

INFORMATION

from South Lanarkshire Council Corporate Communications and Public Affairs
Council Offices Almada Street Hamilton ML3 0AA. Tel 01698 454904 Fax: 01698 454949



To: Newsdesks
From: James Davitt (01698 453 857)
Date: 08/10/10
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The photo shows the Chair of South Lanarkshire Council's Road Safety Forum, Councillor John Murray, with Holy Cross High School's Depute Head Teacher, Mrs Margaret Ann McMahon, Road Safety Training Officer Sharon O'Leary, members of the Baldy Bane Theatre Company and pupils from S2 at Holy Cross High School.

Road Safety play highlights dangers

PUPILS across South Lanarkshire have been learning about the increased risk of road accidents during the transition from primary to secondary school.

A road safety play, *The Nine Lives of Roddy Hogg*, is aimed at S1 pupils and has been performed at Holy Cross High School (where S2 pupils enjoyed the performance), Trinity High School, Carluke High School, Lesmahagow High School, John Ogilvie High School, St Andrews & St Bride's High School and Calderglen High School.

The play was commissioned by Road Safety Scotland and performed by the Baldy Bane Theatre Company. It aims to raise awareness of the consequences of risk-taking behaviour common to the S1 age group.

The play tells the story of Roddy, who when he starts secondary school is witty and cool and one of the most popular guys in his year. His fooling around has never got him into any real trouble and he is convinced that nothing can touch him.

As he moves into second year, disregard for his personal safety manifests itself in his impulsive behaviour. Roddy's sister Jane has an energy for life which is spent at all the different clubs that the school has to offer.

Her concern for Roddy's safety makes no impression on him. As the stupidity of his actions becomes more apparent he begins to lose his friends and the dramatic events that loom ahead of him change his life forever.

The play introduces a rich variety of characters as we chart Roddy's way through life. The consequences of his actions are fatal.

Chair of South Lanarkshire Council's Roads Safety Forum, Councillor John Murray, said: "This was a very thought provoking play which engaged the audience by making the lead character seem very cool at first.

"However, as the play goes on everyone began to realise that the character's reckless behaviour was likely to get him into trouble.

"We have to engage our young people in a way they will find entertaining but still ensuring the road safety message is relayed.

"The play did this brilliantly and I would like to thank the Baldy Bane Theatre Company for visiting our schools."

The script for this play and follow-up lessons are currently available at www.roadsafetyscotland.org.uk.