



Carrick Mail

Volume 3 Issue 9

April 2009

Carrick Academy

Goodbye and Good Luck

The 2009 Exam diet is well and truly underway. S4 pupils started study leave on Friday 1 May and S5/6 on Thursday 14 May. Good luck to all pupils sitting exams this year. This is the final Newsletter from the present Press Pack Team. We wish all those pupils leaving school all the best for the future.

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Interviews with S6 Pupils

Reminders

Remember to keep collecting the Tesco vouchers.

Yearbooks are still on sale, we need a £5 deposit handed to one of the school captains ASAP?

We asked some of the S6 pupils to tell us about their time at Carrick.

“It has been brilliant, quite fun actually; I really love school and all the teachers!” *Chloe Archer S6*

“Amazing! It is rubbish at times though.” *Evelyn Crate S6*

“Its Ok, I like Art very much especially the teacher. All the teachers are very friendly, I don’t even want to leave I wish I could stay for another year” *Sarah Sherry S6*

“I have enjoyed it but its time to move on and do bigger and better things.” *Jen Wilson S6*

Head Teacher Report

Our newly-appointed Head Teacher, Mr Keith Webster, takes up post in Carrick on Tuesday 5 May. A letter inviting all parents to meet Mr Webster has already been distributed and I hope you will manage to join us in the dininghall on Tuesday 12 May between 6.00-7.00pm when Mr Webster will outline his future plans for Carrick Academy.

Study Leave for S4 pupils began on Friday 1 May and will begin on Thursday 14 May for S5/6 pupils. Pupils are welcome to come into school during Study Leave to seek advice from teachers or to study. Whether in school for an examination or coming in for only a short time, pupils should wear normal school dress. The staff join me in sending good wishes to all pupils in the forthcoming diet of SQA examinations.

Pupils who are intending to return to school for S5 and S6 **MUST** be present at the S5/6 Induction which takes place on Monday 8 June.

S3 pupils are looking forward to their Work Experience Placements which take place over the next two weeks and we are grateful to employers and local businesses who make these opportunities available to our young people. There are two In-service days planned for this month - Wednesday 20 and Thursday 21 May - immediately prior to the holiday weekend. Pupils return to school on Tuesday 26 May.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact the school if there are any matters you would like to discuss.

Best wishes

Isabel S Johnstone
Acting Head Teacher

Piping and Chanter Contest

The following pupils performed in the Cumnock Highland Games Indoor Contest 2009 in Cumnock Academy on Saturday 28th March. This was a contest showcasing Pipe Bands, Solo Piping, Solo Drumming and Chanter contests.

Louise Allan (S4) – fourth place – solo piping

Shaun Allan (S3) – first place – chanter class

Euan Andrew (S1) – second place – solo piping

William Limond (S1) – third place – solo piping

What a result for Carrick yet again! And our thanks and appreciation go to Mr McPate for all his hard work and effort with the pupils.

Rugby Honours

We received the news this week that 3 of our players have been recognised by the SRU.

John Dewar and Blair Jardine have been selected to attend the Struan Rugby Camp in July. Only 4 players in the West of Scotland have been selected at their age group for this camp and we have two of them. Both boys have also been selected as part of the Glasgow Thistles squad that will travel to the South of France in late June/Early July.

This is an unbelievable opportunity for both boys and it is just reward for all the hardwork they have put

into their rugby over the past few seasons.

Craig Davidson has also been selected to attend the Struan rugby camp. The top 150 players in the country attend this camp and we will have 3 representatives!!!

If that was not enough Craig has been selected to be part of the SRU training academy. The SRU will provide him with a gym membership and training programme as well as a host of other benefits.

Ayrshire Football Final

Carrick for the Cup!!
U16 Ayrshire Cup Football Final
Dam Park Ayr KO 7.00pm on Friday 29th May

Supporters bus: £3.00
Tickets: £1.00 for children / £2.00 adults
pay at the gate
Come and see Mr Dunsmuir to book a space!



School Captain—David McIntyre

In my years at Carrick I've found that because it's such a small school, you can build up great friendships with almost everyone around you and also get along with all the teachers. I have enjoyed being school captain as I feel it has allowed me to take an active role in some of the running of the school, and also it has helped improve my confidence in speaking at assemblies and meetings. I have also enjoyed the responsibility of helping to organise the Prom and the production of the Yearbook, and chairing the pupil council meetings. All in all I am very glad I became school captain as it has given me a chance to (hopefully) make

a positive difference to the school I have attended for the last six years.



School Captain—Eilidh Douglas

When I was asked to write a short paragraph about my time at Carrick, and being school captain this year, I didn't know where to start, and it's quite difficult fitting six years' worth of experiences into such a short space!

Being in sixth year and having lots of free periods certainly hasn't meant lots of time to do nothing, and this has probably been my busiest year. Whether it's going round classes trying to relieve everyone of their spare change (for charity of course), or holding meetings, being school captain has meant there is always something to do.

Organising charity events was probably the most enjoyable task, dressing up for Children in Need was definitely one of the highlights of the year. The yearbook is also a big achievement, as it is the first time a yearbook has been produced for the whole school in quite a few years, and of course hopefully all the responsibility of organising a Prom will pay off in what should be a really good night for all the seniors.

All in all, Carrick has left me with some really good memories and, although I never thought I'd say this, I will miss it.

Scott Barrie—1Y1

Scott Barrie (1Y1) has won the National Burns Federation Cup for Piping. This is the second year in a row that Scott has won the cup. He is a great ambassador for the school, and a shining example of the talent we hold here at Carrick.



Rugby

1st XV

The 1st XV have had a very busy and successful season. They progressed to the semi final of the Scottish Bowl where they eventually lost 26-6 at Kelvinside. The score line did not reflect the dominance that the Carrick pack had and once again the inability to convert pressure into points cost the Blues dear.

However victories were gained against Largs (44-0) in the Ayrshire Cup Semi Final and the Nicolson Institute (10-0) at the seventh attempt to play due to weather etc. Then there was the tour of Wales!!!! This proved to be the best tour yet with many of the team describing it as the "best week of their life's". Two games were played, the first against Maesteg on the Monday evening where, in terrible conditions Carrick ground out a 7 all draw. On the Thursday we played our old friends from Pontycymer and after dominating the first half Carrick hung on to win by 10-5. However what proved to be the highlight of the tour was the team bonding and mixing with our Welsh opponents.

2nd XV

With rugby in Carrick now becoming a mainstay of school life we have been able to field a 2nd XV this season. They have played 7 games and won 6 which meant that Carrick won the South Ayrshire Emerging schools U18 league. Victories against Queen Margaret (twice) and Ayr Academy meant that the young Carrick boys finished top of the league. With 17 of this years 1st XV leaving school many of these boys will step up to the 1st XV next season and without this league many would have stopped playing the game altogether.

U15

The U15 have went about their business quietly but under the stewardship of Andy Clark and Colin Sturgeon have put together some impressive results. They defeated Belmont 34-12 to finish top of the South Ayrshire League, defeated Largs 54 - 5 to make it through to the Ayrshire Cup Final and even made it through to the final of the Ayrshire Schools 7's. This was a remarkable achievement when you consider that none of the boys had trained for this form of the game as there focus was on getting to the cup final at Millbrae this season.

Girls Rugby

In over 100 years Carrick had never reached a National team sport final but that changed on Sunday 29th March when the Carrick U15 girls side played on the main pitch at Murrayfield. Over 200 supporters followed the team in buses and cars to shout the girls on. Unfortunately we came up against a Gala side that has not lost a game in 3 years and had far greater experience and skill than our side. To be fair to the Carrick Girls they never gave up and had a try disallowed with 10 minutes to go and once Carrick made several changes to the team Gala scored 4 tries in the last 8 minutes which put an unfair reflection on the score line. However Carrick can now boast to be the top school side in Scotland at this level as Gala are a club side. Hopefully in future years Girls rugby will develop significantly enough for there to be separate schools and club competitions.

U13 and U14

Both sides have continued to train and the U13 side reached the semi final of the Ayrshire Schools 7s and gained a good victory against Ayr Academy in the final week before the holidays. Both sides have two games left to play against Duncanrig and Arran in early May.

Carrick U15's are County Champions

Cup Finals evening got off to a great start for Carrick Academy when the boys brought home the silverware in what was their best performance of the season. They were playing against Belmont Academy who are also having a fantastic season with their U18 Side reaching the Scottish Plate Final against Kelso.

Carrick fielded a near full strength side with only one late change being made due to illness. The Blues kicked off and it was clear that the Carrick pack were in no mood to lose the battle up front. They committed numbers to the breakdown and moved the ball away from contact at every opportunity. The opening try came after 5 minutes when stand off Connor Wyllie dummied his opposite number and dived under the post. Blair Jardine was successful with the conversion (7-0). Carrick then dominated proceedings for the next 20 minutes and scored a further two tries one from Andrew Hudson and the other from Thomas Johnstone. Blair Jardine was successful with one of these kicks and sandwiched in between the tries was a well struck penalty again by Jardine. HT 22-0

The second half started with Blair Jardine catching the kick off and running straight through the Belmont defence to score under the post. Again he was successful with the kick. (29-0). Belmont never gave up and scored a well worked try with 20 minutes remaining. Carrick were then awarded a further two penalties and man of the match Jardine was successful with both (35-5). At this point a combination of good Belmont play and a lack of focus on the Carrick side allowed Belmont to score 3 unanswered tries to take the final score to 35-20.

When referee Lynch blew his final whistle the Carrick boys were jumping for joy. They had won the Ayrshire Cup and was just rewards for all their hard work throughout the season.

Coach Colin Sturgeon said afterwards:

" The forwards dominated up front and this was the key to our victory. We played Belmont in the league and won however their forwards gave our pack a hard time during that game. They turned that performance on its head and even though Belmont scored 4 tries we never looked like losing this game. It has been a pleasure to coach these boys and I hope many will step up to the first XV next season."

Mr Brown was also delighted:

" These boys have went about their business very quietly this season and tonight's performance was their finest of the season. The school is delighted for them all. Both Colin Sturgeon and Andy Clark deserve great credit for the work they have put into this side. Unlike the U18 a lot of these boys play club rugby and make up the Carrick U15 club side who finished joint top of the Glasgow U15 2nd Division and we also have two boys who play for the Ayr RFC U15 side that reached the Scottish Cup Final. These boys will make up the 1st XV for the next 2/3 years and I am looking forward to working with at least 8 of them with the 1st XV next season along side Colin who will take the backs"

That is the end of a long season for the U15 side. They have played 18 matches and won 11 Drew 2 and lost 5. They came up against a very good Earlston side in the Scottish and other than that this was their only heavy defeat. If the boys continue to develop at their current rate the future is certainly looking bright .

The support for the Carrick boys was fantastic and the boys would like to thank the people who turned up to

Groundhog Day

Friday evening saw both Carrick's U15 and 1st XV sides compete in their Ayrshire Cup Finals. The 1st XV were up against Marr College. This was a repeat of last years final that went right down to the wire and this year was no different. The game kicked off with Marr controlling the early stages. The Carrick boys looked nervous with some basic handling errors and missed tackles making Marr looking the more likely team to score. However after ten minutes Carrick started to settle down and it was clear for all to see that they were not going to sit back and accept Marr dominating the game. Both sides had chances to score but when the referee Mr Clark blew his whistle for half time the score was 0-0.

Marr again started the second half at a greater tempo and from a scrum just outside the Carrick 22 their replacement 15 burst through the Carrick midfield to score under the post. The conversion was successful. The teams then traded two penalties each to take the score to 6-13. Both sides tried everything to get the next score but both defences were in top form. The final whistle went and while the Marr boys were delighted with their victory the Carrick boys were distraught at coming so close once again.

To put the Carrick boys achievement into perspective 19 of the Carrick squad of 22 have never played club rugby. Unlike Marr the boys have no experience of Mini or midi rugby and have no rugby within the PE department. The only rugby they get is training for 1- 2 hours a week after school. For these boys to not only reach the final but run a team like Marr so close is a truly remarkable achievement. It is also to their credit that Marr now field a near 1st XV pack against them and unlike what certain people have stated this was certainly no Marr U17 side and that is a huge compliment to the hard work that they have put in and shows the strides that Carrick are making.

Mr Brown said afterwards

" The only thing that was missing this evening was the victory. Everybody who was here tonight could see how much this meant to those boys. Around 16 of the squad are leaving school in June and they are without doubt the finest school rugby side that Carrick have ever produced. I am so proud of them for what they have achieved and even though winning would have been wonderful I told them that I and the school see them as winners. I have never worked with a better bunch of players and they will leave Carrick with the memories of making friends and enjoying the game of rugby. I doubt there will be a club side, never mind school side in the country who has a better team spirit than we have and I just wonder what we could have achieved if these boys had received exposure to rugby at an earlier age. That is the main challenge for us at the school. We are playing catch up and in truth that is why schools like Marr will always have a huge advantage over us. We play a strong forwards game and we make no apology for that but I have to say I was impressed by how the Marr pack played and stood toe to toe with us during the whole match. If you could have combined the best players from both of tonight's sides you would have a team that would compete at the very top of schools rugby in Scotland. The support again was wonderful. We again took over 350 supporters to the finals and that is something we as a school are extremely proud of."

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Interview with Mr Dunsmuir—Director of Football

We as a football section are very much looking forward to competing in this years U16 Ayrshire Cup Final. Carrick Academy have an excellent record in this competition, this is the 3rd time we have reached the final in 8 years and hopefully it will be the 2nd time we win it! The boys are extremely motivated and can't wait for the opportunity to take to the field. Mr Wilson and Mr Brown met with the boys before they finished for study leave and they reported that confidence was high in the camp. We shall be meeting with the boys for 2 light training sessions in the week leading up to the final.'

I would encourage the whole school to get behind the team, we are running a supporters bus to and from the final, if you wish to book a space on it please speak to me by the 22nd of May.'

Football

S1 Coca Cola 7's

We played 3 games in our section with the winners progressing to the final at Tynecastle;

Carrick 0 v 0 Cathkin

Carrick 2 v 2 Grange
Ryan Nisbet x2

Carrick 3 v 3 St Andrews
Ryan x3

Despite returning undefeated, St Andrews progressed from our group, they managed to win one game and draw two games. The boys showed great determination and confidence during all three match as they battled back from losing positions to earn a share of the points.

Prestwick's S1 boys team qualified from their group. We wish them every success in the final.

Two boys Matthew Howie and John Fulton playing with south west Scotland. Ryan Nisbet is currently on trial with Rangers.

