



From the Principal's Desk

As you know, Adrian Gordon was School Manager from 2001 until February of this year. During his tenure Adrian made a tireless contribution to the school. The facilities and the curriculum of Stratford College have undoubtedly benefited from his involvement over the last three years. He and his wife, Marise Gordon, herself a former member of staff of both the secondary and primary schools, have retired to Israel and we wish them well. Michael Gilbert has taken over as School Manager and will be overseeing the implementation of a Board of Management structure which, it is hoped, will be in place within the next eighteen months.

Teaching the Values of Responsible Citizenship

Recent tragic events in our courts and the ensuing debate surrounding those events in circumstances with which many of our young people seem to be familiar has highlighted the need once again for educators, i.e. parents and teachers, to continue to actively support the formation of a young person's character. This must be done by teaching respect for authority, self-respect, responsibility and the awareness that there are limits at home, in school and in society. Parents can organise and provide parenting skill courses and information sessions on areas of concern; drug abuse, alcoholism, self-esteem etc. They must also help by supporting the Code of Behaviour and Discipline in schools and the work of the teachers in this regard which is becoming increasingly more onerous as we endeavour to teach the values of responsible and respectful behaviour to our young.

Mobile Phones

As mobile phones become increasingly more pervasive and technologically advanced more and more time is taken up by teachers with their unwelcome presence in the classroom. Photographic phones in particular are not necessary methods of communication and inappropriate material may easily be accessed and/or circulated. There are also legal issues concerning student and staff privacy which may become a factor in the debate. For these reasons, mobile phones should now be confined to student lockers during class and the school accepts no responsibility for any expensive equipment which may go missing. Parents are also reminded that the public phone may be used to pass on messages. Only urgent phone calls should be made to the office. Photographic phones are unnecessary and potentially dangerous pieces of equipment and we recommend that students of Stratford College should not possess them.

Educational Welfare Act

As many of you already know the Education Welfare Act stipulates that the name of any student aged 16 years or younger who is absent for 20 days or more should be passed on to the relevant Educational Welfare Officer who may contact the parents/guardians of those concerned. Guidelines are due to be sent directly to households concerned by the Educational Welfare Board.

Ms. Patricia Gordon

Arts Week 2003

First Years

Transition Year students Fionn Daly and Orly Huff in co-operation with Ms. Dorman-Kade, English teacher, surveyed students from all years on their responses to Arts Week which took place in November. At the start of the week the First Years in particular weren't sure what to expect. The week commenced with a special assembly at which author, Marilyn Taylor spoke. This was followed by a Writing Workshop. They read some of her book 'Faraway Home' and wrote some short stories of their own. A novelty feature this

year was the Talent Show and Matthew Halpin in particular distinguished himself with third prize for his performance on the saxophone. From the Art angle there was a textiles workshop which introduced students to the art of weaving and was by all accounts very successful. On the Thursday there were two lively performances. One of these, Humourfit Theatre Co. presented two short plays on the abuse of smoking and drinking. The entire school attended these and they concluded with a brief, light-hearted mime. Many in the audience were surprised by the facts they learnt but were also entertained. The other performance was a very energetic and interactive one man show called History Live. Students were allowed dress

up in period costumes and handle weaponry although practical use was actively discouraged! The week concluded with a Jazz Ensemble which played a fantastic repertoire of traditional and modern jazz music as well as the bilingual French-Irish Table Quiz.

Second Years

On the Tuesday there was an excursion to Pompeii Paints where the students spent an hour and a half painting pottery and got an opportunity to paint their own Pompeii-style plates. This was an unusual but exciting and extremely well received activity. At the Talent Show two representatives from the class, Rebecca Edgeworth and Kate Buckley won first and second prize respectively for music and dance. The Jazz Ensemble was a particular hit with Alan Patterson stating that their Pink Panther number was his favourite. In general while the class either shared or alternated many of their activities with the First Years they enjoyed the exposure to new art forms and at the end of it all they had an appetite for more!

Third Year

Despite their busy schedule Third Years found time to watch the production of 'Une Medaille D'Or' and were delighted that they were able to understand, enjoy and get involved in the production. Tempo increased on Tuesday with the Hip Hop Dance Workshop which was a particular favourite. Certain talents which were unknown to some were shown up here. In the words of one student the dance teacher was stern-stern, but fair (like all teachers in Stratford-Ed!). Third Years were well represented in the Choir at the Talent Show.

Fifth Year

Arts Week was a welcome reminder for the class of the variety of Transition Year and they certainly embraced it! Many found the

Irish Drama Workshop particularly useful as well as very enjoyable. They also attended the French Theatre production. The class were quite familiar with the genre of French theatre having experienced various such events over the years. They found the French more testing than perhaps they had expected but admired the exceptionally high quality of the performance. By their own admission Fifth Year were entertained by the Talent Show but collective modesty precluded them from putting their undoubted talents on view! The graffiti art workshop was great and the students produced a vibrant mural depicting Caravaggio, Picasso and Van Gogh which is on display in the hall. The class also shared the Team Samba event, Humourfit Theatre and Classics workshop events with Sixth Years. The class came out of the last experience on a high but this did not diminish their enthusiasm for a cinematography workshop with Shimmy Marcus which concluded the week.

Sixth Year

Arts Week was a welcome break from the class's normally hectic schedule but they participated in both the Irish Drama Workshop and the French Theatre production. Senior prefects Leo, Jennifer, Bryan and Ruthie were heavily involved in the successful Talent Show. Art students were able to get involved in the graffiti Spray-Painting workshop but the general view was that the Team Samba workshop was the most popular event. Sixth Years also saw the Humourfit productions and while they felt they were informative they also thought that it was more beneficial for a younger audience. Finally the small but dedicated band of Classics students participated in Alan Stanford's presentation on versions of the play Oedipus the King, ancient and modern which is an integral part of their Leaving Cert course.

Fionn Daly & Orly Huff, Transition Year

C.A.O. Information Evening

Congratulations to Ms. Bogue, Guidance Counsellor, for organising such a dynamic and informative evening for the 5th and 6th year students on November 12th. The guest speaker was Mr. John McGinnity who is both Assistant Registrar and Admissions Officer for NUI-Maynooth. Ms. Bogue opened the meeting by covering all of the options open to those who are studying for their Leaving Certificate, whilst Mr. McGinnity addressed the specifics of completing the C.A.O. form correctly and punctually. The advice given by both speakers was very much user-friendly. Questions were invited from the audience, and each enquiry was given a considered and informed response. The full range of available grants was explained, and useful contact numbers were given to the audience.

All relevant parties should mark the date of the next such meeting as one not to be missed.

Barry Murphy, Teacher, Stratford National School & Parent of 5th Year student

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Seachtain na Gaeilge was held from the 8th to the 17th March and is a celebration of Irish language and culture. This year we had an eye-opening performance of sean-nós singing from Maighréad and Triona Ní Dhomhnaill. In addition all years attended a traditional music recital from a popular young Dublin ensemble. There was also a poster competition held which was won by Maeve Flynn of 2nd Year. Comhghairdeas Maeve! Finally there was a Quiz (Tráth na gCeist) run off among First and Second Year which saw Gareth Sheridan and Maeve Flynn triumphing from Second Year and Niall Spain and Claudia Sabato from First

Year doing very well in second place.

Ms. K. Mooney, Irish Teacher

Out with the old...In with the new Student Council News

Over the last year the outgoing Student Council and senior prefects can lay claim to many excellent achievements...the sponsored walk in aid of Barretstown, the Sports Day barbecue which helped to sponsor a Special Olympics competitor, the Awards Ceremony which we helped out at and the School Talent Show to name a few. P.R.O. and Liaison Mentor Leo McNamee consolidated the foundations of Ariella Huff and Mrs. Drury. We are now handing over to Sunita Jeawon, Caroline O'Loughlin, Niall Sherry and Matthew Stanford of Fifth Year (Senior prefects). The new class



Student Council

representatives are Kim Comiskey (outgoing-from 1st Year), Rebecca Edgeworth (outgoing-2nd Year), Kate Stitt (3rd Year) and Fionn Daly (4th year). We wish them the best of luck in their new responsibilities and thank all the students and staff of Stratford College for their support throughout the years.

Jennifer Twyford - Chairperson; Ruth Newman-Secretary; Leo McNamee - P.R.O. and Bryan Harris - Treasurer; Prefects and Student Council Reps.

Our term of office runs from February to February. Our first meeting was held on March 5th. Each of the Senior Prefects has been assigned his/her role for the forthcoming year. Sunita will be chairperson, Caroline P.R.O./ Liaison Mentor, Niall Treasurer and Matthew Secretary. We wish our fellow Student Council representatives and the wider student body the best of luck for the next year. We hope to voice the students' opinions and discharge our functions to the best of our abilities as well as having an enjoyable and successful term.

Caroline O'Loughlin - 5th Year

Holocaust Memorial Day

The Holocaust was remembered in Dublin City Hall on Sunday, 25th January 2004. This is the second year that the Joint Committee of the Holocaust Memorial Day and the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform have arranged this official ceremony. The school was represented by Ms. Gordon, Ms. Bateman and Ms. Kenny as well as some Transition Year students. The ceremony was an act of remembrance and reflection for those who perished in the Holocaust and was addressed by the President, Mrs. Mary McAleese. There were stories, poetry and eye-witness accounts. A candle lighting

ceremony commemorated not only the 6 million Jews who perished in the Second World War but also other victims such as people with disabilities, the homosexual community and other ethnic minorities such as the Roma. The Chief Rabbi of Ireland, the Very Reverend Dr. Yaakov Pearlman recited a 'Prayer for the Repose of the Souls of the Departed.' Cantor Alwyn Shulman recited 'El Malay Rachamim', a memorial prayer which brought the evening to a close.

Subsequently T.Y. went on a Holocaust Studies trip to London with Ms. Bateman and Ms. Kenny. They visited both the Holocaust and the World War One trench exhibitions in the Imperial War Museum which were very authentic, moving and informative. Later students were allowed some time to shop in Oxford Street which was a fun way to end a demanding but very worthwhile experience.

The editor wishes to thank Ms. V. Kenny, History Teacher for her assistance and for Olwen Murphy and Craig Sherling for submitting an article on the trip itself.

Basketball

The Stratford Second Year Boys team started their league under the guidance of Mr. John Cullen, Coach. We started off with a narrow away victory against St. Mary's, Rathmines winning 14-13. Our next match was also away against Tallaght Community School where we lost by a few baskets. Against St. Aidan's we snatched a dramatic victory from the jaws of defeat by scoring two free shots in the last three seconds to win by a single point. By now we had progressed to the play-offs which were held in St. David's, Artane.

Unfortunately we were beaten twice here and so were knocked out. Nevertheless we can hold our heads high and confidently and eagerly look forward to next year's campaign. A special thank you to John and to Mrs. Bernie Russell and all our supporters for coming to the play offs. The full squad was as follows;

David Gilmartin (Captain), Adrian Canny, David Carroll, Luke Comiskey (1st Year) Barry Grehan (1st Year), James Harris, Conor Horgan, Simon McDonald, Colm McGuckin-Dowling, Eoghan Miggan, Bryan Parsons and Alan Patterson.

David Gilmartin and Alan Patterson, 2nd Year.

Noticeboard

Open Day

Thursday 22nd April 2004 from 1.30 to 3.30 pm. Parents of present and particularly future pupils of Stratford are cordially invited and encouraged to attend.

www.stratfordcollege.ie

The school website contains the latest information, reminders and copies of all school policies. School photographs may be accessed in our Photo Library section.

Enrolment 2005

Enrolment of 1st Year 2005 is currently underway. Please refer to our Admissions Policy on www.stratfordcollege.ie/downloads for all relevant details.

Golden Jubilee Diary

September 2002

School Assembly with the Guest of Honour Mrs. Elaine Feldman, co-founder of the school. Speakers: Mr. Alan Green (Trustee), Mr. Adrian Gordon (School Manager), Mrs. Miriam Murphy (Secretary of Parents' Association), Ms. Hayley Newman (Past Pupil), Chief Rabbi Dr. Y. Pearlman.

October 2002

Golden Jubilee Commemorative Newsletter

Autumn Term

Artist-in-residence Mr. Chris Banahan

December 2002

Dublin Talmud Torah sponsored Kiddish in Terenure Synagogue
Visit of Mary McAleese, President of Ireland to view Art Exhibition
Open Day for parents, past pupils, pupils and friends

April 2003

For Sale: 'Stratford College' watercolour by Karen Walsh
Video of School Assembly, artist-in-residence documentary and visit of Mary McAleese, President of Ireland on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of Stratford College

November 2003

Conclusion of the Jubilee Year with the Inaugural Elaine Feldman Lecture delivered by Prof. Dr. Catherine Heszer, Lippert Professor of Jewish Studies from T.C.D. on the subject of Jewish identity. This lecture was attended by staff and students from 4th, 5th and 6th Years.

French Table Quizzes

Congratulations to the Transition Year team of Simon Conheady, Paul Davidson, Emma Murphy and Olwen Murphy which came a very close second in the recent quiz held in Loreto College, Crumlin. This augurs well for the future and doubtless you will maintain Stratford's proud and successful tradition. The senior team, Alan Deeley, Ruth Newman, Sunita Jeawon and Niall Sherry came third in their quiz which was held last November and can equally be very proud of their achievements

Mrs.C. O'Reilly, French teacher

W5

As mentioned in the last newsletter TY attended the W5 centre located in the Odyssey Arena in Belfast. This was a long day with a six hour round trip which started at 7.30 in the morning. On arrival we were plunged into scientific investigation trying to find out whether it was easier to stop a ball lacking friction or to keep such a ball moving! The group was then split into two, one section went straight to the Laboratory while the other explored the centre. As a whole we were impressed with how interactive the centre was and how it allowed us to explore science almost in an unconscious way. There was great emphasis on asking questions. Lab demonstrations involved such interesting things as the making of slime! The exhibition was extremely well run- you can have a lot of fun and as the old cliché goes there really is something for everyone from explosions to lie detector tests to a harp with no strings which was played by laser. It was, in my opinion, one of the few such exhibitions which doesn't patronise teenagers but truly means it when it says, 'Children are the future so let's make them involved in their world'

Megan Smith, Transition Year

Letter from America

The Stratford 'Diaspora' is scattered far and wide but two of our students who left in 2003 took time out to keep us up to date with how they were getting on. Ariella Huff is currently studying a humanities based course in Wellesley College, Massachusetts, alma mater of one Hilary Rodham Clinton while Elliott Moriarty is studying Music in Nova Scotia, Canada. Here's what they had to say:

"Well I've been asked to contribute a few words about university here in America and my natural response was to share the joy and force Elliott to help, since Canadian universities share the same basic format as those in the U.S. North American universities in general differ significantly from Irish ones. One of the major differences and, arguably, a great advantage is that you do not need to decide your degree or major in advance. If you want to take a degree in English you can start on the same programme as somebody who wants to pursue a degree in French for example. Another aspect of university life across the pond is dormitory life. Both of us live in dorms which offer the great advantages of meeting a lot of new people, being close to your classes, having your food cooked for you but can be a little confining especially if you have a roommate or neighbour with horrible tastes in music. Costs of tuition plus room and board can be quite high here especially in private institutions. However there are a variety of scholarships from sports to academics. The admissions process can also be quite complicated and can start as early as Fifth Year but terminal grades are only one element with teacher recommendations and extra curricular activities often getting equal weight. University here is definitely worth considering especially for those with a sense of adventure!

Best wishes to everyone from cold and snowy Boston and from colder and even snowier Nova Scotia."

Ariella Huff and Elliott Moriarty (2003)

Form and Fusion

Congratulations and best wishes to a very dedicated group of Transition Year students who have qualified for the finals of the Form and Fusion Awards with an entry



entitled Glaciese. The finals will be held at The Point Theatre on Wednesday 21st April. Many months work has gone into this project and hopefully this event will be well supported by students from the school. Our group has been invited along to a publicity photoshoot before the finals which will be held in the Powerscourt Town Centre. Credit also to Mrs. Twyford Troy for her time and unstinting dedication to this project.

Brighter Futures

On a related theme T.Y. students will be participating in the St. Patrick's Day parade as part of the St. Patrick's Festival. The theme is 'Glorious Glaciers' and members of the class will be dressing up as Huskies. Hopefully the weather won't be too inclement. This comes in the middle of a very busy work experience fortnight for this class.

Debating

Congratulations to Niall Sherry of Fifth Year who advanced to the quarter finals of the E.S.B. Leinster Schools Debating Competition as an individual speaker. Niall has been a debating stalwart for the last two years and has progressed immeasurably in that time.

Tom Giblin,

Editor and Debating Co-ordinator

Tennis

Competitive tennis will be resuming shortly under the guidance of Rachel McDonagh and at present training for Seniors with Rachel is on Tuesdays and Fridays and for Juniors is on Thursdays with Michael Carey.

First Year Drama

The culmination of many months hard work under the tutelage of Ms. Oman was the performance of *The Comeback Caper* on Monday, March 15th. The following class members were part of the cast: Carolyn Murphy, Niall Spain, Amy Walsh, Dena Caplin, Alan Swaine, Kim Comiskey, Alan Keogh, Rachel Dempsey, Kilian Butler, Eithne Madden, John Cunniffe, Louise Costelloe, Claudia Sabato and Yasemin Healy. Congratulations to all concerned for a thoroughly professional and enjoyable performance.