

Heartbeat



Monday, 1 November

Issue 7

Sisters set to step up Irish Dance dream

Move over Michael Flatley, Sacred Heart could one day provide not one but two Riverdance stars.

Sisters Melanie (10E, below) and Vanessa Eccleson (12S) are two of the brightest young talents on the Irish Dance circuit. The pair have been competing in the Riverdance-style routines since they were aged four and seven respectively and are now entering competitions.

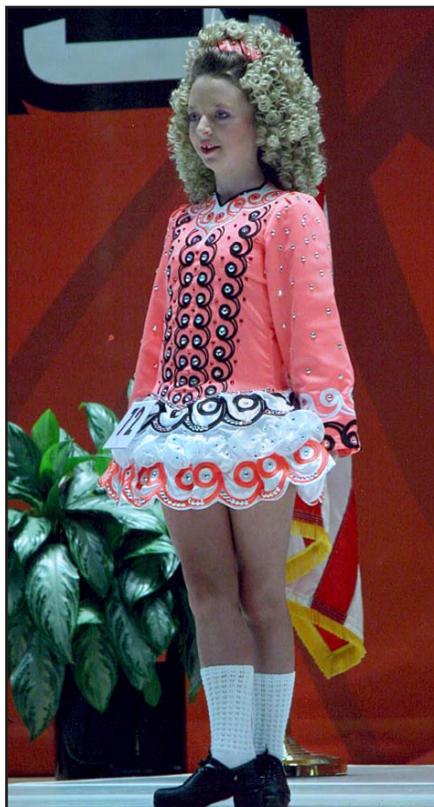
Vanessa has already tasted success having been crowned North West Champion in her age group, she said: "We entered The All Scotland Irish Dancing Competition and that was a great experience but then I became North West Champion and followed that up by finishing 27th in the Worldwide Competition, were approximately 150 other dancers entered."

Not to be outdone little sister, Melanie, is showing she is no slouch either, she said: "I first took an interest when I was four, mainly because Vanessa was involved. We both go to dance classes in St Helens four times a week after we have done our school work, and I my first aim is to just dance well. There is a great atmosphere both at training and in the competitions. I hope to be as successful as Vanessa but it is the taking part that counts."

Competitions consist of up to three dances

per tournament, with one routine lasting 40 seconds. Competitors must perform two routines and if they impress the judges and score highly enough they are invited back for a third.

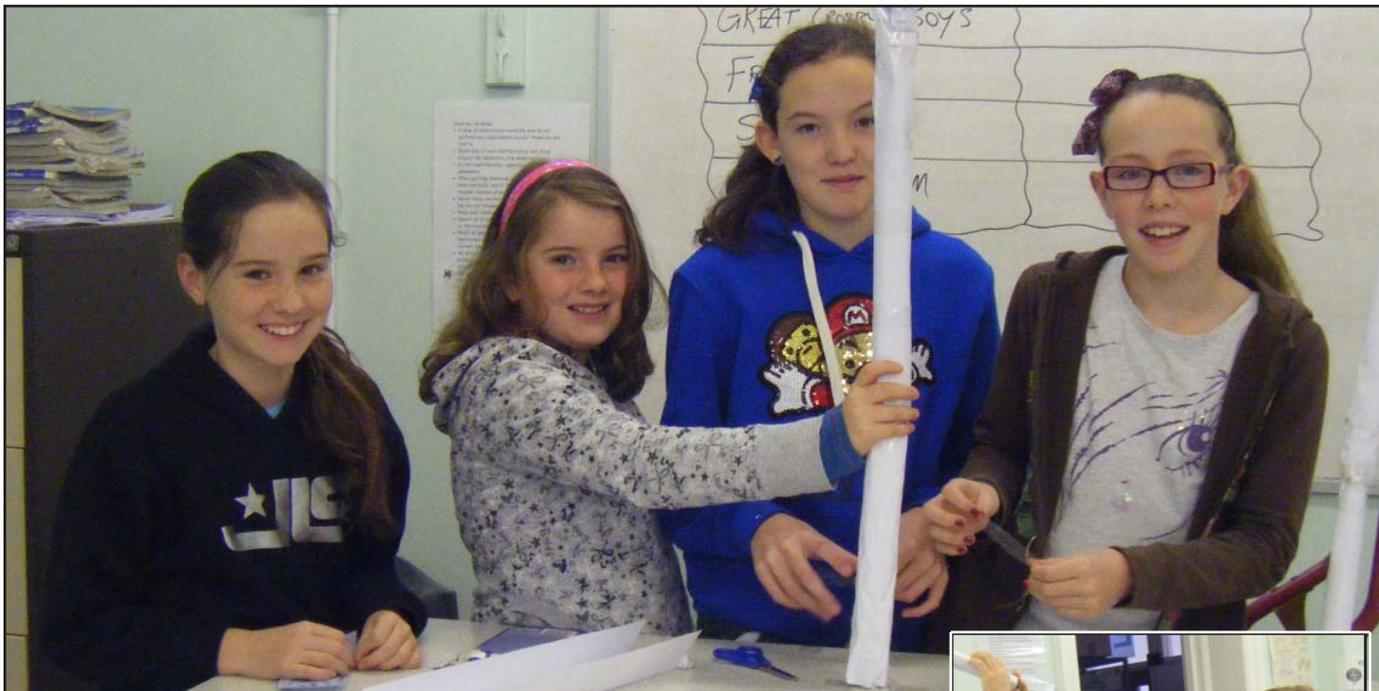
As we go to press, the pair will have competed in the Great Britain Championships in Bognor Regis and Vanessa is hoping success could one day lead to her following in the footsteps of Michael Flatley, she added: "We have the Great Britain Championships coming up and there will be in excess of 100 people taking part in my age group. There is a chance of one day being a Riverdance dancer, it depends how school goes – but there is a hope."



The week in brief

There is a PTA meeting in the Sports Hall Classroom at 7pm tonight (Tuesday). On Wednesday, SVP meet at 3.30pm in Nazareth House. On Thursday, our Year 12 and 13 pupils will take part in the UK Maths Challenge, also on Thursday is a Y7 Parents' Meeting with Form Tutors.

Saturday studies for the Gifted and Talented



Early on Saturday morning, while many people were having a lie-in, Year 7 pupils were joined by Year 6 children from Ursuline, Great Crosby and St Edward's and St Thomas' for the Gifted and Talented Saturday Challenge.

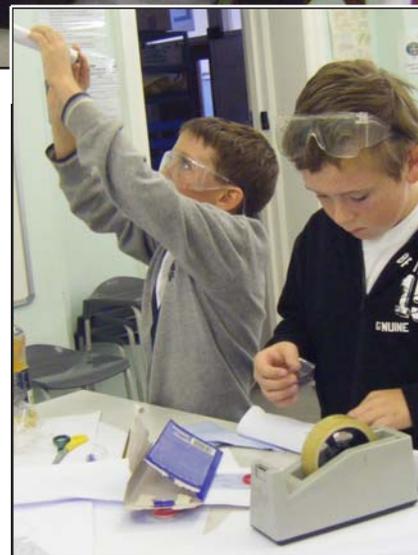
The pupils joined forces to take part in a number of exciting activities ranging from English, Forensics, Science and Engineering, Spanish and IT.

One of the organisers of the challenge, Miss Niescier, said: "They spent the first part of the morning working hard in their allocated groups until they had a well-deserved break. It was obvious that the

pupils were enjoying the sessions as they were asking to go back to their classrooms even before the break had ended!!

"The rest of the morning was spent back in their classrooms using their newly acquired knowledge and understanding of the subjects they had studied before break. "All the pupils enjoyed the morning which seemed to end very quickly and the teachers commented on how well-behaved the pupils were and how impressive the work they produced was."

Helping the pupils complete the challenges were; Mrs O'Grady, Mr Daw, Mr Forrest, Miss Cutler and Mr Williams.



Heads up

This year's Head Boy and Head Girl have been announced and they are; Paolo Robertson, 13H (back left), Eleanor McGrory, 13D (front right). The Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl are; Laura Kelly (front left), 13E and Joseph McKay, 13D (back, right). Congratulations and good luck to all four pupils.

