

www.stratfordcollege.ie
and
www.stratfordns.ie

Stratford Schools



Secondary and Primary School News

Vol 2. No. 3 November 2013

Stratford College News

Adaptation of Mamma Mia! Mamma Mia will take place on the 27th and 28th of November. Tickets will be available on the night and from committee.

Arts Week From 11th-15th November students will visit many cultural exhibitions and attend artistic performances. Details on school website.

Friends of Stratford Schools, Private Members Draw Cost of entry is €50 for fund-raising draws from now until June 2014. See school website for details.

Major WiFi upgrade in school

Teachers and students are already experiencing the benefits of our upgraded IT system with Wi-Fi access now in all classrooms, upgraded IT facilities, cloud capability and the use of additional interactive whiteboards.

All this is in anticipation of the Government-funded 100MB broadband internet access which will be rolled out during November and February of this academic year and will lay the foundations for the challenges of 21st century teaching and learning.

To put this into context, at present the school has 8-9MB broadband internet access. By upgrading to 100MB and by having a state-of-the-art Wi-Fi



system throughout the school, teachers and students will be in a position to utilize this technological infrastructure to implement its eLearning programme to its maximum potential.

The school's eLearning programme will utilize eBooks, mobile devices, ECDL and Moodle, amongst other technical advances to help Stratford College students learn 21st century skills.

Ms. Gordon

Image: images.google.com

Maths Week Quiz — a highlight

Maths Week kicked off in Stratford College on Monday, 14th October with Drop Everything and Measure at form time. Throughout the week there were puzzles in the Library, including "Guess-



the-number-of-Maltesers-in-the-jar" (221!) and of course Manga High - the online maths games. On Thursday afternoon the whole school enjoyed the tremendous Maths Quiz, followed by Friday's LEGO car challenge in each Maths class. Well done to Ms. O'Sullivan, Mr. Clancy and Mr. O'Almhain, and to all the Maths teachers and students who participated in the activities.

Photo: Ms. O'Kelly

Awards Ceremony

The annual Awards Ceremony was held on Friday, 25th October in the school hall. Students, teachers,



parents and past-pupils were treated to a wonderful musical interlude - you can listen back to them on the podcasts in the Music Blog.



Student Council compered the ceremony with aplomb and Sister Louise O'Sullivan brought the house down with her speech when she quoted lyrics by The Script! Well done to all the students who received an Award at the Ceremony.

Photos: Ms. O'Kelly

TYs enjoy Delphi Trip

My favourite thing about our trip to Delphi was bonding with my class. We spent lots of time together which meant we learnt lots of new things about each other. We also helped each other complete tasks by encouraging and reassuring each other. I thought it was a really good way to start the year and I can't wait to see everything else fourth year has to offer.



Emer Downes (TY) Photo: Ms. Finnegan

Junior Cycle Reform

The focus this term for our Junior Cycle Steering Committee is ensuring that all our teachers are teaching our students the key skill 'Working with Others'. This is one of the six Key Skills that will provide the foundation for our teaching practise (Managing Myself, Staying Well, Communicating, Being Creative, and Managing Information and Thinking) These general skills, alongside spe-

cific subject skills, ensure that your child is prepared for life in all its guises and for all its challenges. We decided to start with the key skill, 'Working with Others', as we believe once this skill has been obtained, more innovative and engaging teaching techniques can become apart of the daily educational experience of our students.

Ms. Reynolds and Ms. Kenny

Raising bullying awareness

Irish Autism Action and Children's Health & Safety Educator (CHASE) have teamed up to raise awareness of anti-social behavior and bullying. Stratford N.S. has registered its support for this important campaign.

As part of this campaign, Stratford N.S. can collect old mobile phones to be exchanged for badly needed resources for our school such as iPads, laptops, defibrillators and sporting equipment.

If you have any old mobile phone (s) at home then put them in the collection bag provided and return

it to your child's teacher.

By donating phones you are also doing your bit for the environment and helping Irish Autism Action in its mission to raise the quality of life of individuals and their families affected by autism.

Mr. Murphy

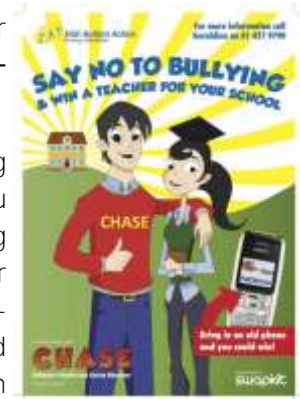


Image: www.aspergersadvice.org

"Insights into Adolescence"

Parents of 5th and 6th class pupils are invited to a talk on "Insights into Adolescence" given by Ms. Anita Conlon, from ACCORD. It will be held in the National School Hall on Wednesday, 11th December at 8pm. The 5th and 6th class pupils will be participating in a one-day programme presented by trained facilitators from ACCORD on this subject on Wednesday, 18th De-

cember
from
10am to
2.30pm.
The purpose
of the Par-
ent Information
Night is to inform
parents of the precise
content of the
more 'sensitive' areas
of the
programme.



Image: www.sxc.hu

Curriculum Evening

On Thursday, 7th November a Curriculum Evening was held in the National School Hall.

It gave parents an opportunity to get a broad outline of the programmes of work in each subject area. Matters such as school attendance, homework, R.S.E., the Stay Safe Programme, illness and

the administering of medicines during the school day will be dealt with.

In addition the Curriculum Evening addressed the curriculum in general.

Presentations were given by the teachers from 7.30pm to 9.30pm at each of the class levels.
Mr. Murphy

Stratford Schools Open Day

On Sunday, 17th November, Stratford Primary and Secondary Schools will be open to the public.

The Open Day is from 2pm to 3.30pm.

Everyone is welcome to visit the schools, to meet parents and students, to look around and to ask questions.

Look at the school websites—www.stratfordns.ie and www.stratfordcollege.ie—where you will get a real sense of the



Painting of Stratford College: Mrs. Walsh

learning and student activities in Stratford Schools.

MS-Readathon Reading Buzz

Students in both schools are participating in the MS-Readathon.

Last year the National School pupils raised almost €3300—an incredible amount. Students have to read as many books as possible within a month and can be sponsored per book or by a lump sum.

All students who participate receive

a certificate and are entered for a National Draw. Students can also win prizes depending on the amount they raise for the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland.



Image: www.msreadathon.ie

Briefs

Stratford College Parents Association has noted that there is a talk in Dundalk Grammar School on 23rd November from 10am–1pm **about** "*Parents, the student and Third Level*".

See Parents Association blog on www.stratfordcollege.ie for more information.

During the summer RTE filmed a story for Rosh Hashana for broadcast on September 1 on RTE One. The story was built around the Irish Jewish Gathering and included a walk down memory lane with a past pupil of Stratford College. The former pupil is Anne Lepedus Brest who is coming home from South Africa where she now lives and was a student here in the 1960s!