

S T R A N R A E R

ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER



WINTER 2024

WWW.STRANRAERACADEMY.ORG

Content



P — 03
Headteacher

P — 21
Creative Arts

P — 35
Student Leadership

P — 42
Charity

P — 04
Languages

P — 28
Developing the Young Workforce

P — 37
Social Subjects

P — 43
Science

P — 09
Healthy Living

P — 30
Maths and Business Education

P — 41
AIRD



Jamie Farquhar

Headteacher

Dear Parent / Carer

I am delighted to welcome you to our Christmas Newsletter. I hope you enjoy looking out for your own children as you explore the opportunities and successes of Stranraer Academy pupils.

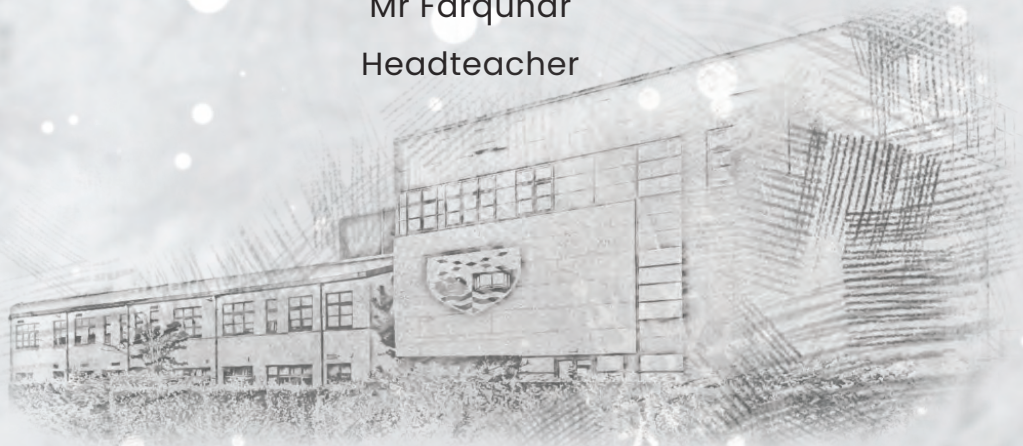
I am grateful to everyone involved in providing the challenge and joy captured within this newsletter. This includes the teachers, school staff and local clubs who offer their time to organise, supervise and energise our pupils; our parents for their support in coordinating transport and reminding pupils to bring the right equipment and most of all, our pupils themselves for having the courage to get involved and represent the school and for doing it so well.

A particular thank you to Mr James for compiling this Newsletter.

Wishing all our families and the entire Stranraer and Rhins community the most wonderful Christmas and a very happy and successful New Year.

Mr Farquhar

Headteacher



CREATIVE FUTURES: A WORKSHOP WITH WONDERFOOLS

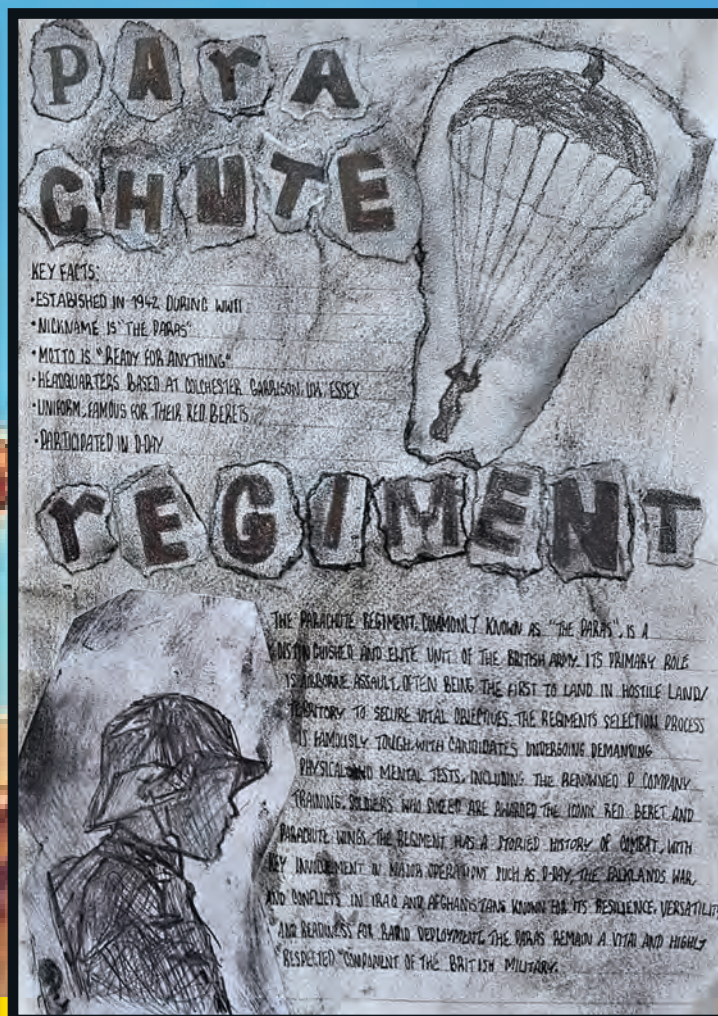
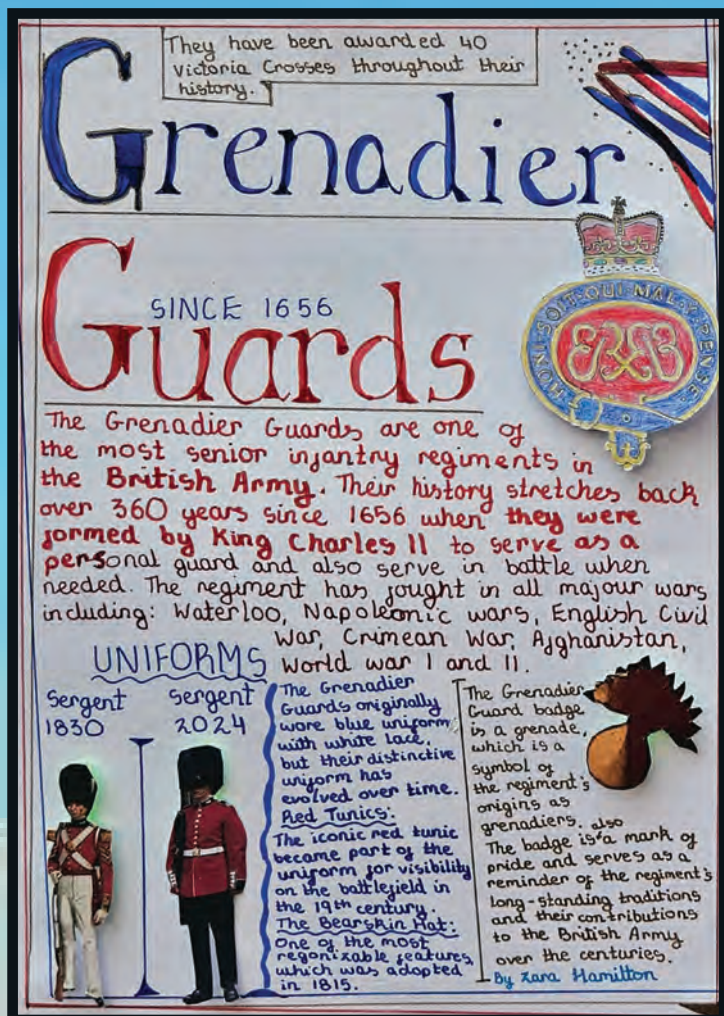
This term the English department arranged for an enthusiastic group of S5 & S6 pupils to take part in a lively, creative workshop run by Wonderfools, a Glasgow based theatre company. The workshop was lead by director Jack Nurse who introduced our students to the wide variety of roles and skills within the creative arts industry. At the end of the workshop there was an opportunity for interested students to apply for an apprenticeship.

In spring 2025, WonderFools will be staging a gripping new theatre show, *The Kelton Hill Fair*, at Castle Douglas Town Hall in partnership with D&G Arts Live. Following the workshops there will be a public callout for young people in Dumfries and Galloway to gain paid work experience through employment on the production

“The workshop inspired students to explore creative arts and future opportunities.”

**WONDER
FOOLS**

UNIQUE PERSPECTIVES: ZARA HAMILTON AND EVAN BLANN'S SHADOW-INSPIRED POSTERS



Showcasing pupil work. S1 pupils Zara Hamilton and Evan Blann produced these posters after reading Michael Morpurgo's 'Shadow'. The task was to research the British Armed Forces. Whilst very different in presentation and composition, the pupils demonstrated their own unique style in these exceptional posters.

Shadow by Michael Morpurgo is a powerful story of friendship, hope, and survival. It follows Aman, a young Afghan boy, and his loyal dog, Shadow, as they escape war-torn Afghanistan and seek safety in England. With the help of his best friend Matt, Aman fights to stay in the country, highlighting the struggles and resilience of refugees.

“

“Whilst very different in presentation and composition, the pupils demonstrated their own unique style in these exceptional posters.”

EXPLORING GOVERNANCE

LEARNING THROUGH EXPERIENCE

The Overall Experience and the Positive Outcome of the Parliament Trip: 2024

By Joshua G. Westbrook – a nerdy guy



“It wasn’t just an educational trip; it was a cultural and political experience, witnessing the splendours of Edinburgh and the place of governance—something truly awe-inspiring to see and personally witness.”

TRIP RUN-THROUGH

4. WELCOME AND TOUR

After the security check, we collected our belongings and made our way to the main reception area. The staff warmly welcomed us, provided visitor passes, and gave a brief introduction about the Parliament, the purpose of our trip, and the day’s schedule. This was followed by a satisfying tour of the debating chamber and other areas.

5. FIRST WORKSHOP (09:45–10:45)

The first workshop focused on how parliamentary staff record, edit, and publish MSPs’ speeches online in proper English. We also had the chance to reword and reorganize sentences and famous poems.

6. SHORT BREAK

After the workshop, we had a short break. Some of us explored the reception area to learn about the history of the Parliament, while others popped to the loo or visited the gift shop to buy souvenirs.

7. SECOND WORKSHOP (11:30–12:30)

The second workshop taught us about the creation, discussion, and implementation of legislation and bills. We analysed an Act to identify its positives and negatives and discussed potential improvements. This was followed by a fun illustrative task where one person described an image for someone else to draw without seeing it.

8. LUNCH BREAK

For lunch, we enjoyed delicious sandwiches with a selection of apples, oranges, tea, and coffee. During this break, many of us took photographs and selfies to capture memories of the day.

CONT. ON NEXT PAGE

1. EARLY MORNING DEPARTURE

Seven students and Miss Gibb arrived at the academy around 06:15 in the morning.

2. JOURNEY BEGINS

We set off at approximately 06:30, driving from Stranraer. Around 07:30, we stopped at a public service area between Ayr and Dumfries, where we bought delicious confectionaries before continuing our merry way to Edinburgh.

3. ARRIVAL IN EDINBURGH

We arrived in Edinburgh at around 08:40 and parked in the Heriot-Watt car park. We then waited for the 310 bus, which took us to Holyrood.

EXPLORING THE PARLIAMENT

Myself, Sophie, and Miss Gibb went back to the debating chamber for a closer look, while others explored the building and socialized in a fun yet respectful manner.

FINAL WORKSHOP (14:30–15:30)

The last workshop focused on improving English skills, particularly how editors make speeches, reports, and information sound clearer and more organized. We worked in groups to rephrase and refine texts using specific techniques.

END OF THE VISIT

After the final workshop, we took a group photo outside and met Sophie's brother, Stanley McCall. We then visited a royal-themed gift shop across the road and admired the magnificence of Holyrood Palace.

RETURN JOURNEY

At 15:10, we caught the bus back to Heriot-Watt car park. On the way, we enjoyed the beautiful sights of Edinburgh, including its impressive schools and cityscape.

DINNER STOP

Around 17:30, we got into the school van and stopped at Kentucky Fried Chicken and McDonald's for dinner. We indulged in tasty food while reflecting on our eventful and fascinating day.

HOMeward BOUND

After dinner, we set off for Stranraer Academy. Many of us dozed off on the journey, while others chatted about the highlights of the trip. We arrived back at the academy around 20:00, where we said our goodbyes to Miss Gibb and each other.



REFLECTIONS: PURPOSE OF THE TRIP AND WHY YOU SHOULD GO

The overall trip was both informative and creative. The workshops were engaging and hands-on, encouraging us to be proactive and focused throughout the day. They deepened our understanding of the parliamentary system and highlighted the significant roles of the staff.

In addition to learning about governance, the trip also helped us develop our English and RUAE (Reading for Understanding, Analysis, and Evaluation) skills. It was not just an educational experience but also a cultural and political one, as we got to witness the beauty of Edinburgh and its landmarks. Stranraer Academy, Miss Gibb, and the team did an excellent job organising this inspiring trip. I would highly recommend it to anyone interested in English, social subjects, or politics. It's a unique and memorable experience that will benefit both your education and future prospects.



STRANRAER ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TRIP

SIGHTS: The Scottish Parliament, Holyrood Palace, and Edinburgh city views.

WORKSHOPS: Learning about editing speeches, analyzing legislation, and improving English skills.

BACK ON TRACK

MOUNTAIN BIKE UPGRADES FOR PE

PE DEPARTMENT CYCLING

The PE Department were recently able to obtain funding to refresh and repair our existing mountain bikes for use in Core PE classes. 4 brand new Merida mountain bikes were also added to the fleet. New safety and security equipment such as helmets and a lock were also supplied. Additionally, the AIRD tricycles are also scheduled for repair and maintenance as part of this funding.

Our pupils are looking forward to getting onto the saddle once we get some better weather!

The PE Department would like to thank Hamish Buchanan of Kirkcowan Cycles for all of his help and assistance in getting our school bikes back up and running!



SPORTS HUB

RESULTS, HIGHLIGHTS, AND NEWS

STRANRAER GIRLS SHOW SPIRIT IN TOUGH GREENWOOD CLASH

GREENWOOD ACADEMY 4 - 0 STRANRAER ACADEMY

A depleted squad of 10 Stranraer Academy Senior Girls travelled to Irvine to take on Greenwood Academy on Tuesday 29th October. Being a player down and up against it from the start, the Stranraer Girls played the game with confidence and good organisation, to try and nick a result and cause an upset by soaking up attacks and transition quickly to hit on the counter. The girls put in a spirited performance but Greenwood proved to be too strong and commanded a 3-0 lead by half-time, making effective use of their extra player in attack. The second half saw Stranraer regroup and fight back but Greenwood scored their final goal after having the ability to bring on fresh substitutes to apply pressure to the tiring Stranraer girls. It was always going to be tough away trip to Greenwood but under the circumstances, the girls should be very proud of their hard-fought, determined performance. Well done girls!

Squad: Tegan Fox, Chloe Francis, Laila Brawls, Rhianna Bodle, Carly McClorey, Neve Maxwell, Sophie Copeland, Chloe Wither, Aliyah White, Jenny McCulloch.



ARTICLES BY MARK SHANNON



ROBERT BURNS ACADEMY 1 - 5 STRANRAER ACADEMY

Well done to Stranraer Academy U18's who won their first Scottish Cup match against Robert Burns Academy in Ayrshire. The hosts are a relatively new "super school" with a roll of 1650 pupils, which replaced Cumnock Academy and Auchinleck Academy.

Stranraer were up 1-0 not long after kick off thanks to team Captain Jake McColm fizzing a header past a helpless goalkeeper. RBA grew into the game and eventually brought the score level after a bit of good luck saw a fast counter attack pile pressure on the Stranraer defence. Hayden Baisbrown went close with a powerful shot, which was miraculously saved by the RBA goalkeeper. The game was locked at 1-1 and a formation change from Stranraer brought about some solidity and a growing confidence. Stranraer scored their second when Finlay Brown pounced on a mistake from the RBA defence. Brown, an ever-present menace on the left wing, then turned provider with some clever footwork to cross an enticing ball to Rowan Harbottle, who made no mistake from 6 yards to score the 3rd. With Stranraer pressing forward and asserting dominance, Zac McCutcheon was unceremoniously bundled over in the box after beating what seemed like 4 RBA players in a row with incredible skill. The referee instantly pointed to the penalty spot, and McCutcheon hammered home his penalty with ease to go 4-1 up. With RBA falling to pieces and sensing defeat, the ball once again fell to Man of the Match Finlay Brown, who weaved his way into the box, pulling defenders all over the place before calmly slotting home the final goal of the match to make it 5-1. Overall, this was a determined performance from Stranraer with a notable mention going to S4 pupil Jake McColm who had a commanding display of defensive dominance, considering he is playing 2 age groups up. Well done to all boys involved!

On Thursday 31st October, the Senior boys football team travelled to Girvan Academy for their first round match of the Scottish Cup. Having beaten Robert Burns Academy in the Preliminary round a few weeks ago, Stranraer were again tasked with a tough away fixture to "local" rivals, Girvan.

The match started off with Stranraer firmly in control, resulting in many chances being created and Girvan posing little threat. A few good saves from the Girvan goalkeeper initially kept Stranraer at bay. However, before long Stranraer opened the scoring and started to break Girvan down, leading the match 4-0 at half time.

The second half saw Girvan become increasingly frustrated due to their lack of possession and inability to match Stranraer man-for-man. This left the hosts with no option but to try and disrupt Stranraer's flow to the game with persistent fouling. Girvan snuck a goal after some tetchy moments on the pitch, taking advantage of the only lapse in concentration from the Stranraer side. In spite of this, Stranraer kept their nerve, outmatched their opponents physically and every other aspect of the game to start piling on pressure, toting up an impressive number of goals to finish the match 10-1, which included a hat trick for the ever-impressive

Player of the Match: Zac McCutcheon.

“

Stranraer kept their nerve, outmatched their opponents physically and every other aspect of the game to start piling on pressure, toting up an impressive number of goals to finish the match 10-1.”



MAKING A SPLASH

STRANRAER SWIMMERS SHINE AT REGIONAL QUALIFIER

SCOTTISH SCHOOLS REGIONAL QUALIFYING

On Thursday 14th November 2024, swimmers from Stranraer Academy attended the D&G Schools Championship Qualifier. Some of our swimmers set fantastic new Regional Records (RR) and the medal placings are as follows:

Sophie Hardie: Silver 100m Back, Silver 100m Free
 Andrew Hannah: Gold 100m Back, Bronze 200m IM, Silver 100m Fly
 Abbi Gratton: Silver 50m Free, Bronze 50m Back, Gold 50m Fly
 Millie Colvin: Gold 200m Fly (RR), Gold 100m Free, Gold 100m Fly
 Emma Barrowman: Silver 200m Fly, Silver 100m Fly, Gold 200m Breast
 Alexandra Nastjuks: Bronze 100m Back
 Molly Irvine-Watson: Gold 100m Breast, Gold 100m Free (RR), Silver 200m Free
 Sofie McCutcheon: Gold 100m Breast, Bronze 100m Free
 Mirren Gibb: Silver 100m Breast
 Laura Donnan: Bronze 100m Breast, Bronze 200m Free
 George Zbeigniewski: Gold 100m Breast (RR), Gold 200m IM, Silver 400m IM, Gold 100m Fly
 Ben Hemmings: Silver 200m Back
 Eleanor Morrison: Silver 100m Fly
 Abbie McGeachie: Silver 200m Free
 Emily Cooper: Bronze 200m Breast, 200m Free

The following swimmers have achieved consideration times for the National Finals in January and we await confirmation of their qualifying status.

Emma Barrowman: 200m Fly, 100m Fly
 Millie Colvin: 200m Fly, 100m Fly, 100m Free
 Molly Irvine-Watson: 100m Breast, 100m Free, 200m Free
 George Zbeigniewski: 100m Breast, 200m IM, 100m Fly
 Abbi Gratton: 50m Free, 50m Back, 50m Breast, 50m Fly
 Ben Hemmings: 200m Back

Well done to all swimmers involved and a special thanks to Eli and Linda of Stranraer Stingrays Swimming Club for their continued help, support and assistance with the annual organisation and running of this event.



Hard Work Pays Off: S1 Girls' Netball Debut

SI GIRLS COMPETE IN NETBALL SEASON OPENER

On Friday, 11th October, the S1 girls travelled to Dumfries to compete in the Netball Season Opener. It was a fantastic experience for the team to take part and play against schools from across the district.

The girls worked incredibly hard on the court, showing determination and teamwork, with plenty of positives to take away from the day. Their efforts paid off as they finished in 4th place—a brilliant achievement, especially as it was their first tournament as a team.

A special mention goes to Katie Gill, who was named Player of the Day (missing from the photo).

Well done, girls! A super effort and a great start to the season!



TEAM SPIRIT AND TALENT

S1 GIRLS EXCEL AT ANNUAL NETBALL FESTIVAL

On Thursday, 3rd October, the S1 girls travelled to Dumfries to compete in the annual netball festival. The team worked incredibly hard in their matches, securing 3rd place in the Bowl competition—a fantastic achievement!

Despite being unable to play due to injury, Jeni joined the team as chief scorekeeper, providing valuable support from the sidelines.

Player of the Day: Ruby Rankin

Special Mentions: Hollie Smith, who was voted both Players' Player of the Day and Overall Player of the Day, earning Player of the Match from every team the girls played against.

Brilliant effort, girls—you should all be so proud of yourselves!



RAIN OR SHINE STRANRAER TEAMS EXCEL AT NETBALL FESTIVAL

SENIOR NETBALL FESTIVAL: STRANRAER TEAMS SHINE

ON MONDAY, 30TH SEPTEMBER, 18 PUPILS TRAVELLED TO DUMFRIES TO TAKE PART IN THE SENIOR NETBALL FESTIVAL. DESPITE A FEW RAIN SHOWERS, THE GIRLS HAD A FANTASTIC DAY, SHOWCASING GREAT NETBALL SKILLS AND TEAMWORK THROUGHOUT THE COMPETITION.

STRANRAER A
THE A TEAM PLAYED BRILLIANTLY AND SECURED 2ND PLACE IN THE PLATE COMPETITION.

PLAYER OF THE DAY: RHIANNA BODLE
PLAYERS' PLAYER OF THE DAY: MIRREN GIBB

STRANRAER B
THE B TEAM ALSO PERFORMED EXCEPTIONALLY WELL, WITH INDIVIDUAL PLAYERS STANDING OUT FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS.

PLAYER OF THE DAY: GEORGINA LANE
PLAYERS' PLAYER OF THE DAY: CHLOE IRONS
SUPER EFFORT FROM ALL THE GIRLS WHO PARTICIPATED—WELL DONE TO EVERYONE INVOLVED!



A NEW LOOK FOR OUR PLAYERS

NETBALL HOODIES: A NEW ADDITION FOR OUR PLAYERS

THIS YEAR, PUPILS WHO ATTEND NETBALL TRAINING WERE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE A NETBALL HOODIE. THE PURCHASE WAS COMPLETELY VOLUNTARY, ALLOWING PUPILS TO CHOOSE WHETHER TO TAKE PART. THE HOODIES ARE ROYAL BLUE, FEATURING THE STRANRAER CREST ON THE FRONT AND A LOGO ON THE BACK. PERSONALISATION WITH A NAME WAS ALSO AVAILABLE AS AN OPTION.

A BIG THANK YOU TO SUPERLOGO FOR THEIR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE IN DELIVERING THE HOODIES TO THE SCHOOL BEFORE THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

THE GIRLS ARE THRILLED WITH THEIR NEW HOODIES AND ARE EXCITED TO WEAR THEM PROUDLY AT FESTIVALS AND LEAGUE GAMES.

SAILING INTO SAFETY AT LOCH KEN

Loch Ken Water safety event October 2024

GT3 & GT4 attended a water safety event organised and delivered by The Loch Ken Trust at the Galloway Activity centre.

Pupils listened to a talk and demonstration about water safety. They learned about what to do to avoid getting in to difficulty around water and how to help others. After the talk, everyone was kitted out to take part in an introduction to paddle boarding.

We were fortunate to have a wonderful sunny warm October day, which made all the more enjoyable for everyone.





SILVER SUCCESS FOR NATHAN McKIE

Scottish Disability Sport National
Swimming Championships – November
2024

Three Stranraer Academy students represented the region at the event held at the Michael Woods Leisure Centre in Glenrothes. Damon McHarrie, Conor Ogston, and Nathan McKie all swam their absolute best performances against some tough competition. Nathan achieved a silver medal in the 50m backstroke.



DESIGNING CHRISTMAS JOY

ELC'S FESTIVE GAMES



The Senior ELC class were given the task of designing and making a Christmas game that could be played at the 'Christmas Fayre'. This is part of the pupils assessment. Jena Taylor and Anna Sisi made Snowman Bowling. Rhianna McQuillan, Murrion Stewart, Ashlyn Rice and Chloe Wither made Pin the nose on Rudolph and Ana Young, Demi Thomson, Bethany Greenhill and Georgia Tunnock made throw the beanbag in the snowman.



“

“The magic of Christmas lies in togetherness, creativity, and the joy of sharing what we create with others.”



SCOTTISH CRAFT BUTCHERS

FOOD MANUFACTURE STUDENTS CELEBRATE APPRENTICESHIP SUCCESS

Foundation Apprenticeship Success in Food and Drink Technologies

Six of our Food Manufacture students have successfully completed the REHIS Elementary Health and Safety Certificate and the REHIS Elementary Food Hygiene Certificate as part of the Foundation Apprenticeship in Food and Drink Technologies.

As part of their course, Millie, Freya, and Kaci have been on work placement at Lactalis, where they have been working hard to create a Christmas-themed product using Lactalis cheese and butter.

Sophie and Eilidh have been on work placement at Fraser's the Butchers, where they have designed a Christmas hamper. Their hamper will be put into production in the lead-up to Christmas and made available for purchase.

Many thanks to both Fraser's and Lactalis for offering such valuable placements to our students.

"The best way to learn is by doing, and these students have shown that hard work and creativity can turn opportunities into success."



RUGBY GLORY

U16 Dumfries and Galloway Schools' Rugby Finals

Both the U16 boys' and girls' squads successfully qualified for the U16 Dumfries and Galloway Schools' Rugby Finals, held on 12th November at Park Farm, Dumfries. Both squads delivered outstanding performances. Well done to all involved!



As part of the National Progression Award in Visual Communication, this term students had the opportunity to design and develop a unique deck of playing cards. After learning the creative history of the playing card and its significance throughout history to the culture of board games we know today, students combined modern graphic design elements and traditional design techniques to develop individualised cards to personal themes. Using Adobe Photoshop and building on their knowledge of industry-based practice, pupils used complex design tools to create high quality outcomes- showcasing understanding of key design principles including symmetry and visual impact. NPA Visual Communication is a newly developed course in the Creative Arts Faculty which offers students the opportunity to learn key graphic design skills at an industry-based level as well as the opportunity to build understanding of working with and for clients. With this, this very first set of playing cards will be used to inspire future students as the course grows. These examples represent the highest quality work submitted, and could very easily be produced as a real product.

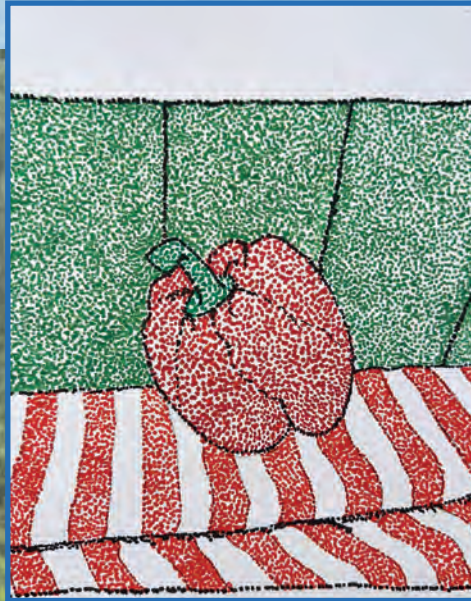
**STUNNING PLAYING CARDS
FROM NPA VISUAL
COMMUNICATION**

**ARTICLE BY
TRUE ANDERSON**



BLOOMING TALENT

S3 ART STUDENTS FLOURISH WITH CREATIVE TECHNIQUES



This term, students in S3 Art and Design have worked diligently to create an expressive 'mini portfolio' that showcases their exploration of various media and material techniques in preparation for further studies in Art and Design. The 'In the Garden' Expressive mini-portfolio has been adapted to allow students the opportunity to explore a broad range of media in their studies. Each student has demonstrated an impressive ability to experiment with different approaches, from traditional drawing and painting to more contemporary methods such as mixed media and pointillism- a particularly challenging media technique! The portfolios reflect not only technical skill but also a deep sense of creativity and conceptual thinking which are keys to success as we progress in class. The level of refinement and originality in their work has far surpassed expectations, with many students pushing the boundaries of their own abilities and producing pieces of an exceptional standard. Their thoughtful use of colour, tone and form has created a rich and diverse body of work. We are excited to see how S3 pupils will continue to develop their artistic voices as they prepare for the challenges of next year's studies. The progress already shown is highly promising, and we look forward to supporting them on their creative journey!

**ARTICLE BY
TRUE ANDERSON**



BETH BLYTHE



MARIANNA MORADILLO

The results are in for the Autumn Art Competition, and our talented students in S1 have truly impressed us with their creativity and skill!

Overall Best Artwork – Marianna Moradillo (S1)

Marianna's artwork stood out for its exceptional creativity, attention to detail, and overall composition.

Outstanding Effort – Beth Blythe (S1)

Beth's dedication and hard work shone through in her thoughtful and beautifully crafted piece.

Best Use of Materials – Faye Adams (S1)

Faye showcased an impressive ability to work with her chosen materials, bringing her vision to life with originality and flair.

A huge congratulations to all our winners and participants for their hard work and inspiring creations. Your talent and passion for art have brightened up our school community—well done!



FAYE ADAMS



**AUTUMN ART STARS:
CELEBRATING S1 TALENT**

EMERGING TALENT: S3 ARTISTRY

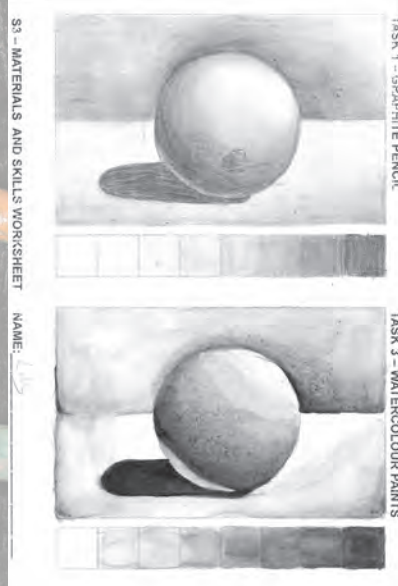


ALBA WHITE



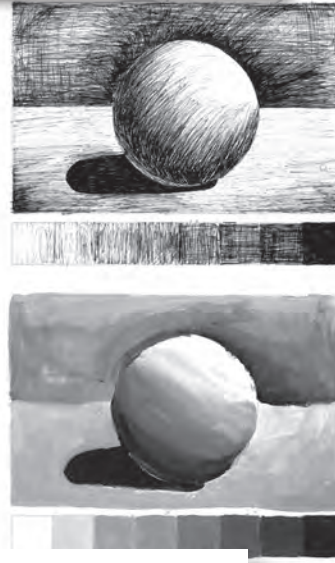
KEIRAN PATTERSON

LILLY WEATHERBY

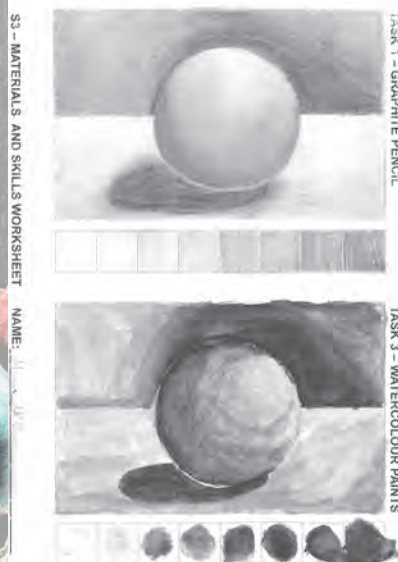


TASK 1 - GRAPHITE PENCIL

TASK 3 - WATERCOLOUR PAINTS

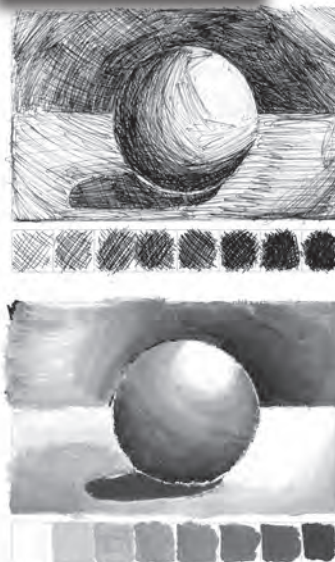


MAYA MCNEILL



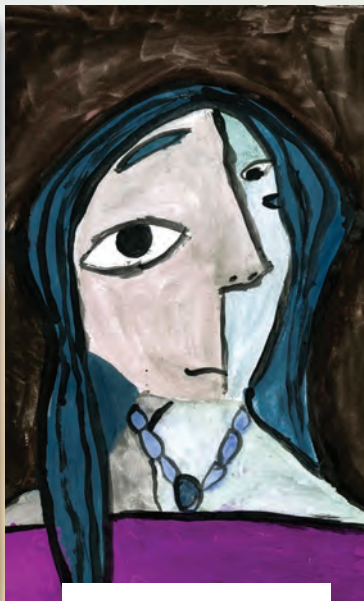
TASK 1 - GRAPHITE PENCIL

TASK 3 - WATERCOLOUR PAINTS





ABBI GRATTON



CASSIE DAVIES



FAYE ADAMS



JADE INWOOD



LUCY LOGAN



OLIVIA MURDOCH



CASEY LONGRIDGE



ABIGAIL YOUNG



PHOTOGRAPHERS OF THE WEEK

This session has seen an exceptional array of photographic submissions, demonstrating the remarkable skill and creativity of our talented photographers. From expertly composed landscapes to dynamic portraits, the images submitted have truly captured moments in time with stunning precision. With perfect exposure, masterful use of depth of field, and exceptional attention to lighting, the photographs reflect not only technical expertise but a strong artistic vision.

We are proud to showcase a small selection of these images, each one demonstrating a keen eye for detail, framing, and colour balance. The variety of subjects—from candid shots to carefully planned compositions—highlights the diversity of our students' talents. We look forward to seeing more of your work in the future.



ROWAN HARBOTTLE



BETH BLYTHE



AMIE JOHNSTONE



FAITH JOHNSTON

SKYE KYLE



ANGEL MCKINSTRY



ALEX BROWN



KEARA BARK



PHOTOGRAPHERS OF THE WEEK

BUILDING FUTURES: S3 PUPILS EXPLORE CONSTRUCTION CAREERS



DEVELOPING THE YOUNG WORKFORCE

**BUILDING YOUR FUTURE – CONSTRUCTION SKILLS EVENT
(NOVEMBER 2024)**

THE EVENT WAS TO GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE AND LEARN ABOUT JOBS IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR. 55 S3 YOUNG PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN FOUR CONSTRUCTION SKILLS WORKSHOPS. WITHIN THE WORKSHOPS, YOUNG PEOPLE EXPERIENCED SLATING, ROOF WELDING, 3D AND THERMAL IMAGING AND SASH & CASE WINDOWS. ALMOST ALL PUPILS WERE EXTREMELY POSITIVE ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF THE EXPERIENCE.



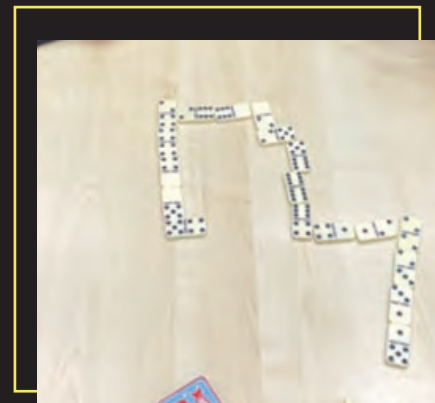
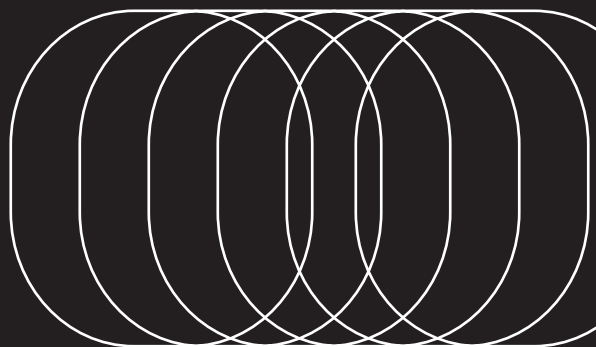
“Building skills today, laying foundations for tomorrow.”

DYW

MATHS WEEK 2024: EXPLORING THE MAGIC OF MATHS WITH S1

Maths week Scotland is a celebration of the importance of maths in our everyday lives. Maths is all around us. We use it in our daily lives when cooking tea, playing sport or deciding whether to go for that impulse purchase. It shapes our society in our voting systems and the way we use data. It underpins the art we view and the music we listen to. This year the theme for maths week was Maths Tales.

Stranraer Academy celebrated maths week with our S1 pupils trying out some different maths activities during their maths periods: Club games (darts, dominoes, cards), building the strongest bridge, a Treasure Hunt, Battleships and Blooket quizzes.



2024

(S1)

Cracking Codes and Trading Stocks: S2 Maths Week Adventures (S2)

2024

STRANRAER ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

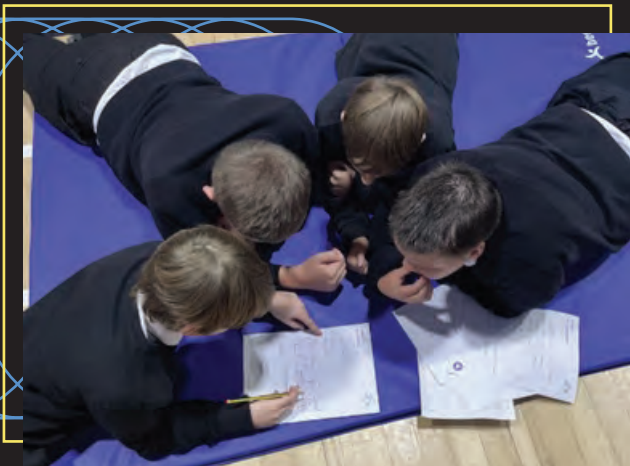
And S2 celebrated maths week by having a day off timetable on Tuesday 24th September and participated in workshops run by AS Creatives. During the day pupils attended the following 3 workshops experience how maths is can be used to solve problems in the real world:

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

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

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





2024

(s3/4)

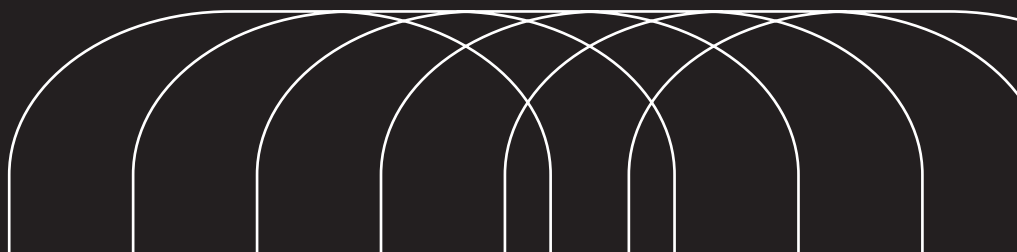
Maths in Action: S3/4 Pupils Compete in Regional Challenge



As part of maths week, this year the Dumfries and Galloway Enterprising Maths Challenge was hosted at the St Josephs High School in Dumfries, with 12 teams from over the region joining. Four of our S3/4 pupils went along to participate; Ruth Turtle, Olivia Turtle, Sean Reynolds and Logan Smith. The team were set

mathematical challenges throughout the day including Puzzle stations, an Engineering round and a Maths relay. The team showed great maths knowledge and excellent problem solving skills – well done Team Stranraer Academy!

2024



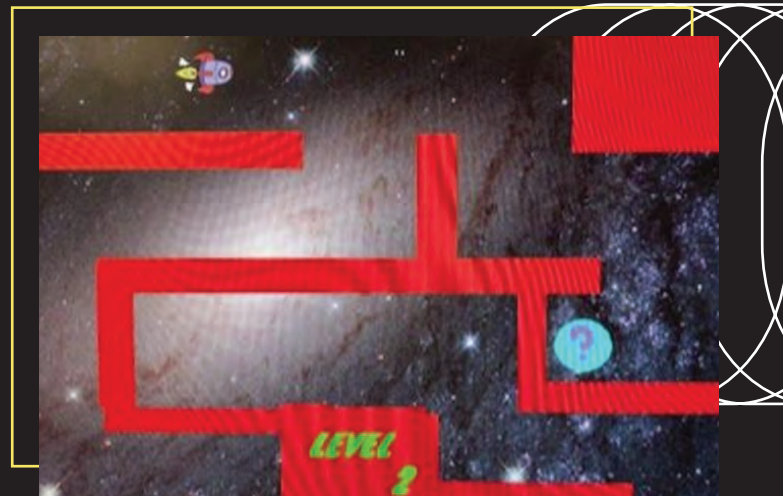
S3 Coding Stars: Fraser's Game Wins the Popular Vote

2024

Vote

In S3 Computing Science, pupils put their block coding skills to the test by creating a computer game using Scratch software. Their success criteria was to create a game that had a welcome screen, a game over screen, multiple levels of increasing difficulty, multiple sprites and for it to be user-friendly. S3 Fraser Lewicki's space theme game fulfilled all the success criteria and more, with a countdown timer, sound and a final boss level. Miss Biagioni and Miss Baillie even had a go on his game when they popped into the class during a lesson and sang its praises. Fraser's game also won the popular vote from the rest of the pupils in the class, as it was voted the most entertaining and the game everyone would like to play again. Well done Fraser!

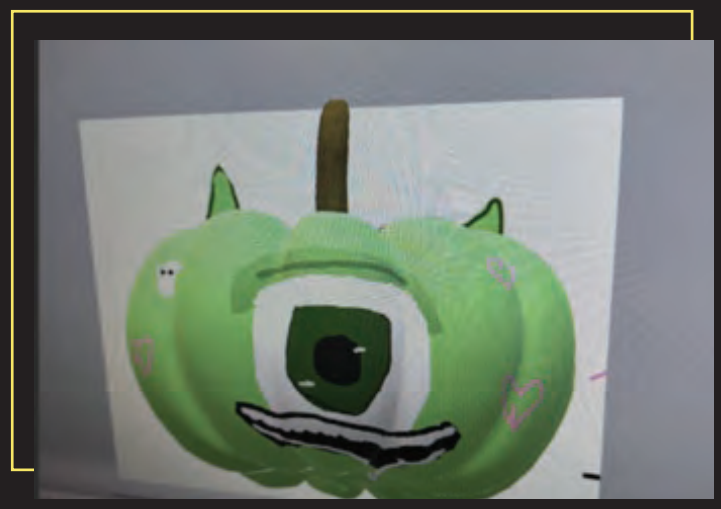
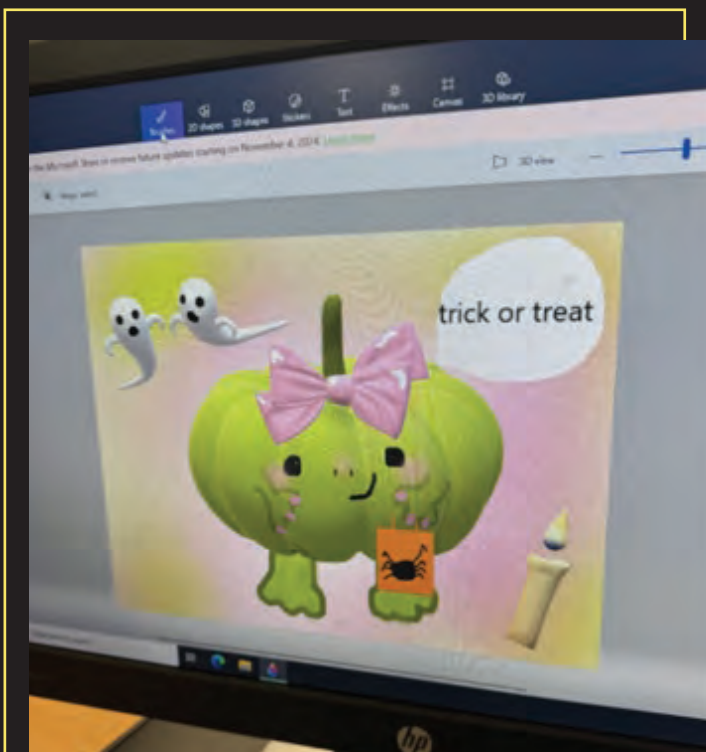
(S3)



Pumpkin Perfection

Miss Baillie's S1 IT classes were busy 'painting pumpkins' the week of Halloween using Paint 3D. Having never used Paint 3D before, their skills were amazing. What a creative group!

(S1)



PLT'S FESTIVE REFLECTIONS: ACHIEVEMENTS AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE



As Stranraer Academy's Head Girl and Head Boy for 2024/25, we have worked alongside the Pupil Leadership Team to introduce new initiatives and further develop those from previous years that we believe will benefit the school. In our roles, we proudly represent the school both on and off the school grounds.

As a team, we run inter-house competitions with S1/S2 pupils to give them a sense of identity and encourage them to get involved and proudly represent their school. These competitions range from sports to art to ensure everyone's interests are catered for. We also include behavioural competitions to encourage pupils to be the best versions of themselves.

Additionally, as Head Boy, I am working towards implementing a Directory of After-School Activities and Clubs, so pupils can explore new passions and meet like-minded people. Together, we have organised various events to support worthwhile charities such as Children in Need and Apex Foodbank. We successfully raised over £1,000 for Children in Need through a well-supported bake sale and are currently encouraging the school community to show the same support for the Apex Foodbank collection. We are also planning our next event, where all proceeds will be donated to Stranraer Community Hospital.

One of our main goals for this

year was to make our school more eco-friendly. To achieve this, as Head Girl, I introduced a school material recycling scheme, which includes both study materials and school attire. This not only helps the environment but also supports those who may struggle to afford such items, while also helping to improve attainment. In addition, as a team, we have participated in a litter pick to clean up the area surrounding the school grounds. Recently, S1 and S2 pupils were tasked with designing and creating their own bug hotel from recycled materials to place in the school garden.

Furthermore, we aimed to give pupils more opportunities to voice their opinions. We began by creating a suggestion box that could be used online or in person, ensuring that pupils had access to the team at all times and allowing us to incorporate their ideas into our improvement plan. We then implemented a debate team to enable pupils to engage in discussions, put forward, and develop their views.

We look forward to the upcoming year and to seeing our improvement plan through to completion. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! – Violet & Innes x





“Great **leaders** don’t set out to be **leaders**; they set out to make a **difference**. It’s never about the **role**—it’s **always** about the **goal**.”

NEW FACES, HIGH AIMS, AND FESTIVE CHEER

SOCIAL SUBJECTS NEWS

Since November 2024 there have been some staffing changes in the Social Subjects faculty. In October, we said farewell to Mr Neil Hyslop, Principal Teacher of Social Subjects, who moved on to pastures new and we wish him every success in his new ventures. Following Mr Hyslop's departure, we have since welcomed Miss Gill Bone to our team. Miss Bone is excited to be working at Stranraer Academy and is looking forward to meeting pupils, parents and members of the wider school community over the course of the academic year. Miss Bone specialises in Modern Studies and History and loves to bring learning to life through creative, active learning tasks.

AIMING HIGH

Pupils in S4 have just completed their first ever Prelim Diet. Teachers of Social Subjects were very impressed with how the S4s coped with the pressure of the exam hall. Behaviour and conduct were exemplary and showed real maturity. We hope that pupils act on the feedback received from teachers on their performance and continue to build on their strengths for the final exams in May.

Our senior pupils should continue to aim high over the festive period by completing revision "a little and often" to prevent the exercise from becoming overwhelming. Effective revision in Social Subjects usually involves selecting a past paper question available on the SQA website, locating relevant notes that cover the question in their jotters, creating a mind-map on the material then attempting to answer the question. This approach will only take around 20 minutes to complete but tends to be much more effective than trying to memorise notes. We hope that all our seniors try to squeeze in a little time for revision over the holidays in between munching mince pies and watching festive films – especially our S5/S6 pupils who will complete Prelims in January!

Social Subjects Christmas cracker Joke.....
Q. Why did Santa start to avoid "sooty" chimneys?
A. To reduce his carbon foot-print!!

WORKING HARD

Senior pupils completing the Barista Course along with our very own Miss SJ Moffat have been working hard to make Christmas extra special by organising and hosting a Christmas Coffee Morning. Staff and pupils were treated to a delicious selection of flavoured coffees, lattes and hot chocolate, expertly made by our talented pupils. In between sips of freshly ground coffee, staff and pupils enjoyed a selection of cakes and treats! Absolute bliss! Please look out for our baristas at school events offering a wide selection of hot beverages and experience the magic of their coffee for yourself!



"The harder you work for something, the greater you'll feel when you achieve it."

WEATHER WONDERS AND VICTORIAN CHILLS



WINTER WONDERLAND

As we approach Christmas, pupils in S1-S3 have found their lessons laced with some festive cheer! Pupils in S2, learning about the weather, have discovered why the climate varies across the globe and are able to utilise this knowledge to predict the weather conditions on Christmas day in different countries! Let's hope for snow!!

Elsewhere in Social Subjects, S1 pupils about to begin a new History topic will be learning about Victorian Christmas cards in the week before the holiday! Unlike the joyful image you would typically expect with holiday greetings, some Christmas card images popular in Victorian times were nothing short of nightmarish! From dead robins to humans emerging from the stomach of a snowman, Victorian Christmas cards capture a creepy snapshot of our history that is worth exploring! But if you are selected to receive a Christmas card from a member of the class, expect it to bring on the "winter chills"!

From everyone in Social Subjects, have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year! x



Q.

Why doesn't Santa get parking tickets?

A. Because he parks on the roof!



Spreading Joy. One Box at a Time

Volunteers from Miss Moffat's Barista class have teamed up with The Community Reuse Shop and The Community Events Group to spread festive joy in the local community. They have raised money, shopped for, and wrapped 15 Christmas boxes as part of the Box of Joy project. These boxes will be gifted to adult members of the local community, bringing them a little extra cheer this Christmas.

In addition, the team has collected raffle prizes from local businesses to raise money for Mission Stranraer, the local branch of Cash for Kids Mission Christmas. This initiative provides Christmas gifts for young people in the local community, ensuring they have a magical holiday season.





MacMillan Coffee Morning

Miss Moffat's S5/6 Barista pupils hosted this years MacMillan Coffee Morning, raising £148 for MacMillan Cancer Support. The S5/6 Practical Cookery class baked up a storm providing tray bakes and scones which were added to with some delicious home baking by staff and pupils. A great time was had by all who attended, lots of chat, tasty treats and delicious specialty coffees.



"Kindness is like coffee, it awakens your spirit and improves your day."

Miss Moffat's Barista class hosted their second coffee morning of the year. This one helped raise funds for a joint initiative between the School and Stranraer Community Events team, 'A Box of Joy'. Staff and pupils enjoyed some festive treats while raising money for such a good local cause.

Well done to our festive Baristas and a special thanks to Mrs Heppenstall and Miss McQuaker for some delicious festive home baking.



A Box of Joy



KNITTING, CRAFTING, AND FESTIVE SUCCESS

AIRD ANGELS 2024

AIRD ANGELS CHRISTMAS ENTERPRISE 2024

Building on their success last year, the pupils in Aird organised another fantastic Christmas Enterprise. Drawing on their previous experience, they remembered which items sold well and which didn't, helping them make informed decisions for this year's stall.

The pupils worked together to source all the materials needed and then crafted the items for their stall. This year, they added a couple of new items, which meant learning a new skill. Mrs Ferguson kindly came in to teach the group how to knit some lovely scarves for their snowmen.

The pupils set up their stall in the school during break and lunch and also had a table at the Stranraer Parent Council School Fair.

The Aird Angels are delighted to announce they made £160.60! They are looking forward to visiting Argos next week to treat themselves to some exciting new games, puzzles, and toys for the unit.

The pupils would like to thank all their customers and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

“The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear.” – Buddy the Elf



Glenapp Leads the Way in Festive Charity Drive

The Pupil Leadership Team, alongside Mr Dornan and his YPI class, worked together to gather as many donations as possible for the Apex Foodbank Collection. This was run as a house competition to encourage the house groups to come together to support a worthwhile charity. Glenapp House was announced as the well-deserved winner.

As a school, we donated a significant amount and should be proud of the role we have played in helping others this Christmas. Thank you to everyone who contributed!

By Violet Raphael

“The future of our planet depends on the innovations of today’s young minds.”



FROM SCIENCE TO SUSTAINABILITY

STEM ROADSHOW INSPIRES FUTURE INNOVATORS

On October 4th, 2024, the STEM Roadshow on Renewable Energies, sponsored by BAE Systems, the Royal Air Force (RAF), and the Royal Navy, took place in the school hall. This event engaged students

from all of S1, S2, and AIRD session 2, as well as teachers, in an interactive and educational experience. The focus of the roadshow was to raise awareness about renewable energy sources and their significance in the future of science and technology.

Pupils had the opportunity to explore hands-on exhibits, learn from experts, and gain insights into cutting-edge innovations in energy sustainability. The event highlighted the importance of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) subjects in addressing global challenges, encouraging students to pursue careers in these fields.

spectrocryptoanologogram

“STEM is the future— it drives innovation, solves problems, and creates opportunities.”



A DAY OF **DISCOVERY**: STEM CAREERS TRIP TO **EDINBURGH**



Science STEM careers trip

On Friday 1st November, a group of our S3 pupils travelled to the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh to take part in a STEM Careers HIVE workshop. After arriving, we were taken to a theatre in the museum where a STEM careers talk took place. During this, the pupils had a voting remote control each and they were able to place a vote to give their opinions on the careers spoken about, the skills they thought these careers might need and the STEM subjects that would be involved. Everyone enjoyed this talk and fully took part. We then moved to the main floor of the museum to take part in several STEM activities. These ranged from building a mini satellite, ensuring it weighed less than 600g but still contained all the necessary

parts, to programming a robot with codes to see if it would walk around a tower. We were able to perform laparoscopic surgery on a life size, realistic human dummy to remove pretend gallstones. We measured the sweetness of blueberries using a colorimeter, which is used by blueberry farmers so consumers are only purchasing the sweetest fruit. We hung upside down in a gravity inversion table and answered some tough questions or drew pictures so we could experience what astronauts feel when in zero gravity. These are just a few of the STEM careers we could explore to learn more about. Each of the stations in the main part of the museum had a person who worked in a STEM career. They were able to answer every question and give lots of advice. All of the pupils had a great day and agreed they had learned more about STEM careers.

SCIENCE IN AIRD

“The more we know about the world, the more we understand our responsibility to protect it.”

This term in Aird we have been learning about the world we live in. We have looked at Biomes, researched their climates, their weather and the animals and plants that live there. We also looked to see if any humans could live in our chosen biomes. We then made biome boxes and displayed our new knowledge.

We moved onto take a closer look at a tundra biome and chose Antarctica as the area. We learned that there are six different types of penguins living on Antarctica and that it is too cold for humans to live there. We performed an experiment in the Science classroom to show why penguins huddle together when it is cold. We used 7 test tubes held together with an elastic band and filled them with hot water. We also had a single test tube filled with hot water. We then measured the temperature of the water in the single test tube and the middle test tube in the huddle every 2 minutes for 10 minutes and recorded the temperatures in a table. We all agreed that the huddle of test tubes kept the water warmer for longer. We then talked about why penguins huddle together and decided it was to keep nice and warm. We looked into a simple food chain on Antarctica and then made a wall display to show our learning.

Recently we have also performed flame testing in the Science classroom using simple powdered chemicals and the Bunsen burners. We spoke a lot about safety first and then watched a demonstration before everyone had a go. This was everyone's favourite experiment!



7 penguins	1 penguin
47	35
46	31
5	30
5	30
5	30
4	30
4	30
4	30
3	30
2	28





WWW.STRANRAERACADEMY.ORG

WINTER 2024 NEWSLETTER