



# Carrick Academy Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 3

September 2009

**Carrick Academy**

## 2009 Work Shadowing Initiative

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Jack Wallace of 6B was selected to represent Carrick Academy in the Work Shadowing Initiative 2009. Not only is this a great opportunity for him but he is the first boy to represent the school in this competition.

Well done, Jack for creating Carrick history and good luck in the competition.

The Work Shadowing Initiative began with a number of S6 pupils creating a convincing CV and going through an intensive interview. Jack was then chosen to represent the school and will be placed into a business to follow a manager around for three days to see what is involved in their job. Jack will then submit a report on his experience. If he is successful in reaching the finals, he, and the other finalists, will present their findings in front of a panel of judges.



- Reminders**
- \* October holidays start on Friday the 9th of October. School closes at 3.30 pm.
  - \* In-service days are the 19th and 20th of October.
  - \* Thursday 29th of October is the Halloween Disco. Fancy Dress!!

## GIVING SOMETHING BACK

For over 7 years pupils from Carrick Academy have been going to Jane's Deli and have acted with great responsibility and have been well behaved so now the Deli has decided to give something back.

Carrick Academy is the only school in Scotland of its size to have 7 rugby teams and in the past the Deli has aided this by raising money for them but this time Jane's Deli is going one step further! There will be a raffle in the shop until the 14<sup>th</sup> November for a variety of spectacular prizes.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> September the total amount raised was £74 and the target is to at least triple this amount by November. Seven hundred pounds is the dream target as this would allow Carrick to buy a full set of strips for one of their teams.

All you have to do to support them is to buy a strip of 5 tickets costing £1.

## HEAD TEACHER REPORT

Welcome to the latest edition of the parents' newsletter which once again gives me the opportunity to update you on developments in the school.

Parents may recall me writing about the establishment of a statement of vision and values and also a statement of school aims in the last newsletter. I am pleased to report that the consultation process is now complete and the views of pupils, parents and staff have been taken into account in the drafting of the final version of the statements which are included in this newsletter for your information.

These statements also form part of our school improvement plan for 2009/10 which is almost ready to go out in final form. The plan consists of 4 main improvement priorities which are each broken down into a number of improvement objectives. An overview of the improvement plan is also included here for your information but parents should note that they can obtain a copy of the complete version of the plan by contacting the school office.

I was very pleased by the response of the individuals who were involved in the first round of pupil consultative group meetings which is a structure that has been set up to allow the pupils direct access to myself in terms of expressing their opinions about the school and the decisions taken that impact directly on them. It is my intention to hold all these meetings, which overall involves around 50 pupils from different year groups, fairly regularly so that pupils can have their say on a number of issues over the course of the session.

Finally, thank you again for your support with our drive to improve the number of pupils complying with the school dress code, the overall standard of dress remains very good indeed. It is my intention to pursue improvements to the physical environment, particularly the exterior of the new building and the garden area in front, to ensure that our smartly dressed pupils have the benefit of more pleasant surroundings when they come to school.

Once again, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school if you have any matters of concern that you wish to discuss.

Keith Webster  
Head Teacher

## STATEMENT OF VISION AND VALUES

**We are committed to creating the conditions within Carrick Academy that will allow each and every individual member of the school community to achieve their full potential in the widest sense.**

**Key elements of this commitment are the development of an ethos based on high quality relationships and mutual respect amongst all members of the school community, the development of a culture of ambition and achievement which encourages a 'can do' attitude and the empowerment of pupils, parents and staff by giving them a genuine say in the running and development of the school.**

The following **values** will underpin our work as we strive to realise the aspirations outlined in our vision statement:

**AMBITION  
FAIRNESS  
HONESTY  
RESPECT  
RESPONSIBILITY**

## **STATEMENT OF SCHOOL AIMS**

- 1. To encourage all pupils to do the very best that they can and achieve all that they can through the ethos and life of the school as a community, curriculum areas and subjects, learning across different subjects and opportunities for personal achievement.**
- 2. To encourage the highest standards of learning and teaching and ensure that all pupils benefit from an active and stimulating experience and that all pupils receive appropriate support to improve and fulfill their potential.**
- 3. To develop the leadership skills of all members of the school community so that they can make a positive contribution to the development and future direction of the school.**
- 4. To work together with parents to improve learning by developing the active involvement of parents in the life of the school.**
- 5. To develop partnerships with external agencies and organisations to improve the experience we provide for our pupils.**
- 6. To reflect on our work in a planned way and continuously try to improve the service we provide.**

# SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2009/10

## Development of a Culture of Ambition, Motivation and Achievement

- To improve the quality of the school environment
- To develop systems to record, monitor and recognise the wider achievements of pupils
- To empower pupils, parents and staff by developing systems to give them a genuine say in the running of the school
- To improve the public image and perception of the school
- Development of active leadership
- Development of active partnerships

## Raise Attainment of Pupils

- To develop systems to track the progress of all pupils
- To ensure timely and appropriate support and challenge is provided for all pupils
- To ensure timely and appropriate support and challenge is provided for all staff
- To close the opportunity gap
- To increase parental engagement in supporting the learning and development of their children

## Development of the Curriculum and Learning Experience

- To continue the development of the curriculum in line with Curriculum for Excellence policy guidance
- To develop links with cluster primary schools to ensure progression in learning
- To develop a cluster approach to the implementation of literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing across learning
- To continue the development of innovative approaches to learning and teaching
- Development of active learning

## Development of a Commitment to Improvement Through Self-Evaluation

- To develop a whole school self-evaluation framework
- To develop clear links from our self-evaluation framework to our improvement planning and professional review and development processes
- To develop a collegiate approach to school improvement

## House Captains

The House Captains have now been appointed and the following people have been successful.

Arran House (Blue)

Captains: Claire Houston 6B and Jack Wallace 6B

Vice Captains: Sarah Brown 5B and Louise Allan 5B

Sports Captain: Roddy Paterson 5B

Bute (Red)

Captains: Iain Coleman 6R and Samantha Wallace 6R

Vice Captains: Kyle Cook 6R and Craig McDicken 6R

Peer Helper Coordinator: Calum Stokes 6R1

Cumbrae (Yellow)

Captains: Jodie McCoy 6Y1 and Jemma McLintock 5Y2

Vice-Captains: Heather McIntyre 5Y2 and Anne McMillan 5Y2

Events Coordinators: Ginnie Collie 5Y1 and Maria Sledmere 5Y1

Heads of Publicity: Justene Farrell 6Y1 and Bryony Harvey 6Y1

Sports Captain: Steven Logan 5Y1

Well done to everyone.



Arran House



Bute House



Cumbrae House



Cumbrae House Heads Of Publicity

## NEW STAFF

We have a number of new staff this year and we have interviewed them to get their initial reactions of the school.

### Mr Brogan - English

**How have you enjoyed your first few weeks at Carrick?**

My first few weeks at Carrick have been fantastic. I'm very much looking forward to the year ahead.

**How are you finding it different from previous roles you have had?**

The only previous role I've had has been as a student teacher. I'm definitely feeling the benefit of having my own room and classes and feeling more a part of the school.

**What was your first impression of Carrick Academy?**

I was impressed with the good relationships between staff and pupils and found the school to be very welcoming.

### Miss Rae – Modern Languages

**How have you enjoyed your first few weeks at Carrick?**

I have enjoyed my first few weeks at Carrick a lot. All the staff and pupils are very friendly which has helped me to settle in.

**How are you finding it different from previous roles you have had?**

Carrick Academy is much smaller than the last school that I taught in so I've been able to get to know the pupils and staff very quickly. I can leave my classroom without getting lost! I find that the pupils at Carrick are focused and want to do well. I've worked in schools where ICT plays a big role in the classroom and I am enjoying putting all the things that I've learnt to good use at Carrick.

**What was your first impression of Carrick Academy?**

My first impression of Carrick was that the pupils were very smartly dressed and take pride in their appearance – I've never taught a class before now where every pupil was wearing a school tie. The staff are also very friendly and have tried hard to help me to settle in quickly.

## ACTIVE SCHOOLS

The Active Schools Programme aims to get pupils active through sport or physical activity. Ryan Douglas (Active Schools Co-ordinator) has visited Carrick Academy and has set up a netball club and badminton club in school. Details are as follows:

**Netball**

Girls (S1 – S3 only) – Tuesdays 3.30pm – 4.30pm

**Badminton**

Boys/Girls (P7 and S1 to S3) – Mondays 3.30pm – 4.30pm

## Carrick Academy

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## FOOTBALL TRIALS

### Football Trials

Our congratulations go to Michael Kirk 6Y and Jo Maxwell 5B1 who were both selected from trials to represent the Ayrshire U18 team. Well done boys. This is an excellent achievement!!

## RUGBY RESULTS – September 09

**Tuesday 1st September - Girvan U15 19 - 31 Carrick U15 (Friendly)**  
*Scorers: Lewis Clark (2 Tries) Connor Wyllie (3 Tries and 3 Con)*

**Wednesday 2nd September - Carrick Academy 1st XV 46 - 0 Irvine RFC U18**  
*Scorers: Calum Smith (3 Tries) Michael Kirk (2 Tries) Stephen Logan (1 Try) Ross McCulloch (2 Tries) Duncan Sturgeon (3 Con)*

**Friday 4th September - Carrick U15 60 V 31 Wallace Hall U15 (Scottish Cup)**

**Saturday 5th September - Carrick 1<sup>st</sup> XV 50 - 0 Hamilton College**

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September - Carrick U15 22 - 14 Douglas Ewart U15 (Scottish Cup – Round 2)**  
**Carrick 1st XV 54 - 5 Douglas Ewart 1st XV**

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September - Carrick 1<sup>st</sup> XV 22 V 12 Belmont 1<sup>st</sup> XV (Scottish Cup)**  
*Scorers: Craig Davidson (1 Try) Jordan Morris (1 Try)*

## MUSIC DEPARTMENT

### Beauty and the Beast Trip

The Music Department organised a trip to see Beauty and the Beast at the Edinburgh Playhouse on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October, which was attended by 31 pupils across all year groups. More information in next months' newsletter!

### Music Department Class of the Month awards:

This is a scheme we are running in the Music department with all S1 and S2 classes. Classes gain points for uniform, effort and progress, and behaviour and attitude. This month, the prize for the winning classes consisted of a personalised Carrick Academy sticker for class of the month, and to do class performances using our new Playstation and Singstar software.

The winning classes this month were: 1.1, 1.2, 1.5, 2BRb, 2Y2.

