



Science Newsletter – January 2008 Edition

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Upcoming Events

The Chemistry Department of Queen's University, Belfast will carry out a series of workshops/careers advice in the school Assembly Hall on January 31st, 2008.

This is an all day event and will be attended by local secondary schools. Schools will be contacted directly by QUB.

Real World Science Conference



The Real World Science Conference, funded by Seagate Technology, was hosted for the second time by Lumen Christi College, on 26th November 2007.

This was attended by pupils and teachers from seventeen local schools in the North West Region.

The aim of the conference was to encourage pupils to consider taking subjects in the field of science, technology, engineering and maths. Twenty three interactive workshops were provided, covering a diverse range of careers including forensics, civil engineering, rocket science, pharmacy and paramedics. This proved to be a very enjoyable, entertaining and enlightening day.

A big thank you to Joan Coates, Debra McNeill, Diane Stewart and Michelle Shields of Seagate Technology, all the workshop coordinators and pupils/teachers who participated.

We look forward to seeing you all again next year.



Students participating in the 'Get a kick out of feet ' and 'From Plastics to Jeans, workshops.

Fun Maths Road Shows

Sentinus Fun Maths Road shows were held on the 19th and 20th November 2007. These were all day events attended by Year 8 and 9 pupils. The Road shows focussed hands-on, team-based activities around problem solving and mathematical puzzles. Teams were aided by Sixth Form Mentors, trained by Mr Gerard Hughes. A big thank you to Mr Hughes and all those Sixth Form pupils who gave up their time to ensure that both days were a huge success.



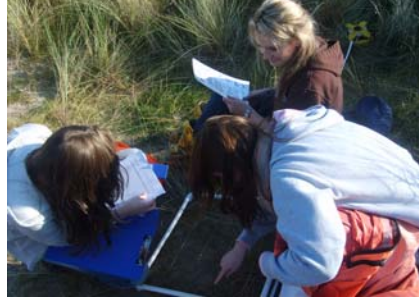
Year 14 Field Trip To Magilligan

Miss K O'Brien and Miss A King accompanied Year 14 pupils on a Biology Field Trip to Magilligan Field Centre.

It is located in one of the most varied and unspoilt parts of the coast of Northern Ireland. The immediate area includes contrasts between upland environments with streams and forestry on the basalt escarpment and coastal lowland with extensive sand dunes and mud flats. At the centre there is access to high quality habitats including National Nature Reserves.

The area is a beautiful demonstration of succession. Succession is a component of the Year 14 A' Level Biology syllabus and at Magilligan this was a fantastic opportunity for students to see first hand, how succession occurs.

The students carried out a habitat study of the area, starting at the beach and worked their way back to the forest. They collected information at each area, including light intensity, temperature and most importantly, the diversity of organisms.



Tree Planting At Creggan Country Park



Class 8A visited Creggan Country Park at the Invitation of Karen Healy, Environmental Officer at Creggan Country Park. They were accompanied by teachers Mr M Smyth and Mrs E McBride. Karen gave a very informative talk on the environmental importance of trees, correct planting methods for individual trees. Pupils were then organised in the planting of trees on the reservoir slopes. This was a cold and blustery day and we all welcomed the hot cup of tea in the warm conference centre afterwards. A big thank you to Karen. We look forward to our next project.



Irish Science Week

Class 9A visited the Letterkenny Institute of Technology on Monday, 12th November to see 'The Fun with Science Show', as part of Irish Science Week Activities. They observed and participated in an entertaining lecture/workshop that showed how exciting science can be and how it is an essential part of everyone's daily life.

A very enjoyable time was had by all and a big thank you to Randal Henly, the show coordinator.

Engineering Education Scheme

Mrs Gill and pupils taking part in this project attended a three day Workshop at University of Ulster Jordanstown. Pupils had access to workshop facilities in Jordanstown and were given technical advice by resident University Engineers Residential.

Our Link Company is Derry City Council and our Link engineer is Mr Leo Strawbridge. The project involves the design of a system to collect oil in a three vehicle pit at Skeoge Depot, and transfer it to a central location outside the building for collection.

Mr Strawbridge also joined us on the second day of workshops and was able to give invaluable guidance. A big thank you Mr Strawbridge. Students spent time constructing a model of their chosen system and in writing up the final report.

However, it was not all work and no play. Students were involved in leisure activities in the evening. They went ice skating and combined with pupils from Limavady Grammar School to win the general knowledge quiz.



Robotics Road Show

Sixty Primary school pupils took part in a Robotics Roadshow on Tuesday, 11th December 2007, organised by Gerard Hughes of Sentinus. Schools involved were Fountain Primary School, Longtower Primary School and Bunscoil Cholmcille.

This was an all day event and pupils were assisted by Sixth Form Mentors in all activities. This was a thoroughly enjoyable day and we look forward to seeing you all at the next activity in February 2008.

A big thank you to all of those who attended and, of course, Mr Gerard Hughes and Sixth Form Mentors.

Chemistry Lectures By Dr Marie Migaud From Queen's University

The College hosted two Chemistry lectures by Dr Marie Migaud from Queen's University Belfast on Thursday 22nd November 2007. These were attended by Year 14 students from Lumen Christi College and other local secondary schools.

'A Volatile Chemistry.'

This included some details on the chemistry of esters and optical isomerism. It was aimed at year 14 Chemistry/AVCE Science students.

'Careers in Chemistry.'

This was aimed at all sixth year Chemistry students and includes some practical demonstrations.

A big thank you to Dr Migaud for her very unique and enlightening contribution and to those teachers/pupils from local secondary schools who attended.

Visit to Thornhill College.

Mrs M Gill and Year 13 AS Physics students visited Thornhill College on Thursday 15th November 2007, to hear a talk on 'Inside the Stars; Physics in Action' delivered by Dr Simon Jeffrey of the Armagh Observatory.

The talk covered areas such as 'What makes the sun shine?', 'How are elements made?' and 'What makes stars wobble?'. There was a practical demonstration of oscillations, showing how frequency depends on mass and size, and audio demonstrations of star oscillations.

The talk produced a lively discussion afterwards. We would like to say a big thank you to Dr Jeffrey for his entertaining lecture and to Mr William Laverty (Head of Physics, Thornhill College) for the invite to attend.

Engineering in Flight

Mr Sean Molloy, Mr Eamon Owens and Year 12 Technology students visited W5 in Belfast, on Thursday 6th December 2007, to hear a talk on Flight Engineering.

This was a practical and careers based talk by Bombardier Aerospace Engineers. They discussed how engineers design and manufacture a plane that is safe to fly in. They explored topics such as; What is an engineer? How do Bombardier Aerospace engineers design aeroplanes and why students should consider a career in engineering?

Students had the opportunity to meet a professional pilot who explored the role of pilots, their skills and how to become one.

Students had a thoroughly enjoyable day as is evident by the happy smiles in the photographs below;



