Stranraer Academy welcomed Professor John Lockhart, a representative of the UWS BREATH team into the school this week to share health research and information with our pupils and staff. Professor Lockhart delivered an informative and engaging presentation to all pupils through House group assemblies that concerns Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) as how it negatively affects our health by significantly impairing quality of life and has a high cost to health services and the wider economy.

The €7.7 million BREATH (Border and Regions Airways Training Hub) project is a joint research programme between UWS, the Dundalk Institute of Technology and Queen’s University Belfast. It has established a world-class cluster of researchers who are addressing the causes, treatment and potential prevention of COPD. The programme consists of a group of University researchers who are looking at issues regarding lung health and links to COPD. Pupils learned that lung conditions now affect almost as many people in Scotland as heart conditions and that COPD is very common within our local area - with Dumfries and Galway having one of the highest rates of COPD-related hospital admissions in the UK.

Professor Lockhart has previously spoken at the European Union Parliament regarding COPD and has also won awards for his research work. Stranraer Academy would like to thank Professor Lockhart for coming to speak to our pupils as it gave them a fantastic opportunity to learn from a leading figure in world healthcare. To find out more about Professor Lockhart, please visit his staff page on the UWS website: https://research-portal.uws.ac.uk/en/persons/john-lockhart

For further information regarding the work of BREATH please contact Ms Trotter in the science department or visit the following NHS web address: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/chronic-obstructive-pulmonary-disease-copd/

A copy of the presentation can be viewed on our website from the following links (Initiatives > Visiting Speakers & Presentations tab): http://stranraeracademy.org.uk/breath-research-presentation-2018.html
Senior Pupils Representatives Appointed

Following the appointment of Head Boy & Girl with their respective Deputes, the school have held interviews to appoint S6 House Captains and Vice-Captains. Here are the successful candidates:

Dunskey House Captain
Lauren McCulloch

Dunskey House Vice-Captains
Bethany McCutcheon & Beth Carnaghan

Glenapp House Captain
Katie-Mae Hardie

Glenapp House Vice-Captains
Shona Milroy & Siobhan McClymont

Inch House Captains
Heather McClelland & Laura Nicol

Inch House Vice-Captains
Hannah Torbet & Robbie Wilson

Logan House Captain
Jade McKane

Inch House Vice-Captains
Shannon McCutcheon, Anton Simpson & Maria Denholm
Macmillan Coffee Morning Total Raised...

The charities committee would like to say a big thank you to everyone who contributed to the Macmillan Coffee Morning today! A total of £281.53 was raised for this worthwhile cause. Well done to everyone involved and thanks to those who helped with the event.

Grow Gold In September!

Pupils from the Learning Centre have been busy over the past weeks and months by helping out in the community. The pupils helped to plant and maintain a flowerbed in Market Street, to help raise awareness of childhood cancer as part of the Grow Gold in September Scheme. The pupils have also helped plant a variety of flowers at the Community Gardens in the town and helped with weeding and planting of fruit and veg during their holidays. Well done to everyone involved!

For more information on the Grow Gold In September scheme, please visit: http://www.facebook.com/glowgoldseptember/
Columba 1400 Eco Group

An eco group has been set up to help improve recycling and energy wastage around the school building. The group collaborated with staff and pupils from the Columba 1400 group that formed last year. So far, paper recycling bags have been placed in every class room with weekly drop of days for each house group. A plastic recycling container has been placed outside the Aird.

Finally, having discussed energy wastage with AMEY, the final stage of replacing existing light fittings with energy efficient LED technology throughout the school is well underway.

Whizz Kidz

Stranraer Academy will soon be welcoming Whizz-Kidz into the school to work with some of our pupils. Whizz-Kidz are a charity who aim to transform the lives of disabled children across the UK, supporting them to become confident and independent young adults. Whizz-Kidz will be providing wheelchair independence skills, employability skills and work experience placements for young wheelchair users in our school. We are looking forward to working with them over the coming months. If you would like more information about Whizz-Kidz involvement in Stranraer Academy, please contact Mrs K. McClelland, Principal Teacher of Support for Learning.

If you would like more information about the charity, please visit the Whizz-Kidz website using this link: http://www.whizz-kidz.org.uk/

Oyster Festival Feedback & Stranraer Youth Volunteers

Karen O’Rourke of the Stranraer Oyster Festival returned to the school this week to deliver a presentation to each House Group during Assembly. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive on how young people from Stranraer helped to make the event a success with their volunteering efforts. With over 100 pupils from the school volunteering, a small group of volunteers also spoke of the various new skills they learned and how they contributed to this fantastic community event. In light of this success, Stranraer Youth Volunteers has been set up and the new group aims to carry momentum forward and help young people directly contribute to the area with volunteering opportunities in the local area, all year round. For more information on how to get involved, please visit their Facebook group page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/941792179341326/
As you all know, the Student Council is an important organisation which the school has been running for years. However, one of the main problems with the organisation is a lack of feedback to the students.

This letter is to solve this problem, not only does it show topics discussed in the student council, but also long-term events that don’t show up in the notices. This is purely in an attempt further give the students a voice in the school, so please, reach out to us. And let it be known if you have any problems. Let yourself be heard. Thank you.

- The need for the school to practise a “Lock-down” drill, in case of intruders etc, was brought up in the first round of Student Council meetings. This safety measure is to be introduced very soon. A draft policy has been written up by Mr Law and a practice of this should be taking place after the holidays.

- A water cooler in the PE base has been suggested. Mr Law is going to discuss this with AMEY. We are waiting for confirmation. However, some fundraising may be required to pay for the cooler.

- An extension to the canteen has been proposed. Mr Law’s response was positive. He has spoken to A.M.E.Y and their initial response has also been positive. Nothing has been decided yet, however a glass roof over the outdoor area of the canteen is being considered and the school is currently looking at prices.

- All students will be allowed back onto the street after the October holidays, if it becomes particularly cold this could be sooner.

The meetings, to clarify, take place on the dates shown on the back. If you have any queries please speak to Mr Law, or any of the people listed at the bottom of the table.

- Finn Onori (Depute Head Boy)
“From the 18th to 22nd June 2018, I attended “Engineering the Future for Girls” course at the University of Strathclyde. It was about inspiring girls to look into the variety of fields of engineering and maybe to pursue a career in a mostly male-dominated industry. There were over 600 applicants and only 100 spaces and I was lucky enough to get in!

We had inputs from all the different departments from the Faculty of Engineering, a tour of the Campus and Residences, we got to go on a site visit to a quarry, watch them do a blast to get the rocks and find out more about what they do there. During the week, there were inputs from Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, where we learned about satellites and were given scenarios to solve the problem of space debris. In the Biomedical Engineering lecture, we found out more about the recent development in medical prosthetics. There were also lectures and activities in Chemical, Electronic, Design and Manufacture Engineering to name a few!

We were split into teams with girls from all over Scotland to work with during the week and on the last day came together to do a final team event; we had to design an emergency shelter that could be stable enough for someone to go in it and withstand a bucket of water poured over it. We had to measure and get our dimensions, then build it using only the resources that we had planned for. We built it ourselves on the last day. My team was successful.

Each team had a mentor, they were all female students studying an Engineering degree, and they were very helpful and would answer any questions you had over the week. It has definitely inspired me and was a really great experience.

Strathclyde University have run this summer school for the past 3 years for S3 girls. If you’re interested, applications for the June 2019 course will be advertised around December on their website.”

http://www.stranraeracademy.org.uk/engineering-the-future-for-girls.html
Sports News

Young Ambassadors for Sport

Our young ambassadors this year, Rachel Beswick and Matthew McCrone, have come back from their training day in Glasgow with lots of ideas to encourage, develop and promote sport in and around the school. One of the key aims they hope to achieve is gaining a gold sports award for the school. The Sport Scotland award is achieved when schools have high standards of sport related activity across the school.

Stranraer gained the silver award last year and we are hopeful we can achieve the gold award soon in the future. For more information, please visit the following link: https://sportscotland.org.uk/schools/young-ambassadors/

S1 Netball Festival

What a super day of Netball at the first ever S1 Festival on Wednesday 10th October. The standard of netball was very high and although Stranraer Academy didn’t place in the top 3—all girls enjoyed the experience and had a great time. Well Done to all players.

Results:
1st- Douglas Ewart High School A
2nd- Douglas Ewart High School B
3rd- Annan Academy

Stranraer Academy Players of the Tournament:
Olivia Morrison & Pippa Stirling

Football Results

The football season is well underway and both the Girls and Boys school teams have been busy playing league games and even some Scottish Cup matches.

Girls Results

U15’s 3 - 3 Williamwood H.S.
(Stranraer win 8 - 7 on penalties)

U14’s National Qualifier
Won 2
Drew 3
Lost 1
Unfortunately the girls did not qualify.

Boys Results

U13’s 3 - 5 Lockerbie (League)
U14’s 1–3 Lockerbie (League)
U16’s 3 - 4 Lockerbie (League)

U16’s 1 - 4 St Andrews & St Brides (Scottish Cup)
U18’s 1 - 2 Duncanrig Secondary (Scottish Cup)
Developing the Young Workforce

DYW Stranraer Academy works to develop sustainable links between our school, parents, employers & colleges. Our Facebook page will include information regarding: business offers which we have created alongside our partner agencies, apprenticeships, DYW work experience opportunities, business presentations due to take place in Stranraer Academy and assessment days. Search: @DYWS tranraerAcademy

Oyster Festival Cooking Class!

Stranraer Academy pupils had a fantastic time cooking with Chef Tony Budde who was working in partnership with the Stranraer Oyster Festival at the Stranraer Campus of Dumfries & Galloway College! Here are some photos...

Stranraer Academy DYW Facebook Page...

The school has its very own DYW (Developing the Young Workforce) Facebook page which regularly includes information regarding apprenticeships, job vacancies (full & part time), DYW work experience opportunities, business presentations due to take place in Stranraer Academy and the forthcoming DYW Stranraer Academy Roadshow. FEEL FREE TO LIKE AND SHARE THIS PAGE and help us to raise awareness about the opportunities which we are trying to create for the young people in our community. Any local businesses who would like to work alongside the school on the DYW initiative can e-mail: gw09hyslopneil@ea.dumgal.sch.uk

https://www.facebook.com/DYWStranraerAcademy/
Over the first term, the S5/6 Digital Photography class completed their first assignment with the theme being Holidays. Here is some of their best work!

Molly Irving
Emma Walker
Douglas McMiken
William Campbell
Leon Nixon
Katie-Mae Hardie
Leon Nixon
Siobhan McClymont
Cameron Hunter
Max Boyd
Emma Walker
Robbie Halliday
Greg Marshall
Max Boyd
Hannah Torbet
Dumfries & Galloway Council have introduced a new scheme this year where people can make donations of Primary & Secondary school uniforms or stationery to help families in need.

This could be uniforms that young people may have grown out or don’t wear anymore. Alternatively, some people have been buying items of uniform and stationery and donating them to the project.

There are locations across Dumfries & Galloway where you can drop off the uniforms & stationery and also collect them for FREE. For Stranraer, the following arrangements are in place:

**Donate at:** Tesco, Charlotte Street, Stranraer.
**Pick up FREE at:** Community Re-Use Shop (at the Furniture Project), Industrial Estate, Stranraer

Please think about giving a helping hand to those who need support to parents who may be worrying about the costs of the new school year. Donate some school clothing or stationery and help make a difference!

https://www.reuseshop.org.uk/
Information for Pupils, Parents & Carers

Start of Session 2018-19 Letter for Parents & Carers
A letter from Mr Law, Acting Headteacher has been sent home to all parents and carers regarding the start of Session 2018-19.

A copy is also available to view / download on our website from the following link:

Communication > Letters tab:

Study Support Classes - National 4, 5 & Higher Levels
The school website and App now have an up to date list of extra study support classes being offered by teachers after school in their own time out with contracted hours. These support classes are for National 4, 5 and Higher level classes, providing an excellent opportunity for pupils to get extra help or consolidate their learning. The classes have been very popular over the years and are hugely beneficial to our pupils. We would encourage our National 4, 5 and Higher pupils to attend in order to maximise their potential in the lead up to the prelims and eventually, the SQA exams. The list can be viewed and downloaded from the following links:

App: More > Files > Extra Curricular & After School Classes
Website: http://stranraeracademy.org.uk/study-classes-2018-19.html

Communication Problem Solving Drop-In with DG Talk
DG Talk will be running a series of communication Drop-In sessions related to speech and language therapy for parents/carers to discuss their child's communication skills. Please note that the sessions are for Parents/Carers only, please do not take your child with you.

Information is available on the school website link below with more details and on how to get in touch to book an appointment:

http://www.stranraeracademy.org.uk/dgtalk-communication-drop-ins.html

For further information, please contact Mrs K. McClelland, Principal Teacher of Additional Support for Learning.
Information for Parents / Carers

Anti-Bullying Policy Update
The Stranraer Academy Anti-Bullying Policy and a guide for Pupils, Parents and Carers has been updated and is available to view / download via the school app and on the website. Please use the links below to view or download the updated policy:

App: More > Files > School Policies & Information > Anti-Bullying
Website (Initiatives tab): http://www.stranraeracademy.org.uk/anti-bullying.html

Careers Advice with Karen Skilling
Karen Skilling, Careers Adviser with Skills Development Scotland, will be meeting S1 Pupils during their Health & Wellbeing periods in school over the next two weeks to introduce herself to pupils and tell them about her work in school regarding careers and employment.

Karen is also responsible for holding Careers Appointments for pupils in S4-6 with the aim of better informing our pupils about various career paths they may choose to follow in the future.

Pupils should also be aware that Karen is available for Drop-In meetings at her office in the school library.

Child Protection Information
All children have the right to be protected from neglect, harm and abuse. In Scotland every adult has a responsibility to ensure that our children and young people live life safely, without fear and achieve their full potential. Our vision in Dumfries and Galloway is that every child should be safe, nurtured, healthy, achieving, active, respected, responsible and included.

If you have any concerns about the welfare of a child or young person you should call the Duty Officer at Children and Families Social Work or contact Mrs HM Bradley, who is the Child Protection officer for Stranraer Academy.

Fore more information on Child Protection, please click on the following Links:
http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15775/Child-protection
For a while now, Stranraer Academy have been using Show My Homework - an innovative tool for managing, completing and monitoring homework issued by the teachers.

Show My Homework is a new web based initiative where all pupils, staff and even parents / carers can become more involved with homework issued by the school.

We hope this approach will enable pupils to improve their organisational skills, time management and help them to keep on top of their workload.

Show My Homework can be accessed through an icon on the top right and footer area of the school website or by saving the following link to your favourites: https://stranraer.showmyhomework.co.uk/

Personal accounts have been created for all staff and pupils for effective management and tracking of homework tasks through a very intuitive user interface. All pupils have a gradebook and homework calendar that is automatically linked to their subjects, class and teacher.

For more information, please visit the Show My Homework page on the school website:

http://www.stranraeracademy.org.uk/show-my-homework.html

Show My Homework provide a free mobile device App that is currently supported by Apple iOS and Android operating systems. Search for the App in your relevant App store to download.

Here are some sample screenshots from the pupil Show My Homework Interface. It is really intuitive and easy to use through a very user friendly layout.
Information for Parents / Carers

Contacting the School....

Can I remind parents/carers that they can contact the school in different ways:

* By phoning: 01776 706484
* By e-mailing: gw08officestranraer@ea.dumgal.sch.uk

The e-mail account is checked at least twice a day and any e-mail will be forwarded to the relevant member of staff. Usually, when contacting the school with any issue concerning your child you should ask to speak to their Pupil Support teacher – don’t worry if you don’t know who that is, just give the office staff the pupil’s name and they will get the correct person. As all teachers, Pupil Support included, have a teaching commitment they may not be available instantly. It is also possible they are not in school. They should, however, get back to you as soon as possible.

If the Pupil Support teacher is not available when you phone and the matter is urgent, please ask for the duty manager – that will be one of the Depute Headteachers or myself. We will try to take the call immediately, but will certainly get back to you as quickly as we possibly can.

Mr A. Law
Acting Headteacher

Parent Council Meeting Dates

Please note that dates for future Parent Council Meeting have now been published. They are available to view on the left and also on the school website and Parent Council Facebook page.

The next meeting of the Parent Council will be on Tuesday 13th November from 7pm to 9pm in the school conference room. An up to date list of dates will be available soon.

The Parent Council would like to thank everyone for their support so far and hope you all have a great October holiday!


School App & Social Media

The Stranraer Academy school App is completely FREE to download. It works on all Apple iOS and Android phone devices. Please search for Stranraer Academy in your App store or visit the school website for details.

Our Social Media Pages...

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/StranraerAcademy
Twitter: @StranraerAcad

Change of address or Phone Number?

Please remember to notify us if you move house or change phone number. Please also notify us of any other changes, such as for Emergency Contact Information.

DO YOU HAVE A STORY OR SOME EXCITING NEWS RELATED TO THE SCHOOL? PLEASE LET US KNOW! WE’D LOVE TO PUT IT ON THE APP & SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES!