



## Science Newsletter – October 2007 Edition

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#### Upcoming Events

Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> Oct 2007;

Royal College of Surgeons visit school from 5.00pm-7.00pm.

Mon 26<sup>th</sup> Nov 2007;

Seagate Real World Science Conference takes place in school

#### Royal College of Surgeons Visit to School

A group from The Royal College of Surgeons is coming to the school on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> Oct 2007 to give a seminar to those students in Year 13 and Year 14 who have either applied to study medicine this year or are thinking of applying next year.

Invitations have been extended to other secondary schools in the area. The seminar will consist of a talk on personal statements and advice on how to conduct an interview. Then there will be practical 'hands-on' activities, for example, they will be given the chance to practice suturing and learn how to use a laparoscope.

#### Seagate Real World Science Conference



Mark your calendars for what promises to be an exciting, hands-on, interactive experience for Year 10 pupils on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2007.

Seagate Technology is funding and organising the Real World Science Conference, which is being hosted for the second time by Lumen Christi College.

The aim of the conference is to encourage pupils to consider taking subjects in the field of science, technology, engineering and maths.

The conference will provide 23 interactive workshops covering a diverse range of careers including; forensics, civil engineering, rocket science, pharmacy and paramedics.

Pupils will also get a chance to check out a number of information stands at the end of the day where further details on the careers sampled will be available.

Pupils taking part in last year's activities.

1. Pupils simulate the building of thin film heads in 'Science is a Piece of Cake'.
2. Mrs Mc Daid (Vice Principal) taking part in The Optometry Workshop.
3. Pupils enjoying The Slime Workshop.
4. Pupils preparing fingerprint casts in the workshop 'Every Contact Leaves a Trace'.



## Researchers in Residence



This is an excellent scheme which permits a science department to avail themselves of the skills of a science or engineering research student for between two to four days.

The researcher who is there as a role model of a 'Real Scientist or Engineer' does not teach but is present to work with pupils with projects and investigative work. There is also an opportunity for them to tell the pupils about their lives and in particular the work they do in the realm of 'real science'.

The project has been running in Northern Ireland for about ten years and is organised by Mr Colin Press on behalf of the University of Edinburgh who receive funding from the Research Councils UK and the Wellcome Trust. Past researchers placed in the school include Mr Stephen Workman and Mr Zhang Huaizhong, both of the post-graduate department of the University of Ulster.

In 2008 we look forward to working with Colin again and welcoming our new Researcher in Residence.

## Sharing Education Program (SEP)



This is a new program funded by Atlantic Philanthropies and the International Fund for Ireland and managed by Queen' University Belfast, which aims to encourage schools to make cross community collaborations an integral part of school life, creating enhanced educational and personal development opportunities for everyone involved.

All of the twelve schools initially awarded Specialist status in Northern Ireland will be involved.

The programme's website is [www.schoolsworkingtogether.com](http://www.schoolsworkingtogether.com).

Lumen Christi College will deliver this program through projects and activities with our link Primary and Secondary Schools.

## GB4FUN Calling All Budding Broadcasters!



In July of 2007 Lumen Christi College hosted a series of workshops exploring the realms of the wonderful world of global communications.

Year 10 pupils attended workshops in the GB4FUN travelling laboratory, complete with its towering array of antennae, satellite dishes and electronic equipment!

Mr Carlos Eavis explained how our use of a wide range of technologies from Bluetooth on mobile phones, to broadcasting across the airways makes communicating with others a normal everyday occurrence in the 21st Century. He demonstrated the technology involved in getting live data from weather satellites as well as showing library footage of school groups talking to astronauts on the international space station.

Pupils had the opportunity to improve their rhythm in sending messages using Morse code and even practice a little spying using a hidden camera and microphone inside a hard hat.

Altogether, it proved to be a very interesting and fun day.

We would like to thank Carlos and hope that he will be returning to visit the college very soon.



## **Primary Schools**

The Primary schools program began the week beginning 8th Oct 2007. Link schools are The Nazareth House, The Long Tower and The Fountain primary schools. Primary school pupils attend Lumen Christi College for a period of two lessons each week. An exciting and interactive program of study has been prepared for pupils. They receive tuition in wide range of topics, previously agreed with Primary School Coordinators. Communication has been made with The Principal of Altnagelvin Primary School, and pupils from this school will attend classes next year. Primary School tutors are M.Gillan, G Mc Croy and M Smyth

## **Pupils look to the Heavens! -GCSE Astronomy**

This is a new initiative, prepared, organised and run by Mr John Dunne, our Head of Science. The program runs each Thursday evening after school, and is jointly attended by pupils from Lumen Christi College and Foyle & Londonderry College. Although the course concentrates on the theoretical aspects of the science, it is hoped to give the pupils as much opportunity as possible to gaze heavenward through a mixture of telescope, binocular and naked-eye astronomy. All studying this course are now hoping for some good weather and clear skies.

## **First Certificate in Engineering**



Classes have started at The Northwest Regional College on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings after school, for this one year program. This enables pupils to attain an award which is the equivalent of two GCSE's. Year 11 pupils from Lumen Christi College and Foyle & Londonderry College jointly attended classes.

## **Engineering Education Scheme**



This project provides pupils with the opportunity to experience at first hand the challenge of a career in Science, Engineering or Technology. They will meet and work with practising industrialists on an issue directly related to the company's operation.

The Scheme Launch Day will take place on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October.2007, at The Whitla Hall, Queen's University Belfast.

M.Gill runs this activity on Thursday evening after school. This is a project for Year 13 pupils. Our Link Company is Derry City Council and Link Engineer is Mr Leo Strawbridge.

The photographs below show pupils who took part in last years scheme and who achieved Gold Crest Awards for their efforts.

