

## **Top Science School in the United Kingdom!**

### **Express Yourself 2004**

Pupils from the Science Department in Ballycastle High School were U.K. winners in the final of the ‘Express Yourself’ Science competition, which was held at the Royal Institution in London. They won first place for their presentation of school science project work to an audience made up of pupils and teachers from schools throughout the U.K.



In their presentation entitled ‘Milk Madness’ the Ballycastle scientists, Judith Holmes, Kellie McNeill, Sheena-Louise McIlreavey, Philip Christie, Christopher Glass and Boyd Jamison, investigated how it was possible to produce environmentally friendly plastic, glue, paint and ethanol from milk. This idea rose from the fact that the pupils wanted to promote farming in the rural community in which they live and to fully exploit the potential uses of milk.

The invitation to go to London was earned when in the early summer the High School team won the Northern Ireland final in Belfast. Competition in Belfast was severe but in London the Ballycastle pupils faced the finalists from five other regional heats from across the U.K. The national judges were astounded by the Ballycastle team’s knowledge of Science, their innovative and relevant project and the professionalism

with which they presented it. As winners they were awarded the title of 'Top Young Science Communicators in the United Kingdom.'

In September 2005 the team will return to the Royal Institution in London where they will present the Royal Institute Junior Lecture in the Faraday Lecture Theatre, where the famous scientist Michael Faraday presented his research on electricity.

Ballycastle High School is the first school from Northern Ireland to win this most prestigious title.

### **Recognition in the national press!**

In 2005 the achievements of the Ballycastle High School scientists were featured in articles in both the Guardian and the Times Educational Supplement.

### **Express Yourself 2003**

A team of six year 10 pupils Laura Henry, Christina Kennedy, Rachel Pulman, Mark Leslie, Adlai McCook and David McCooke travelled to in the Odyssey complex in Belfast to take part in the 'Express Yourself' Science Conference.

The team were delighted when their project, 'Hypercoloured Jelly Babies' was selected as Northern Ireland regional winner.

They travelled to the Royal Institute in London to compete in the U.K. final of this esteemed competition, where they were highly commended runners up – placed in the top four schools in the United Kingdom.