

Editorial Committee:

C. O'Neill, R. Boyd, G. Johnston, A. Parker, A. Graham, R. Beattie, R. Boyd, M. Campbell, V. Deacon, S. Caldwell, J. Geddis, T. Steele, & R. Snoddy.



Issue 11
March 2008

Transfer Time

<i>Inside this issue:</i>	
Work Experience 2008	2
The F1 Experience	3
Cross Country Success	4
Charity Update	5
Comenius Trip to Nauen	6
The Interview	7
To Disney and Beyond!	8

A large number of P7 pupils and their parents attended the annual Transfer Open Night, which took place on Thursday 10th January. The school was extremely busy, with a great variety of opportunities for both pupils and parents to get involved in the different activities put on by each department. These ranged from science experiments and fitness activities, to playing the bongo drums in the music department.



P7s get hands on experience with bongos

As I walked around the school it was great to see our own pupils working in the different departments and involving the P7 pupils and parents. It was also good to meet so many past pupils and talk about their days in school and the many changes they now see.

The Primary 7 visits to the College also took place in January. These were organised by Mrs Mitchell and Mr Bennett to give the opportunity to our local primary school pupils to visit the College during a normal working day. During these visits they experienced short lessons in a range of specialist

subjects. We feel that it is important that pupils gain insight into what a typical day at the College is like, so that they are better informed to make their transfer decision. They are able to see aspects of the school which are different from their Primary school experience – the fitness suite, science labs, computer rooms, technology workshops, art rooms and home

Continued on Page 2



Joy Montgomery (Year 12), gracefully airborne.

Soaring to Success

Year 12 pupil Joy Montgomery has just returned from a very successful World Age Group Championship in trampolining. Joy travelled to Quebec in Canada to participate in three different categories; Individual, Double-Mini and Synchro. This was Joy's second time at the World Age Games representing Ireland and to prepare she had been training up to five times a

week for the past year to build up her mental and physical ability.

Joy's coach, Ann-Marie Barr was absolutely delighted with her individual performance. With over 70 in her group Joy came 45th, and her scores were high enough for European qualification. In her Double-Mini event she again performed brilliantly. Joy gets very little practise at

this event, but her natural talent for twisting and somersaulting in the air allows her to compete at a high level. Joy achieved the top Irish ladies score in both the Individual and Double-Mini categories, so she is their No.1 lady!

All Joy's commitment and hard work paid off and she returned to Northern Ireland having



Continued on Page 2

House Update

Between December and February there have been a number of keenly contested events taking place for the House Competition.

The Year 9 Geography Height Model Competition was won by Jonathon Beck (Fergus) and the Year 9 Cross Country was also won by Fergus with Jai Lough running to first place. Castle though won both 'The Great Harry Potter Quiz' and Abbie McIlwrath won the Modern Languages Event. Overall the House standings are now as follows:

House	Cumulative Points Total
Castle	6756
Fergus	6873
Knockagh	5670

Continued from Page 1

economics rooms.

Over the next few weeks pupils and parents will be making important decisions on post-primary education. We look forward to seeing many of our young Open Night visitors in Carrickfergus College uniforms in September.

I extend an invitation to any parents of a P7 pupil who did not get the opportunity to visit the school, and who would wish to do so, to contact the school office for an appointment to see around.

W BORLAND
Acting Principal

Attendance Winners

Page 2



To celebrate good attendance, each month in the College a prize draw is made for the pupils who achieved 100% attendance in each year group. The following is a list of the winners for December 2007 and January 2008.

Year	December	January
8	Sarah Laverty 8M	Louise Hines 8J
9	A. McCormick 9J	Alice Rogers 9J
10	Kirstie McMurrin 10H	K. Anderson 10L
11	Darran Gaw 11K	Daryl Ingram 11H
12	R. Workman 12J	M. McAlister 12L
13 / 14	Clare Newell 14A	Abigail Robinson 13A

Continued from Page 1

gained in experience and also having established friendships with other people from across the globe.

Less than a week later, Joy was again competing. She represented Carrickfergus College in the Northern Ireland Schools' Championships which were held in Ard's Leisure Centre. Joy was competing at the top age group - U19 Elite. Having made it through to the National Schools' Finals last year, she really wanted to prove herself worthy in this age group. Out of 23 competitors Joy claimed the top spot making her U19 Elite NI schools champion! She then went on to represent Carrickfergus College for the fifth consecutive year at the UK semi-finals, where she gained 5th place overall.



Welcome to the Real World!



David McVeigh changes a wheel at Meadow Cars

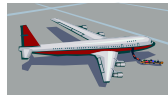
Each year our Year 12 students take part in the Work Experience programme. This year 123 students went out on Monday 28th January to begin a week in the world of work. The purpose of this programme is to let students get some real life experience in the type of job they think they would like to do, finding out what the job is really like, what skills and qualities are needed to do the work and, most importantly, whether they are suited to this type of work.

As usual, students chose a wide variety of jobs, covering all job sectors. Some students tried the caring professions, going to hospitals, care homes and nursery schools, while others chose to get physical by going to building sites and factories.

"Mr Scullion and I tried to visit as many students as possible, travelling not only around Carrick, but as far as Ballymena, Antrim and Belfast. The majority of students were absolutely loving their placement and were determined that they had chosen the type of job they definitely wanted to do in the future. One thing that amused me though was that, every single student I spoke to was totally exhausted, and found work a real shock to the system! Welcome to the real world!"

- Miss Irwin

Rebecca Beattie who went to Woodburn Primary School thoroughly enjoyed her placement. "The highlight of the week was working with the P1 children, who were certainly the most entertaining. The week gave me insight into school from the opposite side of the desk and was definitely a worthwhile experience...". Another pupil, Andrew Brown agreed. He went to Belfast City Airport. "I got to experience Air Traffic Control, which was great... I didn't want to leave the control tower."



Stacy Keatley updates Training Programmes at Fortfield Health & Fitness Club.



Beating the Cyber-Bully!

The College is currently in the process of reviewing its Anti-Bullying policy; it is to be updated with reference to the issue of 'Cyber Bullying'.

Cyber bullying is defined as, "willful" and involves, "recurring or repeated harm inflicted through the medium of electronic text." On the 28th of November 10AF attended a session about cyber bullying, organized by Childline. The two counselors raised awareness of the issue through a talk and games. They educated the class on what cyber bullying is and also how it can affect victims.

A Podium Finish

The I.T. Academy Page 3

Five Year 9 pupils, along with their teacher, Mr Simpson from Carrickfergus College Technology and Design Department, took part in the 'F1 in Schools Challenge'. This event is open to all UK based schools and colleges. The task was to design and manufacture Co2 powered model racing cars (dragsters) which were to be raced and presented in the Ulster Folk and Transport museum in Cultra on the 13 -14th of December 2007.

The College competed against other schools throughout the region to determine the fastest and best engineered car.

The pupils were given a brief to design a model Co2 powered F1 Car of the future using a CAD (Computer Aided Design). Following the design phase came the manufacture of the car on a CNC machine, producing a real working model to be used in the race.

The pupils also presented a PowerPoint presentation to judges which entailed them talking through their designs and the manufacturing process.



The College girls competed at Key Stage 3 level, and qualified from their heats to take a place in the final. As a result of all their hard work they gained third place in Northern Ireland - a great achievement! The pupils had a really enjoyable and invaluable experience on the two days, facing the challenges set for them.

Jordan Maxwell, Alice Rodgers, Chloe Jackson, Lois Denny & Jennifer Hewitt take 3rd Place in Northern Ireland!

This year Carrickfergus College has become part of the Microsoft IT Academy programme. This allows us to run internationally recognised Microsoft Certification Courses. This year we are offering the Microsoft Office Specialist Course in the following applications:

Microsoft Word – Core & Expert Levels
Microsoft PowerPoint
Microsoft Access



Currently these courses are offered to all Year 13 & 14 students as an additional course of study taken alongside their 3 A' Level subjects. At the end of the course the students will take an online examination and when successfully completed they will receive official Microsoft Certification in the application they have chosen to study. This course allows any future employers to see clearly that a student is proficient in using the application and as such the exam questions are based on real world scenarios.

Mr Dinsdale our ICT Systems Manager is approved by Microsoft to teach this course having himself sat the relevant examinations earlier in the year. Mr Dinsdale, who already holds an honours degree in Computer Science, is also studying at a higher level for additional Microsoft Certification in the more technical side of networking and server management and we wish him all the best for his final examinations which take place soon!

...And Representing Estonia

In October, Carrickfergus College pupils Andrew Hay, Michael Wright and Ashley Sedgwick (Year 14) represented the school at the Mock Council of the European Union held in the Long Gallery, Parliament Buildings, Stormont. The guest speaker at the event was Reijo Kempainen, head of the European Commission Representation in the U.K.

The event was attended by twenty eight schools from across Northern Ireland (representing the 27 member states), the European Commission and the Secretariat General. Our team represented Estonia during the debates on the EU's approach to immigration, global warming and agricultural policy.



Run - Away Success!



A total of 32 competitors from Carrickfergus College made the journey to the Queen's University Playing Fields in Belfast, for the annual District B Cross Country Championships. The first race of the day was the Minor Girls (Year 8), and as this was their first competition our girls did well to finish 12th overall in the team standings. Rebecca Topping finished a commendable 13th, just missing out on an individual qualification by 1 place. The Minor Boys also competed well, finishing 10th overall in the team standings. Scott Cummings ran exceptionally well, finishing 16th out of a field of 112 boys, gaining himself a place in the Ulster Schools Championships!

In the Junior Girls (Years 9 and 10) event, Charlotte Howie, Jemma Hartley and Jordan Maxwell all finished strongly, helping the team gain 10th overall.

The race of the day for the College though, had to be the Junior Boys, where our team of Jonny Robb, Ross McKinty, Lee Lowry, Aaron Chambers and Josh Colligan (pictured left) entered the race as underdogs against some of the top Grammar schools in the district. Every member of the team ran an outstanding race, beating teams like Methodist College, St.Malachy's, Belfast Royal Academy and RBAI, to advance through to the Ulster's, as District Champions!



Unfortunately our more senior athletes were not as well supported in number, but special mention should go to Darryl Ingram (23rd), Aston McDermott (39th) and Rebecca McRoberts (28th) for their performances in their respective age groups.

Following on from their outstanding performances in the Districts, Scott Cummings and the Junior Boys team travelled to Mallusk to compete against the top runners in Ulster. The weather conditions were fair for cross country running, and the course was flatter than the previous competition which meant it would be faster. All the boys competed well, with Scott's race being the first of the day for the College group. Scott ran a sensible race and managed to finish 69th out of 125 athletes. Not a bad effort for his first year of Schools' Cross Country. The Junior Boy's team was unfortunately depleted due to illness, and with only three boys managing to finish the race we were out of the overall team standings. However credit must be given to Josh, Lee, and Ross who finished 66th, 68th and 75th respectively out of the 108 competitors.



Dancing Challenge

On Thursday 31st January all of our Year 10 girls took part in a sponsored Hip Hop Challenge. A dance teacher from Childline came in to take the girls through various Hip Hop dance routines and moves. The Year 10 girls found this a very enjoyable experience



Louise and Kerry Shannon present Patricia Dayson from Childline with a cheque for £500

and they all did exceptionally well raising money for Childline.

Childline is a telephone service young people can ring when they are unhappy, upset or have something on their mind. It is a very worthwhile charity that receives thousands of phone calls per day. The Year 10 girls managed to raise £500! Well done!

Drugs Awareness Drama



The 'Binge' Workshop was brought to Carrickfergus College by the pupils of Ulidia Integrated College's senior Drama Club. It dealt with alcohol and the misuse of prescription drugs.

The workshop was presented in a professional fashion with lots of useful information on offer. One pupil who attended the workshop was Rebekah Boyd. She thought it addressed important issues that are relevant to young people today. The event was enjoyed by everyone who participated.



The Miss-a-Meal Appeal



Do you know that your pets have more money spent on them than many children in Africa?



The cost of feeding a dog, "all of its nutritional needs, for a Healthy Maturity" on Pedigree Senior canned food is 56p a day. Meanwhile, half of Africa live on less than \$1 (60p) a day and have less nutrition than your pet!

Today in Africa many children live on the streets. Their only water supply is a muddy sewer. Their food is often found in rubbish tips. Their bed is wherever they can find to shelter them from their harsh reality. Children like Emmanuel, who was found at Christmas in a plastic bag in a rubbish tip when someone heard a weak cry. So many babies are being abandoned for unknown reasons, some are meant to be found, and some are thrown away as if rubbish.



Across the world there are over 100 million children on the streets!

It was facts like these which inspired both pupils and teachers in Carrickfergus College to try to make a difference in the global battle against injustice and poverty. Once again we invited pupils to miss a meal for Africa and give the money they would have spent on that meal to the local charity Abanna who run the 'Fast 4 Africa' campaign. Several hundred pupils gave up their lunch on the 18th December and around 150 completed a 24 hour fast on the same day, raising our highest total to date of £2200. This money will provide safe water, nutritious food, and sanitation as well as Christmas street parties for the kids of Uganda. Well done to everyone who took part.



The European Experience

A group of Year 13 students who are currently in the process of completing the Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (C.O.P.E) recently attended the Belfast Opportunity Europe Day.

Their course involves studying the European Parliament - how it began, the countries involved and the laws that they can pass. It was organised by Mr McCready who decided it would help the students gain a better insight into the European Parliament and each European country.



At Opportunity Europe Day, there were stalls with a representative from each European country who could provide information in the form of leaflets and brochures as well as giving their own personal insights. There were also stalls serving food from different countries, so the students could get a taste of the culture too.



Opportunity Europe provided a great opportunity for the European Studies students to bond as a class, have a good time and develop their work as a group, as well as getting lots of information and evidence of their research.



Focused on Work

As part of the school's links with industry, Mr McKeown, a former senior executive engineer with Shorts Aerospace, visited the school to speak to some Year 11 pupils on Wednesday 13th February.



His main objectives were to show how difficult tasks in the workplace can be broken down into more simple tasks, and to give pupils some useful guidelines for the world of work.

Mr McKeown encouraged pupils to identify their abilities and to develop them further. He highlighted the need for pupils to use their time in school to equip themselves for their future careers. He posed the question 'What will make you stand out in an interview so that an employer picks you!' He stressed the need for pupils to be able to



present themselves well in terms of dress, mannerisms and speech and to show that they could fit into the workplace environment.

Visiting Nauen

On 4th December, two of our Year 13 girls, Claire O'Neill and Nichola Beattie travelled to Germany as part of the Comenius Project. This is their account of what they did:



"We arrived at Schoenefeld Airport in Berlin on Tuesday 4th December. Upon arrival, we were warmly greeted by our hosts - the pupils and parents of the German school. We then separated and were taken to the homes of our hosts who had a warm meal and a bed ready for us.

With an early start at 7am, we guessed that our second day (or our first full day) would be a long one. However, after a few classes at 'Graf von Arco Oberschule' in Nauen, (our host's school) we were off to meet the Mayor of Nauen who told us all about the town and the region of Brandenburg.

The next day had a similar start. However, we would again leave the school in the afternoon, but this time travel by bus to Kampehe where we would see the mummy of a knight called Christian Friedrich von Kahlbutz, whose body was mummified naturally. No scientist to this day can understand why.

On Friday, we went sight seeing. We went to Berlin on a double-decker train and then we went round Berlin on a coach to see the remains of the Berlin wall and Checkpoint Charlie. We also saw the Reichstag (the German parliament).



Saturday was similar; although this time we visited the palace in Potsdam, the home of King Frederick II. It was huge and very ornate. By the evening, we went to the Christmas markets in Potsdam and had plenty of time to enjoy the company of our hosts.

Sunday was our leaving day; we couldn't believe it had come so quickly. Our hosts took us to the train station, which took us directly to the airport and before long; we were back in 'Sunny' Northern Ireland.

We had a brilliant trip, and are looking forward to seeing our hosts next summer."

Rugby Update



The College rugby teams continue to compete in a number of competitions. The Year 8s are soon to be involved in a Mini-Blitz Tournament against Ballyclare, Glengormley and Dunclug High schools.

Meanwhile Year 9 are celebrating a recent success over the Boys' Model with a 12-10 win. Their training continues every Wednesday and all interested boys are welcome to attend.

The Year 10 team qualified for and played in the Ulster U14 Championships at Ballynahinch. Congratulations go to the team for a hard fought draw with a physically bigger Ballyclare side last month.

Our Year 11 side have had excellent wins over Glengormley at Parkhall this term. Many of this team have also represented the school at U16 level at the High School Cup, in which they have had a great win over Ashfield Boys' (26-12). Most recently they travelled to Banbridge, but after a hard fought match they lost 15-0 to a well drilled Banbridge High team.

Service with a Smile



Training in the Welcome Host programme has been offered to our Years 13 & 14 students for the last five years and to date one hundred pupils have received the Welcome Host qualification.

Students have benefited from the programme in a number of ways. Some of our A' Level courses are vocational and an active learning based programme compliments the theory elements studied by students. In addition, those who have part time jobs, have an opportunity to put into practice what they have learnt from the programme, directly into the workplace. This type of experience is viewed favourably by universities.

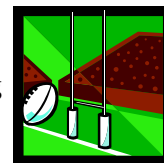
Currently, we are training Year 13 pupils in Welcome Host and this year's Year 14s will be doing Welcome Host Plus. Our students are very aware through their own experience at work of the value of customer service training and have been very keen to participate in Welcome Host in school.

An *A* for Art

The GCSE art students of Carrickfergus College went on a trip to an art exhibition in Belfast. The exhibition held pieces of GCSE and A' Level art and our pupils were given a chance to appreciate the standard of work that would get them an A or an A* in the examinations.



Some of the work was very impressive. Many of the pupils were inspired and got ideas for their own work, from the quality of the work that was produced and on show.



The Interview



Miss Irwin

In 2007 Carrickfergus College became one of only a few schools in Northern Ireland to receive 'Specialist' status.

*But what does this actually mean for our school?
Here to answer your questions are the two teachers responsible: Miss Irwin and Mr McCready.*



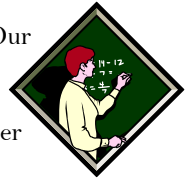
Mr McCready



What is a Specialist School and what does it involve?

Mr McCready: A Specialist School is, as the title suggests, one that specialises in a certain subject area. Our school specialises in Business and Enterprise with its focus on three main subjects; Maths, I.C.T and Business.

Miss Irwin: Being a Specialist School means we can further improve our already strong links with the other local schools and with the community as well as providing more opportunities for our own students.



Are there many Specialist Schools in Northern Ireland?

Mr McCready: There are 14 schools in Northern Ireland that are now recognized as Specialist Schools, but we are the only one here in Carrickfergus.

How did our school qualify as being a Specialist School?

Mr McCready: Last year, Mr. Campbell submitted an application to the Department of Education. But it wasn't as easy as that - we had to prove that we have a plan for improving our schools learning through the Specialist School opportunity. This will take place over the next four years, and our 'Specialist School' status will remain if this trial is successful.

Miss Irwin: The application involved a lot of work from various members of staff, particularly those departments which are directly involved.

How will we as pupils now benefit from our school becoming a Specialist School?



Mr McCready: We have access to new courses such as Finance and Hair & Beauty, with facilities that would not have been possible without the Specialist School funding. This funding will cover the costs of new equipment such as computers, data projectors, a hair & beauty suite, etc. The funding is important for the whole school though, and not only for those pupils who study subjects in the Business and Enterprise area, it will be used to the benefit of the whole school.

Miss Irwin: Don't forget that this is only the first year of a four year plan, so the benefits to students will continue over a long period of time.

In what way has our school changed since it has become a Specialist School?

Mr McCready: There are now more links with the community. A Wednesday night study session is now open to Years 13 & 14 pupils in the College. There is now a wider range of courses available and pupils have a greater understanding of the importance of 'enterprise' and of being prepared for the world of work. One of the biggest changes is that there are so many new facilities. No longer are pupils limited in resources.

What future prospects are there for our school now that we are a Specialist School?

Mr McCready: After four years, there will be a review to see how our school has benefited as being a Specialist School. If the progress is good our school will maintain Specialist School entitlement and funding will continue. From September, our school will have brand new Hair & Beauty facilities and so pupils can take on more vocational subjects like this. Year 11s will also have a chance to begin studying Financial Studies and Advanced Level students will benefit from specialist opportunities in Business and I.C.T. It is hoped though that the whole school, staff and pupils alike, will benefit and that our school will offer an even better educational experience for those who choose to study here.



"Just One Cornetto..."?



A group of 30 pupils set out once again from Carrickfergus College for another fantastic skiing experience. This year the destination was Andalo in Italy.



We had the pleasure of a fresh fall of snow as we arrived which set the scene for an amazing week full of really enjoyable skiing.

The trip consisted of daily ski lessons and the evenings were spent participating in a variety of activities from Karaoke and 'Games Nights', to swimming, ice skating and even an 'Ice-Cream Night'.

The evening of the Karaoke was particularly memorable as this was where the true talent showed as we had an array of solos and group performances.



The highlight of the trip must have been the prize of 'Entertainer of the Day'. This was given to the person who created the most entertainment for the group during each day's skiing! By the end of the week we had a clear winner – Jay Malcolm.



It is safe to say that the pupils and teachers on the trip had and experience of a lifetime and each is talking with anticipation about next year's trip.

"Well, Howdy Paris!"

At 2 am on a freezing January morning 46 bleary-eyed students met 4 equally bleary-eyed teachers to begin the long journey to France – it

was that time of year – **The Disneyland Trip**. By lunchtime we were there and the kind people at Study Experiences who run the trip gave us an extra day's pass to the Parks because we were such good customers.

Dropping off our luggage we headed straight to the resort. It was excellent! Sadly, all too soon it was 6 o'clock and we had to go and collect our luggage and check into our cowboy-themed rooms. Dinner that night was an all-you-can-eat buffet. Mr Sloan and Mr Scullion only managed 8 courses, but they said they were saving themselves for supper! It was early to bed on Day 1 in preparation for a full day's adventure on Day 2.

The next two days were spent in the Disneyland Theme Park and in Walt Disney Studios and on one of the evenings we were entertained as we dined by Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show.



On Day 4 we had to leave early to go to Paris. We headed straight for the Eiffel Tower where the view was excellent.

After a bus tour of Paris and a few hours shopping at Miss Irwin's favourite centre, it was time to head back to the airport for our flight home. At 2 am 16 parents met 46 half-awake students and 4 exhausted teachers and everyone just wanted to get home to bed! Roll on next year!

Notices

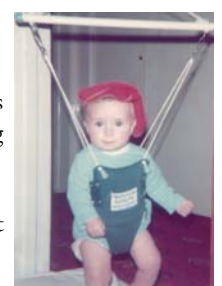
Thank-you to all the parents who took part in the Keele University Survey. The results are now available for you to read on the School Website at www.carrickferguscollege.co.uk

School restarts on Monday 31st March, and pupils will be off school on Friday 2nd May & Monday 5th May.



Baby Face

Last issue's baby face (see right) training for his future career was Mr Daniels. What he was doing with underpants on his head is anyone's guess!



Is the little one pictured left singing out or just composing her thoughts!