

S T R A N R A E R

# ACADEMY

## NEWSLETTER



STRANRAER  
ACADEMY

AIM HIGH  
WORK HARD  
BE KIND

WORKING  
TOGETHER ACROSS  
CULTURE.  
CLASSROOMS AND  
COMMUNITY  
TO BE A SCHOOL  
STRANRAER  
CAN BE PROUD OF

SUMMER 2025

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# Jamie Farquhar

*Headteacher*

Dear Parents, Carers and School Partners,

I am delighted to welcome you to our Summer Newsletter 2025.

This anthology is a heart-warming summary of the opportunities, successes, fun and growth pupils at Stranraer Academy have enjoyed since Christmas.

Our school values are: Aim High, Work Hard and Be Kind. You can see evidence of all of these in this newsletter.

Our Vision, our mission; is to be a school Stranraer can be proud of. As I write this, pupils are returning from all over the UK and indeed the world (Berlin Trip and Gold DofE in Slovenia) and our pupils have been, without exception, a credit to themselves, their families and their community.

We are very proud of them, I hope you are proud of your school. My sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to this Newsletter and to Mr James for compiling.

I wish our whole community a wonderful summer. See you all again in August.





# CDT

CRAFT DESIGN &  
TECHNOLOGY



ARTICLES BY SARA SMITH





# CDT

## CRAFT DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

**This year Stranraer Academy had 2 student businesses compete regionally, both with great success:-**



**Bubble Bee's had an excellent business venture which focused around selling Bee themed products in order to raise awareness of issues surrounding the bee population. They met great success at the regional finals, coming away with the award for "Best Company Report".**

**Happy Bundles also, competed with a creative business which focused on relaxation and study bundles that focused on supporting positive mental health and reduced anxiety through creative use of fidgets etc. They also had great success at the regional finals and came home with the award for "Best Trade Stand".**



**Additionally, all students who participated completed and passed a "Strathclyde University Business School exam" for demonstrating excellent skills and understanding of setting up and running their own small business. Link Teacher S Smith was also awarded "link teacher of the year".**





## S3 PRACTICAL WOODWORK

**S3 BGE Practical woodworking students applied their creativity and artistic skills to personalise their own small stool, while demonstrating level 4 practical skills.**





# Sugar, Sketch, and Skill

S3 BGE Graphic Communication students developed and applied their digital design skills to design and create their own sweet boxes, as well as apply excellent CAD skills to create some fantastic graphic design and engineering drawings.



# PLUM JAM & PARLOURS





# PLUM JAM & PARLOURS

14 young people recently visited the Tenement House Museum in Glasgow as preparation for the Scottish set text element of National 5 English. The S3 pupils learned about overcrowded conditions, poverty and illnesses experienced by some inhabitants of Glasgow's tenement housing, and were surprised to see the box bed in the parlour – an architectural feature outlawed in 1900. Most of them picked out a jar of homemade plum jam dated 1929 as the most unusual item in the museum – but none of them wanted to taste it!





# LITERARY LEGENDS

A group of six students, three boys and three girls, are standing behind a large, dark stone block. On top of the block is a large, ornate torch that is lit, with bright orange and yellow flames. The stone block has the words "Writing Competition" inscribed on it in a golden, serif font. The students are wearing school uniforms, including dark jackets, white shirts, and ties. Some of the students are holding small, colorful bags (red, blue, and yellow). The background is a dark, arched stone structure, possibly a tunnel or a large hall. The overall lighting is warm and dramatic, with the torch providing the main source of light.



# LITERARY LEGENDS

Once again, the S1s, S2s and S3s have shown the depth of their creativity by producing a vast number of entries for this very popular competition. Words were chosen carefully, genres and styles were chosen to great effect and we received a mixture of stories, poems and essays that clearly reflect the creativity within the school. There were hours of deliberations until we reached the following conclusion. Congratulations to all who entered the competition and especially to our winner Zara Hamilton and runners up Hollie Smith and Ollie Ryan. Congratulations also go to Eniabitobi Akinrinde, Christopher Muir and Erin Milroy for their highly commended pieces.



VERY WORDS



**WINNER: "Witchcraft and Whirlwinds" by Zara Hamilton**

When the coveted 'Let's Get Sporty P.E Award' mysteriously freezes at Stranraer Academy, student Olivia suspects something supernatural is at work. Her theory? The ancient witches of Loch Ryan—Malice, Frostine, and Gloom—have escaped their underwater prison after 154 years.

What begins as curious whispers in the school library quickly escalates into a magical battle on the sports pitch, as these fearsome witches transform a sunny sports day into a blizzard of chaos. With their classmates freezing around them, can Olivia and her friends discover the witches' weakness in time to save their school?

Zara Hamilton's thrilling tale combines friendship, mystery, and magic in a story that proves sometimes the most powerful spells are cast when we stand together.



## WITCHCRAFT AND WHIRLWINDS

## ACT 1, SCENE 1

(The bustling school hallway of STRANRAER ACADEMY before registration on a carefree, refreshing summer day. Sounds of laughter and conversation. OLIVIA enters STAGE RIGHT running up to HAZEL, who is with her boyfriend, JAMES.)

OLIVIA: (Excitedly to HAZEL, shoving JAMES out of the way.) I say! Have you heard?

(Enter DAPHNE and EMMA from STAGE LEFT)

EMMA: (Inquiringly) Heard what?

OLIVIA: Apparently, the 'Let's Get Sporty P.E Award' has been frozen!

(CONNIE enters UPSTAGE RIGHT.)

CONNIE: What's been frozen?

OLIVIA: The 'Let's Get Sporty P.E Award'.

CONNIE: (Clueless) And that is...

OLIVIA: Honestly, don't you know anything? I bet the rest of us know.

(EMMA, HAZEL, and DAPHNE all shake their heads.)

OLIVIA: (Exasperated) It's a shield. But, that is not the interesting part.



(Whispering) I was informed that the witches of Loch Ryan froze it – Malice, Frostine, and Gloom! Whoo-oo-oo-ooo!

EMMA: Surely you don't believe in that nonsense?

OLIVIA: Who knows? Let's discuss it in the library at break.

HAZEL: Why the library?

OLIVIA: If in doubt, go to the library!

(The school bell rings – Beep, beep, beep. EVERYONE exits separate ways.)

## ACT 1, SCENE 2

(The school library. HAZEL, DAPHNE, EMMA, CONNIE, and OLIVIA are browsing a bookshelf.)

CONNIE: (Gleefully) What luck that all our English teachers sent us to the library at the same time!

DAPHNE: Mrs Parker looks perturbed. I hope something ghastly hasn't occurred.

OLIVIA: I told you before that everything is not alright. No one has witnessed any activity from the Loch Ryan witches in the last 154 years!

HAZEL: Perhaps we should ask James. He might know something helpful.

EMMA: (Teasingly) Choosing James over us, I see.

OLIVIA: We aren't meant to be prattling – we are supposed to be reading our library books.

DAPHNE: And who cares about that?

OLIVIA: (Indignantly) Me!

CONNIE: Ugggh.

(CONNIE walks absentmindedly into a rotten, dusty bookcase. She knocks a thick, leather book down. All the group begin coughing at the amount of dust.)

CONNIE: What is this? (Reading the title) 'Whispers of the Loch Ryan Witches!' It sounds tedious!

EMMA: Actually, that could provide us with valuable information about the witches! (Sceptical) If there were any witches.

OLIVIA: Here, pass me the book.

(CONNIE passes the book. OLIVIA burrows her head in the book.)

It states that in 1871 the witches had total control over Stranraer.

HAZEL: Really?

OLIVIA: After John McCulloch overthrew them in the second half of 1871, he concealed the witches under the oyster seabed, never to terrorize Stranraer again.

DAPHNE: Then, how did they escape their prison under the seabed?



HAZEL: (Thoughtfully) Hmmm. I have a theory. Hundreds of oysters were collected yesterday. What if the witches were disturbed and managed to break free? Supposing, the witches did freeze the shield.

OLIVIA: (Interrupting) Look at this! It says here that Malice, Frostine, and Gloom have a weakness.

CONNIE: (Leaning in) What is it? We could use it against them.

DAPHNE: Let's not get ahead of ourselves. We don't have any proof that is was the witches –

MALICE: (Offstage) (self-aggrandizing) It was us! We are the culprits of freezing your shield! The most fearsome, powerful, cunning witches of Loch Ryan!

(Dun, dun, dun!)

(This speech injects fear in everyone's hearts. The SL's huddle together and whisper nervously. The lights flicker out and the stage is plunged into darkness.)

### ACT 2, SCENE 1

(The sports pitch. Everyone is in P.E kits looking glum even though it is a glorious day. No physical activity is happening.)

CONNIE: (Moaning) Tell me again why Mr Bartholomew didn't cancel sports day? We got yesterday afternoon off. Why not today as well?

DAPHNE: (Shivering) Is it just me or has it gotten exceedingly chilly?

HAZEL: Don't be – oh!

(It begins to pour with rain. The wind begins to howl, and the sky blackens. The stage is only lit with a grey light. The three witches appear on broomsticks.)

FROSTINE: (Cackling) This sports day will go our way!

GLOOM: (Smirking) Prepare for a blizzard of chaos!

(The stage erupts in pandemonium as it begins snowing. Steam engulfs the stage. The witches are swooping in and out of the crowd on their broomsticks, everyone they touch freeze. Sports equipment is flying everywhere. The TEACHERS are attempting to reassure students, but no one can hear them over the rumble of thunder and the howling wind. Intense music begins to play.)

OLIVIA: (Shouting) Rally together, everyone!

CONNIE: Remember the counterspell!

EVERYONE (Who isn't frozen.): (Holding hands)

With the fire's glow and hearts so bright,

Melt the ice, restore the light!

(X3)

(The witches fall to the ground with loud screams. They exit STAGE LEFT, without being seen. The sun comes out and everyone is shouting in acclamation, patting each other on the back and chortling.)

THE END



# WALKING IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS

A SCHOOL TRIP TO BELGIUM'S WWI BATTLEFIELDS





# BATTLEFIELDS

## ARTICLE BY GILL BONE

A group of S3 pupils recently embarked on a poignant and educational journey to Belgium, exploring the battlefields where so many young soldiers fought and fell during World War I. Their trip was more than a history lesson—it was a heartfelt tribute to the bravery and sacrifice of those who came before them, particularly the young men from Stranraer who never returned home. The visit took them to sites such as Ypres and Passchendaele, each a solemn reminder of the brutal conditions

faced by soldiers in the trenches. At Tyne Cot Cemetery, the largest Commonwealth war cemetery, students reflected on the sheer scale of the loss. The Menin Gate in Ypres, inscribed with the names of thousands of fallen soldiers with no known grave, held particular significance. As the haunting Last Post echoed through the memorial, the students stood in silence, thinking of the young men from their own hometown who made the ultimate sacrifice.

• • • •

*"When you go home, tell them of us and say,  
For your tomorrow, we gave our today."*

*— Kohima Epitaph*







One such name from Stranraer is Private John McDowall, a local lad who joined the King's Own Scottish Borderers and died in the Battle of Passchendaele in 1917. Alongside him were many others, ordinary young men who left behind families, dreams, and futures. The students were deeply moved as they traced the stories of these soldiers, seeing the trenches and landscapes that shaped their final days.

The trip not only deepened their understanding of history but also instilled a profound sense of gratitude and remembrance. This annual trip will always ensure that their sacrifices will never be forgotten and that the pupils of Stranraer Academy "will remember them".

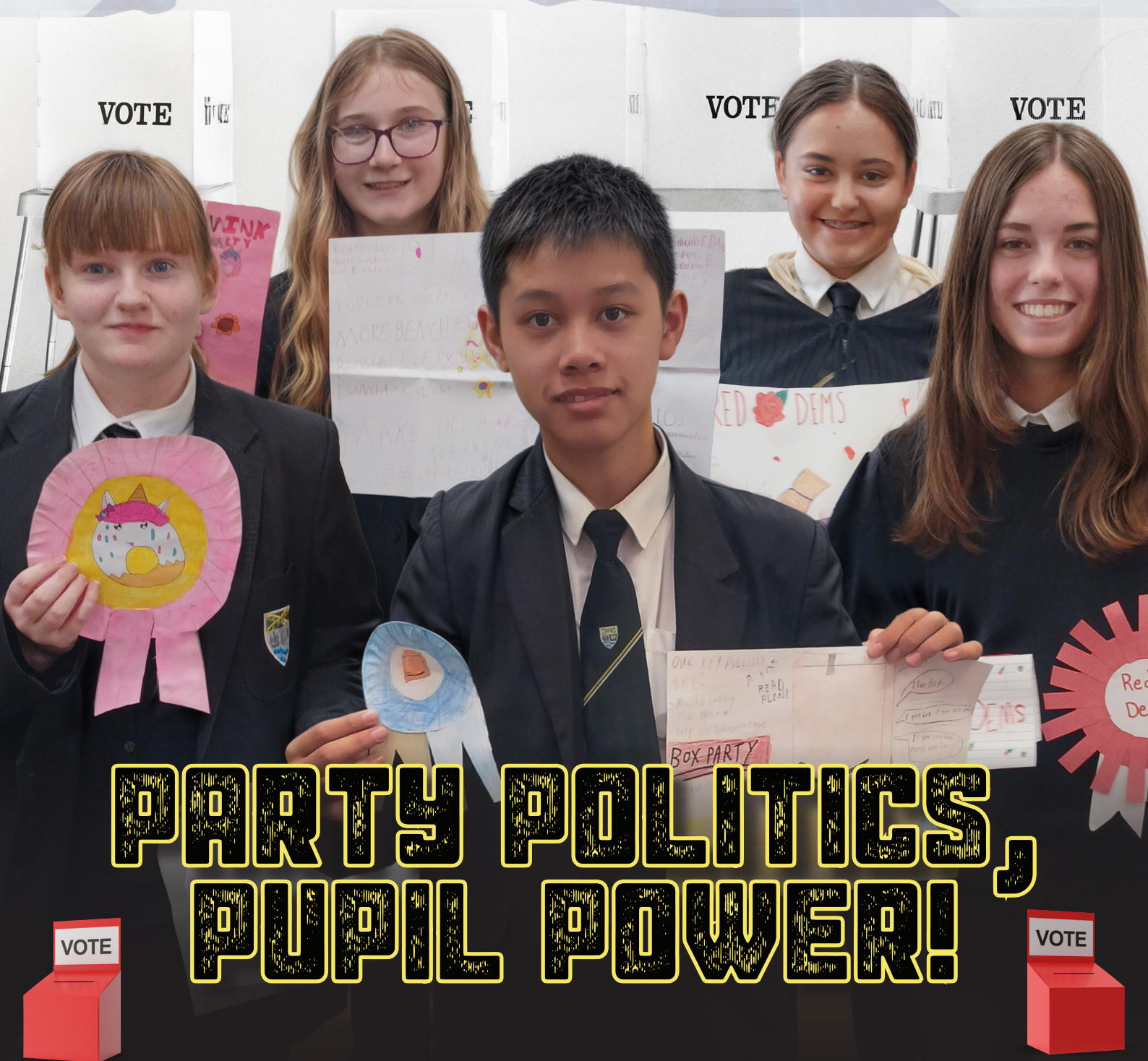
*"A generation which ignores history has no  
past — and no future."*

*— Robert Heinlein*

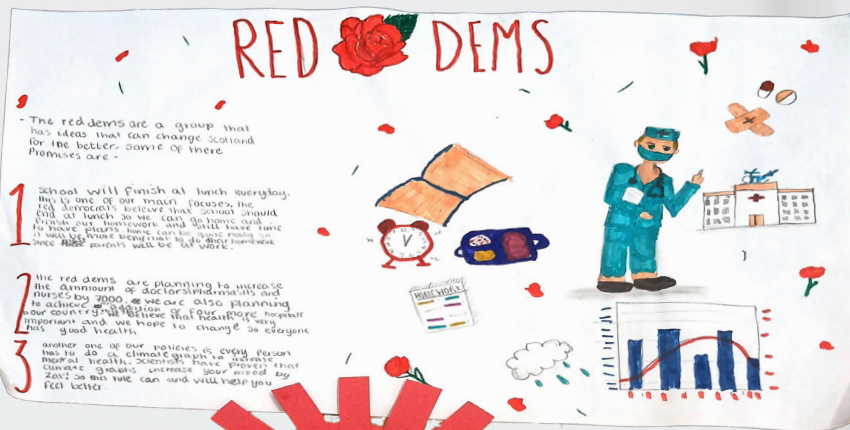




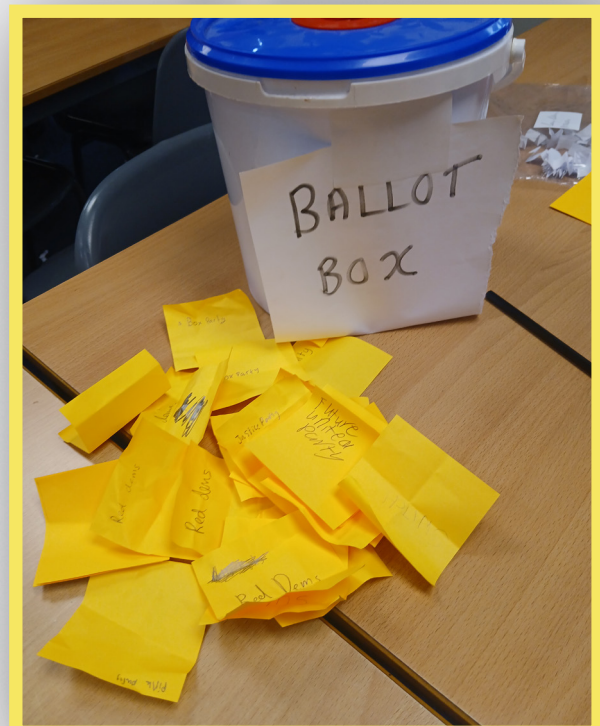
**S** 2 Social Subjects finished the year with a fun mock election. After a week of making awesome campaign materials and hearing inspiring speeches, seven parties went head-to-head in a really close race. The students showed they care about social justice, pushing for things like better NHS services, more police on the streets and probably the most important – the compulsory teaching climate graphs in school. In the end, the Red Dems took the win! Well done Sophie, Millie, Lily and Lucie!







**"The future belongs to those who prepare for it today."**  
**— Malcolm X**



**PARTY POLITICS,  
PUPIL POWER!**







ypi  
£5,000  
CHANGE MENTAL HEALTH  
Stranraer Academy

ypi

THE YOUTH AND PHILANTHROPY INITIATIVE SCOTLAND

ARTICLE BY SEREN CALDWELL



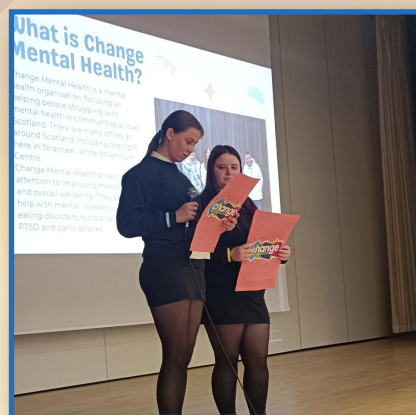
This year our YPI pupils demonstrated incredible commitment to their charities by hosting a series of successful fundraising activities, including a sponsored walk to Castle Kennedy in Stranraer, a football event and a rugby event. The initiative also featured an evening fundraiser, where students arranged raffles and sold delicious home-baked goods—all in the name of charity. All their hard work paid off, raising nearly £2,421.

The competition culminated on the 28th of May 2025 when the Youth Philanthropy Initiative Final Showcase took place at Stranraer Academy. The five final groups of contestants made a presentation on a charity they have been supporting throughout the year, and wanted to support further by winning them a £3000 pounds donation kindly donated by the Wood Foundation. Bringing the overall total funds raised for charity by S3s involved in YPI at Stranraer Academy up to £5,241

The judges say that the five final groups were extremely hard to narrow down and all had outstanding performances, in their own right and, compared to the other school finals the judges had attended throughout Scotland. This year's finalists consisted of groups representing Better

Lives Partnership, Change Mental Health, The Coronation Day Centre, Home Start and MND Scotland.

All of the groups made a great effort and were all enthusiastic and seemed to greatly enjoy working with their charity. They all showed determination to succeed, hard work and effort. The winners of this competition were Kian McCredie, Leah Mills, Holly Church, Ava-Lilly Orr-Ewing and Freya Edmonds. The judges said that while it was close this specific group showed perseverance in meeting their goals, and made an excellent presentation, which fully engaged the audience of pupils, teachers and guests. They also made a short drama "The Fish Bowl" that they pre-recorded and played as part of the showcase. It showed how their charity effects people's lives and how Change Mental Health can help people that are struggling; they also told the audience about the planned activities their charity hosts throughout the week like men's support sessions and mindfulness focused trips. The group also made a quiz for the end of their presentation, to reiterate the goals of their charity, handing out goodie bags and leaflets to anyone that got an answer right. As an audience member I would have to say that, overall, this group did an absolutely amazing job.





The runners up were the MND Scotland group, who raised awareness for a charity which helps people with Motor Neurone Disease. This group consisted of Aidan Adams, Malcolm McGregor, Oliver Arkless, Nahla McMeikan, Duncan Barrowman, Kelyse Edwards and Maddison Wilson. They made a well informative PowerPoint and a short drama on stage showing how MND can effect a person's life, body, family and friends. They also told us how the MND disease personally effected two of the people in the group and how empathetic they feel toward anyone living with the disease. The group also told us how working with the charity and doing YPI effected them and helped them build skills like public speaking, teamwork and leadership skills.

Even though not everyone could win the judges said everyone performed, and scored, amazingly well. All of the groups were supportive toward each other and cheered each other on helping everyone strive to do the best they can. Overall everyone did a fantastic job and it will be hard to beat it next year because of how high the standards have been set. They said that huge congratulations were due not just to our winners and runners up but our other competitors too - Courtney Dougan, Tyler Heron, Maya McNeil, Maisy Sharp, Hollie Smith, Izzy White, Ella Calderwood, Khloe Adair, Ruben Harker, Katelyn McCrorie, Lewis Milligan, Dilveer Singh, Kirsty Gardiner, Sarah McClymont, Mariella Petrucci, Olivia Turtle and Gracie Cook. Well done to all.



***"No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of it for someone else."***

**– Charles Dickens**





# REAL SUPPORT, REAL CHANGE



**A**t Stranraer Academy, we believe every young person deserves the chance to succeed—no matter their starting point. Through our partnership with the Secondary Inclusion Team, we offer targeted support to pupils with social, emotional, and behavioural needs. This referral-based service provides high-quality, individualised learning experiences for those facing barriers to inclusion, helping them re-engage with education in meaningful and positive ways.

One of our young people recently gained valuable work experience with Clark Contracts, joining the professional team refurbishing the George Hotel. Experiences like this are a vital part of helping learners build confidence, develop practical skills, and see a future full of opportunity.

We're also incredibly grateful to Morrisons Stranraer,

***"The flower that blooms in adversity is the most rare and beautiful of all."***

who have generously supported our Support Wing by providing essential supplies at discounted prices. Their continued partnership makes a real difference to the wellbeing of our young people.

With community support and targeted intervention, our learners are not only included—they're inspired.





# ATHLETICS PENTATHLON CHAMPIONSHIP 2025



# Athletics Pentathlon Championship 2025

Pupils took part in the annual Athletics Pentathlon Championship on Thursday 5th June. With reasonably good weather giving way to a brief spell of drizzly rain in the afternoon, the Championships were a success with a fantastic atmosphere and great House ethos. INCH ended up being the overall House winners. Individual titles are listed below. Thank you to all pupils, senior helpers and staff who helped organise the event and make it a continual success!

## S2 Girls

Champion – Niamh Castle  
Runner Up – Abbie Gratton

## S2 Boys

Champion – Rhys Anderson  
Runner Up – Rory McKie

## S3 Boys

Champion – Lee Reynolds  
Runners Up – Joe Dickson &

## Nathaniel Glizczynski

### S3 Girls

Champion – Gracie Turner  
Runner Up – Lily Steel

### S4 Girls

Champion – Olivia Turtle  
Runner Up – Mariella Petrucci

### S4 Boys

Champion – Reece Edgar  
Runner Up – Alfie Baker

### Senior Boys

Champion – Tyler Rennie  
Runner Up – Alfie Murdoch

### Senior Girls

Champion – Tegan Fox  
Runner Up – Mirren Gibb

***“Champions aren’t just made on the track—they’re built through teamwork, determination, and House pride. The Pentathlon showed us all what true effort looks like.”***





# ON YOUR MARKS, GET SET, WOW!

## SCOTTISH DISABILITY SPORT CHAMPIONSHIPS

Scottish Disability Sport Championships – A Fantastic Achievement!

Regionals, Dumfries

In May, a group of young people from Learning Support and Aird proudly represented the school at the Scottish Disability Sports National Junior Championships Regional Heats at the David Keswick Athletic Centre, Dumfries.

Mrs Edwards took a team of 12 pupils to compete in a range of athletic events, including the long jump, shot putt/ softball throw, and 50m and 100m sprints. The team gave it their all, showing incredible effort, focus and sportsmanship throughout the day.

After a brilliant set of performances, the results were tallied... and we were thrilled to find out our team had qualified for the National Finals!

Nationals, Falkirk

With an early 6:30am start, the team set off to Grangemouth Stadium in Falkirk, ready to take on the best from across Scotland. There was a real buzz of excitement and competition in the air, with schools attending from the Highlands, Borders, Dumfries and Galloway, and everywhere in between.

Pupils were given their bib numbers and placed in categories for the day's events. The races began, the throws flew, and distances and times were recorded – every pupil giving it their absolute best.

By the end of the day, the results were in... and what a result it was!

Our fantastic team won 7 medals in total – 5 silver and 2 bronze!

Lennon narrowly missed gold by just one point in his category.

Tylor was also just two points short of gold – a remarkable effort. Conar, Riley and Kenzie all earned silver medals with strong performances full of grit and determination.

Casey and Nathan took home bronze medals in their events.

Kayla and Jasmine gave it their all and were only a few points away from medalling – an impressive performance nonetheless.

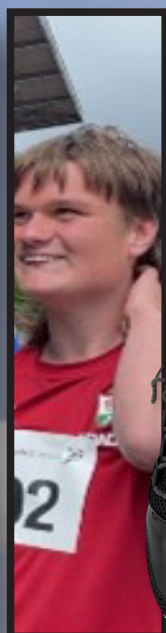
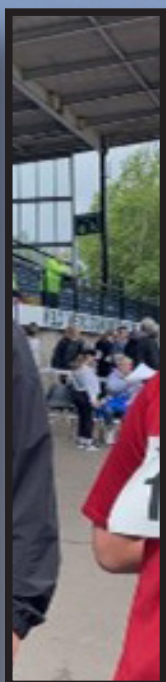
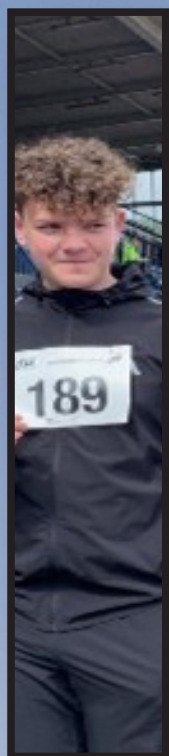
It was a day filled with achievement, pride and positivity. Every single pupil should feel proud of what they accomplished – not just the medals, but the attitude, resilience and team spirit shown throughout the competition.

We're already looking forward to next year!



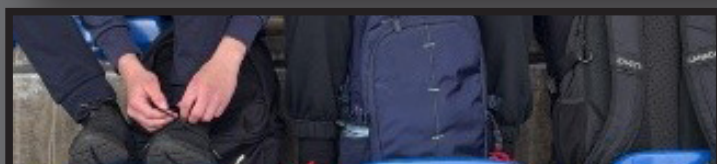
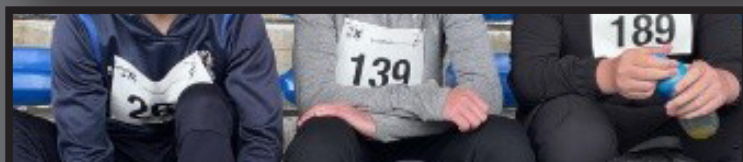
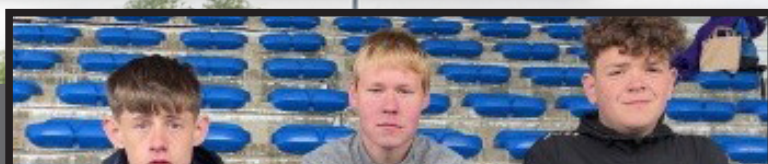


## SCOTTISH DISABILITY SPORT CHAMPIONSHIPS



"THE GREATEST  
GLORY IN LIVING  
LIES NOT IN NEVER  
FALLING, BUT IN  
RISING EVERY  
TIME WE FALL."

– NELSON  
MANDELA





## Regional Badminton Success!

A huge well done to our pupils who represented the school brilliantly at the Regional Badminton Competition held at St Joseph's College, Dumfries, on Sunday 2nd February.

Finn Maxwell and Jack Howie impressed with a fantastic 2nd place finish in the U14 Boys Doubles, while sisters Olivia and Ruth Turtle secured 3rd place in the U16 Girls Doubles.

Congratulations to all involved – a great achievement and excellent effort all round!



# BADMINTON



## **MIRREN RETAINS REGIONAL CROSS COUNTRY TITLE!**

On Tuesday 18th February, 28 pupils travelled to Dalbeattie High School to compete in the Regional Cross Country Championships. Although the day remained dry, the terrain was muddy, presenting a challenge for the young athletes. Yet, our runners embraced the conditions and gave it their best effort.

A special mention to Mirren Gibb who for the 3rd year in a row wins the title for her age group. This is a brilliant achievement!

We had lots of other achievements on the day coming from our girls' teams :

**S1 Girls**

5th - Carlin Ramsay

6th - Emily Cooper

**S1 Girls Team - 3rd Overall**

**S3 Girls**

2nd - Olivia Turtle

**S3 Girls Team - 3rd Overall**

**S4 Girls**

3rd - Ruth Turtle

**S4 Girls Team - 3rd Overall**

**Seniors**

1st - Mirren Gibb

3rd - Laura Donnan

**Senior Girls Team - 1st Overall**

**Well Done Everyone!**





# FOOTBALL



“Win or lose, showing up with passion and pride makes you a team to remember.”

## FOOTBALL ARTICLES BY MARK SHANNON

### Stuart Binnie & James Hannay Memorial Cup

On Tuesday 13th May, our S1 Boys travelled to Palmerston Park, Dumfries to compete in the annual 7-a-side Stuart Binnie & James Hannay Memorial Cup.

Stranraer A's won 4, drew 1 and lost 1 and qualified for the semi-finals but lost out to

eventual winners, Dumfries High School A's in that match.

Stranraer B's had 3 draws and 1 loss, which meant they unfortunately didn't qualify for the latter stages. They did well to draw 0-0 against Dumfries High School A's in this group stage.

Well done boys!



# U15 BOYS WIN THE HUNTER SHIELD!

On Monday 12th May, Stranraer U15s boys came from behind to win the Hunter Shield final on penalties against a strong Dumfries High School side.

The game started evenly with Stranraer moving the ball around well in early spells. DHS grew into the game and scored 2 quick goals. Jonny Wither got one back with a speculative flick that beat the keeper. DHS lifted themselves further and scored 2 more, leaving them deservedly in the lead, going into half time 4-1 up.

The Stranraer boys had to improve in the second half and they did, coming out with more desire and composure on the ball. Aeron Baxter got our second early in the half with a tidy finish. Ethan Matthew's then finished a nice team move with a well timed run at the back post. Back to 4-3 the game settled before DHS got a 5th. The Stranraer boys again had

to find something with the clock ticking down. Ethan stepped up and scored the best goal of the game with a great individual dribble finished neatly. With the game nearing the end both teams were pushing, Reece Edgar made some crucial saves as he did all game, then Murray Williams rose above the DHS defence to score a well placed header. The game was now 5-5 and with the final whistle it was straight to penalties.

Both teams scored 4 out of their first 5, so onto sudden death. Stranraer scored their next 4 and a save of DHS's 9th penalty left the boys ecstatically celebrating the dramatic comeback win. Full time 5-5, SA win 8-7 on penalties.

Well done to all of our boys, all of which played their part, and to DHS who played great football and could have easily came out victors on another day.

## FOOTBALL





Our S1 Boys Got Their League Campaign Up And Running With A Victory Away To St Joseph's College. This Fixture Had Been Postponed Twice Due To A Frozen Pitch.

Stranraer Made A Strong Start With Rory Mckie And Rhys Anderson Both Getting First Half Doubles To Take A 4-0 Lead Into Half Time.

St Joseph's Came Out Strong In The Second Half And Scored 2 Quick Goals To Bring The Game Back To 4-2. The Game Stayed Fairly Even With Both Teams Getting Another, Before Stranraer Scored A Late Flurry Of Quick Break Away Goals Coupled With Good Finishing. Final Score 10-3.

Goal Scorers:  
Rhys Anderson X5  
Rory Mckie X3  
Max Wilson  
Jordan Adair

Mom: Jordan Adair  
And Rhys Anderson



**S1 STORM TO VICTORY  
IN LEAGUE OPENER!  
FOOTBALL**





*Issie Lamberton*

## **A HIGHLAND STAR ON THE RISE**

At just 14 years old, Issie Lamberton is making her mark as a rising star in the performing arts—balancing her love for musical theatre with exceptional achievements in Highland dancing.

Back in November 2024, Issie successfully auditioned for the Glasgow Academy of Musical Theatre Arts (GAMTA) production of *Matilda the Musical Jr.*, landing her dream role as a main dancer. Since January, she took part in intensive weekly rehearsals in

Glasgow, and earlier this month, she proudly performed in every single show—twice daily for an entire week. Her dedication and talent didn't go unnoticed—Issie was offered a place on GAMTA's prestigious advanced musical theatre course, which provides training in singing, acting, ballet, jazz, tap, and more, along with exciting performance opportunities and pathways to professional qualifications.

While pursuing her theatre dreams, Issie



also continued to shine in the world of Highland dancing. Training three times a week, she balanced her demanding theatre schedule with preparation for the Highland Dancing Championship season. In March, she travelled to Glasgow to sit her Highland Dance Theory and grading exams, and after just 12 weeks of preparation, achieved "Honours"—the highest possible result.

Her competition season has been going strong. On Sunday 18th June, she was crowned Joint Highland Winner and National Runner-up in Grangemouth. Since then, she has continued to gain Championship points and placings at events across the West of Scotland, Lanark, and Ayrshire.

Issie's achievements go far beyond the stage and competition floor. She placed 3rd in the

Junior Female Under 16 Sports Personality of the Year at the Wigtownshire Sports Awards and was a finalist for Wigtownshire's Young Achiever of the Year—her sixth finalist spot in just six months. She was also runner-up in both the D&G Life Awards and D&G Youth Awards, and proudly recognised as Most Achieved Dancer and Volunteer of the Year by the Lochryan Highland Dance Association.

In May, Issie was also invited to appear in a documentary about the original Wickerman film, with filming now complete. The documentary is set to air on Netflix sometime next year.

Issie's journey is an inspiring blend of dedication, talent, and passion, and Stranraer Academy is incredibly proud of all she has achieved so far. Whether it's Highland dancing or musical theatre, we know Issie's star will only continue to rise.





### School Golf Championship Results

Stranraer Academy's annual Golf Championship took place at Stranraer Golf Club, where 13 talented young golfers competed for the prestigious Monteith Trophy. Although rain had been forecast from late afternoon, the players remained in high spirits and showed great resilience as the conditions gradually worsened over the back nine holes.

#### **Stranraer Academy Golf Champion and Winner of the Monteith Trophy (Best Scratch Score):**

**1st Place:** Murray Ramsay – 75 strokes

**2nd Place:** Riley Gratton – 81 strokes

**3rd Place:** Connor Gibson – 84 strokes

#### **Handicap Stableford Competition:**

**1st Place:** Mason Bell – 42 points (Better Inward Half)

**2nd Place:** Kieran Patterson – 42 points

**3rd Place:** James Orr – 41 points

A huge well done to all the competitors for their effort, focus, and sportsmanship throughout the event.

The PE Department would also like to thank everyone at Stranraer Golf Club for their continued support in hosting this much-valued fixture in the school's sporting calendar.



**GOLF**



As we wrapped up another exciting netball season, it was time to celebrate the dedication, passion and talent shown by our players throughout the year. This year's awards ceremony highlighted both individual brilliance and the strong team spirit that defines our squads.

*Junior Players' Player of the Year*

- Lilly Weatherby

*Junior Players' Player of the Year*

- Niamh Castle

*Junior Coach's Player of the Year*

- Maisy Sharp

*Junior Coach's Player of the Year*

- Chloe MacLeod

*Senior Players' Player of the Year*

- Romy McCutcheon

*Senior Players' Player of the Year*

- Amy Stewart

*Senior Coach's Player of the Year*

- Rhianna Bodle

*Senior Coach's Player of the Year*

- Rachel Stewart

We introduced two special awards this year.

Massive thank you to Ymca Stranraer and Stranraer & Rhins

Young Farmers for the generous donation from Santa's Float which allowed us to fund these awards. These awards recognise the effort, commitment and resilience of our netballers and we are delighted to have our first two names engraved

*Junior Netball Award (S1-S3) for outstanding effort, commitment and resilience* - Niamh Castle  
*Senior Netball Award (S4-S6) for outstanding effort, commitment and resilience* - Erin McCulloch





# JUNIOR NETBALL FESTIVAL



On Thursday 15th May, three junior netball teams made their way to King George V, Dumfries to participate in the annual netball festival. It was a fantastic day for all teams, who all put in great effort and gained valuable experience. This was the first netball festival for a number of our players.

Stranraer A were 3rd in the plate competition.

Stranraer A Player of the Day – Ruby Rankin

Stranraer B Player of the Day – Maisy Sharp

Stranraer C Player of the Day – Lacie Craig

Special mention to Lilly Weatherby who was awarded the overall player of the day. This award was also won by a Stranraer Academy pupil in October at the Netball Season Opener, so brilliant to see this coming back to Stranraer again.

Thank you to Romy and Sophie for giving up their time to help umpire, keep scores and encourage the girls.

BY MEGAN FORSYTH







On Tuesday 24th June, nine pupils from Stranraer Academy travelled to Dumfries Academy to take part in the annual Senior Netball Festival. It was a round robin tournament with some tough competition, but the team showed fantastic determination and teamwork, managing to net three impressive wins along the way.

A big well done to Romy McCutcheon, who was named Stranraer Academy's Player of the Day – a well-deserved centre of attention! And thank you to Hollie Smith, who stepped up to help out on the day and made a real difference off the court.

# NET GAINS

## STRANRAER SHINES AT SENIOR FESTIVAL



# SWIMMING

**“IN THE POOL OF PERSEVERANCE,  
CHAMPIONS ARE MADE—NOT  
JUST BY SPEED, BUT BY SPIRIT.”**

## **MOLLY SWIMS TO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SUCCESS!**

On 24th January, swimmers from Stranraer Academy competed in the Scottish Schools Swimming Championships which were held at Aberdeen Sports Village.

Huge congratulations go to Molly Irvine-Watson (15-16 years) who swam in 100m Free and won the Gold medal. Molly also swam in 200m Free where she also achieved Gold!

These results meant that Molly became the overall 15-16 years Girls National Champion - a phenomenal achievement! Molly is pictured with her medals

and trophies from the event. Well done Molly!

Other results were as follows:

Emma Barrowman (17-19 years) - 11th place in 100m Fly. Emma also qualified for 200m Fly, but had to withdraw from this event due to injury.

Millie Colvin (17-19 years) - 5th place in 100m Fly, 7th place in 200m Fly.

Ben Hemmings (13-14 years) - swam in 200m Back, but unfortunately was disqualified for a false start.

George Zbiegniewski (15 - 16 years) - 14th place in 200m Individual Medley. 5th Place in the 100m Breaststroke.

Missing from the day was Abbi Gratton, who had qualified for 50m Fly.

Thank you to Linda Duffy of Stranraer Stingrays Swimming Club for coaching on the day (alongside Owen from Dumfries, and Louisa as TM). Well done everyone!





**P**upils from the Aird Class – Mason Graham, Leon Nelson, Catherine Day, Ryan Gibson and Ruby Smellie – have been working hard throughout the year in Home Economics, focusing on developing their knife skills.

Their dedication and effort have paid off, with each pupil demonstrating excellent technique, care and precision when handling a knife in the kitchen. These are skills that take time and patience to perfect, and the group should be extremely proud of the progress they've made.

Well done to all involved – a fantastic achievement that shows what hard work and practice can do!

# A Cut Above

## Aird Class Show Off Sharp Skills





# PIECES OF PICASSO



PICASSO POWER: S3 STUDENTS REIMAGINE 'THE WEEPING WOMAN'

MR LOCHRIE'S S3 CLASS RECENTLY TOOK ON THE CHALLENGE OF REINTERPRETING PICASSO'S FAMOUS PAINTING THE WEEPING WOMAN – AND THE RESULTS ARE STUNNING! FOUR TALENTED STUDENTS, LILLY WEATHERBY, ELLIE-MAY MCKEOWN, MAISY SHARP, AND CARYS ROBERTS, EACH TOOK A SECTION OF THE ICONIC PORTRAIT AND RECREATED IT IN THEIR OWN STYLE. WHEN THE FOUR PIECES WERE BROUGHT TOGETHER, THEY FORMED A BOLD, EXPRESSIVE GROUP ARTWORK THAT CAPTURES BOTH THE EMOTION OF THE ORIGINAL AND THE INDIVIDUALITY OF EACH ARTIST.

WELL DONE TO ALL INVOLVED – A FANTASTIC DISPLAY OF TEAMWORK, CREATIVITY, AND CUBIST FLAIR!





AIRD/LEARNING CENTRE.



ELOISE PERCIVAL S2



LUEY LOGAN S2

EGGE



# BGE



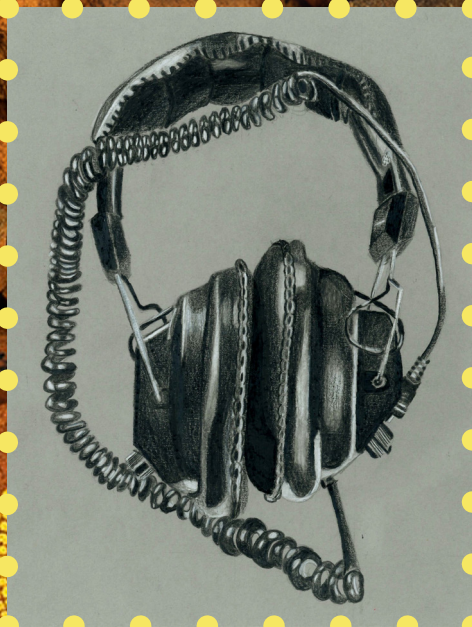
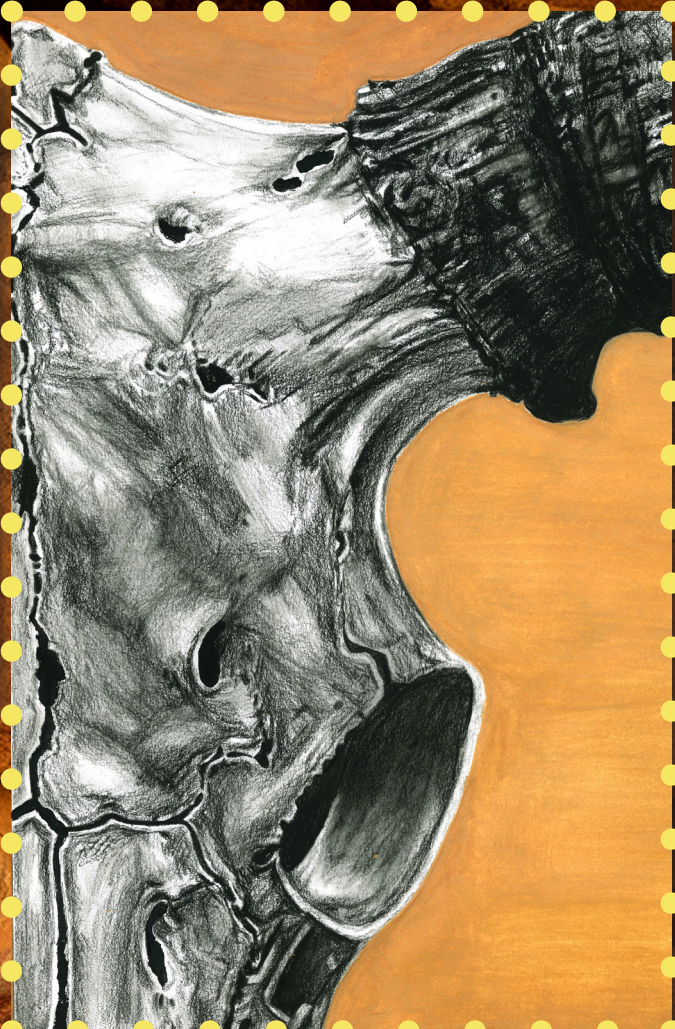
## S1 PRINTMAKING



## S1 POP ART



SKYE KYLE NPA S6



KOREYN MCCREDIE S6

OLIVIA CUMMING S6

Lochrie's Legends



ABBY IRVINE S6



# James' Hall of Fame

ES GNIMA JRO A77-HAYNY



ERIN JAMES S2



SARAH MEELYMONT S3



NATHAN LOCKWOOD S3



MILLIE WHORLOW S2



# Toskerton Meets Talent

## TOSKERTON GROUP COMPETITION

By True Anderson

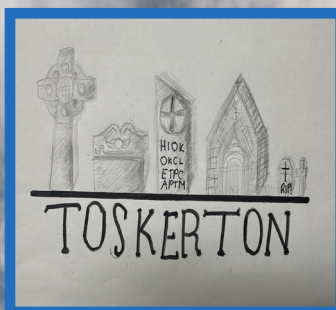
At Stranraer Academy, we are proud to uphold a strong vision of working together across culture, classrooms, and community to be a school our town can be proud of. Within the Creative Arts Faculty, we especially value the opportunity to collaborate with local groups, using creativity as a bridge between our learners and the wider community.

Recently, our pupils took part in a logo design competition set by the local 'Toskerton' community group—a social organisation supporting retired members of the area through events such as their annual Burns Supper, summer picnics, and collaborative projects with local nurseries. Toskerton approached Stranraer Academy looking for a logo that incorporated the name 'Toskerton', featured Kirkmadrine, and represented a strong sense of community. Our students responded with enthusiasm and care, producing thoughtful, well-crafted designs that reflected the brief beautifully.

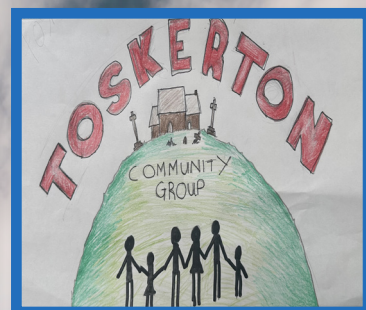
Logo design is a highly competitive and fast-

changing industry, particularly with the increasing role of artificial intelligence in creative fields. By teaching our young people to generate ideas, think visually, and create with their own imaginations, we are helping them build the kind of creative resilience and originality that will serve them well in any future pathway—whether in design, the arts, or beyond.

Every student who took part in this project did an incredible job representing both their school and their community, and their work is a clear reflection of the pride, talent, and creativity we nurture here at Stranraer Academy. The Toskerton Group will select a winner on the run up to Summer and the winning designer will receive a prize for their efforts. The Winning Logo will then be taken and developed into a High Quality Digital Design for the Toskerton Group to use as their logo. We are incredibly proud of all S2 and S3 students who put 100% into this project.



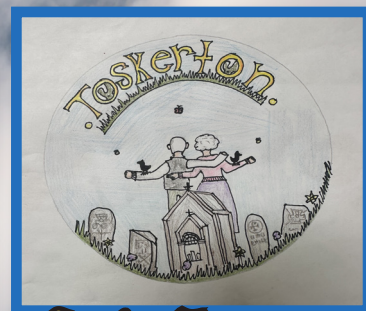
Abigail Young



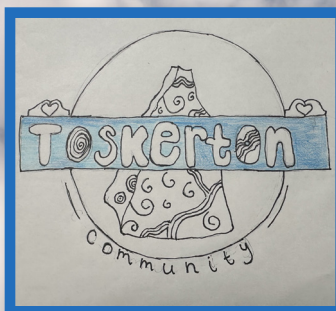
Atticus Orr-Ewing



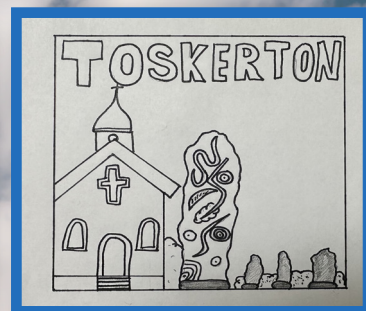
Callum Enstone



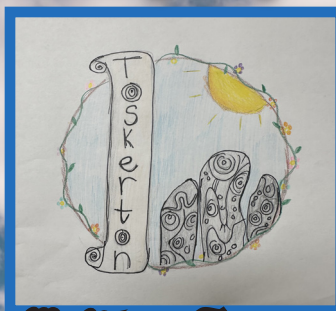
Carly Sharpe



Cerys Logie



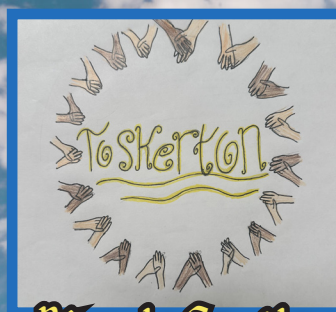
Lucy Logan



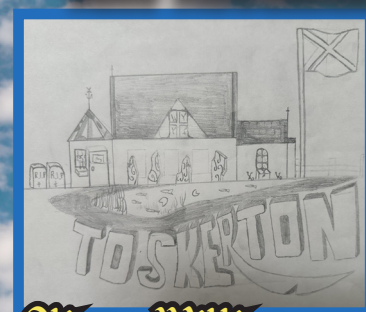
Melissa Fraser



Ness McCulloch



Niamh Castle



Oliver Williamson



## NATIONAL PROGRESSION AWARD SUCCESS

By True Anderson

For the first time at Stranraer Academy, students have successfully passed the National Progression Award (NPA) in Visual Communication, marking a significant achievement both for the learners and the course itself. This milestone reflects their dedication to mastering a curriculum that bridges Art and Design with Graphic Communication, while also introducing foundational photography skills. Students have worked incredibly hard across the year to build a portfolio of digital work made entirely using Digital Technologies in the Creative Arts Faculty. Students have received SQA Certification for their practices.

Through the course's three carefully developed mandatory units, students gained a strong understanding of the graphic design process as it applies within the Scottish Creative Industries. With a particular emphasis on concept development and meeting client needs in line with industry-standard practice, learners were challenged to think critically, create purposefully, and communicate visually. Each unit, students were provided with a 'creative brief', which outlined their tasks to complete, and in the final unit of the course students were given minimal support, leading their own learning journey in order to meet the needs

of the client in their own personal and professional way.

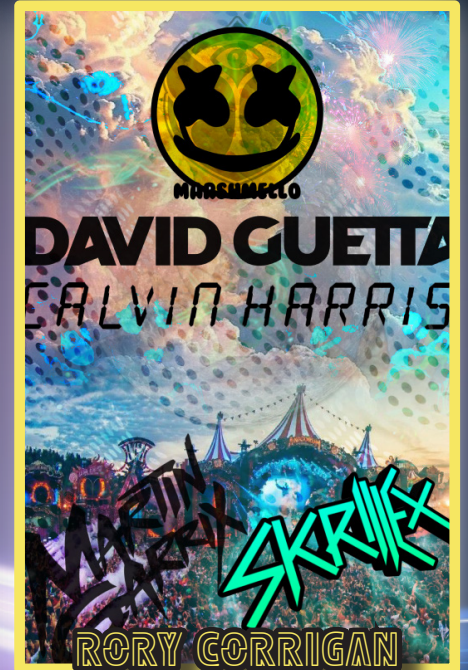
Passing this course not only validates their creative and technical growth, but also opens doors to future opportunities in Visual Communication, Graphic Design, Illustration, UI/UX Design, Video Games Development, Animation, and beyond. Achievement of this course could lead students to a future pathway at Dumfries and Galloway College. As the first cohort to complete the NPA in Visual Communication, these students have set a strong example for future learners, proving that with curiosity, resilience, and vision, an alternative creative pathway can become a foundation for meaningful progress. It's also important to note special recognition to our Classroom Assistant Mrs Fiona McColm, whose dedication to supporting students went above and beyond- so much so that Mrs McColm has completed the qualification with the rest of the class and has received her NPA Certificate from the SQA! Further congratulations are expressed to Taylor Strang who received an award for his commitment to the course as well as achieving the WBS Signs Graphic Design Award, Megan Jamieson who received an award for academic excellence, and Conar Ogston in recognition of his continued practice and development in Visual Communication.

## VISUALS, VICTORY, AND VISION

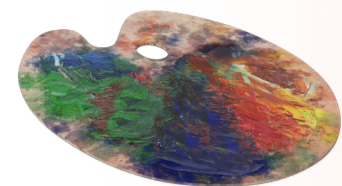




# VISUALS, VICTORY, AND VISION





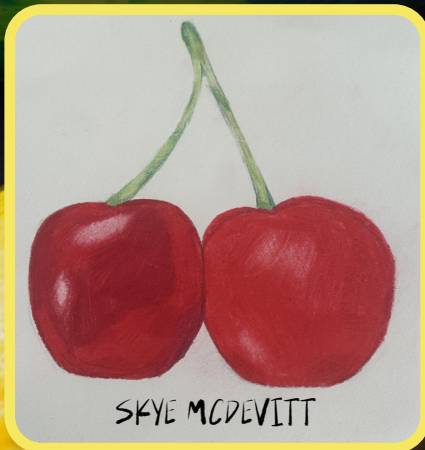
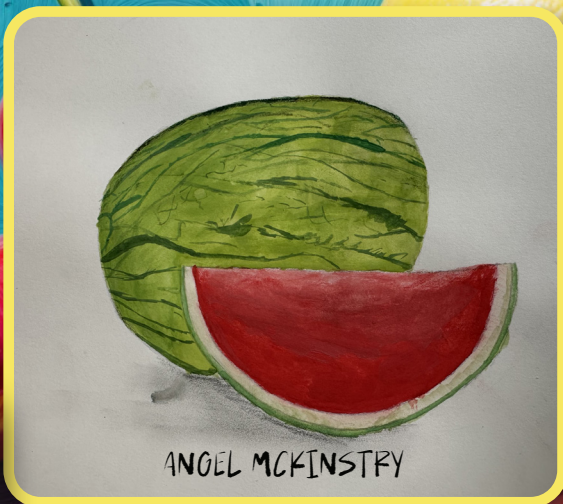
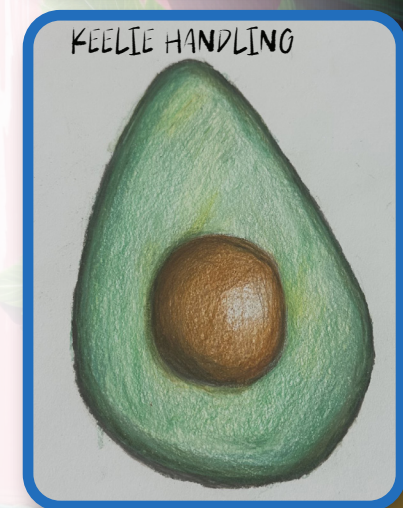
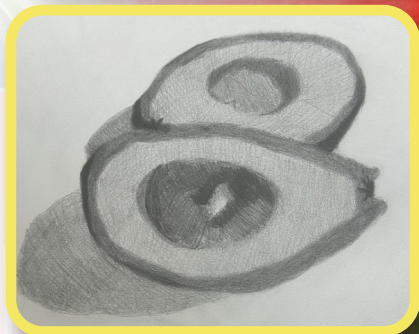


# BRUSHSTROKES & BREAKTHROUGHS

## INTRODUCING NEW PATHWAYS

By True Anderson

The Creative Arts Faculty has been expanding this year with the introduction of two new courses for senior phase students, one of which being the National Progression Award in Art and Design. The level 5 qualification comes as a new stepping-stone to success in the Art and Design Department, allowing senior students who have achieved National 5 Art to achieve an additional qualification in the subject. NPA Art and Design is a free-flowing, creative course, which allows students to experiment with a variety of materials and techniques with the objective of building a creative Portfolio of work. Students have leaped into their studies already, exploring the art of Printmaking combined with experimental studies. As students' progress, there will be opportunities to explore several areas of the Creative Industries- Including Illustration and Advertising. Featured work from students will be used to experiment with Printmaking Techniques on the return to school.



***"Art is not what you see, but what you make others see."***

**– Edgar Degas**





# Bugsy MALONE

Articles by Cara Vallance

This term, the Drama department celebrated the creative talents of our SI pupils with a whole-class performance of Bugsy Malone. Over several weeks, students worked collaboratively to explore character, voice, and movement, bringing this fun-filled gangster comedy to life on stage. The project encouraged teamwork, boosted confidence, and gave every pupil the chance to shine in front of their peers. The final performance was a joyful celebration of effort, enthusiasm, and emerging talent, with students embracing every aspect of the production, from acting to staging. Staff and classmates alike were thoroughly impressed by their energy and commitment.









## S3 Drama Day and Nat 4 Success



This term, a group of dedicated S3 pupils took part in an intensive Drama Day designed to support their completion of a National 4 Added Value Unit. The day offered students the chance to focus on their practical performance skills in a supportive, workshop-style environment. Pupils explored devising and performance techniques through group tasks, improvisation, and script work. The day culminated in a series of assessed performances which enabled several students to successfully achieve their Nat 4 AVU. The experience not only strengthened their drama skills but also highlighted the value of creative learning in building confidence, teamwork, and communication.



# OPERA-TUNITY KNOCKS



## S3 Drama Students Scottish Opera Workshop

On Thursday 13th February we welcomed a team from Scottish Opera's touring company. They delivered a workshop to the S3 Drama students. The workshop was led by theatre-maker Flora Emily Thompson, and engaged the pupils in the process of powerful storytelling through opera. Emily, together with two singers and the musical director from the show, explored how music can illustrate dramatic context on stage. The S3 Drama students initially approached this event with some trepidation as they were unsure if they would be able to relate to Opera and the performers. However, it was an excellent afternoon which showed how singers use their voices, and how stage techniques can be used to generate atmosphere and create mood to develop character. The group also discovered how basic props and other staging can support the time, location and even the weather in which the story is unfolding.

By Rhona Smith





# BRASS & CLASS



**Brass in the Academy by Rhona Smith**

The Rhins Schools Cluster Band has gone from strength to strength in the last 6 months, continuing to rehearse on a Thursday after school and gaining some new recruits. The band is lucky to have brass tutor, Angela Miller, at the helm as she makes rehearsals a pleasure and something that the players always look forward to. Many of the band's players also play in Stranraer Brass Training Band who travelled to Perth to play in the Scottish Championships on 8th March. They did themselves proud with a strong performance and very positive adjudication. Quite a few of our Stranraer Academy teachers are in the band, either as tutors or as new learners. These include Mrs Gibb, Mrs Nimmo-Scott, Mrs Smith and Mrs Williamson!

Some of the Rhins Schools Cluster Band performed as "Stranraer Academy Brass Ensemble" at the recent S5/6 Awards Evening. This had the benefit of an excellent bass sound from Mr Ayres of the CDT Department and Mr Duffy on drumkit 🥁

Finally, a special mention for Freya Johnston in S2 who has just passed her Grade 2 Trinity College exam on Cornet and gained a distinction which is the highest level of pass. Freya works hard and this, together with dedication, determination and natural talent have paid off. Well done Freya!

*"To play a wrong note is insignificant; to play without passion is inexcusable."*

**– Ludwig van Beethoven**



# From Violin to Viva La Vida!



## Live Music Performance

By Rhona Smith

The Music Department were fortunate to have the opportunity for all our NQ students to attend a live concert on Thursday 26th June. Violinist Matt

Glossop together with his band, the Bloomsbury Pop Orchestra had created a new show called 'The Sound Of Coldplay'. They adapted the iconic Coldplay songs onto classical instruments with the backing of a band. It was a

fantastic show, thoroughly enjoyed by all. The students enjoyed the opportunity to hear live music and also ask the musicians about their routes into a musical career. The concert is funded by the Youth Music Initiative through Creative Scotland

and hosted by Absolute Classics.

[www.absoluteclassics.co.uk](http://www.absoluteclassics.co.uk)

<https://www.facebook.com/DGCMusicService>

@creativescotland

#ymusicmatters



# HIGHER PHOTOGRAPHY

THIS YEAR'S HIGHER PHOTOGRAPHY COHORT HAS PRODUCED AN IMPRESSIVE AND ECLECTIC BODY OF WORK, SHOWCASING A DIVERSE RANGE OF TECHNICAL SKILL, CREATIVE VISION, AND PERSONAL INSPIRATION.

FROM THE DUST-FILLED TOMBS AND WHIP-CRACKING THRILLS OF INDIANA JONES-INSPIRED NARRATIVES TO THE BOLD, POLISHED AESTHETIC OF THE K-POP INDUSTRY, STUDENTS HAVE EXPLORED A WIDE SPECTRUM OF GENRES. THEIR PORTFOLIOS INCLUDE STUNNING EXAMPLES OF LANDSCAPE AND NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY—SPANNING SERENE SCOTTISH GLENS TO THE SWEEPING VISTAS OF SWEDEN—AS WELL AS BEAUTIFULLY COMPOSED FLORAL MACRO IMAGERY AND LONG EXPOSURE SHOTS CAPTURING SILKY-SMOOTH RIVERS AND WATERFALLS.

ELSEWHERE, STUDENTS HAVE VENTURED INTO CINEMATIC UNIVERSES, WITH HIGH-ENERGY HOMAGES TO DRAGON BALL Z, MOODY FILM NOIR LIGHTING, AND EMOTIONALLY CHARGED DOLL PHOTOGRAPHY INSPIRED BY BOTH SURREALISM AND HORROR. THIS COLLECTION IS ONLY A GLIMPSE INTO THE DEPTH OF IMAGINATION AND TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE ON DISPLAY. OVER THE NEXT FEW PAGES, ENJOY A CURATED SELECTION OF WORK THAT REFLECTS THE TALENT, HARD WORK, AND INDIVIDUALITY OF THIS YEAR'S HIGHER PHOTOGRAPHY STUDENTS.



KEARA BARK



# HIGHER PHOTOGRAPHY



**MEGAN PIRRIE**



**KACI HANDLING**



**WILLIAM TEEARS**



**AVAH MCCUTCHEON**





**EMILY BINGHAM**



**SKYE KYLE**



**ABBIEY BRADBURY**



**FAITH JOHNSTON**



**ANASTASIA MCCLUSKEY**



**JACOB SPEAREY**



**CHELSEA OGSTON**

# HIGHER PHOTOGRAPHY





**LIGHTS, CAMERA...  
MCCUBBIN!**

Archie McCubbin has been a long-standing and valued contributor to the school newsletter, regularly offering thoughtful articles, striking photography, and a creative eye that's helped shape our publication over the years. Beyond his editorial talents, Archie has also emerged as one of Stranraer Academy's most exciting young filmmakers, producing a range of short films that showcase his flair for storytelling, visual style, and cinematic history.

From silent slapstick to moody horror and Western homage, Archie's films are full of character and craft, blending technical skill with a clear passion for the artform.

As Archie moves on to new adventures, we want to thank him for all his hard work and creativity—and we wish him every success in the future. His films can be enjoyed at the following link:

<https://stranraeracademy.org/archie-mccubbin-short-films-2024-2025-student-work/>

Keep an eye on this talented name—Archie's just getting started!



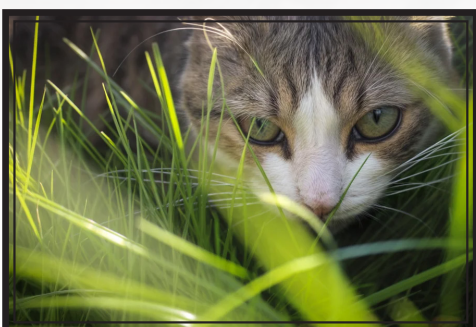


# PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE WEEK RETURNS IN AUGUST



PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE WEEK IS BACK THIS AUGUST AND OPEN TO ALL YEAR GROUPS! THIS POPULAR COMPETITION HAS BEEN A HUGE SUCCESS OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS, AND WE'RE EXCITED TO SEE EVEN MORE BRILLIANT ENTRIES. EACH WEEK, ONE WINNER AND ONE RUNNER-UP WILL BE CHOSEN AND ENTERED INTO THE GRAND FINAL IN DECEMBER, WHERE THE PHOTOGRAPHERS OF THE YEAR WILL BE SELECTED BY THE STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM.

LAST YEAR'S WINNERS WERE AMIE JOHNSTON, BETH BLYTH, ELLIE WATSON, AND MEGAN PIRRIE, WHO IMPRESSED THE JUDGES WITH THEIR CREATIVITY, TECHNICAL SKILL, AND EYE FOR DETAIL.



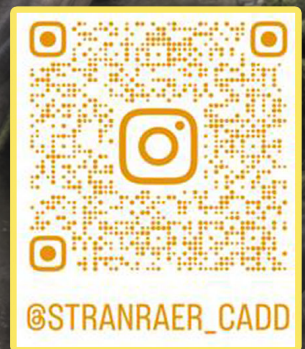
IF YOU'RE TAKING PHOTOS OVER THE SUMMER WHETHER IT'S A SUNSET, A PET, NATURE, OR SOMETHING COMPLETELY CREATIVE, DON'T HESITATE TO ENTER. TRY USING SIMPLE TECHNIQUES LIKE THE RULE OF THIRDS FOR BETTER COMPOSITION, NATURAL LIGHTING FOR MOOD, OR CLOSE-UP/MACRO SHOTS TO CAPTURE DETAIL. LAST YEAR'S TOP ENTRIES INCLUDED EVERYTHING FROM LANDSCAPES AND PORTRAITS TO ABSTRACT IMAGES. THAT ONE PHOTO YOU SNAP ON HOLIDAY, AT THE BEACH, OR EVEN IN YOUR BACK GARDEN COULD TAKE THE CROWN! SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY THROUGH THE WIDER ACHIEVEMENT PAGE ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE: [HTTPS://STRANRAERACADEMY.ORG/WIDER-ACHIEVEMENT/](https://stranraeracademy.org/wider-achievement/)



# **CREATIVE ARTS** **IS NOW ON INSTAGRAM**



# **IT'S SPINORIFFIC**



@STRANRAER\_CADD



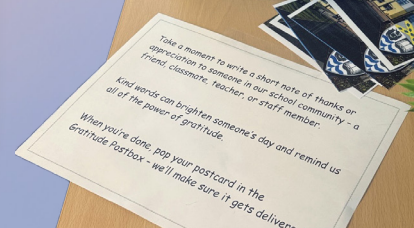


# Pause, Reflect, Reconnect



## Mental Health Awareness Week 2025

Our school took part in Mental Health Awareness Week (13th–17th May), focusing on the theme of Community. Pupils and staff engaged in a range of activities each day – from mindfulness workshops and gratitude projects to outdoor learning and a Digital Detox Day. It was fantastic to see our school community coming together to promote positive well-being, support one another, and take time to reflect on the importance of connection and kindness.

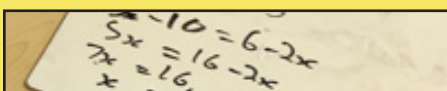
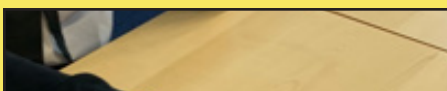


*"Mental health... is not a destination, but a process. It's about how you drive, not where you're going."*  
— Noam Shpancer



# MATHEMATICS & BUSINESS EDUCATION

WHERE NUMBERS MEET AMBITION

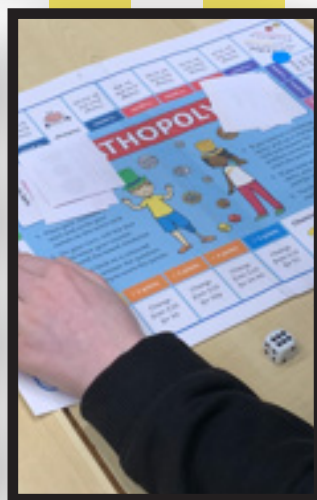
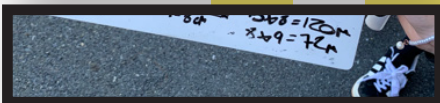
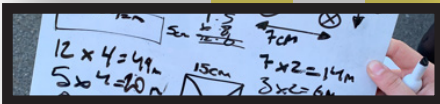
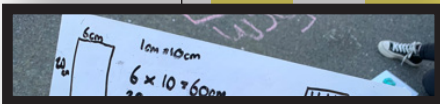
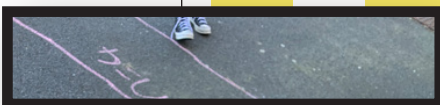
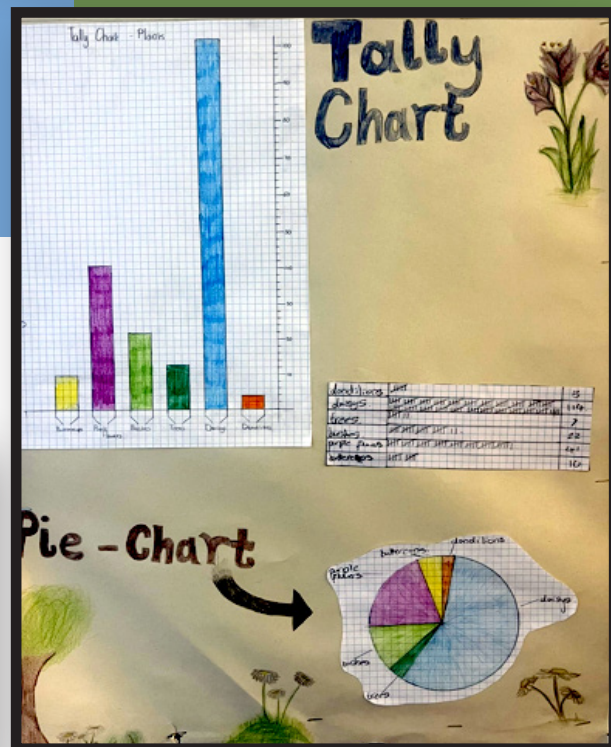
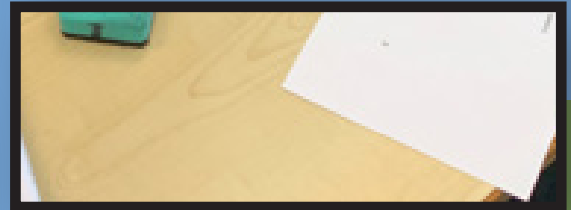
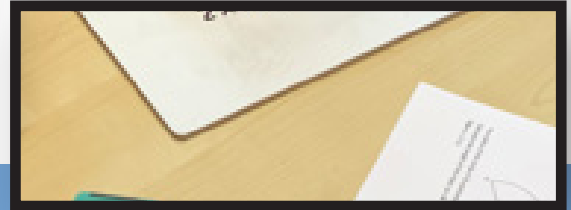
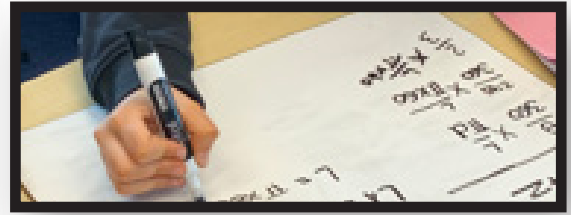


In maths with our BGE students we have been focusing on how our maths skills can be used in real life through Measurement, Scale Drawing, Statistics and Speed, Distance and Time. Classes have been busy inside and outside the classroom working on a range of different activities. S1 and S2 have been busy collecting information and then using it to create statistical diagrams, some S3 classes have been starting to look at exam questions via Relay tasks. See below for some of the great work our learners have produced.

By Kaye Brown

**SPEED, STATS & SCALE**





■ "Pure mathematics is, in its way, the poetry of logical ideas." – Albert Einstein

**SPEED, STATS & SCALE**





# NEW FACES, SHARP MINDS

## ENTERPRISING MATHS IN ACTION

### P7 Maths Challenge

- We were also lucky enough to have the joy of hosting The Primary
- Enterprising Maths Challenge for Wigtownshire, where we got to meet some
- of our soon to be new S1 pupils. Teams of 3, made up of Primary 6 and 7
- pupils competed from our cluster schools. Whilst there was an element of
- competition between the schools the focus was about working together,
- mathematical thinking and enjoyment. Some of our S3 pupils, Jude Obi,
- Taylor Smith, Olivia Turtle and Leo Waugh, helped out on the day to ensure
- all events ran as smoothly as possible. They were a super team and the
- P6/7's loved their support – well done!



POSTER WINNER – GLENLUCE

MATHEMATICAL  
CHALLENGE WINNERS –  
REPHAD







# EGG-CITING ENTERPRISE

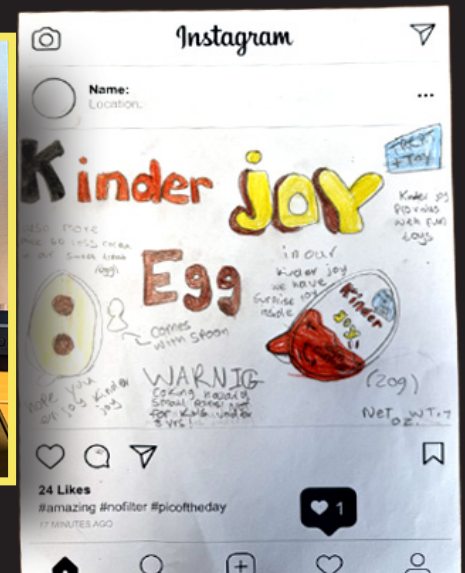
## S1'S DIGITAL CHOCOLATE CHALLENGE!

### S1 IT - EASTER EGG MARKETING CHALLENGE

Miss Baillie's S1 pupils recently took on the challenge of becoming creative chocolatiers and marketing experts in an exciting IT project. With their task to design and promote a brand-new Easter egg!

Pupils developed their own unique egg flavours, designed eye-catching packaging, chose pricing strategies, and created marketing materials to pitch their product. The project allowed them to apply digital skills in a fun, real-world context while exploring creativity, branding, and consumer appeal.

The results were imaginative, professional, and – we must say – deliciously impressive!







**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/](https://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.



# VIKING LAUNCH!

## GT3 Viking Catapults

As part of our History and Forest School and Outdoor Learning this term, we made a Viking catapult.

We used twine to tie the sticks together into a triangle shape. We then added elastic bands and a yogurt pot as the hold case. The best bit was testing them! First we had to see if we could knock down targets and then we measured who's catapult travelled the furthest.





# DIG IN!



## **GT4 at the Community Garden.**

**Now that the weather is warmer, the pupils in GT4 have been volunteering and helping at the Community Garden, Stranraer.**

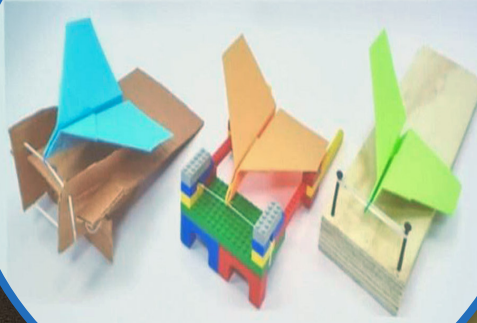
**Each week they help Mrs Dampney (Incredible Edibles) and Maggie with lots of different jobs around the garden, including digging, moving soil, weeding and watering the plants. So far, they have planted carrots, lettuce, peas, parsnips and tatties. We are looking forward to tasting them when they are ready!**



# LIFT-OFF AND LANDINGS

## A CREATIVE CRASH COURSE IN ENGINEERING

### Paper airplane launchers



### S2 PUPILS TAKE ON ENGINEERING CHALLENGES

Our S2 pupils had a blast getting hands-on with engineering in two exciting activities, organised by FEMeng – Empowering Women in

Engineering from the University of Glasgow's School of Engineering as part of their Ask An Engineer outreach project.

First up, paper plane launchers – pupils built and tested their own launchers to see how far their planes could fly. They discovered how things like thrust, lift, and drag affect flight, just like in real aviation. There were plenty of epic launches (and a few crash landings)!

Next, we stepped into the world of sports shoe design. Pupils experimented with different materials to create the best shock-absorbing soles for running shoes. They learned how engineers make trainers comfy, durable, and perfect for athletes. Some designs were seriously impressive! It was a fun-filled morning packed with creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving, thanks to the efforts of the FEMeng team. Who knows, maybe we have some future engineers in the making!

**“Scientists study  
the world as it is;  
engineers create  
the world that  
never has been.”**

**— Theodore von  
Kármán**

ARTICLES BY  
CARRIE  
WHITE







**"The right shoes can take you to incredible places—especially when they're engineered for greatness."**



# AIR, EARTH, MOTION

## HANDS-ON SCIENCE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

### Outdoor Learning in Science: Forces & Chemistry

Exploring science outdoors offers students hands-on experiences that reinforce key concepts in physics and chemistry.

#### Forces, Flight, Motion & Balanced Forces

Outdoor activities provide tangible ways to understand forces in action. For instance:

**Flight:** Using straw hoop gliders instead of paper planes demonstrates

principles of thrust, drag, lift, and gravity. Students can test different designs to explore aerodynamics.

**Motion & Balanced Forces:** Activities like tug-of-war or rolling objects on various surfaces highlight friction, inertia, and Newton's Laws of Motion. Observing how objects move—or stay still—provides real-world understanding of balanced and unbalanced forces.

#### Chemistry: Drawing Molecules

In chemistry, outdoor learning can involve visualizing molecular

structures with natural materials or chalk drawings. Students can:

Use sticks and clay to model covalent bonding between atoms, reinforcing molecular geometry.

Draw molecular structures on the ground to grasp how atoms connect in different compounds.

Investigate real-world chemistry, such as observing plant respiration or water properties, connecting structural formulas to practical application.

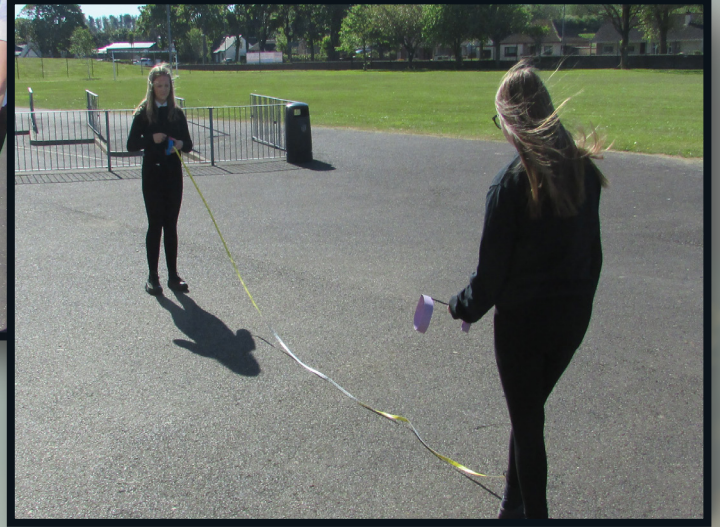




# AIR, EARTH, MOTION

*"In every walk with nature,  
one receives far more than  
he seeks."*

*— John Muir*



## SCIENCE IN THE CLASSROOM

### SAMPLING TECHNIQUES IN ECOLOGY

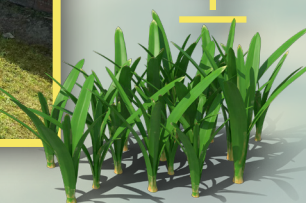
**Fieldwork with the Support Learning  
Students : Sampling Techniques in  
Ecology**

Outdoor investigations help students develop scientific inquiry skills through sampling techniques like pitfall traps and tree measurements.

**Pitfall Traps:** Used to sample ground-dwelling invertebrates, these small containers are placed flush with the soil surface and left for a period to collect species moving across the ground.

**Measuring Trees:** Students can assess tree growth and forest health by measuring tree height

These methods allow students to engage in real-world ecological research, improving observational and analytical skills in an outdoor setting.





# CAMERON'S COMMAND

RISE OF THE  
BATTLE BOTS





Within the humming heart of the science department, a mechanical marvel has taken form. Under the guidance of Mr Cameron, the second battle bot has come to life—piece by engineered piece—crafted through dedication, curiosity, and no small amount of scientific wonder.

Week after week, through the glow of lunch hour lights, students have soldered wires, calibrated components, and harnessed the magic of radio waves. Guided by 3D-printed blueprints and steady hands, they've learned to wield tools both digital and manual, merging old-world craftsmanship with the technologies of tomorrow.

The result? Not just one, but two fully operational battle bots—twin titans of the classroom arena, ready to spar, to learn, and to inspire. With each clash, students study the physics of impact, the art of design iteration, and the quiet thrill of discovery.

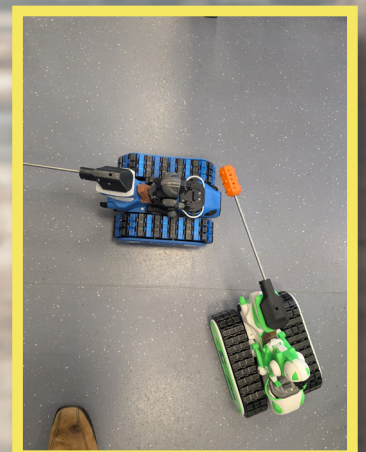
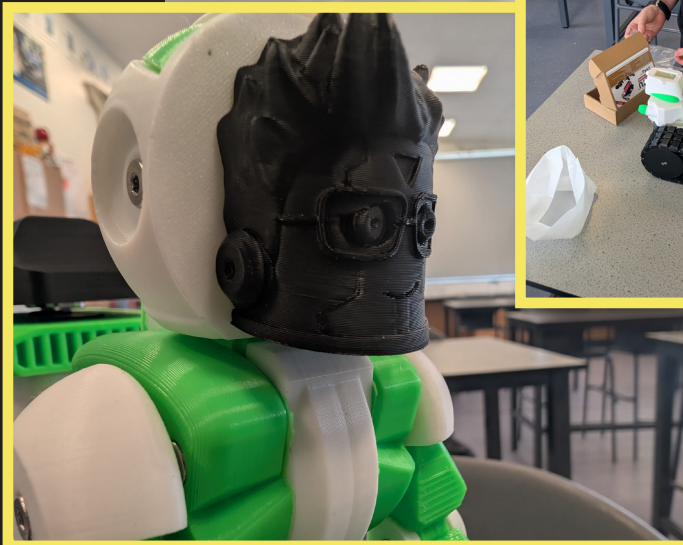
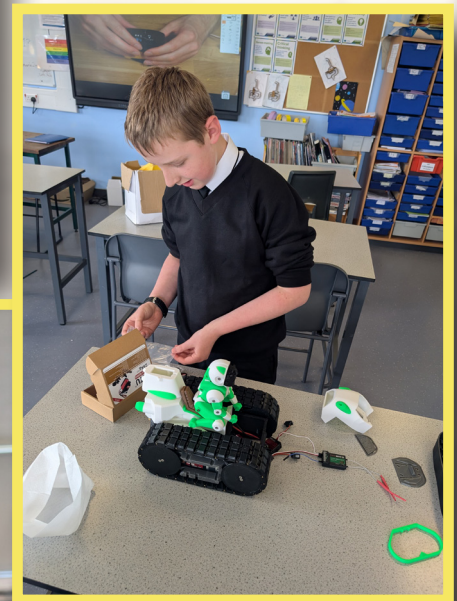
This work would not have been possible without the generous sponsorship of Stranraer Academy and Ecogen, whose belief in student innovation powers every circuit. A special thanks also goes to Mr Patterson in CDT, whose support helped bring these bots to life.

But the journey is far from over. Come August, construction begins on a third bot—a bold new design, a new story, a new team. New members are warmly invited to join the lunchtime engineers as they prepare for future battles... perhaps even against rival schools.

If your school dares to build, we challenge you: pick up your tools, design your champions, and meet us in the arena. Let the age of student-engineered robotics begin.



A SCIENTIFIC  
SAGA LED  
BY MR  
CAMERON





# The Pupil Leadership Team



2024 - 2026



# Torch Passed: From Achievement to Transition



**Violet Raphael – Head Girl**

**2024 – 2025**



**Innes Jack – Head Boy**

**2024 – 2025**

## Passing the Torch: A Year of Leadership Reflection

### By Violet Raphael

As head girl and head boy we have really gained so much from our roles this year and have enjoyed every minute of giving back to the school. We aimed to ensure that all individual voices in Stranraer Academy were heard and believe we have achieved this. We gained amazing relationships with teachers and pupils alike.

### Listening to Our School Community

One of the things we introduced was the suggestion box and through this have worked tirelessly to make the school a better place to be. We have been passionate about raising funds for the school as well as for many charities.

### Charitable Fundraising

We arranged a bake sale and non-uniform day for Children in Need and were overwhelmed by

the donations we received. We were delighted to raise £1200 for this worthwhile cause. We also helped the school on the very important Poppy Day to raise funds. We arranged the Apex Foodbank Christmas collection and included this in our house competitions to encourage pupils to bring in donations aiding to support families at this expensive time of the year. We gathered a significant amount of food and Apex were amazed by our donation, one that single-handedly provided for all those in need in our community.

### Supporting Student Success

Equally we are very proud of our eco-friendly initiatives, one of which being the recycled study material scheme. This was to make study support and school materials accessible to all. Alongside this we began after hours snacks and study support, which gave pupils free access to food and drinks when staying to study after school. Members of our PLT would give up their time to volunteer at this club.

### School Events and Community Spirit

Our team also arranged a successful litter pick around the school and surrounding area to give back to our local community. We have loved organising house competitions, particularly the themed drawing competitions and quizzes. As well as this, we have had great fun arranging events such as the annual proms and snowball and more recently the very successful leavers ceremony that made our last official day in the school building one to remember. Our last initiative we were determined to fulfil was the running of our Easter fête to raise funds for the Galloway Community Hospital which resulted in £300 being donated to their Endowment Fund.

### Representing Our School

We have been proud to represent the school at various community events such as the memorial service in memory of the lives lost during the sinking of the Victoria, local remembrance services, local Christmas services, rotary meetings and finally awards nights. We can't thank the school enough for this opportunity, it has been an absolute pleasure.



# Here to Listen. Ready to Lead



**Brooke Howe – Head Girl**  
**2025 – 2026**

Hey everyone, I'm Brooke Howe, and I'm really excited to be your head girl this year. I see this role as a chance to make some real improvements around the school, and I've got a few ideas about where to start.

One of my main goals is to make sure everyone feels like they have a voice. I want to work on opening better lines of communication between students and teachers. I'm thinking about setting up regular informal chats and maybe some online forums where you can share your thoughts and ideas. It's important to me that everyone feels heard.

As your head girl, I'm also committed to enhancing our sex education program. I aim to work with pupil support to ensure our curriculum is comprehensive, inclusive, and up to date. This includes covering topics like consent, healthy relationships, and diverse sexual orientations and gender identities. My goal is to create a safe and informative environment where all students feel comfortable asking questions and learning about their sexual health. I looking forward to working with you all to make this a great year!



I am truly honoured to have been chosen as Head Boy of our school. I am thrilled to have been given the opportunity of this position and would like to thank both the teachers and the school as a whole for providing this excellent opportunity. With this role comes great privilege and I plan to represent the student body with great respect and enthusiasm.

Being accepted as head boy is more than just a title, it's a big responsibility that I take very seriously. I understand the importance of leading by example and will be an excellent role model for you or your child to look up to, ensuring I value everybody's views. I will stay committed to representing the school as well as its values- with great honesty, dignity and determination. helping hone in on the healthy environment the school already has.

Throughout my time at the school I have come to deeply appreciate the supportive and inspiring environment it provides. In my role I hope to give back to the school as it has provided me many opportunities that I wouldn't have experienced otherwise.

I look forward to working with the Pupil Leadership Team in order to implement many different movements to make the school a much better place for everyone. It is important to me that every voice feels heard and that everyone feels represented in some way shape or form. I hope to make this year of school successful, memorable and enjoyable for everyone. As a school we can achieve great things!

Thanks once again for this opportunity and I am excited for the journey ahead.



**Josh Sullivan – Head Boy**  
**2025 – 2026**





# AWARDS CEREMONIES 2025



# 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 Association Award

Lacy Craig  
Bobby Stevenson

### Junior Netball Award

Niamh Castle

### Reading Champion

Zara Hamilton

### Scotland Reads Award

Christopher Muir

### Young Writer of the Year

Zara Hamilton

### S1 Student of the Year Award

Zara Hamilton

### S2 Student of the Year Award

Sophia Schofield

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







# **S3 AND S4 AWARDS SPECIAL AWARDS**

**Airds Outstanding Citizen Award**

**Leon Nelson**

**Andrew Glasgow Computing Award**

**Lucy Bradbury**

**Better Lives Partnership – Overcoming Barriers to Learning**

**Andrew Brown**

**History Association Award**

**Shauna Kinahan**

**Sarah McClymont**

**Let's Get Sporty Award**

**Romy McCutcheon**

**Montpelier Business Award**

**Ruth Turtle**

**Senior Netball Award**

**Erin McCulloch**

**WBS Graphic Design Award**

**Alex Brown**

**Jackson Walker**

**S3 Student of the Year**

**Olivia Turtle**

**S4 Student of the Year**

**Ruth Turtle**





AWARDS



# S5 AND S6 AWARDS SPECIAL AWARDS

## **Better lives Partnership – Overcoming Barriers to Learning**

**Aobh McGuigan**

## **Christine Pickersgill Memorial Award**

**Sophía Allanson**

**Keara Bark**

**Olivia Cumming**

## **David and Hazel Irving Biology Award**

**Mateusz Kaczmarczyk**

## **Douglas Cochrane Citizenship Award**

**Ellie Miller**

## **Euan and Kerri Burns Adversity Award**

**Kaci Handling**

## **History Association Award**

**Joshua Westbrook**

## **History Trust Bursary Award**

**Iona Ferries-Anderson**

**Georgina Lane**

## **Leadership Award**

**Jack Barrett**

**Innes Jack**

**Ellie Miller**

**Violet Raphael**

## **Let's Get Sporty Award**

**Rhianna Bodle**

## **Linda Johnstone Memorial Award**

**Millie Smith**

## **Stuart Binnie Physical Education Award**

**Emma Barrowman**

## **Montpelier Business Management Award**

**Danny Lyon**

## **Academic Excellence**

**Catriona McColm**

## **Oliver Lane Memorial Award**

**Mirren Gibb**

## **WBS Graphic Design Award**

**Adam Ferguson**

## **S5 Student of the Year**

**Mateusz Kaczmarczyk**

## **S6 Student of the Year**

**Millie Smith**

## **WBS Visual Communication Award**

**Taylor Strang**





AWARDS



# ROTARY STAFF AWARD



## STEVEN LOCHRIE

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

Some teachers colour inside the lines — but not Mr Lochrie. He paints far beyond the borders of expectation, bringing creativity, compassion, and commitment to every lesson. Travelling all the way from Glasgow to Stranraer Academy each morning, he's the living brushstroke that proves dedication has no distance limit.

Mr Lochrie doesn't just teach Art — he lives it. Whether he's guiding a Higher pupil through their final folio or calming a nervous S1 with a warm smile and a well-placed pun, he ensures every student feels seen, supported, and inspired. His classroom is more than four walls; it's a gallery of growth, a safe space where young minds are sculpted with care and curiosity.

He goes the extra mile — quite literally — and still finds the energy to go even further for his students. Friendly, funny, and full of heart, Mr Lochrie is a true palette-cleanser in education: vibrant, original, and utterly unforgettable.

Congratulations to a teacher who proves that every great school needs an artist at its heart.



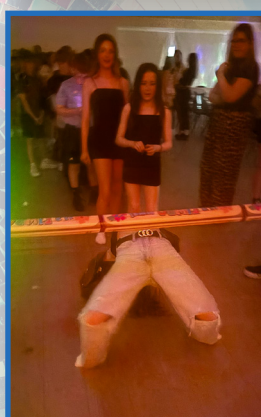


# SMOOTH MOVES AND NEW BEGINNINGS

## P7 Transition Visit & Disco – A Warm Welcome to Our Future First Years!

From Tuesday 17th to Thursday 19th June, we were delighted to welcome around 100 Primary 7 pupils for their S1 transition visit. Over the three days, pupils explored the school, met their new classmates and teachers, and got a real feel for high school life – all with the help of our brilliant team of pupil guides.

The visit ended on a high with Thursday evening's transition disco, where the P7s danced, played games, and tucked into pizza with new friends. A massive thank you to the Berlin trip senior group and the fantastic new S5/6 volunteer class, who organised a brilliant night and raised a fantastic £335 in the process! Thanks also to the staff who gave up their time to support both the disco and the wider visit – your help made it all possible.



**"You're off to great places. Today is your day. Your mountain is waiting, so... get on your way!"**

**— Dr. Seuss**





# SENIOR PROM

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK SHANNON

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.



SENIOR PROM 2025









# BACK TO THE DELOREAN

ARTICLE BY LYNDSAY GIBB

Mrs Gibb's S2 English classes often start the year learning media techniques by focusing on the modern classic *Back to the Future*. A fun mix of genres, the film's narrative teaches us that small actions today can have big consequences for tomorrow, and features the now-iconic DeLorean DMC-12 as the quirky means of transporting its driver (and passengers) through time. When Mrs Gibb learned that current DeLorean owners were meeting for a reunion in Belfast in June, she tried to arrange for one of the cars to visit the school. Unfortunately, ferry times didn't match, but John Kennedy agreed to stop in at Cairnryan to say hello, and a few pupils were fortunate enough to have adults to transport them out for a look.

Matthew, Rhys and Murray loved the chance to sit behind the wheel, and they asked lots of questions, curious about the history of the vehicle. Former pupil Adam (Murray's big brother and taxi for the evening) declined the opportunity to get in, uncertain that—at over 6 foot tall—he'd be able to get back out!

And if you look closely at the photos... you might just spot a couple of very famous time-travelling guests who couldn't resist popping in for the occasion. Great Scott!



**"If you put your mind to it, you can accomplish anything." – Dr. Emmett Lathrop Brown**







Wishing all Stranraer Academy pupils and their families a relaxing,  
safe, and well-deserved summer holiday!

We hope the holidays bring plenty of rest, laughter, and a few rays  
of sunshine along the way.

We'll be ready to welcome everyone

# BACK TO THE SCHOOL

on Thursday 21st August 2025 — no DeLorean required.







WWW.STRANRAERACADEMY.ORG

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# SUMMER 2025 NEWSLETTER

CURATED AND EDITED BY ROSS JAMES