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Issue 15
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A Memorable Night

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Mr McClean's pyrotechnics set imaginations ablaze as the P7s pay a visit to the Science department.

On Thursday 6th January 2010, the College held its annual **Open Night**. Despite very cold weather and the threat of snow, a very large number of P6/7 pupils and their parents came to the College to experience a sample of school life, enjoying such activities as making 'key fobs' in Technology to seeing how science can make fire dance on your hand!

During the course of the evening prospective pupils were able to ask questions of their potential teachers and try out lots of the facilities that the College has to offer. Many pupils went to the fitness suite to work off some of the Christmas excess and then undid their good work by visiting our Home Economics

department where they were able to get a snack and drink.

Others took the opportunity to visit the Music department and show off some of their talents, whilst many others learned about the battles of the ancient Greeks from our History department. The Art department reported a large number of budding Picassos while the giant 'Connect 4' game in Maths was very popular all night.

At around 7:15pm our Principal, Mr Webb, was ably assisted by several other staff in delivering a presentation to the parents in the Assembly Hall outlining what was on offer at the College. Year 8 pupil Rhys McFadden spoke about his experiences to date in the College and Dean Houston, the father of former pupil, Conor Houston, explained what led him to choose the College for Conor's seven years of Post Primary Education.

The feedback from pupils and parents attending the evening showed how impressed they were with the facilities and friendly atmosphere of our school. When it came to 9:00pm the College was still buzzing with visitors keen to see every last thing before heading home.

The Principal and Staff would like to thank all of the pupils and parents who attended the evening and all of the College pupils who helped on the night in the various roles and departments, making it such a successful evening.

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Pinning the Competition

I first started wrestling a few years ago; as a kid I'd always loved watching UFC with my Dad and I wanted to give it a go, so first of all my Dad took me to the boxing club to see how I liked it. After boxing I felt the need to try another sport so I started to train at Knockagh Wrestling Club. As I grew more interested in wrestling I stopped boxing and focused solely on wrestling and put my training up to six days a week.

Since then I have travelled to lots of places for international and domestic competitions and I've

won a number of championships. I have been British Champion twice, Irish Champion on three occasions and recently received a bronze medal at international level.

At present my coach, Dave Finlay, is working on sending me to the USA to finish schooling and to get the best type of training in the sport. As I get older, my wrestling goal is to make it to the Commonwealth Games and maybe the Olympics. However I would also love to compete in the UFC or maybe try pro wrestling to see if I like it, who knows...

- Justin Haughey (Year 11)



The Rhythm of Life



Staff and pupils at Carrickfergus College were recently celebrating the success of the *Heartstart UK* programme. Teaching staff trained in *Heartstart* have been taking Year 8 and Year 14 pupils through their paces and have successfully trained over 100 pupils during one week!



Heartstart UK is an initiative co-ordinated by the British Heart Foundation to teach members of the public what to do in a life-threatening emergency. The *Heartstart Schools Programme* provides an opportunity for pupils to learn simple emergency life support skills- as well as having good fun learning a new skill!! The ultimate aim at the College is that in six years time every one of our pupils will have life saving skills.



The programme started this year when a group of Year 14 pupils were trained as peer facilitators – the aim of this training was to equip these senior pupils with the knowledge, practical skills and confidence to support teaching staff to train all the Year 8 pupils.

Health education is of utmost importance to us at Carrick College and we felt that *Heartstart* training would be a vital component of our Health Education Programme.



Supporting the Soldiers



For the second year running a large number of pupils from Carrickfergus College responded generously to the appeal to Support the Royal Irish Regiment during their operational tour of Helmand Province in Afghanistan. This appeal came in two forms with both Armed Forces Personnel and Afghan children being the intended recipients of items donated by the pupils.

Donated items included foodstuffs and some reading material for the troops while donations of soft toys, puzzles and small games were sent to the Afghan children, as well as items of stationery and colouring equipment, all, of course, packed into 2kg shoe box packages. The Year 13/14 Charity Committee brought the whole exercise together by correctly sorting the items before weighing and sealing the boxes and labelling them appropriately. This was no easy task with over sixty parcels to dispatch.

Many pupils and staff within the College have close links with the Royal Irish Regiment and therefore the task was especially poignant over the Christmas period although it stretched into January, such was the generosity of all concerned! A special mention must go to Kyle McGookin (Year 8) and Joel, Lee and Aaron Champion (Years 9 & 10) who made especially generous donations of twelve boxes between them. The Charity Committee members who also deserve much credit for their hard work are Year 14 girls Rebecca Humphries, Gillian Scott and Rebecca Rea.



Gillian Scott and Rebecca Rea (Year 14), have it all wrapped up!

The College's efforts last year resulted in letters of thanks from Bravo Company, 40 Commando, Royal Marines who were based at the time in Sangin and 39 Regiment, Royal Artillery, operating from Camp Bastion and around central Helmand. Both of these letters can be viewed on the College website, <http://www.carrickferguscollege.co.uk/events/letter-from-afghanistan>. We wish those serving in the Royal Irish Regiment and all other servicemen and servicewomen a blessed year and a safe return home at the end of their operational tour!



Getting Organised

As part of their Occupational Studies course a group of boys from 11F planned and ran a Charity School Disco with all proceeds going to the Kids Alive Appeal. The disco was originally planned for Christmas 2010 but the heavy snow and school closure meant that an alternative 'Love Party' was the theme for the rescheduled disco in February 2011.



Under the watchful tutelage of Mr Kidd the boys dealt with all of the various aspects of Event Management including Administration, Financing, Staffing, Resourcing, Publicity and Evaluation.

On the night over 150 pupils from Years 8-11 attended the event raising almost £300 for the school's designated charity for the year.

Billy Nicholson, one of the boys who successfully completed the Event Management module commented, "I found the whole process of planning and running an event most interesting. It has given me an insight into what it would be like to work in a career that involved a lot of planning and administration."

Having completed this module of work the boys have now moved on to Technology where their next challenge involved developing their joinery skills...



It's Formal!



Good friends - Mark Deering and Rebecca Humphries, enjoying the craic!

Thursday 10th February was a special night for many of the students at Carrickfergus College as the School Formal took place in Rosspark Hotel, Kells. The scene was set for the night with the students arriving in their grandeur. Cameras were flashing and the students looked wonderful in their formal clothing - there were even a few Kilts having an airing.

A three-course meal was provided and the music was by our own Mr Bennett and his band, followed by a disco, which all amounted to a wonderful night of fun and celebration for the College pupils.



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Virtually the Beautiful Game!



Sixteen teams are all on the quest to try and become the crowned champions in this year's School Fantasy League.

The teams started out in October with great ambition; however, Mr Luke, an ardent Newcastle United supporter, has led the standings for much of the current season and appears to be difficult to catch having opened up a 20 point lead at the top of the table. Mr Scullion though has found some form in the second half of the season and is in hot pursuit.

Year 11 pupils Ryan McDonagh and Josh Stewart dominate the pupil standings, both jostling for first place.

Unlike the Premier League, the relegation battle seems to be a one horse race with Mr Sloan destined for the drop to the Championship. He will need to regroup in pre-season and make some quality signings.

Transfers could be crucial in the latter stages of the season with plenty of points still up for grabs. Mr Luke is favourite for the title, but can a late surge from the chasing pack prevent his victory? Keep checking our website for details...

Having Your Say

Each month at the College, Mr Sloan and the school's Student Council meet to discuss issues that are relevant to the day to day running of the school. The topics addressed this year have included, the end of year fundraising events,



problems with school litter, bullying, school uniform and the canteen - to name but a few.



The Student Council gives the pupils a voice in the running of the school, as the issues they address are put forward both by their own peers and the College's Leadership Team. To take a seat on the Council pupils have to complete an application form and to let them see how a real Council works they get the opportunity to visit Stormont Buildings.

Festival Stars

The Music Department would like to congratulate all those pupils who took part in the Ballymena Festival. Lauren Finlay (Year 9) claimed 1st place and overall trophy winner in the 12-14 year olds' Folk Song category. She sang 'Danny Boy' and competed against 45 other singers to triumph. Lauren was also placed 4th in the Violin Solo for the same age group.

Other competitors in the folk song were Bethanie Martin and Niamh White who both scored a commendable 84 marks. Well done!



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 the list of the winners from December to March:

Year	December	January	February
8	JAMIE LYTTLE	DARREN McALLISTER	JORDAN SPENCE
9	EMMA SUGDEN	SAMANTHA COOKE	JAMIE FENTON
10	MELISSA MELDRUM	TYLER WAIDE	KELSEI WAITE
11	ROSIE HENDRY	JOHN MCBRIDE	LOUIS HINES
12	ANDREW ROBINSON	TERI MORRIS	ANDREW BROWNLEE
13/ 14	STEPHEN GRANT	LOIS PASSMORE	CATERINE MCCALLUM

College DVD Stars

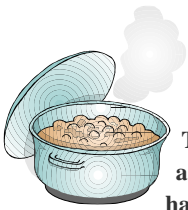
Each of the Year 8 pupils take us on a stunning visual journey around the school sharing why they chose to come to Carrick College in the first place and what they like about the College now they've been here for a while. As we enter our 6th decade offering quality education in the community, we wanted to give parents and P7 pupils a real taste of what Carrick College is like on a day to day basis.

The new DVD was given to every P7 pupil in January along with a colourful P7 magazine and it can also be viewed on the Carrickfergus College website at www.carrickferguscollege.co.uk in the events section.

The stars of the new Carrickfergus College promotional DVD proudly show off their work with Mr Webb.



Left to right: Abby Adair, Sarah-Louise Boyd, Rhys McFadden, Jenny Hagen, Rebecca Kenny, Sam Rogers, Joel Hanna, Erin Gillies, Mr Webb, Owen Shearer. 



Fit For Life

The Royal Navy visited the College on Tuesday 25th January 2011 to host a 'Fit for Life Day', the aim of which was to reinforce the importance of having a healthy lifestyle.



The pupils were given the opportunity to watch a cookery demonstration by a Royal Navy chef before making the tasty, healthy and economical chicken curry for themselves and discovering the "secret ingredient" of the recipe, which turned out to be a Bounty bar!



Other pupils took part in a rigorous exercise programme under the guidance of a Royal Navy physical education instructor.

All of the pupils who took part really enjoyed their day and found it to be both educational and fun – some are even considering joining the Royal Navy when they leave school.



The Past Tells a Tale

Last term Year 12 pupils, Vicky Ward and Adam Colgan, together with Mrs Renton, attended an event at The Education Room in Carrickfergus Civic Centre.



They were invited to view some interesting objects from history which were on display and pick out the object which appealed to them most or held some sort of significance. They were then photographed with their chosen object and asked to give a brief explanation as to why they had selected that particular object. The results will be used in a future exhibition.



Objects on display included a Victorian nightgown, an intricately carved oak chair, old radios and telephones, sporting memorabilia and a beautiful lace parasol.

Vicky selected the parasol as the item which appealed to her most. She said, 'We have been reading *'Pride and Prejudice'* in English Literature and the parasol made me think of that era.' Adam chose the lovely oak chair and again made a literary connection, saying that it reminded him of, 'something from Narnia.' Mrs Renton picked the antique iron, commenting that, 'it brings back very fond memories of being at my gran's house. I remember her using one just like it long after electric irons were freely available.'



All in all it was an interesting event and we look forward to an invitation to view the exhibition.

Absorbing Amsterdam

A group of Carrickfergus College Year 13 students and their teachers Mrs Chapa and Mr

McCready, recently took part in a three-day visit to Amsterdam, Holland.



The visit was organised by the school's A -Level Travel and Tourism class who were studying a module in Event Management. The class had to carry out a feasibility study, prepare a business plan, and organise all aspects of the trip for the touring students and teachers.

They managed to pack a lot in to their three days, visiting the Anne Frank House, the Van Gogh Museum and Madame Tussauds. The grand finale was a guided bike tour through the picturesque streets, over the bridges and canals. Everyone had a wonderful time and thoroughly enjoyed learning about the culture of this fascinating, historic city.



Mr McCready brushes up on his artistic skills, with tips from an old master.



It's Off To Work We Go!

Every year our Year 12 and 13 students participate in the Work Experience programme. In October our Year 13 students went on their week of work experience and on 31st January our Year 12 students joined a range of different companies and businesses to experience life in the workplace and to discover if the careers they had in mind for the future were everything they thought they would be.



Megan Brown - "I had a great time working with children at Jollytots and I am still considering this as a career."

As usual students chose a wide variety of jobs, covering all job sectors. Some of the Year 13 students tried the caring professions such as working in hospitals, care homes and nursery schools, while others chose more physical jobs by going to building sites and factories. Our Year 12 students also took part in a range of different placements. Nine students set off on the Monday morning for Ballykinler Army Barracks to see what the life of a soldier entailed. Those same students returned exhausted on Friday afternoon having spent a week training (army style), doing assault courses, team building activities, clay pigeon shooting and enjoying the finest catering that army ration packs provide!



Danielle McAtteer - "I really enjoyed my time in Oakfield Primary School and hope to make this my career."

Other students worked as Childcare assistants, plumbers, mechanics, Classroom assistants, nurses and lawyers to name but a few of the vocations sampled. The majority of students found their placements to be very rewarding and enjoyable. Some have even been promised full



Jonathan Hill - "I went to the Hankook Tyre warehouse in Antrim. I really enjoyed the experience because I was always busy."

or part time jobs when they finish this school year. For others, their work experience proved that their idea of a certain job wasn't exactly as they had hoped and are now turning their attentions to other careers.

Mrs McClure, Head of Careers, and a number of other staff, tried to visit as many students as possible, travelling not only around our local Carrickfergus area, but also to Larne, Whitehead and Belfast. They



discovered that virtually every single student they visited was totally exhausted and found work a real shock to the system! Welcome to the real world!



Baby Face



Well, were you able to solve last issue's problem, by calculating who the baby in disguise was, pictured here on the right? Yes, it was Miss McConkey from the Maths Department.

So, if you thought that was too easy, perhaps this issue's active little one (pictured left) will prove more of a hurdle.



Mr Webb,
our new Principal

The Interview



What did you want to be as a child?

A long distance lorry driver.

As a child, what was your favourite cartoon?

Tom and Jerry!

What was your favourite subject at school?

At school it would have been Woodwork, I did it up to A-Level.

When did you first realise you wanted to be a teacher?

At 18 in school, prompted by my Woodwork teacher, Mr Eddie Gretty, who was a real inspiration to me. In my last year of school he asked me what I was going to do the next year, and suggested teaching. I applied to Stranmillis, went to the interview and really liked it. 25 years later....

What are the most rewarding features of your job?

Truthfully it would be being able to help people, both teachers and pupils. The life and vitality that teenagers especially bring with them I particularly enjoy. It's the diversity of the job, the way that no two days are the same, that is enjoyable.

What aspects of Carrick College would you like to see changing in the next five years?

I want to build a closer relationship with the parents and local community. I would also like to see our pupil results continue to improve – we have a very good foundation to build on.

Are you proud of how well CLC is doing?

I am extremely proud of what has happened in relation to the Learning Community and I hope it continues to grow from strength to strength.

How do you unwind after a hard day at work?

I like to take my dog for a walk or if it's the weekend go sea-fishing. If it's good weather I like to do some gardening.

What kind of music do you like and who are your favourite bands or artists?

I like a very wide variety of music but my favourite bands would be U2, Coldplay, and Arcade Fire.

If you won the lottery what would be the first thing you would do with the money?

Buy a Bugatti Veyron. It reaches 260 miles per hour! I think that would take a chunk out of the lottery money.

Is there a book that you have find inspiring?

It would have to be "Scott of the Antarctic" by Ranulph Fiennes. It's a fantastic novel about men who pushed the limits and came across problems but worked as a team to overcome the odds. Ultimately no-one got back from the expedition but this novel shows the obstacles they conquered.

Describe your perfect Sunday morning.



Relaxing with a currant bagel and a cup of tea, watching the *Andrew Marr Show*. Then I would take the dog out for a walk, come back and have a cup of coffee, then sit in my back garden and doze in the sun. It would be a relaxing morning, a chance to switch off completely from the world.

Who is your hero?

I have two. My first is Eric Morecambe. He brings back happy memories from when I was a child. My parents watched *Morecambe and Wise* on a Friday evening, and I've never seen two people laugh so much. Watching it now I can understand why. My second hero would be Muhammad Ali. He came from a difficult childhood and decided that he would become a boxer. He didn't let anything stand in the way of his dream. When the war in Vietnam started, he refused to serve in the army so he was sent to jail. He was converted to Islam, which is today misunderstood by the extremists that the media focus on; it's really a loving and peaceful religion. He was extremely generous with his money too; he gave away millions. Ali was a good ambassador for the black Americans, who were suffering from terrible prejudice in America.

What is your favourite sport and what teams do you support?



I am a rugby fan, supporting Ulster and Ireland.

Snow, Seriously!



Very Early on the morning of 16th January 2011, we arrived at Belfast City airport ready to board a flight to Germany. We were all tired but very excited. We flew into Memmigen in Germany, then got on a coach and drove the two hours to our resort in Austria.



When we arrived there wasn't much snow and I was a little disappointed, however we settled into our hotel and prepared for the first day's skiing by getting measured for our skis. The next morning we began to learn to ski and within a couple of days a lot more snow fell. The skiing was fun, but difficult at times, however the instructors helped us along the way. I fell lots of times but by the end of the week I had become more proficient and learnt to parallel

ski. Unfortunately two of my friends weren't so lucky and managed to get themselves injured and as a result they couldn't ski for the rest of the week!



As well as the skiing we did other activities like swimming and ice skating. There was another school that shared the hotel and we made friends. On the last night there was a disco and the pupils from both schools had a great night. The next morning we got up early for the flight home. I was sad to leave but happy to see my family again. I had a great week and would definitely recommend skiing to anyone who has not tried it - just be careful to avoid the bumps and bruises.

- Report by Jenna McElvogue, 11F

Castle on Top!

Year	Name	House	Points
8	Gabrielle Simms	Knockagh	125
	Ashleigh Evans	Castle	108
	Sophie McFall	Fergus	95
9	Chloe Bateman	Fergus	110
	Manuel Oliveira	Knockagh	110
	Christopher Beck	Fergus	107
10	Kris Dines	Castle	112
	James Brennan	Fergus	108
	Megan Wady	Fergus	92
	Jessica Stronge	Knockagh	92
11	Jenna McElvogue	Castle	72
	Calum Picken	Knockagh	72
	Rebecca Topping	Knockagh	62
12	Jemma Hartley	Castle	90
	Adam Colgan	Castle	82
	Ben Ford	Castle	81

There has been a turn about at the top of the leaderboard of our School House Competition, with Castle taking over as overall leaders spot from Fergus. The House tournament is being keenly contested between these two houses with each inter-house competition being crucial to the number of points separating them at the top.

Current overall totals:
 Castle – 5619
 Fergus – 5571
 Knockagh - 4958



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

