit was the disco held on Thursday, 19th June. The assembly hall was transformed into a lively dance floor where the P7s enjoyed an evening of fun, music, and socialising. This event was not only a chance for them to let loose and enjoy themselves but also an opportunity to build new friendships and boost their confidence as they prepare to transition to secondary school.**

**Looking ahead, we are excited to welcome these bright and enthusiastic pupils back in August. Their successful visit has set a positive tone for the upcoming school year, and we are confident they will continue to thrive and grow at Stranraer Academy.**

**Thank you to everyone who contributed to making the P7 visit a success. We look forward to continuing this journey with our new students and ensuring they have a fantastic start at Stranraer Academy.**

PHOTO DISCO



PHOTO DISCO

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ARCHIE McCUBBIN

# HUNT THE RAPTOR

Did you locate all the velociraptors, or are you ready to call off the hunt? Give yourself credit, one is right below. If you're struggling to find the last few, acknowledge she is a clever girl and check out the answers below.

*Page 7: The first raptor is obviously on the hunt on the raptor page.*

*Page 8: The next two can be found with our head raptor trainer, Mr. Farquhar.*

*Page 25: Look for the next one in the creative arts section, on the visiting artists page.*

*Page 28: Two more are with Mr. Cameron. Remember, unhatched eggs don't count!*

*Page 35: One can be found with the two young people competing in robot wars.*

*Page 57: This tricky one is hiding next to a woman's legs as Mr. Farquhar gives a speech.*

*Page 75: This one is staring right at you through the door window.*

*Page 85: Two are attacking on the running track.*

*Page 88: Another is on the running track with two young runners.*

*Page 94: Behind a bench outside of McDonald's.*

*Page 97: In the kitchen as Violet Raphael fears for her life.*

*Page 98: In the kitchen again, looking at its prey.*

*Page 98: On the same page as the previous, behind the chef's table.*

*Page 99: Next to the girl in the VR helmet.*

*Page 100: Behind the Royal Air Force desk.*

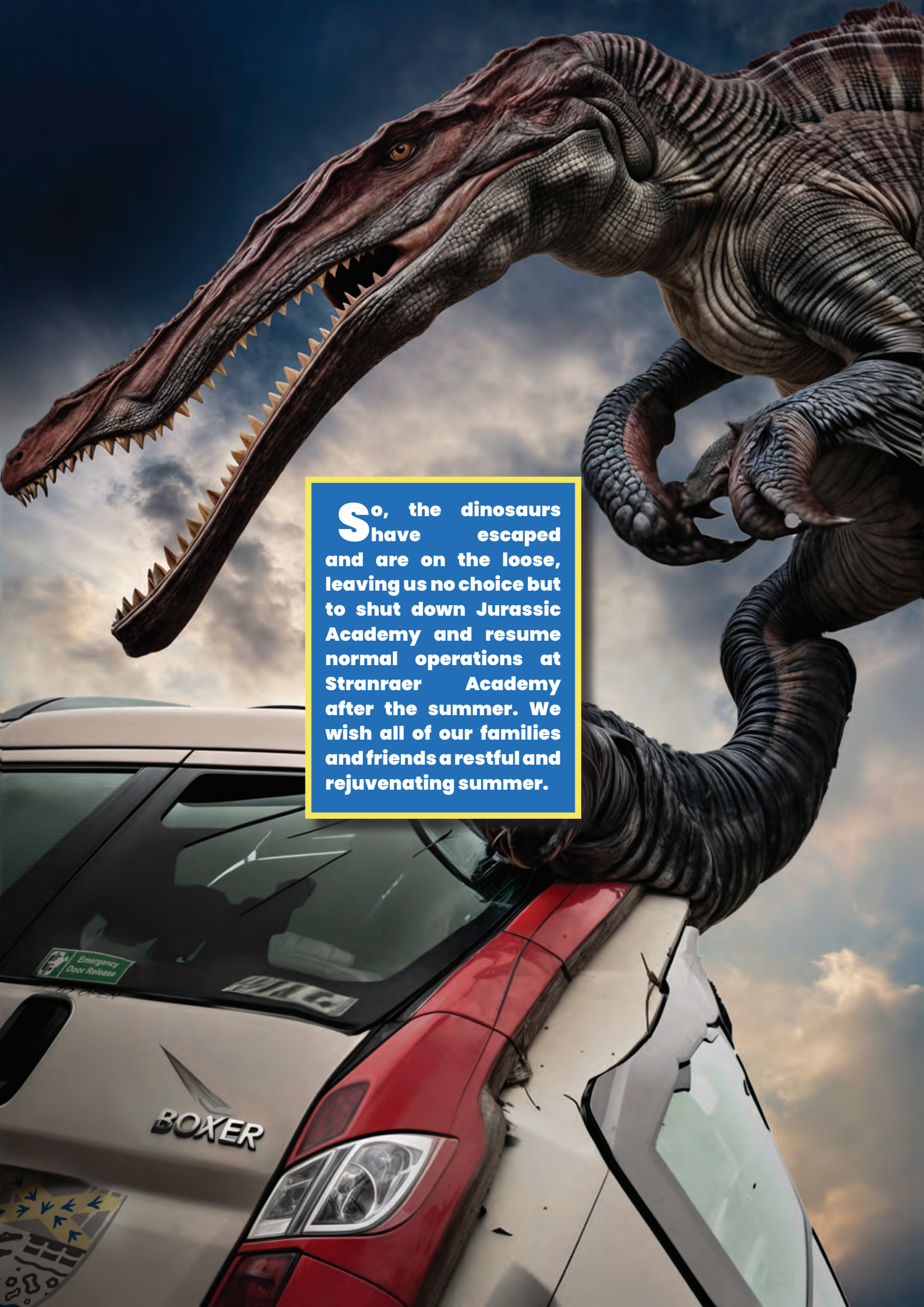
*Page 102: Attacking Archie McCubbin.*

*Page 104: In the P7 classroom.*

*Page 106: Behind the two girls next to the fire extinguisher.*

*Page 107: You're looking right at her!*



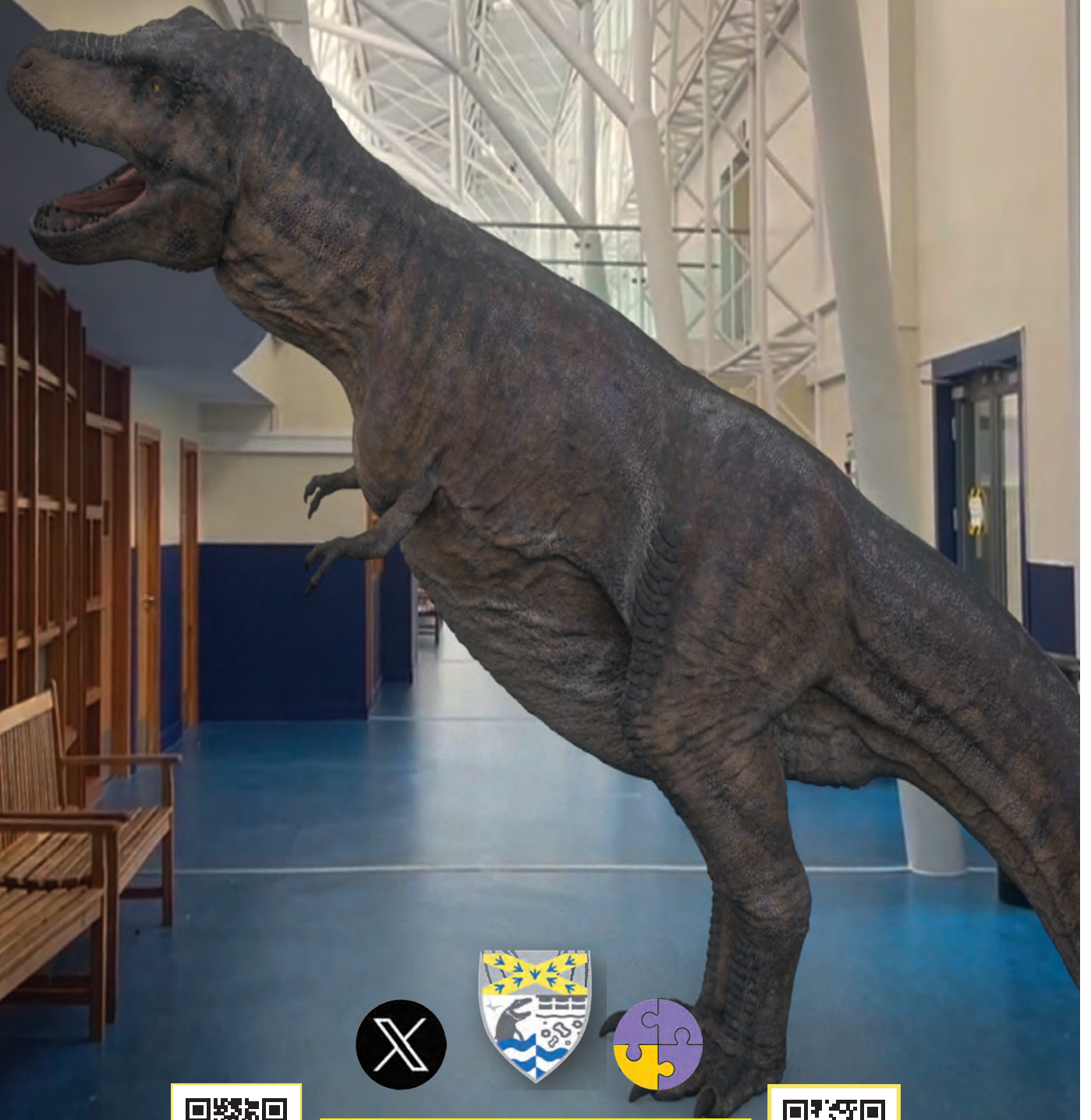


**S**o, the dinosaurs have escaped and are on the loose, leaving us no choice but to shut down Jurassic Academy and resume normal operations at Stranraer Academy after the summer. We wish all of our families and friends a restful and rejuvenating summer.



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CREATED & EDITED BY ROSS JAMES**

WHEN DINOSAURS RULED STRANRAE



[www.stranraeracademy.org](http://www.stranraeracademy.org)

