

Stratford College Newsletter

October 2006

Volume 7, Issue 1

From the Principal's Desk

Congratulations to all our Leaving and Junior Certificate students 2006 who did so well in their exams. I include a summary of their results and placements and wish the Leaving Certificates success in their chosen careers. The Junior Certificate students are participating fully in their TY programme and are engaged in such activities as sailing, First Aid, Japanese and Film Technology.

The year formally began with the school Awards Ceremony which celebrated students' successes over the last year. Mrs. Colette O'Broin, former Principal of the school was our Guest of Honour and she spoke of the development of the school over the years and the range of occupations past pupils were now engaged in. She also spoke warmly of the close family links there were, and continue to be, in and to the school. A copy of the programme is on the school website under the Downloads section.

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I hope that this year is as successful for all involved!

Sadly, one of the school's co-founders, Mrs. Elaine Feldman passed away on Thursday 1st October last. She and her late husband Mr. Jack Feldman helped to establish Stratford College in the 1950's and worked tirelessly in the school for many years.

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Her children and grandchildren are all past pupils of the school and more recently Elaine attended the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the founding of the school when we were visited by President McAleese. An annual lecture is held in her and her husband's name in memory of her enormous contribution.

The primary and secondary schools marked her death by lowering the Irish flag, forming a guard of honour outside the school and students and Principal's attending her funeral service. In the Jewish tradition I wish her family long life.

Ms.P.Gordon

Results 2006

Leaving Certificate 2006

Points	550+	500-550	450- 500	450-400	400-350	350-300	300-250	250-200
No. of Students	3	3	5	5	3	4	2	1

Average Points: 420
Average Points in Irish Leaving Cert. \approx 305

Junior Certificate 2006

Honours	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3-0
No. of students attaining	10	3	7	3	0	3	0	0	2

Numbers of A Grades	8	7	5	4	3	2	1
Numbers Attaining	1	1	1	1	5	2	6

Placements

University	Number	Courses
UCD	5	Arts International French, Commerce and French, Medicine and Social Science.
Trinity	3	Irish and French and BESS (Two Students)
NUI Maynooth	3	Arts
The Manchester Metropolitan University	1	Business Management
The University of Nottingham	1	Medicine
Third Level College	Number	Courses
NCAD	2	Core Year and Industrial Design
Institute of Technologies	Number	Courses
DIT	1	Hospitality Management
Colleges of Further Education	Number	Courses
Dun Laoghaire	3	Arts Management, Fine Art and Pre Nursing.
Ballyfermot	2	Art and Design (Portfolio Year) and Sound Engineering
Other	Number	Courses
Deferred	2	Marketing (D.I.T.) and Fine Art (Crawford Art College)
Repeating	1	Leaving Certificate



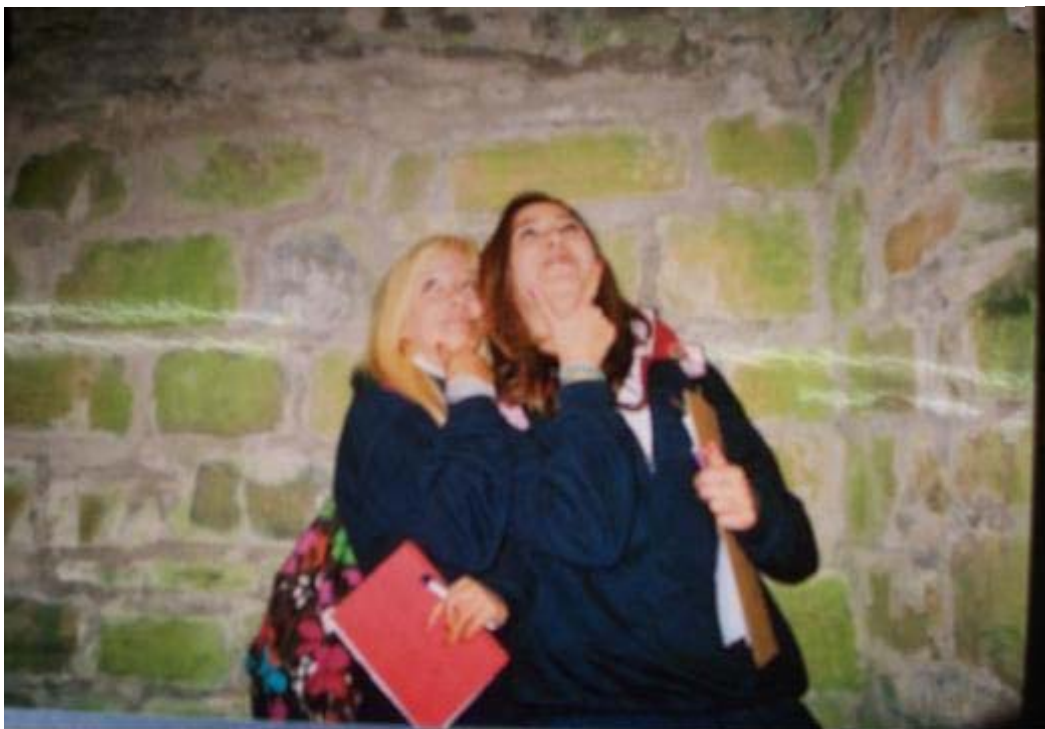
This is my eighth time going to the zoo and my first going with Stratford. We went on this trip to get to know our mentors. We were talking to them and they were talking to us a bit. I like the zoo and its animals, out of these animals my favourite is the wolf. The wolf is my favourite because it can survive in almost any condition and it's a mighty dog.

Joshua Arnold Brady,
1st Year (Photo - left)

Trim Castle, Co. Meath

On Wednesday the 4th October., the First and Second Years visited Trim Castle in Co. Meath. It was a good day out with two teachers, Ms. Kenny and Ms. Turner. There was two groups. One group went to see the castle wall. The other group were watching an audio-visual about Trim Castle and its Norman origins. Then the groups swapped around. We met up for lunch and after, travelled back to Dublin. Thank you Ms. Turner and Ms. Kenny.

Vincent Murray, 2nd Year



2nd Years; Alexandra Woodhouse and Chloe Harris,



Group photo: 1st Years, mentors and teachers on our trip to Dublin Zoo



Olivia Bagnall, Cathy Dunne, Ailbhe MacMahon, Lucy Murphy:
1st Year, enjoying the activities in Dublin Zoo

Awards Ceremony Address

"I am so pleased to have been invited here this afternoon for the Awards Ceremony 2006. I told my eldest grand daughter a few days ago that I was the guest of honour today. Clair did her Leaving Cert in June and is now in college. We dwelt a few moments on what I might say. She thought quickly of similar occasions in her old school and the length of some speeches. "Verge on the brief" she counselled. I am taking her advice. I shall be brief.

Stratford College was a huge part of my life and indeed all my working life.

The building you are in today did not exist, nor was there a primary school on the campus then. With the support and help of the founders who all had their children here we thrived happily and grew, although the shutters of old windows rattled in the wind and the rain sometimes found its way through the roof in places in the old elegant Victorian house.

There were two gardens behind the house with a high red-bricked wall dividing them, clothed in nectarine and peach trees, and shrubs in the borders to match the botanic gardens.

Time passed and eventually in 1980/81 a new primary school was built and in early 1983 the then Minister of Education opened this lovely building. It was the result of Trojan work done by the then Board of Management. In the 1990s the present lab and computer room were added to replace smaller ones and free up more rooms for classes.

Each year Ms Gordon allows me to see the Leaving and Junior Certificate results. I do believe that the results of 2006 are the finest of all time in that the percentage getting 600 points surpasses most other schools and furthermore the percentage getting 500 points.

I am sure that the classes coming up will seek to emulate their wonderful glowing achievements. Ms Gordon has told me that there are grounds to be equally optimistic for future Leaving Certificate students.

I take great satisfaction in noting that many of the present staff members joined Stratford when I was here – Mrs.O Byrne, Mrs.O'Reilly, Mr..Russell, Mr.Cody, Ms.Kenny, Ms. Twyford and of course Ms. Gordon. They together with the other members are the reason that Stratford excels not only academically, but also in extra-curricular activities.

However, it is you the students who make it all happen for their efforts. Without your individual and collective qualities, the standards of all round excellence could not be. The subjects offered to you in the Junior Cert cycle are a springboard for all round education for your lives ahead. With Languages, Maths, Geography and History as core subjects. Science. Business Studies and Art are truly invaluable.

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These three areas of study are especially good equipment for enriching adult life either through the rudiments of physics, chemistry and biology, the acquaintance with business be it insurances, banking, consumer rights, understanding and doing accounts and the sheer pleasure of art, be it creative for oneself or appreciating the works of the great masters in art galleries of the world as you travel.

It is lovely for me to see the children of past pupils here amongst the students of today and there have been many others over the past decades. This family tradition in any school is nice to note and sends out a very positive message. Many of the past pupils and children of past pupils have distinguished themselves brilliantly. It is noteworthy that very many are self-employed

It is this risk taking enterprise and the perseverance needed to make it work that is the backbone of a successful nation. And when I speak of successful enterprise I am not just referring only to the A B grade achievers. I can think of two brothers and a sister who set up a business and secured the contract from one of the big banks to supply the note holding cartridges in the ATM machines of the city. Later they had success in providing suspended ceilings in high old buildings converted to offices, with each new phase of economic development they moved to find a niche and prosper. I see top fashion boutiques in shopping centres now, which started from small beginnings by two brothers who would not have been madly academic. That same spirit of enterprise among my past pupils generated medical practices, estate agencies, accountancy practices, law firms, hairstyling salons, stationery companies, computer firms, tour and travel companies, music and TV programme companies and of course there are others that slip my mind.

It is good to see that the majority of the College executive and Council are my past pupils and many of them are here today to honour you the students. Some trustees of the school who are also my past pupils are here and it is a pleasure to see them.

In the final analyses a good school's enduring success is the ability to send out not just academic but well adjusted, well rounded, caring, thinking young adults who understand life skills and can take their places in society easily. At Stratford that has always been the objective. I can see it still is.

I congratulate Ms Gordon, the staff, students and parents here today. I wish you all good fortune and happiness.!

Mrs. Colette O'Broin,
Principal 1978—1999

Student Council

The Student Council consist of five sixth year senior prefects: *Colman Hanley, Lee Caplin, Barry Swaine, Kate Stitt and Alban O'Callaghan*. Other members include a class representative from 1st Year to 5th Year: *Afric Dennison, Adam Henderson, Scott Whelan, Eoghan Boyce and Karena Walshe*. Every second Friday, we meet to discuss matters brought up by the students of the school. Taking these matters on board, we then put any suggestions to Ms.Gordon and TY to better the school form the students

perspective. During our term on the Council, we have successfully raised money for both Barretstown and Cheeverstown charities. In May, our annual sponsored walk raised €2,500 , while our non-uniform day raised €200 for Cheeverstown.

On behalf of the Council, I would like to thank Mrs. O' Hara for her help with the Student Council. Her input and dedication is greatly appreciated by all.

Colman Hanley, 6th Year Chairperson

Mentor Programme

The Mentor system was designed a few years ago, in order to help the new First Years integrate easily into Stratford life. Each year, a number of Fifth Years are chosen to mentor their own group of students.

Mentors meet their groups once a week at class tutor time, and this gives them a chance to voice

their concerns or tell the mentors about anything that might be bothering them.

It has now become an annual event that the mentors and their groups take a trip to Dublin Zoo and each year is a roaring success. Hopefully the mentor system will continue for many years

Barry Swaine, 6th Year Representative

The Green School

This year the Green Schools committee has got off to a great start. We hope to heave the Green flag as soon and will continue until we do get it. The Green bins have been very successful and we would like to thank everyone for their co- operation.

Reminder:

Green Bins – cardboard, paper, clean tetra packs

Clear Bins – plastic

Black Bins – food waste

Scott Whelan, 3rd Year Representative

Higher Options

On September 22nd, Fifth and Sixth Year attended the Higher Options Conference in the R.D.S. the objective of the exhibition was to provide information on college courses and career opportunities. There were colleges form Ireland, Great Britain, America and Australia. Each provided a prospectus and brochure which highlighted the various courses available. There were also representative's for the Garda Siochana and the Defence Forces. The feedback afterwards was very positive. Everyone agreed the day was very useful and helped in providing a better idea of a possible career choice. Higher Options was a really beneficial day and well worth the visit.

Karena Walshe, 5th Year Representative

Science Week 13th—17th November

- **Mon**
TY, 5th Yr, 6th Yr
Biology and
Physics outing
to D.I.T
- **Tues**
TY Project Display
TY,5th Yr, 6thYr
Lecture on 'Energy' by
Ms. A. Butler - President
of the Institute of
Engineers
- **Wed**
Science shows
- **Thurs**
W5 TY Trip to Belfast
Geography trip D.I.T.

Graduation Speech June 2006

“.....Back in 1st Year, few people would have thought that we’d grow up to be such a group of sensible, manly and responsible individuals! It has to be said that we didn’t quite enter the school as the timid 1st Years that one would expect! In fact in our finer years, the class of 2006 were known as ‘the rowdiest Year in the school’! We finally learned how to settle down and focus. An incredible TY and two years of tough work later, I think we’ve come out of Stratford equipped for life with a collection of amazing memories.

Of course, no memory of Stratford is complete without the involvement of a host of fabulous teachers. In such a small, warm school, we’ve been lucky to enjoy incredibly close relationships with our teachers, who have been a tremendous support to us particularly in these last few weeks. Every teacher has guided us with their own personal touch and we’ll remember each one by their characteristic style and flair. To mention a few of our favourite memories: Ms. Bateman teaching the class backwards after our failed attempt at a practical joke. Ms. Mooney’s priceless face during the legendary Miss Delphi beauty pageant, Mr. Russell catching Mitchel dancing alone, Ms. Taloola Twyford’s hysterical light-up schoolbag which she proudly paraded around New York City and who can forget Mr. Caulfield’s solemn warnings about the grave dangers of slapping polar bears.! The teachers of Stratford are a group of extremely special, talented people and on behalf of the class I’d thank to thank you for all of the work you put into us, and the everything you’ve put up with along the way, from Luke’s eternal search for the pamplemousse to Caron’s passionate arguments!

In particular, I’d like to extend a special thank you to our form teachers over the years: Mrs. O’Reilly who introduced us to Stratford on Day 1, Ms. Kenny who managed our antics of 2nd Year and Ivan’s fruit wars of 5th Year, Mrs. O’Hara who led us towards the Junior Cert. with competitive clean up crews, Mrs. Twyford who made TY an experience we will never forget and, of course, Mr. Russell, who has been incredibly supportive, calming and constantly optimistic during the long slog of 6th Year.

“In fact in our finer years, the class of 2006 were known as ‘the rowdiest Year in the school’!”

At this point I’d like to mention a few of the endeavours from the colourful repertoire of achievements that the class of 2006 have managed to build up over the years in Stratford! Who can forget our foray into drama with the comedy ‘Alice in Wonderland’ and the tragedy ‘The Terrible Fate of Humpty Dumpty’ in 1st and 2nd Year. To me, at least, Simon and Paul will always be Tweedle Dum and Tweedle Dee! Mitchel and Emma’s talent for competitive hip hop dance was exposed in our 4th Year film production, ‘The Dance Off’ which I, personally, am just glad was caught on camera.... Academically our class have had great success in the Classics and French quizzes over the years, most recently when we finally beat Gonzaga to the throne in the French Quiz(Of course, Heather was cheering for Gonzaga). Who can forget the success of Form and Fusion when we managed to bring home ‘Best Performance’ while Ms. Twyford got chatted up by the event manager and Sophie ended up in A&E after an unfortunate incident with a Stanley knife! And, finally, our positively patriotic contribution to the festivities of Paddy’s Day 2004 when we led the parade as huskies barking, growling and making a few small children cry!

Lastly, I’d like to thank my classmates for making six years in Stratford a chapter of my life I will never forget. In 1st Year, Amy and Sinead impressed us all with their famous dance moves and Ng showed Nicole with gifts as a display of his unrequited love! I’ll never forget Danielle’s fake warts and Davidson’s secret coffee recipe from our practical joke days in 2nd Year, or Olwen and Nerdo’s romance in Baby Wezz of 3rd Year... Highlights of 4th and 5th Year include Craig being thrust without clothes into the girls’ room in France, Shane’s shockingly successful endeavour at the flexibility contest in Delphi and Neils’s admirable success with a certain 3rd Year! From birthday discos of 1st Year to the Pre-Debs of 6th Year, and finally, our last party in Emma’s this afternoon, we’ve grown up together and developed into a group of diverse individuals who will always be connected by our years in Stratford. I know I’ll never forget Fitzgeraldine’s feminine giggle, Norris’ face as he was used as a chair in Il Mondo, Chanelle’s contagious good mood, Una’s artistic flair and Orna’s persuasive prices, always LOW LOW LOW.....We all look forward to Carl and Blaney’s wedding and we’ll certainly miss Megan when she packs up and moves to Cabra... So thank you to the teachers, to Ms. Gordon and to that school for making six years in Stratford a brilliant experience we’ll never forget. And, most of all, thank you to my classmates for always being so unique, colourful, supportive and fun—I know you’ll all go on to great things and I can’t wait to see what the future holds in store for all of us. “

Orly Huff 2006

Notice Board

- Enrolment 2008 will commence in January 2007

Congratulations!!!!

- *Barry Grehan, Transition Year, who was selected for the Leinster U18 Boy's Panel FAI/Football Association of Ireland*
- *Fergal Wallace, 3rd Year, who plays for the Irish U15 Water Polo team*
- *Anne Sweeney, 2nd Year, who is a member of the U18 National Mirror Sailing team .*
- **Information Meeting** for all interested parents.
An opportunity to meet with the Principal and staff and see around the school Monday, 22nd January 2007 at 6.30pm

Basketball

Congratulations to the senior boys' and girls' basketball teams, who both earned impressive victories in the first round of the Senior Cup. They beat a strongly fancied Tallaght C.S., while the girls put in a strong performance to overcome Gormonstown College

Good luck to both cadet teams in their upcoming cup matches. The boys have been drawn against St. Lawrence's Loughlinstown, while the girls must travel to Clones, Co. Monaghan, to take on Largy College

Mr. Kelly

Transition Year Mini-Companies

Hello from Transitions Year!

In 4th Year Business Class, we start our own mini-companies, and below is a summary of each company, product and team members.

Un Ltd:

Product: Customisable T-Shirts, and T-shirt printing services

Charge: €10 approximately per T-shirt

Group: Donagh MacMahon, Barry Grehan,, Luke Comiskey, Killian Butler, Sean Nixon.

Infinity Ltd.

Product: Navy school aertex, Zylo CD's and merchandise

Charge: Currently undecided

Group: Jude Murphy, Eoghan Boyce, Kevin MacCarthy and Gearoid Miggan

Choppeeerrrrrrsssss Ltd.

Product: Battle of the Bands, 24th October.

Charge: Entry fee €5(in costume) or €7 without costume.

Group: Niall Spain, Jack Cleary, Damien Allen, Luke Comiskey

The Four Musketeers Ltd

Product: Art Attack T-shirts

Target group: Younger students

Jazzapalooza Ltd.

Product: Jazz event featuring Matthew Halpin and his amazing technicolour jazz band

Group: Matthew Halpin, John Cuniffe, Laura Hegarty, Amy Walsh, Sarah McGrath.

Phoenix Ltd

Product: Year Book

Group: Rachael Dempsey, Alan Keogh, Louise Costelloe and Nozomi Ishikawa

We're on the Web!
www.stratfordcollege.ie