

S T R A N R A E R

ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER



WINTER 2025

WWW.STRANRAERACADEMY.ORG



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Happy Holidays





Jamie Farquhar

Headteacher

Dear Parent / Carer,

Welcome to our Christmas Newsletter 2025. We have captured a sample of the amazing experiences and successes our pupils have had since August.

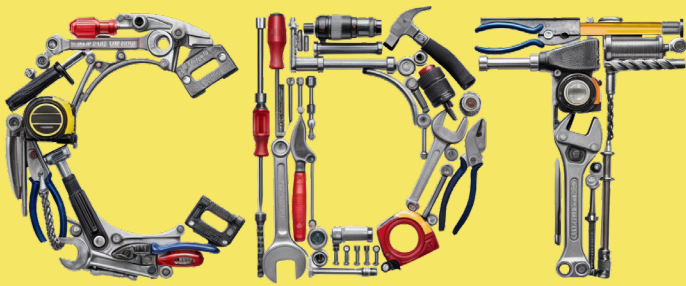
Everyone at Stranraer Academy continues to work exceptionally hard to make Stranraer Academy a school Stranraer can be proud of. Much of what is captured here is the result of teachers, support staff, parents and the community going above and beyond this considerable ambition.

I hope it provides an insight into our wonderful school, the range of talent of our pupils and how much we enjoy working with the young people of Stranraer.

Wishing all our families and our entire community a wonderful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Mr Farquhar



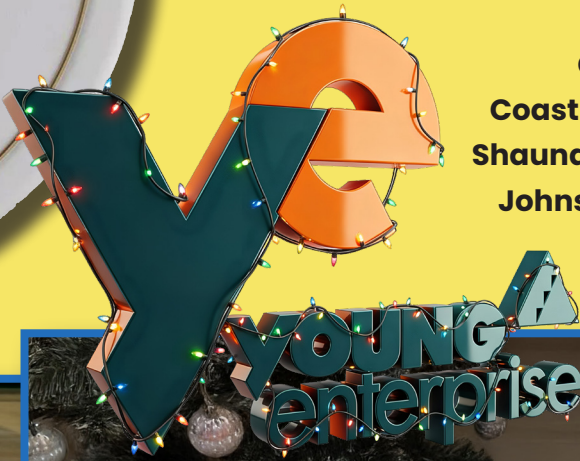


ARTICLE BY ALEX BROWN S5

**CREATIONS BY THE COAST SHINES AT
FIRST MARKET**

Exploring the marketing world, our team has constructed our own mini business, creating products and developing a variety of skills along the way, such as product design, sales, and more. On 3rd December, our Young Enterprise group, Creations by the Coast, took part in our very first market—and safe to say, it was a big success.

**Creations by the
Coast are: Alex Brown,
Shauna Kinahan, Abbie
Johnstone, and Chloe
Dunbar**



SAWS, SABOTAGE, AND SANTA'S REINDEER

STRANRAER ACADEMY'S

BEST WOODWORKER

ARTICLE BY
SARA SMITH

On Wednesday, 10th December, staff from across various faculties competed in a surprise woodwork challenge to determine Stranraer Academy's best woodworker. For this year's challenge, staff had one hour to make their own "pull-along toy," with the finished models being judged by our special guest, Jennifer Buchanan from Creative Stranraer. A fun night was had by all, with only a few instances of exploding paint pens, sabotage, and many broken coping saw blades.

In the end, Mrs Kim Dornan was crowned the winner with her fantastic pull-along reindeer. Unfortunately, Mr Mark Shannon was awarded the loser's trophy, though everyone agreed that he was stitched up by his own children, who also attended to try out a bit of CDT. Many of the participating staff brought along their younger children, who also had a blast making their own twisted keyrings and doing a bit of laser cutting. Overall, a lot of fun was had by everyone who took part.



"Exploding paint pens, broken saws, and plenty of laughs – a woodwork challenge to remember!"



"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." – Helen Keller

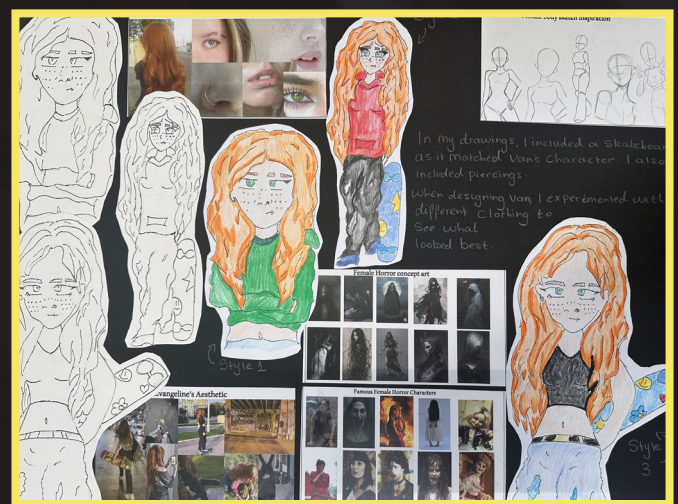
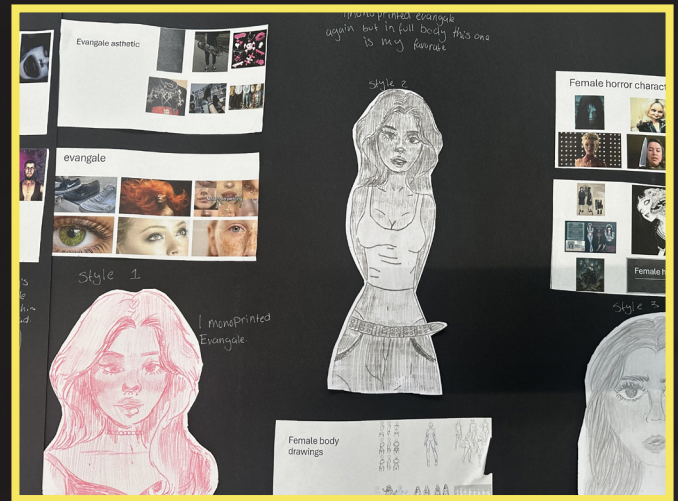
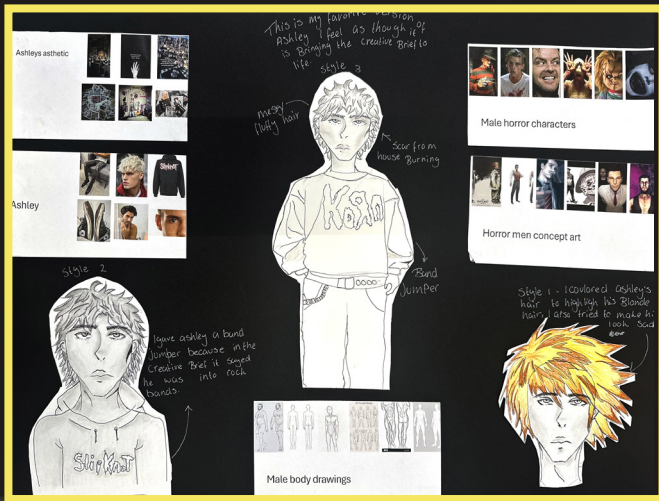


CREATIVE ARTS



FROM LIGHT TO DARK DESIGNING ILLUSTRATION THROUGH WORLDS

NPA VISUAL COMMUNICATION



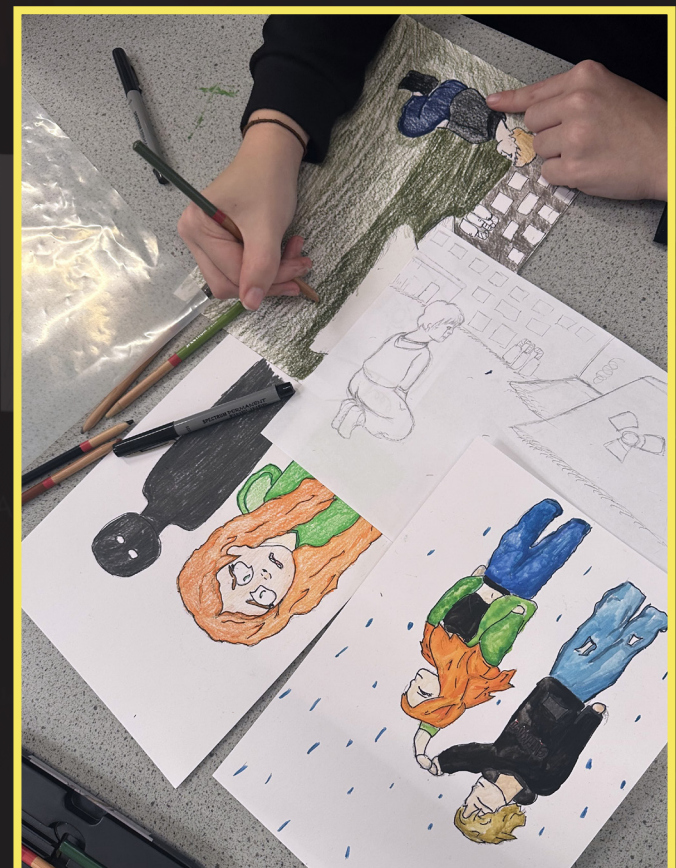
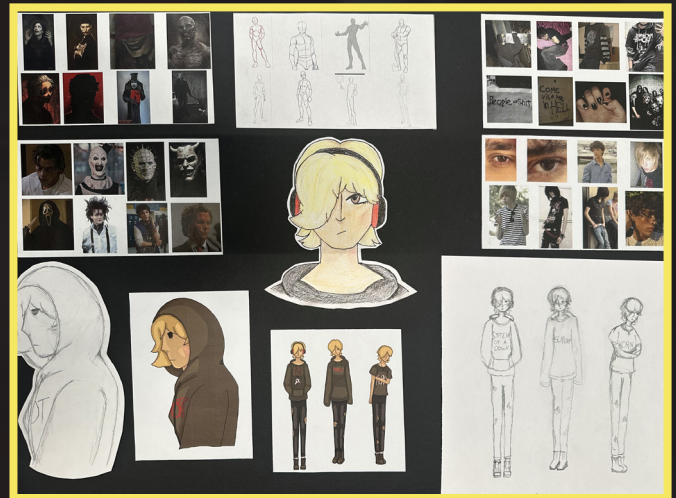
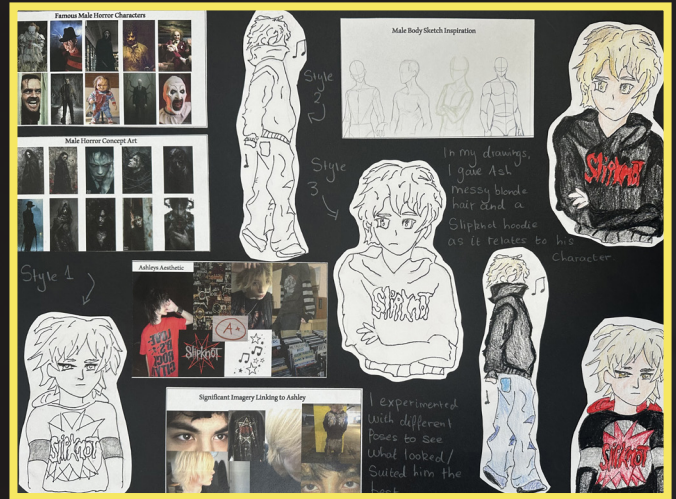
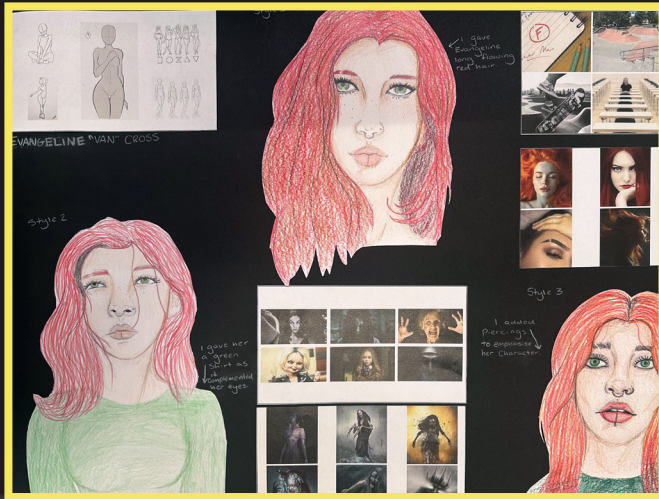
NPA Visual Communication students have recently been introduced to the illustration industry, where they are developing key creative and professional skills linked to working to a brief and meeting the needs of a client. As part of this unit, learners have been set an exciting project to design and illustrate two main characters for a horror-themed book titled *Into the Shadows* and then will work towards illustrating these characters within the literature. Through detailed research, students have explored a wide range of illustration styles, ana-

lysing the work of different designers before refining and developing their own personal style. They are now using this research to create a series of illustrations inspired by quotes from the novel, ensuring their ideas remain closely linked to the narrative and client expectations.

Alongside technical and creative development, the growth of vital meta-skills such as problem-solving, adapting, critical-thinking, and creativity has been a key focus throughout this unit. While illustration can be a demanding and chal-

lenging art form for some, students have shown excellent commitment and determination in meeting the course requirements. After Christmas, they will move into the final stage of the project, where they will complete their illustrations and use digital software to present their work in situational mock-ups for the client. This step represents a significant move towards industry-standard practice and provides students with an invaluable insight into real-world creative workflows.

By True Anderson





A BURST OF

COLOUR

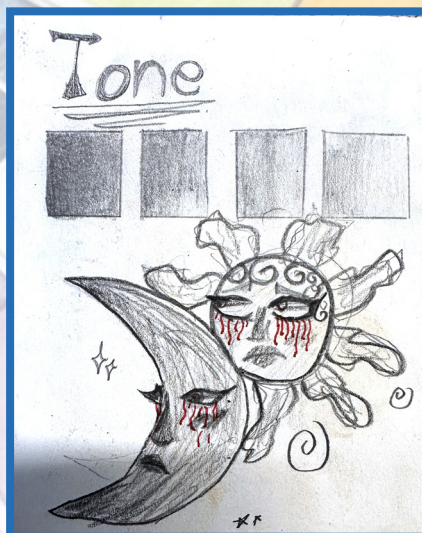
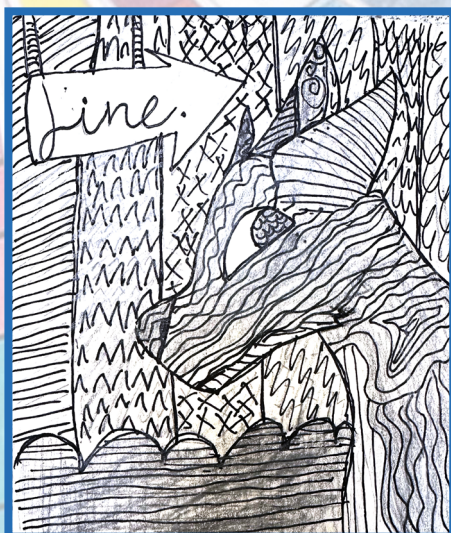
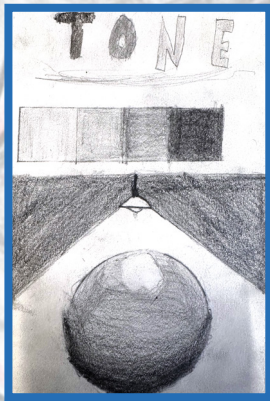
Printmaking Success for First-Year NPA Artists

NPA Art and Design students have recently completed their Printmaking unit as part of their studies, exploring a wide range of creative techniques including trace monoprint, ink blot print, and foam board monoprinting. Through these processes, students experimented with texture, layering, and colour to produce a vibrant collection of fruity-themed artworks. The variety and quality of outcomes have been outstanding, with students demonstrating impressive technical control, creativity, and confidence in their visual decision-making.

What makes this achievement even more remarkable is that for several students, this is their first sustained engagement with art since S2. Despite this, they have performed excellently, producing folios that reflect strong commitment, rapid skill development, and a willingness to take creative risks- especially when it comes to foam board monoprinting! As this marks the first year of this new course, the success students completing this unit is especially encouraging, and we look forward to seeing how students continue to develop and expand their mixed media skills in the next stage of their learning journey.

FROM LINE TO ZINE

STUDENTS SHOWCASE THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF VISUAL ELEMENTS



Since joining Stranraer Academy, S1 students have been introduced to the seven visual elements and have been working extremely hard to develop a solid understanding of what each of these elements represents and how they are used in art and design. Through discussion, practical activities, and creative experimentation, learners have explored line, tone, colour, shape, form, texture, and pattern, building strong foundations for their future artistic studies.

As part of this learning, students were challenged to create a 'zine' to visually represent their understanding of each element, using a range of materials including coloured pencil, watercolour paints, and fineliner. The results have been outstanding, with many highly creative and imaginative responses on display. Some of the interpretations are particularly unique and artistic, showcasing students' individuality and growing confidence in their creative decision-making. We are incredibly proud of the consistently high standard of work produced across the year group.

By True Anderson

Sweet Treats



S2 Art and Design students have recently completed their 'Sweet Treats' mini folio, a project carefully designed in line with the expectations of National 5 Art and Design coursework. Throughout this unit, students were challenged to creatively explore a range of sweet-themed objects while applying and developing key

artistic skills. Their folio includes a highly effective tonal sweet jar drawing, demonstrating strong understanding of light and dark shades in an object; a detailed coloured pencil sweetie wrapper, where students moved beyond flat, single-colour work to use a wide range of tints and shades to create a convincing sense of 3D form;

and a finely observed cross-hatched lollipop drawing using fineliner pens.

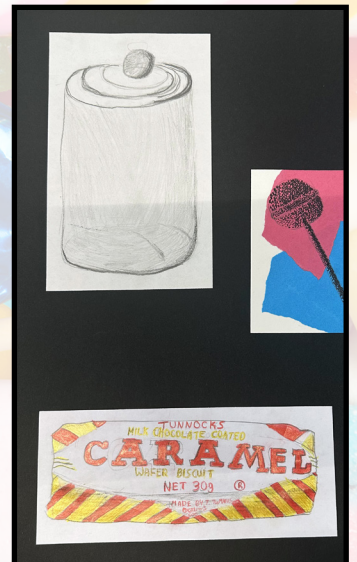
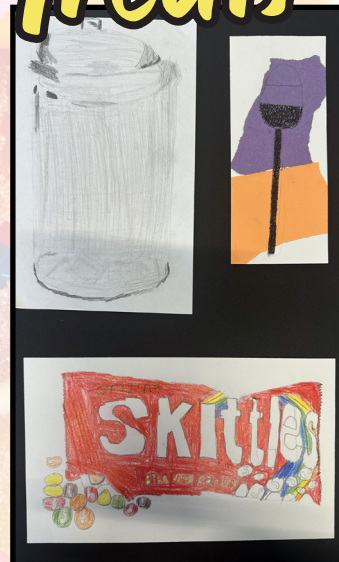
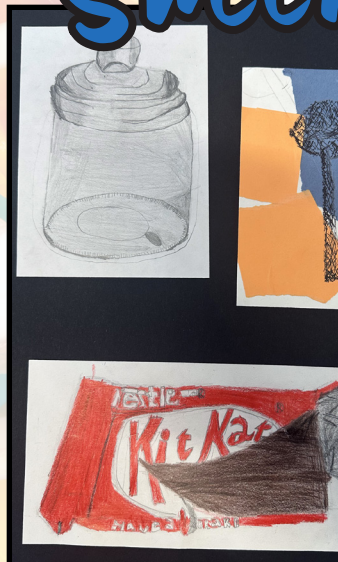
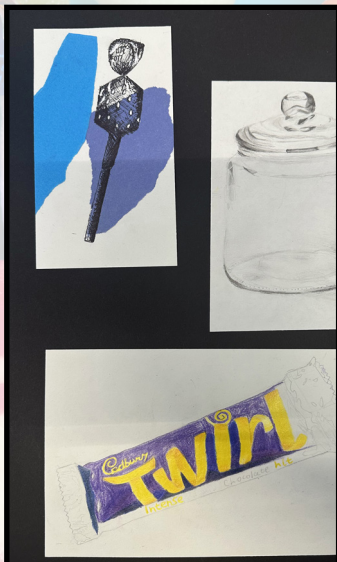
The standard of work produced has been excellent, with students showing growing confidence, control, and attention to detail across all pieces. The skills developed through this project are fully transferable to other areas of art and

design, including observation, tone, colour blending, and mark-making. This mini folio has provided a strong foundation for future coursework and will ensure that students are well prepared for National Qualifications should they choose to continue studying Art and Design in the senior phase.

By True Anderson



Sweet Treats





Stranraer Academy's Photographer of the Week is a celebrated annual competition that runs from August to December, showcasing the incredible creativity and skill of students across all year groups, from S1 to S6. Each week, a winner and runner-up are chosen, with all weekly winners and runners-up advancing to the end-of-term Grand Final, judged by both teachers and the Student Leadership Team.

This year, the standard of photography has been truly outstanding, with students demonstrating impressive technical ability, a strong understanding of visual elements, and remarkable creativity. Over the course of the competition, our school community has been treated to a vibrant weekly visual feast, highlighting the diversity and talent of our budding photographers.

The winner of this year's Photographer of the Week

will be announced early in the new year, capping off a term of exceptional work and artistic exploration. Until then, enjoy a small selection of the wonderful images that have made this year's competition so memorable.

Sharpen your focus, unleash your creativity, and get inspired—next year, it could be you taking home the title of Photographer of the Year!

By Ross James

A close-up photograph of a red squirrel perched on a moss-covered tree branch. The squirrel is facing right, looking down with its mouth slightly open. Its fur is a vibrant reddish-brown, and its bushy tail is visible behind it. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting a forest setting.

Photograph by
Keara Bark S6

“Photography is
the story I
fail to put into
words.”

– Destin Sparks

PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE WEEK



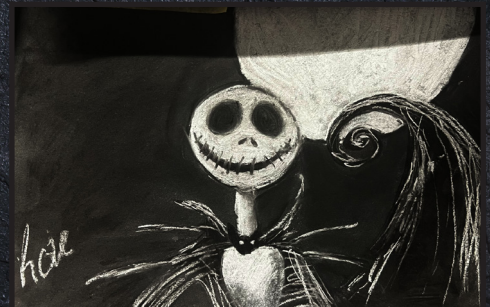
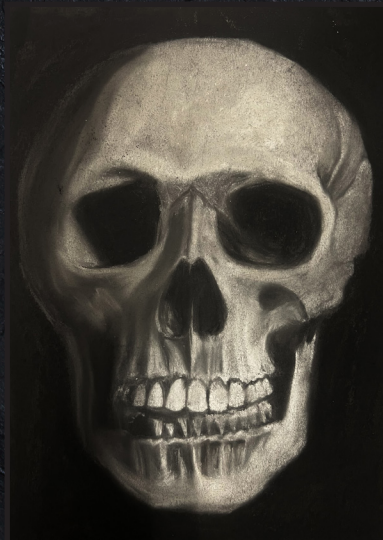
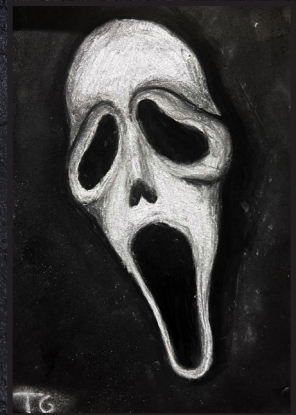
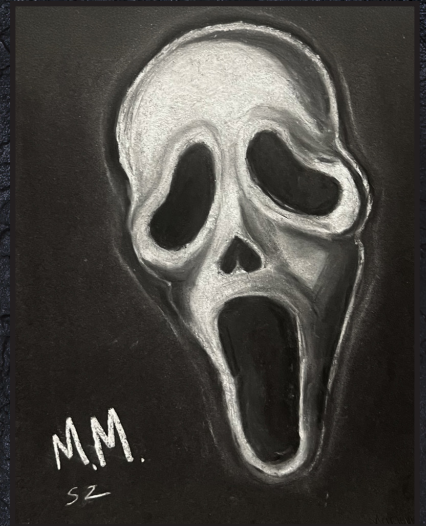
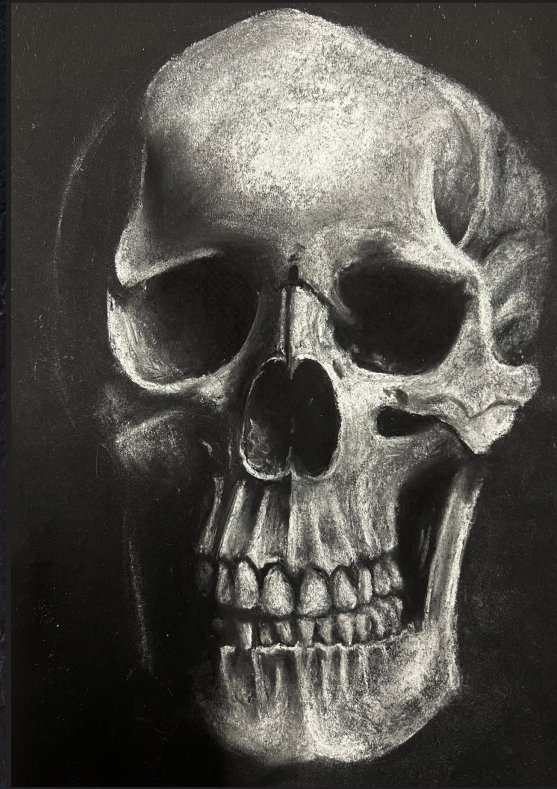
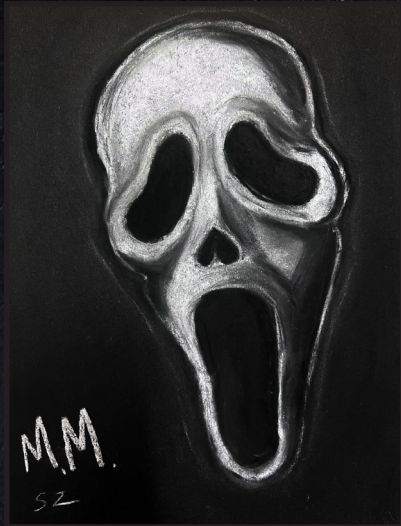


PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE WEEK



PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE WEEK

BGE HALLOWEEN CHALK EXPERIMENTS





Stop Motion Studio is Here!

Created by Mr James — built for creators like you.
Bring your imagination to life with the Ultimate Stop Motion Studio, the brand-new animation app made right here at Stranraer Academy — for students who love creativity, storytelling, and a touch of movie magic!

★ FEATURES YOU'LL LOVE:

- Onion Skinning — See your previous frame to keep every movement smooth.
- Multiple Resolutions — Choose from 480p, 720p, or 1080p Full HD.
- Voice Commands — Just say "Capture Frame!" for hands-free shooting.
- Bluetooth Remote Support — Perfect for steady, shake-free animation.
- Multiple Camera Options — Use your mobile's front or back camera for dynamic angles and creative shots.



🏆 ENTER THE STRANRAER ACADEMY STOP MOTION CHALLENGE 2026!

Think you've got the creativity and patience of a true animator?
Create your own short stop motion film using the Stop Motion Studio and show off your storytelling skills for a chance to be crowned the Stranraer Academy Stop Motion Champion 2026 (Submit your entry before the Easter holiday)!

✉ Send your entry to:
gw19jamesross@glow.sch.uk

📁 Or share a large file via OneDrive



👉 <https://stranraeracademy.org/stranraer-academy-stop-motion-studio/>

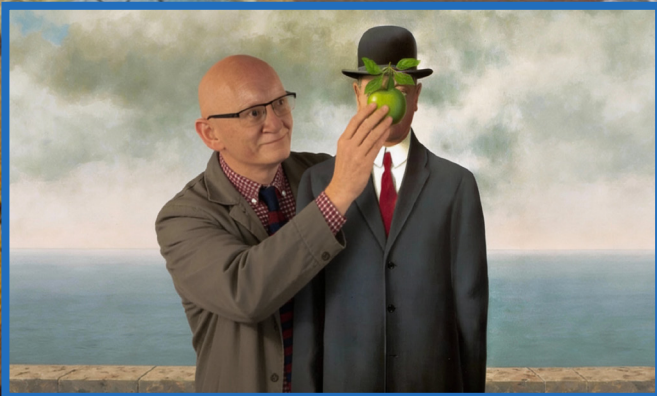
Goodbye, Steven Lochrie



Some colleagues leave a timetable behind; others leave a legacy.

Mr Steven Lochrie leaves us with creativity, kindness, and a lasting impact on every pupil he has taught.

First and foremost, Stevie is an exceptional art teacher. His lessons are imaginative, carefully crafted, and consistently engaging, encouraging students to think deeply, take creative risks, and believe in their own abilities. He has an incredible talent for motivating young people, making art accessible, exciting, and meaningful for all. It is no surprise that he was named this year's Rotary Club Teacher of the Year, a reflection of the respect and admiration he commands from both students and staff alike.



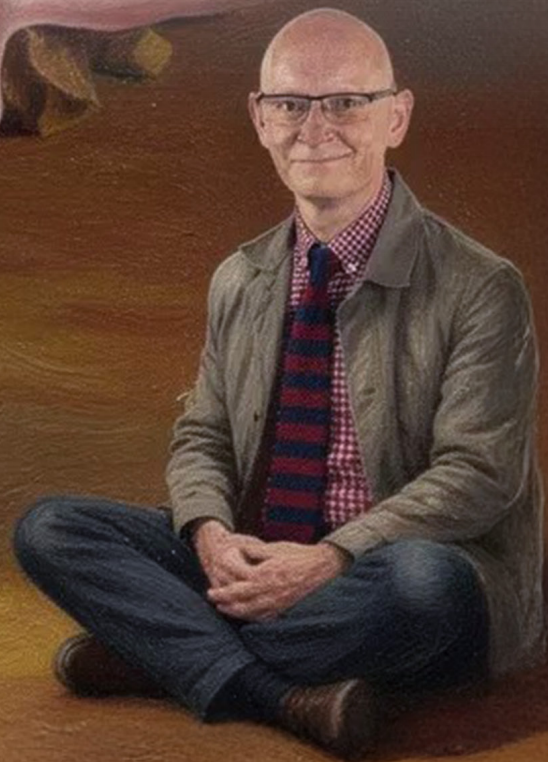
Stevie's dedication has never wavered—despite having the longest commute of any colleague, he has always given his very best. Warm-hearted, supportive, patient, and endlessly encouraging, he is deeply loved by his pupils and an absolute gentleman to work alongside. His creativity, passion, and professionalism have left an indelible mark on our school community.

Beyond the classroom, Stevie is a true connoisseur of the arts. A lover of classic film and storytelling, he had been especially excited to see *Jaws* on its 50th anniversary at the IMAX—a moment that perfectly captures his enthusiasm and curiosity. Add to that the gentle soundtrack of classical and cinematic music often drifting from his classroom, and it's clear that Stevie doesn't just teach art—he lives it.

As Stevie moves on to Auchenhavrie Academy, we do so with mixed emotions. While we were sad to say goodbye, we know that his talent, warmth, and inspirational teaching will be a huge asset to his new school community.

Thank you, Stevie, for the lessons, the inspiration, and the generosity of spirit you have shared so freely.

You will be greatly missed—and fondly remembered.



A young man with short dark hair, wearing a black school suit with a crest on the pocket, is smiling and holding a round purple tin of Cadbury Heroes chocolates. He is standing in front of a decorated Christmas tree with lights and ornaments. The background is a snowy winter scene with more trees and lights. The text 'THANK YOU, SAM BUI!' is overlaid at the top right.

THANK YOU, SAM BUI!

Teaching staff in the Language and Communication faculty are grateful to Sam Bui in S3 for his contributions throughout the year. Sam regularly volunteers for a range of small tasks and was given a token of appreciation for all his help. Thanks, Sam!

GROWING SKILLS, GIVING BACK, AND HAVING FUN

LEARNING SUPPORT AUTUMN HIGHLIGHTS





Since returning to school, after the long summer break, we have been busy getting involved with a lot of community projects, including visits to the hospital community garden and the North West Castle. We have also welcomed visitors from Scotland Land and Forest, Rotary Club volunteers, Dumfries and Galloway Outside Woodland Learning (DGOwls) and Elaine Barton.

In September, Elizabeth and Shalla from the DGOwls group, lead a maths in the forest day with us. We met the ladies in the Approach, where we took part in some different outdoor maths activities. We found out how to tell the age of a tree by measuring around it – the total circumference divided by 4 gave us an approximate age. We couldn't believe how old some of the trees were! We also created pie chart pizzas, out of natural materials, to show food proportions

of a Badgers diet.

At the end of our World War Two in Stranraer topic, Elaine Barton, a local historian, came to the class to talk to us all about what it was like around the town during the war. She had some really interesting facts and stories to share about war time farming life and the importance of Stranraer, Cairnryan, Loch Ryan and Wig Bay.

Mrs McClelland has been taking groups of our young people to the North West Castle every Thursday morning. During the sessions, we have been learning some essential life and hospitality skills. These include learning the formal way to set a table and how to make beds and change linen. It has and will continue to be, a fantastic learning experience for future employment in the local area.

As part of our John Muir and Scottish Young Forester Awards, we had a talk from Land and Forestry, Scotland. They told us about all the different jobs that need doing in the forests around Galloway, including deer control,

"Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better." – Albert Einstein

LEARNING SUPPORT AUTUMN HIGHLIGHTS



footpath and road maintenance and tree felling and logging. One of the staff brought some big drills and chainsaws! They talked to us about apprenticeships and routes into forestry work through college and university. It helped us think about what type of job we might like to do when we leave school.

Before the wet and cold weather arrived, we planted over 100 daffodils, with Mrs Dampney from Incredible Edibles, in the Field of Hope at the Stranraer Community Hospital. We know that when the

springtime arrives, these daffodils will bring a great amount of joy and hope to those that need it most. We also brought back to school some of the vegetables which had grown over the summer. We couldn't believe how much produce we had! Mrs Heatlie made a lovely tomato and pepper soup for us and Mrs McCollm made a pavlova to go with our fresh bramble berries.

In November, some members from the Stranraer Rotary Club talked to the class about a new litter picking project that they wanted us to be involved with. One

of the visitors had created a litter bag prototype to make it easier to collect litter in all weathers. They asked us if we would use this new design equipment when we are out in the local area. Keep an eye out for the Hi Viz jackets!

Our table at the Stranraer Christmas fair was a good success. Our crafts were made, as far as possible, from natural materials – wool, tags, off cuts of wood and sticks. We were really pleased with how much we sold!

By Ashley Heatlie







Stranraer Academy Win Regional Enterprising Maths Challenge

A talented team from Stranraer Academy — made up of S3 and S4 pupils Thomas Agnew, Leo Waugh, Ethan Allison, and Fraser Lewicki — achieved an outstanding result at the Regional Enterprising Maths Challenge for Dumfries and Galloway, securing first place in the competition.

The event, which tests pupils' problem-solving, teamwork, and mathematical reasoning skills, brought together schools from across the region. The

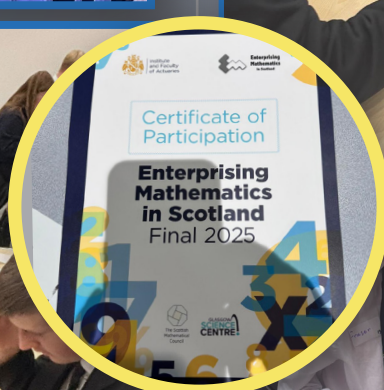
team's impressive performance earned them a place in the National Enterprising Maths Challenge Final, held at the Glasgow Science Centre on Tuesday 25 November 2025.

Although the boys did not win the national final, simply reaching that stage is a tremendous achievement. They also enjoyed a fantastic day out, including exploring the Science Centre and trying out many of the museum's interactive exhibits.

The school is immensely proud of the pupils' hard work, creativity, and collaboration.

NUMBERS THAT COUNT

STRANRAER ACADEMY MATHS TEAM WIN BIG



Pupil Leadership Team

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

Your Pupil Leadership Team have been steadily working through our Improvement Plan for the 2025–26 year. In our first two terms so far, we have been focusing on two of our key priorities, which are the school community and the wider community. For our school community, we have set up posters to make careers appointments more accessible, started up a digital help desk via our Digital Ambassadors; this can be found in the library on Mondays and Wednesdays. Our team is also looking to continue and improve the previously existing Debate Club that takes place on Fridays at lunchtime.

For the senior students, we have ensured that the Snowball is not completely up to the PLT and is planned by a committee that can be joined by any senior students. A main focus this year is that everyone has the opportunity to be involved in school activities and can contribute equally. Our chosen charity this year is the Galloway Community Hospital; throughout the year, we plan on hosting a range of fundraising events to support them. We have already raised £200 for them at our Halloween bake sale, and funds will continue to grow as the year progresses. With continued student and teacher support, we hope to raise a large sum in order to make a positive difference in our community.

Our Christmas fundraiser will be fun Christmas goody bags that you can send to your friends and will be delivered by Santa's little helpers! Next term, we will be focusing on supporting junior school students and the transition from P7 to S1, aiming to reduce any anxiety for younger pupils, easing worries, and helping them to settle into their secondary school experience smoothly.

BY BROOKE HOWE & JOSH SULLIVAN



The pupils and staff have excelled themselves this year with their annual Christmas Enterprise.

This was the third year the pupils have made a variety of Christmas items to sell in school and at the Stranraer Academy Christmas Fair.

The pupils and staff have been learning from their success and mistakes over the past three years. They added some new items this year including a teddy raffle.

Team Aird made an astonishing amount of £335.50

The pupils will work together to decide what they would like to spend their money on.

They would like to thank all their customers for their support.



Big Ideas. Festive Spirit

Team Aird Turns Festive Fun into £335.50!

A Festive Touch for Galloway Community Hospital



On Friday 12th of December, 25 students attended Galloway community hospital, to help bring some Christmas cheer to staff and patients by decorating the windows with art and crafts.

Pupils split into groups to decorate, the reception area, canteen and stairwell with Christmassy scenes ranging from the 12 days of Christmas, to gingerbread houses and the north pole. In addition to creating festive images, pupils also gifted all inpatients with a Christmas decoration made

by our school Creative Arts and Design faculty. This was an emotional experience for both pupils and inpatients, and brought a bit of festive cheer to those staying in hospital overnight the festive period.

We would like to thank Katie McColm at Galloway Community Hospital for inviting us to the hospital, and giving us creative freedom to spread some frosty cheer and to Jennifer and Savana from Creative Stranraer who helped us express our creativity.

Article by Sara Smith





HEALTHY 7 DAYS A WEEK LIVING GOALS, ONE VICTORY A MASTERCLASS PERFORMANCE

In a commanding 7–1 victory over Wallace Hall Academy, the team delivered a thrilling performance in a 4–3–3 formation, with standout moments from Kobi Wilson, who won a free kick that Harry Greenhorn delivered perfectly for Leighton McKie to volley home, Kobi dribbled past three defenders to score from a tight angle, Kobi assisted Brandon Millar's header from a corner, and chipped the keeper after a solo run; Brandon added his own brilliance with a dazzling dribble past four players and a curled finish; Harry played a superb through ball to Robbie Marshall, who scored after persistence and a keeper spill, and later swung in a cross that led to an own goal under pressure; Carter Henderson made crucial saves throughout, keeping the team secure, while Aran McMaster produced a heroic goal-line clearance to deny a late chance—altogether, it was a fantastic result and a testament to the whole squad's unity, effort, and quality across the pitch.

ARTICLE BY MARK SHANNON



EARLY START, BIG SPLASH

FOUR SWIMMERS IMPRESS IN DUNDEE

On 21st November, Nathan McKie, Miles Foster, Conor Ogston, and Aiden Whiteside set off bright and early at 5:30 am to compete in the Scottish Disability Sport National Swimming Championships at Dundee's Olympia Pool.

The day was long, and the competition fierce, but all four boys gave their absolute best, achieving personal best times and showcasing impressive skill and determination in every race.

Making his debut at the nationals, Miles Foster claimed a remarkable Silver medal in the 25m Front Crawl for his category—a fantastic achievement on his first outing. Nathan, Conor, and Aiden all swam admirably, narrowly missing out on medals but still delivering strong performances against tough opponents.

Congratulations to all four swimmers for their outstanding effort and dedication throughout what was a challenging and exhilarating day of competition.



Stranraer Academy proudly hosted the D&G West Boccia Festival for the first time, welcoming a record number of entries from both local primary schools and the Academy. The event created a fantastic atmosphere and showcased a high standard of competition throughout the day.

All GT pupils took part, alongside a team from Aird, with pupils demonstrating skill, focus, and excellent sportsmanship across all categories.

In the S1/2 category, Lennon Hughes claimed Gold, Jake Johnstone took Silver, and Aiden Whiteside earned Bronze, with Riley Hollis finishing fourth. Damon McHarrie led the S3/4 category with Gold, followed by Logan Corrigan (Silver) and Kenzie Hughes (Bronze), while Leah Armstrong placed fourth.

The S5/6 category saw Conor Ogston win Gold, Nathan McKie secure Silver, and Ryan Kelly take Bronze, with Ayleigh Robinson finishing fourth. Layton Stevenson represented Aird in the sensory category.

All medal winners progressed to the regional competition in Dumfries. Congratulations to everyone involved in a highly successful festival.



BOCCIA BRILLIANCE AT STRANRAER ACADEMY

**MEDALS, MOMENTUM
AND MOVING ON**



CHRISTMAS FAIR SUCCESS

THANKS TO SPORTS COUNCIL TEAM

The school Christmas Fair on Wednesday 3rd December was given an energetic boost thanks to the Sports Council, who ran two fun and engaging challenges to help raise funds for transport to sports events throughout the year.

The festive stalls proved popular, with visitors keen to test their skills in the Sports Council's challenges. Participants were invited to see how many shots they could score in 30 seconds, as well as how many keepie ups they could manage on the rim of a tennis racquet in one go.

Throughout the event, members of the Sports Council demonstrated excellent organisation and enthusiasm, encouraging pupils, staff, and visitors alike to take part. They were a real credit to the school and helped make the Christmas Fair both enjoyable and successful.



NETBALL

NETBALL TEAM OFF TO A FLYING START

The S1 netball team made an impressive start to their season at their first tournament since moving up to Stranraer Academy on Friday 9th October.

Across the day, the girls recorded six wins, one draw, and just one loss, finishing a superb second place in a tightly contested competition that was decided on points difference. Their determination, teamwork, and skill were on full display throughout.

Anna McClelland was named Player of the Day for her outstanding performance, while Ava Stevenson received the Players' Player award in recognition of her efforts on court.

Well done to the whole team on a fantastic opening tournament. A brilliant performance all round!

"CHAMPIONS KEEP
PLAYING UNTIL THEY GET
IT RIGHT." – BILLIE JEAN
KING



The junior netball team travelled to Dumfries High School on Tuesday 7th October to begin their league campaign. Despite an unlucky 9–3 defeat, the girls showed plenty of positive play and gained valuable experience in their first league fixture of the year.

Freya Jamieson was named Player of the Match for her performance, while Niamh Castle received the Players' Player award. A good learning experience for the team as they look ahead to the rest of the season.

VALUABLE EXPERIENCE FOR JUNIORS IN LEAGUE OPENER



NETBALL

STRONG FINISH

***SEALS SENIOR
NETBALL VICTORY***



SENIORS

The senior netball team secured a strong 25–12 win against Dumfries High, pulling further ahead in the final quarter to seal the result.

Romy McCutcheon was named Player of the Match, with Rosie Thompson earning the Players' Player award. Well done to both teams for a competitive match.

The seniors now look ahead to league fixtures in the new year against Langholm Academy, Douglas Ewart High School, and Dumfries Academy.

DANCING WITH DISTINCTION

ISSIE LAMBERTON'S AWARD-WINNING YEAR

Stranraer Academy's Own Highland Hero!

If there were a medal for kicking up a storm, Stranraer Academy's Issie Lamberton would already be dancing her way to gold. Issie has been busy putting her best foot (and then some) forward as an affiliated Highland Dancer with the Scottish Branch Royal Tank Regiment Association. She recently wowed audiences at their annual gathering and delivered a truly moving "farewell fling" during the remembrance parade—proving that Highland dancing isn't just about fancy footwork, but heart, history and a whole lot of respect.



And that was only the opening step in Issie's impressive routine this year. Earlier on, she secured a coveted place at the UK and European Scottish Dance Teachers Alliance Senior Highland Scholarship weekend after acing her Grading units. Competing against 25 dancers aged 14–18, Issie was one of the youngest in the senior section—but you'd never know it from her results. She danced her way to 3rd place in the Choreography Solo, 3rd place in the Tribute Dance, impressed judges enough to earn points in the Masterclass, and gained special recognition in the theory written exam for scoring an impressive 80%+. Skill, style and stamina? She's nailed the full Highland hat-trick.

Back home, rumours suggest Mr Farquhar may want to reinforce the trophy cabinet, as Issie's achievements are threatening to spill out onto the floor. As if that wasn't enough, Issie has also

DANCING WITH DISTINCTION

ISSIE LAMBERTON'S AWARD-WINNING YEAR

passed her Scottish Dance Teachers Alliance Grade 5 exam with Honours—her penultimate grading towards becoming a qualified Highland Dance Teacher, which she can officially sit when she turns 17. Her final Grade 6 is already scheduled for November 2026, so watch this space (and clear some more shelf room).

To top it all off, Issie achieved a Highly Commended award for her Highland Dancing exams, receiving the highest possible award in both exams—proof that she doesn't just dance to the beat, she sets the tempo. Huge congratulations to Issie for her dedication, determination and for proudly putting Stranraer Academy firmly on the Highland dance map. One thing's for sure: this is one dancer who's always a step ahead.



STAFF VS STUDENTS

NETBALL



PUPILS CLINCH NARROW VICTORY

The Children in Need Staff vs Pupils netball match at Stranraer Academy was an unforgettable event, with pupils narrowly defeating the staff 9–8 in a thrilling contest.

The atmosphere was electric as both teams gave their all, combining skill, determination, and plenty of fun for a fantastic cause. Congratulations to the pupils on their close win, and to the staff for a spirited performance in this much-loved annual event!



STRANRAER GIRLS' **7S** SHOW GRIT AT SPAR QUALIFIERS

GIRLS FOOTBALL – SPAR 7'S NATIONAL QUALIFIER

Well done to the Stranraer Academy U13–U16 girls' football team, who recently competed in the SPAR 7s National Qualifying round at Dumfries High School.

The team performed strongly in the group stages, finishing second in their group. They opened with a 2–2 draw against Dalbeattie High School, followed by a 1–1 draw with Castle Douglas High School, before securing progression with a 2–0 win over Langholm Academy.

This was a fantastic achievement for a young squad, with many players competing up one or two age groups. The girls also showed great adaptability, playing without a dedicated goalkeeper, with Rose and Lucy stepping in when needed.

In the third-place play-off, Stranraer were beaten 5–0 by a strong Annan Academy side. Despite the result, the girls showed excellent effort and teamwork throughout the tournament.



FOOTBALL

STRANRAER ACADEMY ROWERS MAKE WAVES ON THE WORLD STAGE



STRANRAER
SKIFFIE
WORLDS

At the start of July, seven Stranraer Academy pupils participated in the World Skiffies Championships hosted here in Stranraer. The competed against countries from all over the world. After an intensive training programme supported by Stranraer Costal Rowing Club the pupils competed in the following categories U17 Girls, U19 Girls, U17 Boys, U19 Boys, U17 and U19 mixed teams. The pupils involved were James Kirkbride, Jack Lawson, Sarah McClymont, Mackenzie Robison, Harry Whitelaw, Erin McCulloch and Erin Lochery.

An outstanding effort was displayed by all participants. Special thanks to SCRC.

BOO-TIFUL BAKES!



GT4 PUPILS COOK UP A SPOOKY HALLOWEEN FEAST

Some pupils from GT4 put their creativity to the test by preparing Halloween-themed foods for their class party. They carefully selected ingredients and designed their treats to fit the spooky season.

The hard work paid off as the pupils enjoyed a fun-filled Halloween celebration, sharing and serving their delicious creations with classmates.





WHISK, CHOP, SHINE

S3 CHEFS IMPRESS AT ROTARY COMPETITION



Three S3 pupils competed in the Rotary Young Chef Competition on 4th November at Stranraer Academy. The brief was to produce a two-course meal for two people in two hours. The judges praised the level of skill and organisation demonstrated by all participants. First place went to Aleeah Robison, with Oliver Halin and Skyla Davies as runners-up. Aleeah will progress to the next stage of the competition, which has kindly been funded by the Rhins Educational Trust and the Rotary Club of Stranraer.

The Rotary Club doesn't just support competitions like this — it also champions education and learning in the wider



community. Through projects that fund literacy programmes, teacher training and scholarships, Rotary helps young people gain the skills and confidence they need to succeed, whether in the classroom, the kitchen, or beyond.

This focus on

education also links to healthy living. When young people have the right knowledge and support, they're better equipped to make informed choices about nutrition, wellbeing and lifestyle. By combining learning with community involvement,

Rotary shows how practical experience, guidance and encouragement can help build both skills and healthier habits for life.



"Cooking is about passion, so it may look slightly temperamental in a way that's perfect." – Gordon Ramsay



**WE WANT YOU
TO SHARE YOUR
SUCCESS**

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/ 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.

THE LUNCHTIME CRUSADE

MR CAMERON'S
WARHAMMER CLUB





2025

Mr Cameron started The Lunchtime Crusade—where warriors of lore and legend gather, not just to battle on the tabletop, but to immerse themselves in the epic saga of Warhammer. This has been a haven for those who seek to forge their own destiny, whether through the art of miniature painting, mastering the rules of wargames, or delving into the dark, rich tales of the Black Library.

In this sacred hour of battle and camaraderie, we unite to build our armies, tell the stories of our heroes, and prepare for the endless wars that rage across the universe.



DICE, PAINT, REPEAT

Da Red Gobbo
(Christmas
Warhammer
figure) - by
Aiden Kyle 2185

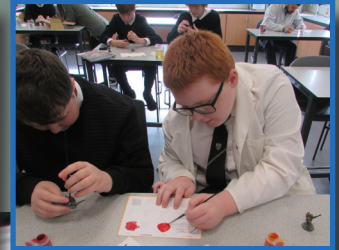
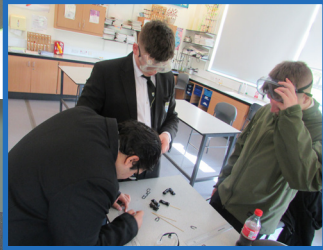
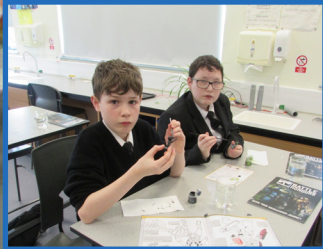
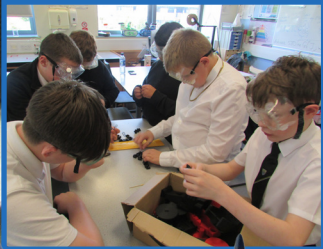


ARTICLE BY MARK CAMERON

New members welcome – Whether you are a seasoned general or a new recruit, our club provides the perfect environment to learn the game, perfect your painting techniques, and engage in the storytelling magic that has made Warhammer a cultural titan.

As we wield our brushes and dice, we also honor the words of the Black Library, where the chronicles of the Imperium, Chaos, and beyond come alive in every page. From the grimdark future to the ancient past, our lunchtime club isn't just about playing a game—it's about becoming part of a living, breathing universe.

Join us at The Lunchtime Crusade 2026 — where every Friday lunchtime is a chance to create, conquer, and become legend.



"An open mind is like a fortress with its gates unbarred and unguarded."
— Warhammer 40,000
(Black Library)

SCIENCE

BAE SYSTEMS

PROMPTS

1 step forward
2 steps forward
3 steps forward
Side step right



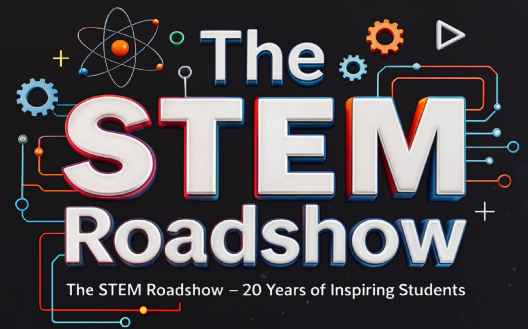
The STEM Roadshow

The STEM Roadshow – 20 Years of Inspiring Students

SCIENCE

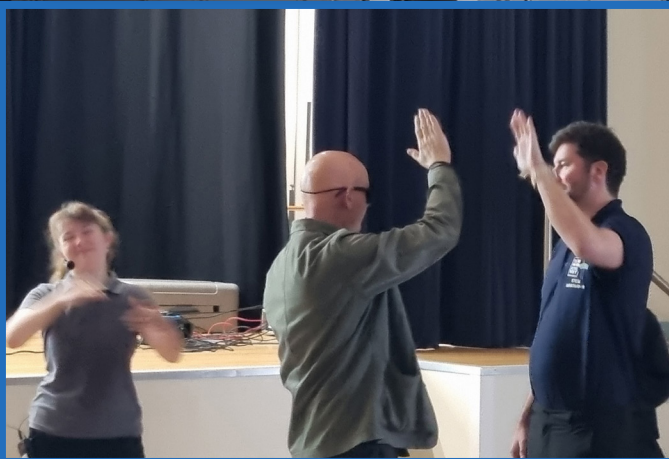
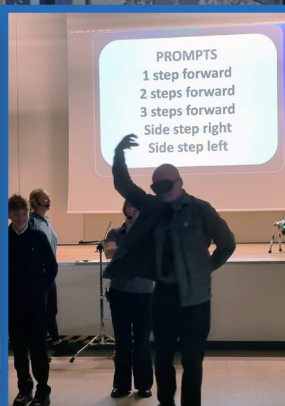
BAE Systems STEM Roadshow – AI and Robotics Workshop

On 3 October 2025, S1 and S2 pupils took part in the BAE Systems Education Programme STEM Roadshow, delivered with support from the RAF and Royal Navy. This year's theme focused on artificial intelligence and modern robotics.



BAE SYSTEMS

Pupils were introduced to real-world applications of AI and had the chance to see a robotic dog in action, learning how this type of technology is used in engineering, safety and defence. During the session, pupils also experimented with creative AI platforms to generate music, lyrics and short performances based on set prompts. S1 and S2 produced their own humorous songs and musical pieces, discovering how AI can support design, creativity and problem-solving. The workshop gave pupils a hands-on look at emerging technology and helped them recognise the growing role of AI and robotics in future STEM careers.



NEW FACES, FRESH ENERGY

Welcoming New Staff to the Science Faculty

The Science Faculty is delighted to welcome two new members of staff this year. Mr Shand has joined the Physics Department and has already made a strong impact, introducing two supportive study classes for our S3–S6 Physics pupils. His energy and enthusiasm have been greatly appreciated by both students and colleagues. We also warmly welcome Mr Salama to the Biology Department. He brings a fresh, enthusiastic approach and has quickly become a valued member of the faculty. Both new teachers have fitted in exceptionally well and are already making a positive contribution to our Science community.

SCIENCE



MAGNETS, PLANTS AND POLAR ADVENTURES

The pupils from Aird have enjoyed doing lots of practical work this term. They have looked at Antarctica food chains, Antarctica animal adaptations and made Antarctica biomes in a box. They have also looked at seeds and plants. They have grown the plants from seed, found out what their plant needs to grow and found out the different parts of the plant and what they do. They have also looked at the different types of energy, what energy can be changed into and how we get our energy. More recently, they found out about magnets, whether things are magnetic or not and what we use magnets for. The pupils made an electromagnet and tried to see how many paper clips they could lift with it. Layton and Jasmine won with 21 paperclips!

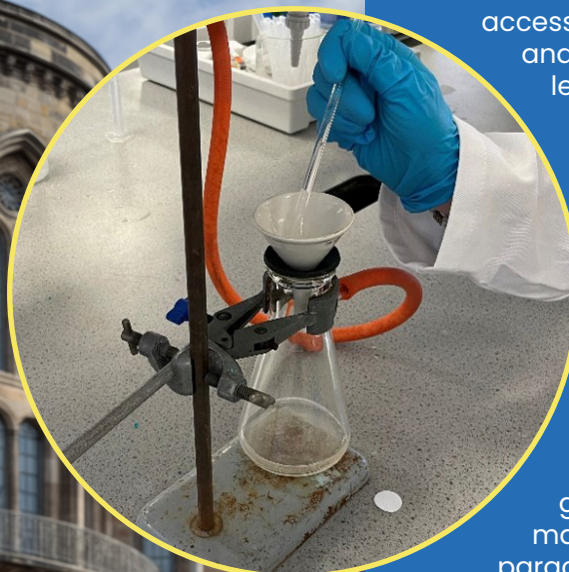
ARTICLE BY CARRIE WHITE

SCIENCE



"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn."

— Benjamin Franklin



UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE DAY FOR NATIONAL 5 AND HIGHER CHEMISTS

At the start of December, National 5 and Higher Chemistry pupils travelled to the University of Glasgow to experience a day in the life of an undergraduate science student. Aside from complaints about the smell of chemicals, pupils had a varied day and enjoyed participating in a number of activities. In the morning, there were talks from postgraduate students and lecturers about their research, alternative routes to access university and some of the less obvious advantages of studying at university, for instance the chance to study abroad.

After a lunch stop on Byres Road pupils donned their lab coats and goggles and made (possibly!) paracetamol in the undergraduate teaching lab. All groups did extremely well, given the complexity of the practical work was 1st year university level. A useful experience for all, and especially for those who will take Chemistry at Higher and Advanced Higher level.

We then enjoyed a brief look around the Hunterian Zoology Museum which has just under 800 species on display before heading for home!

By Ross Marshall

SCIENCE

CHEMISTRY, CAMPUSES AND A WHIFF OF CHEMICALS



FROM THE CLASSROOM TO THE CLINIC: NATIONAL 5 HEALTH SECTOR

The Science Department is excited to announce the launch of the brand-new National 5 Health Sector course. This course introduces students to the world of healthcare, offering valuable insights into a wide range of

clinical and non-clinical roles, as well as some essential skills required for working in health-related fields.

Throughout the course, the students have explored the human body, healthcare practices, and practical skills needed in health



professions. They have engaged in a variety of practical activities, with some of their personal highlights including heart and lung dissections, urine testing for diabetes, swapping jewellery for microbes, and testing the effectiveness of sun cream using UV beads.

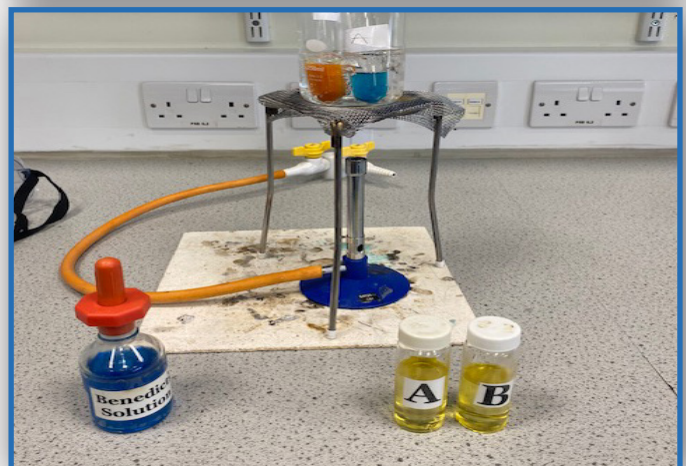
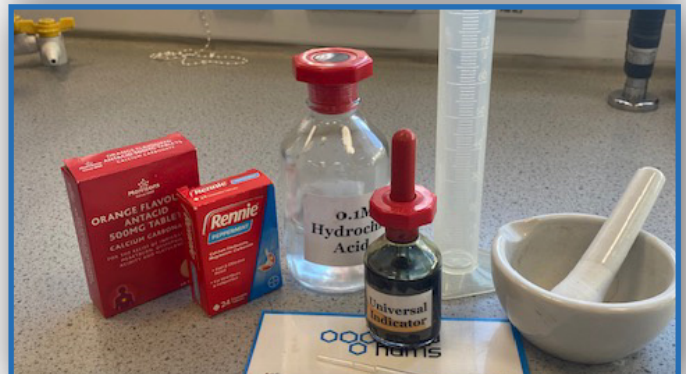
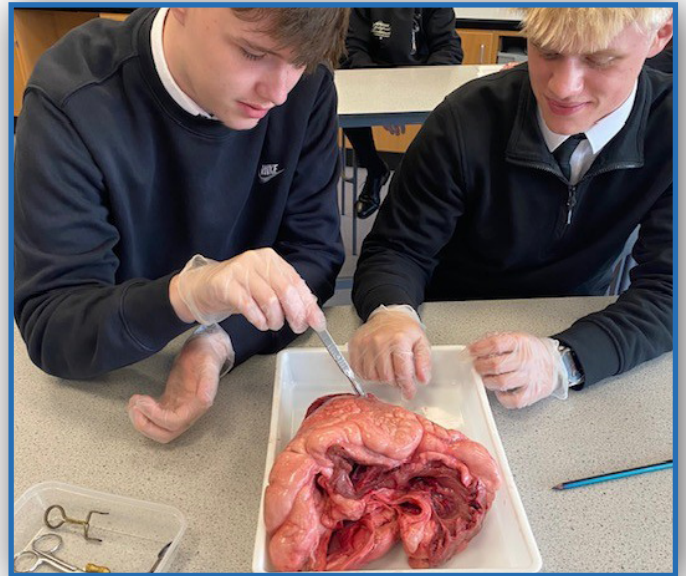
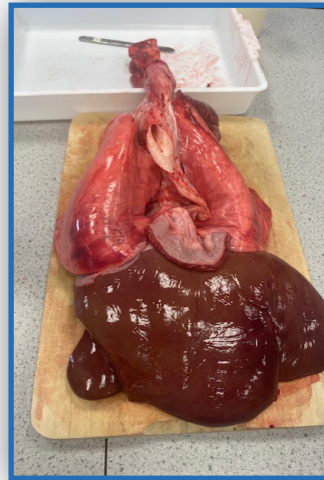
They have also learned how to take vital physiological measurements such as blood pressure, heart rate, respiratory rate, and body temperature.

To inspire students and provide a real-world perspective, the course includes talks from healthcare professionals. This

term, pupils heard from Charlotte Marshall, our school nurse; Ashley Farquhar, physiotherapist; Kerry Stonebank, occupational therapist; and Jackie Ryan, assistant practitioner. They also participated in an I'm a Scientist, Get Me Out of Here online session, connecting with five scientists working in cancer research.

The class would like to thank all our visitors for taking the time to share their valuable knowledge and expertise.

By Kirtsy Ramsay





S2 take part in "I'm a Scientist: Green Careers"

Our S2 pupils recently took part in the national I'm a Scientist: Get Me Out of Here – Green Careers event which fitted in with our STEM Careers module. Over two lessons they explored profiles of real scientists working in environmental and sustainability roles, identified interesting facts about their work, and prepared thoughtful questions to ask in a live online chat.

Pupils then joined a 30-minute live session where they spoke directly with green-career scientists, learning about their pathways, skills and how their work supports environmental solutions. A final reflection helped pupils identify new STEM careers and the skills needed for them.

The event broadened pupils' awareness of green STEM opportunities while developing their confidence in asking questions and engaging with real scientists.

I'M A SCIENTIST: GREEN CARERS



I'm a Scientist Website



ADVANCED SCIENCE IN ACTION: S6 PROJECT WORK BEGINS

By Pamela Stobo

Our S6 Advanced Highers are setting up their project work. This counts for 25% of the mark and can be on wide range of topics. One is using Aseptic techniques and keeping track of a LOT of culture bottles, testing antibacterial properties of different mouthwashes. Another has set up garlic cloves with different salt concentrations, root samples will be stained and cells counted that are actively growing using a microscope. This is looking at how irrigation with salt water might impact growth of crops.

SCIENCE





Science with GT4

GT4 pupils have been learning about the major organs of the human body and how they work together within different body systems. They explored the roles of the heart, lungs, brain and digestive organs, developing an understanding of how these systems interact to keep the body healthy. Through discussion and investigation, pupils used scientific vocabulary to explain how each organ has an important job and why team-

work within the body is essential.

To complete the topic, pupils demonstrated their learning by creating 3D models of the human body and its organs. This practical activity allowed them to be creative while reinforcing key scientific ideas, as well as developing skills in problem-solving and teamwork. The finished models showed a strong understanding of the topic and reflected the enthusiasm and effort GT4 pupils brought to their science learning.



S3 CHEMISTRY: MASTERING ACID- BASE TITRATION



Chemistry in Action: S3 Pupils Nail the Perfect Neutralisation

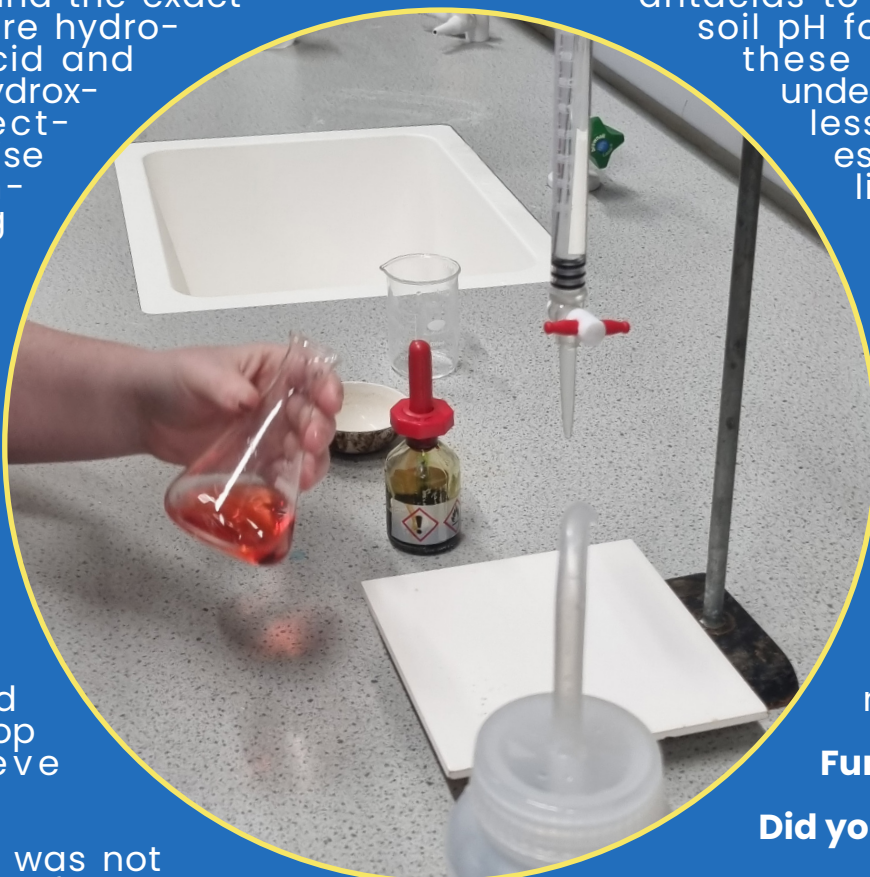
This term, our S3 Chemistry pupils stepped into the shoes of real scientists as they mastered the art of acid base titration. Their mission? To find the exact point where hydrochloric acid and sodium hydroxide perfectly neutralise each other. Using precision equipment like burettes and pipettes and a splash of universal indicator for colour magic, they worked drop by drop to achieve balance.

The result was not just a colourful reaction. It was the creation of pure sodium chloride (table salt), showing how chemistry connects directly to everyday life. From the careful measurements to the vibrant colour changes, this experiment showcased the accuracy and patience that make chemistry such an exciting subject.

Why It Matters

Neutralisation reactions are not just classroom fun. They are essential in real world applications.

From treating indigestion with antacids to balancing soil pH for farming, these principles underpin countless processes that keep life running smoothly. By learning these skills now, our pupils are building the foundation for careers in science, medicine and engineering.



Fun Fact

Did you know?

The word "titration" comes from the Latin titulus, meaning "title" or "inscription" because early chemists marked their vessels to measure liquids precisely. Today, titration remains one of the most accurate methods for chemical analysis worldwide.

SCIENCE

S6 DIGITAL AMBASSADORS

S6 Digital Ambassadors have been busy this term supporting the school community and having a positive impact with all their digital efforts!

Megan Beevers, Phoebe Sutherland and I have been at the S2 Parents' Night to offer ICT help to parents. One of the things we were offering support with was helping parents get logged on to Parents' Portal, which allows them to use a simpler process to communicate with the school and be kept up to date regarding their child's progress.

Also, Georgia Sutherland and I have been in the Library every Monday and Thursday from 1.30pm–1.50pm to offer ICT help to all pupils and answer any school community questions that anyone around the school has concerns about.
(b y S o f i e M c C u t c h e o n)

As part of being Digital Ambassadors, we also perform weekly checks on the laptop cabinets across all departments. We check for broken charging cables, whether the laptops themselves are charged, and if any laptops are needing repairs (in the case of missing or damaged parts). This is part of an effort to ensure that when pupils need to access laptops, they can, rather than being faced with flat batteries or malfunctioning laptops, which negatively impacts their learning.
(b y K i m b e r l e y S a u l)

In my role as a Digital Ambassador, I'm here to talk about an upcoming video set to be shown in tutor classes/HWB at a later date. The video is intended to show the benefits and risks of using Artificial Intelligence (AI) in many of its forms, be it generative AI or AI chatbots, and even the use of AI in schools!

The video will be edited by guess who...? Me! I have edited the video from start to finish. The production of the video was also assisted by a few notable people, those being fellow Digital Ambassadors Scott Thomson, Iris Walker and Georgia Sutherland. Props to them!

I hope you look forward to seeing this informative, fun video about AI. I aim for it to be finished before the holidays. Now, I must return to editing. See you all on the big screen soon!
(b y L i a m B u i)





Christmas Message to Stranraer Academy Families

As the end of term arrives, everyone at Stranraer Academy would like to wish our pupils, families and wider school community a Merry Christmas and a peaceful and happy New Year.

This festive break is a welcome opportunity to rest, recharge and enjoy time with family and friends. We hope the coming weeks bring warmth, happiness and well-deserved rest for all.

We look forward to welcoming our students back to school on Tuesday 6 January 2026, ready for a positive and successful start to the new term.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the year. From all of us at Stranraer Academy, we wish you a safe and enjoyable festive season.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.





WWW.STRANRAERACADEMY.ORG

WINTER 2025 NEWSLETTER

CURATED AND EDITED BY ROSS JAMES