

Campbeltown Grammar School

News

October 2009



No new school this time around

The Scottish Government has announced the first 14 secondary schools to benefit from its £1.25 billion school building programme and unfortunately Campbeltown Grammar is not one of them, despite scoring a "D" (the lowest category) for building condition and suitability in the government's own core facts survey.



While expressing disappointment that CGS is not in the first phase of the programme, Mr Clive Good, Chair of the Parent Council, said "At least we know there is going to be a second phase and we must all work together starting now to make sure that CGS is included next time".

Thumbs up for the steak sandwich!

School meals in CGS are being re-vamped in a new initiative by Argyll and Bute Council. Now branded as "The Healthy Hub", the canteen now offers a range of new choices to encourage pupils to have their lunch in school. Toasted bagels are proving popular at morning intervals and at lunchtimes, pupils have been snapping up the steak sandwiches (full title "Minute Steak Baguette with Barbecue Sauce and Caramelised Onion"). Designed to be "fast, fun and filling" the "Hubway Specials" include Sweet and Sour Prawns in Pitta Bread with Seasonal Salad and Mixed Salad with Jerk Chicken and a slice of Garlic Bread. A far cry from the school dinners of old!



As well as encouraging pupils to have lunch in school, the new menus also aim to tackle poor diet, which can lead to health problems in later life. As an added incentive, meals and specials can be pre-ordered at the morning interval and prizes based on loyalty points given for healthy choices will be introduced soon.

*Pupils studying the new menus
Photo by Darren Brodie, S5*

Euro Youth Chess Championships 2009

Andrew McClement of S4 recently took part in the European Youth Chess Championships in the town of Fermo, Italy, as a member of a 19-strong Scottish squad of various age groups, boys and girls, from U18 to U10, supported by a chess coach, the International Junior Director and nine hangers-on. Andrew provides the following report.



***The Scottish Youth Chess Squad:
Andrew is third from left in the back row.***

The tournament took place in a beautifully air-conditioned hall, which was great as it was very hot outside. The 'hangers-on' were not so lucky, as their seating area wasn't. The tournament began each day at 3.00 pm and was run on similar lines to the UK Chess Challenge which has taken place at Dalintober and Castlehill and lasted for 9 rounds, the only major differences being that all players had to record their moves on duplicate paper, the time control was longer and only one match was played every day with a rest day after round 5. A game could technically last for as long

as 4 or 5 hours without a break, much longer than a Higher Maths exam which only takes 2 hours 40 minutes **and** you have 20 minute break between Papers 1 & 2!

The Euros are a very tough competition and boast more strong chess-playing nations than any other region worldwide. The break-up of the former USSR has meant that a lot of new nations can now field their own players. Chess is taken very seriously on mainland Europe and for some countries it is their number one sport, whereas in England it is the public schools which seem to dominate and in Scotland it is more popular at Primary School level. Strangely enough, English is the international language of chess, as most of the important books are written in English and most Grand Masters (GM's) speak at least two languages fluently. Chess is not seen as 'geeky' and the players are surprisingly fashion conscious – so I had to pay a visit to TK Max before I went! A number of the girls are actually fashion models!

In my group I was seeded 65th out of a total of 134 players. However, I finished up with four wins, three draws (two against the 4th & 8th seeds) and two losses, making a total of 5.5/9 and finally ranked 20th. I had the best individual performance from the Scottish squad. It was a great experience and I hope to play in the Euros or Worlds next year. There are lots of opportunities to meet players from other federations and to compare notes on our schools. I think we don't do all that badly at CGS.

Apart from the serious side of playing and preparing for games it was great to help out with the younger members of the squad – so bang went the chance of doing some homework. The closeness to the beach meant we also had a lot of fun on a daily basis and the food was OK. We had a great party on the last night and I returned home having lost my voice and the daunting prospect of having to do some catch-up before going back to school. At the closing ceremony, the organisers gave us all a pair of designer Italian shoes, but sadly they won't be getting much school wear – they're brown!



Andrew with some of the younger Scotland Squad members.

Hospitality students excel

S4 Hospitality students have had a busy month. As part of their Practical and Organisational Skills Unit, they have been planning and preparing for a Fair-trade Coffee Morning in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support. This was held on the morning of Tuesday 29 September and everything came together beautifully on the day. Students met guests and acted as hosts and hostesses, serving high quality baked items prepared by them over the last few weeks. From delicious scones to mouth-watering lemon drizzle cake and banana loaf, customers were fulsome in their praise of the students' work. As an added bonus, when all donations were counted, a grand total just in excess of £200 was raised for MacMillan! Well done to all involved for their hard work and also many thanks to the customers who came along and contributed on the day. Thank you all!



There was some baking left for the helpers



The full team takes a bow

News from the Physical Education, Sport & Health Department



Demonstrating the finer points of tackling

RUGBY in CGS

The game of rugby has been introduced this year in the S2 and S3 core physical education programme and initial feedback has shown it is proving to be very popular. To build on this interest, an after-school club has been set up, meeting on Mondays from 3.35 until 5.00 pm. We are very grateful to our new Head Janitor, Tony Jones, who has agreed to lead the club. There are excellent opportunities across Argyll & Bute for pupils to get involved in this sport. Billy Thomson, the SRU Rugby Development Officer for Argyll & Bute, has set up a pathways programme and 8 gatherings across the county, the next one taking place in Cowal on 15 November. Training takes place on Mondays after school – meet in the PE Department. All pupils are welcome.

Inter-House Competitions

We are well into the term now and Inter-House hockey and football have been running on Wednesdays after school. Pupil numbers attending have varied each week, although they have steadily built up as the term has progressed. The dry weather and improved drainage on our outdoor pitches has helped. House Captains and Vice-Captains are always on the lookout for more participants so get along to the PE Department on Wednesdays after school to represent your House! The points gained so far are as follow:-

House	Football	Hockey
DAVAAR	14 points	9 points
BENGULLION	11 points	8 points
KILBRANNAN	5 points	10 points
KNOCKSCALBERT	6 points	9 points

Young Leaders' Sports Programme in CGS

The Young Leaders' Sports Programme is offered to any pupil over the age of 16 years and is based on a number of different National Governing Body Qualifications and certificated courses. The programme is again being funded by Argyll & Bute Active Schools and we are looking for a commitment from senior students who attend these courses to 'put something back' into the school sports programme in South Kintyre – whether this is assisting in an after-school club at CGS, clubs in local primary schools or with our Sports Development Officers working at festivals, tournaments or sports day. The British Red Cross Basic First Aid Course was held in the school on Wednesday of this week, with 12 senior pupils attending and gaining this award. The other courses scheduled for this year are:

Community Sports Day Leaders Award (Sports Leader UK)	Monday 12 October 10.00am – 3.30pm
SRU Foundation Course (Scottish Rugby Union)	Monday 2 & Monday 9 November 1.00 pm – 3.30 pm
Junior Jog Workshop (UK Athletics)	Monday 16 November 1.45pm – 3.30pm



Students practising CPR as part of the First Aid Course

Each of the above courses costs the student £5.00. Places are still available for these courses; please see Mr McQuaker in the PE Department to complete an application form.

Remember!

No coloured, fizzy drinks in school please!

Water only!!

S4 SUPPORTED STUDY

Supported Study will be offered to all S4 pupils for the period **3 to 26 November, 2009**. The purpose of this is to assist pupils with preparation for their prelim examinations in December and ultimately to help them achieve the best possible results in National Examinations. Good prelim results can be used by the school as evidence should any appeal be necessary after the main examinations in June. We would suggest, therefore, that you encourage your child to attend.

There will be no sessions on Thursday 5 or on Wednesday 25 November due to parents' evenings. Teachers taking classes on Wednesdays and Thursdays can negotiate with their students a mutually suitable time to catch-up with a fourth session.

Letters and programmes will be issued to S4 on pupils on Monday 5 October to be returned by Friday 9 October.

Details of S5/6 Supported Study will be issued after the mid-term break.

The S4 programme is as follows:

Tuesday 3.35 to 4.20		Tuesday 4.20 to 5.05	
Subject	Teacher	Subject	Teacher
Art Int 2	M Wrightson	Art Int 2	M Wrightson
Chemistry	G Walker	Chemistry	G Walker
History	G Baxter	History	G Baxter
Home Ec	A Woodrow	Home Ec	A Woodrow
Physics	J Watson	Physics	J Watson
Wednesday 3.35 to 4.20		Wednesday 4.20 to 5.05	
Subject	Teacher	Subject	Teacher
Biology <i>Int 1</i>	S Gallagher	Biology <i>Int 1</i>	S Gallagher
Biology	J McLaughlin	Biology	J McLaughlin
Computing	P Currie	Computing	P Currie
C & D <i>F/G</i>	J Gilmour	C & D <i>F/G</i>	G Cosgrove
English	D Corr	English	D Corr
Spanish <i>Int 2</i>	G McAnerney	Spanish <i>Int 2</i>	G McAnerney
Thursday 3.35 to 4.20		Thursday 4.20 to 5.05	
Subject	Teacher	Subject	Teacher
Business Man	E McGeachy	Admin <i>Int</i>	E McGeachy
French	J Dessans	French	J Dessans
Geography <i>G/C</i>	E Casey	Geography <i>G/C</i>	E Casey
Geography <i>G/F</i>	L Watson	Geography <i>G/F</i>	L Watson
Maths <i>Gen</i>	M Cormack	Maths <i>Gen</i>	M Cormack
Maths <i>Credit</i>	J Farren	Maths <i>Credit</i>	J Farren

Unless otherwise stated, subjects are at Standard Grade (all levels).

What's On @ CGS – Term One

This is a selection of the extra-curricular activities currently running. Some clubs will be starting up after the October mid-term so are not shown on this list.

When	What	Time	Where	Who
Monday	Games Club	Lunch	Room 1.1	S1 – S6
	Outdoor Games	Lunch	West Playground	S1 – S6
	Model Club	3.35pm – 4.40pm	Room 1.1	S1 – S6
	Concert Band	After school	Music 1	S1 – S6
Tuesday	Outdoor Games	Lunch	West Playground	S1 – S6
	Games Club	Lunch	Room 1.1	S1 – S6
	Cross Country	3.35 – 4.40pm	PE Dept	S1 – S6
	Art Club	3.35 – 4.40pm	Art Dept	S1 – S6
	Canoe Club	8.00 – 9.00pm	Aqualibrium	S1 – S6
	Novice Pipe Band	7.00 – 9.00pm	Assembly Hall	
Wednesday	Chess Club	Lunch	Maths Dept	S1 – S6
	Outdoor Games	Lunch	West Playground	S1 – S6
	Games Club	Lunch	Room 1.1	S1 – S6
	Inter-house (hockey & football)	3.35 – 4.40pm	PE Dept	S1 – S6
	Junior Wind Band	After School	Music 1	S1/2
	Beginners Pipe Band	3.45 – 4.45pm	Assembly Hall	
Thursday	Duke of Edinburgh	7.00 – 8.30pm	Room 1.1	S3 – S6
	Chess Club	Lunch	Maths Dept	S1 – S6
	Eco Schools	Lunch	Resource Centre	S1 – S6
	Outdoor Games	Lunch	West Playground	S1 – S6
	Games Club	Lunch	Room 1.1	S1 – S6
	Drum & Bass Club	3.35 – 4.40pm	Music Dept	S1 – S6
	Cross Country	3.35 – 4.40pm	PE Dept	S1 – S6
	Dinghy Sailing	6.00pm	Sailing Club	S1 – S6
Novice Pipe Band	7.00 – 9.00pm	Assembly Hall		
Friday	Outdoor Games	Lunch	West Playground	S1 – S6
	Games Club	Lunch	Room 1.1	S1 – S6

If you are interested in any of the above, just turn up and join in!

Mums' Club

A 4 week block of physical activity is being rolled out to all mums of primary and secondary school age children. The programme begins on Tuesday 3 November from 7.00 – 8.00 pm at Dalintober Primary. Sessions will include netball, yoga, health MOT's, cardio and aerobics. The sessions will be free over the 4 week period and a crèche will also be available in school. Come along and give it shot!

Active Schools MAKI League

Final dates and costings are now being prepared for the MAKI Schools Sports League to resume. This year there will be just 3 events held within the MAKI area due to a number of factors. The league is due to kick off on Thursday 3 December in the Victoria Hall in the form of a volleyball tournament targeting pupils in S4 – S6. It is hoped that a football tournament will be held in Lochgilphead in term 2, with a rugby tournament to be played in Islay in term 3. More details to follow. For more info on any of the above topics, please do not hesitate to contact our Active Schools Co-ordinator, Lindsay Owen either at CGS (01586 552907) or on her mobile 07917073424.

The X Programme

The X Programme is due to be rolled out in South Kintyre on Wednesday 28 October for an 8 week block in St Kierans Primary. The programme is about feeling good with a healthy weight and is a family-oriented community-based lifestyle programme aimed at slowing the process of weight gain in children and young people so that their natural growth incorporates their weight in a healthy way. The key of the programme is developing healthy lifestyle choices. The programme has been developed by NHS Highland and we will be looking to roll out a number of these sessions in both term 2 and term 3. If you would like your family or children to be involved in term 2 or term 3, please contact either Lindsay Owen (Active Schools) or Fiona Semple (School Nurse).

Dates to note this month

Thursday 8 October	S4 Interim Reports issued
Monday 12 October	S4 Work Experience Week 1
Thursday 15 October	School closes for mid-term holiday at 3.35 pm
Monday 26 October	S4 Work Experience Week 2
Tuesday 27 October	School restarts
Thursday 29 October	Hallowe'en Dance 7.30 – 10.30 pm
Friday 30 October	S2 Interim Reports issued
Thursday 5 November	S4 Parents' Evening
Friday 6 November	Next issue of Newsletter

Keeping in touch

Parents are welcome to be in touch with the school about any matter at any time.

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