



MARCH 2015

Stromness Academy NEWSLETTER



We have come to the end of another busy term for both staff and pupils.

As usual, pupils in the senior phase of CfE sat their prelim examinations in February.

This was the first time that the school was able to have pupils in S4, S5 and S6 all sitting their prelims at the same time as it is possible for the National 5 qualification to be taken in any of these years. These pupils have also undertaken the new unit assessments that are called the UASP and replaces the NABs of the old Higher course.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that the SQA appeals procedure changed last year and that we are now using the exceptional circumstance considerations and post results service as detailed on the SQA website. These worked very well for our young people last year. If you feel that your son or daughter has had adverse circumstances that will impact on their performance in the exam please contact the school directly.

Pupils in S2, S3, S4 and S5 have now all completed their option choices for next year. To assist us in drawing up columns to maximise pupil choice we asked the pupils what they thought they would like to choose and used their responses to construct the option choice form for S3, S4 and S5 pupils. This system has allowed many more of our young people to get the choices they want. As pupils within S3 are in the broad general education phase of CfE we have not altered the column choices for this year group.

Staff News

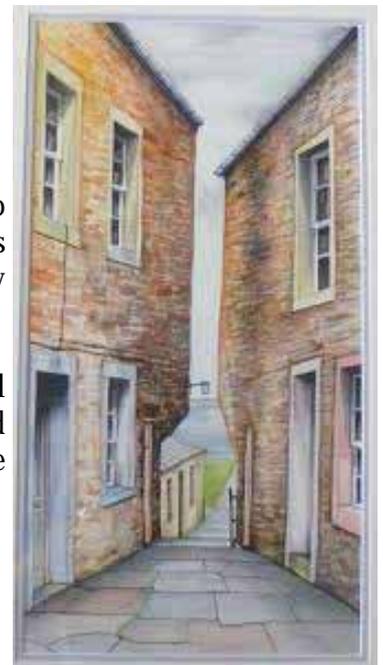


Mrs Manson will be leaving us on Friday 1st May 2015 to take up a new position as a PE teacher in various primary schools. We wish her every success in her new venture.

I am delighted to announce that Mrs Emma Taylor will be taking up her position as the permanent Head Teacher for Stromness Academy on Monday 1st June 2015.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a good holiday.

Babette Hegarty
Acting Head teacher



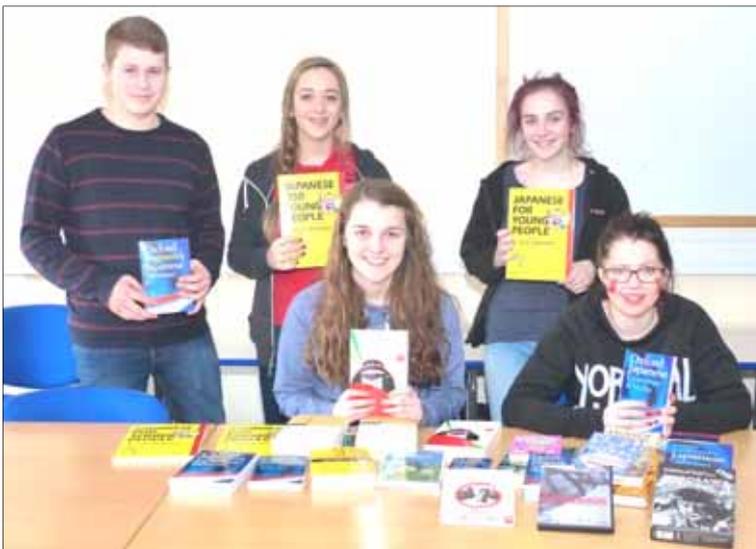
Japanese Language

Japan Foundation supports Stromness Academy Students Learning Japanese

Stromness Academy students met six of their peers from Kamaishi last August when the Japanese girls, all of whom had done projects on alternative energy, visited Orkney as part of their high school programme. When Kamaishi High School makes a return visit to Orkney this year, thanks to the efforts of Stromness Academy and the support of Japan Foundation, some of the Orkney students will be able to welcome them in Japanese. They will also have a much better understanding of the culture of Japan.

The Stromness Japanese project started as a simple idea that students all over the world are able to communicate, regardless of language barriers, but that taking some of those barriers down would make communication easier and allow more friendships to form.

The idea has developed into a hope that it might be possible to offer a course in Japanese language and culture to a qualification level at Stromness Academy in future, and with the generous support of Japan Foundation, a good start has been made.



Stromness Academy now has a small library of Japanese language textbooks, grammar and dictionaries – as well as some DVDs and books about Japanese culture, society, literature, film and martial arts for the students to borrow. And Japan Foundation support has also paid for teaching staff.

The students have learned simple greetings, how to introduce themselves, a bit about the politeness system, basic numbers and counting, how to describe their families (you can't just say my brother or sister, you have to say whether they are older or younger) and of course how to say please and thank you.

They also learned how their names look and sound in Japanese – a language where you normally need to put a vowel in between every consonant, and which doesn't make a distinction between "R" and "L".

They have learned to eat with chopsticks (and have tried some Japanese food), written new year's greetings (this is the Year of the Sheep), watched some Japanese films, and asked lots of excellent questions which have steered some of the topics covered over the period of the activity.

The activity which this time lasted from end October to end March has been an experiment, and with the help of the students, valuable lessons have been learned which will help plan the next stage of the Japanese project at Stromness Academy. All involved agree that we have "only scratched the surface" and we have lots of ideas for what to do next. But for now, it is a big DOOMO ARIGATOO GOZAIMASHITA (thank you) to all who helped, and a GAMBATTE NE! (keep up the good work) to the students, especially the S4, S5 and S6s who have exams.

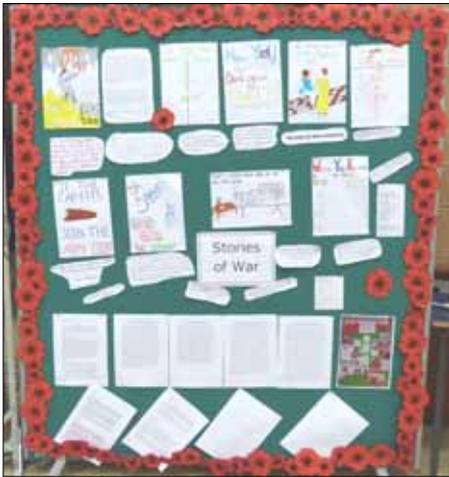
B Hegarty

Remembrance Parade



To mark one hundred years since the outbreak of the First World War, S3 pupils and staff attended a wreath laying service along with members from the Stromness Royal British Legion at the Stromness War Memorial on Remembrance Day, Tuesday 11th November 2014.

G Shearer



Themed Assemblies

Our most recent themed assemblies took place just before the Christmas holidays and this was a timely opportunity in the assembly calendar to focus our thoughts on different aspects of the season.



As the anniversary of the beginning of WW1 is being remembered at this time, the Christmas Truce between German and British servicemen on the Western Front in 1914, was used as a theme.

Pupils watched and listened to a PowerPoint presentation of images relating to that event which highlighted the legacy of this amazing meeting of men, who for a short time were able to put aside their conflicts with each other and come together in a friendly way.

Pupils were encouraged to reflect on this story and appreciate the relationships they had with family and friends over their Christmas holidays.

The assemblies were delivered by Mr Lawson and Mrs Johnstone.

B Johnstone

Physical Education

School Volleyball Festival



Over forty pupils took part in a 4v4 volleyball festival at Stromness Academy on Friday 28th November. Teams from Stromness Academy, Kirkwall Grammar School and City of Edinburgh competed in what turned out



to be a fantastic afternoon of quality play and sportsmanship. Congratulations to our S6 boy's team (Edward Johnston, Alistair Harrison, Jonah Stead, Ross Slater & Raqan Blance) who won the tournament and our junior boys team (Toby MacLeod, Jamie Flett, Aaron Leitch and Jeremiah Kaluzinski) who came overall third.

On Saturday 29th November our S6 boy's team played a 6v6 match against the City of Edinburgh team. Although they lost this match they all played exceptionally well and were a credit to the school.

Inter-House

Inter-house continues to be a long-standing and valuable aspect to extra-curricular activities at Stromness Academy enabling pupils to develop the work they are doing during curricular Physical Education in a competitive environment. With this in mind the S6 Inter-House Committee, led by Chairperson Chloe Flett, has organised a series of lunchtime sporting events for all year groups. All scores have been added together and currently Thorfinn is at the top of the table with 63 points, closely followed by Magnus on 58 points and Rognvald on 53 points. However, with more activities planned for this term the order of the table is liable to change over the coming weeks.

Sky Sports 'Living for Sport' & Sports



The current 5th year students attended a presentation by Michelle Vidler, a Commonwealth games Judo Champion (2002) who also represented Team GB at the Beijing Olympics (2008), Michelle now works with other athletes and former athletes with the Nationwide Skysports Living for Sport project which visit schools across the country providing inspirational talks and workshops to get pupils more involved in sports as well as to develop their self-esteem, leadership qualities, teamwork and so on.

Out of the 59 5th year pupils 22 signed up to take part in a project run by Mr Beesley.

As part of this they completed a Sports Leaders day certificate to provide them with the skills and knowledge required to coach and lead a 'Colour Wars' team in the Friday activity. In these 6 sessions they developed their confidence, organisational skills, planning, teamwork, safety awareness and much more, creating a base for the sports leaders to build upon with the younger pupils of the school. Gradually they are taking more responsibility for the running of the 'Colour Wars', progressing from leading small team building exercises in the first few weeks and discussing team strategies while playing capture the flag to actually coaching and organising tournaments in the final 6 weeks of term 3.

Michelle returned for a full day visit on Wednesday the 18th of March to work with various groups in the school but primarily the Sport Leaders, questioning what they have learned, furthering their passion for coaching sports or just for being involved with working with younger pupils, and delivering practical Judo sessions throughout the day.



The PE department hope to see these individuals taking a more prominent role in future potentially helping with sports days, leading P7 transitions, running inter-house and generally being more confident in themselves to go out and take on added responsibilities in the school and the local community.

B Warnock

Rugby – Under 16 Brewin Dolphin

The Stromness Academy U16 rugby team combined with KGS this term to enter as an Orkney Schools team in the Northern Section of the Brewin Dolphin Cup. Unfortunately, the weather conditions meant that we were twice unable to travel to play against Shetland Schools in the Quarter Final but won through to the semi-final after a lucky coin toss.

We were scheduled to play at home against a Western Isles Schools, but they were unable to travel to Orkney and forfeited the tie. This gave Orkney Schools the opportunity for silverware in the final against Caithness Schools. Unfortunately, we were up against an experienced, well drilled and powerful Caithness team who comfortably won 59 - 0. The Orkney team competed well though, especially in the second half, where they pinned Caithness back for the last 10 minutes, but some resolute defending from Caithness prevented us from scoring a deserved try.

The Stromness Academy pupils involved in the final were: Alistair Morgan, Douglas Murray, Magnus Baikie, Archie Porteous, Liam Rendall, Jamie Flett, Jak Craigie, Scott Stevenson & Jude Hill.

M Berry



SQA Nominees

Recently staff have been involved in SQA nominee work. This involves taking part in the verification procedures for ensuring all assessed coursework for subjects meets the national standard. Nominee events take place centrally at SQA organised venues. Staff are usually out of school for a day to participate in this process. The experience and knowledge gained in taking part in these events helps the school and authority greatly in ensuring national standards are applied consistently.

Jackie Hewitt from the SQA visited Stromness Academy in November. Jackie was here to give information about SQA courses and answer questions from staff relating to the Courses run at the school. During her visit Jackie was able to answer a variety of questions relating to qualifications and procedures.

N Blance



As some of you are probably already aware, the Stromness Young Enterprise team, StromNext, have sadly come to the decision to withdraw from the competition. Thank you to everyone who supported us through the process by buying our products and spreading the word. It is a process we have thoroughly enjoyed and are disappointed to not be continuing through to the presentation night in April.

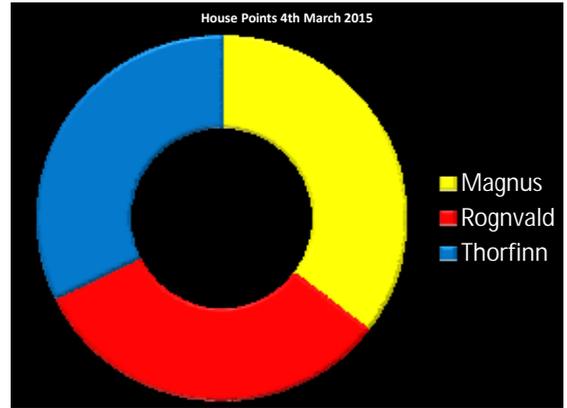
Thanks
StromNext

New House Points System

Stromness Academy's new house points system is part of the plan to replace the old merits with something that pupils will find more meaningful.

Every pupil at Stromness Academy is in one of our houses: Magnus, Rognvald and Thorfinn. In sixth year, we have the last few members of Sigurd – a house which has had to be phased out as our school roll has dropped.

The hope is that pupils' house allegiance and identity will become more important in the life of the school – we envisage a larger number and greater variety of inter-house events, catering to a wider range of skills and talents, as well as giving staff the chance to reward pupils for any behaviours, above and beyond our normal expectations, which enhance the life of the school. All staff are able to issue house points: teachers, admin staff, librarian, janitorial staff, technicians, kitchen staff, and pupil support staff all have house points slips ready to hand out. The points are awarded in two categories, academic work and citizenship. Parents who are interested to know how the points are adding up can check our website for the latest totals. Pupils can get this information weekly from the plasma screen in the foyer.



At our last meeting, the Working Group which has been gathering ideas and formulating proposals for the new system met with our House Captains and discussed ideas for ways to recognise pupils' successes, in their houses, their classes, and as individuals. Our ideas are now with the school's Senior Management Team, and we hope to have some news out to pupils and parents soon about how we reward pupils for doing their best for themselves, for their peers, and for the school.

If any parents have views on the new system, we'd be happy to hear from you. Just contact the school and ask for your views to be passed on to the Celebrating Success Working Group.

J Hunter

Sea Survival Course

The Maritime Department of Orkney College ran a sea survival course for pupils studying the maritime course in S4. The course results in the award of an MCA certificate which is the first step in becoming qualified to work in a maritime environment. The course comprised first aid and personal survival. Time was spent in the classroom and in Stromness swimming pool. Pupils enjoyed the course and gained a valuable qualification at the end.



N Blance



Buildings Upgrade

A start has been made on the programme of work on the school buildings which will eventually result in the installation of a new heating system. The first part of this process is the installation of underfloor insulation. This consists of a foam that is sprayed onto the underside of floors throughout the building wherever

there is a space under the floor large enough for a person to access.

The next stage is to replace all of the windows and external doors then to fit external cladding and a new roof over the existing roof in the main teaching block. This work will start before the Easter holidays and will run right through the summer. In addition to all of this, the waiting room and toilets in the foyer are also going to have a major facelift during the summer holidays. Information and drawings are on

S Crawford

Christmas Lunch



On the Wednesday before the Christmas holiday, Stromness academy had its traditional Christmas lunch. This is a very popular annual event where virtually all the school manage to have a Christmas lunch. During our lunchtime all the school was processed through the dining hall in year groups, giving everyone the chance to sit down and eat their meal in a festive atmosphere. Pupils and staff entered into the spirit of the event contributing to the fun at this busy time of year.

A big thanks to all who helped out, especially to the kitchen staff who delivered an excellent meal.

N Blance

Christmas Disco



The Christmas disco went ahead in its traditional fashion on the last Thursday of term. Our S6 pupils put in a big effort to ensure an enjoyable and well run event took place for all our pupils.

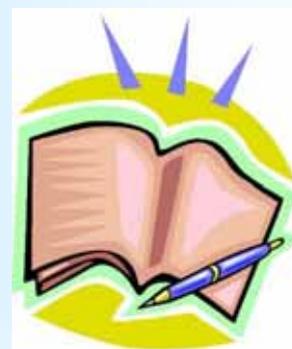
Everyone turned out dressed up looking the part for this evening.

This finished off the term in style and with a great deal of fun.

N Blance

Summer Term Dates

⇒	April 13	School Re-opens
⇒	April 21	Spring Concert
⇒	April 24	HPV 2nd Vacc-S2 Girls
⇒	April 28	Last Day S4/5/6
⇒	May 6 - May 15	S2 Hoy Trips
⇒	April 29 - May 28	SQA Examinations
⇒	May 4	May Day Holiday
⇒	June 10 - June 14	Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award
⇒	June 12	S6 Prom
⇒	June 20	St Magnus Festival Concert
⇒	June 22	Paris Trip
⇒	June 26	Band Comp
⇒	June 26	School Closes for Summer (1.55 pm)
⇒	August 5	Examination Results
⇒	August 18	School Re-opens for Session 2015-2016





Children in Need 2014

Stromness Academy pupils and staff once again showed their generous nature with fund raising for Children in Need. Activities included a Bake Sale., Tak Me Oot, Beat the Goalie, Busking, Dodge Ball, Fancy Dress, a Fayre and last but not least, *FLASHMOB*.

A grand total of £1809.97 was raised.



The CHiN Committee this year was made up of the following S6 pupils:

Chloe Flett, Erlend Prendergast, Mary Philips, Lily Crawford, Leyla Gunn, Alex McNeil, Bea Watson and Halle Omand.



Music

CHRISTMAS SERVICE

A 50 strong staff/pupil choir accompanied by the school's wind band and string group entertained and brought together a large congregation from our community. As usual the standard was extremely high and all pupils worked well throughout second term to deliver an excellent performance.

A mixture of choir pieces, carols and instrumental music got everyone in the mood for Christmas. Special thanks to Stromness Parish Church minister and board for their welcomed help with preparation and service sermon.



BROAD STREET—BUSKING

The school's popular traditional band (now called 'Belt hid oot') spent 2 hours on a wet, Saturday afternoon brightening up shoppers' day by playing a range of traditional pieces mixed with Christmas music. Even though the weather wasn't impressed by the performance the band drew a large crowd and managed to raise over £300 for charity. This worthwhile performance will certainly be repeated in future, although we may venture to the shelter of Tesco's foyer in future years.

DAY CENTRE VISIT

In the run up to Christmas musicians from the Academy performed a selection of festive pieces at the West Mainland Day Care Centre in Stenness. Members of the wind band and Christmas choir performed carols and traditional pieces entertained with a mixture of Christmas music and traditional pieces.

Well done to all pupils and thanks to the West Mainland Day Care Centre for helping to organise the visit.

RADIO STATION VISIT

Music Technology is a new, interesting area which Stromness Academy pupils can opt to study in the senior phase. With less of a focus on performance and more on recording, editing and producing audio, pupils study a wide range of 'real life' technology projects from band recording to music for film.

We began our radio show topic with a morning visit to the professionals at Radio Orkney. The presenters, reporters and editors at the station provided an insight into life in radio. The pupils heard interviews that were being edited, gained information about how a show is put together and many other interesting radio facts.

After this visit all members of the class devised and produced their own production. Some pupils used members of the school's STEM group as their radio interview topic and arranged times for members of the community to come in to record. Not only did this project allow pupils to understand radio production but, by using community interviews and topics, made it realistic and more rewarding.

ABRSM Results (November 2014)

The school entered 2 pupils for associated board exams:

- | | | | |
|---|---------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| ◆ | Gareth Flett | Grade 6, Bb Cornet: | Pass with Merit |
| ◆ | William Omand | Grade 5, Trumpet: | Pass with Merit |

Congratulations to both pupils.

R Brown

STROMNESS ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL



Contacting Your Parent Council for 2014-15

Chair - Kate Carmichael; Vice Chair - Rachael Rudge; Treasurer - Fiona Towrie; Secretary - Joe Horrocks
Co-opted Staff Members - Mrs Stead and Mr Berry

You can contact any member of the Parent Council via the school office or you can speak to a School Council member at your next Parent Evening or you can contact the Chair directly by telephone on 751 343 (evening)

S1	Rachael King	0771 502 7706	S4	Rachel Rudge	841 772
	Linda Hall	0778 898 4440		Ann Clark	pobclark@sky.com
S2	Fiona Towrie	850 466	S5	Vacancy	
	Kate Carmichael	katecarmichael@yahoo.com		Vacancy	
S3	Ingrid Taylor	851 968	S6	James Stead	07947 056 283
	Joe Horrocks	07867 908 320		Vacancy	

Bingo Night!

The Parent Council ran a very successful Bingo night in February which was enjoyed very much by all who attended. We were very well supported by local shops and businesses who were extremely generous in their donation of prizes. We were also very happy that many parents were willing to help out with home baking and sandwich making. Especial thanks to the parents and staff who helped out with the organisation beforehand and on the night, who put in a great deal of effort. At time of going to press we don't have the final total raised, but understand it is almost £700!



Questionnaire

Parent council members have attended all of the Parent Nights at school, and at each handed out our questionnaire, asking for opinions on as many aspects as possible of how the school and parent council are performing. We have had a fantastic response so far! If you did not manage to fill yours in or couldn't be there and would like to fill one in, please ask at school reception for a copy or send an email to Kate on katecarmichael@yahoo.com for an emailed copy, and return to the school reception as soon as possible.



We hope that we will have the results collated soon, and will report back with them and pass them on to the school.

Meetings

Our Parent Council meetings are open to all, so please feel welcome to attend if you would like.

We asked at the Parents Nights for names of parents who might like to help out at fund-raising events in future, and contacted some of those who responded, for help with the Bingo night – many thanks!

We have been kept very busy with organising the above, attending events and meetings and helping by attending job interviews. We still have 3 vacancies on the council – 2 in 5th year and 1 in 6th year.

Happy Easter!

Kate Carmichael (Chair)