



TY Delphi Trip 2010

Well done to all the TY's who attended the Delphi 2010 trip. Both myself and Ms. Mulligan were delighted with the behaviour and the enthusiastic approach students had during the trip.

I was extremely happy to see students put themselves outside their comfort zones and try new exciting activities. Some of the activities were rock climbing, abseiling, Jacobs Ladder, archery, team challenges, zip wire, kayaking and pier jumping. There were some great leadership qualities demonstrated



Stratford students learning to paddle.



Pier Jumping TY's.

during the trip, special mention to Fearghal Kelleher for his super team leading in team challenges.

The TY's had a memorable Junior Cert. night participating in a bog night-time walk where by the end of it, everyone was covered from head to toe in bog! Well done and special thanks to Ms. Mulligan for her endless energy and motivation.

Ms. Finnegan

Rosh Ha-Shanah

Rosh Ha-Shanah, the Jewish New Year is a multi-faceted observance. It is a time of reflection and introspection about actions and behaviours of the past year. Improvements need to be identified and appropriate steps need to be taken. However it is not all about solemnity. This is also a time for family and friends, to spend time together and wish each other all good things for the coming year. Special, symbolic foods are eaten such as round challah, apples dipped in honey, pomegranates, honey cakes and biscuits. The sweet things express hope for a sweet year, and the pomegranate is to wish that the new year will be as full of blessings and good deeds as that fruit is full of seeds.

Yom Kippur

Yom Kippur is the most solemn day of the year. It is believed that on this day our destiny for the coming year is finalised. Good and bad deeds are weighed in the Divine balance. To emphasise the importance of this day, females 12 and older, and males 13 and older, are obligated to fast in order to focus on spiritual needs rather than physical ones. The fast lasts for 25 hours, during which no food or liquid is taken. The prayer services are full of rich poetic and dramatic imagery. In keeping with the theme of repentance, several prayers are repeated in each of the five prayer services of *Yom Kippur*.

Ms. J. Charry

Dates to note

- 30th September: **Shemini Atzeret**. School closed.
- 1st October: **Simchat Torah**. School closed.
- 1st October: **All Ireland Poetry Day**.
- 4th October: U16 and U19 basketball teams play Old Bawn.
- 11th October: **Friendship Week**.
- Mid-October: Leinster Development Officer giving rugby training.
- 15th October: **Awards Ceremony**. 11.30am
- 15th October – 15th November: **MS-Readathon**
- Mid-October: **Sports Council** talk to 5th and 6th Years on balancing study-life-exercise.
- 19th October: **Careers Info**
- 25th-29th October: **Mid-term School Closed**.

Looking Ahead

- 7th – 14th November, **Science Week**.
- 3rd November: **Aubrey Flegg school visit**. 2nd Year and TY.
- 23rd – 24th November: **The School Play, My Fair Lady**.

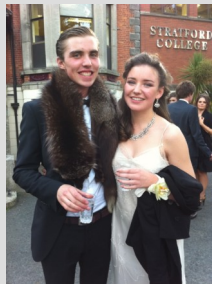
Congratulations to everyone on their Junior Certificate results!

6th Year Debs



The Sixth Year class of 2010 gathered in the school hall along with their guests for a final reception with their teachers and parents before leaving for their debs. All the girls looked beautiful in glamorous ball gowns and a notable jumpsuit, and the boys were in turn dressed to a fashionably high standard.

With refreshments provided by the Parent's Association and served by student council members, there was excitement in the air as the departed sixth years chatted and took photographs with one another and their family members.



*Jessica Bagnall
and partner*

The class reunited for a final photo on the school steps, before heading by coach to the Tulfaris Hotel in the Blessington lakes, where they received, to quote one of the girls, "a delightful champagne reception and a fabulous meal". A great time was had by all, as the class marked their leaving secondary school and celebrated their Leaving Certificate results with a night of dancing.

Lucy Murphy (5th Year)

Poetry Aloud 2010

We've had plenty of success and a very positive experience from the Poetry Aloud competition organised jointly by Poetry Ireland and the National Library of Ireland in recent years, and the process of selecting our representatives has just started again. You need to learn one poem by W.B. Yeats (Junior- 'The Stolen Child'; Intermediate - 'Beautiful Lofty Things'; Senior - the marvellous late poem 'Cuchulain Comforted'). Also a poem of your own choice from *The Rattle Bag* or *Lifelines*. See your English teachers for full details, and to register your interest.

We will shortly have internal auditions, and will select the best to go forward to local heats. Full details are on the National Library site, www.nli.ie. There's an excellent site with plenty of resources for pupils and teachers from the other side of the Atlantic in www.poetryoutloud.org.

Robert Downes (5th Year)

Student Council

Emer Downes and Carmel Grey (*1st Year*), Jorden Bukspan and Tim Cullen (*2nd Year*), Katie McCrea and Diarmaid Kelly (*3rd Year*), Irena Williams (*TY*) and Lucy Murphy (*5th Year*) will represent their Year groups on the student council. Killian McLoughlin (*Chairperson*), Tadhg Charles (*Green Schools*) and Todd Harrison (*PRO*) are Senior Prefects. Lucy Murphy (*5th*) is Acting *Secretary*.

Mock Trials 2010

Last May, fifteen students from second and transition year took part in the Independent College's National Mock Trials Competition in The Criminal Courts of Justice. Robert Downes (*5th Year*) and Lucy Murphy (*5th Year*) were chosen to compete as barristers. We studied and prepared for three trial scenarios, including a case of accused arson and defending a husband accused of his wife's murder. Josh Brady (*5th Year*), Sarah Corrigan (*5th Year*), Kathy Dunne (*5th Year*) and Michael Lysaght (*5th Year*) acted out the roles of witnesses and experts for the Stratford team.



Robert Downes appealing to the jury

They studied the role of a witness and how human emotions can make a strong impact on the jury. Each of our trials was presided over by a different practicing judge; they decided whether the prosecution or the defence adhered to the guidelines of the competition whilst following the procedures of a court of law. Our team won one of our three cases; however the jury sided with us in all three of our cases and that was important to us all. *Lucy Murphy (5th Year)*



Mr. Justice Peter Kelly with students

2nd/3rd Year Ecology Trip

On Wednesday, 15th September, Ms. O'Sullivan, Ms. McCarthy and Ms. Cooper brought all the 2nd and 3rd Years on an ecology trip to the zoo. The organisers were very impressed with how much everyone knew!



5th Year Haikus

Bright startling light
Penetrates light wispy rain
Seven colours form. *Olivia Bagnall*

A tree stands with strength
An apple grows, branches guard
The tree stands complete. *Lucy Murphy*

The rotted fruit corpse
Cavernous holes replace seeds
Shiny skin shrivelled. *Ailbhe MacMahon*

Tulips blossoming
The long period of time
Spent with no regrets. *Michael Lysaght*

Sweetness is your taste
Apples with their red yellow
Tempt us till you waste. *Josh Brady*

Red like a heart with
Blood edible seeds taste
Acid, bitter, fruit. *Sarah O'Neill*

Gay Mitchell MEP Visit

My name is Vincent Murray and I am a member of Young Fine Gael and Fine Gael. One day Mr Russell said to me it would be great to get an MEP in, to talk to the senior students. I had my contacts and I contacted Gay Mitchell. He arrived on Monday, 13th September. He talked to the 5th and 6th years about the

operations of the European Union (EU) and the history of the EU. We also found out how much the EU would spend on aid this year and it is 8.1 billion EURO. It was

a great occasion to see an MEP in our school. He also gave us little booklets about the EU that are available in the Library and from Ms Kenny.



Vincent Murray (6th Year)

Bookmark it! Library Website of the Month

Check out www.askaboutireland.ie. It's a really great website to help you with projects and homework. Great for maps, information and images about Ireland. *Ms. O'Kelly*

School Notice Board

- The auditions for **My Fair Lady** were held at the start of the school term. Rehearsals are well under way!
- On Tuesday, 7th September TY had a one day **Matrix** training session.
- 5th and 6th Years attended the **Higher Options** conference in the RDS on Friday, 17th September.
- **Thomas Keys, Colaíste Uisce**, spoke through **Irish** to the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and TY classes about life in the Gaeltacht and water sports on Monday, 27th September. Many questions were asked by students.
- All **Lost Property** is managed by Ms. O'Kelly in the Library. Label everything!
- **Supervised study** is from 4-6pm, Mon—Thursday and 1.30—3.30pm on a Friday. There are 13 students who study regularly every afternoon. Contact Ms. O'Kelly if you want to join.
- **Basketball training** for 2nd/3rd Years is on Monday's; **Fitness & Circuit Training** is on Tuesday's and **Senior basketball training** is on Wednesday's.

Past Pupils

- Congratulations to **Matthew Halpin** (2009) who played at the world-famous Newport Jazz Festival in August. See the Sunday Tribune article on <http://www.tribune.ie/news/home-news/article/2010/jul/25/no-blues-for-irish-jazzman-set-to-sax-it-up-states/> or the school website.
- **Jenny Murphy** (2006) and **Jennifer Twyford** (2005) recently began their PhD's in Psychology (TCD).
- **Shimon Baum** (1997) is commencing an Executive MBA and working in CNN in New York.
- **Graeme Derham** (2010) represented Ireland on the Futsal team. Ireland were runners-up to England in a tournament held in England in June 2010.
- **Laura Dunne** (2005) recently graduated with a 1st Class Honours Commerce degree from UCD.

Staff

- **Mr. Russell** will again be running in the Marathon in Venice, Italy on 24th October. We wish him well.

The deadline for the **October School Newsletter** is **Friday, 15th October**. It will be published on Friday, 22nd October — just before the mid-term break. Contact Ms. O'Kelly or a teacher if you have anything school-related that you'd like to publish. © Stratford College, 2010.