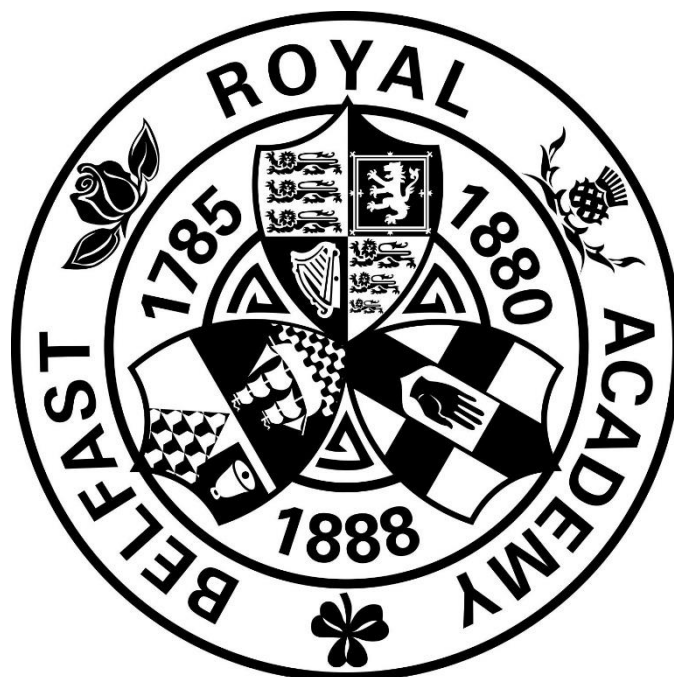


# THE ANNUAL REPORT



**2018 - 2019**

## Curriculum

*Belfast Royal Academy aims to give its pupils a broad, balanced and relevant education. In the Junior School we seek to give equal opportunities to all pupils and the emphasis is on discovery and enjoyment. In these early years, we seek to instil in pupils good study skills and habits which will equip them for GCSE level and beyond. It is the School's aim that the timetable should be constructed to meet the needs of its pupils. To that end, as much freedom of choice as possible is offered to pupils at KS3, GCSE, AS and A2 levels. We endeavour to continually evaluate the curriculum, introducing new subjects that, in our view, serve the needs and aspiration of our pupils.*

## Key Stage 3 Curriculum

### 2019-20

Pupils in **Key Stage 3** (Years 8 – 10) follow a broad common curriculum, developing knowledge and skill across a wide range of subjects.

In **Years 8 and 9** classes are not streamed. Pupils are divided into seven classes and are taught in this arrangement for non-practical subjects. The practical subjects, Art and Design, Home Economics, Computer Science, Music, Science and Technology and Design, are taught in smaller groups.

At all **Key Stage 3** years the three Science subjects, Biology, Chemistry and Physics, are taught separately, each for two sixty-five minute periods per fortnight.

In **Year 10** pupils are partially streamed in Mathematics, but all other classes remain mixed. Pupils choose to study three subjects from the following choice of eight: Business Studies, Computer Science, Drama, German, Home Economics, Latin, Spanish and Technology. Each of these option subjects is studied for three periods per fortnight.

At all **Key Stage 3** years, pupils follow a course in Learning for Life and Work which involves the three strands: Personal Development, Citizenship and Employability. Pupils also take part in an enrichment course in Arabic Art, Culture and Language as part of their Art classes. In **Year 10** pupils have one dedicated Careers period per fortnight. Pupils in **Year 8** have one Study Skills period per fortnight.

KS3 Subject	Number of Periods (per fortnight)		
	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Art	2	1	2
Biology	2	2	2
Business Studies	-	-	3*
Careers	-	-	1
Chemistry	2	2	2
Computer Science	-	-	3*
Drama	-	1	3*
English	5	5	5
French	5	3	3
Geography	3	3	3
German	-	1	3*
History	3	3	3
Home Economics	1	1	3*
IT	1	1	-
Latin	2	2	3*
LLW	2	2	-
Mathematics	5	5	6
Music	2	2	2
PE	2	2	2
Physics	2	2	2
RE	2	2	2
Spanish	-	1	3*
Study Skills	1	-	-
Technology	2	3	3*
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>44</b>

All pupils have 4 periods of games per fortnight and a tutorial period once a week.

\*Option subject, 3 periods per fortnight.

## Key Stage 4 Curriculum

### 2019-20

Pupils in **Key Stage 4** (Years 11 and 12) follow a common core curriculum and then choose from a range of subject options. Pupils take a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 10 subjects at GCSE. Option block subjects are studied for five periods per fortnight. All pupils take GCSEs in English, Mathematics and Religious Education. Approximately 85% of pupils take English Literature and approximately 35% take Further Mathematics.

Most pupils take at least one Science subject at Triple Award standard. A small number of pupils follow a Single Award Science option.

All pupils study at least one modern or classical language chosen from: French, German, Latin and Spanish.

In addition, pupils have three other GCSE choices.

Non GCSE subjects taken by all pupils are PE and Games, and LLW, which includes the three strands: Personal Development, Citizenship and Employability. Pupils in Year 12 have a dedicated Careers period.

The table below gives the full list of the twenty-five subjects *currently* offered at GCSE.

#### Subject Title (Awarding Body)

Art and Design (CCEA)  
Biology (CCEA)  
Business Studies (CCEA)  
Chemistry (CCEA)  
Computer Science (AQA)  
Design and Technology (CCEA)  
Digital Technology (CCEA)  
Drama (AQA)  
Economics (CCEA)  
English (CCEA)  
English Literature (AQA)  
Food and Nutrition (CCEA)  
French (CCEA)

#### Subject Title (Awarding Body)

Further Mathematics (CCEA)  
Geography (CCEA)  
German (CCEA)  
History (CCEA)  
Latin (OCR)  
Mathematics (CCEA)  
Music (CCEA)  
Physical Education (CCEA)  
Physics (CCEA)  
Religious Education (AQA)  
Single Award Science (CCEA)  
Spanish (CCEA)

## Sixth Form Curriculum 2019-20

All pupils in Year 13 study three or four subjects to AS level and most continue with three subjects in Year 14 to the full A Level qualification. A number of pupils continue with four subjects to A2 Level. About 15 pupils complete their GCE Mathematics in one year, and a small number of these pupils may complete five A Levels by the end of the Sixth Form. In their Lower Sixth Year, pupils have the option of some enrichment courses including choir, and work experience in local primary schools. In addition, all pupils have a tutorial period once each week which includes elements of Religious Education and UCAS preparation. Games are optional for pupils in the Sixth Form. Pupils who do not participate in games have a Study period instead.

The table below gives the full list of the twenty-nine subjects *currently offered* at AS and A2.

### Subject Title (Awarding Body)

Art and Design (CCEA)  
Biology (CCEA)  
Business Studies (CCEA)  
Chemistry (CCEA)  
Design and Technology(CCEA)  
Digital Technology (CCEA)  
Drama (AQA)  
Economics (CCEA)  
English (CCEA)  
English Literature (AQA)  
French (CCEA)  
Further Mathematics (CCEA)  
Geography (CCEA)  
German (CCEA)  
Government and Politics (CCEA)

### Subject Title (Awarding Body)

Health and Social Care (CCEA)  
History (CCEA)  
Latin (OCR)  
Life and Health Sciences (CCEA)  
Mathematics (CCEA)  
Moving Image Arts\*(CCEA)  
Music (CCEA)  
Nutrition and Food Science (CCEA)  
Physical Education (Pearson)  
Physics (CCEA)  
Religious Studies (CCEA)  
Sociology (WJEC)  
Software Systems Development (CCEA)  
Spanish (CCEA)

\*Offered at St. Malachy's College as part of the North Belfast Area Learning Community

## Public Examination Results at GCSE June 2019

Number of pupils in Year 12	201
Number of those with a Statement of Special Educational Needs	7

Percentage entered for 7 or more subjects	100
Percentage achieving 7 or more passes A*- C	92
Percentage achieving 7 or more passes A*- C including English and Mathematics	92
Percentage achieving 5 or more passes A*- C	98
Percentage achieving 5 or more passes A*- C including English and Mathematics	98

## GCSE Level June 2019 ANALYSIS OF RESULTS (% achieving each grade)

	Entered	%A*	%A	%B	%C*	%C	%D	%E	%F-U	%A*-B	%A*-C
<b>Art and Design</b>	30	16.7	26.7	23.3	16.7	13.3	3.3	0.0	0.0	66.7	96.7
<b>Biology</b>	128	13.3	39.8	27.3	11.7	6.3	0.8	0.8	0.0	80.5	98.4
<b>Business Communication Sys.</b>	11	0.0	36.4	18.2	18.2	18.2	0.0	9.1	0.0	54.5	90.9
<b>Business Studies</b>	56	12.5	19.6	19.6	23.2	14.3	8.9	0.0	1.8	51.8	89.3
<b>Chemistry</b>	134	18.7	37.3	15.7	12.7	6.7	8.2	0.7	0.0	71.6	91.0
<b>Computer Science</b>	38	2.6	28.9	21.1	23.7	13.2	7.9	2.6	0.0	52.6	89.5
<b>Design and Technology</b>	50	12.0	16.0	38.0	14.0	12.0	6.0	2.0	0.0	66.0	92.0
<b>Digital Technology</b>	10	0.0	40.0	30.0	0.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	70.0	100.0
<b>Drama</b>	16	18.8	43.8	25.0	6.3	6.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	87.5	100.0
<b>Economics</b>	9	11.1	44.4	0.0	33.3	11.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	55.6	100.0
<b>English</b>	201	7.5	36.8	40.8	11.9	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	85.1	100.0
<b>English Literature</b>	183	7.7	33.9	35.0	16.9	4.9	1.1	0.0	0.5	76.5	98.4
<b>Food and Nutrition</b>	12	8.3	8.3	16.7	33.3	8.3	25.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	75.0
<b>French</b>	124	8.1	22.6	14.5	20.2	11.3	17.7	4.0	1.6	45.2	76.6
<b>Further Mathematics</b>	71	19.7	49.3	21.1	5.6	2.8	1.4	0.0	0.0	90.1	98.6
<b>Geography</b>	56	5.4	28.6	30.4	19.6	7.1	5.4	3.6	0.0	64.3	91.1
<b>German</b>	16	0.0	50.0	18.8	0.0	0.0	18.8	12.5	0.0	68.8	68.8
<b>History</b>	79	15.2	40.5	22.8	13.9	5.1	1.3	1.3	0.0	78.5	97.5
<b>Latin</b>	6	16.7	66.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	0.0	83.3	83.3
<b>Mathematics</b>	201	11.4	57.2	26.4	3.5	1.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	95.0	99.5
<b>Music</b>	21	9.5	47.6	23.8	14.3	4.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	81.0	100.0
<b>Physical Education</b>	23	17.4	43.5	13.0	13.0	8.7	4.3	0.0	0.0	73.9	95.7
<b>Physics</b>	103	15.5	38.8	22.3	16.5	4.9	1.0	0.0	1.0	76.7	98.1
<b>Religious Studies</b>	199	7.0	31.2	26.1	15.1	12.1	7.0	0.5	1.0	64.3	91.5
<b>Single Award Science</b>	10	0.0	0.0	50.0	40.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	90.0
<b>Spanish</b>	46	19.6	30.4	15.2	15.2	10.9	6.5	2.2	0.0	65.2	91.3
<b>All subjects</b>	1833	11.1	36.5	26.0	13.8	6.9	4.4	1.0	0.4	73.6	94.3
<b>Cumulative Percentage</b>		11.1	47.6	73.6	87.4	94.3	98.6	99.6	100		

## Public Examination Results at AS Level June 2019

Number of pupils in Year 13	205
Number of those with a Statement of Special Educational Needs	3
Percentage achieving 3 or more passes A- C	66
Percentage achieving 2 or more passes A- E	99

## AS Level June 2019 ANALYSIS OF RESULTS (% achieving each grade)

	Entered	%A	%B	%C	%D	%E	%U	%A-B	%A-C
Art and Design	15	40.0	26.7	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	66.7	100.0
Biology	53	30.2	32.1	15.1	17.0	5.7	0.0	62.3	77.4
Business Studies	62	19.4	45.2	25.8	4.8	3.2	1.6	64.5	90.3
Chemistry	55	18.2	27.3	30.9	16.4	5.5	1.8	45.5	76.4
Computer Science	19	36.8	47.4	10.5	0.0	5.3	0.0	84.2	94.7
Design and Technology	19	5.3	26.3	47.4	15.8	0.0	5.3	31.6	78.9
Drama and Theatre Studies	11	36.4	54.5	9.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	90.9	100.0
Economics	29	27.6	27.6	20.7	17.2	3.4	3.4	55.2	75.9
English	11	0.0	9.1	72.7	18.2	0.0	0.0	9.1	81.8
English Literature	30	26.7	46.7	16.7	6.7	3.3	0.0	73.3	90.0
French	10	20.0	60.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	80.0	100.0
Geography	14	35.7	35.7	7.1	14.3	7.1	0.0	71.4	78.6
German	1	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0
Health and Social Care	16	43.8	31.3	12.5	6.3	0.0	6.3	75.0	87.5
History	37	16.2	21.6	37.8	16.2	8.1	0.0	37.8	75.7
Nutrition and Food Science	4	0.0	0.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	0.0	25.0
Digital Technology	15	13.3	26.7	40.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	40.0	80.0
Moving Image Arts	4	25.0	75.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0
Classics	6	16.7	50.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	66.7	100.0
Mathematics	69	55.1	24.6	13.0	4.3	2.9	0.0	79.7	92.8
Music	8	25.0	62.5	12.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	87.5	100.0
Physics	24	33.3	16.7	12.5	16.7	20.8	0.0	50.0	62.5
Government and Politics	28	50.0	32.1	14.3	0.0	3.6	0.0	82.1	96.4
Religious Studies	25	28.0	20.0	36.0	12.0	0.0	4.0	48.0	84.0
Life and Health Sciences	11	9.1	36.4	45.5	0.0	0.0	9.1	45.5	90.9
Sociology	34	17.6	23.5	32.4	14.7	11.8	0.0	41.2	73.5
Spanish	19	21.1	26.3	47.4	5.3	0.0	0.0	47.4	94.7
Physical Education	13	46.2	0.0	46.2	0.0	7.7	0.0	46.2	92.3
All Subjects	642	28.3	31.0	25.2	9.7	4.5	1.2	59.3	84.6
Cumulative Percentage		28.3	59.3	84.6	94.2	98.8	100		

## Public Examination Results at A2 Level June 2019

Number of pupils in Year 14	174
Number of those with a Statement of Special Educational Needs	4
Percentage achieving 3 or more passes A* - C	74
Percentage achieving 2 or more passes A* - E	100

## A2 Level June 2019 ANALYSIS OF RESULTS (% achieving each grade)

	Entered	%A*	%A	%B	%C	%D	%E	%U	%A*-B	%A*-C
Art and Design	11	0.0	36.4	18.2	27.3	18.2	0.0	0.0	54.5	81.8
Biology	55	12.7	20.0	30.9	23.6	9.1	3.6	0.0	63.6	87.3
Business Studies	52	3.8	23.1	50.0	15.4	7.7	0.0	0.0	76.9	92.3
Chemistry	49	10.2	24.5	18.4	20.4	20.4	6.1	0.0	53.1	73.5
Classics	2	50.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0
Computer Science	18	0.0	11.1	27.8	27.8	22.2	11.1	0.0	38.9	66.7
Design and Technology	12	8.3	25.0	25.0	33.3	8.3	0.0	0.0	58.3	91.7
Digital Technology	6	0.0	16.7	33.3	33.3	16.7	0.0	0.0	50.0	83.3
Drama and Theatre Studies	10	10.0	20.0	50.0	10.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	80.0	90.0
Economics	20	5.0	50.0	30.0	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	85.0	100.0
English Literature	25	8.0	24.0	40.0	24.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	72.0	96.0
English	12	0.0	0.0	41.7	50.0	8.3	0.0	0.0	41.7	91.7
French	12	25.0	41.7	16.7	8.3	8.3	0.0	0.0	83.3	91.7
Further Mathematics	7	71.4	0.0	28.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0
Geography	17	0.0	23.5	52.9	11.8	11.8	0.0	0.0	76.5	88.2
German	3	33.3	0.0	0.0	66.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	100.0
Government and Politics	10	0.0	10.0	30.0	50.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	40.0	90.0
Health and Social Care	18	0.0	5.6	77.8	16.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	83.3	100.0
History	17	5.9	23.5	47.1	17.6	0.0	0.0	5.9	76.5	94.1
Mathematics	63	14.3	30.2	25.4	25.4	4.8	0.0	0.0	69.8	95.2
Moving Image Arts	3	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0
Music	4	25.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	75.0	75.0
Nutrition and Food Science	3	0.0	33.3	33.3	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	66.7	100.0
Physics	31	9.7	12.9	29.0	25.8	12.9	6.5	3.2	51.6	77.4
Physical Education	9	11.1	88.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0
Religious Studies	13	0.0	15.4	30.8	38.5	15.4	0.0	0.0	46.2	84.6
Sociology	26	38.5	26.9	30.8	3.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	96.2	100.0
Spanish	11	9.1	27.3	36.4	27.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	72.7	100.0
All subjects	519	10.6	23.5	34.0	21.3	8.3	1.9	0.4	68.1	89.4
Cumulative Percentage		10.6	34.0	68.1	89.4	97.7	99.6	100		



## Public Examination Results June 2019

### Years 12, 13 and 14

### Examination Performance

#### Trend Data

GCSE	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Percentage of Year 12 pupils gaining 5 or more GCSEs at Grades A*- C	95	98	97	98	100	99	98
Northern Ireland Grammar School Average for 5 or more GCSEs at Grades A*- C	97	97	97	97	97	97	Not known
Percentage of Year 12 pupils gaining 7 or more GCSEs at Grades A*- C	88	93	91	95	94	93	92
Northern Ireland Grammar School Average for 7 or more GCSEs at Grades A*- C	94	93	94	93	93	93	Not known

A-Level	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Percentage of Year 14 pupils gaining 3 or more A Levels s at Grades A*- C	78	70	73	71	73	74	74
Northern Ireland Grammar School Average for 3 or more GCEs at Grades A*- C	77	76	76	75	77	77	Not known
Percentage of Year 14 pupils gaining 2 or more GCEs at Grades A*- E	99	98	99	99	98	100	100
Northern Ireland Grammar School Average for 2 or more GCEs at Grades A*- E	100	100	100	100	100	100	Not known

## DEPARTMENTS

### Art and Design

Eoghan Hughes Form V gained full marks in the CCEA GCSE Level specification.

The following work was requested by CCEA for inclusion in the 2018-19 True Colour Exhibition at the Ulster Museum:

- A2 Level by Anna McClurg.
- GCSE Level by Vivienne Johnston.

Mr Roy Donaldson from John Bush Systems presented three Art & Design students with a Student Art Pack award:

- Thea Reddington MVI.
- Molly Agnew-Boyce MVI.
- Nakisa Towfighi MVI.

All Art & Design GCSE, AS and A2 Level pupils attended the 2019 True Colours Exhibition at the Ulster Museum.

The MVI and LVI Art & Design pupils attended the 2019 Royal Ulster Academy Annual Exhibition at the Ulster Museum.

The Department is used every week for Duke of Edinburgh Art & Design projects as well as CCEA GCSE, AS and A Level units of work.

Khaled Berakdar, our new Arabic Tutor was appointed on October 1<sup>st</sup> 2018. He teaches Arabic Culture, oral, written and listening lessons to all of the Form 1 year group, Form 2 and 3 and enrichment programme to Senior pupils. He supports the Art Teachers in embedding the lessons with Art and Design masterclasses and workshops.

Each Thursday lunch hour the Art Department ran an Arabic Culture Club run by our new Arabic Tutor, Khaled Berakdar, learning the Arabic alphabet and numeracy and Arabic conversation.

Due to a request by the Student Council, the Art and Design Club began in November 2018 each Monday after-school, run by Art Technician Laura Atkins. Students took part in National Art competitions, art challenges and made Artist Trading Cards. They also gained skills in hand made leather journal making, drawing human anatomy and facial expressions. Its great success encouraged pupils to attend a Mini Art Club that took place each lunchtime, to free draw and support one another.

All pupils were invited to take part in the Inktober Challenge for a second year running, in which artists all over the world during October complete one ink drawing a day for the entire month. Students joined together in the Art Department every break-time for the whole month of October to draw and encourage one another using the official Inktober prompts list. Drawings were displayed daily in the Art Department.

UTV Live ran a feature on the Study Buddy Project. This involves BRA senior students supporting refugee children who have come to Northern Ireland to seek a better life. This has been highly successful, with very positive feedback from the participants and from the team at Conway Mill. The project so impressed the Qatar Foundation that they have decided to support the project next year.

QFI Visit with Tony Calderbank spent the morning and afternoon on Wednesday 27th March, touring the Arabic with Art and Mathematics Project currently underway at Belfast Royal Academy. He had an opportunity to observe the Arabic Languages

classes for Form 1, 2 and 3. He also viewed Art projects on display by our enrichment groups of Forms 4 - 6 who have taken inspiration from the Arab world.

We have a newly installed Laser Cutter, Printing Press and a new Kiln courtesy of QFI funding.

As this is QFI's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and BRA is one of their UK signature schools, a QFI film crew visited the school on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018 to interview pupils and staff.

Conway Education Centre Volunteering. Form 6 students are involved in a homework club run by the Conway Education Centre that supports volunteers to 12 to 19 refugee children/young people in primary and secondary school. This takes place on Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday and Thursday afternoon, during term time. This volunteering role requires the commitment of one hour per week and includes offering guidance and support to enable children to complete homework tasks. The afternoons are busy and have a real positive vibe, the children and young people are very eager to improve their English and to complete homework successfully alongside our BRA student volunteers.

North Belfast Area Learning Community Schools' Art Exhibition featured artworks from BRA, showcased at the Duncairn Arts and Culture Centre. Artwork from Nia McVicker, Ellen Campbell, Lucy Gaston and Jamie Sloan was on display.

Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the art world through competitions and projects outside of the normal school curriculum. Nia McVicker former Form LVI Art and Design pupil was a finalist in the CineMagic Young Film Category age 15-18.

The Department continues to develop staff and pupils training in the use of ICT hardware and software.

We continue to support PGCE students from UU. This year Korie Dickerson successfully completed his teaching practice in our department.

The Department continues to give pupils an insight into the Art and Design Career routes. This was supported by our guest speaker Ruth Cornett who gave a presentation on the History of Art and her career path to our senior pupils. Ruth is the Director for Christie's Heritage & Taxation Advisory Service. She kindly extended an opportunity for individual mentoring in History of Art, personal statements and guided visits to the Victorian Albert Museum and Christie's London.

Ben Madigan Preparatory School requested a painted mural to be displayed in their newly refurbished library. BRA GCSE Art and Design students have taken on the task of completing a collaborative painting on the theme of book and comic characters.

The June 2018-19 Annual Art Exhibition included an excellent variety of work from all forms. The sale of artwork this year raised from the Staff Exhibition Preview, totalled £210. In addition, the Staff Preview and the afternoon Annual Exhibition raised a further £195.26 for Save the Children Fund.

## **Biology**

In 2018/2019 the Biology Department consolidated the deliverer of the new specifications in A2, AS and GCSE with good numbers of pupils opting to study this subject at these levels. To help deliver the new specifications at A-level, significant investments were made to purchase cutting edge equipment and materials so that our pupils could gain applied knowledge in the areas of DNA extraction, separation and manipulation. The skills developed in the use of this apparatus will be extremely valuable for our students and especially for those hoping to continue their studies in the Biological Sciences. Visits to Greenmount College, CAFRE were organised for our AS pupils to support their studies in Ecology, focusing on the area of ecological field studies. Several of our Senior pupils gained valuable experience outside of the specification through Nuffield Scholarships. Our Angus Youth Challenge Team continue their involvement in the competition and travelled to England to ABP Ellesmere to take part in a two day “farm to fork” experience. As part of the finance element of their project they visited the Agri-finance departments of Bank of Ireland, Ulster Bank, First Trust and Danske Bank to talk about the future of beef production in Northern Ireland and the UK post BREXIT. Their project of CityFarming also allowed them to visit Bauer Media Company to learn more about how to share their message to local and global audiences, using printed and web-based media options. Our department also saw the launch of our newest society in BRA; GrassRoots. This society, for F3 – M6, attracts young people with interests in all aspects of rural life; Agri-food, Veterinary Medicine, Equine studies, Forestry, Horticulture, Agri-environment, Agri-business, Countryside Management and Agripreneurship. It is our intention that this group will hear visiting speakers, go on visits and be a voice of rural affairs in our city school. It is also our hope that future Angus Youth Challenge Teams can be entered from this group.

So, it's been another busy and very progressive year for our Department and we look forward to starting again in September.

The Chemistry Department had a 92% pass rate at GCSE and a 100% pass rate at A2 level.

An excellent total of 26 pupils achieved an A\* at GCSE level.

## **Chemistry**

Five pupils, namely Jack Green, Jill Massey, Amber McCalmont, Mark McKillen and Rosie McQueen, achieved an A\* at A2 level.

A team of 3 LVI pupils competed in the Northern Ireland Schools' Analyst Competition, held in Stranmillis College, finishing fourth.

4 pupils competed in the regional heat of the 'Top of the Bench' Competition, finishing in a very creditable fifth place.

## **Classics**

We are delighted that, as a result of all his hard work, Dylan McGrotty achieved a grade A\* in Latin and obtained a place in Cambridge. At AS, Eva Hayward achieved a grade A. We are also delighted that Bethany Hunter, Michael Harvey, Daniel McIlroy, Rebecca Plackett and Rhianon Young all achieved achieved grades 8 or 9 in GCSE Latin.

Again, the Modern Languages Department provided invaluable help with teaching First to Fourth Form Latin. The First and Third Forms had a very good year. The Second Form did not perform quite as well as in the two previous years. We will continue to monitor this.

The annual junior trip to Hadrian's Wall took place at the end of June and was a great success with 47 of our First Form pupils going. It was heavily oversubscribed this year, but the pupils who were unable to go have been promised first place on next year's trip. Four members of staff were in attendance, including a former member of the Classics Department, Elisabeth Thompson.

Once again the Classics Department was the centre of lunch time language mentoring with Lower and Middle Sixth Form mentors helping any pupil who felt that they were falling behind in any language studied in the Academy.

## **The Greek Club and Classics Society**

One Second Form pupil, Oscar Hill, worked very hard learning Ancient Greek in his lunchtime. An extra effort will be made next year to increase the membership with better advertising. Mentoring in other languages will be available at lunch times as before.

## **Drama**

Belfast Royal Academy was one of 14 schools chosen to be in the pilot programme of the Schools Affiliation scheme with the Lyric Theatre, Belfast. The aim of the scheme is to develop relationships and strengthen communication with the Lyric. Opportunities included CPD training for staff, invitations to the press night of shows at the Lyric and a tour of the theatre for GCSE students. We are delighted that the Academy has once again been selected to be a part of the programme for the 2019/20 academic year.

GCSE and A Level students went on a variety of theatre trips including local premieres *Good Vibrations* at the Lyric and Tinderbox's *The Man Who Fell to Pieces*; The National Theatre's *Julie* and *All About Eve* live from the West End as part of NT Live; and youth productions *Joyriders* and *DNA* at the Baby Grand.

In the Spring and Summer terms the department produced five afternoon showcases for GCSE, AS and A Level students to perform their practical work to packed out audiences of friends, family and teachers.

Local school for the performing arts, The Rainbow Factory came into school to deliver stage combat workshops for members of Junior Drama club as well as GCSE and A Level students.

Lower VI students attended a theatre workshop with Bruiser Theatre Company at the Mac, Belfast. Led by artistic director Lisa May, students attended four ninety minute workshops working with industry experts which proved invaluable in helping them prepare for their practical examination. Michael Lavery (V), Aoife Bennett (LVI) and Niamh Rogan (LVI) went on to complete Bruiser's Summer Arts Academy which culminated in a showcase for friends and family in July 2019.

Oisin Gaffey (LVI) represented the Academy when we were one of 10 schools invited to take part in a focus group with Bruiser Theatre Company, assisting in their development of a new programme for schools for the 2019-20 academic year.

Junior Drama Club continues to be a very successful and popular extra-curricular activity, attracting up to thirty pupils on a Thursday afternoon.

## **Economics**

This was a very encouraging year in terms of A level performance with half of the 26 pupils studying the subject achieving a grade A or A\* and no pupil achieving less than a grade C. This was especially the case since the results for the same cohort at AS level had been disappointing.

At AS level, performances were in line with longer term trends, while at GCSE the first results from the new specification were also encouraging with all pupils achieving at least a grade C.

Concerns about CCEA marking and the manner in which CCEA handled our communication on the matter, has prompted a change to the Welsh examination board for the 2019-20 academic year. This will be reviewed in the light of 2020 AS results.

This was the second year of a new GCSE specification which required a further re-writing of course notes alongside the routine redrafting necessitated by developments in the UK and international economy over the year and major changes to AS notes necessitated by the change in examination board for 2019-20. The decisions of President Trump regarding trade and the continuing uncertainty over Brexit encouraged many lively class discussions.

I continued to send an "Economics Briefing" by email to all parents every week or two, to provide details of upcoming class assessments, the range of marks on completed assessments and other information which I thought might be of interest. This was well received by parents.

Around one third of A2 pupils applied to study the subject, or a related area, such as accountancy or finance, at degree level. Many will now be studying at Russell Group universities. It has also been very encouraging to note that a majority of pupils who studied Economics at GCSE decided to continue the subject to A level.

## English

55 pupils studied English Literature at GCE 'A' Level, while a further 23 opted for GCE 'A' Level English Language. 96 % of 'A2' Literature students obtained A\*- C while 91 % of 'A-Level' Language students achieved A\*- C.

206 pupils studied GCSE English Language. 186 pupils also completed GCSE English Literature. 100% of Language students obtained A\*- C and 98.5% of English Literature students achieved A\*- C.

Paul Maddern, a contributor to the new CCEA GCSE Poetry Anthology, gave a lecture to Form 5 students. Mr. Maddern explored the concept of 'Identity,' one of the key themes of CCEA's new poetry collection. As a poet he explored his poem *Effacé* by discussing its form, meaning and content. As a maker of poems he gave students a better understanding of his work.

Miss Herron, with a number of eager writers from all year groups, participated in the Department's Creative Writing Club. The group met throughout the year sharing ideas and writing which will be published in *The Literary Journal, Vol. II* in the Autumn term. Copies available from the Department for £1.

A Literacy noticeboard was created in the English Department promoting various initiatives: writing competitions (local, national and international); School and House competitions including a Travel Writing competition and a Summer Reading challenge; submissions to *The Owl* and *The Literary Journal*. Elise Swain was a runner-up in the *Young Sir Walter Scott* competition and Adam Martin, as part of a local writers' group he attended, had two poems published.

Miss Herron, the School's Literacy Co-ordinator, completed an online training course in 'Peer Reading Mentoring' in association with Queen's University, Belfast. A peer reading group was established and Sixth Form students mentored younger students facing reading challenges. In addition to a Book Swap programme and modern Classics Reading group being established, a 'Writer of the Month' initiative commended written work submitted by students. Selected pieces from aspiring writers received a certificate and the work was published on the Literacy Board.

A scheme of work was also created to promote speaking and listening, encouraging students to engage with the communication aspect of the Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative and Communication (LORIC) scheme.

The programme was rolled out during Personal Development lessons and culminated in a Form 1 Public Speaking Competition. The winner was Ciara Gilchrist (The Great Famine) with runners up, Rebecca Crooks (The Suffragettes) and Lucy Chambers (The Match Girls' Strike).

In external Public Speaking, Amy McDowell and Madeleine Morwood participated at Stormont in the *Edgar Graham Memorial Public Speaking* competition. Madeleine the youngest speaker competing in the event achieved third place.

In collaboration with the Library, *Accelerated Reader* proceeded successfully for Forms I and II. Pupils were awarded House Points for becoming 'Millionaires and

100% Club' winners having read over a million words or achieved 100% in their reading quizzes. The School Library hosted the Scholastic Book Fair as well as National Poetry Day where teachers and pupils read and performed poems. The Junior Book Club enjoyed a range of activities throughout the year including competing in the Kids' Lit Quiz at Wellington College, Belfast and a further reading group participated in the Northern Ireland Book Awards.

*World Book Day* was celebrated as colleagues dressed up as a variety of book characters. The students were surprised and delighted to see and meet their favourite literary heroes including James Bond, Jay Gatsby, Lady Macbeth and many others! Students also took part in a special *World Book Day* quiz held in the Library.

As part of our 'Shared Education Project' with St. Malachy's College, Belfast, 47 AS Level students, accompanied by 6 members of staff, enjoyed a study day at HomePlace, the Seamus Heaney Centre in Bellaghy. We look forward to continuing our relationship with St. Malachy's in the new academic year with a further trip to HomePlace.

Other pupil-focused activities included: the continuation of the Reading Group for Sixth Form students; during 'Read-On' week, Forms I and II pupils raising £2,100 for the Northern Ireland Cancer Fund for Children; and a Sixth Form trip to see the National Theatre's production of Shakespeare's *King Lear* streamed live at a local cinema.

Staff development activities included: the Subject Leader for English and colleagues attending CCEA courses in preparation for changes to GCSE English Literature, GCSE English Language and A2 English Literature specifications; being a part of an online AQA A-Level and AS Level English Language course; the exploration of Google Classroom, Idoceo as well as iPad learning applications; attending a performance of 'Life in Pieces' at the Crescent Arts Centre; and Miss Watson taking part in the 'Camino' walk. In addition, the Department hosted a visiting teacher from Italy, Naomi Morris from Queen's University, Belfast for her Student-Teacher placement as well as former pupil Naomi Newton for classroom observations.

## **German**

The following Austrian visitors spent time in the German department to support our pupils and share cultural experience of their country:

- Sept-Oct 2018: Caitlin Stabler, who helped out in the Library and Sixth Form pupils in the German department.

25<sup>th</sup> Feb – 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019: Nico Mitterboeck, a Classroom assistant on the Erasmus programme (through Stranmillis College), supported small groups of GCSE pupils further develop Speaking skills.

- Wednesday lunchtimes - AS / A2 pupils came to J10 to watch a selection of contemporary German films.
- 27th November 18 – we availed of the *Goodbye Lenin!* AS - Film day – provided by NICILT at QUB



- 9-11th November 18 - Dylan McGrotty participated in a UK German Connection weekend workshop *\*Peacing it Together\**: youth seminar in Belfast on shared education in a post-conflict society:

To mark the 29th anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall and 20 years since the signing of the Good Friday Agreement, in November NICILT organised a UK-German Youth Seminar in collaboration with the UK-German Connection. It entailed a residential weekend in Lorne House Holywood for 46 teenagers from Germany and Northern Ireland to consider our shared future post Brexit, explore and share ideas and experiences of growing up in a post-conflict society and the role of international youth relations in peace-building. The weekend included thematic workshops; a visit to the Ulster Museum and City Hall; a lecture at Queen's University with a key-note speech on shared education by Professor Tony Gallagher; a guided bus tour of Belfast; and a visit to the peace walls. Funded by UK-German Connection and organised and co-ordinated by NICILT, this was the first time that UK-German Connection has been able to hold an event in Northern Ireland.

- 14-16th December 18 – Dylan was invited to participate in the UK - German Youth Council Conference “Young Voices” in Berlin.
- 8<sup>th</sup> March 19 - NICILT A level German debate at QUB

The BRA A-level German debating team, consisting of Edward Ferrin, Dylan McGrotty, Elisa McCullagh and Campbell Baird (Reserve) competed against Strathearn School. Our debate argued that young people had less freedom compared to their parents at that age. We opposed the motion.

Although we debated well, we were closely beaten by Strathearn who won the overall trophy, beating Rathmore Grammar and Wallace High School.

- Dylan McGrotty achieved A\* at A2 German and will continue his study of languages at Cambridge University.

## **Geography**

M6 geographers had the opportunity in September to study the effects of coastal erosion at Dundrum Bay in Co Down. They also surveyed members of the public in Newcastle on their views of tourism in the local area. This material formed the basis of the module on "Issues in Geography" which enables our students to develop problem-solving skills.

Niamh Gutermann (M6) was selected to participate in A Dawn 'til Dusk event at Queen's University Belfast on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2018. This was an event hosted by the School of Planning, Architecture and Civil Engineering, Queen's University Belfast. The day started at 0746 and involved on-site visits to various locations within Belfast with particular focus on planning and sustainability, renewable energy, planning governance and healthy urban planning. The day finished at 1822 as the sun set.

Some Geographers attended a lecture at QUB on the 16th October 2018 on the contemporary topic of transport sustainability in Belfast and Dublin. This was organised by the Geographical Association to support the Advanced Level specification.

In December, L6 geographers collected data for their AS examination. This is a study of the micro-climate of Greater Belfast. The data collected is analysed and interpreted as part of the AS examination in June.

Two ambassadors (Natasha Campbell and Victoria Colhoun) from the Royal Geographical Association came into school to deliver a careers awareness seminar to some F3 pupils on February 6<sup>th</sup>. The event covered some of the topics in the GCSE course and highlighted employment opportunities related to Geography.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> February, former pupil Matthew Harvey, who now works as a Town Planner with ARUP in Belfast, spoke with F5 Geographers on careers in Planning. He outlined how Advanced Level Geography gave him the impetus to pursue this occupation.

On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June, Form 4 travelled to Tollymore Field Centre, County Down to collect data for their GCSE examination. This involved measuring the depth, velocity, width and cross-sectional area of the River Shimna at several different locations from its source in the Mourne to its mouth near Newcastle.

Pupils in Key Stage 3 also had experience of fieldwork outside the classroom. This involved collecting information and producing a finished report. Topics studied as part of fieldwork include a local weather study within the school and coastal defence measures at Holywood, Co Down.

## **Home Economics**

This year saw the first class through the new GCSE Food and Nutrition specification. The students seemed to enjoy the new topics and the new controlled assessment. There is now one piece of controlled assessment which is 50% of the overall GCSE grade. This year the focus was on iron deficiency anaemia, students had to research the issue and then chose a minimum of three dishes plus accompaniments which reflected the task. They had to write a 3,500 word report on the task. Students

performed well in all aspects of the task and once again Home Economics was popular with certain staff during the practical examinations.

Unfortunately, A'level numbers continue to be small, this year we still had St Malachy's boys which worked well. The results at A 2 were pleasing.

The department accommodates the B.R.A. bake off each year which is always a popular competition.

Home Economics was also a popular spot during the open evenings and open morning.

We look forward to another productive year.

## **Mathematics**

Both the GCSE and A-level specifications and grading systems have changed in the last year. Summer 2019 was the first examinations for GCSE, GCSE Further Mathematics, AS-level and those taking the full A-level in one year during Lower Sixth. Extensive preparation was made to best prepare our students for these courses. The coming year sees the M6th complete the first A2 and A2 Further Mathematics examinations. The preparation of four new courses has been a huge challenge. The recent GCSE results (Summer 2019) saw 95% of our students achieve at least a B grade. Mathematics remains a popular choice at A-level with 80 students beginning the A-level course in Lower Sixth in August 2019.

Twenty-seven students from Form 4 attended a careers convention in W5 last October as part of the Careers Department promotion of STEM subjects.

The school representatives continue to perform impressively in competitive, extracurricular maths. In team competitions, the Senior team won the Queen's University competition (for the third time in the nine years of the competition) and also competed in the UKMT Senior Team challenge (missing out on first place by four marks). The Junior Team won the NI regional final of the UKMT Junior Challenge and travelled to London in June to compete at the national final. This is the fifth time in the past nine years that BRA have come first in NI.

Four teams competed in the Alan Turing Cryptography competition. A team of Cameron McKee (F5) and Michael Harvey (F5) were awarded a prize for their solutions to Round 2.

Hundreds of pupils once again took part in the UK Maths Trust's individual and team challenges and the number of certificates awarded and qualifiers for the elite further rounds continues to grow.

At Senior level pupils achieved 2 golds, 10 silver and 21 bronze awards. Cormac McGowan (MVI) qualified for the next round (the Senior Kangaroo) of the competition and Jack Green (MVI) qualified for the prestigious Olympiad competition.

At Intermediate level pupils achieved 4 gold, 15 silver and 21 bronze awards. John Gibson (F5), Cameron McKee (F5), Jude Moorehead (F5) and Riya Raghuram (F3) qualified for the next round (the Kangaroo).

At Junior level pupils achieved 9 gold, 7 silver and 15 bronze awards. Harrison Kirk (F2), Matthew Allen (F2) and Oliver Pearce (F2) qualified for the next round (the Kangaroo).

## **Modern Foreign Languages**

This year the Spanish Department celebrated its element Exchange with IES Juan de Villanueva. This valuable opportunity, has given Academy students the opportunity to utilise their linguistic skills in a real life setting. Thanks to the Exchange and the students' communication with their partners all year round, the Spanish Department is able to celebrate excellent Speaking exam results.

In February, K LW and MCS took AS and A2 students on a day trip to London to see the performance of 'La casa de Bernarda Alba', the prescribed literature at A2 level. Students had the opportunity to speak to the actors and the director of the Cervantes Theatre and found it very worthwhile. This year, the Department has invited the theatre group to perform at Belfast Royal Academy for A Level students across the country, this will be confirmed shortly.

Both MCS and K LW attended CPD events through NICILT and the Spanish Embassy.

This year, staff and thirty students completed 100km of the Camino de Santiago. This wellbeing trip gave Academy students an opportunity to detach themselves from modern life and focus on raising money for NI Chest Heart and Stroke. The gruelling four days of walking in extreme heat taught pupils that they are capable of much more than what they think. The Department hopes to organise another leg next year to expose more students to this worthwhile opportunity.

## **Music**

October: The Senior Orchestra and Chamber Choir performed at Prize Day in the Spires Centre.

The Senior Traditional Group performed with St Malachy's Traditional Group at a cross-community coffee morning in Girdwood Hub.

December: The Senior Carol Service took place in Rosemary Presbyterian Church with performances from the Senior Choir, Chamber Choir, Junior Choir and Senior Orchestra.

The Boys' Choir and Chamber Choir performed at the Junior Carol Service in the Assembly Hall.

The Boys' Choir entertained everyone on the last day of term before the Christmas Holidays with their lively rendition of well-known Christmas carols.

The Senior String Quartet performed at the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children as part of their Musical Moments initiative to help lift the spirits of families and staff during the busy working week.

January: The Big Band, Senior and Junior Trad, various string quartets and Dr McAtasney's many clarinet and saxophone groups, entertained prospective pupils at the School's Annual Open Evenings in January.

February: Senior Strings competed in Ballymena Music festival with The Hayward Trio, The Senior Quartet, Theo Hayward, Hugo Reilly Stewart, Harrison Kirk & Jonathan Hayward being placed first in their respective classes and Anna Quinn, Eva Hayward, Elizabeth McCauley, with Maya Reilly Stewart being placed second. It was a very enjoyable week of performing in Ballymena Town Hall.

The Chamber Choir participated in a workshop with the Ulster Youth Choir with a number of pupils auditioning for and gaining places on the UYC Summer Course in Campbell College.

March: Over 300 pupils participated in the annual Spring Concert in the Ulster Hall. There were performances from the Senior Orchestra, Big Band, Senior Strings, Wind Band, Clarinet Quartet, Junior Trad, Senior Trad, Boys' Choir, Junior Choir and Junior Strings. Clare Njanina was the M6 soloist. The Senior Strings and Senior Choir performed 'Zadok the Priest' to open the evening and the massed choirs performed a 1980's rock medley to end.

April: pupils from L6 & M6 rehearsed and recorded their A-Level coursework. GCSE pupils performed in their GCSE Practical exam.

May: The Senior String Quartet performed at Harmony North's end of year concert at Mercy College.

AS/A2 pupils performed in their practical exams.

June: The Junior School presented their annual Summer Serenade in the School Assembly Hall at the end of the year with performance from the Junior Wind Band, Junior Chamber Choir, Junior Traditional Group, Brass Quartet, Flute Quartet, Saxophone Quartet and Clarinet Quartet. A number of pupils auditioned for and performed solos.

Maya Reilly Stewart, Eva Hayward, Anna Quinn, Ellen Quinn and Jonathan Hayward gained a place in the Ulster Youth Orchestra.

Eve Henderson, Archie Wylie, David Monahan, Padraig Manning and Emma Calderwood each gained a place in the Ulster Youth Training Choir and Elizabeth McCauley gained a place in the Ulster Youth Choir

## **Physics**

The Physics Department had a 98% pass rate at GCSE, with more than half of the students attaining a grade A\* or A.

Jack Green, Tom McKee and Cormac McGowan were awarded A\* grades at A2 level.

In a joint trip with St Malachy's College, 20 Academy pupils visited CERN. They were given a tour of the facilities and attended a number of lectures, the content of which was linked to elements of the A2 Physics course. Mrs Gilmore and Mr Morrison accompanied the students.

200 Form 1 pupils visited Armagh Planetarium at the start of May. They visited the exhibition, attended a show in the Digital Dome Theatre, and built and tested water propelled rockets.

## **Politics**

Politics enjoyed another successful year in 2018-2019, with the AS Level examinations results particularly pleasing for our students. In L6, 28 students were entered for the examinations, showing the subject's popularity. Of these, 50% achieved the top grade, an A. At A Level, Cameron White's A21 paper was well done, as he achieved an A\*.

Lower Sixth Politics students enjoyed two morning visits to Parliament Buildings at the beginning of April as part of their AS Level course at the beginning of April. Another year passed and the teaching of Government and Politics of Northern Ireland was again beginning with the absence of a government in Northern Ireland. However, the visit brings the subject to life a little bit more through sitting in the Assembly chamber (a privilege not allowed in Westminster) and walking through the division lobbies. Students heard from MLAs who are as keen to get back to the business of government, as we are to see that happen.

In March and April, two L6 Politics students, Layla Creaney and Caitlin Sahin took part in the Lessons from Auschwitz project run by the Holocaust Educational Trust which saw 200 students from across Northern Ireland participate in the project which examines the Holocaust and its relevance for us today. Since 1999, over 30,000 students and teachers have taken part in the Holocaust Educational Trust's Lessons from Auschwitz Project. Based on the premise that 'hearing is not like seeing', this course explores the lessons of the Holocaust and its relevance for today. The LFA Project aims to increase knowledge and understanding of the Holocaust for young people to highlight clearly what can happen if prejudice and racism become acceptable. The project culminated in a one-day visit to Auschwitz in March to allow our students to see for themselves the site where so many people died.

Two Politics students and a Politics Society member had some success in the Political Studies Association video competition. Sarah McIlroy, Michael O'Kane and Natalia Wisniewska were shortlisted after producing a three minute video on what Brexit means to them. Their entry was a well-produced and thought-provoking video covering a range of areas where Brexit will affect Northern Ireland, the Good Friday Agreement and EU citizens living here. They were one of four teams shortlisted and asked to attend the final, which took place in the Speaker's Chambers in Westminster during the October half-term where their video was played to the judging panel, which included John Bercow, before being interviewed about it. Although they were unlucky not to win, they acquitted themselves very well,

demonstrating their breadth of knowledge across an issue that even our politicians are unable to fully understand and solve.

With so much going on in the world of politics, Politics Society had plenty to talk about again this year. It is no surprise that some of our lunchtime meetings focused on Brexit, with one lunchtime devoted to examining the political fallout from Theresa May's deal and the subsequent cabinet resignations. That lunchtime predictions were made by members as to how long she would stay in Number 10; she lasted much longer than anyone foresaw - we have some way to go to make it as political analysts! Other topics during our meetings covered censorship in books, free speech, populism, mental health funding and restorative justice.

During the year we had a visit from Tim McGarry, the host of BBC Northern Ireland's *The Blame Game*. As engaging and witty as you would expect, it was fantastic to hear about his background in law and how he ended up in comedy. The session was packed with students and teachers asking a range of great questions which allowed Tim to give us his views on all manner of issues, some political and some not.

We also visited the cinema twice during the year to see the political movies *BlackKkKlansman* and *Vice*, which gave great insight into politics in America during different eras. *BlackKkKlansman* follows the true story of Ron Stallworth, who was the first African-American detective in Colorado Springs, and his efforts to infiltrate and expose the Ku Klux Klan in the 1970s. *Vice* is a biographical comedy drama about former US President Dick Cheney as he becomes one of the most powerful Vice Presidents in history. Both movies provided the opportunity for students to see beyond Politics in the classroom and cast a critical eye over the stories as they were being told.

## **Religious Studies**

We continued to use the study support material, which assisted the pupils on a week-to-week basis.

We continued to use the RE staff website, which complemented our use of Google Classroom as a pupil-based assessment tool.

We continued to use the centralised 'Team Drive' which allows all members of the department access to standardised resources.

We updated notes for GCSE / AS / A2 – some of which involved brand new topics.

In light of only getting 1 hour per week of Form 4 RE teaching time, we continued to use the space in the KS3 curriculum to teach the first unit of Form 4 GCSE from January of Form 3. We felt that this was a very positive decision, though it has also necessitated a total re-write of the KS3 syllabus and course notes.

We developed booklets and embedded the 6 world faiths into the KS3 syllabus for 2018-19.

We established an 'RE Resource Room' which was a very positive initiative, where pupils came to a different working environment to study in further depth. This reaped its rewards with the 'regular attenders' surpassing our expectations in their recent A-Level examinations.

### Results-wise:

Our 2018 A/S cohort saw A-C grade go up by 24.7% from AS to A2.

Our 2019 A/S cohort saw A-C grades above the NIGSA.

Our 2019 GCSE cohort saw A-C grades above the NIGSA.

## **Technology**

Terry by Design' product re-design trip with M6 pupils October 2018.

Young Engineers continues as a lunchtime club once a month.

The Royal Navy Engineers did a team building and engineering session with Form 3 pupils.

Dundee University representatives spoke to Form 2 pupils about future Engineering careers and learning pathways.

## **SPORT**

### **Cross Country Running**

Teams were entered in the District Championships at Mini, Minor, Junior and Intermediate levels. The highlight was the Intermediate team finishing third. Ciaran Dixon finished in 5<sup>th</sup> position in the Intermediate Boys' race. These boys qualified for the Ulster Championships at Mallusk.

### **Rugby**

Rugby continues to be a major sport in school led by rugby consultant Brian McLaughlin. Junior rugby is very strong with teams in Forms 1-4 being very competitive against all schools. The 1<sup>st</sup> XV were defeated by Ballymena Academy in the last 16 of the Schools' Cup. They were defeated in the quarter final of the plate competition. The Medallion defeated Cambridge House in the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of the Medallion Shield before losing out to Campbell College in the fourth round. In the plate competition the side lost out in the semi final to a last minute score from Rainey Endowed.

### **Athletics**

Pupils were entered at all levels for the District Championships. Many personal best performances were recorded with several athletes qualifying for the Ulster Schools' Championships.



## **Girls District Athletics**

### Antrim Forum

#### Tuesday 7th May

##### Mini

*Q - Qualifies for Ulster Championships*

2<sup>nd</sup> 100m Anouk Bosket (14.2) Q

2<sup>nd</sup> Long Jump Emma Campbell (3.69) Q

4<sup>th</sup> Relay (60.0)

5<sup>th</sup> Gabrielle Hannaway (6.25)

##### Minor

4<sup>th</sup> 800m Tara Dalzell (2.33.50)

4<sup>th</sup> Shot Erin McCrea (6.72)

4<sup>th</sup> Relay (58.3)

5<sup>th</sup> 75mH Evie Caldwell (17.1)

##### Junior

1st High Jump Lucy McKnight (1.42) Q

2nd High Jump Sophie Doran (1.39) Q

3rd 100m Olivia Beattie (13.5) Q

3rd 800m Anna Saunders (2.36.45) Q

3rd 75mH Lucy McKnight (16.76) Q

4th 200m Abbie Braniff (29.81)

5th Long Jump Olivia Beattie (3.79)

5th Triple Jump Abbie Braniff (8.19)

6th 200m Sophie Doran (30.35)

6th Relay

### Antrim Forum

#### Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May

### Intermediate team 2<sup>nd</sup> overall

- 1<sup>st</sup> Relay team (52.85) Q
- 1<sup>st</sup> 300mH Erin McMahon (47.54) Q
- 1<sup>st</sup> Pole vault Abbie O'Neill (3.25m \*\*New District Record\*\*) Q
- 1<sup>st</sup> 100m Abbie O'Neill (13.52) Q
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Pole vault Leah Doran (2.4) Q
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 200m Ellie Collins (28.31) Q
- 3<sup>rd</sup> 100m Beth Hillis (13.77) Q
- 3<sup>rd</sup> 1500m SC Aoife Corry (6.03.02) Q
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Hammer Eve Henderson (23.55) Q
- 4<sup>th</sup> 200m Olivia Snoddy (29.97)
- 4<sup>th</sup> 80mH Ellie Walsh (16.71)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Discus Ellie Walsh (18.75)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Hammer Sarah Saunders (19.81)
- 4<sup>th</sup> 1500m SC Bryanna Catney (6.07.46)
- 5<sup>th</sup> 800m Maia Erwin (2.47.26)
- 5<sup>th</sup> 1500m Bryanna Catney (5.52.76)
- 5<sup>th</sup> Triple Jump Ellie Collins (8.99)
- 5<sup>th</sup> Javelin Caitlin Hennessy (18.94)
- 6<sup>th</sup> 80mH Ruth Davis (17.5)
- 6<sup>th</sup> High Jump Ruth Davis (1.30)

### Senior team 2<sup>nd</sup> overall

- 1<sup>st</sup> 4x 300m (3.42.14) Q
- 1<sup>st</sup> Javelin Ellie Bradley (20.50) Q
- 1<sup>st</sup> Shot Amie Bradley (5.82) Q
- 1<sup>st</sup> 800m Thomasa Kennedy (3.02.50) Q
- 3<sup>rd</sup> 4x 100m (57.0) Q

## **Girls Ulster Schools' Athletics Championship Results**

### Antrim Forum

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2019

#### Mini

5<sup>th</sup> 100m Anouk Bosket (14.25)

#### Junior

8<sup>th</sup> High Jump Lucy McKnight (1.40)

10<sup>th</sup> 800m Anna Saunders

4<sup>th</sup> 100m heat Olivia Beattie

#### Inter

*1<sup>st</sup> 300m Hurdles Erin McMahon (47.21) Qualifies for Irish*

*1<sup>st</sup> Pole Vault Abbie O'Neill (3.10) Q*

1<sup>st</sup> Relay (Erin McMahon, Leah Doran, Abbie O'Neill, Beth Hillis) (52.13) Q

*2<sup>nd</sup> Pole Vault Leah Doran (2.40) Q*

6<sup>th</sup> 1500m Steeplechase Aoife Corry (6.19.11)

7<sup>th</sup> Hammer Eve Henderson (23.16)

7<sup>th</sup> 500m Steeplechase Bryanna Catney (6.23.98)

4<sup>th</sup> 100m heat Abbie O'Neill

5<sup>th</sup> 100m heat Beth Hillis

#### Senior

4<sup>th</sup> 4x 300m Relay (Thomasa Kennedy, Amie Bradley, Ellie Bradley, Bryanna Catney) (3.23.78)

7<sup>th</sup> 800m Thomasa Kennedy (3.06.52)

### Irish Schools' Athletics Championship Results

#### Tullamore

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June

## Intermediate

Abbie O'Neill finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in a very tough pole vault competition with a vault of 3.10m.

Erin McMahon finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the 300m hurdles (46.16)

Leah Doran finished 5<sup>th</sup> in pole vault (2.55)

The Inter relay team finished 4<sup>th</sup>

## Tailteann Irish Schools Interprovincial Championships

### Santry, Dublin on Saturday 22<sup>rd</sup> June

Congratulations to Abbie O'Neill, Leah Doran and Monica Del Castillo (reserve), who were selected to represent Ulster at this year's Interprovincial Championships in Dublin.

4<sup>th</sup> Pole Vault Abbie O'Neill (2.75)

5<sup>th</sup> Pole Vault Leah Doran (2.45)

## **Football**

The football team competed in the Belfast Cup and Northern Ireland Cup.

## **Girls' Hockey**

### Representative Honours

Harriet Dougan Ulster U21.

Niamh McIvor Ulster and Irish U18s.

Emma Uprichard, Olivia Beattie and Abbie Braniff all Ulster U16s.

Olivia Beattie, Abbie Braniff, Sasha Logan, Eve Thompson and Emma Uprichard all Belfast U15 Schools.

8 teams represented BRA every Saturday throughout the 2018/19 season.

Form 1 hockey club took place every Saturday with numbers rarely falling below 30.

1STXI    Progressed from their Superleague group but knocked out at quarter final stage.

Went out of the Senior Cup at the 3<sup>rd</sup> round stage and then went into the Shield competition.

Went out at the semi-final stage of the Shield.

Runners up in South Antrim League.

- 2As      Went out of the 2ndXI Cup at the 2<sup>nd</sup> round stage and went into the Plate competition.  
Went out at the semi-final stage of the plate.  
Runners up in the South Antrim League.
- 2Bs      Won the South Antrim league.  
Lost in the final of the 3rdXI Cup.

### **Hockey (Boys)**

The 1<sup>st</sup> XI team endured a difficult campaign as the team adjusted to losing a lot of senior players. The team performances did improve as the year progressed. The Colts enjoyed a relatively strong campaign in the Taylor Cup competition this year. The Junior team performed well this season and achieved some very good results against strong opposition.

### **Netball**

This year we had eleven teams playing competitive games. The Junior A, Intermediate A and Senior A teams each played in Premier leagues for their age group. All other teams played in the District League Competition. It was great to see the playing numbers increase and the dedication given by both players and coaches involved.

Netball has continued to grow with talented and committed players emerging throughout the club. It is great to see many players competing at representative level. I would like to thank all the players and coaches for their hard work this season.

### **Representative Honours**

**U13 Regional Development Squad-** Penny Davidson, Tara Dalzell, Ciara Murray, Beth Adam, Layla Hunter, Courtney Adelman

**U15 Regional Development Squad** – Fiona Murray, Sasha Logan, Abbie Braniff, Sofia Ramalho-McCourt, Siobhan Baine, Catelyn Burns

**U17 Northern Ireland Long Squad-** Nada Hawela

**U19 Northern Ireland Development Squad-** Fabienne Cochrane, Ellie Collins, Leah Doran

### **Swimming**

The school's swim team has had a very successful year, achieving medals across all major Ulster Schools competitions. In October they competed in the Ulster Schools Relay gala, winning a trophy in the exhibition senior mixed medley. Later that month, they competed in the Ulster Secondary Schools Championship, where the senior boys' relay team achieved bronze in the medley relay. Swim team captain Lorcan Gourley (M6) achieved bronze in the 100m backcrawl, falling just short of qualification for the Ulster interprovincial team.

The Junior and Intermediate Cup was held in January, and again the school saw lots of success, winning both individual and relay medals. The team also won the cup for best Girls' Team at this event. Similarly at the Ulster Grammar Schools gala held in March, the intermediate and senior boys' and girls' teams all achieved medal placings. Jericho Balgos (3), Luke Calwell (3), Sophie Doran (3), Giulia Allen (4), Ewan Purdy (L6), Rosie Strutt (L6) and Cher Enriquez (L6) all won individual medals.

In April the aquatics teams came together to participate in the Elaine Alexander 24 hour sponsored memorial swim in aid of Northern Ireland Chest, Heart and Stroke. Through the efforts of the team (some of whom stayed all night and swam multiple times!) and some of the local Belfast clubs who use the pool regularly, we were able to raise £4,000 in total for charity. A massive thank you to all involved.

### **Lifesaving**

The school lifesaving team again sent a squad to compete at the National Speed Lifesaving championships, which are held annually in March. The competition is open to clubs and individual entry, and the squad did exceptionally well competing in an all UK championship. The senior boys' relay (Lorcan Gourley (M6), Ollie Parkes (L6), Jericho Balgos (3)) were first in the super lifesaver relay and the obstacle relay, breaking competition records for their age group. Jericho Balgos (3) and Giulia Allen (4) achieved individual medals and Lorcan Gourley (M6) has since been selected to represent Northern Ireland in the Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships to be held in Leeds in 2020.

### **Water Polo**

School water polo teams saw success across the board. The senior boys' team, captained by Phillip O'Callaghan (M6), won the Canada Trophy for the third consecutive year, this time going undefeated in all their matches. The senior boys' team also enjoyed a tour in Edinburgh in December this year, playing several matches against local club teams.

The girls' U16 team played and won several matches against Victoria and Methody, participating in mixed training sessions with these teams to better foster a growing girls' sport. The girls' teams had several players selected for the Irish squad in their respective age groups: Cara Carson (M6) and Ellen Loane (3).

### **Golf**

This year was again a very successful year for the Senior Golf team.

Despite missing out in the Irish Senior Championship and the Ulster Junior Championship our two victories in the Ulster Schools Scratch Championship and the Winter League more than made up for it.

On a cold, windy day last November, our senior golf team consisting of Rhys Goodall, Tom McKibben, Keaton Morrison and Noah Bickerstaff won the Ulster Schools Scratch Competition at Castlerock golf course, seeing off some stiff competition from RBAI and Campbell College.

They followed this victory with another, in what was the last ever 'Winter League' competition. Unfortunately, due to other golfing commitments, Tom McKibben was unable to play in the final. As a result of this, Josh McKee stepped in to fill that void, comfortably winning his match, contributing to an overall victory against RBAI 3 ½ vs ½. This was equally as satisfying as our victory at Castlerock especially as we played with what may have been considered a weakened team.

## **Cricket**

The 1<sup>st</sup> XI won the schools' cup for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in 5 years. Beating MCB by 3 wickets. Max Burton was man of the match with 82 runs.

U15 won the under 15 schools' plate.

Robbie Moffett represented the Ulster Schools XI in the schools interpro and on their tour.

Max Burton was selected for the Ulster Schools but was injured and couldn't play.

David Kane toured with the NCU under 14 team.

## **OTHER EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

### **Bridge Club**

The Bridge Club meets at lunchtimes, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Around 25 students attend through the week learning to play what is a pretty complicated card game. The students cover a range of ages from Form 2 to M6th. The club is run by Mr Graham and we are very fortunate to have the support of Dr Lomas in a volunteer capacity at various points during the year.

The students attend various competitions during the year. With the shortest team match, or pairs' competition, being 3 hours this can be quite a commitment. This year the school was represented at the Irish Pairs and Teams in April in Galway at a three-day event. The yearly Galway trip runs during the first weekend in March.

Local Northern Ireland school league matches and competitions again proved challenging to organise this year due to the regulations for minibus drivers. We managed to attend league matches in Carrick and Bangor and held the Ulster Schools Pairs and Teams in the library in BRA for the first time. We are grateful the school subsidised some transport costs, but attention still needs to be paid to the ongoing sustainability for all schools and hope that the Board is still aware of the difficulties created by the legislation around minibus driving in support of a range of extra-curricular activities.

The opportunities for our students to compete nationally were underscored by four of our students representing Northern Ireland Under 20 Team in the home nations contest.

## **The Creative Writing Club**

The Creative Writing Club has been running for two years and members have made significant contributions to both 'The 'Owl' and the 'BRA Literary Journal.' The Journal is sold to the public during Open Evenings. Members of the group also enter writing competitions including:

- The Young Sir Walter Scott Prize
- Jubilee Pig Poetry Competition
- The Patrick Kavanagh Prize
- The Tower Poetry Prize
- The Corvus Christmas Story Competition

Members have also been selected, on occasion, for the English Department's 'Writer of the Month'. Their work and achievements are advertised on the Literacy noticeboard.

## **School Library**

The past academic year was very busy with upwards of 70-100 pupils visiting before school and at break and lunch. The normal routines of providing service to teachers and pupils continued alongside timetabled visits for Accelerated Reader with Forms I and II. Pupils were rewarded with house points, certificates and tokens in recognition of their participation in the Accelerated Reader 100% club and word millionaires during school assemblies, each term.

The library provided an opportunity of service for pupils in the library club and extra-curricular activities such as Junior Book Cub, NIBA shadowing, Board games club and Film Club ran throughout the year.

Three scholastic Book Fairs were organised over the year and £1 book tokens were distributed to all pupils to celebrate World Book Day. The book fairs secured over £750 in commission for much needed books. Unfortunately, another year without funding from the Board.

Various displays celebrating National Poetry Day and the whole school focus on 'Well-being' were on show with resources available in the library for Open Nights and throughout the school year.

The librarians attended the usual termly meeting with colleagues across the Belfast area and Board staff in Victoria College and Bangor Grammar. We continue to be members of the SLA and attended the yearly training day. Along with civil servants in the Department, the charity sector and public libraries, we attended the 'On the same page' conference in the Crescent Arts Centre, building on our contacts with authors and colleagues in education.

## **Model United Nations**

Model United Nations continued to have an active presence in school amongst the junior pupils. Throughout the year weekly meetings were held in C5 and a range of topics were debated such as capital punishment and the environment. On 7 February



2019 three L6 pupils, Edward Ferrin, Aoife Bennett and Olivia Quinn took part in a Mock European Council debate at Belfast City Hall. The pupils represented Bulgaria and discussed the issues of Climate Change and Immigration.

### **Reading Group**

The Reading Group (Staff and Sixth Form pupils) continued to meet in LL9 Library on Tuesday afternoons for lively discussions about the members' latest reads.

### **Junior Scripture Union**

Junior Scripture Union was held weekly during Wednesday lunchtime. Throughout the course of the year we studied topics such as Hebrews, relationships, stress and importance of Jesus' birth. The Scripture Union also organised a 1Way week of events with Crown Jesus Ministries in October. Pupils also attended the S.U. Christmas Party, Scripture Union Weekend and Pizza Evening.

### **Senior Scripture Union**

Senior Scripture Union was held weekly during Friday lunchtime. Throughout the course of the year we attempted to tackle issues emotions, self-worth and suffering. The Scripture Union also organised a 1Way week of events with Crown Jesus Ministries in October. The highlight of the year was the Senior S.U. Weekend which was held in March in Kilkeel.

### **Poland Scripture Union Team**

The Scripture Union team consisting of sixteen senior pupils travelled to Warsaw, Poland in March. The team were involved in helping at a local church for the poor, a bread ministry and leading a weekend camp for ninety Polish teenagers. The teenagers were mainly from four state run orphanages. The team was a great success and both the Polish people and the B.R.A. pupils had an encouraging and challenging trip.

### **Young Einstein Club**

The Young Einstein Club has enjoyed another good year. We were encouraged by the enthusiastic way in which the Junior Pupils approached each experiment and by the commitment of our L6 committee.

In November we had our 3<sup>rd</sup> House Tower Building Competition and 1<sup>st</sup> place was awarded to Currie. The competition was a great success and we intend to hold a House Competition annually.

Our other experiments this year have included Fizzy Fun, Secret Messages, Optical Illusions, Perching Parrots and Soap Boat Races.

## **TRIPS**

In February, K LW and MCS took AS and A2 students on a day trip to London to see the performance of 'La casa de Bernarda Alba', the prescribed literature at A2 level. Students had the opportunity to speak to the actors and the director of the Cervantes Theatre and found it very worthwhile. This year, the Department has invited the theatre group to perform at Belfast Royal Academy for A Level students across the country, this will be confirmed shortly.

Both MCS and K LW attended CPD events through NICILT and the Spanish Embassy.

This year, staff and thirty students completed 100km of the Camino de Santiago. This wellbeing trip gave Academy students an opportunity to detach themselves from modern life and focus on raising money for NI Chest Heart and Stroke. The gruelling four days of walking in extreme heat taught pupils that they are capable of much more than what they think. The Department hopes to organise another leg next year to expose more students to this worthwhile opportunity.

### **Hadrian's Wall Trip 2019**

Another very enjoyable trip to 'The Wall' at the end of June with forty-seven pupils from Form 1. The accompanying teachers were Mr Baldwin, Mr Forde, Mrs Thompson and Mrs McGowan. Once again all the pupils behaved extremely well and were great company. Here is an account of the trip from one of them, Rosa Kerr: "I was thrilled to be granted a place on the Hadrian's Wall trip: a couple of days away from school was a welcome break at this stage in the term and the trip itself didn't disappoint. The time spent on the bus was filled with the usual school trip 'craic' and everyone enjoyed the ferry to and fro, eating and playing the usual games. There was even a cinema on board. Once in Northumberland, we visited Roman museums too numerous to mention, (well six), but the ones that stood out for me were: Corbridge Roman Fort – an impressive structure, still standing after so many years and still able to withstand 60 kids exploring its many nooks and crannies; Vindolanda – I was impressed with the replica castles as they gave us a practical experience of the architecture in Roman times; and Housesteads Roman Fort – it provided a lengthy but calming walk, giving great views of Hadrian's wall along the way. Beamish Open Air Museum I particularly enjoyed. It really felt as though we were in a different period in time completely. Our visit to the Metro Centre appealed to everyone very much: we enjoyed the freedom to explore this vast mecca of shops. We also departed slightly from the Latin theme to see the latest 'Men in Black' / 'Toy Story 4' / Aladdin movies. Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed the Latin Trip and found it both educational and fun." Rosa Kerr, Form 1 JMG

## OTHER MATTERS

### Careers

- Over seventy exhibitors took part in our Careers Convention. Form III-MVI pupils and their parents were invited to attend.
- MVI pupils received help, advice and guidance with UCAS, CAO and HE applications.
- MVI pupils attended many Open Days including QUB, UU, Stranmillis, St Mary's, Belfast Metropolitan and Northern Regional College.
- Aspiring MVI medical, dentistry, veterinary, nursing and midwifery students participated in a 'Multi Mini Interview simulation event' jointly organised with Dominican College. Pupils from many of the North Belfast Area Learning Community schools participated.
- Our MVI medical students also attended the St Brigid's MMI event. Pupils were put through practice interviews at 12 stations.
- NBALC CEIAG group organised mock interviews and presentations sessions for all those applying for Teaching. This was held at the School of Music, Fortwilliam.
- Belfast Metropolitan College held an information session on alternative Higher Education courses of study. Some MVI pupils attended.
- Two MVI pupils received a Conditional Offer from PWC for their Higher Apprenticeship.
- Some MVI pupils attended an information session on 'Speech and Language Therapy' at Whiteabbey Hospital.
- All Apprenticeship opportunities, including the Higher-Level Apprenticeships, were advertised to our pupils. Examples included, Mercedes-Benz, Stena Line, Belfast Harbour Civil Engineering Apprentice Opportunity, BT, NIE etc.
- Dr Hannah Shields gave a presentation on the role of a doctor. Her talk to LVI and MVI pupils outlined the highs and lows of being a medical professional and challenges currently facing the NHS. She also gave advice and examples on how best to demonstrate good interpersonal skills at interview stage.
- Two LVI and two MVI pupils attended the QUB School of Dentistry Insight Day.
- Several our LVI and MVI pupils attended the Chartered Accountancy Open Day at PWC.

- Thirty LVI and MVI pupils attended an information session about the Deloitte Higher Apprenticeship.
- A group of LVI pupils attended an event called 'A Flavour of Psychology' hosted by the British Psychological Society in the Whitla Hall at QUB.
- The University Roadshow visited school to speak to all LVI pupils. They gave a short presentation on the UCAS and CAO systems. They covered topics such as the cost of fees to study in England, Scotland, Wales, ROI and Europe, funding available and bursaries/scholarships. They also gave a short introduction on how to apply to university in countries such as Germany and the Netherlands. Following the presentation pupils had the opportunity to go around each of the university stands and speak to the exhibitors present about their course of interest.
- Seven LVI pupils attended an Inspire Woman's Day event at the Titanic Exhibition Centre.
- LVI pupils took part in a three stage Interview Skills programme. Stage 1 was completion of an application form. Stage 2 was undertaking a psychometric test. Stage 3 was an individual interview.
- Several LVI pupils also took advantage of the Army work experience training at Ballykilner Training Centre and some pupils took part in the PSNI work experience programme.
- All LVI pupils secured up to a week of work experience in June. Pupils experienced a range of work opportunities including Engineering, IT, Occupational Therapy, Banking, Medicine, Law, Dentistry, Journalism and Marine Biology.
- All LVI pupils attended the UCAS Higher Education Event at the Kings Hall.
- A number of LVI pupils took part in numerous programmes organised by Screenworks such as Prosthetics, Costume Design and Special Effects.
- Form V pupils attended an introductory session about the role of the Careers Service NI and each pupil was interviewed by the DEL Careers Adviser.
- Forty of our Form V pupils went along to the Skills Northern Ireland event at the Titanic Exhibition Centre. Pupils were encouraged to make good decisions based on impartial information and advice about their future. There were over 80 organisations from top employers, training providers, colleges, universities, and career sector companies who were keen to tell pupils about the opportunities they offer.
- Belfast Metropolitan College held an information session on alternative Further Education courses of study. Some Form V pupils attended.

- Thirty Form V pupils visited the Innovation Factory. They learned how Belfast City Council are supporting social regeneration in the North Belfast area.
- All Form V pupils attended anEye4Education event called 'Labour Market Information'. This was an interactive event designed to update pupils' knowledge of the labour market and where jobs will be in the future.
- Twelve Form IV pupils attended a '4corners' event organised by Barnado's. The event was to promote 'health and well-being'. This event was held at Belfast Boys' Model School.
- Eight of our Form IV pupils entered and won the North Belfast Area Learning Community SUPI (School University Partnerships Initiative) competition. They had to carry out research about social and mental health issues, identify strategies to combat some of these negative issues and complete a poster based on results. The pupils each received a trophy, voucher and certificate.
- Ten Form IV pupils attended a Creative Careers event at The School of Music, Fortwilliam. This was organised by Business in the Community.
- Barclay's Lifeskills were in school on eight occasions to deliver workshops on various topics to Form IV and V such as 'Online Reputation and Privacy', Creativity & Idea Generation and the 'Impact of Non-verbal Communication'.
- All Form III pupils participated in a STEAM carousel organised by Eye4Education.
- All Form III pupils took part in a 'Subject mapping' workshop organised by Eye4Education.
- The Royal Navy Engagement Team ran a series of cookery demonstrations with several Form II and III classes and pupils were taught to make Gnocchi Bolognese. The chef spoke to them about life in the Navy, career opportunities and about his own experience. They also ran leadership and team-building activities with several P.E. classes and taught an interactive lesson on gas turbines for Physics and Technology & Design pupils.
- Thirty Form III and IV pupils attended an International Women in Engineering Day at W5.
- Thirty Form III pupils attended an 'Encouraging Enterprise' event at Belfast City Hall.
- Thirty Form III pupils attended a careers event at W5 entitled 'Routes into STEM and Speed Networking' with focus on the Health and Life Sciences Pathways.

## Charities

This year our aim was for each house to try and raise £2000 for their chosen charity, by way of the sponsored walk & fortnightly charity collections. Below is a summary of each houses achievement.

House	Charity	Amount raised
CAIRNS	DEMENTIA N.I.	£1900
CURRIE	CHEST HEART & STROKE	£1700
SHAW	MARIE CURIE	£1700
POTTINGER	HABITAT FOR HUMANITY	£1300

## Habitat for Humanity

Ten Lower Sixth pupils joined pupils from De la Salle College for two school-based workshops entitled *Changemakers*, followed by a day of volunteer work at *Habitat for Humanity's RE:STORE* shop. Pupils raised fund for the charity through tuck-shops and quizzes.

*Habitat for Humanity* awarded BRA and De la Salle College a SPIRIT OF PARTNERSHIP award for over ten years of volunteering and cross-community partnership with the organisation.

## Merit Scheme

The merit scheme was successful in recording the positive contributions that pupils made in school both in the classroom and in extracurricular activities.

Pupils awarded merits in Form One, Two and Three were entered into the two annual merit draws to win Victoria Square vouchers.

The merit system for 2019-20 will operate within the new SIMS Parent app – merits will now be 'pushed' directly to the phones of parents/guardians.

Northern Ireland Cancer Fund for Children: Form One and Two pupils participated in NI Cancer fund for Children's *Read On* sponsored read in October. They raised £2100.

## Primary School Programme

In the last academic year Sixth Form pupils participated in the School's long-standing Primary School Experience programme. From the start of October until Easter, the pupils attended one of nearly twenty schools in North or West Belfast every Wednesday afternoon to gain experience of working with children while supporting the

class teacher. The wide range of activities offered to our pupils included literacy and numeracy support, PE and games classes, music and language lessons and drama productions. Our pupils were highly praised by the staff of their host schools for their conscientious attitude, helpfulness and good humour, and the pupils themselves thoroughly enjoyed the experience while gaining valuable skills in a professional setting.

## **Save the Children Fund**

The Save the Children committee raised £3300 this year from multiple fundraising events such as the BRA Bake Off, the staff revue, a bun sale, non-uniform day, guess the teacher baby photos and the barbeque at the sponsored walk.

## **The School Council**

Form 1	Sofia Rea-Lavery	Ben Guy
Form 2	Makayla Weir	Gopi Muruga Perumal
Form 3	Nina Magee	Adam Gooderman
Form 4	VedaMuruga Perumal	Jack Dickinson
Form 5	Nancy McConnell Hall	Cameron McKee
Lower 6	Morgan McNeill	Zak Thabeth
Middle 6	Thomasa Kennedy	Cameron White
Head Girl:	Samantha McGrath	Head Boy: Tom McKee

- The School Council met each term to consider and respond to the requests of the Pupil Council.
- The School Council reported back directly to the Pupil Council on how it has carried forward the issues raised.
- The School Council also delivered reports during whole school Assemblies in December and April.
- Ms Graham chaired the meetings and was ably assisted by the Head Boy, Tom McKee, and Head Girl, Samantha McGrath.
- School and Pupil Councillors, led by the Head Boy and Head Girl, promoted a positive school environment during Form /Year Assemblies.
- The School Council Non-uniform Day raised money for Air Ambulance NI and Lighthouse - North Belfast's suicide prevention charity (based in Duncairn Gardens).
- Detailed minutes of the School Council Meetings 2018-19 are displayed on the School Council Noticeboard (outside the Jackson Suite) and are available from Ms Graham or Mrs Robb.

## **Sponsored Walk**

The sponsored walk took place on a fine June day with over 900 pupils participating. New safety measures on the course and a slight alteration to the route ensured that everyone safely completing the walk and had a lot of fun.

The good weather and activities at Ben Madigan ensured the whole school community had a pleasing time, whilst raising nearly £7000 in the process

### **Student Teachers**

The following students were given School Experience and Teaching Practice at the Academy in the academic year 2018/19:

#### Queen's University

James Allen	Religious Studies
Emma Gormley	IT/Computing
Naomi Gracey	Chemistry
Naomi Morris	English

#### University of Ulster

Kory Dickerson	Art and Design
Jordan Shearer	History

#### Stranmillis University College

Mark Weir	Physical Education
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#### Stranmillis University College (Erasmus)

Audrey Souchon	French
Nico Mitterboeck	German

### **The Villiers Park Trust**

*An Educational Trust based in Cambridge which aims to inspire gifted and talented pupils*

Selected by the Trustees of Villiers Park for participation in the Annual Series of Reading Parties at Foxton, Cambridge:

Tori J Cooke	History: Hidden Histories
Maia C Hamilton	Medicinal Chemistry
Sarah A McIlroy	History: Hidden Histories
Jacob J O'Neill	Geography: Geographical Imaginations
Rebecca L Sayers	Creative Writing



## **Work Experience**

The following students were afforded work experience at the Academy in the academic year 2018/19:

### Work Experience Placement

Naomi Newton	English
Elias Mundry	French

### International Work Experience Placement

Daniela Ambrogi	English
Cecilia Panizzi	Mathematics and Physics
Caitlin Stabler	Library and German

## **Wellbeing**

Our annual pupil Wellbeing week in school was under the umbrella of 'Commit to be fit' in September 2018. Part of this included pupils from each House completing laps around the Crombie at lunch. There was also investment into Water Stations around school.

There was also the opportunity for pupils to have a laugh at teachers and also raise some money for charity in the Staff Revue in December 2018.

Due to inclement weather, the Sponsored Walk had to be moved from September to June 2019. The four Houses raised a significant amount of money for Marie Curie (SHAW), Dementia N.I. (CAIRNS), Chest, Heart and Stroke (CURRIE) and Habitat for Humanity (POTTINGER).

Other pupil wellbeing initiatives included improving the PSHE provision during Tutorial; a scheme to ensure that all Form 1 pupils take up at least two extra-curricular activities; as well as rolling out the LORIC programme to Key Stage 3 pupils.

There has also been the continuation of the Merit scheme and Honours system, as well as the wide range of extra-curricular activities available to pupils; investment into the refurbishment of public spaces; the creation of the pupil wellbeing committee; and investigations into the possibility of increasing the provision of the school counselling service and other external agencies e.g. Jigsaw counselling, Art Therapy, Eye4Education, ASPIRE programme.

Staff were able to avail of a year's membership to GymCo, a 'Thank you' ballot, a Wellbeing day with a cascade of activities, as well as a Water Sports Day for members of staff involved in the House System. There was also a weekly Spin class and an improvement in showering and changing room facilities for staff.

## Ben Madigan

The School year just past, 2018 – 19, was another busy and successful year for Ben Madigan.

Ben Madigan has continued to prepare children for the AQE and GL tests, including Thursday after School classes. All pupils who took the Transfer Tests secured places at Grammar Schools.

The standard of teaching and learning remains high and the results of the PTE and PTM standardised tests, produced by GL Assessment, show this clearly. [The average Standardised Test Score is 100.] Ben Madigan scores are mostly above average in both Literacy [PTE] and Numeracy [PTM]:

	PTE	PTM
Prep 1	96.3	105.8
Prep 2	103.3	104.5
Prep 3	103.0	101.0
Prep 4	104.2	109.4
Prep 5	113.4	116.9
Prep 6	101.7	111.0
Prep 7	109.4	105.3

The School Development Association, which comprises parents and teachers has continued to organise events: MacMillan Brunch, Hallowe'en Disco and a Valentine's themed event. The aim of the Association is to raise funds for various projects to improve the experiences of children both in the main part of the School and in Pre-Prep.

The extra-curricular life at Ben Madigan plays a large part in the "whole school" experience of our children. The following list gives an indication of the wide variety of activities on offer: Spanish, French, board games, Lego, cross-country, tennis, judo and Kookin Kidz. In addition, the Ben Madigan choir performed at the B.R.A. Spring Concert in the Ulster Hall much to the pleasure of the whole audience, not just the parents of the choir members!

Sport continues to play a large part of lives of Ben Madigan pupils; rugby, hockey, cross-country running, athletics, cricket, rowing, netball, football to name a few. Cole Mullan won the Northern Ireland Flanagan's Cross Country Primary Championships held in Ormeau Park. We also hosted rugby and hockey tournaments for local primary Schools.

Ben Madigan has taken part in the Shared Education programme with Our Lady of Lourdes, Park Lodge, Primary School. Preps 4 and 5 were involved in a range of activities including Sports Coaching Sessions, Art projects, Gathering Drum and trips to Breckenhill Outdoor Activity Centre and the Ulster Museum. In addition, Prep 4 and 5 enjoyed acting out the roles of Nature Rangers at the Clandeboye Estate with their Park Lodge friends.

As part of its commitment to the wider education community, Ben Madigan hosted three B.Ed. students from Stranmillis College.

Charity also plays a large part in the life of Ben Madigan. Donations totalling almost £3000 were made to MacMillan Cancer, Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children, Children in Need, Angel Wishes and BrainWaves NI.

In May 2019, Preps 6 and 7 enjoyed a week-long trip to the historic city of York under the guidance of Miss Corish, Mr Warwick and Mrs Gouk. There they undertook lots of fun-filled activities including walking around the walls, a tour of York Minister and a visit to a chocolate factory.

In closing this report, I wish to thank Mrs Pamela Jones her work as Acting Principal for the year 2018 – 19.

### **Measures for the security of pupils, staff and premises**

The Board of Governors is committed to ensuring a safe and secure environment for pupils and staff during the school day. Security measures are reviewed periodically and include the following:

- A modern fire detection and alarm system is in operation throughout all the school sites and is tested on a frequent basis. A fire drill is carried out each term.
- A monitored intruder alarm system is in operation at the main school and Preparatory Department sites.
- Some CCTV cameras are in operation at the main school site and at Ben Madigan.
- Buildings are secured by school janitorial staff each evening.
- Staff members are on supervisory duty at break and lunch-times.
- Safe systems of work are in operation with respect to contractors working on the school site.
- School management consults with the Education Authority and the PSNI Crime Prevention Branch on a regular basis with respect to safety and security measures to be undertaken on the school site.

### **Insurance**

Following advice from representatives of the school's insurance brokers, the Board of Governors is responsible to ensure that adequate insurance cover is held by the school. At present, the school insures against its Legal Liability for injury caused to members of the public, including pupils. To succeed in any action against the school, a claimant must prove that the School has been in breach of its statutory duties or has been negligent.

In some cases, injuries can befall pupils arising out of school activities, particularly in the area of sports and other extra-curricular activities, where there is no such legal liability upon the School to provide insurance cover. **The Board of Governors**

**would therefore strongly advise parents to take out individual Personal Accident policies for their children**, in order that cover may be provided, in the event of a severe injury being sustained by a pupil, where there is no negligence on the part of the School or any other party. Further information for those interested in Personal Accident cover for rugby is available on the IRFU web-site. Insurance should also be taken out by parents, if expensive items of equipment are being brought into school.

## **Buildings, Estates and Equipment**

### **CLIFTONVILLE ROAD SITE**

- Extensive re-decoration work was carried out throughout the school site.
- New flooring was laid in the Swimming Pool changing rooms
- Extensive carpet cleaning was carried out throughout the site, by a specialist carpet cleaning company.
- The Principal's Office is being re-located to the Ground floor, with resultant office re-locations for finance staff.

### **Health & Safety Works**

- Fixed Wire Testing was carried out in relevant buildings throughout the school. This is completed on a rota basis.
- Portable Appliance Testing was carried out on all school electrical equipment
- A Landlord's gas check was carried out, as required annually.
- Boiler Servicing was carried out including on heating controls, with an upgrade to gas panels.
- Legionella pipe work and water tank cleaning was carried out, with some replacement of water tanks.

### **BEN MADIGAN SITE**

- Re-decoration work was undertaken in the school and various maintenance works undertaken.
- The Kindergarten had decoration work completed.

### **ROUGHFORT SITE**

We have been successful in obtaining grant funding of around £190k towards the cost of replacing the steps at the Roughfort Pavilion. This work has commenced and is managed by the Education Authority, with the school having little input into the timing of the project.

The project will encompass the replacement of the barriers at the front of the site as well as replacement of the paving at the front of the Pavilion, so should lead to a significant improvement to the aesthetics of the site. This project is due to be completed by January 2020.

We are keeping under review the possibility of creating an Archive Display throughout the Crombie Building, including a Reading Room and a Heritage display. We intend to apply to the Heritage Lottery Fund for grant funding towards the costs of this project, with a submission due by January 2020. If funded, this will be an exciting project for the School.

### **Freedom of Information Scheme**

In line with legislative requirements, the School has a policy, detailing information which is accessible to parents on request. Copies of this policy may be obtained from the Bursar's Office.

### **GDPR**

The School processes and retains records in line with the requirements of the GDPR.

# Belfast Royal Academy

## Financial Report

1 April 2018 - 31 March 2019

### Summary of Accounts

#### Income and Expenditure Account

2018-19

Income	2018/19	2017/18
	£	£
Department of Education Grants	6,879,375	6,758,934
Preparatory Department Fee Income	463,073	476,297
Playgroup & Childminding Fees	109,027	91,771
Miscellaneous Income	172,924	129,608
	<b>7,624,399</b>	<b>7,456,610</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Teaching Staff Costs	5,113,934	5,059,484
Other Staff Costs	1,264,847	1,126,158
Other Operating Costs	1,662,575	1,342,319
	<b>8,041,356</b>	<b>7,527,961</b>
<b>(Deficit) to Reserves</b>	<b>(416,957)</b>	<b>(71,351)</b>

# Belfast Royal Academy

## Financial Report

1 April 2018 - 31 March 2019

( Continued )

Other Operating Costs	2018/19	2017/18
	£	£
Class Materials	99,405	81,738
Maintenance	449,039	243,537
Heat , Light & Water	204,235	190,775
Cleaning	218,713	205,718
Insurance , Bank & Audit	130,372	112,098
Examination Fees	114,219	114,377
Administration	106,628	113,626
Sports , Games & Travel	38,218	37,902
Transport	127,924	99,396
Purchase of Equipment	63,113	81,449
Miscellaneous	110,709	61,703
Total	<b>1,662,575</b>	<b>1,342,319</b>

### Non - Teaching Staff Costs

	£	£
Administrative Staff	341,362	324,086
Manual Staff	241,980	233,261
Laboratory & Other Assistants	681,505	568,811
	<b>1,264,847</b>	<b>1,126,158</b>

The number of full-time equivalent teachers employed by the School during the year was :	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2017/18</b>
Secondary Department	83	83
Preparatory Department	8	8
	<b>91</b>	<b>91</b>

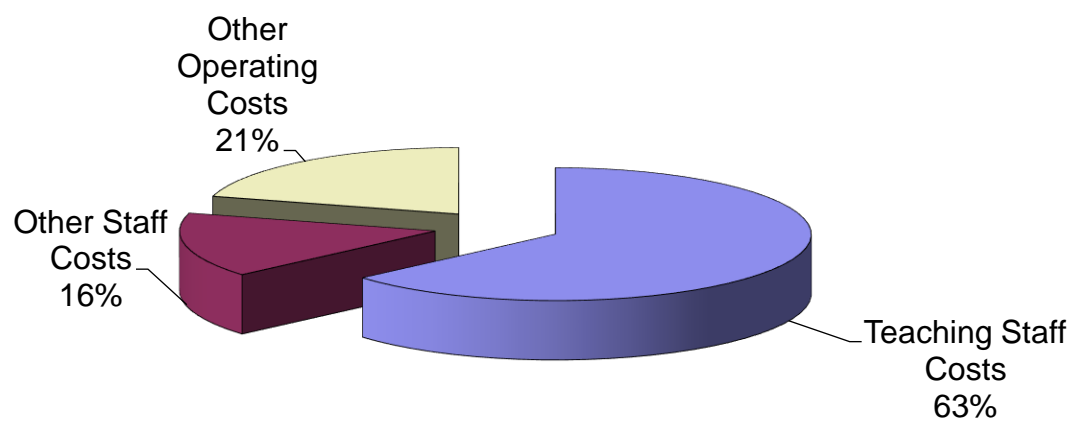
# Belfast Royal Academy

## Financial Report

1 April 2018 - 31 March 2019

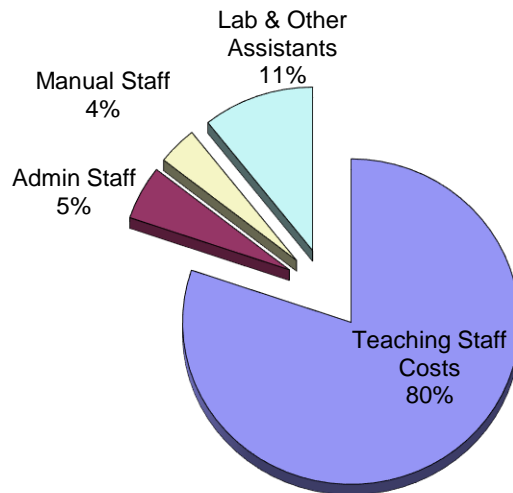
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### Expenditure 2018/19

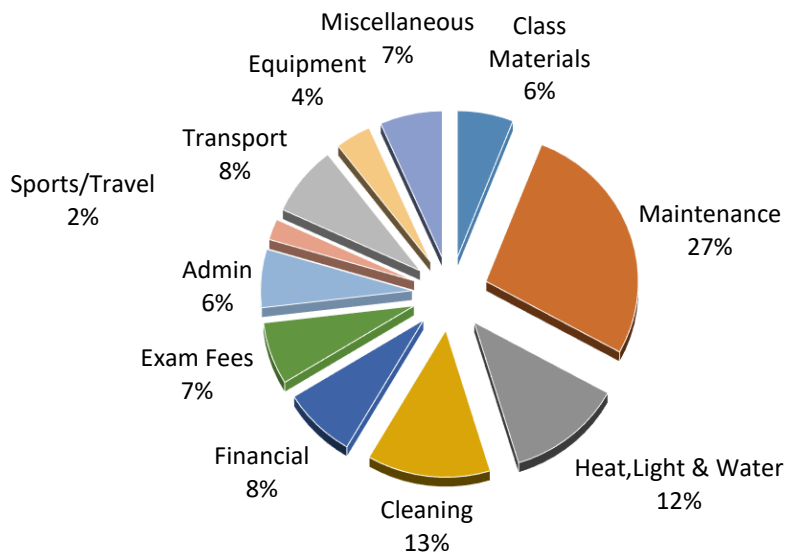




## Staff Costs 2018/19



## Other Operating Costs 2018/19



## Board of Governors

Appointed by the Department of Education  
(for the period from Jan 2018 – December 2022)

Mr. G.W. Watt, M.A.

Mr. J.D. Twinem, B.A., D.I.S, Pg.Cert., Pg.Dip.,  
M.Sc, M.Inst.L.M., M.C.G.I.

(For the period from May 18-December 2022)

Mr Brian Monroe, B.Sc.(Acct.), M.Acct., F.C.A.

Mrs. G. McGaughey, LL.B., Cert in Professional Legal Studies.

Mrs. C. Rowan, B.Sc.

(For the period from Feb 19-December 2022)

Prof. J. A. I. Montgomery, B.A., Ph.D.

Elected Parent Governors

Mrs. J. C. Cornell, A.B., M.A., M.F.A.

(For the period February 2018 – January 2022)

Ms. C. Dillon, B.A. (Senior Vice-Warden)

Mrs. C. Latham, B.Ed., M.Sc., P.Q.H. (N.I.)

Elected Teacher Governors

Dr. A.A.W. Bell, B.Sc., B.Agr.Sc.

(For the period February 2018 – January 2022)

Mrs. G. McQuiston, B. Ed.

Mr. J.M. Patterson, B.Sc.(Econ.), M.S.Sc., D.C.G.

Elected Representative Governors

Mr. K.A. Knox, M.Sc. (Warden)

(For the period February 2016 – January 2020)

Mr. G.R. Simon, F.R.I.C.S.

(For the period February 2017 – January 2021)

Mr. N. W. Beggs

Mr. B.W. McCormack, B.Sc. (Econ) F.C.A.

Mr. S.B. Orr, LL.B.

Mr. S.J.S. Warke, A.C.I.I., Dip P.F.S., T.E.P. (Hon.  
Treasurer)

(For the period Feb 2018 – January 2022)

Mr. M. L. Blake, LL.B., B.L.; Attorney at Law

Mrs. K. L. Burns, B.A

Mrs. A. Clements, B.A.

Mr. M. Orr, Q.C., S.C.

Mr. D.E. Porter, M.Sc., C.Eng., M.I.C.E., M.C.I.H.T.,  
M.C.I.W.E.M.

(For the period Feb 2019 – January 2023)

Dr. K.M. Bill, M.B., Ch.B., F.F.A.R.C.S.I.

Dr. J.A.Hill, F.R.Eng., B.Sc., Hon. D.Sc., C.Eng., F.I.C.E.,  
F.I.StructE.

Mr. D. Walsh, B.Sc., M.B.A., C.Eng., M.I.M.E.

Mrs. J. Weir, MBE., B.Sc., C.Math., M.I.M.A. (Hon.  
Secretary)

Principal (Non-voting member)

Mrs. H. Woods, B.Sc., B.Ed., P.Q.H. (N.I.) M.A.

Warden

Mr. K.A. Knox, M.Sc.

Senior Vice-Warden

Ms. C. Dillon, B.A.

Head of Finance & Corporate Services

Miss E. Hull, B.Sc., Dip (Acc), F.C.A.

(Acts as Clerk to the Board of Governors)