

Issue 14
December 2010

The Presentation of Awards

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On 21st October 2010 our school celebrated another very successful year with our annual Presentation of Awards Ceremony.

We were able, once again, to report on a very wide range of successes. These included excellent A' level results, the growth of our Year 13/14 to over 100 pupils, our excellent developments in International Links, great sporting and musical success, and a very positive report from the Inspectorate on our third year of Specialist School Status in Business and Enterprise. The full report is available on our school website at: www.carrickferguscollege.co.uk.

Our very special guest this year was Mr. David Spurdle who is Chief Executive of the charity *Kids Alive*. This is a charity supporting under-privileged children in countries around the world, including Ethiopia and Burma. He gave a wonderfully moving address using PowerPoint showing some of the



Mr D. Spurdle (Chief Exec. *Kids Alive*) & Mrs R. Shaw (Chairman of Governors)

excellent work undertaken around the world by this charity. This is a charity that our school has close connections to through Mr Bennett, one of our teachers, who will be working with *Kids Alive* two days a week throughout this year. We have already raised money to build a classroom in Ethiopia and *Kids Alive* will be the main charity we support throughout the rest of the year.

Mr Spurdle also told us how he began his career as a school teacher. He gave

excellent advice and encouragement to all the students present at the Awards' Ceremony. A vote of thanks and presentation of a gift to our speaker were made by Mark Deering and Lois Passmore, our Head Boy and Girl.

The high quality of provision at the College can be attributed to a very supportive Board of Governors and to dedicated and committed staff. We look forward to another exciting and successful year in 2010/11.

Man Marking

Mark Ferris, first became interested in playing rugby when his brother encouraged him to join the Year 9 team in school and Carrickfergus Rugby Club. Excelling in the sport over the next few years, Mark was then invited to join the Ulster U17 Squad, where his talents continued to develop, until in July 2010 he became part of the Ulster U18s (despite being a year younger than most of the other lads), playing in the backrow No. 6 or 8 position.



Training throughout the rest of the summer took place on Wednesday and Saturday mornings, for rigorous three hour sessions,

before the squad was streamlined to 22 players and the first of their matches began. Since then the team have suffered their highs and lows, but even in the defeats, Mark and the other young men of the squad continued to learn. Mark recalls how in playing against the large and impressive French side, Languedoc, they conceded a massive 50+ points but still managed to score over 25 points against them, a feat that no other side in the Province had been able to achieve.

Since then the team has been competing in the Inter-Regionals, playing matches against Connacht, Leinster and most recently Munster, and Mark has thoroughly enjoyed every minute, even though they have played in some horrible conditions. Playing for Ulster is an opportunity that he relishes and the school would like to wish him every success for the future.



Mark Ferris (Year 13)



Settling Into 'Big' School

I was quite nervous about starting Carrickfergus College, as I didn't really know what to expect. It was a big step moving from Primary School to High School, because in my Primary there were only about 300 pupils and the College has nearly three times that number.

I was initially worried about being split up from my old classmates and going from having one teacher to having lots of different teachers for all of the different subjects. I was worried about the dreaded rumours about what happens to all first years when they get to 'big school' but none of them have proved to be true.

Three months on and all I can say is that I am really enjoying my time at the College. The best thing is the variety of subjects and activities you get to do. You never get bored as you are always on the move and your day is over before you know it. There is lots to do after school in the



College too, as there is a school club to suit almost everyone. I've settled in really well and made lots of new mates and I have really nice teachers. Even the canteen staff are great fun and the food is excellent.

All I can say is that if I had known in September what I know now, I would never have had any worries about starting at Carrick College and I would recommend it to anyone.

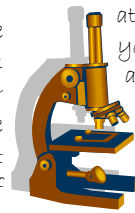
- Rhys McFadden (Year 8)



← Rhys McFadden & Erin Gillies

When I first started Carrickfergus College I was a bit nervous. I had the usual worries like, will I make friends, or will I get lost? And also, what if I get bullied? But now I know my way around really well, and I have made lots of new friends.

I like most of the subjects I do. I especially enjoy Science and it's much better



at Secondary School than Primary School because you get to do practical work and all the experiments are so much fun. I also like Music because we play on the keyboards, as well as H.E because we get to cook lots of different things.

I really enjoy Carrickfergus College and I can assure everyone that there is absolutely nothing to worry about. All the teachers are really friendly, as well as the older pupils and you can make friends really easily.

- Erin Gillies (Year 8)

Banking On It



In September 2009 in partnership with Northern Bank, school banking was made available to the pupils of the College.

This year, staff from Northern Bank are available in school on Wednesday mornings from 9-9.30am. They give advice on how to manage day to day finances such as: opening a Northern Bank Discovery Account, lodging money, online banking, using an ATM and using a Maestro card. This is an ideal way to encourage financial awareness and enable our pupils to acquire skills, confidence and habits invaluable to them in adult life. Pictured below are some of the current Year 8 pupils who attended a talk on banking.



European Day of Languages



Every year in the autumn term in the Modern Languages Department, pupils have the opportunity to take part in events to celebrate the European Day of Languages. This year a number of pupils

(pictured above) in Years 8–10 demonstrated their artistic skills whenever they took part in one of the competitions that was organised. The challenge involved designing a bright and colourful poster to celebrate being part of Europe.

Manuel Oliveira, Year 9, was the winner of the general knowledge quiz to celebrate the European Day of Languages. Rachel Mathers of Year 8 was the runner up in the same quiz. They successfully answered questions on geography, language and sport.



← Quiz Winners—Manuel Oliveira & Rachel Mathers

Attendance Winners



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.

Below is a list of the winners for September & October 2010.

Year	September	October
8	O. BELL 8H	J. GILLESPIE 8J
9	N. MILLAR 9H	N. HARTLEY 9K
10	C. MURRAY 10H	J. McMEEKIN 10M
11	S. CRAWFORD 11I	P. COLLINGS 11M
12	C. McMURRAY 12L	S. STEWART 12
13/14	A. LUSTY 13A	L. PASSMORE 14A

The Key to Success



This year twelve Year 11 pupils have had the opportunity to participate in the Key Programme. Pupils will be involved in four residential trips throughout the year, the second of which we have just completed. Along with enterprise training, pupils this term have managed to complete a CV and have participated in outdoor pursuits such as kayaking, raft building, abseiling and zip lining.



All those involved had a great time building up friendships with pupils from two other schools, whilst also attempting activities and challenges that have helped overcome fears and built up confidence.

At the next residential pupils will have to undergo mock interviews and so have plenty of preparation work to do before then.

Seated in the Senate!



On Friday 27th October Carrickfergus College Year 13/14 pupils Adam McMeekin, Christian Shanks and Jason Allen, represented the school at the Mock Council of the European Union held in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, Stormont.



This prestigious event was organised by the British Council and twenty eight schools from across Northern Ireland were invited to take part. The College pupils represented the views of Cyprus during the debates on the EU's approach to the Financial Crisis, Global Warming and Combating Poverty.

The students really enjoyed participating and learnt much about the process of political debate as each school

represented one of the twenty seven member states and had to think and present from the perspective of other European countries.

An unexpected highlight of the day however was the appearance of Education Minister Catriona Ruane in the chamber. College pupil Jason Allen was one of the lucky ones chosen to put a question to the Minister, asking for her opinion on recent comments by the first Minister Peter Robinson regarding integrated education.



A Hi-5 for Kids Alive



As you'll be aware from our opening article, the College has chosen to support the *Kids Alive* charity this year. *Kids Alive* is an organisation which is dedicated to caring for and helping children in Africa. One of our own teachers, Mr Bennett, has been involved with the charity for a number of years. This is what happened on his last visit to Africa...



Mr Bennett made a return visit to the town of Bekoji in Ethiopia in the summer, this time taking with him a team of 9 people including Miss Callaghan, with the purpose of giving the kids the best week of their lives. July/August is rainy season in Ethiopia which made travelling on the makeshift roads much more difficult but a lot more fun! All of the African children got a brand new T-Shirt with 'Hi-5' printed on it. They even arranged themselves to make the Ethiopian flag which just happened to be the same colours as their T-shirts!

The week consisted of all sorts of activities that the kids would never had experienced;

finger painting, various crafts using beads and making necklaces, but it was the face-painting that seemed to be the most popular. We even introduced a new game, invented by Mr Kidd, called 'Extreme Endball', which the kids loved until our gym ball burst!



The most important thing about the trip was spending time with the kids, most of whom have no parents, many of whom are sick and all of whom live in the poorest conditions imaginable, in homes with no water or sanitation. For many of the kids, this week was their only chance to get a good hot meal as many of them struggle to find or buy food when school is not on during the summer holidays.



The money which was raised during the Run 4 Me/Walk 4 Me sponsored event in June had already been put to good use and the kids thanked us for your help in building two new classrooms allowing another 40 children

to attend school this year. The Director of *Kids Alive* UK, David Spurdle, came over to the College in October especially to thank us and to take part in our prize night (see Pg1).



This year we hope to raise a lot more money to help the kids of Bekoji and Mr Bennett is planning to take some of our own Year 13/14 pupils there in June as we continue to stand by the kids at Bethany School Bekoji.



Baby Face



In Issue 13 we posed the odd question, "Who could this young fellow pictured on the right be - sitting on his daddy's knee? Surely he's not even three? Or perhaps he would be the first to tell you..." Well, Mr Borland, always has been good with numbers!

Now we have a new poser for you. Can you calculate which teacher the child on the left turned out to be?

As part of GCSE Hospitality, the students have to plan, prepare and serve a meal to a minimum of 12 people.



This year the students made a buffet style meal for the Board of Governors, four of whom retired at the end of the last school year.

The students each had specific jobs to do. Jade Spencer was the pastry chef, Gavin Sugden was in charge of preparing the meat, Karolina Michalak was responsible for preparing the vegetables, Beth Martin was in charge of the desserts and Katie Mills was in charge of organising the room and equipment.



On the evening all of the students doubled as waiting staff. The event was very enjoyable and the Board of Governors had a pleasant and relaxing time.

Passing on the Art

The renowned artist Paul Wilson visited Carrickfergus College to give a portraiture workshop to the Year 13 pupils; studying A& Art & Design.



Paul has just completed oil paintings for the new, contemporary building, erected to house the Law Society in Belfast. The Law Society commissioned ten of Ireland's most prolific artists to provide artwork dedicated to prime areas throughout this glamorous structure. Amongst them painters, sculptors, ceramicists, installation artists and many more.



Paul has also completed the portrait of Belfast's Lord Mayor which now hangs in a gallery of

portraits of previous Lord Mayors in the newly refurbished Belfast City Hall. Paul is also well known for his George Best paintings hanging in the Waterfront Hall and has been commissioned by George's own family too. We would like to thank Paul for his continuing support in bringing an exciting and talented presence to our A-Level course. If you wish to view Paul's work his website address is www.paulwilsonart.com



On the 8th November two Year 14 students, Rebecca Humphreys and Rebecca Rea, arrived in Malaga, along with Mr McCready and Mrs Mitchell, for a five day Comenius trip. Both students had been selected to accompany the teachers as a result of their exceptional work in Year 13.



The girls stayed with hosting Spanish families, and made



good friends over the course of the visit and it is the hope of both College students that their Spanish hosts will someday pay them a visit in Northern Ireland.

Throughout their stay in Malaga, many places of educational interest were visited. These included, the Roman theatre, and Picasso's birthplace and gallery. As well as this, the girls attended some of the Spanish pupils' school classes.

Both teachers and pupils thoroughly enjoyed the trip, as it not only gave an insight into the way in which people from other cultures live, but also provided an opportunity to experience different foods and a change in routine.



Drawing on Success

Carrickfergus College has just received word that no less than thirty pupils from Years 8 - 10 have successfully been picked as finalists in the nationwide *School Artists Competition*, which, this year, had some fifteen thousand entrants.

The winning school and individual winners will be chosen and announced later in the year. Shannon Craney, Jessica Lennon and Curtis Taylor (all from Year 10) are three of the talented finalists. We are delighted and very proud of our pupils who have beaten a vast amount of pupils nationwide to achieve this great accolade.





Carrickfergus College boasts a range of over 40 clubs and societies, held at both lunch time, and after school. Whether you have a passion for helping others and would like to be part of the **Charity Committee**, or you have a knack for computer design and are interested in a **Multimedia Club**, there is something to suit you here at the College. Here is a closer look at some of what is on offer:



Carrickfergus College has a wide range of facilities and equipment to make possible the amount of after-school sporting activities that we offer. Not only do the **Badminton Club** meet every Thursday for an hour after school, but the school also offers **cricket**, **hockey** and **football** teams. The school takes great pride in its **rugby** and **netball** teams, achieving great success in both sports. We also offer **volleyball** and **tennis**, supervised by a qualified and experienced team of teachers.



Clubs & Societies

The **Drama Club** has recently been set up by Ms Renton, giving Year 8 & 9 pupils a chance to fulfil their acting dreams. This club has previously been linked to the very successful school productions — which have also allowed members of our **Dance Club** to showcase their talents.

The **Driving Training Scheme** was set up for Year 13/14 students to give them the chance to learn to drive in a comfortable and familiar environment.

The **Business & Enterprise Club** is headed up by Mrs Evans, and allows everyone the opportunity to learn how to get ahead in all areas of business, ingenuity and entrepreneurialism. It helps pupils develop communication, team building and problem-solving skills.




So come along and sign up to one of the many clubs on offer, from **Choir** to **Chess**, **The Lit Club** to **Table Tennis**, there is so much to choose from. For a



full list of the clubs and societies on offer, who takes them and where and when they meet, simply visit our website at www.carrickferguscollege.co.uk and follow the relevant link.



A Stroke of Gold!

 *The Duke of Edinburgh Award has been one of the most challenging but rewarding things I have ever done.* With a group of eleven of us participating in our Gold Award Expedition, we decided to do something a little bit different and instead of gearing up for the usual hike over land, we chose to take to the water. But that meant training - so we broke up into two teams to learn how to canoe.



Our first training session started with our first obstacle - the weather - something that none of us had considered. Within the first few hours we had experienced freak weather conditions even without leaving the relative safety of Carrickfergus harbour; rain, hail and snow, we had it all! This certainly toughened us and made it crystal clear that this wasn't going to be easy. Throughout our many training sessions we learned the techniques of canoeing and were able to move through team building exercises. As a group we decided to do our practice expedition in Lough Erne; this was a success and made everyone excited for the final expedition.

Our final expedition took place over four days and three nights on the River Bann. As part of the requirements for the Gold Award, we had to find a subject to research and photograph while we were there. One of the groups researched fish-farming in the area and the other group researched the history of the River Bann. Happily we all passed our expedition and enjoyed every moment of it!

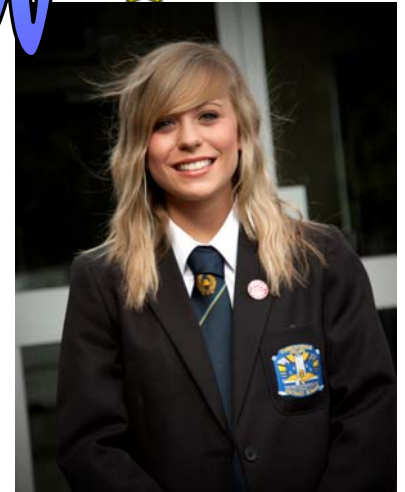


- Hannah Beattie (Year 14)

The Interview



Prefects are appointed in September each year at Carrickfergus College. The selection is based on the pupils' previous achievements and commitment to the school. The role of Head Boy/Head Girl is considered an honour, which enhances any application for employment or further education. Within Years 13/14, there is a total of 48 prefects who together contribute to duties within the school. This year our new Head Girl is Lois Passmore and our new Head Boy is Mark Deering. So let's get to know them a bit better...



◆ — Head Boy - Mark Deering

Head Girl - Lois Passmore — ◆

Why do you think you were awarded the position of head boy/girl?

Mark: By doing my duties and setting a good example to the junior school.

Lois: I think I was awarded Head Girl because of my academic and sporting achievements, both inside and outside school, and because of my hard work and determination to contribute to the overall life of Carrickfergus College.



What course are you studying at A-level?

Mark: Travel & Tourism, Music and Business Studies.

Lois: Sport Studies, History and ICT

What have been your greatest achievements throughout your school life?

Mark: Achieving Head Boy and getting my Bronze, Silver, and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

Lois: By far the pinnacle of my school life has been being awarded Head Girl. However I have also been awarded Outstanding Pupil and for four consecutive years I have been captain of the hockey team.



Are you involved with any clubs or societies within school?

Mark: Duke of Edinburgh and the Student Council.

Lois: I am part of the school hockey team, a member of the Student Council and I have undertaken my Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

If you could change anything within the school what would it be and why?

Mark: Honestly, I can't think of anything that I would change.

Lois: Like Mark I wouldn't change a single thing!

What makes this school unique to other schools?

Mark: The way that teachers help and guide their pupils.

Lois: Our school is unique to other schools because of the Business and Enterprise Specialist Status it has achieved. It is also unique because of commitment and enthusiasm of the teaching staff, as they will go out of their way to help you with anything!



What type of music do you like?

Mark: My favourite music is Brian Houston and Audio Adrenaline.

Lois: I enjoy listening to a variety of types of music; however I mostly listen to Indie music such as, Snow Patrol and Mumford & Sons.



What is your favourite food?

Mark: I don't really have a favourite food as I would eat anything, but being put on the spot, I would have to say Indian.

Lois: Everything!

Where is your favourite holiday destination?

Mark: My favourite holiday would be skiing and my favourite destination would be Livigno in Italy.

Lois: Canada.



What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

Mark: Staying active by going to the gym or going for a walk.

Lois: I enjoy socialising with friends and coaching and playing hockey for Carrick Ladies.

What would you like to do once you leave school?

Mark: I would like to take a gap year in an outdoor pursuits centre and then pursue a career in instructing outdoor pursuits.

Lois: If I do well at A-Level I would like to go to university, possibly the University of Ulster or even a university in England, such as John Moore's in Liverpool, to study a course in sport, as I would like to go on to become a PE teacher.

First For Fergus




The House System is once again being keenly contested in Carrickfergus College. Currently, out in front we have Fergus with 2138 points, followed by Castle with 1914 points and in third place, last year's winners Knockagh with 1780 points.

There are lots of competitions coming up in a number of departments, so lots of points up for grabs... Can Fergus hold onto the lead?

Year	Name	House
8	Gabrielle Simms	Knockagh
9	Chloe Bateman	Fergus
10	Lucy Sharpe Megan Wady Jessica Stronge	Fergus Fergus Knockagh
11	Jenna McIlvogue Rebecca Topping	Castle Knockagh
12	Dean Cain	Fergus

Calling all P7s
The pupils and staff of Carrickfergus College would like to invite you to our




**Transfer
Open
Night**
on

Thursday 6 January @ 6.30pm

Come and see what we have to offer:

Make use of our gym & fitness suite, enter our quizzes, get involved in experiments, taste the delights of our H.E department and much, much more!



Which Way is Up?

A group of 30 GCSE PE students travelled to Woodhall Residential Centre in Kilrea on Monday 11th Oct for a 4 day intensive Orienteering residential, as part of their GCSE course.

The group were given very little time to settle in to their 'temporary' home, as they were put straight to work out in the grounds of the house. They completed a series of quick exercises and information gathering sessions before being let loose on the permanent course. In the afternoon we



made the short trip to Portglenone Forest where the group were once again put to work completing their first main 'star' event of the week.



Over the next three days the pupils' map reading and directional skills were put to good use (well almost everyone's!) in a variety of forests, including Garvagh, Downhill and Drum Manor in Cookstown. Pupils competed against each other on a series of Orienteering courses, and even had the added incentive to beat Mr Daniels and Miss Davis on a few of the courses as well! Needless to say the PE staff



competed hard and Mr Daniels was victorious on more than one occasion!

This was a very enjoyable and worthwhile trip for all who participated... even if they still don't know north from south, or which way's up!

The Ring of Success

Adam Workman has been interested in boxing from a young age. Having been involved with the Monkstown Boxing Club since he was eight years old, Adam has regularly participated in competitions.



Just a few months ago, on the 15th October, Adam competed in the Denmark Multi-Nations Tournament, in the 57kg weight division. The weight classifications are very strict and Adam had to follow a stringent diet and exercise routine to qualify.

Having successfully progressed to the final of the competition by knocking out his semi-finalist competitor in the second round of their bout, Adam narrowly missed leaving with a gold medal, and had to settle for silver this time around. Nevertheless his second place finish was a result to be proud of, and Adam is now looking forward to future competitions.



Adam's most recent success was being selected for the Ulster Boxing Team, and we would like to wish him well with his first match in Antrim verses Galway in December.

Your Attention Please



For more information about our school, whether it be our recent or upcoming events, the subjects on offer, our international links, our clubs and societies or our various policy documents, why not check out our fantastic school website at:

www.carrickferguscollege.co.uk

