

# The OWL

Belfast Royal Academy  
Christmas 2018







## *The Owl Team 2018*



## BELFAST ROYAL ACADEMY

The Belfast Royal Academy was founded in 1785 and is the oldest school in the city. Originally situated near St Anne's Cathedral, in what is now Academy Street, it was transferred to the Cliftonville Road in 1880, when the present building was erected. For more than a century, the School was named Belfast Academy. In 1888, Queen Victoria granted permission for the School to style itself Belfast Royal Academy.

It is a voluntary grammar school and its management is vested in a Board of Governors on which parents and teachers are represented, along with Governors elected by members of the Academy and nominees of the Minister of Education.

Any past pupil who attended BRA for at least three years and who is twenty one or over may, subject to the Governors, become a member of the Academy upon payment of a registration fee of £1. Applications should be made to the Bursar at the School.

Past pupils are encouraged to join the Old Boys' and Old Girls' Associations. The cost of membership and contact details are as follows:

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# Valete

## JON BUCHAN



Jon Buchan joined Belfast Royal Academy in September 2002. Jon's life experiences, breadth of knowledge and love of English combined with a wisdom to follow the interests of all the young people in his care. Jon regularly introduced topics from cinema or criticism, read a poem he enjoyed or a newspaper article which had engaged his students. Mr Buchan's teaching style provided invaluable learning opportunities for all of his pupils in particular his GCE Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced Level English Literature and English Language students.

Evelyn Waugh explains, "Your actions, and your actions alone, determines your worth", and Jon's actions in the classroom made him a wonderful teacher. Jon, never willing to rest on his laurels, for his final Performance Review Staff Development (PRSD), challenged the pupils and himself to create a stop-motion version of scenes from *Hamlet* using Lego figures and iPads – the children were engrossed. Mr Buchan

also had this mesmerising effect over his Senior pupils with his frequent allusions to popular culture. Jon could very easily surprise and delight the students with his knowledge about Eastside/Westside RAP, musical tastes ranging from Led Zeppelin to Bob Marley, Snoop Dog to Shostakovich, Billy Bragg to Bowie as well as allusions to film and television including *Goodbye Lenin* and *The Simpsons*. His classroom practice enacted the best tradition of teaching where teachers share stories about themselves spending time listening attentively to students and entering into critical dialogue with their thoughts. It was this classroom practice that led to Mr Buchan being known as a 'Legend' among his students.

In the 1962 film of the Western titled *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* Maxwell Scott observes "*This is the West, sir. When the legend becomes fact, print the legend.*" A teaching career of Mr Buchan's stature cannot be fully detailed in this article, but there follow a few of the facts: further to his classroom commitments, Jon read regularly at *National Poetry Day*; he was a faithful member of *The Owl* team collecting and editing the *Literary Contributions* chapter; he ran *Read-On* (a sponsored reading week for Junior pupils) for over fifteen years, raising over £40,000 for the Northern Ireland Cancer Fund for





Children. Mr Buchan was also time-and-again that now endangered species - the minibus driver. Many trips would not have happened without Jon volunteering at the wheel. In addition, Jon was involved in sport in school as well as the *Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme*.

Jon was also a highly respected Head of Year. The boys in his charge were always given time and sensitive consideration. It was little surprise to see former pupils wandering our corridors coming back to see Mr Buchan or the sombre faces when the boys heard that Jon was retiring.

Like many of the students in his care, I often turned to Jon because his advice was tempered with a sense of perspective. He always provided a clear sense of what really mattered in situations where one can believe everything matters. And if help were needed, Jon would simply say whatever you need me to do, just tell me and I will do it. The points Jon raised at Department meetings were insightful and full of depth as were the teaching resources he shared with colleagues.

Mr Buchan has been greatly missed around the School. We particularly miss Jon in the English Department for his conversation, his wry sense of humour, the calm way in which he would approach all situations, his modesty and his smile at the everyday demands on teachers in the classroom. Jon's actions teaching, caring and willingness to share with pupils as well as colleagues were a guiding light. It is not an overstatement to say that Mr Buchan 'the Legend' is irreplaceable. It is a privilege to have taught with Jon and we wish him well in his retirement.

**W.S.**

## JIM CAROLAN



Jim was a former pupil of The Wallace High School and a graduate of Aberdeen University. He joined the staff of the Academy in 1988, covering a maternity leave for Barbara Lomas. He was retained as a permanent member of staff the following year, teaching Government and Politics and History, and in the ensuing years made his mark as a legendary figure in the life of Belfast Royal Academy.

As a classroom practitioner, Jim excelled. He taught A Level Government and Politics for many years, and many pupils benefitted greatly from his intellectual grasp of political theories and concepts, and his profound knowledge of both historical and current affairs. Jim was an avid reader of both political and historical books as well as a wide range of daily newspapers. His balanced and perceptive presentation of arguments and opinions created lively and interesting classroom debates.

He thoroughly enjoyed his years as a teacher of History to Junior classes and at GCSE level, and in the final ten years of his career he implemented the teaching of History to A Level also. Classes were captivated by his engaging ability to describe historical events and often listened in engrossed silence as he brought history to life. Many Form Five pupils can recount the enjoyment and intellectual challenge which they experienced as Jim expounded the conspiracy theories behind the assassination of JFK, of which he was an



expert. Pupils also remember Jim very fondly for the nicknames which he bestowed upon them, and for his humour, which was often what could now be described as almost “politically incorrect!” As Jim moved from the Rectory to the Jackson Building, and finally to the Crombie Building, his enthusiasm for teaching the subjects which he loved did not wane.

Not only was Jim’s career hallmarked by excellence in pedagogy, as a pastoral leader he was also superb. Such was Jim’s ability in the pastoral field that he was Form Master for three year groups of boys. Jim amalgamated his natural skill as a fair and firm disciplinarian with inherent kindness and generosity, and hundreds of boys in his care respected him and had much affectionate regard for him as they progressed through the school. Jim embodied the school ethos of “going the extra mile” and his selflessness will be remembered by many.

It was not only inside the classroom that Jim made his mark, his extra-curricular involvement was probably unparalleled by any of his contemporaries. He was a loyal and conscientious supporter and leader in the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Scheme. He voluntarily gave many weekends to overseeing expedition groups in the Mourne Mountains and elsewhere, as well as devoting much time and effort to instructing pupils in school in map reading, orienteering and camping skills.

His involvement in school trips was also unprecedented. Not only did he escort the First Fifteen Rugby Team to South Africa, he participated in the annual trip to Malawi as well as accompanying Junior pupils to Hadrian’s Wall and the Traditional Music Group to the Royal Albert Hall. It must, however, be his outstanding contribution to the annual Form One trip to Northern France and the Form 2 trip to Paris for

which he will be best remembered. He assisted John Cameron and Michael McCoy in their leadership of the Paris trip for many years and went on to lead it himself; altogether he accompanied over forty groups of pupils on this cultural adventure. Such was the popularity of this trip that Jim had to make the pilgrimage to Paris twice yearly in his final few years. He planned and organised the trip with military precision, and invested much time in collecting payment and organising itineraries and transport details. Parents knew that their children would be in no “safer hands” than those of Jim Carolan.

Jim also had a steadfast interest in the sports programme in school. Throughout almost thirty years in the academy he was in charge of Boys Cross Country Running, and along with Michael McCoy he led many teams to provincial and inter-provincial success. School athletics also benefitted from Jim’s contribution. He often attended district, provincial and all-Ireland competitions and acted as adjudicator and time keeper on many occasions. Moreover, the First Fifteen Rugby Team could name Jim Carolan as their most loyal supporter, as he rarely missed a Saturday morning match whether it was played at home or away. Such was Jim’s humility and dedication that he was as happy to prepare the changing rooms and provide refreshments as he was to stand on the touchline.

Jim wore many “other hats” beyond that of Form Master and classroom teacher during his time in the academy. For large numbers of anxious Middle Sixth pupils he was their saviour when it came to completing UCAS forms. Jim gave up hours of his own time helping pupils to formulate personal statements and make decisions regarding university choices, as well as writing hundreds of university references. Every year Jim’s skill at this job, and his commitment to helping pupils, became





widely known, and many pupils turned up at his door seeking advice and guidance. He possessed much innate ability in terms of writing, and many satisfied customers left his room with concise and articulate application forms completed. This same talent was utilised often by Senior staff members who asked Jim to proof read and check speeches and reports. He did this with willingness and enthusiasm.

“Behind the scenes” Jim, along with Mr McCamley, acted as the school archivist. Often letters would arrive from alumni who had emigrated to foreign shores, requesting a guided tour of “their old school,” or answers to questions which required examination of the school’s archives. Jim answered such requests and gave guided tours to many, including those who visited on the annual Heritage Open Day. Moreover, he was an active participant in the negotiations to have a blue plaque erected on the original site of the school on Academy Street and attended many meetings with clergy at St Anne’s Cathedral with this end in mind. There could have been no better public representative of the school than Jim Carolan.

It is with much regret that we say goodbye to Mr Jim Carolan; the school will miss his talent, dedication and loyalty very much. We wish him many happy years of retirement and hope that he now enjoys the rest and relaxation which he fully deserves.

*H.T.*

### **LAURA LARGEY**



Laura Largey, a former pupil of Belfast Royal Academy, joined the English Department in December 2018 for two days each week.

Laura started teaching just before the December examinations and did exceptionally well returning home from a teaching job in England to begin with us in the Department. Laura was very much focused on engaging pupils as individuals using a variety of lessons and teaching strategies. The students responded well to Laura’s kind nature and professional dedication in the classroom. Miss Largey also supported the Head of Department with administration duties, some of which had to be undertaken at short notice due to the extreme weather conditions of the harsh winter! Without complaint Laura would do any task asked of her.

Laura will be missed in the Department but we wish her well in her new teaching post.

*W.S.*

### **CATHAL LITTLE**

Cathal Little joined Belfast Royal Academy in September 2009. Cathal, with his love for literature, music and film fitted into the Department with ease. As a teacher of English Literature and English Language to GCE A Level, Cathal engaged his pupils through his passion for the subject and variety of popular, literary and musical references as well as anecdotes. Mr Little’s enthusiasm was a particular strength when firing up pupils who struggled with English; boys in particular could be heard relaying moments of classroom practice involving Arsenal’s latest performance, local folklore and the ukulele which hung on his noticeboard. Extra time was always made by Cathal for those pupils who were supported by the SEN team for students who had additional educational needs.



Further to his classroom commitments, Mr Little was in charge of preparing and collating Advanced Subsidiary (AS) English Language coursework. He also oversaw the Department's media resources and supervised the distribution as well as uploading of digital material at a time when this was alien to many of the rest of us in the Department! Mr Little's commitment ranged further than the English Department. As a Teacher-Librarian Cathal promoted and organised National Poetry Day bringing pupils and teachers together to read poetry and on occasion their own poems. Mr Little made popular many of the creative writing competitions in the School leading to the work of several of our pupils being published in anthologies.

For Cathal co-operation was paramount to success. He always aimed to encourage and engage young people by adapting material which related to their lives and challenged them to think independently. These educational values alongside his personal high standards and expectations for pupils in his care created a mutual respect with students of all ability ranges. Cathal's good classroom practice was noted by a visiting inspector as representative of the qualities of an outstanding teacher of English.

When Cathal and his partner Roisin decided to move to Barcelona, a teaching style which seemed effortless, an incisive and often self-deprecating humour as well as cutting-edge fashion sense left gaps in the Department that were difficult to fill. Cathal's calm presence, self-awareness, kind words and sense of proportion are our loss and Barcelona's gain. We wish Cathal and Roisin well in their future together.

**W.S.**

## **KATY MCLARNON**

Katy McLarnon, a former pupil of Belfast Royal Academy, joined the English Department in 2017 as a PGCE student of English and Drama from Queen's University, Belfast. Subsequently, Katy secured a maternity leave post teaching English and Drama within the Department for the academic year 2017-2018.

Katy's eager, helpful and kind nature was noted very quickly by both colleagues and pupils. Her well-thought-out lessons, detailed preparation and enthusiastic teaching style created a buzz in the classroom and the Department. Katy relished time with her Drama groups as well as overseeing the Junior Drama Club, the Dance Club and supporting the School production. On several occasions, Katy would also assist the Head of Department with administration duties, which she took as seriously as her teaching commitments.

Katy will be missed in the Department, but we wish her all the very best in her new teaching post in Liverpool.

**W.S.**

## **ALI MOLES**



A former pupil of Regent House School, Ali graduated from Queen's University with a BSc in Chemistry. He completed his PGCE also at Queen's University and joined the Academy in 1983. He taught



Chemistry at Belfast Royal Academy for thirty-five years which is an incredible commitment. During this time, he also had three one-year career breaks where he travelled round the world and taught Science in Malawi in connection with the Presbyterian church.

He is a man of high professional standards, exacting, conscientious and highly organised. His enthusiasm for the subject, optimism and academic ability meant that many pupils were encouraged to follow Chemistry and many medical related courses at university level.

Outside the classroom, Ali was heavily involved in extra-curricular activities throughout his time at the Academy. He was a very talented rugby player, playing for Ards who were the senior league champions on several occasions in his time there. He has also played three times for Ulster, with around 30 appearances on the subs bench. He coached the 1<sup>st</sup> XV for twenty years, taking them to a schools' cup victory in 1997. He has been on numerous rugby trips to various places around the world.

He is also a very talented skier and has been on many school trips both as teacher and organiser. His other big interest is climbing. He is very fit and very strong which are essential for this sport. He has nearly 100 climbs named after him because he was the first climber to ascend that particular climb. He has converted a number of ex pupils into this sport as well as teachers. He also has a profound faith which will continue to be the stronghold and enjoyment of his life during retirement.

It is impossible to quantify the contribution that Ali has made to the Chemistry Department at the Academy. On behalf of the Chemistry staff, I wish him a long, happy and fulfilling retirement.

**B.M.M.**

## MARK SHIELDS



Mark Shields is an old boy of Templepatrick Primary school. He started his career at BRA in September 1995. As a pupil he was academically very able from the start, particularly in Mathematics and the Sciences. By the time he reached the Sixth Form, it was clear that Economics and Mathematics were to be the subjects where his heart lay, and in his reports in these subjects the word intuition appears regularly. His prowess with a cricket bat also became apparent during his years at school, where again his mathematical intuition undoubtedly played a part in his ability to deflect the projectile that is an onrushing cricket ball.

Mark was appointed by Mr Young as a teacher of Mathematics in September 2008. Above Plato's Academy in Athens stood the motto "Let none but geometer's enter here" and we were fortunate indeed at this academy to have acquired a geometer of distinction. Mark, as he does with all things, threw himself fully into the life of school in a variety of ways: teaching Mathematics and Economics, in extra-curricular Rugby and Cricket and in Oxbridge to name a few. Of course he quickly became a favorite with pupils, being known affectionately by them both outside, and even sometimes inside the classroom as "Shieldsy".

**G.J.B.**





Mark was appointed as a Senior Teacher in September 2012 and, through timetabling, merits and academic notes to name a few, the role he has played in the management side of school has been both impactful and profound.

We thank Mark for his contribution to school life at BRA and for his generosity of spirit: many of his colleagues have experience of the fact that neither time nor money were barriers for Mark where BRA was concerned.

We wish him every success in his new role as Vice Principal at Ballymena Academy.

stead as a member of the prize-winning team in numerous school quizzes.

Outside school, Mr Wilson is an accomplished organist and choirmaster and we know that he derives much pleasure and fulfilment from leading choral music in his church.

Mr Wilson retired in June 2018 and we wish him and his wife Ruth health and happiness in his retirement.

*H.W.*

## TIMOTHY WILSON



Mr Wilson began his career in Ben Madigan in September 1980 and quickly established himself as an enthusiastic teacher who involved himself with confidence in the musical activities of the senior classes. Mr Wilson's career advanced in Ben Madigan over the years and he held the position of Vice Principal for almost 20 years prior to his appointment as Principal in September 2015.

Mr Wilson established a reputation as a committed, thorough and successful classroom teacher in Key Stage 2 and the pupils responded well to his lively and energetic style. Mr Wilson's command of the English language and in-depth knowledge of historical facts and trivia were admirable and this stood him in good



# Obituaries

## **Mrs Elaine Alexander**

The school community was deeply saddened by Mrs Alexander's sudden and untimely death in March 2018.

Since she began working in Belfast Royal Academy in 2007 as pool supervisor, Mrs Alexander was instrumental in encouraging and motivating all of our pupils to embrace aquatic sports. Her passion and commitment were evident to pupils, staff and Governors and was reflected in the high standing that BRA teams enjoy in various competitions at local and national level in swimming, lifesaving and water polo. Mrs Alexander was passionate about swimming and lifesaving as she wanted pupils to have confidence in the water and in her own significant way, to reduce the likelihood of people drowning or suffering life-changing effects from near drowning experiences.

The fact that so many of our pupils were awarded places on the Great Britain water polo and lifesaving teams is a testament to her success in delivering an excellent sporting programme and developing lifesaving skills to such a high level.

Aside from her success in the swimming pool, Mrs Alexander also devoted time and energy to manage the school's karting teams. The success of the senior team in the recent UK championships is further reflection of Mrs Alexander's motivation and positive outlook.

Parents have emphasised to us what a mother figure Mrs Alexander was to so many pupils. Her office in the swimming pool was a haven – she was always there for pupils before school, at break time, lunch time, after school and at weekends. She provided snacks, encouragement, pastoral support and good fun. The fact that so many pupils gravitated towards her is a mark of the person she was and an indication of how much she will be missed by so many pupils and staff.

Mrs Alexander epitomised everything that we value in Belfast Royal Academy – she set high expectations for both her pupils and herself, she demonstrated flexibility, patience and a sense of fun and she maintained the same level of integrity that she expected from all her team members. We mourn her passing and give thanks for the contribution she made to our school.

***H.W.***



# *Literary Contributions*

## **MY ISLAND**

I want to sail on an island,  
Where hibiscus flowers grow,  
And endless waters stretch beyond  
The view of Venus and Mars.

Time stops on this island;  
I am the only soul here.  
My companions are retrievers beneath  
Golden coats and lapping tongues,  
Their ebullience contagious.

Among the vast redwood trees,  
Hardy lavender and fragrant rose  
Slumber by streams and logs.

When the sun begins to sink,  
And Asteria awakens her children,  
The sky is alight with dancing fire  
And darkness is a fading memory.

***Brooke Storey (I)***



***Caitlin Sahin (V)***



***Molly Agnew Boyce (LVI)***





## GILDED LILIES

The sun shines down upon us,  
Smiling with all its might,  
As we step out of the car,  
We can feel the warmth surround us,  
Like wrapping a blanket around yourself,  
After coming in from the cold.

As we walk through the scented flower fields,  
The world is at peace with itself,  
Happiness showing on everyone's face,  
The flowers dance merrily in the breeze,  
Waving as we pass them by.

A short time later we reach a house,  
Light shines through the window,  
Inviting us to look around.

Beside the house the pool glistens,  
As though there are a thousand tiny diamonds,  
Floating on the surface.  
As we walk inside we feel a light breeze pass us by,  
The cool breeze wakes us up from our peaceful daydream,  
At that moment, life seems perfect.

The world seems full of so many exciting possibilities,  
And we want to explore them.

*Eleanor Green (II)*

## GO-KARTING

I shove on my helmet  
Jump into my kart  
Revving my engine  
I'm ready to start  
Screaming, screeching, and squealing  
The kart quickens its pace  
A beast is awoken  
And its claim on first place  
Snarls like a wolf  
Chasing the pack  
Hunting the leader  
For first place on the track  
Fast like a cheetah  
Hunting its prey  
Hungry for victory  
This is my day.

*Jamie O'Brien (II)*



*3D Masks (III)*



*Famous People Collage (I)*

## CANDLE

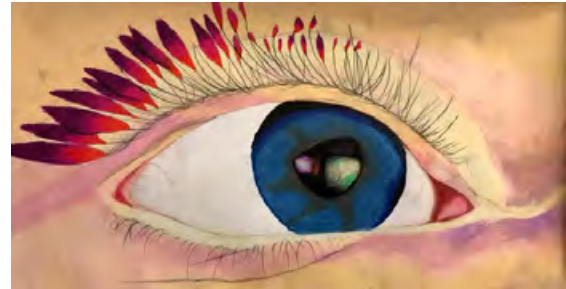
You are my candle  
 Burning in the night.  
 You help me when  
 Things don't go right.  
 You compliment me  
 When I don't deserve it.  
 I'll love you forever,  
 Please help me preserve it.

You give me confidence,  
 Our chemical science.  
 Your scent is of a rose,  
 I adore you from your head to toes.

You provide me with heat  
 When I see you  
 My heart skips a beat.

At the end of the night  
 When all is cold  
 We'll burn together  
 Till we grow old.

*Ryan Wallace (III)*



*Megan McKittrick (V)*

## THE HUMANITY OF INK

Blue, blur, black and bold.  
 Rivers of red and charts of gold.  
 Men travelled far and wide from the cold,  
 Hot, dry, windy places from legends  
 untold.

Winds carried messages of the new land;  
 From ear to ear, from scroll to hand.  
 Every ship sailed, every deck manned,  
 To search and discover what lay not buried  
 in sand.

To every man, woman, elder and child;  
 Every heart, lung or mind defiled,  
 Rats and crows and those men riled,



That felt the winds when the water was mild.

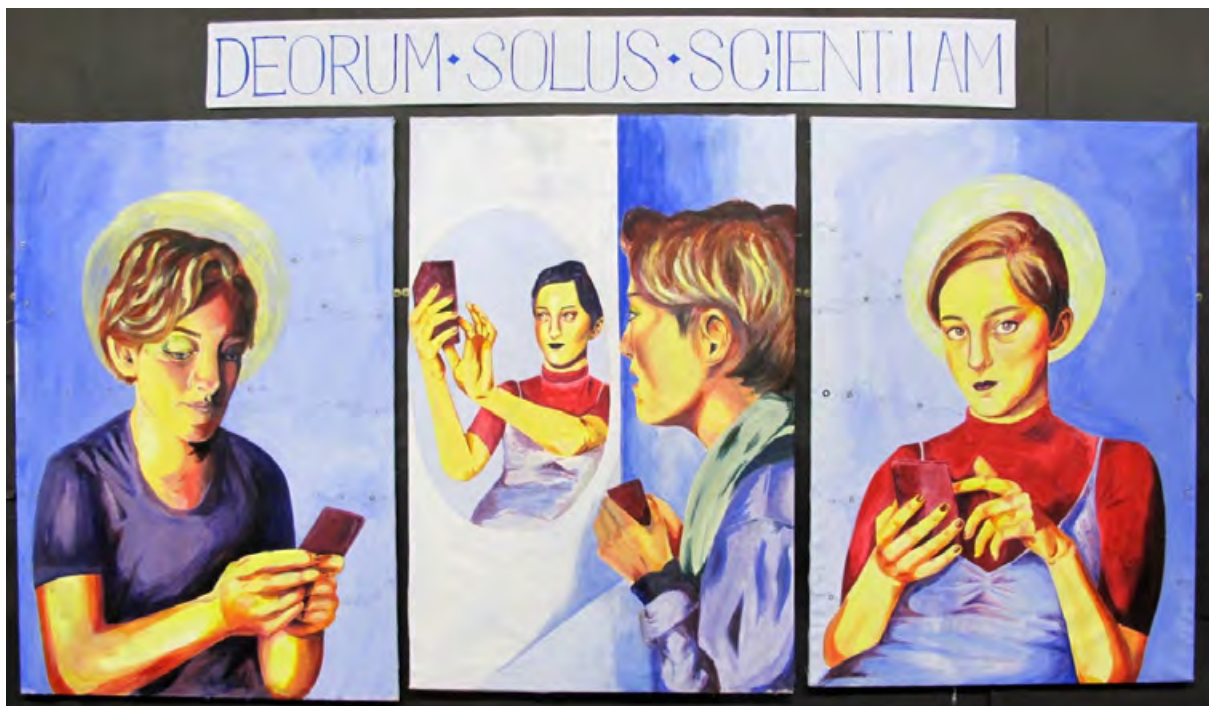
The treasure of which they seek;  
On mountains of ice with a sand peak.  
With gusts cowardly and streams that reek.  
And thy birds that guard with a skeletal beak.

Skeleton keys and battlements of stone,  
Skeleton xylophones play a sombre tone.  
For all those that seek and explore, a lesson loan;  
'The treasure lies only where skeletons roam.'



*Alice Gamble (MVI)*

*Hannah Shevlin (III)*



*Lucy Gaston (MVI)*





## AN IRREGULAR HEARTBEAT

Every summer I would visit my grandma's cottage at the countryside. There was a field nearby which I would usually play in during most afternoons. In the middle of the grassland was an enormous oak tree branching out and creating a shade beneath it. As I grew tired I would rest under the shadow hiding away from the scorching sun.

As I rested my head at the crook of the tree I heard something peculiar, it was a heartbeat. The beats continued in a steady pace but not from within me, but from inside the tree I rested on. It echoed through the roots like veins pumping blood into the soil. I looked around expecting the ground to be seeping crimson liquid as the sound echoed through my ears like a clock muffled by a rag. I was vexed by the imagery in my head as I was still a kid who never felt fear until that day. I focused on clearing my mind which helped soften the heartbeat within the oak tree which now sounded like water dripping from a tap. This soon lulled me to sleep with the soothing rhythm.

As I left my grandma's cottage after the summer break, I noticed the heartbeat from the tree had stopped lingering in my ears. I let out a sigh of relief as I thought it was finally gone.

Sadly, I was proven wrong when I heard the dreaded beat as I returned to the same house next summer. This time it was followed by the sound of children's laughter. There were no kids living near my grandma's place so I was puzzled on how the tree could capture such a sound. From far away it sounded peaceful and melodic, but as I got closer, the heartbeat and laughter overlapped each other. They clashed with each other making the sound envelope the surrounding fields as the

laughter became more distinctly heard as screams.



*Thomasa Kennedy (LVI)*

I ran back into the cottage refusing to step a foot outside until we had to return back from summer break. I refused to go back there next summer, but my parents still dragged me back ignoring my statement of the tree with the heartbeat.

This went on for a couple more years with a new sound being overlapped by the heartbeat each time I came. It became an orchestra of sounds but it still never deafened the dreaded heart which throbbed endlessly. I thought if I just put up with it for the summer, I can be free once I leave. However, there was a specific summer where the sounds followed me back to my house.

I clenched my pillows against my ears which didn't help as it was throbbing through my skull. Minutes felt like days of torture, as every second on my watch ticked to the pace of the beating heart. I snapped and decided to do what I should have done years ago when I first heard the heartbeat. I decided to destroy the tree.

After a long train ride back I finally reached the root of all my problems. I grabbed a rusted axe from the garden shed and proceeded to the tree. The beats



weighed down each step I took as the sounds ran through my veins. I thrust the axe into the side of the tree repeatedly, using all the rage and sanity I had left in me to cut down this tree. After many attempts I managed to cut down the tree and the branches all collapsed on the other side of the field. The heartbeat still remained with the noises surrounding it.

I decided to peer inside the remains of the stump, preparing myself for the monster I was about to face. I took a shaky breath and glanced inside. After seeing what was inside, I fell back and gasped.

The tree was hollow.

***Veda Muruga Perumal (III)***



***Kate Spence (MVI)***

### THE EXPRESSIONIST'S REALISM

To wake up one morning,  
Marching to the beat of one's right hemisphere  
Feeling *Pablo Picasso* abstract like a tilted frame to a perfectionist.

Watercolours splattered over the window;  
the downpour from last *Starry Night*

Left streaks of *Monet* pastel blues dish-washed by the *Great Wave* of *Hokusai*

One recreates *The Scream* in motion.

A hateful *self-portrait* due to one's lost art

One shall *lose an ear* if tugged so awfully in distraught

Four walls without one canvas equals nought.

Within the glazed pages lie charcoal sketches in an eye's abyss shade

No *Mona Lisa*, just Lisa

But with the charm of *The Artist's Garden*

Painted with a palette of arterial red.

*The Thinker* thinks of following footprints;

To search so long all limbs feel dead

One's cheeks to colour a deep cherry red

When one realises they left it back through *The Gates of Hell*.

I wish we were taught at *The School of Athens*

To look after one's art folder

To not feel the excruciating pain,

Of the shades of one's heart turning colder.

***Eva Clarke (III)***



*Alexis Payot (MVI)*



*Tara McBride (LVI)*

## MR MINGLES

Mr Mingles thinks you're cool,  
The way you use your friends as tools.  
Their arms you grasp and force like hammers,  
Their voices forced into a stammer.  
Their minds changed wholly to calculate,  
Their hearts to beat in time with hate.  
Their morals, shattered, for you to mould,  
Their souls made fallen, leaving nary a hole.

Mr Mingles thinks you're great,  
The way you force their wounds to gape.  
Broken bodies, bruised and bloody,  
Battered 'til unrecognisably ugly.  
Trauma deep and set in stone,  
Pushed further in with mocking tone.  
Ends that justify the means,  
Ruined, brushed aside, demeaned.

Mr Mingles thinks you're fun,  
The way you fight until you're gone.  
The way you wait for heavenly gates,  
The way you think that all your hate  
Would be balanced by the going rates  
Of worship, enough to placate  
The one who personally instigates  
Justice, judgement; as judge and jury  
Of letting you see His righteous fury.  
With Mr Mingles, there's no farewell,  
As Mr Mingles lives in hell.

*Jack Green (LVI)*





## THE CARVED TREE

In our village there is a saying. “Careful when you wander ‘twixt the faded groves.” Not even the elder knew the origins, as there were no groves for miles. Not for many years since, as the white man had made sure of that. The hunters say it talked of days gone by, if you left the village the white man would take you for his own. The priests say it was the resting place of spirits who did not want to be disturbed. The wives say it talked of adultery, the warning to deliver from temptations, even the littlest of children thought it talked of monsters, hiding from view in the trees.

Once when wandering tiring from the hunt, I was cutting swathes through ivy jungle when I happened upon a tree which did not sit quite right. Amongst the towers of hardened bark and billowy leaves it perched, alone within a clearing, this stumpy little tree. Its skin was scarred and wrought, it had seen many days under the indifferent gaze of the lazy sun and was clearly worse for wear. I approached the outsider and looked upon its scars. While they were difficult to make out, they seemed to spell out the names of those who had once lived in the village. All those who I knew had died or gone away for good. A meticulous record of the past and of those who had passed. It amazed me how I didn’t notice it before, these were not scars but the handiwork of an artisan, the silky gold sap peering from the gentle cuts, no longer scars, but living art. This remembrance to those gone was an oasis of spirits in the otherwise harsh jungle, the beautifully ornate carvings in this lonely tree coiling and constricting the bark, a tribute to the dead on the flesh of the living.

As I stared, time passed me by and I could not move a muscle. This work of art was incomplete, it needed care, protection and



*Niamh Sloan (V)*



*Charlotte Storey (V)*



fresh entries. The village elder was old, decrepit. Some say he had many a year left in him, but I knew better. With my bone knife I carved

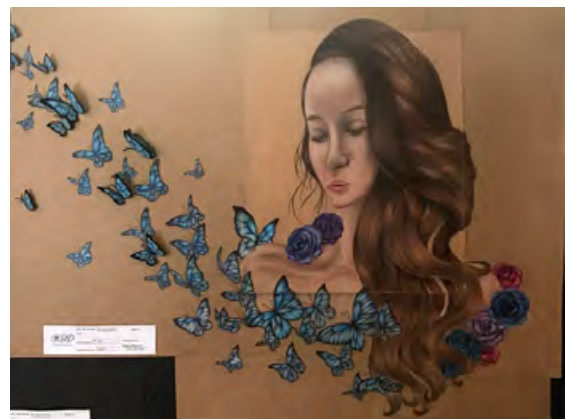
‘Papa Legba’ onto the bark, taking great lengths to imitate the curly craftsmanship of the otherwise flawless originals. I admired my handiwork only to feel a sinking feeling of misery. It was misaligned, the L was too long, the space between the words taunted me with the empty regret of an unwitnessed mistake. Despite my efforts to pay tributes to the stylings, all I had created was a blotch on the otherwise perfect canvas. I stormed away in an embarrassed fury, hoping none would see my misgivings.

Upon my return to the village, there was news. In my time spent staring at the now tainted tree, the village elder had died in his sleep. Teary families lined the edges of his hut as Legba’s aged body was prepared for his rituals. While I feigned misery, I had a deep sense of satisfaction. At least I was right and all those who claimed his health were misguided fools, holding onto the supposed life and energy the post provides in our legends. I happen upon that tree often now and on studying it I realised how wrong I truly was. The work was no masterpiece, the entries were naught but scars upon the bark, all ruining the natural order of the tree’s indifference to man and his folly. As a matter of fact, my entry was the most ornate in comparison. A rare gem amongst the rot and callous. I had a talent. I should contribute again.

***Aaron Maguire (MVI)***

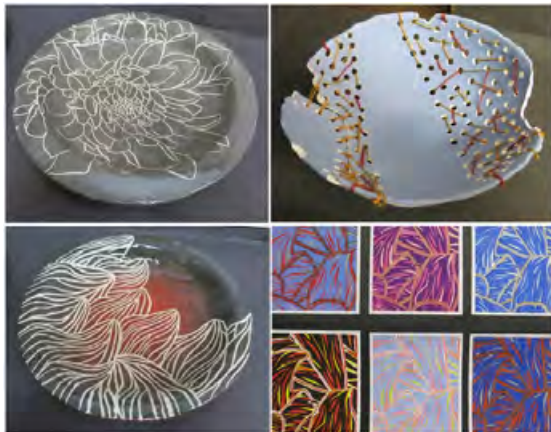


***Caitlin Joyce (LVI)***



***Jing Yi Sun (V)***





*Becca Reel (MVI)*



*Jamie Sloan (MVI)*



*Jamie Sloan (MVI)*



*Vivienne Johnston (V)*



# *Distribution of Prizes*

The Annual Distribution of Prizes took place this year on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October at The Spire's Centre. The Warden, Mr K. A. Knox welcomed parents, pupils, staff and the Guest of Honour, Mrs Ruth Cornett, B. A., M. A., to the prize-giving ceremony. He gave thanks for all the work done throughout the year by all to support the School and its pupils.

In her speech, Ruth Cornett gave thanks to the Warden and Principal for inviting her to attend and speak at the ceremony. She congratulated all the prize winners and musicians. Cornett acknowledged the work of teachers present and past at the Academy.

Ruth Cornett reflected on the challenges faced by pupils when determining their career path. She went on to praise the many positive characteristics that she felt the Academy instilled in its pupils: a love of learning, sound work ethic, respectfulness and resilience. She felt it was these very qualities that had prepared her for working life and the challenges she has faced throughout her career.

Cornett urged pupils to take time to enjoy the journey of their school life and to try to recognize and seize every opportunity as it comes along. She stressed the importance of the Arts, no matter which career path one may choose to follow.

The Senior Orchestra gave a rousing performance of 'La Réjouissance' by G. F. Handel while the Chamber Choir gave an

uplifting performance of 'For the Beauty of Earth' by P. Stopford.

A DVD compiled by Mr Jamison highlighting the various successes and achievements of the pupils and the School was shown.

We are most grateful to Rev. Marlene E. Taylor, B.D., for opening the prize-giving ceremony.

## **The Principal's Address**

Rev Taylor, Ms Cornett, governors, staff, pupils past and present, parents, guests, welcome to the Belfast Royal Academy 2018 Prize Day.

Our guest speaker today is former pupil, Ruth Cornett. Ruth is a director of Christie's in London and her career has roots in the diverse disciplines of art, law and accountancy.

As a Sixth Former, Ruth had planned to study law at university but then decided that following her interest in art history would give her more options. When her A level results were published in 1983, she was in the fortunate position of having the choice between offers to study law at Trinity College, Dublin or Art History at The Courtauld Institute.

After training as an art historian and working as a curator in the V&A museum, Ruth changed careers in 1992, studying law and qualifying as a Chartered Tax Advisor





in 1998. Ruth, I am delighted that you and your husband Matthew have been able to join us today to present the prizes and to address us. And as someone with expertise in art, law and tax, I hope that you can do a Banksy and shred some of our invoices from the Department of Education.

A new prize, the Mark Long Prize for Poetry, will be inaugurated this year in memory of Mark Long, who was a member of the English Department from 1974 until his retirement in 2005. To both his life and his teaching Mark brought commitment, enthusiasm and the desire to inspire others to make the world a better place. In his teaching, that could be done by inculcating in his pupils the humane values promoted by literature. He knew thoroughly and loved deeply Shakespeare and poetry, particularly that of Louis MacNeice and Seamus Heaney. Staff moving along the Jackson corridor or later the Louis Lord corridor could hear him declaiming Shakespeare or O'Casey loudly, using his gift for voices to play all the parts.

It was a great joy for him when, through his old friend, Professor Bert Hornback, Professor of English at the University of Michigan, he was able to meet Heaney at his home in Dublin. Heaney told them a story about being interviewed by a prominent Northern Ireland broadcaster, as it happened a former pupil of Mark's. The broadcaster kept looking down at a book in front of him and the questions became more and more probing. Fascinated, Heaney asked, "What have you here?" and reached across to take what was an annotated book of his poetry. "This is great stuff, where did you get it?"

"Oh, that's from my A Level English teacher." Imagine Mark's delight when he could say, "I was that teacher." This new prize, an edition of the Collected Poems of Seamus Heaney, is sponsored by Professor Hornback and the Old Boys' Association.

Can I first start by thanking all those governors, pupils, staff and parents who have been so supportive in my first year as Principal of this great school. I am particularly indebted to the Senior Leadership Team and especially the Vice Principals, Dr Scully, Dr Brown and Mr Wilson who balance a heavy teaching load and administrative demands with sensitive management of pupils and staff and do so with aplomb and a great sense of humour. The burden of Governance is considerable, and we are fortunate to have a strong and committed Board of Governors headed by the Warden, Mr Ken Knox.

Since my appointment, I have thought a great deal about the School's legacy, its purpose and its future. I began our staff development day this August by referring to our core aim – we exist to serve the needs of our pupils and to provide them with bright futures.

The School is well placed to continue forging ahead with confidence to its own bright future. This will have very little to do with me – a principal is merely a custodian, an individual who is part of the broader team and all of the school's successes are due to effective team work. But it seems clear to me that with such a great body of pupils, a strong and dedicated professional staff and the affection and support the school enjoys, that there is still a great desire to continue to build not just physically but also as a community. I watch the pupils spill out of the Cliftonville Road site at the end of the school day, a rich mix of ethnicity, colour, faith and family background, and feel very proud of the fully integrated school that Belfast Royal Academy has evolved into over the centuries as a result of the vision and leadership of previous principals and Governors.

The 2017 – 18 academic year had been one of firsts. All through the turbulent Troubles the School remained open thanks to the



dedication of the headmaster and staff but last October was the first time the School has been forced to close for two successive days by the Department of Education over the puff of wind that was Storm Ophelia. I suspect it was also the first time the Principal has had to be told to sort their hair out for the sports photographs on a windy day. Yet, we continued to practise the well-established rites and traditions that are so familiar and dear to so many people. It has been a year of celebrations with many outstanding achievements both inside and outside the classroom but there have also been some low points with the death of our well-loved colleague Elaine Alexander and in dealing with a number of challenging pastoral situations.

Since she began working in 2007 as pool supervisor, Elaine was instrumental in encouraging and motivating all our pupils to embrace aquatic sports. She was passionate about swimming and lifesaving as she wanted pupils to have confidence in the water and in her own significant way, to reduce the likelihood of people drowning. The large number of BRA pupils awarded places on the Great Britain water polo and lifesaving teams is a testament to her success in delivering an excellent sporting programme and developing pupils' skills to such a high level. Aside from her success in the swimming pool, Elaine also devoted time and energy to manage the School's karting teams.

Elaine epitomised everything that we value in Belfast Royal Academy – she set high expectations for both her pupils and herself, she demonstrated flexibility, patience and a sense of fun and she maintained the same level of integrity that she expected from all her team members. We mourn her passing and give thanks for the contribution she made to our school.

Hardly any of the achievements of the pupils would be possible without the dedicated and highly skilled staff body. As

much as continuity and consistency are vital to the success of the pupils, it is also healthy to have an element of throughput and so, as well as this afternoon being an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our pupils, it's also the time to acknowledge the contribution of five members of teaching staff, colleagues who have done much, and in a variety of ways, to help to mould the School and to move the pupils forward.

Alastair Moles joined the School in September 1983 as a teacher of Chemistry. Outside the classroom he was extensively involved with sport and his experience as an Ulster rugby player was a great asset as a school coach. He assisted with many sporting tours and with school trips. He was an expert skier and particularly enjoyed assisting with the ski trip. Alastair has always had a keen interest in overseas mission work and has left the classroom in Belfast to undertake teaching in Mozambique. We wish him every success in this new chapter of his life.

Jim Carolan joined the school in September 1989 and was a most effective and professional teacher of History. He was a Head of Year for 16 years and he had a central role in ensuring that the boys in his care achieved their potential. He organised the school buses with fanatical attention to detail and we miss his presence very much at the end of the school day, directing pupils to the correct stop. Jim was also one of the most faithful supporters for school rugby and had an encyclopaedic knowledge of the scores in past matches and the form of our opponents. We wish him good health in his retirement.

Jon Buchan joined the school in September 2002 as a teacher of English. He was an outstanding teacher with an excellent subject knowledge. In his Head of Year role he displayed considerable good humour, patience and empathy and his dry wit and ability to remain calm in the face of



all adversity were impressive qualities. We wish him health and happiness in his retirement.

As a former pupil of the school who returned to teach in 2008, Mark Shields was an obvious example of poacher turned gamekeeper - although he sometimes couldn't remember what side of the law he was actually on! He knew all the ruses and excuses, so his pupils knew there was little point in pulling the wool over his eyes. As well as being an outstanding teacher of Mathematics and Economics, Mark made an enormous contribution to the extra-curricular life of the School. He was an excellent rugby coach and umpire, he accompanied the ski trip each year and he led the senior cricket team to fantastic success in winning the Schools' Cup in 2017 and coming runners up in 2018. However, amongst Mark's greatest qualities are his kindness to pupils and colleagues and his loyalty to his school. He attended almost every School event and celebrated the achievements of our pupils in every aspect of School life. It was only a matter of time before his talent as a senior teacher was recognised and we are delighted for him in his appointment as Vice Principal of Ballymena Academy.

We also say farewell to Ben Madigan Principal, Timothy Wilson who retired after 38 years and wish him happiness in this next chapter of his life.

Examination results of course were extremely pleasing. At A Level, there was a marked increase in the proportion of top grades awarded with over 35% A\* or A grades and 90.1% of the grades awarded were at A\* - C. Thirty-three pupils attained at least 3 A grades and all 8 of our Oxbridge candidates fulfilled their conditional offer.

At GCSE success was equally pleasing. 34% of grades awarded were A\* - B across all subjects. The new 9-1 grading was taken in the stride of the Computing and Latin

departments who posted impressive results. Furthermore 4 of our Form 5 joined a select group of pupils across the country who scored 10 A\* grades and a further 14 pupils achieved at least 10 A\*/A grades.

Examination success can also be measured in terms of all those pupils who exceeded their personal targets and are now able to progress to the next stage of their education. There were those in both Form 5 and M6 who had to overcome great personal adversity during their school career and they did indeed rise to those challenges with tremendous success and with the support of their peers and the pastoral staff who discharged their duties with compassion and care.

However, we would not wish for BRA to be viewed simply as an examination factory – we focus very much on developing the pupils' character. A former director of CBI said that "Business is clear that developing the right attitudes and attributes in people – such as resilience, respect, enthusiasm and creativity – is just as important as academic or technical skills." Given the breadth of diversity of opportunity available in BRA, I would suggest that our pupils are well served to develop in character over their school career.

The Music department continues to be a source of entertainment, inspiration and energy. In the autumn term, we enjoyed the performances of the chamber choir and orchestra at Prize Day and the Christmas Concert in Rosemary Presbyterian church was a delight. Alongside individual and group performances at the Ballymena Festival, there were two memorable concerts – the Spring Concert in the Ulster Hall and the Summer Serenade in the school assembly hall, which showcased an impressive variety of instrumental and choral ensembles- a real testament to the talent and commitment of pupils and staff. There cannot be too many concerts with an eclectic mix of performances ranging from



Handel to Ariana Grande but of course, this being BRA, it worked exceptionally well.

The dramatic arts continue to flourish in BRA – in November, audiences were treated to an energetic and hilarious production of John Buchan's 39 Steps with standout performances from Aaron Ferguson as our unwitting hero and Amber Cole as the secret agent. Sarah Tinman and colleagues worked exceptionally hard to stage this show and it was hugely entertaining.

Some of you may have been lucky enough to attend the open air performance of The Sound of Music in Castle Grounds in June. It is safe to say that we were all mesmerised by the spectacle that unfolded against the most glorious summer sky that evening – sublime singing, nuns wandering down from Cavehill, our own prize winning Aberdeen Angus calves, an Austin 7, fireworks, swastikas and audacious ad-libbing all combined to make the most unforgettable evening that is a testament to Roly Jamison's vision, energy and theatrical skill.

Showcasing the diversity of opportunity provided to our pupils, five of our Form V under the expert guidance of Dr Bell, reached the final stage of a province wide agriskills competition. Their success in the ABP Angus Youth Challenge with their innovative concept of attracting city investors into financing farming resulted in them receiving five Angus calves at the Balmoral Show in May. The calves are called Shaw, Pottinger, Cairns, beef Currie and ... I think the pupils wished to call the last one Hilary, but I believe that good sense prevailed and it is, of course called Crombie.

Belfast Royal Academy pupils have always enjoyed a fine reputation for sporting success across a range of disciplines. At team level, there was a number of excellent wins throughout the year.

The girls' 2B XI, U14 A and U13 A teams won their respective competitions in the South Antrim league and in addition, there was an impressive number of representative honours.

Abbie Braniff Form 3, Emma Uprichard Form 4 and Kerry Uprichard Form 5 were selected for Ulster U16s. Harriet Dougan M6 and Niamh McIvor Form 5 represented NI at the UK School Games. Niamh also captained the Ireland U16 in European 6 Nations Tournament in Cork.

Following their defeat against Sullivan Upper in the second round of the Schools' Cup, the BRA 1<sup>st</sup> XV rugby team went through to the Schools' Bowl competition. They defeated both Lurgan College and Regent House Grammar School on their journey to the final against Portadown College which they won in emphatic style. Throughout the year, a number of pupils were awarded representative honours across the age groups.

Tom Stewart (M6) Ulster U18 Captain, Ireland U18 and Ulster U19.

Brandon Hassan (M6) Ulster U18

Patrick George (M6) Ulster U17

Elliot Donaldson and Michael Harvey (F5) Ulster U16 squad.

Aside from the main sports of hockey and rugby, our pupils enjoyed success in other areas. A number of girls were awarded representative honours in netball. Nada Hawela Form 4, Megan Warke Form 5, Fabienne Cochrane Lower 6, Ellie Collins Form 5, Olivia Snoddy Form 5 were all selected as members of the U17 National Training Squad

In athletics, Erin McMahon and Leah Doran both enjoyed success in their respective events. Erin came 1st in 300m in Youth Development League and 5th in the relay medley at U.K. School Games. Leah Doran Form 5 was placed 1st in the Pole Vault in the Youth Development League.





Under the expert guidance of Mr Paul Martin, the school golf team won the Ulster School's trophy. At individual level, two players enjoyed considerable success. Keaton Morrison represented Ireland at 3 separate golfing tournaments - the Italian Open, the English Open and the European Young Masters. Rory McIlroy invited Tom McKibbin to represent Team McIlroy at the inaugural Major Champions Invitational tournament in Florida in March. Tom went on to win this tournament with a magnificent hole-in-one and has been offered a place by the University of Florida for 2021. We hope that Tom does not forget his alma mater when he hits the big time as a world class professional golfer – we will be honoured to name any new building in his name that he cares to sponsor.

In cricket, Max Burton (M6) was a member of the Ulster Schools' U18 team and represented Ireland U17 on 2 tours, which included winning the Celtic Cup. Harry Warke M6 captained the NCU Under 17 squad. In girls' cricket, Erin McQuiston Form 5 was a member of the U17 NCU squad.

Maddy Harvey-Clifford L6 was selected for the NI U17 girls' Football squad and Abbie McHenry was chosen for the U15 team.

Ciaran Dixon Form 5 was selected to ride for Ulster at the UK 2018 School Games in Loughborough and was selected to ride for Ireland and the Errigal International 3day event.

The school's show jumping team competed in a number of events over the year. The Open team competed in the Inter-Schools Show Jumping League and put up an excellent performance to finish 2nd. Rocco Quinn, went on to represent Ireland at Tattersall International Horse Trials in the summer term.

The BRA girls' Water polo team won the Irish senior cup, at the NAC, Dublin in March.

Naomi Todd and Ellie Brown won Silver and Bronze medals at the British Junior Gymnastic Championships.

The past year was a great one for dance for the School. In March, nearly forty pupils from Form 1 to Middle Sixth participated in the Ulster Fitness and Dance Championships and the teams achieved three 1<sup>st</sup> placings and a third.

As Principal, I do not take for granted the vast range of extra-curricular opportunities available to our pupils from Form 1 to M6. This is only possible due to the number of staff and coaches who give freely of their time after school and at weekends in all types of weather to benefit our pupils and I thank them sincerely for their commitment.

Chloe McCrory, had the honour of being appointed Chief Cadet for Lord Lieutenant of Belfast during the past year and attended a number of events in this capacity including accompanying members of the royal family during their visits to Belfast.

Our senior public speaking team made up of Christopher McComiskey, Conor Callaghan and Jack Golden, excelled in their impressive win at the Ulster Final of the Knights of St Columbanus Public Speaking Competition.

The Junior Maths team, under the tutelage of Dr Springer, came first in the regional round of the UK Maths Trust's annual team competition. Twenty three teams from across Northern Ireland were present and the competition was hard fought and so finishing in first place was an impressive achievement. The team went on to compete in the national finals in London in June and although they were not placed, acquitted themselves extremely well.



Having the award of an International School is a very important reflection of the school's culture. The re-accreditation of our award recognises all of the work we do in raising global awareness and celebrating diversity within our school. Our Arabic programme is in its fifth year and pupils have benefited from learning about Arabic culture and language through calligraphy classes within the Art department. The innovative manner in which Arabic has been sensitively integrated to our curriculum has been recognised by the British Council and I would like to thank Mr Paul Porter and Mrs Pat Kerr for their vision and tenacity in ensuring its continued success. Pupils benefited from exchange trips organised by the Languages Department which have provided the opportunity for them to utilise their linguistic skills in a real life setting and also to play host and showcase the sights and traditions of Belfast, including our famous murals to our visitors on the return leg of the exchange.

There was also a senior ski trip during the Christmas holidays, and a joint Religious Studies and Art trip to Rome in February when the heavy snowfall ensured that the pupils had a tangible reminder of Northern Ireland weather.

Bridge continues to be a popular activity in BRA under the guidance of Mr Graham and Dr Lomas. Three teams participated in the Irish Schools' Bridge Championships. The senior team finished 3rd in the Gold Final and the other two teams finished 1st and 2nd in the Silver Final. Six of our students represented the Northern Ireland team in the Home International U18 competition in February and two of them competed in a European Youth bridge competition in Croatia over the summer.

We continue to be mindful of our school estate and remain focused on a steady improvement, building on the advances made in recent years. Behind ambitious

projects like the creation of the new Lower Sixth common room, the relocation of the Careers Library to the Lower Bruce corridor and refurbishment of the Sixth Form study area lie the less glamorous day to day work involved in maintaining the buildings, fixing windows, replacing doors, and improving the audio visual facilities in classrooms and public areas for which I would like to thank the estates team, ICT technician and commend the sterling work of the Estates Manager, Jill Lambert. I would like to thank the Head of Finance and Corporate Services, Elisabeth Hull for everything she does to enhance the School for the benefit of our pupils.

I would like to thank Mr Roly Jamison and Mr James Cleland for preparing the video and the presentation that accompany prize day.

In May, we were honoured to host an exhibition of silhouettes to commemorate the 36 former BRA pupils who died during World War 1. A member of the Old Boys' Association, Vernon Clegg, had prepared a record of the personal details of these former pupils and was present when the silhouettes were installed. Sadly, Vernon died shortly after this installation. Our Alumni Officer, Mr Eddie McCamley has organised for a commemorative book to be prepared in time to mark the centenary of the first Armistice Day in November 1918.

BRA pupils are always sympathetic to the needs of others and have contributed in practical and financial ways to a number of local groups and those further afield. Over £3000 was raised through the sponsored walk – another great BRA tradition. The School won the Rita Rodden Cup presented by Save the Children Fund for fundraising throughout the year. Senior pupils also contributed to local refurbishment projects with through Habitat for Humanity and members of the Scripture Union spent time in February working with a homeless charity in Poland.



In further thanks, I would like to briefly mention three groups of people. Friends of the Academy are a hugely committed and dedicated group of parents and friends of the School who give up a considerable amount of their time and energy to raise funds to benefit all the pupils. They have organised extremely enjoyable social events throughout the year including the Form 1 parents' breakfast in August and very well supported uniform sales. We are extremely fortunate to have such a dynamic group, ably led by their Chair, Mrs Kim Burns.

The Old Boys' and Old Girls' Associations are immensely supportive of the School, continuing to mould and shape the BRA brand through philanthropy and practical networking. Both groups help out in school with careers events, advice and talks on academic subjects and hosted dinners in Belfast. In addition, the Old Boys' Association has organised dinners in Edinburgh and London for former pupils who wish to retain their links with the School.

I would also like to thank the BRA parents who place the greatest trust in us to care for, educate and inspire their children. We recognise the responsibility we bear, and the privilege we enjoy in contributing to your children's lives.

And finally, to our Middle Sixth leavers. I would like to thank last year's Head Boy, Jacob Brady, Head Girl, Anna McClurg and deputies Trinity Geddes, Alice Reid, Euan Carroll and Patrick Donnelly for their ability to balance their academic studies and significant extra-curricular involvement with organising the prefect team and representing the School so effectively in numerous internal and public events.

To all our former pupils I would say that our work with you is complete. You may no longer wear the distinctive BRA uniform,

but you take with you the knowledge and skills, the values and attitudes that the school and your family have instilled in you over the years. You will have ambitions and hopes for the future and they may encompass world domination or involve more modest plans. The astronaut Neil Armstrong, made the following observation:

"Some things are beyond your control. You can lose your health to illness or accident. You can lose your wealth to all manner of unpredictable sources. What are not easily stolen from you without your cooperation are your principles and your values. They are your most important possessions and, if carefully selected and nurtured, will well serve you and your fellow man."

You are not educated to be onlookers but to take responsibility and to become the leaders that this country needs. We wish you well in the next stage of your education and future career and personal fulfilment and success in all your endeavours. We look forward to welcoming you back to school and to hear about your adventures. I hope you are always proud to be part of the BRA heritage that we all share.

Warden, this concludes my report on the 2017 – 18 academic year.





# School Societies

## BOARD GAMES CLUB

The school library introduced a successful monthly board games club to the school. Pupils gathered on the first Friday of the month, in the library, to participate in a wide range of games. This ranged from classic games to modern ones. Students used their critical thinking skills to master the games whilst simultaneously enjoying an element of fun and competition!

*E.M.*

## BRIDGE

The Bridge Club meets at lunchtimes (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) in M10. It requires dedication from its members to learn a challenging card game and master the skills of ‘bidding’ an auction and playing tricks. It is a game that challenges the mind but also allows



friendships to develop in school, and across Ireland, with other pupils. New members are welcome and should speak to Mr. Graham in M10, or anyone wearing a red blazer for Bridge, about joining. The highlight of the year continues to be the trip to Galway to compete in the Irish Schools Teams competition.



This year the school finished third (Lucy O’Kane, Conor Gallagher, Lauren Colville and Xander Todd) in the Irish Schools’ Championships ‘Gold Final’ in Galway. The two other teams finished first (Josh Mills, Joshua Boyd and Adam Ferguson) and second (EJ Atienza, JP Miller, Nathan Fung and Ewan Todd) in the ‘Silver Final’.





This was a great performance although the first team were disappointed not to win after being well placed at the halfway mark.

In the Irish Schools' Pairs in Dublin, Molly O'Donnell and Lucy O'Kane came fourth, EJ Atienza and JP Miler came fifth and Adam Ferguson and Minseog Kim finished sixth.

The highlight of the year was the Northern Ireland under 20 team being represented by Molly O'Donnell, Lucy O'Kane, Conor Gallagher, Luke McGarvey, Lauren Colville and Xander Todd. This is a great achievement and a target for Junior pupils to aim for.

A big thank-you to Dr Lomas for her continued support for the club throughout the year and for the special appearances from Monty! Thanks to Mr Harte for being so accommodating with the use of his room before moving back to M10 and for his help with the trip to Galway. Finally, thanks to Harriet Watson and Paul Martin for accompanying the students to Dublin and Galway during the year.

**S.G.**

## CHESS

Chess continues to be a very popular way to spend two lunchtimes a week. A large group of pupils make their way to M4 to munch on sandwiches and chat with friends while plotting how best to engineer a checkmate against their opponent.

The highly contested house chess competitions ran once again. Large numbers signed up to earn their house valuable points in the quest to win the Evans Trophy. The Senior competition was won by Chris Ewart (MVI) and the Junior competition by Theo Hayward (II). The full results are shown below.



The club, as ever, remains open to all. Any pupil, in any form, should feel free to call in to M4 to play a game against an existing friend or a potentially new friend. Those wishing to learn should speak to Dr Springer for an initial crash course in the rules followed, over the next few sessions, by reminders of the rules and also ponderous looks at their board to give advice on tactics (or to enquire what is in their sandwich).





## Senior House Chess Competition Results

Winner: Chris Ewart (Cairns)

Second place: Douglas Adams (Cairns)

Third place: Lewis Milligan (Cairns)

Fourth place: Joe Desmond (Shaw)

## Junior House Chess Competition Results

Winner: Theo Hayward (Currie)

Second place: Gosha Peters (Shaw)

Runners up: Ryan Ferguson (Pottinger)  
and Daniel McIlroy (Cairns)

**S.C.S.**

## EXTRACURRICULAR MATHS

It was another very successful year for Extracurricular Maths in school both in individual and team activities. The school representatives continue to perform very well in competitive, Extracurricular Maths and distinguish themselves as being amongst the best in the UK.

In team competitions, the Senior team came a very close fourth in the NI regional finals of the UK Maths Trust Team Challenge in November and also competed in the annual competition at Queen's in December. 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. The latter was a huge achievement and the fourth time the Junior Team have won over the past five years. An account of the Junior team's year follows this article.

This year's team members were:

UKMT Junior Team: Riya Raghuram, Kaitlyn Toal, Ben Golden and Donal McGrath.



UKMT Senior team: Zak Thabeth, Jack Green, Conor Callaghan and Shane Martin.



The QUB team: Jack Green, Conor Callaghan, Megan Carson and Shane Martin.



At Intermediate level, pupils achieved 5 gold, 16 silver and 18 bronze awards. John Gibson (IV) and Zak Thabeth (V) qualified for the next round (the Pink Kangaroo) with John achieving a merit.



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

At Junior level, pupils achieved 5 gold, 17 silver and 19 bronze awards. Matt McLaughlin (I) and Daniel Stewart (I) qualified for the next round (the Junior Kangaroo).



At Senior level, pupils achieved 2 golds, 11 silver and 23 bronze awards. Adam Ferguson (MVI), Conor Foster (MVI) and Lewis Milligan (MVI) qualified for the next round of the competition the senior



If you enjoy challenging maths problems that stretch you to think in new ways then consider participating in the coming year: hard sums and new experiences await.





## JUNIOR TEAM PUPIL REPORT

Our names are Riya and Kaitlyn and we were part of the Junior Maths Team last year. We heard about the competition in February and decided to attend the qualifying tests. We were delighted to find out that we got on the team and would be able to represent our school at competitions. We met up with our teammates, Ben and Donal, and started rigorous practice for the upcoming competition in April. Along the way we faced many difficult questions, but with team work (and a little help from Dr Springer) we overcame them and learnt new techniques. Having prepared over numerous lunchtimes, we were ready for the competition on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

On the day of the competition, we headed to St Malachy's. The anticipation was building. As we entered the hall, we saw the numerous other teams from around NI. We were nervous, but ultimately, we wanted to do our best. There were four rounds to the competition; the group round, the cross number, the shuttle and the relay. As we continued through the competition, we encountered many difficulties but we were happily surprised when we heard our result of 2<sup>nd</sup> place. We were proud of our achievement.

After two weeks, we were surprised when Dr Springer called us together and announced that there had been a mistake and we had come first. We were pleasantly shocked as this meant that we would be representing NI at the national competition in London. We immediately got back into our practice routine and started preparing for the competition on the 18<sup>th</sup> June.

After two more months of training, the day of the competition arrived. It was an early start of 5.15 am at the airport. We got a flight to London, took a train and after a

quick breakfast stop we walked to the Royal Horticultural Halls and took our position. We were alarmed at the number of schools in the room, as there were four times more teams competing than at regionals.

There was an extra round this time - the poster round. For this we created a poster on Leonard Euler and his Mathematics. The rounds were really challenging and some of the teams were a bit intimidating. However, we persevered and attempted each question with enthusiasm. We ended up placing 74<sup>th</sup> in the UK. We were thrilled to have placed in the top 5% of the 1,742 teams that participated.

This was an amazing and enjoyable experience for all of us. We would like to thank Miss McMillen and Ms McIlhatton for accompanying us on the trip, helping us and relieving our stress as we got ready to compete. Finally, we would like to thank Dr Springer for all the hard work he put in to help us be the best we could be. He has made maths more interesting than we ever thought maths could be.

*Riya Raghuram and Kaitlyn Toal (II)*

## GAMERS' CLUB

The Gamers' Club is a bit like the proverbial tide; it comes in and out each Tuesday lunchtime leaving some jetsam, it is predictable and nothing much changes. We have, however, enjoyed many more Spring tides than Neap ones this year. A wide variety of games is played but the majority are now personal hand held games. New members are always welcome.

*Father Neptune (aka R.J.)*





## INTO FILM CLUB



The Into Film Club continued to meet regularly throughout the year to watch films. The club was also treated to two cinema trips.

On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December, twenty-eight pupils from the BRA Into Film Club enjoyed a Christmas visit to Movie House Cinemas at Cityside to watch the latest Star Wars film on the big screen! The film became the third highest grossing film of 2017 and the 18<sup>th</sup> highest grossing film of all-time, as well as the second highest grossing film of the Star Wars franchise.

Over 400 pupils from schools across Northern Ireland attended the Star Wars film screening. One pupil from each school got selected to take part in a Star Wars photoshoot with Cinemagic 'Into Film'. Andrew Cleland from FI got selected to represent BRA. Pupils also enjoyed participating in a film review writing workshop following the film screening.

On Wednesday 2nd May, 32 Academy pupils visited the Odyssey Cinema to attend a special screening for three schools of 'Avengers: Infinity War'. The Academy is elated to have been one of the schools selected to attend the screening. Each pupil was awarded with a cinema ticket,

popcorn pack, bag of sweets and drink completely free of cost.



The Academy fosters a very strong link with Cinemagic through the BRA Into Film club. We currently enjoy full access to a film catalogue of over 3000 titles through our working relationship. The Academy recognises that the experience of film holds a unique place in the story of our civilisation. It is an art, a language, a medium for education, inspiration, and so much more.

Through participating in Film Club, pupils have learned to look more deeply at why things happen and have developed their ability to communicate and back up an opinion. We recognise that film can be a gateway to exploring complex ideas and can open our pupil's eyes to other ways of looking at the world. It is hoped that the Academy Film Club is having a positive impact on our pupils' Literacy skills and their performance in lessons.

The club greatly encourages new friendships and fosters empathy. Pupils greatly enjoyed their trip out to see the eagerly awaited Marvel 'Avengers' film. Committed Academy film club members were joined by our top performing pupils at Accelerated Reader on the trip. These pupils were awarded places to celebrate their industriousness and reading success.



Our school library greatly recognises the symbiotic relationship between books and film. The library continues to acknowledge this symbiosis by often showing films based upon books. It had been lovely to celebrate reading success through film.

*E.M.*

## JUNIOR BOOK CLUB

The Junior Book Club met Thursday fortnightly at lunch-time in the school library. Throughout the years, pupils shadowed both the Northern Ireland Book Award and the Carnegie Medal. The pupils were treated to a trip out of school to attend the finale of the NI Book Award.

A beautiful sunny morning provided the backdrop of the finale at Campbell College on Tuesday 26th June. The hall was filled with pupils from schools across Northern Ireland and the sense of excitement was palpable, not least because the visiting author was none other than Belfast's own Kelly McCaughrain, author of 'Flying Tips for Flightless Birds'.

First up was a fun literary quiz between the schools. One pupil was chosen to represent each participating school. Andrew Cleland from FI represented the Academy and displayed a great knowledge and understanding of Children's and Young Adult Literature. Well done, Andrew!

Kelly McCaughrain then gave the audience a very inspiring speech about how she got into writing and how circuses have influenced her. Kelly loves working with young writers and volunteers with 'Fighting Words Belfast' at their Wednesday 'Write Club'. This is a club held at the Duncairn Arts Centre in North Belfast, which several Academy pupils regularly attend outside of school.

Academy pupils had the opportunity of meeting Kelly after her talk and getting photographs and copies of her book signed.



The final and main part of the book award finale was to announce the winner and this year the award was won by 'The Hate U Give' written by Angie Thomas. This book has been highly popular with young adults and won the William C. Morris Award recently. The book had also been a contender for this year's Carnegie Medal. 2nd place of the NI Book Award was won by 'Goldfish Boy' by Lisa Thompson and the 3rd place was won by Dave Rudden for his book 'Knights of the Borrowed Dark'.

Pupils thoroughly enjoyed attending the NI Book Award finale. Academy pupil, Jessica Boyd (FV) said afterwards: "I really liked the way the author read an extract from her book. It gave me a flavour of the story before I bought the





book. I wasn't surprised by 'The Hate U Give' winning the NI Book Award as i felt it was a very popular book". Fellow FV pupil Eleanor Black added: "I really enjoyed the informal nature of the book award finale. The quiz was very good fun. I also liked the way the author explained the stages of writing a book and how honest she had been about how long it took her to write a book. Anna Monaghan from FV said she "enjoyed the way the author involved the audience in her talk". Anna said she found this to be "inspiring and encouraging for those considering a career in writing. Thomas McNeilly, from FI, said he enjoyed reading all of the books from this year's NI Book Award shortlist but commented that "I wasn't surprised by 'The Hate U Give' winning the NI Book Award today. I voted for it to win and I'm really glad it did."

***E.M.***

## **JUNIOR DEBATING SOCIETY**

This was another successful year for the Junior Debating Society with increasing levels of participation particularly from Form 1. As well as the stalwarts from last year, many of the new members were anxious to take part in the range of lively debates. Once again, the debates focused on areas of particular interest to young



people, and ranged from the light-hearted to the serious. Surprisingly, it was the more serious topics that attracted the largest attendance, which reflects the interest our young people have in the world around them, and shows they are anxious to have their say.

We have some very enthusiastic debaters in the Society whom we look forward to seeing again this year. Many have moved on to the Senior Debating Society, so there is plenty of room for new speakers to make their mark in the coming year.

***J.S.***

## **JUNIOR SCRIPTURE UNION**

The Junior SU meets on Wednesday lunchtimes at 12:25 pm in LL11, headed by Mr D. Morrison and Mrs S. Graydon. This past year, we have had an amazing turn out from the Junior school, with really encouraging numbers that have really shown God's work here in school. This has been a huge inspiration and encouragement to us on the Junior SU committee.





This year we focused on different points of study, for example, we looked ‘The importance of spending time with God’, ‘How are Christians viewed in daily life?’, ‘Guarding your heart’ and ‘Self-worth’. We also looked at Esther in the Old Testament over a three-week period. We read of her total faith in God despite the risk of death. The past year has really been about encouraging those who are already Christians in their faith to become the men and women of God they’re meant to be. We have also incorporated opportunities to share the good news of Jesus Christ, who came into the world to save everybody and give eternal life.

We as a committee have sought to build strong relationships with all the F1 to F3s that have come to Junior SU. Every meeting has a good mixture of fun, laughs and banter, yet this is always anchored with good Bible teaching and the desire for all of us to get to know our awesome God more and to walk closer to Him. Our programme ranges from PowerPoint presentations, discussion groups on the topic or theme of the day to quizzes.

The Christmas and Easter parties are always really opportune moments to get into the reasons for the celebrations; the birth, death and resurrection of Christ. As the committee, it is always refreshing to examine with the juniors, more closely the reasons to celebrate these important holidays.

From the beginning of the year both the Junior and Senior committees do joint activities and trips such as the weekend away to Castlewellsan Castle, Co. Down, at the beginning of October. The SU weekend is most importantly a chance for all of us to come together and have fellowship with one other, all ages and backgrounds, to worship God.



At the end of the year, we had to say goodbye to five Middle Sixth committee members: Caitlyn Warke, Ellen Dalzell, Eve Proctor, Naomi Knox, Lucy Clements and Alexis Payot. They will all be sorely missed as they have become like family to us all. We pray that they will all continue to walk with God as they embark on this next stage of their lives and we will continue to remember them in our prayers. We hope and pray that God will continue to use Junior SU as we work with the Junior pupils and that more and more will become involved. We wait with anticipation for what God has in store to teach us next year.

***D.D.M.***

## **POLITICS SOCIETY**

Politics Society continued to meet throughout the year, discussing a range of topics of interest to the students including abortion, Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, Colin Kaepernick and the Take a Knee protest, Conservative Prime Ministers and gun violence in America. A new batch of energised and enthusiastic Form V joined the Society bringing new interests and views with them. J6 is often liveliest during Thursday lunchtimes which is great to see.





In November, LVI and MVI students were invited to meet with the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Nuala McAlister, about their views of the city. This informal discussion was again a useful one for our students as they could ask questions to the Lord Mayor and hear her views on the paralysis in NI politics. Both years also got the chance to be in the audience of the BBC's *Top Table* programme, hosted by Stephen Nolan. Seeing a television programme get made with the lights and cameras is a great experience for our students. The debate was certainly lively and gave our students much food for thought about how to disagree without being disagreeable. Both years were also invited to attend a workshop run by the US Embassy on US Foreign Relations. This interactive and innovative session examined the impact the USA has on the world and perceptions of the USA our students have. Students learnt a lot about the work of diplomats through this and ask questions to the facilitators.

**K.S.B.**



## READING GROUP

The Reading Group met at lunch time, on the first Tuesday of every month, in Ms Graham's English room on the bottom floor of the Louis Lord building. The group met to discuss favourite titles, recent reads, and a novel selected by one of the members for the entire group to read. The Reading Group were kept well fed and watered by Ms Graham's generous supplying of chocolate biscuits, treats, tea and coffee. Throughout the year, a wide range of authors were covered including Alice Walker, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Oscar Wilde, Robert Graves, Robert Harris, George Orwell, and Kim Newman. The Reading Group served to broaden literary horizons as well as offering a chance to discuss old favourites.

The novel chosen for the entire group to read was, "The Master and Margarita" by Mikhail Bulgakov. The group enjoyed this story and were particularly interested in the context within which the book was written, having been conceived in the Soviet Union during Stalin's regime with many hints within the story to this totalitarian state. The Middle Sixth members of the group also had the opportunity to talk about the novels they had selected for their A Level coursework and the theme they wished to address in their essays.



There was also lively debate as to the virtues of certain film and TV adaptations of books including the recent TV series based upon Margaret Atwood's, "The Handmaid's Tale". The Reading Group would like to thank Ms Graham for her facilitating of such interesting conversation about Literature and Culture.

***Finn Purdy (MVI)***

## **SENIOR DEBATING SOCIETY**

Once again a wide variety of different motions reflected the interests of Society members. Topics ranged from the curriculum at BRA to Trump's policy towards North Korea.

This year, speakers were mostly drawn from the Sixth Form although some pupils from FIV and FV also took part. Attendance was encouraging, being enough to fill a classroom and to produce lively exchanges between speakers and members of the House during periods open to questions.

As usual, we entered the Northern Ireland Schools Debating Competition. Our team consisting of Christopher McComisky and Ríoghanach McGuinness-McCay prepared thoroughly for three debates, but were only able to participate in one. In the first round, the opposing team withdrew at the final moment, while in the Quarter Final, a last minute date change left them unable to participate due to other commitments.

***M.P./H.T.***

## **THE CLASSICS SOCIETY**

During the year, the Classics Society and the Greek Club met at lunchtime, every Thursday, in S3. The meetings were attended by a very lively group of Third to Fifth Formers.

Those learning Greek progressed at their own pace. The decision to start the EMACT Classical Greek Certificate to give the pupils something definite to work towards, was postponed until the following year, by which time they should have attained a suitable level.

New members are very welcome, both to the Classics Society and to the Greek club.

***J.M.G.***

## **THE LIBRARY CLUB**

The Library Club entered into its second year. At Library Club, pupils trained to become pupil librarians. Organising pupils to help with the library not only ensures the smooth day-to-day running of the library, but also helps develop a sense of responsibility, achievement and self-esteem in the pupils. Examples of some of the duties carried out by our pupil librarians included:

- Helping in the library during breaks and lunches
- Shelving fiction books in A-Z order
- Shelving non-fiction books by subject order
- Keeping a section of the stock tidy and in the correct order
- Helping with library displays
- Helping other students find what they are looking for
- Helping the librarian with the issuing and returning of materials

***E.M.***

## **YOUNG EINSTEIN CLUB**

The Young Einstein Club has, once again, experienced a year of exciting experiments and great enjoyment. Every Wednesday fortnight at lunchtime, pupils from Forms I and II would take part in activities to



expand their intellectual capacity and interest in science. We have regularly had a large turnout, to the point that we didn't have room for them!



Throughout the year, we had a *fantastic* time creating chemical cocktails, making dancing popcorn and becoming architects building the tallest towers in BRA. All pupils took on the experiments with a great sense of eagerness and energy, and many found that they thoroughly enjoyed the activities that they had partaken in. We hope to see the return of many of the first year students who joined us this year!



The committee meets every Wednesday and strives to create a welcoming and educational environment for Junior pupils. We would like to thank all the teachers

who have made the Young Einstein Club possible - Mrs Henry, Mrs Cleland and Mrs Bell. They have successfully aided younger students in becoming the scientists of the future – the next big Einsteins.



- The LVI Young Einstein Committee

(Catriona Hendry, Katie Baird, Hannah McConnaughie, Emily Johnson,

Jonathan Boomer, Cormac McGowan and Stephen Moreland)

***J.B.***







# *Music in School*



## **WIND BAND**

Well, after another year of hard work I feel it is fair to say that it has been one of the greatest successes we have ever had. In the Spring Concert, the Band performed 'The Lion King' in its entirety and the Ulster Hall was filled with the joyful swing of the recognisable musical.

The Band bonded with special appearances from non-wind players, such as Jason Poots, who pulled off an exceptional duet on marimba with Daniel Quigley (saxophone), as well as some appearances from players with very 'special techniques'(hi Ben!), but all players of all ability are welcomed under

the caring wing of Ms McMullan. Ms McMullan pours so much of her efforts into keeping the best group in the school ticking over without ever tiring or running out of enthusiasm and for this we thank her unreservedly. Wind Band is losing many of its key players this year, but the memories







made in rehearsal will last them, and their band mates, a lifetime.

*Ronan Poots (IV)*

## BOYS' CHOIR

Every Tuesday lunchtime in the Academy, boys in Form III and above, from many different parts of the school, with many different personalities, with many different interests, all gather together in J9. Miss Carson takes out the keyboard, the choristers organise themselves into basses and tenors, the words are displayed on the screen and the Boys' Choir rehearsal is ready to begin. From the Chamber Choir elite to those who have little or no previous experience in singing or music, all are welcome and come to enjoy the friendship and camaraderie that comes from singing in a choir - and none more so than this one!



Of course, all the boys attend because they love to sing. As dedicated members, we perfect our selected carols and songs for the whole-school end of term Christmas assembly. Every year our audience is treated to the traditional rendition of *Merry Christmas Everyone*, to send everyone off on their holidays. Anyone who has been at BRA for any length of time knows that this is a classic in the Boys' Choir repertoire! Last Christmas we were also invited to participate in the Junior Carol Service and we even sang *Stille Nacht* in the original German!

The rehearsal room continues to be packed full of boys upon return from the Christmas



break, as all eyes turn to the annual Spring Concert in the Ulster Hall. Enthusiasm did not waver as we all sought to ensure a flawless performance on the night. When March 15<sup>th</sup> did arrive, we knew it was time to show what we were made of. Our first item was a Scottish medley of some popular traditional songs: *Loch Lomond*, *Auld Lang Syne*, *Skye Boat Song* and *I Love a Lassie*, and we topped it all off with a stirring rendition of the Scottish national anthem: *O Flower of Scotland*. We followed this with a second item: Marvin Gaye's well-known *Ain't No Mountain High Enough*, which was a huge success and was particularly enjoyed by both the audience and ourselves. The night went exceedingly well and the choir gave a great performance. We were also very grateful for Ms McMullan's unwavering support throughout the year.

Boys' Choir has been one of my most enjoyable experiences at school and I am sure that my fellow choristers would agree. We would encourage all boys, regardless of musical ability, to come along and find out for themselves how friendly all the boys are and how good the singing really is. Finally, and most importantly, I would like to thank Miss Carson, on behalf of the whole choir,





not only for her commitment but also for her support and encouragement. She conducts, plays piano accompaniments, organises music and also fine tunes (or, in the case of the Boys' Choir, *literally* 'large tunes') our performance. I can certainly say that she is the reason that Boys' Choir continues to thrive and to be enjoyable for every member.

**Mark McKillen (LVI)**

## SENIOR ORCHESTRA



This year has been a very eventful one for the Senior Orchestra. After the successful Spring Concert, the orchestra was anticipating a great year ahead. We began preparing almost immediately for Prize Day in the Spires Centre in Belfast, where we were to perform the 'The Can-Can'. Despite the tight deadline to learn our music, the orchestra stepped up to the bar and the exciting piece went down very well with the audience.



The next performance on the list for Senior Orchestra was the Christmas Carol Service in



Rosemary Presbyterian; for this we dug out our faithful Christmas folders and prepared well-known carols such as 'In the Bleak Mid Winter', 'Oh Come All Ye Faithful', and 'O Little Town of Bethlehem'. As usual, the organ proved to be tuned very differently to the rest of the orchestra, but when everyone had readjusted their instruments to match, the combination of full orchestra and church organ made for a spectacular sound and wonderful service.

The Christmas break came and went far too quickly; we were soon back in our seats practising for the most important musical event of the year – the Spring Concert. Mr Forde decided to open the Concert with Prokofiev's 'Montagues and Capulets' overture from Romeo and Juliet. Our second piece was another fantastic Mr Forde arrangement called 'One of a Kind' with music from Florence and the Machine, The Chemical Brothers and something from The Matrix.

As always, the end of the Spring Concert brought the end of an era for the Middle 6th; for several members of the orchestra, it was their last school performance. Thanks are due to the inspirational leader of 2018's Senior Orchestra, Tara Cavan, as well as the dedicated MVI players who helped make the orchestra so successful; Ellen Quinn, Jason Poots, Lucy Clements, Conor Foster, Patrick Donnelly, Ellen O'Fril and Daniel Quigley. Your antics and rehearsals and concerts will live long in the memories of fellow players!

**Lauren O'Donnell (LVI)**





## SENIOR CHOIR

At the beginning of last year, I suppose most Senior Choir participants were thinking how difficult it would be to have such a successful



year as the last. However, to our delight, the year we had in front of us was one of many joys and surprises.

We rehearsed at lunchtimes every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday led by Ms McMullan. We knew we had a tough year ahead, but were prepared for the challenge.

We started off by learning Fauré's 'Requiem', later to be performed at the Spring concert, but before that we had the Christmas Carol service to prepare for.

It was lovely practising the usual standards such as 'O Come all ye Faithful' and 'Away



in a Manger', as well as 'Once in Royal David's City' – the first verse sung wonderfully by soloist Lucy Clements. We learnt a new piece by Eric Whitacre called 'Glow' and 'A Celtic Silent Night' with Ellen Quinn playing the cello solo along with the traditional Selwood Lindsay arrangement of



'Away in a Manger' and Ms McMullan's favourite 'In the Bleak Mid-Winter'.

After Christmas, we had a bit of a shock realising that the Spring Concert was just around the corner, and although Fauré's 'Requiem' was going well, Ms McMullan decided to lighten things up by choosing a well known music for Senior Choir to perform, 'Les Miserables'. Safe to say, we were all delighted by this, and hearing that the school's own rock band (consisting of Owen Donnelly, Daniel Quigley, Conor Foster and Mr Comfort) would be performing alongside us was even more exciting.

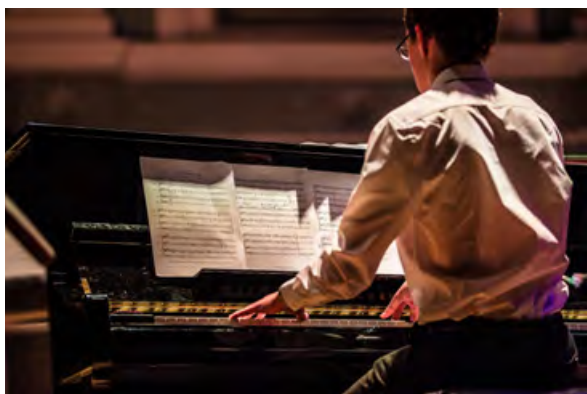
On the night, nerves were roaring high, but after putting in months of hard work, the 'Requiem' turned out to be truly excellent! The Senior Strings accompanied us beautifully in Faure's 'Requiem' and the addition of the organ made the whole experience one to remember. Jason Poots was the soloist in 'Libera Me' and it was truly spine-tingling!

We loved every minute of it, and would like to thank Ms McMullan for all the effort and time she put into it. What a fantastic year for Senior Choir!

*Eva Hayward (V)*

## CHAMBER CHOIR

2017/18 was a very exciting year for Belfast Royal Academy's Chamber Choir. We rehearsed every morning in the choir room under the instruction of the legendary Ms McMullan.



Our first engagement was Prize Day in October. We sang 'Daemon Irrupt Callidus' by Orban, much to the enjoyment of the audience. Our next big engagement was Belfast Royal Academy's Christmas Carol Service where we sang the divine 'The Lamb' by Taverner and 'The Three Kings' with Patrick Donnelly as the soloist.

The Annual Spring Concert was held in the Assembly Hall, and it was a huge success. For many members this was their last Spring Concert and we hope they have enjoyed their years singing on the stage! Thanks must also go to our accompanist extraordinaire, Daniel - we will miss you all next year.

*Eva Hayward & Anna Quinn (LVI)*

## JUNIOR STRINGS

Junior Strings - arguably the most exasperating group to manage in the entire school. So it is only fitting that the most patient, calm and kind teacher in the school should have this burden foisted upon her. Mrs Prior - she is the backbone of the music department and every Monday lunchtime she painstakingly organises the rehearsals for Junior Strings. The rehearsals are always a joy for all the musicians who attend but I'm sure Mrs Prior is left shattered after conducting, playing the piano, writing in all the bowing and all the while maintaining discipline among this lively bunch. However, there are two rewards that make it all worthwhile and these are our performances at

the annual Spring Concert and the Summer Serenade.

We performed 'Ode to Joy' (a favourite piece of Junior Strings), and a relatively challenging arrangement of 'Here Comes the



Sun' at the Spring Concert in the Ulster Hall. Both pieces were a resounding success and the standing ovation at the end was a testament to Mrs Prior's hard work throughout the year. Then, at the Summer Serenade concert in June, we raised the roof again with a brilliant performance of Queen's 'Under Pressure' which was greeted by raucous applause.

Without Mrs Prior Junior strings would be a wreck and, on the behalf of the whole Junior Strings society, I would like to thank her for her dedication, hard work and optimism over the last two years. It will be a wrench but, at the end of this year, I must leave Junior Strings. It has been a brilliant experience and once again I would like to thank Mrs Prior for taking the Junior Strings group and also for allowing me to compose this article.

*Theo Hayward (II)*

## JUNIOR CHAMBER CHOIR

The Junior Chamber Choir was formed at the end of the School Year and it consisted of Form III and IV pupils. It was formed by Ms McMullan and rehearsed every Tuesday and Wednesday lunch-time. Miss Wahl, the German assistant, helped us to perfect the





two pieces and we enjoyed her vocal warm-ups at the start of the rehearsal immensely.

The Junior Chamber Choir performed at the Summer Serenade 'With or Without you' and 'Like a Singing Bird' by Bob Chilcott. We enjoyed performing the two pieces, especially the version of 'With or Without You' because we had never done anything like that before and it was fun and exciting. We all had an amazing time and hope that something like this will take place again next year when the Senior pupils leave to study for their exams.

*Hermione Reid (IV)*

## BIG BAND



Big Band hit the big time last year... our talented new members and our long-term jazz devotees played several gigs, continued to expand our repertoire with new numbers like 'Superstition' alongside classic favourites like 'Jazz Police' and 'Sir Duke' and had a great time! We hit the road in our tour bus, rocking several venues including the school's annual Spring Concert, the Open Evenings and the Ulster Schools' Jazz Festival at the Black Box, a venue frequented by jazz icons for years.

For me this was the highlight of the season. There was a wide variety of bands from

schools all over Northern Ireland, including Methodist College, RBAI, Grosvenor Grammar, and the Ulster Youth Jazz Orchestra. The music was totally bodacious, the vibe was great and all in all it was a most excellent performance from the band! We had great fun jamming afterwards with our friends from the other groups. The Spring Concert was yet another triumph and was enjoyed by all who attended; our music, new and old, was well received and even sustained applause!

We will be sad to say goodbye to those who have been playing with us for several years and have now finished school. We would like to thank them and wish them all the best for the future. We would also like to thank our band leader Ms McMullan for all her help, enthusiasm, encouragement and general banter, all of which make Big Band big fun. Everyone is looking forward to the year ahead and we would welcome new members. We practise in MU1 on Thursdays after school - see you there!



*David Russell (LVI)*

## SENIOR STRINGS

Yet again, this past year has been very strong for BRA's Senior Strings. With our extremely successful entries in Ballymena Music Festival last year, Ms McMullan entered us again. We entered the "String Orchestra" class with *Pavane* by Warlock and *The Holberg Suite*: because of our success last year the pieces we chose were of a much higher level this time. With much enthusiasm from Ms McMullan and a lot of hard work on



Friday lunchtimes we achieved an outstanding result of 2nd place which we were all thrilled with.

Some of the members of Senior Strings were entered in other classes of the festival with the following winning prizes:

- Duet for Strings 15-16 years: Anna Quinn and Eva Hayward 2nd
- Cello Solo 14 years and under: Jonny Hayward 2nd
- Double Bass Solo 14-17 years: Jonny Hayward 1st
- Unaccompanied Bach: Ellen Quinn 2nd
- Cello Solo Open: Ellen Quinn 1st
- Violin Solo 15-16 years: Eva Hayward 2nd and Anna Quinn 1st

Ellen Quinn was awarded the the Victor Ross Memorial Prize (£250) for the best performance in an open string class and Anna Quinn was awarded the Elizabeth Cummings Memorial Prize for the most promising string player during the whole festival (£100).

Ellen was invited back to compete in the Beggs and Partner Instrumentalist of the Year (£400) on Saturday 24th February. The competition was extremely tough as all the other competitors had been placed either 1st or 2nd in their classes throughout the previous week. Ellen won the competition and the adjudicator (Gill Johnston) was so impressed by her performance that she also arranged for Ellen to receive a lesson with her son, cellist Guy Johnston (BBC Young Musician of the Year 2000).

The next big task for Senior Strings was to prepare for the annual Spring Concert in

April. We decided to perform Vivaldi's *Double Cello Concerto* with soloists Ellen Quinn and Jason Poots (MVI). In line with



Ms.McMullan's recent obsession, she decided to make an arrangement of Muse's *City of Delusion*, with Owen Donnelly (MVI) playing the guitar solo. The audience appreciated the wide variety of music and talent on display and it was a thoroughly enjoyable night for all involved.

The end of the musical year means we have to say goodbye to our MVI year, who were particularly amazing this year (Ellen Quinn, Jason Poots, Tara Cavan and Lucy Clements). Myself and Senior Strings will miss you all so much, your talent and particularly your banter.



As well as this, a massive thank you to Ms McMullan who encouraged us (with very kind words!) throughout the year and who has put in so much dedication to the group





over so many years: we couldn't do it without you.

*Anna Quinn (V)*

## NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF WALES

Having never played in a real Youth Orchestra before (let alone been to Wales), I was somewhat intimidated as I boarded the plane to Cardiff that would lead me to St. David's University in sunny Lampeter. However, I had no cause for alarm as, once there, I met one of the nicest, kindest and most talented groups of young musicians I have ever had the pleasure of playing with.



The repertoire was challenging, but under the baton of world-famous conductor Carlo Rizzi, the orchestra went from strength to strength. Performing *Mahler Symphony No.5* was a challenge for every section of the orchestra, but after several pep talks with Carlo along with late night practise sessions in our rooms, we triumphed and it has since become my favourite symphony. As well as this, we performed Bernstein's amazing *Chichester Psalms* in collaboration with the National Youth Choir of Wales. Again, these were some of the most musically talented people I have met, and we spent many hours

talking, jamming or just mucking about in our free time.

NYOW (or 'Nash' as it's affectionately called by its members) performed in Hereford Cathedral, St. David's Cathedral and St. David's Hall in Cardiff, where we were given a standing ovation and three encores by the appreciative audience. As well as the performances (which I thoroughly enjoyed), we had plenty of recreational time which was filled with all manner of concerts, karaoke nights, dances, fancy dress and even sensational curry nights!

I made so many great memories throughout my time in Wales, along with several friends for life that I hope to meet up with soon. I would encourage any young musician to step out of their comfort zone and apply to a youth orchestra or choir outside of Northern Ireland - you are guaranteed to have one of the best summers of your life!

## ULSTER YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Myself and several other members of the BRA music department (Maia Reilly Stewart, Form IV, Anna Quinn, Form VI and Ellen Quinn and Patrick Donnelly, both Form MVI) had the privilege of playing in the Ulster Youth Orchestra's 25th Anniversary tour to Vienna and Bratislava in summer 2018.

The run up to the tour was a flurry of rehearsals due to the large and varied





repertoire we were planning on playing. As well as *An American in Paris* by Gershwin, *Overture to Candide* by Bernstein and Debussy's *Rhapsody for Clarinet and Orchestra*, we wanted to showcase Northern Irish music when abroad. As a result, we also played Harty's amazing *Children of Lir* (based around the famous Irish legend) and a commission piece - *Ogham* by Ryan Molloy. It was a pleasure to have Ryan accompany us to Austria and Slovakia and an amazing experience for us all to play a piece that no other orchestra had ever performed.

Between rehearsals, performances and some very long bus rides, we got to explore the cities of Vienna and Bratislava: tasting regional dishes, buying souvenirs and walking around in the sunshine with friends boosted the morale and high spirits between everyone in the orchestra, which really transferred over to a genuine enthusiasm for playing. For me, the highlight of our time abroad was the day trip to Salzburg: there, we visited Mozart's house, Mozartplatz Square and the beautiful Mirabell gardens made famous by *The Sound of Music*. The trip gave us some time to relax and unwind, as well as perform *Doe a Deer á la Julie Andrews* on the garden steps!

The last concert we performed was back in Belfast, where we were recorded to produce a CD. After the concert there were many tearful farewells and promises to keep in touch, as well as a lot of pictures. Then we all headed home to get the first good night's sleep we had had in two weeks.

The UYO tour really boosted my confidence as an orchestral player, and it was such a privilege to be able to represent Northern Ireland in Austria and Slovakia. I met so many incredible people on tour as well as playing in some amazing venues. The camaraderie among the orchestra members and even the staff was fantastic. It was a fabulous experience and I can't wait to go back next year!

***Eva Hayward (LVI)***











## Senior Choir

### SOPRANO

Giulia Allen  
Melissa Bright  
Laura Browne  
Anna Buckley  
Catelyn Burns  
Emma Calderwood  
Abby Cameron  
Eve Cameron  
Ellen Campbell  
Rebecca Carse  
Samantha Cassidy Campbell  
Tara Cavan  
Eva Clarke  
Lucy Clements  
Anna Clingen  
Emma Connolly  
Amy Convery  
Lauryn Cotton  
Hannah Crawford  
Ruth Davis  
Caitlyn Donaghy  
Kate Duffy  
Maia Erwin  
Charlotte Frazer  
Denise Gaspar  
Megan Gifford  
Laura Hamilton  
Maia Hamilton  
Meghan Hamilton  
Lucy Handcock  
Georgia Harvey  
Nada Harvey  
Eva Hayward  
Caitlyn Hennessy  
Lauren Hetherington  
Caitlin Hoey  
Emma Irvine  
Lucy Jamison  
Alex Johnston  
Olivia Jones  
Lauren Kane  
Jayne Kennedy  
Susie Kerr  
Rachel Patterson  
Molly Lapworth  
Nina Leavey  
Kirsty Lee  
Ella Linton  
Kathleen Malone  
Shannon McBride  
Tara McBride  
Leah McCarter  
Elizabeth McCauley  
Kylie McComb  
Elisa McCullagh  
Eva McGoldrick Mathers

Rachael McGrath  
Jane McIlroy  
Niamh McIlroy  
Olivia McIlroy  
Sarah McIlroy  
Chloe McKnight  
Veda Meruga Perumal  
Ellie Moffatt  
Jane Monahan  
Ellie Moore  
Claire Njanina  
Lauren O'Donnell  
Francesca O'Hara  
Orla O'Kane  
Alexis Payot  
Sasha Peters  
Alex Pina-Semoto  
Eve Proctor  
Anna Quinn  
Maya Reilly Stewart  
Martha Rose Rooney  
Rebecca Ross  
Donna Saij  
Sarah Saunders  
Lena Schlogel  
Ally Shaw  
Malika Shayane  
Orla Shiels  
Alex Simpson  
Danielle Speers  
Olivia Spence  
Rachel Swann  
Jaana Tharun  
Emma Uprichard  
Ellie Walsh  
Christina Warnock  
Lucy White  
Jing Yi Sun

### ALTO

Sarah Adams  
Lauren Adams  
Kathryn Allen  
Aoife Armstrong  
Abbie Baxter  
Aoife Bennett  
Martha Bloomer  
Madison Boyce  
Ellie Byrne  
Hannah Carey  
Elain Carmichael  
Megan Carson  
Aoife Corry  
Lauryn Cotton  
Layla Creaney  
Mairead Crinion  
Rachel Curran  
Emma Dobbin

Ruby Dougan  
Shakira Douglas  
Mika Galla  
Sabriel Gergett  
Megan Gifford  
Meghan Hamilton  
Ella Harvey  
Eve Henderson  
Caitlin Hoey  
Rachel Holden  
Jessica Jackson  
Rose Jones  
Aoife Kavanagh  
Thomas Kennedy  
Lauren Kane  
Roan Kershaw  
Cora Lamb  
Laura Lennox  
Katie Marshall  
Jill Massey  
Amber McCalmont  
Victoria McClements  
Saoise McCormick  
Jenny McCorry  
Kitty McCracken  
Samantha McGrath  
Naomi McGuckin  
Beth McMillan  
Erin McQuiston  
Laura Meeke  
Becky Millar  
Erin Moffatt  
Katie Moore  
Ellie Murray  
Lauren O'Donnell  
Ellen O'Neil  
Aoife O'Hagan  
Layona Phillips  
Rebecca Plackett  
Leah Potter  
Eve Proctor  
Ellen Quinn  
Rachel Ramsey  
Thea Reddington  
Cara Reid  
Hermione Reid  
Una Roberts  
Jasmine Ross  
Wrienne Salvatierra  
Ally Shaw  
Olivia Spence  
Elise Swain  
Raehel Swann  
Magdalena Szlacheta

Olivia Thompson  
Courtney Todd Roper  
Doris Uche  
Kerry Uprichard  
Charley Walker  
Erin Wallace  
Megan Warke

### TENOR & BASS

Joshua Boyd  
Eoin Bradley  
Matthew Cairns  
Conor Callaghan  
David Chancellor  
Lorcan Convery  
Carl Vincent Custodio  
Patrick Donnelly  
Owen Donnelly  
Jack Duffy  
Jonny Evans  
Ben Golden  
Jack Golden  
Lorcan Gourley  
Jonny Hayward  
Lui Hurson  
Adam Jamman  
William Jones  
Matthew Logan  
Aaron Martin  
Shane Martin  
Oliver McBride  
Conor McBride  
Adam McCandless  
Adam McCleave  
Michael McCormack  
Aaron McGrotty  
Cameron McKee  
Mark McKillen  
Jason Melville  
David Monaghan  
Craig Moore  
Stephen Moreland  
Ben O'Neill  
Jason Poots  
Ronan Poots  
Daniel Quigley  
Conor Foster  
Charles Roxas  
David Russell  
Ethan Snoddy  
Caleb Tennyson  
Zak Thabath  
Ethan Thompson  
Jordan Walker  
Ben Watt  
Peter Watt  
Archie Wylie



# Belfast Royal Academy Annual Spring Concert

Thursday  
15th March 2018  
Ulster Hall, Belfast  
7.30pm

## PROGRAMME

**Senior Orchestra** *Allegro con fuoco, Symphony no. 9* A. Dvorak

**Ben Madigan** *Let's Go Fly A Kite* R. Sherman  
*Revoluting Children* T. Minchin

**Junior Strings** *Ode To Joy* L. van Beethoven  
Accompanist: Daniel Quigley *Here Comes the Sun* G. Harrison

**Saxophone Quartets** *Sedan* D. Quigley  
*Groovy Kind of Love* Baxter & Sager

**Junior Traditional Group** *Inisheer; Port Atholl; Ballybroggy Jig;* Traditional  
*Toss the Feathers*  
(soloists: Kerry Uprichard & Maya Reilly Stewart)

**Wind Band** *The Lion King* E. John arr. P. Murtha

**Junior Choir** *Something Just Like This* The Chainsmokers  
Accompanist: Daniel Quigley (soloists: Jasmine Mirfield & Summer Moreland)  
*Thunder* Imagine Dragons

**Senior Traditional Group** *The Resting Chair* Traditional  
*Cutting Bracken; Brenda Stubbett's;*  
*Toss the Feathers; Donald Blue; The*  
*Whistling Thief*  
(soloists: Elizabeth McCauley, Ronan Poots)

**Chamber Choir** *Daemon Irrept Callidus* G. Orban  
Accompanist: Daniel Quigley *Dirait On* M. Lauridsen

**Senior Orchestra** *One of a Kind: Rare Anthology* arr. G. Fortle  
(soloist: Clare Njanina)

## Senior Strings

### 1ST VIOLIN

Tara Cavan  
Lauren O'Donnell  
Eva Hayward  
Anna Quinn  
Mairead Crinion  
Thea Reddington  
Anna Midgely  
Aoife Bennett  
Lucy Clements

### DOUBLE BASS

Jonathan Hayward  
Rebecca Plackett

### 2ND VIOLIN

Maya Reilly Stewart  
Aoife O'Hagan  
Wrienne Salvatierra  
Jing Yi Sun  
Lauren Hetherington  
Kate Duffy  
Sarah Adams  
Danielle Speers  
Eve Henderson  
Ryan Ferguson  
Ella Linton  
Sarah Saunders  
Ellen Loane  
Anna Wilson  
Rory Nethercott

### VIOLA

Rachel Patterson  
David Ejoyliffsson  
Theo Hayward

### \*CELLO

Ellen Quinn  
Jason Poots  
Neil Og Martin  
Amber McCalmont  
Archie Wylie  
Jude Loane

## Chamber Choir

### SOPRANO

Lucy Clements  
Tara Cavan  
Rebecca Carse  
Clare Njanina  
Tara McBride  
Elizabeth McCauley  
Elisa McCullagh  
Emma Calderwood  
Lucy Jamison  
Anna Quinn  
Eva Hayward  
Orla O'Kane  
Charlotte Frazer

### ALTO

Eve Proctor  
Jasmine Ross  
Ellen Quinn  
Lauren O'Donnell  
Leah Potter  
Samantha McGrath  
Thea Reddington  
Mairead Crinion  
Heather Luley  
Amber McCalmont

### TENOR

Jordan Walker  
Jack Golden  
Daniel Quigley  
Adam McCandless  
Jason Melville

### BASS

Patrick Donnelly  
Conor Foster  
Jason Poots  
Charles Roxas  
Eoin Bradley  
Owen Donnelly  
Conor McBride  
Craig Moore  
Lui Hurson

## Junior Strings

### 1ST VIOLIN

Maya Reilly-Stewart  
Theo Hayward  
Rory Nethercott  
Ryan Ferguson  
Shannon McBride  
Ella Linton  
Sabriel Gergett  
Sarah Saunders  
Ellen Loane  
Molly Lapworth

### 2ND VIOLIN

Hugo Reilly-Stewart  
Jessica Boyd  
Sarah McCarney  
Tianna Savage  
Charlotte Beattie Logan  
Cara Campbell  
Cara McMahon  
Siona Nibu  
Alessandro O'Hara

### VIOLA

Martha-Rose Rooney  
David Ejoyliffsson  
Alex Simon

### \*CELLO

Jude Loane





## Intermediate Saxophone Quintet

Ella Harvey Megan Warke Emma Dobbin Rachel Ramsey Erin McQuiston

## Senior Saxophone Quartet

Daniel Quigley Elizabeth McCauley Ellen O'Fril Ethan Snoddy

## Junior Traditional Group

**FIDDLE**  
Jessica Boyd  
Kate Duffy  
Ryan Ferguson  
Sabriel Gergett  
Theo Hayward  
Lauren Hetherington  
Ella Linton  
Ellen Loane  
Shannon McBride  
Rory Nethercott  
Aoife O'Hagan  
Maya Reilly-Stewart  
Sarah Saunders  
Tianna Savage

**VIOLA**  
David Eijolfsson

**TIN WHISTLE/FLUTE**  
Lucy Handcock  
Sasha Logan  
Sophia Mallon  
Ciara Murray  
Ellie Murray  
Fiona Murray

**'CELLO**  
Jude Loane

**BODHRAN**  
Kathleen Malone  
Emma Uprichard

**GUITAR**  
Aoife Armstrong  
Kerrie Carson  
Hannah Crawford  
Caitlin Donaghy  
Mika Galla  
Emma Irvine  
Jayne Kennedy  
Adam McCready  
Chloe McKnight  
Fintan McNicholl  
Marcus Fletcher

**HARP**  
Kerry Uprichard  
**PIPES**  
Ronan Poots

## Wind Band

**FLUTE**  
Conor Foster  
Eva Hayward  
Ronan Poots  
Victoria McClements  
Maia Reilly Stewart  
Emma Calderwood  
Cara Reid  
Sasha Logan  
Lucy Handcock  
Sophia Mallon  
Hugo Reilly Stewart  
Shannon McBride  
Grace Ogilby  
Courtney Adelman  
Fiona Murray  
Lewis Milligan  
Alice Logan  
Julia Uprichard  
Alice Reid  
Katie Ritchie

**TROMBONE**  
David Russell  
Callum Savage  
Riona Millard  
Daniel Armstrong  
Andrew Cleland

**CLARINET**  
Ellen O'Fril  
Jennifer McCorry  
Naomh Brown  
Katie Quinn  
Anna O'Kane  
Eleanor Black  
Olivia Thompson  
Nada Hawela  
Hannah Crawford  
David Kane  
Neil Elliott  
Grace Mellroy  
Izzy Coburn  
Ellie Burns

**BASS CLARINET**  
Leah McCarter

**TUBA**  
Jason Melville  
Leo Millard  
Jude Morrison

**ALTO SAXOPHONE**  
Daniel Quigley  
Elizabeth McCauley  
Darragh Armstrong  
Ella Harvey  
Erin McQuiston  
Rachel Ramsey  
Georgia Harvey  
Megan Warke  
Emma Dobbin  
Ciara Murray  
Cormac Doherty

**TENOR SAXOPHONE**  
Conor McBride  
Ethan Snoddy  
Aoife Armstrong

**TENOR HORN**  
Ben O'Neill  
Jamie O'Brien  
Holly Hooks

**TRUMPET**  
Patrick Donnelly  
Peter Watt  
Roan Kershaw  
Ben Golden  
Harrison Kirk  
Jaydn Ross  
Sol Morrow  
Joshua Boyd  
Caitlyn Donaghy  
Ellie Murray  
Emma Uprichard

**PERCUSSION**  
Matthew Logan  
Magdalena Szlachta  
Jason Poots

**BARITONE/EUPHONIUM**  
Adam McCleave  
Ben Watt

## 15 Minute Interval

### Big Band

*Superstition*

S. Wonder

*Gospel John*

(soloists: Patrick Donnelly & Owen Donnelly)

M. Ferguson

### Senior Strings

*Concerto in G for 2 'cellos*  
(soloists: Ellen Quinn & Jason Poots)

A. Vivaldi

*City of Delusion*

(soloist: Owen Donnelly)

M. Bellamy arr. MMM

### Boys' Choir

Accompanist:  
David Chancellor

*Scottish Medley*

Trad. Arr. VC

*Ain't No Mountain High Enough*

N. Ashford & V. Simpson

### M6 Solo

Ellen Quinn  
*Elegie*

G. Faure

### Senior Choir

*Requiem*

G. Faure

Organist: Stephen Hamill

*'Introit et Kyrie'*  
*'Sanctus'*  
*'Agnus Dei'*  
*'Libera Me'*  
(soloist: Jason Poots)  
*'In Paradisum'*

### Finale

*Les Miserables*

Schoenberg

(soloists: Aoife O'Hagan, Eve Hender-  
son, Conor McBride & Eoin Bradley)

## Boys' Choir

Andrew Bassett  
Jacob Brady  
Eoin Bradley  
Callum Brown  
Matthew Cairns  
Conor Callaghan  
Euan Carroll  
Odhran Catney  
David Chancellor  
Lorcan Convery  
Jonathan Cowden  
Vincent Custodio  
Andrew Dorman  
Jonathan Evans  
Edward Ferrin  
Ben Golden  
Jack Golden

Adam Gorman  
Lorcan Gourley  
Jonathan Hayward  
Lui Hurson  
Alan Jain  
Adam Jarman  
Rob Johnston  
William Jones  
Matthew Logan  
Zak Lundy  
Aaron Martin  
Shane Martin  
Tom McAlister  
Conor McBride  
Adam McCabe  
Adam McCleave  
Cameron McKee  
Tom McKee  
Mark McKillen

Zak Mills  
Craig Moore  
Stephen Moreland  
Sol Morrow  
Ethan Murphy  
Adam O'Neill  
Ben O'Neill  
Ryan Peden  
Jason Poots  
Ronan Poots  
Ewan Purdy  
Joshua Ramsey  
David Russell  
Abdullah Sabri  
Kurtis Scott  
Daniel Simpson  
Ethan Snoddy  
Malachi Swen  
Caleb Tennyson

Adem Tepe  
Zak Thabeth  
Ethan Thompson  
Ben Watt  
Peter Watt  
Michael Woods  
Archie Wylie  
Mr A Creighton  
Mr D Creighton  
Mr G Forde  
Mr M Harte  
Dr J McCombe

## Senior Orchestra

### 1ST VIOLIN

Tara Cavan  
Lauren O'Donnell  
Anna Quinn  
Eva Hayward  
Aoife Bennett  
Wrienne Salvieterra  
Lucy Clements  
Mairead Crinion  
Thea Reddington  
Sarah Adams  
Jing-Yi Sun  
Anna Midgeley

### 2ND VIOLIN

Maya Reilly-Stewart  
Aoife O'Hagan  
Lauren Hetherington  
Kate Duffy  
Sabriel Gergett  
Eve Henderson  
Sarah Saunders  
Ella Linton  
Ryan Ferguson  
Ellen Loane  
Anna Wilson

### VIOLA

Rachel Patterson  
David Eijolfsson  
Theo Hayward  
Martha Rose Rooney

### 'CELLO

Ellen Quinn  
Jason Poots  
Katie Quinn  
Jennifer McCorry  
Leah McCarter  
Amber McCalmont  
Neil Og Martin  
Nicole McClean  
Jude Loane  
Archie Wylie

### DOUBLE BASS

Megan Warke  
Ella Harvey  
Erin McQuiston  
Rebecca Plackett

### FLUTE

Conor Foster  
Elizabeth McCauley  
Ronan Poots

### CLARINET

Ellen O'Fril  
Naomh Brown  
Katie Quinn  
Jennifer McCorry  
Leah McCarter

### SAXOPHONE

Megan Warke  
Ella Harvey  
Erin McQuiston

### TRUMPET

Patrick Donnelly  
Roan Kershaw  
Peter Watt  
Joshua Boyd  
Ben Golden

### TROMBONE

David Russell

### HORNS

Ben Watt  
Ben O'Neill

### TUBA

Jason Melville  
Leo Millard

### PERCUSSION

Matthew Logan

### PIANO

Daniel Quigley

## Big Band

**SAXOPHONE**  
Elizabeth McCauley  
Ellen O'Fril  
Darragh Armstrong  
Erin McQuiston  
Emma Dobbin  
Megan Warke  
Ella Harvey  
Conor McBride  
Ethan Snoddy

**TRUMPET**  
Patrick Donnelly  
Peter Watt  
Roan Kershaw  
Ben Golden  
Joshua Boyd

**TROMBONE**  
David Russell

**TUBA**  
Jason Melville

**PERCUSSION**  
Matthew Logan  
Nathan McClean

**PIANO**  
Daniel Quigley

**GUITAR**  
Owen Donnelly  
Michael McCormack

**BASS GUITAR**  
Conor Foster  
Morgan Curran

## Ben Madigan

Evan Richards  
Nash Mitchell  
Nathaniel Woodward  
Bo Stewart  
Bella Redfern-McBride  
Rowan Ashe McGurk  
Isabelle McCune  
Myles Hawthorne  
Emmet Morris  
Max Brennan  
Oscar Conley  
Eleanor Murphy  
Lia Ashe  
Abi Waide  
Eva Sinnerton  
Mya Hammill

Jacob McLaughlin  
Verity Woodward  
Emily McKitchie  
Lucy Marshall  
Emily Meekin  
Philip Russell  
Owen Cassidy  
Georgia Davison  
Sophie Hollywood  
Grace Ashe McGurk  
Maria Morton

Ellie Bell  
Eleanor Black  
Jessica Boyd  
Sarah Brogan  
Ellie Brown  
Sophie Burns  
Aoife Caldwell  
Beth Callaghan  
Tiffany Chow  
Hannah Convery  
Daisie Donaldson  
Faith Drummond  
Rachel Duncan  
Ellen Elliott  
David Eijolfsson  
Eleanor Green  
Anna Greer  
Carla-Lina Gueye-  
Dorval  
Theo Hayward  
Amy Higgins  
Shannon Kelly  
Hannah Kilpatrick  
Lara Lennon

Alice Logan  
Sophia Mallon  
Helen Marshall  
Maebh McAtamney  
Sarah McCarny  
Sofia McCourt  
Jorja McCurry  
Cara McGrath  
Ellie McIvor  
Abbie McKnight  
Sarah McLaughlin  
Riona Millard  
Jasmine Mirfield  
Summer Moreland  
Donavan Moriarty  
Natalia Morrison  
Ciara Murray  
Fiona Murray  
Rory Nethercott  
Harry Nicholson  
Madeleine Norwood

Jamie O'Brien  
Grace Ogilby  
Hannah O'Kane  
Eva Perry-Obana  
Riya Raghuram  
Ciara Robinson  
Sophie Rutherford  
Anna Saunders  
Bella Scott  
Alex Simon  
Jacob Snoddy  
Charlotte Spence  
Kate Sturgess  
Elyse Taylor  
Eve Taylor  
Hannah Thompson  
Kaitlyn Toal  
Bhuvanesh Ven-  
katesan  
Lucy-Heidi Watson  
Easie Watt  
Anna Wilson  
Diana Zhou

## Senior Traditional Group

**FIDDLE**  
Lauren O'Donnell  
Eva Hayward  
Aoife Bennett  
Anna Quinn

**KEYS**  
Jason Poots

**FLUTE**  
Conor Foster  
Elizabeth McCauley  
Ronan Poots

**HARP**  
Rebecca Carse  
Emma Calderwood

**GUITAR**  
Oliver Wood

**UILEANN PIPES**  
Ronan Poots



# *Drama in School*

## THE 39 STEPS

The Autumn term saw the Senior Dramatic Society move away from musicals and tackle Patrick Barlow's Olivier Award winning stage adaptation of John Buchan's classic spy novel, *The 39 Steps*. Having collaborated on the piece twice with AS Level Drama and Theatre students, I knew the potential this fast-paced whodunit had to create a magical theatrical experience for a large audience.

Mixing the suspense of a Hitchcock thriller with the satire of a Monty Python sketch, Barlow's original production sees four actors multi-rolling over 150 characters. With the breadth of talent the Academy has to offer, we decided to branch out and cast as many talented actors as we could. After a two-day audition process, our cast of 36 were ready

to go and breathe fresh life into these classic characters.

Set in the 1930's, *The 39 Steps* tells the incredible adventure of Richard Hannay. When he meets secret agent Annabella Schmidt, he becomes embroiled in a spy story, encountering dastardly murders, double-crossing secret agents, and of course devastatingly beautiful women! With the mysterious organisation, "The 39 Steps" hot on his trail in a nationwide manhunt, Hannay's adventures take him everywhere from the Highlands of Scotland to a death-defying finale at the London Palladium. Our principal cast was led by Aaron Ferguson (MVI) who took on the role of Richard Hannay. Having studied Drama at the





Academy for six years, surprisingly this was Aaron's first school production since playing Bill Sikes in his primary school performance of *Oliver!* Starring in every single scene meant Aaron was required at every rehearsal for two and a half months before the curtain went up mid-November: his enthusiasm and dedication was inspiring, and it was a joy to watch him flourish in his first leading role.

Able support was provided by a host of actors who, while no strangers to the Drama department, studying the subject at either A Level or GCSE, were also making their debuts in front of a larger audience: Rian Mullan (LVI) starred as Mr Memory, a stage performer with the ability to recall thousands of facts on command; Stephen Moreland (LVI) as Crofter, a deeply jealous and suspicious Scottish farmer; Ben Brown (V) as Mrs McGarrigle, a kind-hearted Scottish innkeeper; and Michael Lavery (IV) as the villain of the piece, Professor Jordan. The spirit of the original production was kept alive by Joe Loane (MVI) and Becca Reel (Form MVI) as the Clowns, who multi-rolled their way through a variety of characters Hannay encounters in a high-speed train sequence.

The principal cast was rounded off by a trio of accomplished actresses, making their return to the Academy stage after a two year break: Lucy Jamison (LVI) as Hannay's love interest, Pamela who is lured into the adventure but is sceptical of his claims of innocence; Amber Cole (MVI) as Annabella Schmidt, an exotic secret agent in dire need of Hannay's help; and Anna McClurg (MVI) as Margaret, Crofter's wife, who dreams of life and adventure in the city. Whether a major character or a member of the



ensemble, all cast members worked tirelessly during rehearsals and were integral to the success of the production.

While our cast entertained the audience from the stage, our crew was made up of several equally talented personnel who deserve a lot of credit. The creative tour-de-force that is Mr Jamison did everything from climbing ladders, offering technical expertise, and leading the stage crew in building the set. He gave up many a weekend to come in and build set pieces ranging from an illusion of The Forth Bridge, a royal box at the London Palladium and a car driving through the Scottish Highlands! I cannot thank him enough for his commitment and dedication to ensuring the production looked visually spectacular. On the nights of the show, he was ably supported by Miss McLarnon who not only assisted with directing in rehearsals but also took charge of the sound booth during performances. Ensuring that sound effects ranging from sheep baaing to guns shooting and planes crashing all go off on time is no mean feat, but Miss McLarnon calmly and efficiently made each performance sound great.



The incredibly talented Dr Lomas once again created stunning costumes to mirror the fashion of post-war Britain in the 1930's. From sourcing endless supplies of tartan in charity shops to engaging in late night

sewing sessions to shorten Hannay's trousers, stitch a "knife" into Annabella Schmidt's dress and sewing bras together to convincingly create Mrs McGarrigle's ensemble, she willingly gave up her time to create the fantastic costumes seen on stage. Thanks must also go to Miss Williams who assisted Dr Lomas in this task and provided much support helping to organise the cast backstage on the performance nights. The hair and make-up team, led by assistant director Miss Watson, also did a great job each night, touching up Hannay's moustache and caking Ben Brown in make-up to make him look like an elderly Scottish woman!



While we decided to keep our set minimalistic, we still had to somehow convince our audience they were witnessing scenes set in as far-fetched places as a London concert hall, a speeding train and the Scottish Highlands. The Art Department,







led by Mrs Kerr, worked tirelessly to ensure this was the case and the set looked fantastic on the night. The ever enthusiastic and supportive Dr Springer led his props team in tracing many weird and wonderful objects (sourcing bagpipes on Amazon and having to cook sausages for Crofter's late night snack on-stage segment were some of the odder moments!) Thanks must also go to our talented stage crew who not only ensured quick scene changes but also got in on the act playing a part on-stage in scene stealing moments such as an exhilarating plane chase sequence and Hannay's hilarious stunt diving out of a window onto a crash mat in the wings!

As you can see the production was a real team effort. I am overwhelmed by the talent and commitment exhibited by each member of the cast and crew, and I know the show would not have been the success it was without them. A final word, however, must go to the cast: from the camaraderie and support you offered one another to the good humour and practical jokes you played during rehearsals (turning up at a rehearsal in onesies and Aaron arriving with his arm in a sling just before opening night spring to mind) made the process of putting *The 39 Steps* together the most rewarding experience of my career to date. It was truly



an honour and a privilege to work with every single one of you and I hope you have many happy memories that you will treasure forever.

Extra-curricular drama continues to go from strength to strength in the Academy and with the wealth of talent amongst our pupils, and the support of both staff and parents, I am confident it will continue to prosper. Thankooooo!!!!

**S.L.T.**

## THE SOUND OF MUSIC

Cavehill was alive to 'The Sound of Music' on 27th June as this year's Junior musical was staged under blue skies in the open air of the grounds of Ben Madigan.



When Mr Jamison announced his choice of musical was to be *The Sound of Music* we were all very excited. The story of Maria, the fun loving trainee nun, and her musical adventures as Governess for the Von Trapp family and how she warms the heart of their strict Navy officer father was known and loved by everyone. It was sure to be an audience pleaser. Mr Jamison's announcement that he wanted to fulfil a



longstanding ambition to perform a school production outdoors left us feeling a bit more nervous, particularly when he started to talk about tanks and real cows!



In the weeks following the big announcement, auditions were held, the cast chosen and rehearsals started at a whirlwind pace. Putting on such an ambitious show in such a challenging setting required a huge team. The teaching staff, Mr Jamison, Miss Tinman, Ms McMullan and Dr Lomas worked incredibly hard to get us into shape directing the set design and costume teams who put every ounce of their creative effort into developing an amazing look. The stage crew, Hermione, Ellie and Rebecca also helped bring the production together on the day setting up the elaborate setting Mr Jamison had in mind.

The big night will never be forgotten. Friends and family packed the rugby pitch at Ben Madigan to enjoy a picnic before the show began. The weather was incredible with sun shining down over the backdrop of Cavehill and the school onto the audience and the stage.



The show started in dramatic and spectacular style with Eve Patterson Wilson (Maria) singing the iconic opening number whilst walking from a path above the school down to the stage. This set the tone for the rest of the show. Many mistakes were made, however this only added to the enjoyment and made for a more memorable night for all. My highlight was closing the show with a reprise of 'Climb Every Mountain', as the Von Trapps climbed the hill and fireworks lit up the sky.

It was an incredible way to end fourth year at BRA. Thank you to everyone for coming to see the show!

*Eve Henderson (V)*











# Miscellany

## ABP ANGUS YOUTH CHALLENGE



In September 2017, a group of five pupils: Rachel Duff, Hannah Hill, Laura Meeke, Charlotte Storey and myself, were selected to be put forward as a team for the ABP Angus Youth Challenge, in which teams of secondary school pupils compete to present an idea to ABP on how to improve their company.

The first stage was a three- minute video that had to be made to highlight our idea, which was called City Farming, a revolutionary new way of linking a farmer directly to an investor. Thankfully, our teams video was successful and we moved onto the next round which was a twenty-minute interview at Loughry College, Cookstown, with representatives from ABP and NI Angus Producers Group. Again, our team was successful and we, along with eleven other

teams, were selected to move on to the semi-final.

The semi-final consisted of a visual presentation of our idea in which we pitched our concept to seven panel members from various professional backgrounds. Two weeks later, our team got the fantastic news that we, along with four other teams, had won the semi-final and as a prize we were given five Aberdeen Angus calves per team, which we received at a ceremony at Balmoral on the 18th of May, 2018.



Now that we have received the calves, we are competing in the final of the competition which is a year-long process with a prize of £1000 for the school, for the best completed project. Our project is focused on 'Farm Finance' which involves us coming up with ideas to try and make beef farming more substantial and financially viable.



In terms of our calves, they are currently being reared on Dr Bell's farm in Cookstown. Four of the calves are named after each House of the school, and their weights will be recorded and converted into House points. The fifth calf was named Crombie, after the iconic building of our school. The calves have also taken part in the school's outdoor Junior Musical performance of 'Sound of Music', and we hope they will be seen more around school in the near future.

As a team, we would like to thank Dr. Currie and Mrs Woods for accompanying us to many of our events, but ultimately we would like to thank Dr. Bell for guiding us through this competition from start to end.

***ABP Angus Youth Challenge Team***





## A LEVEL POLITICS TRIP TO WESTMINSTER

On 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> January, LVI and MVI pupils who study Government & Politics at A-Level, were given the opportunity to visit London and Westminster. This gave us, as Politics students, the opportunity to see the Houses of Parliament and to be able to see where so many historical and political moments have taken place within British politics.



Before the Houses of Parliament, we had a whole day ahead of us and so, after making our way to central London, we headed to the Imperial War Museum. Here, we were given the time to visit the different exhibitions on offer. It was captivating to learn so much through the interactive displays about different experiences and aspects of the Holocaust, the Troubles, World War I and II.

After the visit to the museum and a pit stop to Picadilly Circus for dinner, then a few tube stops later, all thirty-two students with the help of four very patient teachers arrived at the bottom of the Sky Garden, a large skyscraper in the heart of London. This boasts a large viewing platform with views of the



city skyline (which were definitely not for the faint- hearted, as some of the us quickly learnt), a breath-taking experience that we will certainly not forget.

After our 7.45a.m. start and breakfast on the final day, we got to walk to the Houses of Parliament and got to see sights like Westminster Abbey and the Supreme Court along the way, with the help of Miss Barnett's tour guiding skills. Once we got into the Education Centre within the Houses of Parliament, it wasn't more than 10 minutes before we spotted John Bercow, speaker for the House of Commons (an A-List celebrity to anyone interested in Politics). We then set off on a tour around the Houses of Parliament, which was followed by an in-depth but fun workshop about the process of law making.

Before lunch we took a walk along Whitehall to see Downing Street, through St. James' Park to Buckingham Palace before stopping for lunch in Trafalgar Square. In the afternoon to finish off the whole experience and just a





few hours before our flight, we got an invitation to meet Lord Duncan of Springbank, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in both the Scotland Office and the Northern Ireland Office. Our meeting took place back in Westminster and this time, we were led through the corridors of power to a committee room, usually used for amending bills and for select committee hearings. We got to hear about his work at the NIO and in the Lords and had the chance to ask questions. The trip gave us the opportunity to become more informed about the ins-and-outs of Parliament and to see it in person was fantastic.

***Caitlin Arthurs (LVI)***

## ART AND DESIGN DEPARTMENT

Anna McClurg and Lucy Gaston Form MVI gained full marks in the CCEA A2 Level new specification.

Ellen Campbell and Nia McVicker Form V gained full marks in the CCEA GCSE Level specification.



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

- A2 Level by Anna McClurg, Jamie Sloan and Lucy Gaston.
- GCSE Level by Nia McVicker, Ellen Campbell and Vivienne Johnston.

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

- Anna McClurg MVI who gained a place at Christ Church Oxford to study Fine Art.



- Lucy Gaston MVI who gained a place at Goldsmiths College London to study Design.

This year Bethan McDonnell MVI was presented with a certificate of Excellence at Parliament Buildings Stormont.

All Art & Design GCSE, AS and A2 Level pupils attended the 2018 True Colours Exhibition at the Ulster Museum.

The MVI and LVI Art & Design pupils attended the 2018 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.

On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June we had a field visit to BRA Art Department by three members of the QFI (Qatar Foundation International) Connor Seidenschwarz, Rana Abdul-Aziz and Denise Dobson. They viewed videos of the oral and written, as well as artwork of this year's Form I Arabic and Art and Design programme of study, now in its fourth year of development. The QFI team had the opportunity to meet with some of our Form I pupils to evaluate the programme of study.

Our aim this year was to give pupils knowledge of the Arabic language, alphabet and Arabic numeracy with Ashgan Essa our Arabic language teacher. The pupils applied Islamic pattern inspired by the internet, focusing on the David Collection, Copenhagen Museum, the Beattie Museum, Dublin and British Museum artefacts.

Small teacher led workshops allowed all Form I pupils to experiment and create various art pieces based on their research of Arabic Culture and Islamic artwork. Each class had the opportunity to explore printmaking, ceramics, textiles, silk painting, foil embossing and Photoshop.

The final group workshop outcomes have been put together to create three large wall panels, lanterns, cushions and black out blinds for the Sensory Room in the Learning Support Centre. The success of this project has provided us with a fifth year of funding and a full-time Arabic Language teacher.

North Belfast Area Learning Community Schools' Art Exhibition featured artworks from BRA, show cased at the Ulster University at York Street.



Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the art world through competitions and projects outside of the normal school curriculum. Nia McVicker former Form V Art and Design pupil was a finalist in the CineMagic Young Film Category age 15-18. All pupils were invited to take part in the Inktober Challenge 2017 in which artists all over the world during October complete one ink drawing a day for the entire month. Drawings were displayed daily in the Art Department.



A group of Form III pupils took part in painting the set at Ben Madigan for the school production of Mary Poppins. They were supervised by Miss Lynsay Mercer, a recently qualified Art & Design teacher from the Ulster University who has been a dedicated student on teaching practice this term at BRA. It was a great achievement for the pupils to spend a day's experience of designing and painting the set.

A team of pupils took part in designing and painting the Senior Production titled 39 Steps.

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

The Art Department MVI pupils were invited to join the R.E. class on the Rome trip. This was an excellent educational experience for all involved.



The Department continue to give pupils an insight into the Art and Design Career routes. This was supported at the Career Convention at the Belfast Metropolitan. LVI pupils had the opportunity to speak to representatives of Degree and Foundation courses in Art and Design from England, Southern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.



The Staff Preview of the Annual Art Exhibition raised £135 and on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June the Annual Art Exhibition took place raising £72.58 for Save the Children Fund. Students artwork was also on sale and we raised a total of £651.00.

**P.K.**





## BUILDING PEACE

### The Good Friday Agreement 20 Years On

In April 2018, BRA students attended events marking twenty years since the signing of the Good Friday Agreement. Head Boy, Jacob Brady along with fellow Politics student Finn Purdy and BRA's Politics teacher Miss Barnett were in attendance at Queen's University Belfast for "Building Peace: The Belfast/Good Friday Agreement 20 years on", an event which saw many of the key political players from twenty years ago take part in discussions as to the legacy of the agreement and the future of Northern Ireland.

Participating panellists included former leaders of Northern Irish political parties, as well as former President of the United States Bill Clinton, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair and former Irish Taoiseach Bertie Ahern, with introductions from the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Karen Bradley MP and Tánaiste Simon Coveney TD.

The discussions were thoroughly interesting as the speakers gave their perspective on how far Northern Ireland had come and how today's leaders, many of whom were also sat in the audience, should face contemporary challenges. The event offered vital perspective and context to the current state of affairs of Northern Irish politics.

Eight BRA politics students along with three members of staff were also invited to take up front row seats later that evening at the Ulster Hall, as President Bill Clinton and Senator George J. Mitchell were awarded the Freedom of Belfast by the then Lord Mayor Nuala McAllister. This event saw a showcase of Northern Irish culture followed by the official ceremony and speeches from Senator



Mitchell and President Clinton. At one point during President Clinton's speech, he spoke directly to the BRA students sitting in the front row to tell them that the future of Northern Ireland now rested in their hands.

*Finn Purdy (LVI)*

## FOTA

Friends of the Academy (FOTA) is a committee of parents, staff and other friends of Belfast Royal Academy. The aim of the group is to enhance the school experience of pupils and parents, through fundraising and supporting school events.

FOTA continued to support both Ben Madigan and the Grammar School during 2017 – 2018. Activities were organised, sometimes for fundraising purposes and sometimes to provide a service for the School community.

A number of uniform sales were held throughout the year, for which we received positive feedback from a number of parents.



Refreshments were also provided by the committee at a range of school events in the course of the year, such as the Ben Madigan and Grammar School Carol Services, the two Open Evenings and the Open Morning in May. The Welcome Breakfast for the parents of the new Form I pupils was another great success at the end of August.

A successful Table Quiz was held in November which was hosted in the Jackson Suite; later in the year the highlight of the FOTA social calendar was the annual dinner which was held in Bambou, Templepatrick which was enjoyed by many.

*M.T.W.*

## **GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK**

### **FORM I TEMPERATURE AND WINDSPEED IN BRA**

During September 2018, the Geography classes were put into 10 different groups and went to different parts around the school playground to measure the temperature and the windspeed in the BRA site. The places we went to included outside the Crombie, the swimming pool and outside the Jackson.

We used a thermometer to measure the temperature and an anemometer to record the windspeed in the school grounds. We waited 5 minutes for the temperature to stop fluctuating. To measure the windspeed we held the thermometer in the air for 3 minutes and recorded the average speed. Then we went back to the classroom to find the average of all the results.

*(FI) Geographers*

### **FORM II GEOGRAPHY FIELDTRIP**

#### **HOLYWOOD COAST**

Form II travelled to Holywood for their Coastal Defence fieldwork during late May. We walked along the coastal path examining, photographing and sketching the main coastal defences on this part of the coast. All the pupils had time to examine the rock armour, gabions, riprap, straight sea wall and the curved sea wall. Teachers explained how each of the defence measures we visited did their job. Back at BRA this information was used to complete the project.

*(FII) Geographers*





## FORM VI GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

### SHIMNA RIVER



On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018, GCSE Geography pupils from Form Four went to the Mourne to study the River Shimna. We arrived at the Field Studies Centre at Tollymore and were briefed on the procedures and safety issues.

We recorded the depth, velocity and width of the river at five different locations. We also sampled the load of the river to determine its size and shape.

This data was used to construct scatter graphs, pie-charts and bar graphs which we will use for the Unit 3 GCSE examination.

All in all, the trip was very successful and the pupils also found it a good experience.

*(Form VI) Geographers*



## LOWER VI GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

On Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January, the AS Geographers travelled from Roughfort to Carryduff to carry out field work for their Module 3 examination. We stopped along the way recording data such as temperature, average wind speed and humidity; to determine if an urban heat island effect existed in Belfast. Pupils were split into groups of three and recorded data allowing us to take averages once we returned to school. It was a fun and successful trip and was enjoyed by all.

*(LVI) Geographers*

## MVI GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

### MURLOUGH BAY

On 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018, the MVI Geography students set off for a field trip to Murlough Bay and Newcastle, Co. Down.



We studied the different coastal defence systems along the beach, stopping to draw sketches and take pictures along the way. We observed sea walls, gabions and railway sleepers acting as a revetment which protect





Royal Co. Down Golf Course and the Slieve Donard Hotel from sea erosion.

When we arrived at Newcastle, we were given questionnaires which we asked the public to complete, with questions regarding their experiences of Newcastle as a tourist resort. When we finished, we were picked up in Newcastle and delivered back to school.



Overall, the field trip was a success as we collected valuable first-hand information and got to see the coastal defences, which we had previously studied in class.

*(MVI) Geographers*

## HADRIAN'S WALL TRIP

On our first day we went to Chesters Roman Fort. It had a few amazing sites and provided a great laugh when some of the boys crawled along what was the lavatory. The fort had beautiful scenery and was placed beside a river.

After visiting Chesters, we travelled a short distance to the nearby Roman town of Corbridge. The museum had many interesting and some unique artefacts like the Corbridge lion. The town covers a large area and has lots of places to explore and some information boards to guide you around.

Our second day of travel was quite relaxed with a fun tour of Segedunum Roman Fort beside the River Tyne. Here we could see a model of what the fort would have looked like in Roman times. After this we had a short visit to the swimming pool and the Metro centre.

Our third day of travel was a trip to the amazing Beamish Open-air museum. Here, you can ride on trams, go down a coal-mine, get to try the best fish and chips and much more! To conclude our third day, we visited Arbeia. This was a Roman grain depot on the coast. It is partially reconstructed: the reconstructed rooms look close to the originals and they are very interesting to see and look around.

The final day was a short walk up to Housestead's Fort. We had a great time climbing on the walls and the walk afterwards along Hadrian's Wall made a brilliant change from sitting in the coach.

Finally, we visited Vindolanda. We discovered there were around nine forts there at various times! We saw many amazing artefacts. There was also a partial reconstruction of what a wooden fort would have looked like when the Romans first conquered Britain.

*Ethan Willey (III)*

## INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AWARD

Belfast Royal Academy has been awarded reaccreditation of the British Council International School Award until 2021, showcasing the International Dimension of



BRA. We were commended for continuing to embed the international ethos through the curriculum and longstanding trips and exchanges, as well as new and exciting partnerships with France, the USA and India.

*D.S.C.*

## **JUNIOR HOCKEY TOUR TO HOLLAND**

In March, the under 14 hockey teams got the opportunity to go to Holland for a hockey tour. We all arrived at Belfast airport full of excitement for what the next four days entailed. When we landed in Amsterdam, we got the bus to Utrecht where we were staying and got ready for our match later that day. We played well and beat the Kampong team

convincingly, on what was a very cold Dutch night.

On Friday morning, we got breakfast and got ready for our first training session with David Harte, currently ranked the No.1 goalkeeper the world. The session was very enjoyable and it was a great opportunity to play on the stadium pitch. After the session, we walked to the nearby Hockey Republic store.

Later that day, we had time to relax before getting ready to play our second match of the tour against another Kampong team. This match we won, but unfortunately our captain sustained a broken nose, which was not ideal with our Ulster Shield Final against Banbridge in the coming weeks.

On Saturday, we had a day to relax and enjoy a day trip into Amsterdam. Everyone got the train to the city centre, where we went to the Anne Frank house and got to do some shopping. That night we went out for dinner to a lovely restaurant by the canal in Utrecht and afterwards we enjoyed the hotel swimming facilities.

On Sunday, the last day of the tour, we got the chance to watch the Kampong men's team play a match. It was amazing to watch a team play at such a high level. After the match we got ready to leave and made our way to the airport. The trip was enjoyed by everyone and no one wanted to go home.

Thank you so much Mrs McCormick, Miss Brady and Mrs Shaw for making the trip happen. It was an incredible experience and won't be forgotten.

*Caitlin Hennessy (III)*



## NICILT DEBATE AT QUB

This year, three Lower Sixth pupils: Campbell Baird, Elisa McCullagh and Dylan McGrotty entered the Sixth Form Debating competition run by NICILT at Queen's University Belfast.

They competed against Wallace High School's Middle Sixth team and defended the motion "Social media makes us anti-social".

Sadly, they were narrowly defeated but look forward to competing next year. Many thanks to the German Assistant, Sara Astl for her help in preparing for the debate.

*Campbell Baird (LVI)*

## POLITICS TRIP TO STORMONT



In April, LVI students visited Stormont. It has been a frustrating year to be a Politics student (and teacher!) the lack of government making studying the subject harder but through this visit, NI politics was brought to life a bit more by debating voting rights for 16 year olds in the Assembly chamber and meeting some MLAs and a committee clerk. The political realities were brought home though

as we were allowed into the RHI Inquiry, held in the old Senate chamber. Students got to see QC and former student David Scoffield cross-examine civil servants about the scheme.

*K.S.B.*

## SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND

This year, the Save the Children committee continued our fundraising campaign through several events that were organised across the busy school year.



To kick off the campaign we held a bake sale using entries from the Great BRA bake-off. In this House Competition, pupils from all years had a chance to create some amazing bakes whilst winning house points to help their house win the Evan's trophy. After great deliberation, the judges selected their winners and the bakes were sold to students at lunch time, with all proceeds going to Save the Children.

The Belfast Royal Academy Annual Sponsored Walk had to be postponed due to bad weather in September, so the committee took the opportunity to ease the disappointed and take the barbecue to the playground





barbeque. The event was a huge success! Crowds of hungry pupils waited in extremely long lines to purchase their burgers at lunch time and help raise money for a great cause.

The Save the Children foundation recognised the excellent fundraising efforts of our committee through the years and the school was awarded the Rita Rodden cup. A group of pupils travelled to the Hilton Hotel, Templepatrick, to attend the awards ceremony and listen to other volunteers share their experiences. It was extremely rewarding to hear where the money we raised has been put to great use.

At Christmas time, we had the annual staff Christmas jumper day. This allowed the staff to show off their festive fashion sense and we saw the return of everyone's favourite instrument in Dr Springer's musical jumper! The event not only contributed to the festive atmosphere around school but also continues to be a successful way to raise money for the charity.

Finally, in the summer term, the weather allowed the Sponsored Walk to proceed which could only mean another barbeque for pupils! As usual, with the help of staff, the burgers were gratefully received by the hungry pupils (and staff) after their walk. This event showed the dedication of some of the committee members who took time out of their AS level study leave to help set up and manage the event.

After another successful year of fundraising we raised over £2000 for the Save the Children Fund. The committee would also like to take this opportunity to thank Ms McMillen, Mrs McIntyre, Dr Bell and all the dedicated staff who make our events and

campaigns possible. Their continued support made our time serving on the committee a terrific experience.

*Save the Children Committee*

## SCHOOL LIBRARY

The School Library continued to fulfil its goal of developing information literate students who are responsible and ethical participants in society. It continued to encourage pupils to become competent self-directed learners who are aware of their information needs and can actively engage in the world of ideas.

Thursday 28th September 2017 was National Poetry Day and, in honour of this, the library hosted its annual poetry competition. The theme of 'freedom' sparked innovation and, at times, philosophical ideas within pupils. The poems were uplifting, thoughtful, challenging and entertaining, by turns. The library proudly hosted a special lunchtime celebration on the day.

Pupils from all year groups gathered to listen to staff and pupils recite poetry on the theme of 'freedom'. This special lunchtime event celebrated everybody sharing poetry, reading poetry, writing poetry, enjoying poetry and living poetry. The sizeable audience was treated to a wonderful selection of poems on the theme of 'freedom' including: "No rack can torture me", by Emily Dickinson, "High Flight" by John Gillespie Magee, Jr and Dr. Springer treated the audience to some lines from the book "Oh, the places you'll go!" by children's author Dr Seuss.

Winners of the poetry competition also had the opportunity to read their poems aloud. Congratulations to Middle Sixth pupil, Aaron



Maguire, who won 1st place and was awarded a £10 voucher to spend at the Scholastic book fair. Congratulations, too, to our three runners-up who each were awarded with a £5 voucher to spend at the Scholastic book fair:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Abdullah Sabri (MVI)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Eva Clarke (FIII)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Shannon McBride (FIII)

And, finally, congratulations to Daisie Donaldson from Form I on being specially commended.

A group of talented Junior pupils also performed a short drama on the theme of 'freedom'. The drama, directed by Miss McLarnon was the culmination of a lot of hard work and numerous rehearsals.



The school library organised a team consisting of Oliver Scott (FII), Theo Hayward (FII), Summer Moreland (FII) and Kaitlyn Toal (FII) competed in the annual regional heat of the Kids' Lit Quiz against 29 other teams from schools across Northern Ireland, on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October. This is the largest number of teams to have ever competed in the regional heat. The quiz was held at Wellington College, Belfast. It lasted three hours and consisted of 100 book-related questions arranged in ten categories. Questions and categories were unknown to contestants in advance.

Known as 'the sport of reading' the Kids' Lit Quiz encourages students to broaden their reading and creates an awareness of genre, authors and titles. The competition is designed to be huge fun, with an element of competition, personal challenge and reward that is seldom available to children whose passion is reading.

Examples of the type of questions asked include:

- What colour was the Mercedes owned by Carlisle Cullen in the book 'Twilight'?
- What was Captain Hook's pirate ship called?
- What is the name of the Roman/Greek God of war?

The team from BRA performed superbly throughout the competition. They were in joint 1<sup>st</sup> place with Friends' School Lisburn at the end of round 4. They were in 2<sup>nd</sup> place with Friends' in 1<sup>st</sup> place who were only one point ahead by half-time. They were 2<sup>nd</sup> throughout most of the quiz and remained in the top 3 right up until the end of round 9. The team won round 4 and were awarded with a book each. They ended in 10<sup>th</sup> place overall.



The 100+ contestants from the NI schools were asked spot questions. This provided opportunity for individuals to be awarded with prizes. Summer Moreland (Form II) won the question on mythical creatures at the end of round 4. BRA also won the audience prize at the end of round 5, with Mr Spence correctly answering a question on American presidency.

A team of five supporters consisting of Holly Strutt (Form II), Rhys Pollard (Form I), Emilia Zboralska (Form II), Eleanor Black (Form II) and Eleanor Green (Form II) enjoyed participating in the costume design competition.

Despite snow, wind and freezing temperatures, Academy pupils' love for reading continued to prove indomitable! The snowy weather outside certainly didn't cool World Book Day celebrations at the school on Thursday 1st March.

While many schools across Northern Ireland closed their doors due to the adverse weather conditions, the Academy remained open. The decision meant that pupils were able to celebrate World Book Day- an annual bonanza of reading, books and illustrators which attempts to encourage children to pick-up a book and start reading.

In honour of World Book Day 2018, 32 Academy pupils from Forms I to IV took part in a Bumper Book Quiz in the School Library. The pupils had great fun pitting their wits against each other answering questions on everything from Harry Potter to Greek mythology! The quiz covered various rounds including: Happy Families, Connections, Picture This, School Days, Love & Stuff and Dystopia Calling.

Quiz teams were asked to create a literary name for their group. Staff at the Academy were highly impressed by the amazingly innovative and creative names created, which included *The Infamous Five* and *The Houseelves*.

The School Library also organised a week-long scavenger hunt to help celebrate World Book Day at the Academy, giving pupils a chance to win exciting prizes whilst developing their knowledge of books. Pictures of literary characters were hidden throughout the school. Pupils had to solve clues that in turn took the budding detectives to one of the twenty-seven character locations. Pupils then had the task of successfully identifying the character and which book they appeared in. Jessica Boyd from Form II was the overall winner of the hunt and recipient of a £10 Eason's voucher.

Finally, the Academy library celebrated World Book Day by acknowledging best performances at Accelerated Reader. Oliver Pearce, Andrew Cleland and Harry Nicholson were each awarded book vouchers for having read over 2 million words by March.

Form I pupils enjoyed a great afternoon on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April with the brilliant poet and performer, Paul Cookson. Paul, a former teacher, has been a poet for over twenty-five years, written and edited over sixty collections and sold over a million books worldwide. An Everton fan and resident poet for the National Football Museum, our Form I group were totally engaged from the start with Paul's great delivery of his poems, by his wit and some Ukulele playing! Pupils were able to purchase their own copy of poems and have them signed by Paul on the day.





Two successful Scholastic Book Fairs were hosted throughout the year, generating £286.22 worth of free books for the library.

The school library also continued to run its highly successful Accelerated Reader programme with Form I and II classes. Congratulations to the 22 pupils named below who read over a million words throughout the year:

1. Harrison Kirk
2. Theo Hayward
3. Diana Zhou
4. Martyna Zgutczyńska
5. Jake Campbell
6. Layla Hunter
7. Abbie McKnight
8. Joseph Golden
9. Etta Choi
10. Ethan Pavlovic
11. Sam Atkinson
12. Callum Whiteside
13. Bradley Visser
14. Cameron Withers
15. Ieuan McLean
16. Gopi Muruga Perumal
17. Madeleine Morwood
18. Alana Joseph
19. Casey Smith
20. Fiona Murray
21. Emma Burns
22. Rhys Pollard

A particularly big well done goes to Andrew Cleland, Oliver Pearce and Alice Logan who

managed to read over 3 million words and Harry Nicholson, Donovan Moriarty, Siona Nibu and Grace Ogilby who all read over 2 million words.

*E.A.*

## SCRIPTURE UNION IN POLAND

For us, the day had started long before the sun had even risen. At five in the morning on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2018, among the crowd of tired looking faces were fourteen very excited looking ones, us. The Poland team ready to set off for Dublin Airport. After lots of sleeping and laughter on the bus we had finally arrived at the airport just over two hours later. After checking in our youngest team member, we sailed through security and hit the shops...or in most cases we rushed to Burger King! A few dozen chicken nuggets





later, we regrouped and headed to our gate to board the plane.

As soon as we got off the plane it was through security again and then time to chase down our luggage. Somehow, picking up sixteen suitcases off of a moving conveyer belt felt similar to a life or death situation as we scrambled to grab them all before they disappeared for another round. Our contact in Poland, Henryk, greeted every single one of us with open arms before taking us off to McDonald's for a top up on chicken McNuggets.

After this Henryk took us all to his house where there were hundreds of stock-piled items of food and drinks, ranging from fruit and vegetables, to meat, yogurt and bread. All of this food had been donated by supermarkets as otherwise it all would have been wasted due to sell-by-dates, but thankfully it was instead used by The Joy Foundation to help feed impoverished families and children who otherwise would go without. As a team we divided all of this food into boxes and loaded it all into Henryk's van to deliver.

Delivering these boxes to people's homes was an emotional experience for all of us as we were so shocked to see just how differently these amazing people lived. Personally, I



wasn't expecting to see such a big difference in how they had to live compared to how we get to live.

After dropping our belongings off in our rooms, we went to a local youth club where we met some of the young people who would be attending the youth weekend we were to run. We played lots of games and ice-breakers with them and grew closer as Cate and Peter shared their testimonies and favourite verses with the help of our lovely translator. After lots of chatting over pizza, Henryk kindly took us on a tour of the Old Town and to a chocolate café, where I am sure you can imagine we were only too happy to test the chocolatey treats! One of my favourite parts of the trip was our nightly meetings together, when we met as a team and just chatted and prayed together about everything that had happened that day.



The next day we were divided into two teams, one which would travel early in the morning to the bakery, and one which would continue with the rest of the food drops. The team I was in was responsible for going to the bakery with Henryk to sort through, collecting and boxing the bread and pastries from the previous day. After we had done this, we dropped the boxes off at the Poor Church before going to Makro to collect the donated food which was also then delivered.



We finished early enough so that we had enough time to meet the rest of the team for a few hours at a shopping centre based in Warsaw. It was then that most of us gathered some postcards and gifts for family at home. I think that any member of the team would agree with me in saying that our trip from the shopping centre to the Poor Church certainly was an adventure! After a bit of confusion, we managed to get on the correct subway train and arrived at the Poor Church all in one piece. Here we met some wonderful people, sang some songs and helped participate in the meeting as team members Cate and Grace shared their testimony and favourite verse with everyone.

By the time we had arrived to begin to camp for the weekend it was after 8p.m. Meeting the young people was amazing, we met so many inspiring people and again opened ourselves up to them by sharing some of our experiences with them. After some more brilliant Bible talks from team members Lucy, Samantha and Rebecca and some pizza, we left the camp for the night and returned to where we were staying for our nightly meeting before happily going to get some much-needed sleep.

In the morning we returned to the camp where we were reunited with our new friends and attempted to learn some Polish – not very well in my case – before Alex, myself and Cate spoke to and shared with the young people. For lunch went on a long walk after being told we were heading to some caves... only to end up at KFC! That was definitely lost in translation...

However, the walk back to the camp gave us the chance to spend more time speaking with the young people and hearing about their amazing stories. For me this was a really



moving experience and one I will never forget. After we returned to the camp we each divided into our groups of two or three and held different sessions which we had decided beforehand. I was a part of the “How to pray” session with Megan and Samantha along with our wonderful translator - whose Polish name I will not try to spell - and even though we had to repeat it a long six times, we all enjoyed sharing with and hearing from the groups. After singing with everyone and a few more really moving talks from team members Naomi, Meaghan and Jason, we regrouped and returned again to have our very last nightly meeting. Even though not all of us were able to win the difficult battle with staying awake, it was a brilliant last as we reflected on our day and laughed along with each other like the Poland team family that we had become.







The next day was bittersweet for all of us as we heard from our team members Andrew, Meaghan and Peter and sang with everyone for the last time, we had met such amazing people and saying goodbye involved lots of photos, hugs and even a few tears. As we parted with Henryk at the airport we said more goodbyes and got more hugs before going through security and boarding the plane to Dublin. The bus from Dublin was filled with chatter and laughter as we exchanged books with each other. We all loved the Poland trip and had experiences that many people aren't fortunate enough to have. Personally, I learnt so much from the people and the experiences that I will never forget, and the team I was a part of was full of amazing and inspiring people, who I plan to never lose touch with. God is good.

*Emma Sloan (LVI)*

## SKI TRIP TO EHRWALD

The day finally arrived for us to fly to Austria. We were all so excited, yet exhausted, as we had an early flight.

When we arrived it was late afternoon, so we got our ski equipment fitted and relaxed for the rest of the day. We started skiing on the second day.

Every day we skied from 10-12p.m., then stopped to get a yummy lunch, and skied for another two hours from 2-4p.m. In the evenings we had some down time after a long exciting day. There were multiple choices of activities we could do after our dinner. These included: playing pool, watching TV and playing board games in the common room, or walking to the local shops, swimming, rifle shooting and rock climbing. All these activities were a good opportunity to bond



and get to know different year groups and teachers on the trip.

The hotel we stayed in was called Sonneburg, this was such a warm, cosy and practical hotel as it was directly on the slopes. It was run by







a husband and wife who were so welcoming and made us feel at home.

On the last day we made the most of skiing before heading back to pack our suitcases.

That evening we were awarded medals by our ski instructors, this was our final chance to say good bye. 24 hours later we were all home safe and sound. The time spent with friends and teachers provided us with a lot of laughter and many great memories.

***Anna Clingen, Harriet Dougan, Julia Allen  
and Orla O'Kane (FV)***

### ***THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD***

During 2017-2018, our large membership continued to remain strong at 392 pupils from Forms III to Middle VI: this means that the Academy has the largest school-based Award Centre in Northern Ireland, and possibly the United Kingdom.

Continued effort on the part of our members produced a very creditable number of Awards gained during the course of the year: 46 Bronze Awards, 6 Silver Awards and 5 Gold Awards.

The total number of awards gained from 1984 to date are: Bronze –1,351; Silver – 690; Gold – 459.

Congratulations must go to the four pupils and past pupils who gained the Gold Award: Thomas O'Callaghan, Emma McAllister, Eoin Bradley and Niamh Martin.

A very full and successful programme of expedition work in the Mourne Mountains, Upper and Lower Lough Erne and in the Glencoe/Fortwilliam/Lochaber area in Scotland was carried out during the year, directly involving 231 pupils in expedition theory classes, training weekends and practice and qualifying expeditions.

We are indebted to the many people who were willing to give of their free time to make possible the huge undertaking of the Expedition section. We sincerely thank the following teachers, past pupils and adult helpers who generously gave their time and assistance:-

Robert Armstrong  
Matthew Blair  
Rebecca Burns  
Kevin Cheung  
Maeve Gallagher  
Holly Grant  
Daniel Harold  
Ashley Johnston  
Emma McAllister  
Dennis McArthur  
Peter McArthur  
Maurice Miller  
Gabbie Moore  
Catherine Nelson  
Gary Nelson  
Abby Reid  
Martin Scott  
Shelley Wilson

Very special thanks must also go to the following people: Maurice Miller, Holly Grant and Shelley Wilson for their outstanding contribution in overseeing all aspects of the Expedition section; Billy Dunn and Fergal McCluskey for driving the school bus on many weekends and for their valued





assistance; Shelley Wilson and Holly Grant for outstanding assistance with Award administration; Joanna Clarke for very valuable assistance with administration work; and the Gold Award Leaders of 2017-2018 for excellent assistance with the running of the D. of E. in the school.

Not a single Duke of Edinburgh Expedition could have set out from the Academy during the year if it had not been for the tireless efforts of those ten or so pupils who form the "Tent Team" and who gave much of their time in maintaining our large stock of camping equipment. Many thanks, T-Team, for all your work!

Expedition first-aid training was kindly provided by Dr. Keith Thompson and his team of volunteer first-aiders.

Although the Volunteering, Physical, Skill and Residential Sections are now primarily co-ordinated by the D.of E. staff, we still have school staff members who run various activities enabling the participants to complete their sections. We would like to thank the staff of the P.E. Department for all their much appreciated help throughout the past year. We thank Brian McLaughlin and Robert Armstrong for all their work in training the kayak canoeists on Friday afternoons. Many thanks are due to the numerous members of staff who gave up their time to act as Skills section assessors.

Within the Skills section, 22 pupils took part in the Bronze Award Fire Service Courses held at Whitla Street Fire Station. We warmly thank the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service for the provision of the courses and Maurice Miller for supervising the classes.

Thanks must go to Maurice Miller for his help in looking after our finances also.

We would like to say a huge thank you to the school office staff who have been a wonderful help this year collecting forms and distributing participants' logs, projects and other important information.



The Academy's Open Nights in January and the Open Morning in May were a great success and all aspects of school life were on show to prospective pupils and their parents. Many thanks to all of those who helped to make the impressive D. of E. display in the Sixth Form Study Area so effective.





The twenty-first highly successful Canadian Canoe Week was held from 28<sup>th</sup> July to 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2018 in Lough Erne. This was a highly packed programme of Silver and Gold Canoe Qualifying Expeditions. 19 pupil members and 3 adult leaders took part.

As part of our developing Gold Foot Expeditions in Scotland, we had two very successful Gold groups complete their qualifying expeditions over one week. This was thoroughly enjoyed by both participants and staff. In particular, these expeditions rely heavily on dedicated staff to give up personal holiday time during the summer.

In conclusion, 2017-2018 was a year of solid work and achievement on the part of all involved in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award in the Academy. Teamwork, self-reliance, a sense of responsibility to others, leadership, commitment, 'stickability', enterprise, self-discipline and initiative are all qualities which, to a greater or lesser extent, have been developed by our pupils as they have participated in the various sections of the D. of E. and which will stand them in good stead not only now but in later years.

Finally, pride of place and congratulations must go to the following pupils and past pupils who gained awards during the past year:

### **Bronze Award**

Darragh Armstrong (LVI)  
Aimee Bradley (LVI)  
Ellen Campbell (V)  
Samantha Cassidy-Campbell (IV)  
Odhran Catney (VI)  
Sinead Cheung (IV)  
Layla Creaney (V)  
Ryan Creaney (IV)



Alex Gifford (V)  
Meghan Hamilton (LVI)  
Ella Harvey (IV)  
Malek Hawela (LVI)  
Eve Henderson (IV)  
Jack Higgins (V)  
Ben Hopkins (LVI)  
Myles Ingram (LVI)  
Thomasa Kennedy (LVI)  
Zak Lundy (LVI)  
Adam Martin (IV)  
Katie-Rose Massey (IV)  
Amber McCalmont (LVI)  
Kaitlyn McCalmont (IV)  
Leah McCarter (IV)  
Nicole McClean (IV)  
Victoria McClements (V)  
Jennifer McCorry (LVI)  
Eden McCoubry (IV)  
Adam McCready (IV)  
Katie McIlmail (LVI)  
Jack McKee (IV)  
Lucy McMahon-Beattie (IV)  
Laura Meeke (V)  
Ellie Murray (IV)



Rebecca Parkes (IV)  
 Philip O'Callaghan (LVI)  
 Natasha Orr (-)  
 Thea Reddington (LVI)  
 Hermione Reid (IV)  
 Evan Robinson (IV)  
 Orla Shiels (LVI)  
 Chloe Spence (IV)  
 Adem Tepe (LVI)  
 Kerry Uprichard (IV)  
 Erin Wallace (V)  
 Megan Warke (IV)

### **Silver Award**

Ben Brown (V)  
 Jill Massey (LVI)  
 Elizabeth McCauley (LVI)  
 Beth McMillan (LVI)  
 Alexis Payot (MVI)  
 Rebekah Spratt (-)

### **Gold Award**

Eoin Bradley (MVI)  
 Niamh Martin (-)  
 Emma McAllister (-)  
 Thomas O'Callaghan (-)  
 Beth McMillan (MVI)

***Maurice Miller, Shelley Wilson & Holly Grant***



## **Bronze Boys' Qualifying, Mourne Mountains, 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2018**

### **Day 1**

We started our journey at a car park by the ford of White Water which we walked along for about an hour before crossing stiles. We crossed and stile in order to get across the road and continued North beside Kilkeel Road for another hour and forty-five minutes. We stopped for lunch about half way. Upon reaching the car park on the Slievenaman Road, we pivoted and walked over Slievenamuck towards the Weir, where we took a short break.

We then travelled along the River Ban for near two and a half hours. At this stage we had continued on too far, but we were able to correct ourselves and complete the final leg of the journey, contouring around Hen Mountain on the Ulster Way to reach our campsite, at approximately 8p.m. At the campsite we put our tents up, ate our dinner which we had cooked on a trangia and were asleep by half ten.

### **Day 2**

Day Two was a lot shorter than Day One. We started by going back along the Ulster way to a sheepfold where we turned off the main track and walked between Rocky Mountain





and Shanky's River to the car park at Leitrim Lodge. From there, the rest of the day was spent following the Ulster Way until reaching our finish point at Rostrevor Car Park, where the bus collected us and took us to get dinner.

***Ben Golden, Arron Gourley, Adam McCabe,  
Josh McFarland, Sol Morrow, Sudeep  
Tirupathi (FIII)***

**Bronze Girls' Qualifying Expedition,  
Mourne Mountains, 28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

**Day 1**

On the Saturday we were dropped off in the carpark. We had started a little late but our leader told us how we needed to begin, giving us our route cards and emergency phone. We began by following a river up to the first checkpoint. This area was quite marshy and at one point a member of my group, Emma, had become stuck but we all worked together and managed to pull her out. The weather was quite sunny and we soon found that we were wearing too many layers. We reached the leaders after the first leg, and crossed the road to continue on with our route. This part was less marshy; however, the ground was quite uneven. We stopped for lunch on some grass.

After this we continued on and the walk wasn't too challenging. We came to a very steep hill and so had to slow our pace. When we reached the next group of leaders, we were quite tired but kept going. We were going up a hill but the space was quite open, so we had to take a minute to find the right direction, using our compass for bearings. We knew it was the end of the leg when we came across a view point and descended back down



the hill and had to cross a road. By this point most of the group was in a better state, knowing that we weren't far from campsite. We came across a river which we had to cross and so helped each other down to a very large rock. From here we were able to find our way to the other side. We ended up on a very steep grassy bank but managed to shuffle our way to slightly more solid ground.

After continuing along this we found that the ground was getting gradually narrower and it was more difficult to find places to put our feet. Eventually, we made it past this area and moved on. Here we followed a narrow but relatively flat path that was quite easy to walk on. We came to a very open area and at this point had to stop and try to figure out where exactly we were. We found that we were at the bottom of Cock Mountain and the camp site was around at the other side. We walked round, using the base of the mountain as a guide, to find the camp.

We came to a path and followed this along until we reached the camp. After arriving and lying on the grass for a bit in celebration, we arranged who would be in which tent and set them up together. Once we had put the tents up and were satisfied with our position, we set up a Trangia. I cooked whilst Emma set up our sleeping bags. For dinner I had a sausage and bean stew with a cup of hot chocolate. Afterwards we cleaned up our dishes, put on



some more layers as, despite what a nice day it had been, it got very cold very fast and went into our tent.

## **Day 2**

When we woke up, again, I cooked on the trangia, and Emma began to pack up the sleeping bags. For breakfast I had porridge with raisins and another cup of hot chocolate. We worked together to get all our things tidied up and packed into our rucksacks. We then took down the tent but the wind was quite strong and it was quite difficult to take down neatly, as it kept getting caught in the wind. We managed to get it all tied up and were ready to go about half an hour before we had to leave the camp. When it was time to go, we walked back up to the path and walked along until we reached the wall which we were meant to follow along. There was a small stream which meant the ground was quite marshy. When we got past this part we found a large river. We walked to find a shallower part which was flowing gently and had lots of rocks to step on. A member of our group, Nada, accidentally fell in the river and it was quite difficult to help her get up but luckily it was another nice day and she dried out soon enough.

After this we were walking across a field but the ground was marshy and uneven and so quite difficult to walk through. Eventually, we made it past this part and began walking on a path towards the forest. At one point we weren't sure we were going in the right direction but we managed to find the correct path along a stream on the edge of the forest. After this we arrived in a field which was covered in long grass making it very difficult to be sure of our footing. When we got through this, we arrived at the path again

where the leaders were waiting. As it turns out, there was a path we could have followed but we didn't realise it led to the same place. The next part of the route was quite easy as it was just a path quite near to the road. We stopped for on a pile of rocks for lunch and then continued into the forest, again just following the path. We stayed on the same path for quite a while until we came to a junction. When consulting the map, we found that we were quite near to the end and so this gave us another burst of energy. We very happily walked the last part of the journey and arrived at the car park where the leaders were waiting.

I really enjoyed the expedition and enjoyed the walking and things like cooking on the trangia and setting up the tent. I found the walking mostly easy enough and wasn't too tired by the end of it. However, there were frictions in my group that led to arguments on the hill which were quite tense however overall I enjoyed the expedition.

***Shannon McBride, Caitlin Donaghy, Sabriel Gergett, Nada Hawela, Emma Irvine, Alex Johnston and Suzie Kerr (FIII)***



**Silver Canoe Qualifying, Lough Erne, 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018**



### **Purpose of the expedition**

The purpose of my expedition on 29th & 31st July 2018 was to navigate a route through Upper Lough Erne, County Fermanagh. This included route planning, navigation, demonstrating water safety, canoeing skills, teamwork and demonstrating all camping skills required. During the expedition there was a focus on identifying different tourist spots and attractions along the Upper Lough Erne route.

### **Planning & Preparation**

In preparation, we attended 2 canoe training weekends and 4 planning evenings along with the walkers.

#### **Weekend 1: Friday 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

The canoeists attended the first training weekend at Castlewellan Country Park, County Down. On the Friday evening we travelled down and set up our camp. We used the skills from our Bronze Award and set up our tents and organised our equipment. We used the stoves to prepare our supper. On the Saturday morning, we met our instructor Eunan and we also picked our teams and canoe partners. We learnt about the boats and how to hold and use the paddles. We also learnt about weather conditions that can be expected and how to control the boats in these conditions and what we should wear to protect ourselves. We also prepared a list of equipment that we would need for our expedition on the water. Finally, in the morning session, we learnt how to tie various knots that we would need for our expedition. Saturday afternoon we went out in the boats for the first time. We took them to the shaded

part of the lake where there was less wind. We practised how to manoeuvre the boats forwards and backwards and how to turn. We finished the afternoon session by bringing the boats onto shore and how to load them onto the trailer.

On Sunday morning, we had very bad weather. It was heavy rain and strong wind, although, this was helpful as we were able to learn how to control the boat in worse conditions. The instructor would set us points



along the water that we had to find and we had to work hard in our pairs as we were often paddling against the wind. On Sunday afternoon, we learnt how to deal with capsizes and rescues. This involved practising capsize techniques and how to use support boats from our team to turn the capsized boat back over.

#### **Weekend 2: Friday 22nd- Sunday 24th September 2017**

On the Friday evening we set up camp and made supper. On Saturday, we were straight into the water. Our instructor taught us the 'J' stroke technique, which is used to keep the boat straight. If you are in conditions of low wind, it helps to keep up speed without slowing the boat down. In the afternoon, we did some more rescues and our instructor





taught us tips of keeping the boat straight in high winds and keeping the balance in the boat to prevent capsizing. On Saturday evening we did night navigation to help us to learn how to keep our bearings in the dark. Sunday was spent canoeing with our barrels of equipment in the boat. It included how to load the boat and how to tie them correctly to help in the event of a capsize. We had to learn how to get used to the extra weight. We canoed the lake with our barrels and practised the skills that we had already learnt.

### **Silver Expedition Practice**

Our practice weekend took place on the River Bann near Ballymoney, County Antrim.

#### **Friday 4th May 2018**

We spent time recapping the skills learnt from our practice weekend and how to launch and control the canoes.

#### **Saturday 5th May**



This was the first time we were following a route on the open river, which was different to the lake at Castlewellan. We had to negotiate how to take the boats around a weir and we also had to learn how to use the landmarks along the river to measure our route. This

was more difficult on the river and at one point we realised that we had canoed much further than our planned stop. As this was our practice, it was a good learning point to make us aware of this before our real expedition. We finally turned back, found our planned stop and set up camp. That evening our instructor worked with us to plan our expedition route and prepare our route cards. This was much more helpful in our canoe practice planning a river route was different to our bronze walking expedition.



#### **Sunday 6th May**

Our instructor refreshed our memory of knots and made sure that we were comfortable with all of our canoeing skills, as it had been a long time since our training weekends in September. It meant he was happy and comfortable that we all knew everything and were competent on the water before our real expedition weekend.

The practice days gave us good preparation for the challenging qualifying expedition.

### **Silver Qualifying Expedition**

Sunday 29th July 2018- Tuesday 31st July 2018



## Day 1

We started our expedition at Bellanaleck Jetty (MR 236, 391) at 11a.m. Before we set off, we had to tie our barrels into our boats and make sure we had all of our equipment and all of our safety equipment on. On the weekend we arrived, there had been an amber weather warning and many parts of Northern Ireland had experienced a huge amount of rain. We met our assessor, Robyn and she went through our routes and she outlined a few different routes that may need to consider in case there was any bad weather along the way. She helped us to launch our boats. When we set off, the weather was quite nice. There was very little wind and it was quite sunny. We were able to wear t-shirts, which was a great start.

The first couple of hours of our journey were smooth with no difficulties. Our first stop was at the river junction (MR267, 385). By the time we reached here, we had canoed around 4.8km and our speed was about 3km per hour. While we were here, we took a break and took some GoPro footage. Our route had planned for us to have lunch at the 2nd river junction at (MR 271,378) but we decided to carry on to Carrybridge (MR 295,374), as we knew there was a jetty where we could exit the boats and take photos to use in our report. We arrived here around 2.15p.m. and stopped for lunch for half an hour. We left Carrybridge and continued until Dixon's Shore (MR 280, 356). We took a break here and as a team talked about our route. This was necessary as we heading into more open water and we needed to navigate around islands.

We set off again and we reached the beginning of Killygowan Island (MR 282,

346) the wind began to pick up, as we no longer had shelter from the land. To keep going, we made sure to keep close to the islands to get shelter from them and were able to navigate our way around them using the signposts marked on the map. We arrived at our 1st campsite at Knockninny Marina (MR 278, 314) at around 5p.m. We set up camp for the night and prepared dinner.

## Day 2

On the morning of Day 2 we met our instructors. The weather was significantly worse with quite heavy wind and rain. Our instructors pointed out some alternative routes we may need to take if needed along the next stretch. We left Knockninny at 10am after packing up our equipment and loading the canoes. On setting out, we found the wind was not as bad as expected so we decided to follow our original route, to the left of Naan Island. We stopped at the Naan Island Jetty for a break (MR 302, 319) at 11am. We were able to go onto the island, have a quick look around and take some photos for our log. We set off again. When we left Naan Island, the winds picked up a lot and we found we had taken a wrong turn going towards the left of Inishlught.

We quickly reconfigured our route, continuing on in-between Inishlught and Aghinish. On the approach to Tiraroe Jetty, the winds picked up a lot and we had to paddle the boats hard to keep them moving. We were head on into the wind. We reach Tiraroe Jetty (MR 305,299) at 12.40 p.m. and it began to rain heavily. We met our instructor here and he gave us an alternative route. Instead of passing in-between Inishlught and Aghinish, we were advised to turn left and pass between Aghinish and



Inishcrevan as it was more sheltered. This is what we did and it seemed easier. When we came alongside Aghanish, we used the wind to our advantage. And we ferry glided along the side of Inishcorkish until (MR 328, 305). At this point, the wind had died down and we continued straight on forward until we reached the Smith's Strand (MR 341,295). This was also the location for the Share Village, which was the site of our camp for night 2. We met our assessor at this point, as this is where she is based.

### Day 3

We left earlier than planned on the final day, as we were ready early. The wind was very strong, to our disadvantage, and we had to paddle hard against it. It took us longer than expected and we were getting very tired. We decided to take a stop at Corradillar Jetty and see if we could find a more sheltered route. We took a decision not to stop at Trannish Island, as it would have been an unnecessary detour due to the strong winds.

When we got to the Lady Craigavon Bridge (MR 332, 279), our instructor was waiting for us and quickly gave us a few tips on how to use our paddles in the extremely windy conditions. My partner and I were in a slightly different boat to the others and it was lower down in the water due to being a racing boat. With the wind being strong and having all of the weight in the boat, it was causing us to turn more. He gave us useful advice on how to keep the boat straight. We went on from the bridge into a section of water that was very exposed and therefore hard to paddle in. We carried on without stopping to Inish Rath Jetty (MR 335, 271) at around 11.30am. Here we got off the island and went to explore around the island and to look at the

Hare Krishna Temple. We took photos and stayed for about 25mins before crossing over to Gleaglum Jetty to fill our water, as we knew there was a tap there. Our assessor was waiting there for us to see how we were getting on and to look at our route. We went on to the next stop, which was Riley Wood (MR 343, 255) and as we were travelling, the winds died down and we were able to pick up speed. When we arrived at Riley Wood the weather got worse and we took a break for around 20mins, as we knew the next section would be hard work. When we continued to



the end of Bleanish Island (MR 347, 240), we decided to turn and go past Inishurk as it was a lot more sheltered by the land. Following along the right hand side of Inishurk, the wind has eased due to shelter from the trees and this was fairly easy until we went under White Bridge (MR 358,244). When we emerged from the sheltered part it was heavy wind again, however, we made sure to stay in close to the left hand side, finding shelter from the island. When we arrived at our





penultimate stop of Crom Jetty (MR 370, 238) it was around 3.15p.m. We had our lunch for around 30 minutes before continuing on. The last leg of our journey was sheltered with little wind and easy to paddle. We reached our finished point Bun Bridge (MR386, 250) at around 4.30. After finishing, we all enjoyed fish & chips which were well deserved and tasted good!

We found the Silver qualifying expedition very enjoyable and rewarding. It was challenging at times due to the strong head winds and needed a lot of determination by the whole group. It was very rewarding and helped us to work through a range of skills and challenges. It required teamwork in many areas, for example, map reading,



sharing the carrying of equipment, putting up and taking down the tents and cooking. We loved it because it was a great experience to explore the lakes and waterways and to navigate a route on the water. We are really looking forward to moving on to complete our Gold award.

***Eve Henderson, Holly Adair, Emma Dobbin,  
Alex Dowds, Erin Lavery and Redmond  
McNamee (IV)***

**Silver Qualifying Expedition, Mourne  
Mountains, 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> August 2018**

### **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> August**

On Friday we met at school at 7:30a.m. in the morning, we finished packing our bags and drove down to Donard Car Park where we started out. There was a lot of rain, so we decided to walk on our bad weather route. We walked through Donard Forest and across the Tullybranigan River and into Tollymore, taking short breaks along the way. The route consisted mainly of doing a big loop of the forest park, and so when we arrived at the view point at 352300 we stopped for a longer break.

Later in the day we stopped again for a long break (for less than 30 mins) at 340325, along the path going towards the Tollymore carpark. After this we walked continuously until we reached the end of the loop, at the viewpoint on the edge of the forest (324313). We then continued to walk around, to the sheepfold at the bottom of the Trassey Track. Here we rested for a few minutes before trudging up to our first campsite at 318292 where we met our assessor. The views were great, we all had our dinner and went to sleep quite early.

### **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> August**

We woke up on Saturday after a very windy night and set out at 8:45. The weather wasn't





as bad as it had been the day before, so we walked on our planned route. After a quick pit stop at Meelmore Lodge, we walked straight to Happy Valley where we met our assessor and talked more about the route ahead. We then walked to Spelga Dam without taking a break. We stopped for lunch along the River Bann at 260279 for around an hour. Afterwards, we took the Spelga Pass to avoid some marsh and contoured Hen Mountain where we met our assessor again at a sheepfold. Finally, we walked up to our campsite at 243262 where we were soon joined by the other group from our school. We got there quite early, so we spent a lot of time socialising and eating before we went to bed.

### **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> August**

We all woke up at a reasonable time on Sunday morning but were not ready to leave until 11:15am, just because we were very slow at eating and getting packed up. Once again, the weather was fine, so we walked our normal route. We made up for our late start greatly though; we walked straight from the campsite to Letrim Lodge Car Park. Here we took off our bags and sat for about 10 minutes then set off again and walked all the way to Kilbroney Park at 181185.

We only stopped once throughout that whole stretch to talk to our assessors about why we were so late to set out. We managed to go from almost 2 hours behind schedule to a few minutes ahead of time. At the carpark we talked to our assessor and then got in the minivan which took us around to Warren Point where we got our food. When we got back to school, we sorted out all our equipment quickly and were ready to go home before half 6.

We would say it was a very enjoyable but challenging expedition, as we had to endure 3 days of full walking rather than the normal 2. We had a very successful expedition in that we did not get lost once, nor did anyone get injured or separated at any point. We remembered to take plenty of photos for our project and each member was very strong at walking. Overall, it was definitely one of my favourite expeditions to date.

***Cameron McKee, Ryan Creaney, Morgan Curran, Adam McCready, Ethan Quinn and Evan Robinson (IV)***

### **Gold Qualifying Expedition, Scottish Highlands, Lochaber Area, 8<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

Our purpose was to study human influence on the Scottish Highlands, including structures and litter.

#### **Day 1**

On Day One we went for breakfast at Morrisons and were ready to set off at just after 10a.m. We set off from the ski centre at half 10, where we followed a track through a forested area. The weather started off with light rain but started to get heavier quite quickly. All team members were in high spirits to continue and keep up the pace. When we reached the car park at 211792 we decided to have our lunch for 45 mins and then continue our route through the forest track. The weather continued to be drizzly, so we put our waterproofs on. Most legs were short roughly around 5-30 mins but some legs where 50-70mins.



Once we left the forest track, we followed the track to the ford 278753 where it was a 70 min leg and Emma and Elie and I were struggling to keep up with Darragh as our legs were starting to hurt. Once we made it to the campsite, I went straight to put the dinner up while Emma and Elie put our tent up and Darragh put his tent up. We had dinner together and sat and talked for a while about the next day's route.

## **Day 2**

In the morning it was raining heavily, so we decided to get the tents down as soon as possible and then to have our breakfast in the bothy. Once we set off we followed a track coming across three fords during the first three legs, they were long legs from 50, 40, 20. Once we reached the footbridge at 308693 there was an abandoned house that we decided to take a break. We set off again and continued on a track, coming to some junctions on the way and fords, following the track contouring the loch.

We took our lunch at leg 6 for 50 mins at the track junction 320686. On our last leg we were all feeling down-hearted because it felt like we were walking for ages and our legs and feet were getting sore, but once we were handrailing the loch and could see the bothy at 259634, we pushed through as we knew that when we got there we could relax. When



we got there we immediately set the tents up as it was starting to get windy, but it was still light out as it was only around 5p.m. Once there, we set up camp and went into the bothy, made our dinner and just sat in the bothy for a while to see the route for the following day.

## **Day 3**

On the third day our spirits were dwindling and we were all in a lot of pain, specifically Emma's feet and my hip, it took a while to get into the swing of things for our pain to ease. We got our tents down and went into the bothy to have breakfast. We started following on a track, handrailing and old deer fence that was hard to see but we saw the occasional pole. We followed the trail to the Blackwater Reservoir, then once we reached it we contoured the reservoir following the trail. At 243609 we picked up the pipeline and followed it for four legs which felt so long and never ending, these legs lasted 3.5 hours but we took our lunch on leg eight.

Once we reached the dam at 217631 from there it was on a track, there was height climbed which was sometimes steep or gradual. The weather was sunny and warm with a slight breeze, so we decided to all put sun cream on. At 172630 we joined the west highland way, we were all drained and struggling as my hip was so painful, Emma's feet were covered in blisters and Ellie was just tired, but Darragh was pushing on ahead. Once we reached our final campsite, we had to put our tent up quickly as the midges were starting to come in, we also put dinner on while we were getting the tent put up. We sat in the porch of our tents eating our dinners and went to bed soon after as we were excited for our final day.





### **Day 4**

On our final morning we were all excited specifically Ellie; however, we were all in so much pain at this point - we all had many blisters and my hip was making it very hard to walk. We got our tents down and had breakfast quickly and set off in good time, we followed the track that had other hill walkers using it, it took us to join the west highland way which was very busy. At 101648 we entered the first forest, this was barely a forest anymore and many of the trees were cut down or by a storm. When we entered the second forest at 104680, we had our lunch and there was a farmer herding his sheep in. We continued through the forest with the track still on the west highland way. In the final legs we became a lot happier, as we knew how close we were and picked our speed up and powered through the forest. When we reached the finish we were so glad to be done and so proud of ourselves.

***Jessica Jackson, Darragh Armstrong, Emma Griffen, Ellie Moffett (LVI)***

### **Gold Qualifying Expedition, Antrim Hills, 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> August 2018:**

**Where:** Hills of Antrim

**Who:** Thomasa, Daniel, Phillip, Jack, Tom.

**Why:** The purpose of the qualifying weekend was to study Man's Influence in the Antrim Hills.

**Stayed:** 4 Days, 3 Nights.

### **Equipment:**

2x Coyote tent

1x Bandicoot tent

1x Trangia

1x Meth bottle

5x Compass

And our own personal gear

On Wednesday night we went into school to pack our bags, we gathered and checked our equipment so that we were ready to leave on the Thursday morning.

On Thursday we left school at 09:00 arriving at our drop off point at 10:30. We met our assessor there. After a brief chat, we began our route up the road at 179398 to the fence at 211396, we then followed to fence to the chambered grave where we had lunch. After lunch we walked down Cranamore to the river at 220380. We walked to Cushlake Mountain on the bearing of 170, from here we walked to Loughareema Road. We crossed the road then walked through the forest to the campsite at Watertop Open Farm. When we arrived to the campsite, we set up the tents and began cooking dinner, we went to bed early as the weather began to turn.



The next morning, we were woken up by the leaders at 11a.m. to find we had a new team member – Tom. Later on that morning, we began making breakfast and welcomed Tom into our group. As the rain got closer we packed up our kit and began our days walk.



The mood of the group was positive. We walked from camp to the entrance of the Ballypatrick Forest at 188388 from here we walked through the forest to the edge of the forest at 184336 we followed the fence from 183331 to the opening at 153299, from here we followed the forest paths to the Glendun Road where we then walked to the campsite at the sheepfold at 166273. When we arrived at camp we set up the tents, cooked our dinner and went to bed early as the weather wasn't great.

After a relatively restful night, we woke and began to cook breakfast. Whilst waiting for the water to boil, and the 3 sleeping princesses to waken, Tom and I took down our tents. After giving the boys a morning wake-up call, they emerged from their tents for breakfast and eventually we were ready to

leave. We met our assessor Joanna at 163273 where we had a brief meeting and then went on our way following the route through the forest, we met Joanna again at 151246. From here we walked to Altnahinch Road 124225; we had lunch there. Then we followed the road to the footbridge at 157237. Here we joined the Moyle Way at when we reached the fence at 176233 we followed it to edge of the Glenariff Forest, walking a short distance to Argan Bridge 179206, where we camped. We set up camp and began cooking dinner, the weather turned so we decided to have an early night.

Last day! I woke up around 07:00 the rain was pouring down, so I set up the Trangia, popped in my boil in the bag and got back into my tent, Tom woke up shortly after and did the same. As we ate our breakfast, peeking out of our respective tents, we saw the first glance of the three boys, who wanted to wait for the storm to blow over. Once they finally got up and their breakfast into them, we all packed up and went on our way slightly later than expected. We walked from our campsite at 179206 to Ballyemon Road at 191217 through the forest.

From here we crossed the road and walked down to the junction at 196217 where we met Maurice and Joanna (our assessor). Joanna then decided that due to weather the weather conditions, we could alter the route slightly, and so we walked from our check point on the Glenariff Road to the track junction and start of Moyle Way at 191206. Following the Moyle Way we walked through the forest to the junction at 203193. From this point we continued along the Moyle Way to the finish point at 192173.



Overall the weekend went very well, the spirit of the group was very high the whole time. We were happy to welcome Tom into the group and he fitted in very well adding to the group dynamics! We worked very well as a team and all played our individuals roles in the team from navigating to entertainment.

***Thomasa Kennedy, Jack Jamison, Daniel Logan, Tom McKee & Philip O'Callaghan (LVI)***

### **Gold Canoe Qualifying, Lower and Upper Lough Erne, 31<sup>st</sup> July – 4<sup>th</sup> August 2018**

#### **Training Weekend**

The training weekend took place at Castewellan from the 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> October. During this weekend we touched up on some paddling skills which we had learnt during our Silver Award.

#### **Practice Expedition**

The practice expedition took place from the 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> April on the River Bann. We arrived at our initial campsite quite late in the day, got our equipment and set up camp in the farmer's field we were camping in. The next day we departed from the campsite and drove to our start point at a jetty close to the field. From the jetty we travelled downriver to Portna Lock gates stopping at various locations along the way. We reached Portna at late afternoon, after a short portage to the other side of the lock gates we left our canoes at the jetty and set up camp. The next morning we set off from Portna and travelled down the river to Drumaheglis Marina. Fortunately, the wind was behind us the entire expedition and enabled us to complete the expedition in good time.

#### **Qualifying Expedition**

The qualifying expedition took place from the 31<sup>st</sup> July-4<sup>th</sup> August on Lough Erne. We arrived at the Share centre in the late afternoon of the 31<sup>st</sup> July, this was so we could collect our group equipment to enable us to begin the expedition the next morning. Unfortunately, due to high winds the next day, we had to follow our route cards in reverse, avoiding open water where the wind was strongest, this required the route card for the first day of the expedition to be altered slightly.

#### **Day 1**

We packed up our equipment and left the Share centre at just after 09:00 on 1<sup>st</sup> August. We drove to our new start point at Corraquill Lock (313203), from here we made our way along the Woodford River towards Aghalane Jetty (344197) where we stopped for lunch.



We were travelling slower than we were used to, since the three girls were still getting used to paddling the large raft. (This setup had to be used as this was the best option as paddling a canoe solo for a whole day would be very exhausting). After having lunch, we set off from Aghalane we continued down the river towards the open water. Once we reached the open water, we paddled past





Crichton Tower (362234) against a strong headwind. We then stopped at Crom Jetty (371238) to gather information for our project, after doing some research we set off in the same direction as we had arrived, across an expanse of open water to our campsite on a patch of land at Derryvore Jetty (349233). It was hard-going as the headwind we had faced earlier in the day was now pushing sideways off course. When we eventually reached the jetty, we realised that our campsite was extremely exposed to the wind and rain and was closer to the water's edge than we had anticipated. We were then advised to return to Crom where we would camp for the night. It was a struggle to cross the exposed expanse for the third time in order to return to Crom we reached our campsite after a very tiring paddle and were glad to get our tents up to dry out and get some rest.

## **Day 2**

We set off from the slipway at Crom Jetty at around a similar time to which we had set off the previous day. We travelled from Crom to the navigation marker (348248) beside Inisherk Wood, from here we continued to Gealglum Jetty (337265) where we had our lunch. After having lunch, we paddled under the Lady Craigavon bridge (330279) and made a short stop at Corradillar Jetty (329283). At this point we realised we were quite far ahead of time, so we decided to paddle over to Trannish Island (3229, 3228) and find out some information about the bothy on the island. After our stop at Trannish, we paddled the last stretch to our campsite at Smith's Strand (341294) beside the Share Centre. The second day of our expedition was definitely not as eventful as the first, and also not as long in terms of distance. We were able to travel the distance



quite quickly due to the wind dying down slightly, it was definitely a more enjoyable paddle although we were still glad to sit down on “dry” land for a while and have our dinner.





### **Day 3**

On the third day we set off at around 10:00, slightly later than usual, but after two days of paddling the lie-in was welcomed. We travelled from Smith's Strand to Kilmore Quay (335310) to get some information about the restaurant there. After that we paddled to Inishcorkish (325308) to visit the pigs that live on the island, from here we paddled between Aghinish and Inishlught to Tiraroe Jetty (305299) where we tied up and had our lunch. After finishing our lunch we headed for Naan Island (2932 , 3032 , 2931 , 3031) to search for the Castle ruins on the island, however, due to the fact that the island is a nature reserve we were unable to step foot on the island and never found the ruins and questioned whether or not they even existed. From Naan Island we paddled between Doocharn Island and Inishlirroo to eventually reach our campsite for the night at Knockninny Jetty (279314).

### **Day 4**

On the final day we set off from Knockninny at 09:30 and headed towards the Inishmore Viaduct (254341), on our way there we faced a strong headwind and choppy water. We eventually reached the bridge beside the viaduct and stopped at a fishing jetty for a short break, by this stage in the expedition tiredness was starting to show, even so everyone continued on knowing that the finish point was near. After the short break, we continued down the river to Cloonatrig Jetty (263372). After passing Cloonatrig we knew that we only had a short few kilometres to the finish point, however, after passing Cloonatrig we encountered so very large river cruisers who left a very large wake as they

were travelling full speed in a no wake zone, these wakes almost caused Michael and I to capsize several times as we were tandem in the single canoe. Despite this we continued on to the finish point at Bellanaleck Jetty (236391). When we reached the finish point we were relieved that we had completed the expedition successfully, although there was also quite a sad mood amongst the team as we realised this was our last ever DofE expedition.

None of this would have been possible without the DofE team at BRA: Robert, Kevin, Maeve, Holly and Maurice.

*Andrew Dorman, Lucy Johnston, Jennifer McCorry, Amie Bradley, Michael McCormack (LVI)*

### **Gold Canoe Project: Tourism on Lough Erne**

#### **Tourism on Lough Erne**

There are various tourist sites on Lough Erne. There are numerous ruin sites and activity





centres scattered across the area and every island is unique. The area provides endless attractions for tourists, I researched a number of these attractions on my expedition.

### **The Share Discovery Village (Lisnaskea)**

The Share Discovery Village (Share Centre) is a centre that provides a wide variety of activities for participants of all ages and abilities. The centre made a name for itself by having staff that are able to give disabled people (who would not normally be able to take part in outdoor pursuits) experiences they will never forget. It has various facilities such as a mountain bike trail, accommodation, sports halls, art studios, climbing walls, a campsite, various play parks, a swimming pool, a caravan park and of course Lough Erne itself. I have worked here in the past and would recommend it to tourists of all nationalities as it is a great location to take part in outdoor pursuits with qualified instructors.

### **Crom Estate**

The Crom Estate is a National Trust site with a campsite, it is located right at the water's edge but is still accessible by car. There is a slipway and several small cottages that can be rented on a self-catering basis. The campsite has excellent facilities such as toilets, showers and a dish washing station. The site is very family-friendly as water sport activities are



easily accessible at this site due to its location, boats and canoes can be rented on site and there is also the main attraction the ruins of the castle there, there are also some very beautiful woodland walks that can be taken in the area.

### **Watermill Restaurant (Kilmore Quay)**

If you are looking for somewhere to experience French/Irish cuisine, the Watermill Restaurant is the place to go. Located at the water's edge at Kilmore Quay there is an amazing view of Lough Erne from the restaurant. The menu includes both French and Irish dishes, the French chef who prepares these dishes, Pascal Brissaud, ensures that each dish is of the upmost quality. The combination of French architecture and a beautiful location make for an authentic dining experience.

### **Trannish Island Bothy**

Located on the western side of Trannish Island the bothy can accommodate up to 12 people. There are 2 covered outdoor BBQ areas, a firewood shelter, a wood burning stove and toilets with disabled access. There are also sleeping platforms, a cooking area and an area for drying wet equipment. The bothy costs £8.00 per person per night, if you share the bothy with other visitors, however you can also book the whole bothy for yourself at £80.00 per night. The campsite costs £2.00 per person per night. Camping on an island is a unique experience and I would recommend to those who have never tried it to do so.

*Andrew Dorman (LVI)*





## THE FRENCH EXCHANGE

### BRA and Lycee L'Oiselet, Bourgoin-Jallieu

The first 'leg' of the French Exchange took



place before the Easter holidays, 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018. 19 students from Lycee L'Oiselet, Bourgoin-Jallieu, visited BRA and were hosted by BRA French students from Form VI to MVI.

The French students enjoyed a jam-packed week of outings around Belfast where they visited the Titanic Museum, Queen's University, Botanic Gardens, the Ulster



Museum, Crumlin Road Gaol and the city's murals; as well as a day trip to the North Coast to visit the Giant's Causeway, Dunluce Castle and Carrick-a-Rede in the rain.

This was the first French Exchange trip alongside the International School Award and it was a huge success; all our students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and the opportunity to meet and host 'a real French person', as evident in the tears that were shed as we waved the coach off on Friday morning.

We will be completing the return trip to Bourgoin Jallieu from 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> October 2018 and the students are already looking forward to it.

***D.S.C.***

## THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF SCHOOLS' ANALYST COMPETITION

On the 10<sup>th</sup> March, a team of three Lower Sixth pupils competed in the Northern Ireland Regional Heat of the Royal Society of Chemistry Schools' Analyst Competition at Stranmillis University College Belfast. The team consisted of Jill Massey, Naomi McGuckian and Tom Spence, who were up against eleven other schools from across the province.

The aim of the competition is to raise standards of practical analytical chemistry amongst sixth-form students and is based on problems relevant to industrial and social needs. The students are assessed in their practical skills, as well as in their understanding of chemical analysis and their



ability to work safely as a team. The format of the competition is the same for each year. Each team carried out three experiments which all carried equal marks. This year the experiments related to the role of analytical Chemistry in pharmaceutical analysis. The three experiments involved the analysis of household bleach by a redox titration, the determination of the acid content of white wine by acid-base titration and the determination of iron content in Iron Bru.

After three hours of practical work, the BRA team were announced fourth in the competition and they each received a book token. The experience gained was invaluable to the members of the team and I congratulate them on their performance.

***B.M.M.***

## **THE SCHOOL COUNCIL**

The School Council is a representative group of BRA's student body. This year, it met each term to discuss a range of issues and identify opportunities for *improvement* within BRA, with the aim of making school life better for the pupils.

The Pupil Council is composed of male and female representatives from each of the four houses in each form. From this group, two pupils in every form, one boy and one girl, are elected to represent their form on the School Council. The Pupil Council meets regularly to compile the agenda for School Council meetings and to respond to the School Council's action points. The School Council is chaired by Ms Graham, who was, this year, aided by the Head Boy, Jacob

Brady, acting as Vice Chair and the Head Girl, Joanna McClurg, acting as Secretary.

Both the School and Pupil Council were fortunate enough to benefit from a fun and challenging team-building morning which took place on Friday 20th October 2017. Members visited Girdwood Community Hub for a drumming workshop conducted by Joe Loughlin of 'The Gathering Drum.' Enjoyed thoroughly by all the pupils, this workshop aimed to promote teamwork. Council members from Forms I to MVI were able to get to know one another, while working together to create music and the day was deemed beneficial to all involved.

With the onset of the academic year, the School Council began to take action immediately. From the outset we tried to represent the pupil body effectively, giving a voice to the ideas and concerns of a cross section of pupils throughout the school in order to improve its daily running. A range of issues were presented for discussion by council members. These included the school's new 'Closing the Gap' system, uniform and hair regulations, the issue of litter in school, the early finish on a Tuesday and the food available at break and lunchtime in the Jackson Suite.

In its first meeting, the Pupil Council chose the three charities that we intended to support this school year: Depaul Homeless Charity, Lighthouse - North Belfast's suicide prevention charity (based in Duncairn Gardens) - and Alzheimer's UK were unanimously chosen. The School and Pupil Councils then organised a non-uniform day, which took place on Tuesday 14th November 2017. The total sum raised was just over £2500, £1250 of which we allocated to



Depaul Ireland, with the remaining £625 being split between Alzheimer's UK and Lighthouse. A representative from Depaul visited the school at the end of term to speak to the pupils in an Assembly and receive a cheque for the money raised.

The School Council worked as a team to effect change, with every member being encouraged to contribute to meetings. Furthermore, Councillors worked individually, taking action by consulting members of staff in order to achieve their action points. On behalf of both the School and Pupil Council, I would like to thank all the members of staff who met with us to help us reach our targets. This year, the School Council have built upon the hard work of last year's members and have created a number of positive changes which we hope next year's School Council will continue to explore and develop.

The School Council would like to thank Charles Roxas, who acted as the secretary to the Pupil Council. Charles produced the minutes for each meeting of the Pupil Council, which formed the agenda for the School Council meetings. On behalf of both the School and Pupil Councils, I would also like offer thanks to both Ms Graham and Mrs Robb for their continued hard work and support of both councils throughout the year.

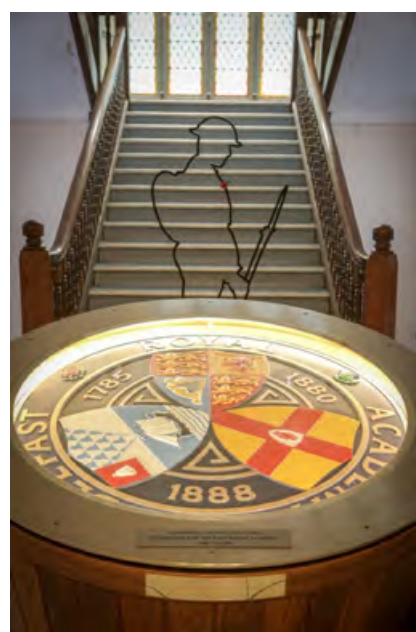
I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to be a part of the School and Pupil Council this year. It has been rewarding to see the improvements brought about by our members' work and I hope that, in the years to come, the Councils continue to effect positive change within the school and indeed becomes more active and influential, playing

an increasingly important role in improving each pupil's experience at BRA.

*Joanna McClurg (MVI)*

## **TOMMIES AND WAR MEMORIAL**

2018 marked the centenary of the end of the First World War. As part of the commemorative events, all the names of former pupils which appear on the Academy's war memorial were researched by a former pupil, the late Vernon Clegg, and the biographical details bound in a specially prepared volume.



The splendid frontispiece for this work was designed by Academy pupil Ben O'Donnell.

In May, the 'Tommies' along with 36 silhouette soldiers and nurses arrived in Belfast Royal Academy. They form part of how the school is commemorating the





centenary of the First World War and to mark, in particular, the sacrifice of the 36 former pupils of the School who died during this conflict. The 'Tommies' were erected in the foyer of the Crombie building and the silhouette soldiers and nurses were placed at desks in the History Department. They represented a fitting tribute to the 36 former pupils, volunteers all, who gave their todays for our tomorrows.

*J.M.*

## UNIVERSITY OPEN DAYS

Autumn is a busy time for our MVI form. Decisions, decisions, decisions! In order to help pupils make plans for their future, all our MVI pupils attended the Ulster University Open Day on the 4th September and Queen's University Open Day on the 7th September. Pupils planned their visits at both open days to ensure they attended relevant talks and presentations in areas which were of interest to them. Many took tours of the library, the labs, ICT facilities and the Students' Union. Pupils found both events very helpful.

A number of our pupils also attended the St Mary's College Open Day on Wednesday 11th September. Again, this was a useful event which will help pupils make more informed decisions about their future pathway.

*J.A.*

## SPANISH EXCHANGE

This year, the first leg of the annual Exchange between the Academy and IES Juan de Villanueva took place in Belfast. After

travelling for twenty-one hours from Asturias, twenty-two Spanish students and their two teachers Elena and Dioni arrived into Belfast in dire need of a siesta and an Ulster Fry. Having arrived on a Saturday, BRA students whisked their partners home to get refreshed. Later that day, many students met up in the city centre for some retail therapy. That night, the gang split into two groups and headed off to parties, as, understandably, nobody's parents were brave enough to welcome forty teenagers they had never met before into their home.

The second day got off to a much nicer start, everyone was now somewhat familiar with their partner and the Spanish were able to sleep in beds rather than the benches of London Gatwick airport, which they seemed rather pleased by. The main event of the day was a student-organised trip to 'Let's Go Hydro', however, given that we live in a rather miserable part of the world as far as weather is concerned, a water park, in late September, was a somewhat interesting decision on behalf of the Middle Sixth students. It did at least give the opportunity for everyone to get together and socialise, for the Spanish visitors to enjoy the comfort of hearing people speak a language they understood and for us all to find solidarity in the act of slowly freezing together.

During the week, we all attended class as normal while the Spanish went and saw what our 'wee city' has to offer: art exhibitions, the Peace Walls, Belfast Castle, the City Hall, Queen's University and our two museums. The Spanish students also had the opportunity to learn how to make fifteens and were also



given the opportunity to learn how to play the guitar with Mr. Forde.

In the evenings, we had a number of social gatherings in the catchment area of the school. We celebrated Hermione and Sophie's birthdays in Villa Italia on the Tuesday evening, singing 'Happy Birthday' and '*Cumpleaños Feliz*' respectively.

On Friday morning we waved goodbye to our partners as they boarded their bus to Dublin, a marvellous week was had by all and another. No tears were shed this time, as we were going to see them after the weekend....

### ***Johnny McNamee (MVI)***

The Spanish exchange is one of the most educational and beneficial trips in school. It teaches the students more about the language, the history and the culture of Spain and it gives students a real opportunity to immerse themselves in the language and make life-long friends. The students travel to a lovely little place in the north of Spain called Asturias and live with their partner and their families for 5 days. This gives students the chance to practice their Spanish in a safe home environment and allows them to build relationships with the family that they are staying with. During the school day, pupils go on educational trips and discover school life in Spain and after school the pupils go out with their partners and discover the cultural aspects of Spain.

As always, we visited a number of interesting places, we visited a place called *Covadonga* and *Los Picos de Europa* which has a stunning view of the mountains and lakes- a

highlight for many pupils as it was the perfect setting for a good Instagram picture! We also visited caves which had paintings from the pre-historic era.

The next day, we went to a place called *Gijón* where we visited *el Parque de la Providencia* which is a beautiful monument and if you stand in the middle of the monument you can hear the sounds of the sea and the waves crashing against the rocks. In *Gijón* we had some free time to shop and bond with our partners.

We were very lucky to learn how to play a game called '*Bolas*' which has been a traditional sport in Asturias for many years, most of us were not very good except for Harry Warke, due to his excellent cricket skills, of course!

On the last day of school, we got to take classes and interact with the other pupils of Juan de Villanueva School. We were given a set of pictures and we had to get into small groups and discuss with the Spanish students where in *la Pola* the pictures were and then we had to go out and look for the buildings in the pictures. Many pupils enjoyed this task as we got to mingle with the other students while learning more about the town we were staying in from them.

Outside of school hours, we spent time with our partners and their families and had the chance to really bond and form life-long friendships. On the first night, we went to Sophia Del Castillo's partner Ana's house. Everyone had a blast getting to know each other and riding down the zip line that Ana had in her back garden! Another night we went to Mateo's house who was Erin



Wallace's partner where everyone was obsessed with his kittens. For dinner, we all spend time with our partner and their family and we got to try typical Asturian food such as *la fabada* and chat to our families. For many pupils the nights outside the school were the highlight of the trip because everyone became very close friends and we all became one big family.

I think it's safe to say that everyone that went on the Spanish Exchange had the time of their lives and improved their Spanish and maybe became a different person; to quote Jadyr Murphy who said she was 'a new woman after the Exchange'. On behalf of all the Belfast Royal Academy students we would like to say a big thanks to Miss Williams and Mr Forde who made the exchange the amazing trip that it is and for giving us all the opportunity to have another place to call home and I am certain that all the people on the exchange will hold a special place in their heart for the people we met and the memories we made in Asturias.



***Lauren Young (MVI)***







# School Games

## RUGBY

### 1ST XV



1st XV Boys Rugby 2017/18

“You’re a product of your own environment, so choose the environment that will best develop you towards your objective” W. Clement Stone

Senior rugby began mid in mid-July. Players used the summer to carry out some conditioning, both on the pitch and in the gym, in preparation for the season ahead. Several players were returning to play for the school for another season. The experience of the season past stood this particular team in good stead, the players knew what to expect.

Saturday morning fixtures began with the annual Ian Graham Trophy tournament at Grosvenor Grammar School. In the group stages, we had the opportunity to play against Dromore High School and Bainbridge Academy. The team won both games giving an opportunity to play in the final against Wesley College Dublin.

Although BRA played with some encouragement, unforced errors proved costly with Wesley College taking advantage on several occasions. Wesley went on to win the final 14-0. With school starting back,

players began to familiarise themselves again with the weekly rugby schedule

September and October fixtures are a great test for players. The game against Ballyclare High School was played on a wet morning at Ballyclare High. This was a very tight game. Ballyclare scored a late try to win the game 12-8. The following four games were difficult encounters. In the fixture against Methodist college players showed resilience throughout the game; however, Methody won 31-3, scoring several tries late in the game.

It was a similar story against Sullivan Upper School (21-7 L), Wallace High School (38-7 L) and Ballymena Academy (45-7 L). Although such games were an excellent learning tool for players, the games themselves took their toll. The intensity of such fixtures was difficult on the squad. There was one game before the half term break against Dungannon Royal School. The week’s preparation was excellent in the build up to this game! Players were focused and determined to get a good result.

Dungannon managed to score early taking the score to 7-0. BRA managed to score two tries and kicked one conversion to take the score to 12-7. After half time, RSD kicked two very good penalties to make the score 16-12 to Dungannon. BRA threw everything at Dungannon in the last 10 minutes, however, it was too little too late! Ill-discipline came at a cost. This was a real disappointment to those involved! It was time for a break, one that the squad needed. These early fixtures were difficult, but much was learnt.

After the half term break, there was an air of expectancy! The Schools’ Cup wasn’t far



away. Players were keen to make their mark! The next game came against Bangor Grammar School. Played at Roughfort, on a beautiful Wednesday afternoon. Players looked refreshed after the break. However, Bangor came out of the blocks well early in the game and scored two very well worked tries. 14-0 Bangor. BRA showed real resilience and got back to 14-14. The game ebbed and flowed. Bangor scored another try which they converted, BRA matched this and scored another. 21-21. Bangor scored again 26-21. BRA scored again 26-26. With little time left, Bangor kicked a good penalty to take the score to 29-26. BRA restarted the game with only seconds remaining. A penalty was awarded which Harry Warke stepped up to and kicked! 29-29. A great game!

After the morale boosting performance against Bangor performances were much improved, but two defeats to Down High school and Dalriada knocked confidence.

Two more games followed before the Christmas break. A trip to Coleraine saw the team win 19-14 with tries from Rory Linden, Charlie George and Kurtis Scott. A tough game against Royal School Armagh followed with the team losing 40-7.

After the Christmas break, the team travelled to Portrush for their annual pre Schools' Cup weekend. There was a great buzz about the squad. Players have grown to really enjoy the weekend. An understanding of what the weekend brings really helps and players bought into the toughness of the trip very well. The preparation was perfect. Players were ready for a big couple of months.

The Schools' Cup draw revealed the team was to face Sullivan Upper at Roughfort. Sullivan were one of the strongest seeds in Round 3. However, the preparation in Portrush had the team ready. They knew what to expect. A large crowd gathered on the morning, it was cold, and some snow had to be cleared from the pitch. Thanks to our

excellent grounds man Anton, the pitch was ready. BRA started well, scoring a well worked try through Daniel Logan. Sullivan scored a try very much against the run of play just before half time and then scored another just after half time. They then scored a try with 15 minutes left in the half. However, BRA showed resilience again and scored another great try through Daniel Logan. Harry Warke kicked one conversion and two penalties during the game. A 25-19 defeat was difficult to swallow; however, this team had come a long way!

The exit from the Schools' Cup was difficult to process. Players were understandably very disappointed. So much work and effort had gone into this. The team entered the Bowl Competition. Our aim, from this moment on, was to continue to put all our energies to move forward and win this competition.

The quarter final took place at Roughfort against a strong well drilled Lurgan college side. BRA scored a well worked try from Aaron Heatley which Harry Warke converted. The squad struggled to get a foothold on this game and made some poor decisions. However, in the end BRA hung on to win the game 18-12.

The semi-final came around quickly. It was to be on the last Saturday of the half term break. Players showed dedication throughout this week-long break to training. The draw was to take us away to Regent House - never an easy place to go. A large crowd gathered on a crisp morning in Newtownards. BRA started the game well and moved the ball with promise and accuracy. However, it was clear the team had had a lot of possession, but very few points to answer for it. Both teams exchanged penalties at different stages of the game. The score sat at 9-3 to Regent for much of the game. Time was running out. With 15 minutes to go, Tom Stewart made a great break through the midfield, was stopped just short of the try line but managed to give a great off load to Callum Davidson who scored under the posts. Harry Wake



converted 10-9 to BRA. Regent weren't finished yet. They came back to score a well worked try in the corner. BRA trailed 14-10. There were only minutes remaining. In a true act of resilience, BRA found a way. The team patiently worked their way into the Regent 22. With the last play called, Kurtis Scott managed to crash his way over the try line! 15-14 BRA. Game over. An incredible morning!

This victory gave players a real sense of belonging and confidence. Players had used their experience of the season to come together when it mattered most. However, this was not enough for the squad. There was now the opportunity to win silverware! A final approached. Nothing changed in the build-up. The team was to play Portadown College at Foxes Field, Campbell College Belfast.

The day of the final arrived, and the players were in great spirits. Foxes Field was in fantastic condition. A large crowd again gathered for this game. BRA took a 3-0 lead through a penalty from Harry Warke. This was followed soon after by another kick at goal (6-0). Portadown managed to score a good try, much against the run of play, which they then converted to take the score to 7-6. Daniel Logan replied soon after, scoring a good try in the corner to take BRA into the lead (11-7). With very little time left in the half, Nikki Ryan scored a very well worked try which was converted to take the score to 19-7. Just after half time, BRA conceded an easy try to Portadown. A game that seemed to be well under control, had now become a little more difficult, 19-14 the score. To the credit of this team, they never panicked and continued to play with control. Eventually, after much possession, Tom Stewart scored a well worked try which was converted to take the score to 26-19. This proved to be enough to win the competition. A great moment for a team that had worked incredibly hard.

As the season drew to a close, it was evident these players had been truly committed to achieve what they did. They had added to the legacy of wearing a BRA 1st XV Jersey. As a coaching staff, we were incredibly proud of all the boys had achieved. Legacy continued, and culture was embedded! Very few of this squad were to leave. To those that do, we wish you well. Your commitment will be remembered, and your resilience forever admired! To those that remain, we thank them for a great season; however, this season was only a beginning. We aim for bigger things in the season of 2018/19.

### **The Players:**

#### **Front Row**

**Kurtis Scott:** A great player with a bright future in the game. He had excellent technical ability at scrum.

**Rob Sturgess:** Playing in this position for the first time he showed great understanding. He is a tenacious and lively rugby player.

**Nikki Ryan:** An incredibly energetic and dynamic rugby player. One of the most committed rugby players in the school boy game. He works hard around the pitch and showed great aggression on several occasions.

#### **Second Row**

**Adam Keed:** An excellent line out forward. He called the line out well and developed this skill as the season went on. He has a bright future in the game.

**Louis West:** A vital member of the squad. His physicality was a real asset to this team. He made some fantastic breaks on several occasions.

#### **Back Row**

**Dominick Rhodes:** A good back row player. He progressed well as the season went on. He is naturally a very hard-working player.





Jack Plackett: A gifted rugby player who has given much to the school. A physical player who progressed well in the back row.

Tom Stewart: An excellent all-round rugby player who has a very exciting future in the game. He led throughout the season with great example and proved to be an excellent Captain.

### Half Backs

Aaron Lyons: A controlled player who developed well as the season progressed. His ability to pass and kick are very good, and he showed great commitment in defence on several occasions.

Harry Warke: A good player who is very able at controlling those around him. His ability to kick out of hand and at goal proved to be the key to winning on several occasions.

### Centres

Adam Kane: A solid inside centre who will tackle anything that comes at him. Playing in this position for the first time he developed well. His attacking ability also improved greatly from game to game.

Rory Linden: A strong running centre who progressed well throughout the season. His defence at this position was admirable and he showed some excellent potency in attack.

### Wingers and Full Back

Brandon Hassan/Aaron Heatley: Two excellent wingers who have great ability. Both played at different stages during the season and always looked dangerous when in attack!

Daniel Logan: A natural finisher in the game. His ability to score tries is to his credit. He works hard both on and off the ball to do so. He is a gifted rugby player.

Callum Davidson: A fast paced and dynamic full back. A real threat on counter attack. His

kicking game improved as the season progressed.

*D.J.C.*

## 2ND XV



2nd XV Boys Rugby 2017/18

The 2nd XV had a very pleasing year on the rugby pitch. Despite a tough fixture list and struggling with injuries, they finished with a solid win ratio whilst playing an entertaining brand of rugby. The season got off to an excellent start with a hard-fought victory over Ballyclare and an easy win against CUS. Following tough matches against MCB and Sullivan, the boys had an excellent come from behind victory at Wallace. This fighting spirit was to become a hallmark of our game. Following two disappointing results against Ballymena Academy and The Royal School Dungannon, the 2nd XV put together a pleasing set of wins against Down High, Dalriada and Regent House.

The 2nd XV were handed a tricky away draw to Omagh Academy in the first round of the cup. The boys put in a controlled performance and managed to get across the line with a victory. There was a confidence growing in the side and the boys were hopeful on a cup run.

The second-round draw proved a difficult one. Ballymena Academy at Roughfort seemed like an impossible match, given the score line at the start of the year between the two sides. However, the BRA boys had saved their best performance of the year for



this game. They tore into Ballymena from the first whistle. The BRA players put in a colossal performance and controlled the game for long periods and held the lead going into the last 5 minutes. Unfortunately, we left too many chances on the pitch and it was Ballymena who would snatch victory with the last kick of the game. Whilst there was obvious disappointment, the boys could hold their heads high and should look back on this game with much pride.

There were many stand out players during the season and, as young side, this team will only get better. Many of the players will find themselves on the 1st XV next season. Ben Coleman deserves individual praise for his excellent leadership and 'never give up' attitude. The 2XV were a pleasure to work with this year. They should have fond memories of the 2017/18 season.

***P.R.R.***

### 3RD XV



3rd XV Boys Rugby 2017/18

This year's 3rd XV season got off to a great start with wins in four out of five of our opening matches. From the beginning of the season, the team showed great potential boasting several great players from both middle and lower sixth form. Although our 3rd XV is not known for its rigorous training regime, it made it out for a good amount of training sessions at Roughfort. Several friendlier fixtures against schools such as Down High School, Methodist College Belfast and Campbell College Belfast also

provided great learning experiences for the team. Although we suffered a few defeats, it brought us together as a squad and shaped us up for the 3XV Cup.

After Christmas, we had very little preparation time left before the cup and a growing sense of anticipation came over the team. As the competition progressed, the team did exceptionally well. We drew RBAI in the quarter-final and, against all expectations, the team rose to the challenge and won the game narrowly, thus preventing another all Inst final. At the semi-final, we drew another RBAI team and were unfortunately sent home defeated. However, there was no shame for the squad and the team could hold their heads high after such an incredible season.

The team would like to thank Mr Irwin and Mr Creighton for their support and coaching throughout the year. The team would also like to thank the parents and pupils who supported them during the season.

***Aaron Martin (MVI)***

### MEDALLION XV



Medallion A Rugby 2017/18

The Medallion had a good season that culminated in a quarter final defeat against the eventual winners of the Medallion Shield, Ballymena Academy.

The season started positively beating Ballyclare High School convincingly and



coming back to beat Catholic University School in the final play of the game. This was followed by a good performance against a strong Methodist College side. September finished with a trip to Sullivan where the side underperformed and fell to a disappointing loss.

October began with a defeat to Wallace in hard conditions at Roughfort. This was followed by a tough trip to Ballymena Academy where the side fought extremely hard against a physically big side. October finished with a good win against Royal School Dungannon where the team began to show glimpses of the attacking shape they had worked hard on.

Early November saw one of the greatest performances from a Medallion side against Bangor Grammar School. Trailing by a large margin at half time, the boys rallied and fought back to win the match convincingly. They showed real endeavour and variety in how they played in the second half. Two comfortable wins followed against Down High School and Dalriada School.

December saw a couple of matches cancelled due to weather conditions. This made the build up to Christmas tough. We played Royal School Armagh on the weekend after the Christmas exams and our lack of training that week showed. Armagh proved too much for us and we fell to a disappointing defeat. On the Saturday after Christmas Day, we travelled to Campbell to play a much-fancied side. Due to the ski trip we fielded several players who had not played Medallion rugby all year. The team played extremely well and did not give up the whole game.

January saw the team embark on a team-building weekend to the North Coast. The players worked extremely hard and new friendships and bonds were formed. The team left that weekend with a sense of purpose and identity before their Medallion Shield Campaign.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Round draw produced a home fixture to Grosvenor Grammar School. This proved to be a tough match with a strong wind blowing straight up the pitch. We played with the wind in the first half but, despite large periods of pressure early on, we did not capitalise. With 10 minutes to go; however, the team sparked and scored three tries in quick succession. As we changed ends, the boys knew the challenge they faced to try and starve Grosvenor of possession. They played extremely well in the second half scoring two unanswered tries. The second on which was well worked from left to right, which saw Daniel Irvine break and offload inside to Zach Burton. The team's physicality and ability to stick to game plan meant they won comfortably in the end.

The quarter final saw the team being drawn away to Ballymena Academy. The boys worked very hard in the build up to the game to try and perfect the game plan. The game was lost on physical size alone. Ballymena were one of the biggest Medallion sides ever recorded. The team played extremely well for 60 minutes and never once did they look like giving up. Ballymena ran away with the game, but the BRA team was commended by their 'never say die' attitude by many at the end of the game.

This Medallion side was a pleasure to coach through the year. They worked extremely hard and developed an identity and style that they should be hugely proud of. It is our hope as coaches that they continue to show these traits as they move into senior rugby. It is our belief that this team will be a force to be reckoned with by their sixth year in school.

Open side flanker, Michael Harvey, captained the team. Michael is someone who punches well above his weight. He is an excellent tackler and has very good breakdown skills both sides of the ball. Michael is a pleasure to coach, as he continually wants to improve. He leads through actions and I have no doubt he will be a great ambassador for BRA





Rugby, and the school in general, throughout his final years.

The front row was made up of Samuel Jameson, Ryan Simpson and Louis Adams. Samuel and Louis displayed very good ball carrying ability where Ryan has natural footballing ability. Morgan Curran was another player that featured in the front row. He was extremely committed and improved well throughout the year.

Ronan Poots, Aaron McGrotty, Callum Brady and Rees Worthington contested the second row position. All players were extremely different in their style, but each were talented. Ronan had an incredible work ethic and was often the first support man on any line break. Callum was an aggressive ball carrier. Aaron and Rees were very committed, and both had good ball carrying ability.

Alongside our captain the back row was a force to be reckoned with. Jack McKee played at number 8 and is a natural leader. He is a very effective ball carrier and chop tackler. Cameron Dougan was an enforcer at blindside flanker. He displayed several massive tackles throughout the season and carried extremely well. Jude Moorehead was another player that featured in the back row. He again punches well above his weight and has superb chop tackling technique. The whole back row has the ability to make a huge impact in senior rugby.

The halfbacks were made up of Sam Caldwell and Max Braniff. Both players have natural footballing ability. Sam's passes developed well throughout the year and was a threat to any defence around the breakdown. Max's game management, improved throughout the season, shows poise and control, which will see him progress well into senior rugby. Robin Montgomery and Tom Davis were two players who played a couple of games throughout the season. Robin's kicking and passing ability has improved significantly which can be attributed to his

commitment. Tom has a natural rugby brain and good handling skills.

The centres pairing consisted of Eliot Donaldson and Zach Burton. Both players had excellent seasons and were a consistent threat. Eliot is extremely physical and has ability to cut any defence open. He worked hard on all aspects of his game and finished the season a very rounded footballer. Zach was the most improved player in the squad. His support lines are second to none and his energy to go and look for the ball is excellent. Both players have the ability to play for the 1<sup>st</sup> XV for three seasons.

The back three was very competitive. Players who appeared included, Daniel Irvine, John Gamble, Michael Kane and Matthew Todd. Daniel is an extremely aggressive player who makes huge tackles as well as big carries. He was someone who could turn a game round with one tackle or carry. John has out and out pace, and, in space, he caused a lot of problems for teams. Michael has fantastic footwork and his ability to make cover tackles is excellent. Matthew unfortunately sustained an injury to his wrist in September and was out for a large part of the season. He is a very powerful carrier and is quick in open space.

*C.M.C./J.F.C.*

## U14A XV



U14 A Boys Rugby 2017/18



The U14A team displayed much potential during the 2017/2018 season. An opening loss against Ballyclare in September was followed by an encouraging win when the team faced a visiting CUS side. Unfortunately, this lift in form was followed by two successive losses to Methodist College and Sullivan Upper respectively. Much encouragement was to be taken from these difficult fixtures; the boys worked hard to earn two close run score lines. Following this, an impressive 41-5 win versus Wallace demonstrated the overall spirit and determination of the team during a challenging period. Four wins and three losses took the side through to Christmas and set the tone for the rest of the season, with inconsistency becoming a key theme for this talented side.

Fortunately, in the new year, the team showed some better organisation and structure in their patterns of play, highlighted by two fantastic wins against Limavady. A season ending tournament where the team won two and lost two games would sum up what was, at times, a frustrating season, but one from which much encouragement and optimism should be drawn. I would like to thank the team for their commitment and enthusiasm this year and wish them all the best for their run in the Medallion Shield next season.

*P.T.S.*

## U14 B XV



U14 B Boys Rugby 2017/18

The U14B team experienced a very positive season overall, with a lack of fixtures later in the calendar preventing a deserved run of form. The team started September with a fine 30-25 win versus Ballyclare, where James Carleton showcased his work rate in a particularly impressive display.

Another great team performance followed against Campbell College in a convincing 48-10 win. Tries were shared between David Monaghan, Sudeep Tirupati, Jay Nicholson, Sol Morrow, Ben Parry and Evan Wilson in a game where the team displayed fantastic spirit and determination.

A difficult run of fixtures followed this bright start, punctuated by two losses versus Methodist College. However, the final score line in the latter of the two fixtures, where the team amassed 19 points, was a huge improvement from the drubbing received in this fixture last year. An ever-reliable pack, including Fionn Tennyson, Joe Gray and Michael McAuley, provided a defensive base on which to build our attacks.

During a very tight 17-14 loss to RBAI, the side proved their mettle by fighting back after conceding two early tries. Victory in that match was inevitable but for the full-time whistle sounding with the team camped deep in opposition territory. Our steady backline including Lewis Ingram, Max Collins, Adam Watters, Andrew Hamilton and Ollie O'Kane carved opportunities throughout that fixture.

A tough loss to Ballymena Academy was followed by a Round Robin Tournament where the team were beaten by Friends' but managed another win against Campbell College.

On entering the new year, fixtures inevitably dried up and a demoralising loss to CCB, where Ryan Wallace again provided exceptional work rate and rucking power, proved to be the final result of the season.

Much improvement was observed amongst the U14 squad as a whole; with players such



as Joseph McGuigan, Jay Nicholson, Adam McCabe and Jaydon Ross making significant inroads to the 'A' team. I look forward to seeing the potential of this group fulfilled in the near future and would finally like to thank all of the boys for their effort and enthusiasm this year.

***P.T.S.***

## U13A XV



U13 A Boys Rugby 2017/18

This was a most enjoyable season, due to not only having an array of talented players, but for the superb attitude they displayed in training on a weekly basis, their enthusiasm to learn and for the improvements they made individually and collectively.

Throughout the season, the team had some convincing performances against Wallace, Sullivan, Belfast High and Ballyclare. This gave the team confidence and self-belief for the annual U13 tournament held in March. The rain poured all morning at Roughfort but, despite the tricky conditions, the boys put on an impressive display of commitment, determination and resilience to win the tournament without losing a single match. This achievement is made even more remarkable when you consider the stern, and often much bigger, opposition they faced in Campbell, Ballymena, Friends and Ballyclare.

The side was ably captained by Oliver Scott. Oliver always led by example, and his unyielding commitment often lifted the side. However, he represented the spirit of the entire team. The boys were a pleasure to coach and always gave their very best for the school. I look forward to watching them develop as players in the following years. The future looks bright.

I would like to thank the boys for their efforts, but more importantly to their parents and guardians. Their support on the touchline was superb. As I wrote last year in The Owl, rugby is a special game and it is up to us all to protect its important values.

***O.T.M.***

## U13B XV

The 2017/2018 season was an exceptional year for the U13B XV, with a commendable record of: Played 16; Won 13; Lost 3. During these 16 games, the team amassed a monumental 451 points while only conceding 137. This impressive record resulted in Jacob Burton, captain of the 'B' team, being presented with the award for 'Rugby Team of the Year' during the Easter 'Colours Assembly'.

It was pleasing to see how a number of members of the squad developed their skills and enjoyed their rugby throughout the season. Especially pleasing was that the team managed to find that 'inner grit' and determination, associated with good teams, to 'close out' tight matches throughout the season.

Notable victories throughout the season came against MCB, Campbell and two wins against both Wallace High School and Ballyclare High School.

The season started with an excellent and dominant win, 45-7, against Ballyclare High School. They played with incredible skill and determination to dominate the entire game.





During these games there were an incredible four tries from Peter Richardson, with one each from Daniel Houston, Luke Barlow and Jacob Burton. Peter Richardson's performance in this match propelled him into the 'A' team for the rest of the season.

A close win against Catholic University School, 17-10, with tries from Jacob Burton, Adrian Holywood and Christopher Sayers, was followed by a spirited defeat against MCB, 25-7, in a game much closer than the score-line suggests. With the score at 10-7 at half time, MCB scored three unanswered tries in the second half, even though BRA had most of the possession and territory.

The next game was also against MCB. This time, with home conditions at Roughfort, the boys reversed the score-line from the previous week to come away with an excellent and morale boosting win, 21-17, which was testament to their hard-work, skill and resolve. The three tries were scored by Christopher Sayers, Daniel Lane and Cameron Devlin. Daniel's try was very special as he ran from his own 22 the entire length of the pitch to score under the posts.

In October and November, the team defeated Wallace High School 36-0. There was a convincing away victory against Ballymena Academy 51-0 and wins against Down High School (28-0), Campbell College (22-0), Bangor (62-0), and a second win of the season against Ballyclare High School (34-10). Tries in these games were scored by Adrian Holywood, Ben Dewhurst, Luke Barlow, Jack Coyle, Matty McCrum, Will McGowan, Christopher Sayers, Jake Lockhart, Callum Savage, Jack Saunders, Max Wylie, Jude Morrison, Scott Baxter, Daniel Houston and Chris O'Donnell.

In December, there were two very dominant victories against Coleraine (50-0) and The Royal School Armagh (52-0).

A combination of frozen pitches, snow and other teams struggling to field a B team

resulted in a very frustrating end to the season. However, the boys ended their season in style with wins against Ballyclare High School, Antrim Grammar and Ballymena Academy, interspersed with two defeats against RBAI and Campbell. In addition to some of the try scorers mentioned above, Josh Canavan, Jericho Bargas and Jay Cooke scored tries in these fixtures.

Jacob Burton captained the 'B' side extremely well throughout the season. He is a very talented and enthusiastic player who led by example when playing on the pitch. His passing and decision making improved significantly throughout the year, and as a result, he was selected for the 'A' team at the end of the season. As I have stated previously, the team is very talented, and a number of boys grew in stature and confidence during the season. Boys such as Ben Dewhurst, Cameron Devlin, Matty McCrum, Christopher Sayers, Callum Savage, Chris O'Donnell, Josh Canavan and Daniel Houston, started the season on the 'B' team, but through hard work and determination, were pushing for starts on the 'A' team at the end of the season.

In closing, apart from the boys, I am also indebted to the hard work and professionalism of my fellow coaches during the year; Mr McLoughlin, Mr McCarey and Mr Creighton. A special mention must go to Dr Mort. His enthusiasm and dedication to every practice and match was infectious; this ultimately made the Under 13 rugby season, for both the 'A' and 'B' teams, one of the most successful in the past decade. It was a pleasure to be involved with coaching such a pleasant, talented and enthusiastic group of boys. I wish them well in their future rugby careers.

*T.H.*

## U12 XV

I am conscious when writing this that the (hopefully successful) class of 2024 may look



back to see how their success in Form 1 was detailed. I hope that they will remember that their first success was in the plate of the Coleraine tournament after beating a Wallace side who had beaten them earlier in the year. This tournament showed the class that the boys had shown in snippets throughout the year. As I suspect the 2023/24 1st XV will be, the team was based around a strong physical pack led by McQuiston, Pavlovic, Cole and a pair of McLaughlins. This platform gave good ball to Cowden who, in turn, provided excellent service to Henderson and to Place and Manson outside. On top of the aforementioned, there were a number of others who added significant contributions throughout the year and have much to offer this talented group as they continue their career at the Academy.

As well as being a talented group of rugby players, these boys showed a first-class attitude, enthusiasm and respect. It is these features that convince me that this is a side of which we will hear a lot about in the future and I wish them well.

**M.R.S.**

## GIRLS' HOCKEY CLUB

The Girl's Hockey club welcomed the expertise and experience of elite coach Stephen Watt for 2017/18 season. Stephen's main focus would be with the 1st XI and 2A XI, although he also had important input working with the Junior teams throughout the week.

It was always going to be difficult in 2017/18 to match the success girl's hockey had experienced the previous season which was arguably the club's most successful by winning four league titles and a Junior Ulster Shield. The staff and pupils can be proud of their achievements in winning three league titles and retaining the Junior Ulster Shield.

Adding to our success we also had some of our players gain representative honours: Niamh McIvor captained the Ulster U16 and the Irish U16 team and finished the season progressing to the Ulster U18s. Emma Uprichard, Olivia Thompson and Kerry Uprichard all represented Ulster U16 at the end of the season. Harriet Dougan captained the Ulster U18s. Emma Uprichard, Olivia Thompson and Emma Dobbin all represented Belfast U15 Schools.

### 1ST XI

PLAYED	WON	LOST	DREW
20	10	4	6



1st XI Girls Hockey 2017/18

In her 4<sup>th</sup> and final year of representing BRA 1st XI, Alice Reid captained the team with Trinity Geddis, as Vice-Captain. Losing 6 players from the previous season's team meant that to an extent this season was expected to be a 'rebuilding' season. The statistics show though that in fact with only four losses from 20 games it could be regarded as a successful season.

The 2017/18 season started with a 5-2 away win at Strathearn, Niamh McIvor getting off the mark with two of the goals. The first of our Super league group matches followed and a tough away match to Armagh Royal saw us lose 4-1. The team bounced back from this with wins over Methodist College, Belfast High and Dalriada meaning we progressed from the group as runners up.



Unfortunately, we drew the School's Cup holders, Banbridge Academy, away in the knock out stages. On the day, the girls could not have given more and could hold their heads high despite losing 3-0. Our reward for progressing from our group was getting seeded and placed in the 3rd round of the School's Senior Cup where we met Victoria College. The girls showed fantastic character to come back from 2-1 down with just under 10 minutes of the match left to win 3-2 with goals from Trinity Geddis, Alice Reid and Megan Warke. Unfortunately, we were unable to produce the same display in the quarter final when we lost 2-1 to Sullivan Upper.

A notable performance after our cup exit was a 3-1 away win against Wallace High School. An emphatic 7-1 win over Carrick Grammar in the South Antrim league was another notable performance, Niamh McIvor incredibly got five of the goals confirming her status as top goal scorer in her first full season in the 1st XI. This win guaranteed the team runners up in their South Antrim league with only one loss.

N.N.

## 2A XI



2A XI Girls Hockey 2017/18

PLAYED	WON	LOST	DREW
19	9	6	4

The team, captained by Ellen Dalzell in her last year at BRA, had a good combination of

younger and experienced players, so it was going to take time before the team 'gelled'.

After losing their first two matches, they recorded their first win of the season against Methodist College in the third match. Unfortunately, a third round loss to Coleraine Grammar in their cup competition meant the team went into the Shield competition. A brilliant 1-0 away win against Dromore High put us into the semi-final of the Shield. However, a well organised and determined Grosvenor Grammar School proved to be a difficult team to break down and at full time the score was 1-1. With no goals scored in extra time the winners had to be decided by penalty strokes and Grosvenor's penalties were just better on than ours on the day, a disappointing way to lose a semi-final!

The team finished third in their South Antrim league. The story of their season was inconsistency, but this was probably understandable given the number of young players on the team.

N.N.

## 2B XI



2B XI Girls Hockey 2017/18

PLAYED	WON	LOST	DREW
17	13	3	1

Captain - Rachel Baillie

Vice-Captain – Erin Moffett





2BXI Top goal scorers – Laurel Kennedy & Zara McClean

2BXI Players player of the year – Samantha McGrath

2BXI Most promising player – Beth Whiteside

39 goals scored in 17 matches

2BXI Squad: Wrienne Salvatierra, Samantha McGrath, Erin Moffett, Megan McCalmont, Sophie Bloomfield, Laura Meeke, Chloe Joyce, Rachel Baillie, Molly Brown, Jessica Jackson, Laurel Kennedy, Cara Carson, Beth Whiteside, Zara McClean, Alex Gifford and Erin Cunningham

#### 2BXI Gibson Cup Results

Victoria College	Won 2-0
Rainey Endowed	Lost 1-0
Limavady Grammar	Won 5-0

The girls produced two excellent results but were unfortunate to progress into the next round.

#### 2BXI South Antrim League Result

Versus	Result	Goal scorer
Belfast High School	Won 3-0	Zara, Laurel, Anna
Ballyclare High	Won 2-0	Zara, Samantha
Carrick Grammar	Won 3-1	Erin, Zara, Fabienne
Larne Grammar	Won 2-0	Fabienne, Megan

The 2B XI had a strong start to the season with wins against Belfast High, Dalriada, Ballyclare High and Carrick Grammar, scoring thirteen goals in six matches.

The highlight of the season was winning the South Antrim League. This was a fabulous achievement as the 2B XI have never won this title before. All the hard work and commitment paid off, girls. Well done!

The team was very unlucky not to progress through their section in the Gibson Cup with two wins and one loss. We travelled away to play our final cup match in Magherafelt against Rainey just before half term. The girls had a superb team performance but unfortunately with not being used to an indoor pitch, they lost the game 1-0. This was to be the only loss of the season.

A very successful 2B XI season finished on a high with an away win against Larne Grammar with goals from Fabienne and Megan.

We ended the 2017/18 season with a very enjoyable awards night at Cosmo in Victoria Square. There was a great turn out from both the 2B XI and U15 squads. Many thanks go to the girls for their commitment and effort this season. Special thanks must go to Captain Rachel Baillie who always led by example, both at training and during matches. The team members worked very hard to produce their best in games. Team morale and spirit remained high throughout the season. It was a great pleasure to work with such a dedicated and enthusiastic group of girls. I wish them continued success in hockey as they move through the Senior club. I would also like to wish the four middle sixth girls: Rachel, Erin, Megan and Molly the very best as they are leaving us to study at University. I hope that you will carry on playing hockey at university or club level. We will miss you all.

Next season has a lot to live up to!

**J.R.S.**



## CAPTAIN'S REPORT

The 2B XI had a very successful season this year with only one loss out of the 18 games played. Unfortunately, the one match we lost was a cup match against Rainey, eliminating us from the cup. Frustratingly, during our season we defeated both the winner and runner up of the cup. Although we were out of the cup, we still had a strong lead in the league. We won our final cup match against Larne Grammar and were crowned champions of the South Antrim League. We were all absolutely delighted. Only losing one game throughout the whole season highlights the hard work, commitment and determination shown by the girls. Other strong wins were 5-0 against Limavady and 4-0 against Glenlola. To celebrate a successful season, we went out for dinner at Cosmo.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Shaw and Sarah for their commitment to this team, without which we would not have been so victorious this season. They encouraged us to strive for the best, to support each other as individuals and a team and to never give in and I can't thank them enough. To my girls, out of seven years playing hockey at BRA I have never enjoyed a season so much. Our closeness as a team drove this season's successes and made every training session and match an absolute joy. I would like to thank each and every one of you for your effort, time, focus and more importantly all the laughs. I will miss you all next year and wish you all the best for the future. Thank you for making my last year at BRA such a memorable one.

*Rachel Baillie (MVI)*

### U15 XI

PLAYED	WON	LOST	DREW
12	11	0	1



U15 Girls Hockey 2017/18

Captain – Abbie Baxter

Vice-Captain – Monica Del Castillo

U15 Top goal scorer – Kaitlyn McCalmont

U15 Players player of the year – Aoife Corry

U15 Most promising player – Megan Bloomfield

25 goals scored

Squad: Erin Lavery, Eve Patterson Wilson, Rebecca Greer, Rebecca Parkes, Ella Harvey, Monica Del Castillo, Aoife Corry, Ruby Dougan, Kaitlyn McCalmont, Abbie Baxter, Amy Harpur, Megan Bloomfield, Eden McCoubrey, Jessica Porter and Holly Adair

The 2017/18 season for the U15s proved to be a most enjoyable and enthusiastic experience for the team with a very encouraging set of results. The girls recorded eleven wins, and one defeat. We made a very positive start to the season playing away to both Strathearn and Methody, beating both sides 1-0. We continued our winning streak with wins against Belfast High, Dalriada, Ballyclare and Victoria.

3<sup>rd</sup> XI Gibson Cup Results



Down High	Won 1-0
Dromore High	D r o m o r e withdrew
Ballyclare High	Won 1-0
Sullivan Upper	Lost 2-0

The team produced two good results but were unfortunate to progress into the next round.

We finished the season on a high with an away win at Wallace High School. We beat Wallace 1-0 with a goal from Kaitlyn McCalmont (our top goal scorer of the season).

We ended the 2017/18 season with a very enjoyable awards night at Cosmo in Victoria Square. There was a great turn out from both the 2B XI and U15 squads.

I would like to make special mention of our Captain, Abbie Baxter, who led by example with her helpful, organised and pleasant manner in which she performed her duties throughout the season.

Many thanks go to the girls for their commitment and effort this season. The team members worked very hard to produce their best in games. With continued effort and determination many of the U15s will be representing Senior teams next year. I therefore wish them every success at these levels.

***J.R.S.***

### **CAPTAIN'S REPORT**

The U15s have been a very strong and committed team this season. The skill level of the entire team has improved massively throughout the season and everyone should be proud of themselves. Overall, we had a very successful season which included a tremendous win against Bloomfield 8-0. Our

toughest competition was Methody, a team we played on two occasions. We got stronger every time and it showed. I have been very honoured to captain such a great team. I would like to thank Mrs Shaw for coaching and encouraging us throughout the season. Well done to everybody and I wish you all the best for next season.

***Abbie Baxter (IV)***

### **U14A XI**



U14 A Girls Hockey 2017/18

Results: Ulster Shield Winners and South Antrim U14A League Winners.

Squad: Emma Uprichard (captain), Eve Thompson, Rachel Ramsey, Caitlyn Hennessey, Sabriel Gergett, Ellie Walsh, Rebecca Dwyer, Anna Matthews, Sarah Saunders, Abi Braniff, Sasha Logan, Olivia Beattie, Ella Linton, Rachel McGrath, Beth Hillis and Eva McGoldrick.

The 2017 season started for the U14s with a strong winning streak beating Strathearn, Royal School Armagh and Belfast High School. We went into the Junior Cup feeling confident in our first match against Dalriada. This match was a lot more testing than we had anticipated, drawing 1-1 and resulting in extra time. During the extra period one of our players got a ball to the head and had to be rushed off to hospital. After what was an eventful and dramatic match, we eventually





came out victorious, winning 3-2 on penalty strokes.

Unfortunately, the next round was to be the end of our cup journey as we were beaten by a strong Rainey Endowed side who went on to win the competition beating Ballyclare High School in the final. We also beat Ballyclare High and Carrick Grammar on our way to winning the South Antrim League, the third season in a row for BRA. Out of the Cup, the highlight of our 2017 hockey season at home had to be winning the Ulster Under 14 Shield, outshining Banbridge Academy in the final with a fantastic 5-1 victory. The second season in a row BRA have won the Ulster Under 14 Shield.

Thank you to all the girls in FIII and those who supported us from FII all of whom were extremely committed and trained enthusiastically throughout the season, improving both our skills and teamwork. Thanks too to Mrs McCormick and Stephen Watt for coaching and encouraging the girls throughout the season.

Alongside competing at home, the FIII hockey girls' As and Bs had an incredible hockey tour to Holland. We were excellently hosted by the World's number one and Irish Goalkeeper David Harte. We played two games against strong local opposition from the Kampong Club and visited the Anne Frank museum in Amsterdam. It was an incredible experience. A huge thank you to Mrs McCormick, Miss Brady and Mrs Shaw for organising an unforgettable trip to round off an extremely enjoyable and successful season.

***Emma Uprichard (III)***

## **U14B XI**

Squad: Beth Hillis, Katie Craig, Rachael McGrath, Lucy Handcock, Eva McGoldrick, Georgia Harvey, Hannah Beattie, Molly Lapworth, Ella Linton, Alex Johnston, Jayne

Kennedy, Maia Erwin, Beth Jackson, Abi Craine and Ruth Davis.

This year the U14B XI had a very enjoyable and successful season. We started off our season with a home game winning 3-0 win over Carrick Grammar in our first league match. We then won away against Grosvenor Grammar with a 2-0 win in our second league



U14 B Girls Hockey 2017/18

match. We played Wallace High School for the first time ever, this was our only draw of the season with a final score of 2-2. Our best result all season came when we played Bloomfield, the girls and I scored five goals and conceded none. Throughout the entire season we only lost one match against Methody College, losing 1-0. The team played outstandingly this season and gave 100% in all our matches and training. We should be extremely proud of what we have achieved. The highlight of the year was our tour to Holland, it was an amazing experience. An experience that the team will never forget.

We just want to thank Ms McCormick and Stephen Watt for believing in us every step of the way and all their hard work on and off the pitch. I am so grateful that I had the chance to captain my team. I couldn't ask for a better team to play with. Thank you, for all your support and dedication this season. I would like to wish everyone the best of luck next year.

***Eva McGoldrick (III)***



## U13A XI



U13 A Girls Hockey 2017/18

PLAYED	WON	LOST	DREW
19	16	2	1

Captain: Abbie Braniff

Vice-Captain: Molly McCourt/ Ellie McIvor

Top Goal Scorer: Abbie Braniff

Squad: Molly McCourt, Hannah Thompson, Kate Sturgess, Olivia Beattie, Amy Higgins, Ellen Loane, Ellie McIvor, Anna Saunders, Lorena Del Castillo, Sasha Logan, Abbie Braniff, Grace Jameson and Anna Greer.

### CAPTAIN'S REPORT

This year we had an amazing season, only losing one of our matches. During the season, we just seemed to have clicked. We worked well as a team and made sure that everyone was included. One of our hardest matches was against Ballyclare High, but we worked together, and we got the winning goal in the end. We only lost to a tough Methody team. A lot of hard work was put in by all the girls and our coaches which we are very grateful for. Our future is looking bright for next year.

*Abbie Braniff (II)*

## U13B XI

PLAYED	WON	LOST	DREW
13	6	4	3

Captain: Tianna Savage

Vice-Captain: Charlotte Beattie- Logan

Top Goal Scorer: Claudia Clarke and Lucy McKnight

Squad: Aoife Caldwell, Regan Greer, Kaitlyn Toal, Charlotte Beattie-Logan, Bella Scott, Cara McGrath, Tianna Savage, Anna Wilson, Sarah McLaughlin, Anna Greer, Lucy McKnight, Cassie Watt, Jorja McCurry, Claudia Clarke, Ella Maguire.

### CAPTAIN'S REPORT

This year our team performed very well. We started off with a draw and progressed on to six wins and four draws. We finished the season with a strong win against Larne. We beat some challenging teams such as Victoria, Grosvenor and Belfast High School.

Our team worked very well together, and everyone turned up to training through all weather. We have all improved our skills and our ability to work as a team. All the players tried their best on and off the pitch. We worked very hard and it has paid off. I hope we will continue to improve and build on our successes this year.

*Tianna Savage (II)*

Both squads have worked very hard both during training and matches to improve their hockey skills and fitness throughout the season. I was proud to see the U13A team win the South Antrim Area League. The U14B team also had an excellent season with only three losses throughout the year, finishing with very strong results.

I would like to thank the girls for their dedication and hard work this year, it has been a very enjoyable and successful season for a talented group of players. I would also like to thank Miss Allen for all of her coaching and umpiring throughout the year.

*K.E.B.*



## U13



Form 1 Girls Hockey 2017/18

Form I hockey coaching took place every Saturday morning under the guidance of coaches Miss Robinson from the History department, Shannon Nash and Anna Hutchinson. Both these girls had attended Form 1 hockey at BRA themselves, and it was lovely to see them back as coaches. Numbers stayed at 25-30 girls every week and by Christmas they were nearly ready for matches. From January through to March we had 4 teams of 8-a-side play matches against: Belfast High, Killicomaine Junior High, Sullivan Upper, Friends School and Regent House. Then one 11-a-side team played in the annually held Grosvenor tournament. The girls continued with practices, playing 11-a-side after this in order to build a foundation from which they could play at U13 level from the start of FII.

*N.N.*

### OWLS LADIES HOCKEY CLUB

Owls Ladies Hockey Club had yet another great season in 2017/18, fielding three senior squads each week. This has been facilitated by the support of our experienced coaching team. The 1st XI gained a number of new players from the surrounding areas giving fresh competition to the existing members of the squad. With this new blood, they were able to maintain a position in a tough Senior 2 league, finishing mid table. The 2nd XI had an extremely successful season, gaining promotion for the second season in a row into

Junior 5. The 3rd XI are now a more established team with a mixture of school girls and more experienced players coming together on a Saturday to field an ever-strengthening squad. Going into the 2018/19 season we aim to have all squads promoted and, with the dedication of players and coaches, the possibility of a 4th XI into the cup competition at least. This is definitely within the Owls Ladies Hockey Clubs' reach. We hope that this season will bring even more success for all our players and welcome new players, coaches and club volunteers to get involved.

Training Times:

Monday: 7.00pm-8:30pm Roughfort playing fields (astro)

Wednesday: 7.45pm-9.15pm Roughfort playing fields (astro)

All new members are welcome. For further information please contact: [owlsladieshockeyclub@hotmail.com](mailto:owlsladieshockeyclub@hotmail.com)

### OWLS LADIES JUNIOR HOCKEY

Owls Ladies Junior section has had another very successful season in 2017/18, developing the hockey and social skills of girls aged 6-15.

We currently have a budding Minis section, for girls aged 6-11. During our sessions, the girls can experience hockey through a range of progressive drills and games led by experienced coaches. The P4-7 girls thoroughly enjoyed taking part in competitive tournaments ran by Ulster Hockey and a number of local hockey clubs. Our Under 11 teams had great success this year, winning medals and making it to the Cup at the Ulster Hockey Finals day.

In addition, we have growing Under 13 and Under 15 sections. This year, we had the pleasure of entering two Under 13 teams to





take part in Ulster Hockey Blitz days, with one team making it into the Cup on the Ulster Hockey Finals day for the first time ever! Our Under 15s took part in the Ulster Hockey Development league, gaining match experience, and developing their love for the sport.

This season we hosted several special events including an Easter camp, Movie Night, friendly tournaments, and our End of Season Dinner.

We hope the 2018/19 season will bring great success and the girls continue to foster their love of hockey. Training information can be found below:

Under 13,15 and P4-P7: Wednesdays  
6.30-7.30pm BRA Playing Fields, Mallusk.  
(Astro Pitch)

Minis (P2-P7): Saturdays 10.30-11.30  
BRA Playing Fields, Mallusk. (Gravel Pitch)

All new members are welcome. For further information, please contact:  
[owlsladieshockeyclub@hotmail.com](mailto:owlsladieshockeyclub@hotmail.com)

## BOYS' HOCKEY



Colts XI Boys Hockey 2017/18

## JUNIOR XI

The 2017-18 was not an especially successful one for the Junior XI. That said, the boys' efforts throughout were tireless and the progress made was tangible. In the various

cups the Under 13s suffered a rather chastening defeat at home to a strong Killicomane side. The Under 14s also fell at the first hurdle. However, the U15s managed an epic victory over Wellington before suffering a defeat at the hands of Wallace in the 2nd round.

That victory at Wellington was the obvious highlight of the season as goals from David Monohan, who was excellent throughout the game, and Kian Jan Dickens ensured what in the end was a very comfortable and accomplished victory. Unfortunately, in the next round, against a very strong Wallace side we could not reproduce the same level of performance.

Cameron McKee was our goalkeeper. He was relatively new to the role but had very sound reactions and was always brave and willing. The mainstays of the squad were Matthew Logan and Ben Watt who often played in tandem at the back. Matthew is all energy and a very enthusiastic tackler. However, he needs to improve upon his distribution and gain a little more composure on the ball. Ben Watt has a complementary skill set to Matthew – he is more comfortable in possession and has greater control but needs to improve his energy and fitness levels. The other FIV boys whose involvement with the side grew over the course of the year were Corey Bell, Ryan Creaney and Mayank Biswa. These boys had played limited hockey prior to this year and to see them regularly at Monday practice and involved in Saturday matches was very encouraging. Their skills were raw at the start of the year and showed marked improvement as the season went on. Thomas Crowe of FIII was often deployed at right back. Thomas is a good athlete and a disciplined marker, but he needs a bit more strength and conviction in the tackle if he is to be more effective in this position in the future.

Moving into midfield David Monahan was the most effective operator. Blessed with



pace and a strong physique he has many of the natural attributes to become a very good player. He still needs to learn a bit more about decision making, when to try intricate skills and when to just get his head down and use his pace alone to beat players. But his qualities are obvious and his impact on games, particularly in the cup match against Wellington could be immense. Of the other FIIs, Adam Finnegan made a case to be played in a more advanced role this year. His basic stick skills are very sound, and he has a quiet, steely determination and will to win. Sometimes he needs to do a bit more to impose himself on the game. Domas Misiunas operated up front. He has good pace and makes intelligent movement on the pitch. Sometimes he needs to drop a bit deeper, particularly if we are under pressure, to get more involved in the game.

Bradley Irwin was often employed at centre midfield. He has very good basic skills and technically is one of the most capable members of the group. He could, perhaps, do more to get involved and impact on the game. Jacob Snoddy was another FII player who played some games. He, like Bradley, has good basic skills and is blessed with a good turn of pace, but again could have had a greater impact on the matches. Kian Jan Dickens usually operated up front. He was a very willing runner and had a knack of getting into good positions. He has a good competitive instinct, but at times his stick skills were not just as tight as they needed to be.



Junior Boys Hockey 2017/18

I would like to thank the boys for their effort and commitment throughout the season and I hope they continue to work hard, improve and most of all enjoy their hockey in the future.

*M.G.H.*

## CRICKET

### 1ST XI

It is with a mixture of great sadness, and very fond memories, that I write my last report on a Belfast Royal Academy 1<sup>st</sup> XI season. The 2018 season started with the usual enthusiasm and diligence in winter nets with the target of emulating the 2015 and 2016 teams in winning the Schools' Cup. Although this goal was narrowly missed with a horror batting collapse in the semi-final against winners, Methody, the team should look back with great pride at a season that saw them fall to two close defeats and have seven comprehensive victories.

The batting was led by Harry Warke, the captain and, in particular, Max Burton who both received deserved callups to Ulster Schools for their consistent run prowess. They were ably supported by Robbie Moffett, Luca Johnston and Nik Kane, who scored his maiden 1<sup>st</sup> XI 50. Wickets were shared by Warke and Burton with able support from Andrew Greer, Ollie Parkes, Robbie Moffett and Ben Greenlees.

The squad loses only Ben Greenlees, who opened the bowling with fire and aggression and was the outstanding performer in the cup quarter final at Wallace. His bowling will be missed, as well his enthusiastic attitude which is characteristic of this group of boys. The remainder will challenge for honours again next year and I look forward to watching their continued success.

*M.R.S.*



## 2ND XI

The 2nd XI had a short lived, yet successful, run this year playing against INST, Methody and Campbell. In our first game of the season against INST, we managed to win the game with J. Ritchie top scoring with 24\* and totalling an overall score of 89-6, with great fielding work from R. Sturgess taking 2 catches and B. Brown's bowling figures of 4-12, winning the game by 12 runs. After that, we managed to get ourselves straight to the final after Ballyclare and Edmund Rice couldn't field a team.

The final was played at The Castle grounds with skip J. Ritchie winning the toss and choosing to bowl first. Methody got off to a slow start with a great bowling performance from T. Spence and P. George keeping the Methody score to a minimum. The next change of bowling was given to J. Ritchie who was taken off after one over of left arm chucks going for 0-24, and O. Corry who had a super game of bowling and fielding. The first wicket to fall was by A. Heatley followed by O. Corry in the 11<sup>th</sup> over, this reoccurred in the 14<sup>th</sup> over which led to O. Corry with an opportunity at Hatrick-Ball, he was unsuccessful. Methody finished on 120-4 with A. Heatley finishing on 2-14 and O. Corry 2-12.

First to bat for the maroon men in whites was the skipper and O. Corry, this was a shortly lived dream for O. Corry as he had left the wicket on the 4<sup>th</sup> Over scoring a mighty 4. Following him J. Ritchie played a beautiful shot straight to the hands of the wicket keeper leaving the field of play on a duck! This was the same story for O. Allen who blocked his first shot and was then bowled for a duck also! It was up to B. Brown and A. Heatley to

score some runs for the team, after multiple 4's from the batting team the score had reached 70-5 on the 14<sup>th</sup> over. All good things must end as B. Brown left the wicket on 14 and was replaced by P. George who contributed 8 runs to the score to give BRA a fighting chance. On the 17<sup>th</sup> over A. Heatley was caught behind to end his top score of 26. At this stage the game was already won in Methody's eyes, but it didn't stop debutants R. Sturgess and J. Whittlely tallying up a total of 2 partnership followed by a massive 4 down square leg from J. Whittlely.

After 20 overs of intense batting, we were unlucky to not catch up to Methody and we unfortunately lost the game by 15 runs. Massive thanks go out to the veterans of the 2XI and the coaches who helped us reach the final Mr Terrett, Mr Shields and C. McCauley and the ultras who came to support us on that day, you know who you are. Many thanks from all of us on the 2XI.

#NextYearIsOurYear

*Aaron Heatley (MVI)*

## COLTS XI



Colts Cricket 2017/18

The U15 Colts XI had a very successful season, building once again on the platforms set in previous years. We reached the quarter-





final of the cup competition, improving last seasons' disappointing first round exit in the competition. We also won more games this season than in our previous three seasons put together. The most pleasing part of the season was the improvement shown in every player involved in the squad. In previous years, if one particular person (Max Braniff) did not perform well with either bat or ball, then the team lost. This year, in every game, different individuals had a part to play, including Michael Kane hitting his first ever boundary and Archie Wylie taking his first catch!

A good example of this was in a cup match against Carrick Grammar school at the Castle grounds, in an earlier round of the competition. After a very poor start in our innings, losing four quick wickets, Alex Dowds (35\*) and Ryan Armstrong (28) did more than steady the ship, giving us a very good total to defend. Sam Caldwell bowled magnificently, claiming five wickets for four runs off his four overs and we won the game comfortably in the end.

Unfortunately, a lack of confidence when playing the 'bigger teams' held the team back. Stand out performers throughout the season included Max Braniff, Tom and Noah Davis, Sam Caldwell, Sam McConnell and Alex Dowds. I would also like to thank Johnny Terret for his commitment and assistance in the coaching of this team. I wish the team well for their future years with cricket at this school.

***B.M.M.***

## **JUNIOR COLTS XI**



Junior Colts Cricket 2017/18

In a season that was hampered by the weather, with only five games being played, the Junior Colts were hoping to build on previous seasons with some good performances. We began with a cup game against a very strong Wallace side who had bowled us out quickly in previous seasons. But with some grit and determination, we batted through our overs and although not proving enough on the day, was hopefully a sign of things to come. Unfortunately, this was not the case, and previous seasons struggles, were apparent again as the team battled hard in all their games.

There were some good performances throughout the year, and those playing cricket at club level began to show improvements. Sudeep Tirapathi, Jack Magowan, Sol Morrow, and myself all contributed with the bat throughout the season, while the wickets were shared by James Carleton, Finn Wallace, Sudeep and myself. Others who contributed throughout the year were: Adam McCabe, Ben Lonsdale, Oliver O'Kane, Ben Parry, Harry Norton and Liam Davis. I would like to thank Johnny Terrett, Jack Burton and Mr Creighton for their time and effort in coaching and helping our team throughout the year.

***Ryan Armstrong (IV)***



## U13 XI



U13 Boys Cricket 2017/18

Played: 9 Won: 4 Lost: 5

Captain: David Kane

This was ultimately a disappointing season as the team ended up with a record below .500, especially as it had opened with such promise following two wins out of two to open with. The group is a fairly talented bunch, but too often they were not cohesive enough. Next season, to realise their potential as a group, they need to all pull in the same direction.

The season started with Ballyclare High School the visitors to Roughfort. After winning the toss David Kane (17) elected to bat and he and Max Wylie (20) laid a great foundation putting on 40 for the first wicket in 8 overs. After David was out Olly Scott inexplicably got the head staggers and charged down the wicket first ball and connected well, only to whole out to deep mid-wicket. Peter Richardson followed pretty quickly after running himself out before Scott Baxter's 22 ensured we posted a respectable total of 95. While this was a decent enough total it was to prove to be symptomatic of our season as our batting showed patches of the skill and aptitude needed to post imposing totals, but all too often lost its way at stages, through a lack of urgency or application. On this occasion it proved to be enough as our bowling unit was too strong for the Ballyclare side. Adrian

Hollywood with 2-5 and Max Wylie with 3-18 were the pick of our bowlers.

Next up at Regent House were the visitors to the Castle Grounds as we played our first match in the Mourne Cup. We batted first and set a competitive target of 90. Regent in reply started quite well, but wickets started to tumble as Olly Scott removed a few members of their top order and a comfortable victory ensued.

Back at Roughfort, the next to be welcomed were Methodist College. David won the toss and invited Methody to bat. Max Wylie's figures of 4 overs 1-11 tell a story as he bowled a tidy line and length and gave very few extras away. David Kane also bowled tidily with figures of 1-16 with his leg spin, while his spin twin Adam Gooderham picked up a couple of wickets. In all Methody were restricted to 90-7 in their 20 overs and it felt like BRA were well placed for victory. However, our batting frailties were exposed again as only Olly Smyth (11) made it into double figures as a combination of poor shot selection and mindless running between the wickets saw us trudge to 57-9 in our 20 overs and a 33 run defeat.

The following Saturday, BRA travelled to Grosvenor and scored a very impressive and emphatic victory. Batting first we scored 101 in our 20 overs. Grosvenor's reply started pretty well, but when David Kane removed the key wicket the brittle nature of their batting line up was exposed and a comfortable victory was achieved by 40 runs.

This was a confidence boosting victory before we entertained RBAI in the second round of the Mourne Cup at a sunny Castle Grounds. 'Inst', always formidable opponents at this level won the toss and



elected to bat. While we rarely threatened to bowl them out and indeed they posted a number of very good partnerships we stuck at the task with the ball well. The Ollys Scott and Smyth did well, with the former picking up a couple of wickets, while David and Max did well to ensure the total never got too large. RBAI ended up posting 135-5 in the 20 overs. In reply we struggled to keep up with the run rate and both the 'Inst' bowling and fielding were formidable as our run chase petered out in a comprehensive defeat.

Our reward for coming top of our McCullough Cup group was a visit to a previously undefeated Foyle college side on a lovely sunny afternoon in late May. David again won the toss and as was his wont invited Foyle to bat. Max Wylie struck in the second over to remove the diminutive Clarke and when David Kane removed Gamble in the 7<sup>th</sup> over Foyle were struggling a bit on 29-2. However, a combination of some fine batting augmented by some generosity in the field through a few dropped catches meant that Foyle posted 129-2 in their 20 overs. Max Wylie was again the pick of the bowlers at least in the statistical sense as his steady, accurate, gentle away swingers were 1-12 in his 4 overs.

Our reply saw one of our better batting displays as we stayed up with the run rate for much of the innings. Several batsmen made good starts – Wylie (12), Kane (21), Smyth (11), Latham (10) and Gooderham (17\*) but no-one was able to kick on and play that decisive innings to get us over the line as we finished up 110-7 and 19 runs short.

Our next fixture saw us travel to Bangor where we batted first, getting off to the worst possible start, as Kane was bowled in the first ball of our innings. Olly Smyth followed in

the second over and we were really struggling at 8-2. Peter Richardson, promoted to 4 then came in and bludgeoned some hefty blows, particularly towards deep backwards square leg as he raced to 17 off 7 balls. However, instead of allowing himself to take stock of the situation and play each ball on its merits he had a swipe at a straight ball and got cleaned up. Latham moved on to 14 before he followed suit – missing a straight ball with an expansive shot when well set. The wickets kept tumbling until Number 10 Adrian Hollywood was joined by Ben Ritchie after the 9<sup>th</sup> wicket fell in the last ball of the 13<sup>th</sup> over – the score 79-9. Ben Ritchie's strategy was to defend his wicket – which he did successfully for 10 balls, allowing Adrian hit three 4s and a 6 as he top scored with 23. With more than 2 overs left unused we posted 103 for Bangor to chase. Which initially they looked well placed to do progressing to 33 for no wicket before David Kane (2-3) struck in consecutive balls. Shortly after Gooderham removed the opener Skelly for 21 with a 'jaffa' and the host tumbled from 50-4 to 63 all out and a 40 run victory was secured. Gooderham, Smyth and Hollywood each picked up a couple of wickets in the process. Ben Ritchie by this stage had emerged as our first choice wicketkeeper. He is not as capable as Harvey was standing up to the spinners, but his powers of concentration were better, which made him much the tidier option to the quicker bowlers.

Our next outing was the visit of a Campbell side who were preparing for the Mourne Cup final. Campbell batted first and were led by an excellent innings from McCullough who raced to 56 off 36 balls before retiring. There was not too much let up his departure as a very capable Campbell side posted 148-4 in





their 20 overs. Max Wylie 4 overs for 17 was again our most economical bowler as Olly Scott and Adrian Smyth both return 1-25 from their 4 overs.

David Kane's misfortunes with the bat continued as he was out early without troubling the scorers. Adrian Hollywood, promoted to 3 after his efforts against Bangor and Max Wylie (15) had us ticking along nicely as we progressed to 30-2 in the 6<sup>th</sup> over. However, when Max ran himself out the deck of cards collapsed as no-one made it into double figures. 66 all out with 4 overs to spare and an 82 run defeat did not read well, even against an accomplished side as Campbell obviously are.

Our final regular match of the season came in the McCullough Cup at home to Sullivan. Olly Scott produced an excellent display of quick bowling, removing the dangerous Shannon for just 1. In the end he had figures of 4-2-1-9. At the other end Adrian and Adam Gooderham toiled into the wind and each picked up 3 wickets. Sullivan aided by 34 extras including 23 wides managed to scrap together 95 runs. After his hefty blows against Bangor Richardson was sent in to open the batting with Max and given licence to play some attacking shots. The pair were circumspect against the accomplished bowling of Shannon but were a bit too patient with the bowling from the other end. Max scored 24 but with the run rate climbing following our circumspect start the middle order collapsed. Gooderham and Olly Scott each scored 15 and got us close but we fell 11 runs short. Sullivan who only gifted us 9 wides as opposed to the 23 we donated them scraped home in a game we really should have won.

After that, we travelled to Campbell to take part in an 8-aside round robin between Campbell Year 8s, Campbell Year 9s and RBAI year 9s. That Campbell and RBAI would contest the Mourne Cup final a few days later was testament to the standard of the competition. With the lines of communication between organisers, Mr Creighton and Mr Harte not 100% clear we arrived with 2 specialist wicketkeepers in our 10 (and Peter Richardson very keen to fulfil that same role) neither of whom were accomplished bowlers. That everybody, bar the wicketkeeper, had to bowl at least one over left us in a bit of a quandary. That said against RBAI and Campbell year 8s we put up a good fight. By the time the 3<sup>rd</sup> match came around we were tired both mentally and physically and the less said about our performance there the better.

In the end, the season was nowhere near as successful as it could and should have been. There is the nucleus of a talented side and the bowling unit in particular has great potential. There is variety, with Olly Scott capable of bowling at a good pace. Max Wylie was very reliable and accurate and rarely bowled bad balls. Having two very good leg spinners in Adam and David is very uncommon at this level. While Olly Smyth and Adrian could be relied upon to produce very tidy spells.

The batting was the less impressive suit. Many showed glimpses of what they could do, but no-one was able to compose a big innings around which a substantial total could ever be built. Many of the boys are slightly small in stature, and as such need to really work on improving their running between the wickets in order to eek every run possible.

Above all, I would hope that next year they would be more cohesive as a unit. At times



they could be a difficult group to get the best out of as they were not all pulling in the same direction. As a team, if all the individuals are working together and supporting each other they have the capacity to be a lot more successful than they were this year. I sincerely hope they can all channel their undoubted enthusiasm and talent in a more focused way next season.

***M.G.H.***

## U12 XI



U12 Boys Cricket 2017/18

The Form I cricket team performed admirably throughout the season. They were an enthusiastic and talented group with a number of exceptional players.

The season began with two excellent victories against Wallace High School and Ballyclare High School. In the Ballyclare game, the home side scored a mammoth 129 for 3 in their 20 overs. During this innings, Matthew Williamson bowled superbly during his 4 overs, taking two vital wickets for just 4 runs. When batting, the boys showed remarkable maturity and resilience to chase down this formidable total, with Matthew McLaughlin hitting 16 runs and Alex Place a dominant and exceptional 33 not-out.

After these two morale lifting victories, the boys came back down to earth with a bump against MCB in the first round of the cup.

BRA scored 57 runs from their 20 overs, with Matthew McLaughlin again impressing with 15 runs. However, this score was never going to trouble a very powerful and talented MCB batting line-up, as they won by 10 wickets after just 7 overs.

Victories against Friends' and Bangor followed in the next two games. During these games, there were a number of 'standout' moments: Matthew Williamson hit 50 runs against Friends' School; there were two wickets each for Matthew McLoughlin and Joshua McLoughlin against Bangor; while Matthew McLaughlin and Matthew McQuiston batted sublimely to secure a 10 wicket victory against Bangor.

During the season what really impressed me most was the quality of the fielding (there were 9 or 10 run-outs), and the percentage of catches that were taken, often at vital moments during the game. Joshua McLaughlin, Matthew McLaughlin, Rex Henderson, Alex Place, Harry Salt and Matthew Williamson all developed their bowling skills, and learnt to bowl with pace, accuracy and sometimes swing. Matthew McLaughlin, Matthew McQuiston, Matthew Williamson and Alex Place were the main run scorers.

During the course of the season, the team showed good potential; and with hard work and determination they have the makings of a very competitive team. In addition to the boys mentioned previously, the team could not have succeeded without the support from other players who turned up to practice every week. Rory Gordon, Ethan Pavlovic, Bhuvanesh Venkatesan, Kenzie McColgan, Matthew Lowry, Oran Cole and Oliver Pearce made the team a strong unit. Their tenacity, enthusiasm and team spirit made for an enjoyable season for everyone. There is much talent here and every expectation that the side will improve as they move through the school. The boys can look forward with much anticipation to next year. ***T.H.***



## ATHLETIC CLUB



Athletics Club 2017/18

The District Athletics Championships took place at the Antrim Forum on Tuesday 12th and Saturday 16th May. Congratulations to Christopher Sayers, Shane Martin and Jack Macneill who all became District Champions

The Ulster Schools' Athletics Championships took place at the Antrim Forum on Friday 20th and Saturday 23rd May. Shane Martin performed well and retained his title of Ulster Champion in the Pole Vault. Jack MacNeill and Reuben McCrea also performed well, both finished in the top three and qualified for the Irish Championships.

The Irish Schools' Athletics Championships took place in Tullamore on Saturday 7th June. In excellent conditions there were some strong performances from Academy athletes. Special congratulations must go to Reuben McCrea who finished third in the Junior Shot Putt.

### District Championships

#### Mini

Josh Manson 4<sup>th</sup> 800m 2.32

Hugo Reilly Stewart 5<sup>th</sup> 800m 2.32.1

Jan Arnold 6<sup>th</sup> Shot 7.32m

4 x 100m relay 3<sup>rd</sup> 57.1 s

#### Minor

Christopher Sayers 1<sup>st</sup> High Jump 1.46m

Ryan O'Hara 4<sup>th</sup> 75 m hurdles 14.5 secs

Ryan Ferguson 4<sup>th</sup> High Jump 1.40 m

Henry George 6<sup>th</sup> 100m 13.5 secs

4 x 100m relay 4<sup>th</sup> 54.1 secs

#### Junior

Andrew Cairns 3<sup>rd</sup> 100m 12.4 secs 4<sup>th</sup> Long Jump 4.80m

David Monahan 2<sup>nd</sup> 800m 2.19, 4<sup>th</sup> High Jump 1.50

Jay Nicholson 3<sup>rd</sup> 1500m 4.58

Reuben McCrea 2<sup>nd</sup> Shot 10.48 m and 2<sup>nd</sup> Discus 25.34m

Gosha Peters 4<sup>th</sup> Hammer 21.12 m

4 x 100m 4<sup>th</sup> 50.1 secs

#### Intermediate

Michael Harvey 3<sup>rd</sup> 800m 2.18

Aaron McGrotty 3<sup>rd</sup> Hammer 29.09

Leo Millard 4<sup>th</sup> Hammer 16.18

Cameron Carter 4<sup>th</sup> Discus 20.08m

Cameron Dougan 5<sup>th</sup> Javelin 28.53m

Jack McKee 6<sup>th</sup> Javelin 23.11m

#### Senior

Shane Martin 1<sup>st</sup> Pole Vault 4.35 m

Jack MacNeill 1<sup>st</sup> Javelin 41.57m

Daniel Logan 2<sup>nd</sup> 400m 57.10 secs and 3<sup>rd</sup> Triple Jump 11.53 m





## **Ulster Schools' Championships**

### **Mini**

4 x 100m 8<sup>th</sup> 55.23 secs

### **Minor**

Christopher Sayers 8<sup>th</sup> High Jump 1.44m

### **Junior**

Reuben McCrea 2<sup>nd</sup> Shot 11.37m, 5<sup>th</sup> Discus 25.37 m

David Monahan 8<sup>th</sup> 800m 2.18

Jay Nicholson 8<sup>th</sup> 1500m 5.16

### **Intermediate**

Aaron McGrotty 6<sup>th</sup> Hammer 29. 92m

### **Senior**

Shane Martin 1<sup>st</sup> Pole Vault 4.25m

Jack MacNeill 2<sup>nd</sup> Javelin 44.28m

Daniel Logan 7<sup>th</sup> 400m 56.96 secs, 7<sup>th</sup> Triple jump 10.45m

## **Ireland Schools' Championships**

### **Junior**

Reuben McCrea 3<sup>rd</sup> Shot Putt 11.96m

### **Senior**

Jack MacNeill 7<sup>th</sup> Javelin 41.19m

## **GIRLS' ATHLETICS CLUB**

The girl's athletics season began at Roughfort at the start of April. Despite the cold weather the girls were keen to kick start an exciting season ahead. Training during games, lunch time club, after school and on Saturday mornings was very well attended with lots of enthusiasm throughout the club. The girls were able to compete in an Inter School meets in preparation for the District Championships. The traditional Inter Schools' Meeting between Methody, Hunter House Glenlola and Strathearn was held on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April at Ballykillaire track, Bangor. This was the first competitive opportunity for athletes to prepare themselves for the season ahead.

I congratulate all the girls on a successful and enjoyable season. Their dedication and hard work have been rewarded. I would encourage all girls to continue to work hard and build upon their personal targets in preparation for next season. Thank you to all the staff that helped make another successful and enjoyable season.

*J.R.S.*

## **Girls' District Athletics Results**

### **Antrim Forum, Tuesday 8th May**

#### **Mini**

2<sup>nd</sup> Relay (59.1) Qualifies for Ulster Championships

5<sup>th</sup> Long Jump Rachel Baird (3.7)

#### **Minor**

2<sup>nd</sup> 100m Olivia Beattie (13.8) Q

2<sup>nd</sup> 800m Anna Saunders (2.37.1) Q

2<sup>nd</sup> Relay (56.4) Q

3<sup>rd</sup> 800m Abbie Braniff (2.37.1) Q

3<sup>rd</sup> High Jump (1.36) Q



4<sup>th</sup> Long Jump Olivia Beattie (4.08)

5<sup>th</sup> Long Jump Abbie Braniff (4.04)

6<sup>th</sup> High Jump Lucy McKnight (1.30)

### Junior

1<sup>st</sup> Pole Vault Abbie O'Neill (\*\*2.7 New Record\*\*) Q

1<sup>st</sup> Hammer Sarah Saunders (22.67) Q

2<sup>nd</sup> Javelin Caitlin Hennessey (19.85) Q

3<sup>rd</sup> 75m Hurdles Abbie O'Neill (16.1) Q

3<sup>rd</sup> Hammer Rachel Ramsey (22) Q

3<sup>rd</sup> Relay (55) Q

4<sup>th</sup> Shot Darcy Martin (7.53)

5<sup>th</sup> Triple Jump Siobhan Baine (8.13)

6<sup>th</sup> 100m Beth Hillis (14.4)

### Antrim Forum, Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May

#### Intermediate

1<sup>st</sup> 200m Erin McMahon (28.8) Q

1<sup>st</sup> 300m H Erin McMahon (47.7) Q

1<sup>st</sup> 1500m Steeple Chase Aoife Corry (6.16.1) Q

1<sup>st</sup> Pole Vault Leah Doran (2.50) Q

1<sup>st</sup> Relay (53.2) Q

2<sup>nd</sup> 200m Ellie Collins (29) Q

2<sup>nd</sup> Steeple Chase Bryanna Catney (6.35.6) Q

2<sup>nd</sup> Pole Vault Monica Del Castillo (2.3) Q

2<sup>nd</sup> Hammer Hannah Hill (23.84) Q

3<sup>rd</sup> Hammer Eve Henderson (20.57) Q

4<sup>th</sup> Shot Hannah Hill (6.94)

5<sup>th</sup> Long Jump Holly Adair (3.87)

5<sup>th</sup> Discus Samantha Cassidy Campbell (15.69)

6<sup>th</sup> Long Jump Jessica Porter (3.77)

### Senior

1<sup>st</sup> 1500m (5.10) & 3000m (11.39.9) Rioghnach Catney Q

1<sup>st</sup> Hammer Erin Moffett (35.04) Q

2<sup>nd</sup> Pole Vault Harriet Dougan (2.8) Q

2<sup>nd</sup> Javelin Ellie Bradley (20.04) Q

Girls Ulster Schools' Athletics Championship Results

### Antrim Forum, Friday 18<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May

-Inter girls team came 1<sup>st</sup> overall.

-The girls' teams combined came 2<sup>nd</sup> overall.

-7 girls qualified for the Irish Schools'.

### Mini

6<sup>th</sup> in relay heat (Madeleine Morwood, Etta Choi, Evie Caldwell, Maebh McAtamney) (59.38)

### Minor

6<sup>th</sup> 800m Anna Saunders (2.33.42)

8<sup>th</sup> High Jump Sophie Doran (1.38)

8<sup>th</sup> Relay (Olivia Beattie, Ellen Loane, Sophie Doran, Anna Saunders) (56.31)

### Junior

1<sup>st</sup> Pole Vault Abbie O'Neill (\*\*New record 2.84\*\*) Qualifies for Irish

5<sup>th</sup> Hammer Rachel Ramsey (25.53)

6<sup>th</sup> Hammer Sarah Saunders (24.93)



6<sup>th</sup> Javelin Caitlin Hennessey (20.02)

6<sup>th</sup> in relay heat (Abbie O'Neill, Shannon McBride, Beth Hillis, Rebecca Dwyer)

7<sup>th</sup> 75mH Abbie O'Neill (14.53)

### **Inter**

1<sup>st</sup> Pole Vault Leah Doran (2.45) Q

3<sup>rd</sup> Pole Vault Monica Del Castillo (2.30) Q

3<sup>rd</sup> 200m Erin McMahon (27.76)

3<sup>rd</sup> 300mH Erin McMahon (48.76)

3<sup>rd</sup> Relay (Erin McMahon, Leah Doran, Ellie Collins, Olivia Snoddy) (53.18)

4<sup>th</sup> 1500m Steeplechase (5.58.1)

5<sup>th</sup> Hammer Eve Henderson (24.77)

6<sup>th</sup> Hammer Hannah Hill (24.54)

6<sup>th</sup> 1500m Steeplechase Bryanna Catney (6.22.9)

4<sup>th</sup> in 200m heat Ellie Collins (29.87)

### **Senior**

2<sup>nd</sup> Hammer Erin Moffett (33.73) Q

2<sup>nd</sup> 3000m Rioghnach Catney (11.02.94) Q

3<sup>rd</sup> Javelin Ellie Bradley (21.31) Q

3<sup>rd</sup> 1500m Rioghnach Catney (5.04)

## **Irish Schools' Athletics Championship Results**

**Tullamore, Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June**

### **Junior**

1<sup>st</sup> Pole Vault Abbie O'Neill (2.60)

### **Inter**

4<sup>th</sup> Pole Vault Leah Doran (2.60)

5<sup>th</sup> Pole Vault Monica Del Castillo (2.45)

6<sup>th</sup> 200m Erin McMahon (\*\*New PB 26.41)

### **Senior**

3<sup>rd</sup> Hammer Erin Moffett (35.78)

5<sup>th</sup> 3000m Rioghnach Catney (10.53.72)

7<sup>th</sup> Javelin Ellie Bradley (21.15)

## **Tailteann Irish Schools Inter Provincial**

**Santry, Dublin, Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2018**

6<sup>th</sup> Pole Vault Abbie O'Neill (2.5)

7<sup>th</sup> Pole Vault Leah Doran (2.5)

9<sup>th</sup> Pole Vault Monica Del Castillo (2.3)

## **NETBALL**

This year we had ten teams playing competitive games. The Junior A, Intermediate A and Intermediate B teams each played in Premier leagues for their age group. All other teams played in the District League Competition, with the Senior squad winning their section. This was fantastic success for BRA netball and well deserved for all the dedicated players and coaches involved.

Netball in school 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.

***K.E.B***

### **Representative Honours**

U13 Regional Development Squad- Fiona Murray, Sasha Logan, Abbie Braniff, Tara Dalzell and Sofia Ramalho-McCourt.

U15 Regional Development Squad – Megan Warke, Erin McMahon, Ella Harvey, Leah Doran, Ellie Murray, Nada Hawela, Olivia Snoddy and Siobhan Baine.





U15 UK School Games Team- Megan Warke and Nada Hawela

U17 Northern Ireland Squad- Ellie Collins

U17 Northern Ireland Development Squad- Hannah Hill, Fabienne Cochrane, Lois Sharpe and Julia Forbes

U19 Belfast Area Schools Squad – Fabienne Cochrane, Lois Sharpe, Ellen Dalzell, Varia Peters, Julia Forbes, Kenzie Arbutnot, Amber Vick, Becca Reel and Kerrie Johnston.

## FORM I

It was good fun to take part in netball this year. The FI 'A' team only lost one match, unfortunately meaning that they didn't make it through to their league finals. We faced strong opposition such as Strathearn, Dominican and Bloomfield but played well and beat all of these teams. The 'B' team did well, winning half of their games against tough opposition such as Dominican and St. Genevieve's. We played in many matches and tournaments and had great fun playing as a team and getting to know new people. We hope to improve our skills further next year.  
Layla Hunter (I)

We had over forty girls who played netball this year in FI. The girls trained on a Tuesday with two teams playing competitive matches against other schools in their District. The players were extremely enthusiastic and committed and came determined to improve their skills. I would like to thank the girls for their commitment and hard work at training and during matches. The level of participation and enthusiasm was excellent. I hope we continue to build upon their skills and promise shown next season.

**K.E.B**

## MINOR 'A' NETBALL



Minor A Netball 2017/18

Captain: Fiona Murray

Vice Captain: Sophia McCourt

Minor A Squad: Caitlin Mooney, Fiona Murray, Izzy Coburn, Abbie Braniff, Eleanor Green Faith Drummond Sophia McCourt, Katie McKeown, Ebony Hoogelander, Sasha Logan and Kate Sturgess

We started off the season with a narrow loss to Ballymena Academy, we then went on to win against Belfast high school and Dominican where Sofia McCourt got player of the match for her brilliant interceptions in defence. We then went on to gain another win against St. Killian's where Izzy Coburn got player of the match for some lovely attacking play. The loss against Ballymena Academy made us more determined to win our other matches. All the girls were committed to the team and turned up to training sessions each week. None of this would have been possible without our coaches Mrs Winning and Miss Brady I would like to thank you for our brilliant coaching.

Fiona Murray

## MINOR 'B' NETBALL

Captain: Kate Sturgess

Vice Captain: Eleanor Green

Minor B Squad: Kate Sturgess, Katye-Louise Richardson, Faith Drummond, Madison Campbell, Leah McClean, Eleanor Green,



Minor B Netball 2017/18

Mia Donnelly, Sophie Doran and Lara Lennon

We started the season off with Carrick Grammar. It was a hard match and we unfortunately ended up losing 10-6. Our next match was against Downshire. We stepped into an early lead with Katye-Lousie Richardson scoring our goals. By the end we had won 11-0. In our next matches, we went on to draw against Glengormley High with Sophie Doran as player of the match. Our last match was against Ulidia. It was a hard match, but we ended up winning 10-5. It was a very successful season for our team. We trained very hard and enjoyed our sessions each week, thank you to all our coaches for encouraging us at training and matches.

*Kate Sturgess (II)*

Commitment from the minor netball squad was excellent this year and we had over thirty girls attending training each week. The players trained hard each week to improve their skills and were always very enthusiastic and competitive. I would like to thank the girls for their effort and look forward to training with them in the coming season.

*K.E.B*

## JUNIOR 'A' NETBALL

Captain: Siobhan Baine  
Vice Captain: Nada Hawela



Junior A Netball 2017/18

Junior A Squad: Susie Kerr, Kristie Monroe, Nada Hawela, Catelyn Burns, Katie Keed, Siobhan Baine, Emma Connolly, Charlotte Stronge, Molly Connolly and Olivia Jones

The Junior A's were continuously challenged in a new 'Premier League' last year. We enjoyed playing to the best of our ability and facing a new challenge with a different team every week including, Methody, one of our main rivals. Overall, we enjoyed the season and grew stronger together as a team and we gave it our all in every single match we played.

*Nada Hawela (III)*

## JUNIOR 'B' NETBALL



Junior B Netball 2017/18

Captain: Rachel Strange  
Vice Captain: Jaana Tharun

Junior B Squad: Sarah Saunders, Sacha McAuley, Rachel Stronge, Abbie O'Neill,



Olivia Jones, Molly Connolly, Becky Lough, Darcy Martin and Molly Connolly

The Junior B's were in a very tough league last year and we played to the best of our ability by attending all our training sessions weekly. We played Carrick Grammar and Dominican with Darcy Martin as the player of the match. Overall every player worked well as a team and enjoyed the season.

Commitment from the Junior netball squad was excellent. I would like to congratulate and thank the girls for their effort and teamwork throughout the season. Both teams fought hard in tough leagues- well done to all the players who took the court! I hope to see the girls build upon this success next season.

**K.E.B.**

## INTERMEDIATE 'A' NETBALL



Inter A Netball 2017/18

Captain: Fabienne Cochrane  
Vice Captain: Julia Forbes

Intermediate 'A' Squad: Fabienne Cochrane, Lois Sharpe, Julia Forbes, Hannah Hill, Nia McVicker, Jessica Kendell, Layla Creaney, Varia Peters, Ellie Collins, Megan Warke and Naoise McCormack

The Intermediate A squad had a successful season of netball, our first match was against

Holy Trinity which we won 24-11. We had many other notable matches played including our match against OLSPK which we won 24-13 and Grosvenor which we won 21-17. As we were playing in the premier league, we had tough matches against Rathmore, Friends and S H Newry. The team worked hard during training and we made it into the semi-finals of our shield but unfortunately lost against Methody with a final score of 19-10.

**Fabienne Cochrane**

## INTERMEDIATE 'B' NETBALL



Inter B Netball 2017/18

Captain: Ellie Collins  
Vice Captain: Megan Warke

Intermediate 'B' Squad: Ella Harvey, Mia Delargy-Dubois, Leah Doran, Erin McMahon, Ellie Collins, Niamh McIvor, Megan Warke, Bethany Hunter, Ellie Murray, Olivia Snoddy and Eden McCoubrey.

We started the season well and won our premier league group. We played Cookstown first in a very tough game. The score was 14-13 and player of the match was Megan Warke as our goal shooter. We then played Wallace and won 25-24. Unfortunately, we were beaten by Rathmore, in another close match, which unfortunately put us out of the league finals. Overall it was a great season and we all improved as a team throughout our matches.

**Ellie Collins**





## INTERMEDIATE 'C' NETBALL



Inter C Netball 2017/18

Captain: Eden McCoubrey  
Vice Captain: Lauren Macauley

Intermediate 'C' Squad: Lauren Macauley, Chelsea Nicholl, Zoe Sheerin, Shakira Douglas, Bethany Hunter, Eden McCoubrey, Mia Delargy-Dubois, Nicole McClean, Olivia Donaldson, Sophie Bloomfield and Molly Noble.

It was a semi-successful year as we had so many good teams playing in the district league. It was a tough section with many good teams, we faced difficult competitions against Belfast high, Slemish, Carrick grammar. Despite this, we bounced back and defeated Downshire 15-7. This was a high to end the season on and hopefully we can improve and continue to develop our skills in the future.

***Lauren Macauley (IV)***

Commitment from the Intermediate netball squads was excellent this year and we had over thirty girls attending training each week. I would like to congratulate and thank the girls for their effort and teamwork throughout the season. I hope they look forward to the upcoming season and aim to improve their talent and skill level further.

***K.E.B***

## SENIOR NETBALL



Senior Netball 2017/18

Captain: Becca Reel  
Vice Captain: Olivia McConnell

Senior 'A' Squad: Becca Reel, Kerrie Johnson, Olivia McConnell, Amber Vick, Ellen Dalzell, Niamh Gutermann, Amber McCalmont, Caitlin Joyce, Charlotte Frazer, Zarah Ryan, Kenzie Arbuthnot and Eilish McEwan.

Our first match of the season was against Slemish away from home. This was a very positive match as we won 16-8. Following this match, we went away to play Belfast High School, we drew 9-9 against a very strong side. From our results, we won the league which was an excellent achievement for the whole team. This allowed us to progress into the cup semi-final. Our semi-final match was against Cookstown, this was a very important game, however the outcome was not in our favour as we were defeated by a talented team. Overall the seniors had a very promising season which was done through hard work and commitment. We hope to continue our successes for the season ahead.

***Olivia McConnell***

It was a great achievement for the Senior squad to win their district! The team worked very hard at both training and matches. I would like to thank them for their continued motivation and efforts throughout the year.



Many of this season's senior players are in MVI and sadly we must say farewell. I would like to thank each girl for her commitment and determination throughout many years of netball and I hope they continue playing in the future.

*K.E.B.*

## BADMINTON

The Badminton Club ran weekly in the Sport's Hall this year. A total of 150 pupils from all forms joined with the aim of developing their badminton skills whilst socialising with other pupils in the school.

*A.M.M./S.C.S.*

## TENNIS

### BOYS' TENNIS

Boys' Tennis ran once again through the summer term, on Friday afternoon, at Cavehill Tennis courts from 3:10-4:30. This year, a pleasing number of enthusiastic Form Is joining the regulars. There was a slightly traumatic week early on in the season when the burglar alarms were triggered; fortunately, the pupils managed to have a lovely and carefree time playing tennis in the sunshine while a frantic teacher rang every person he could think of while sirens blared over North Belfast. After learning the new code, subsequent weeks were sound tracked only by the gentler sounds of fuzzy yellow spheres striking rackets and the occasional cry of, "Yeeeeoooooh!" that accompanies the loss of a ball to the world beyond the courts. The latter sound (with its uniquely Northern Irish vowel sounds) always done in the nicest and most collegiate of ways -as befits such a nice group of tennis players.

The club is a fun way to end a week and new members are always welcome. If you are

interested in taking part this year, then listen out in the notices in the summer term for further details.

*S.C.S.*

## GIRLS' TENNIS



Girls Tennis 2017/18

Unfortunately, due to the summer public exams now in LVI as well as MVI, coupled with the increased pressure on pupils to achieve the grades, the girls are less keen to participate in summer sports. This meant there was no Senior girl's tennis team representing BRA for the first time in many years. Playing their 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year together as a team, the Junior team consisted;

1. Ella Linton
2. Emma Uprichard
3. Nada Hawela
4. Olivia Jones

The girl's only won 1 of their 3 group matches, this was away to Hunterhouse. Losing their other 2 matches to Glenlola Collegiate and Grosvenor Grammar meant that unfortunately they did not progress from their group to the knock out stages.

The Intermediate team consisted of three sisters which must be a first for the school:

1. Julia Uprichard
2. Emma Uprichard
3. Kerry Uprichard



The team got drawn into the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the Cup but unfortunately drew Strathearn and lost to a very experienced team. This put them into the plate competition where again they got a tough draw against Banbridge Academy and unfortunately, they also lost this match.

*N.N.*

## **BOYS' CROSS COUNTRY**

### **District Championships – Ozone**

#### **Mini**

Team -3rd

Ryan Cowden 21st

Matthew Jackson 33rd

Daniel Stewart 34

Evan Johnston 38th

Josh Manson 46th

#### **Minor**

Harry Bassett 14th

Ryan Ferguson 23rd

Jacob Snoddy 24th

Henry George 25th

Jerico Balgos 26th

#### **Junior**

Jay Nicholson 16th

Ben Golden 24th

Caleb McGoldrick 29th

#### **Inter**

Ciran Dixon 5th

Adam McCready 22nd

#### **Senior**

Ethan McCartney 18th

Odhran Catney 19th

Lewis Milligan 22nd

### **Ulster Schools Championships**

#### **Intermediate**

Ciran Dixon 25<sup>th</sup>

## **GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY**

The girls' Cross Country team competed well in the 2018 District Championships. A team entered all five age group levels, with three of the teams qualifying for the Ulster finals. The Senior girls achieved the highest position from our five teams, finishing Runners Up in their race and therefore qualifying for the Ulster finals.

The team consisted of Rioghnach Catney, Ellen Dalzell, Laura Lennox and Thomasa Kennedy. Rionagh Catney finished 3rd in the race qualifying for the Ulster finals and was our best individual performer from all our girls. Ellen Dalzell and Laura Lennox also qualified as individuals for the Ulster finals finishing 10th and 11th respectively.

The Intermediate team also qualified for the Ulster finals producing some excellent individual performances. Aoife Corry finished 7th, Bryanna Catney 13th and Olivia Thompson 15th. Louise O'Neill, Olivia Snoddy and Chloe McKnight completed the team. This team qualify to compete at this





level again next year, so they show great potential.

The Junior girl's best performance was from Emma Uprichard who finished 17th in a race of 50 girls. The rest of the team consisted of Eve Thompson, Ellie Walsh, Rebecca Dwyer and Abbie McHenry. The Minor team consisting of Abbie Braniff, Anna Saunders, Izzy Coburn, Lucy McKnight, Sophie Doran and Ellie McIvor, finished 3rd overall in a very high standard race and therefore qualified as a team for the Ulster finals. Abbie Braniff, Anna Saunders and Izzy Coburn all qualified for the Ulster finals also as individuals with all 3 finishing in the top 10. The Mini girl's best performance was from Madeline Morwood who finished 17th from a field of around 70.

Our best performance at the Ulster finals came from our Senior athlete Rionagh Catney who finished 4th in what was a very high standard race. This qualified Rionagh to compete at the Irish Championships as the school's only representative. The Minor Girls' team finished a very creditable 12th at the Ulster finals and the Intermediate team finished 13th.

*N.N.*

## DANCE



Dance Team 2017/18

Throughout 2018, the Dance Team had a very successful run, particularly at the Ulster Dance Championships. Two teams and one showcase team entered to show the nation the talent that BRA has to offer. During this,

Miss McLarnon worked hard alongside our four choreographers, Jady, Alex, Anna and Sophie. With their guidance, the Junior team and Intermediate team won their categories and achieved fantastic results. Our lyrical styled piece was awarded first place overall from the Intermediate teams. It was a great day for all involved and we are eager and ready for the coming year to thrive once again.

*Anna Midgley (V)*

## FOOTBALL CLUB



1st XI Boys Football 2017/18

In the 2017/18 season, the football team competed in the Belfast Cup and Northern Ireland Cup. Our Northern Ireland Cup 1st round game was home to Glengormley High School. The opposition were weak, and the Academy team ran away with the game, winning 6-0. Ben Greenlees scored all 6 – a major achievement and a first for the Academy.

In the Belfast Cup we were once again drawn at home, but this time faced much tougher opposition in the form of Trinity College. After a cagey opening 10 minutes the game sprang into life. Ben Greenlees showed his pace to run onto a long ball from Will McCrum before calmly slotting home. Trinity then scored almost straight from the re-start, with a well worked goal that saw the ball played wide before being crossed into the box for the centre forward to head home.



They doubled their tally shortly after and added a third on the stroke of half-time, following a mistake from the goalkeeper. In the second half a number of good chances went begging, and the team were unable to add to their earlier goal. As the players tired, Trinity showed their quality and scored two further goals in the last 5 minutes, for a 5-1 finish.

Our opponent in the second round of the NI Cup was Coláiste Feirste. Following defeat to Trinity College in the previous game, confidence levels were low, and this showed in the first half, with the players struggling to keep possession. However, good defensive work and a goal from Will McCrum meant the team went into the half-time break 1-0 up, even though they spent most of opening period in their own half. A much improved second half display saw goals from Ryan Paul and Jack Grattan, the former a spectacular 40-yard free kick. The opposition clawed one back after 60 minutes, but the Academy held out to make it through to the next stage.

Next up in the competition was Banbridge. The game started well, with efforts on goal from Aaron Richardson, Tom Ingram, Robbie Moffett and Tom Kendell, and our good play was eventually rewarded with a goal from Ben Greenlees – a tight finish from inside the box after a perfectly judged through ball from Adam McClelland. However, 10 minutes after taking the lead a lapse in concentration allowed Banbridge to equalise following a goalmouth scramble. A similar pattern emerged after the re-start, with Will McCrum scoring to make it 2-1 and Banbridge equalising shortly afterwards. The teams remained level and the game went into extra time. Neither team created a clear chance during this period and the final whistle signalled the dreaded penalty shootout. Robbie Moffett missed with our first effort but the remaining four were slotted home by Adam McClelland, Ben Greenlees, Jack Grattan and Ryan Paul. Banbridge scored

their first two penalties but missed their third, and this meant they had to score with their last effort in order to remain in the competition. However, this wasn't to be the case, as a wonderful save from Nathan McClean brought BRA into the last 16 of the Cup, something which hadn't been achieved in over 10 years.

St Columbs, Derry, who had already dispatched of the previous year's winners, were our opponents for the last 16 games. The team setup in a defensive 4-5-1 formation and was extremely disciplined and difficult to break down. Our opponents had the majority of possession, but the Academy were always a threat on the break. In the 14th minute, Aaron Richardson received the ball wide on the left and glided forward before cutting inside the full back and lashing a shot into the far corner of the net from a difficult angle. St Columbs then had a period of sustained pressure and missed several excellent chances, although at least two of these were finely saved by Nathan McClean. Unfortunately, just as it looked like we would make it to the break in front, the defence finally succumbed, and an equaliser was scored. Disaster then struck as no sooner had the game restarted, a long ball and miscommunication between the central defenders and goalkeeper enabled St Columbs to score a second. Not disheartened by the end of the first half, the players returned to the field and played with vigour and determination. Several chances were created but none were converted. In the final 15 minutes, the boys from Derry scored two more and the game finished 4-1; a score line which did not reflect the closeness of the game.

In all it was a successful season, and the players deserve credit for their performances. The results didn't always go our way but there was never an issue with commitment and determination.

**R.B.**



## GIRLS' TAG RUGBY



Girls Tag Rugby 2017/18

This year we had Form IV and Form V games groups for tag rugby. The Form IV and V girls were an enthusiastic bunch who were always keen to try out and learn new skills. The girls had the opportunity to be coached by Ulster rugby for several sessions throughout the year. There are many girls that have joined a rugby club outside of school as a result of this.

Three teams were entered for the annual 'Participation' Tag Tournament organised by Ulster Rugby. The tournament took place on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March at The Valley Leisure Centre. The tournament was well attended by many schools. Our three teams played 'non-contact' tag in sections against other schools from our area. As always, the girls thoroughly enjoyed the day out. Well done to all involved. I hope that girls' rugby will continue to be as popular and successful next year.

**J.R.S.**

## GIRLS' WATER POLO

The Under 19 girls' team competed in the schools' cup in March this year and won the Irish schools shield for the second year in a row. The U16 team came second in the Junior Schools' Cup. Captain Sam Brown was selected for the Irish ladies' team and travelled to the Czech Republic in May to

compete in the European championships. This was her first Senior international cap. Anna Whiteside was selected for the Irish u17 team and travelled to the Czech Republic in April. Ellen Loane was selected for the Irish u15 team and travelled to Somerset in July. Caitlin Hennessey, Eva Bannon and Christina Warnock were also selected for the U15 Irish squad. Anna, Ellen, Caitlin, Eva, Christina, Cara, Jennifer and Emma were all selected for the U17 Ulster team. Well done to everyone involved for all of their efforts at training and matches.



Girls Waterpolo Team 2017/18

**Jennifer McCorry (LVI)**

## GOLF

I am delighted to report that the 2017-18 season has produced much success for the various Golf teams.

## GIRLS' GOLF

We, in recent years, have enjoyed much success with former pupils, Judith Allen and Amy O'Donnell. However, since they left two years ago, we have been unable to enter any tournaments due to lack of players. I was delighted to receive a request early this year from Olivia Snoddy to play in the few Girl's school golf tournaments that are available. Olivia represented the Academy at the Irish Schools Qualifying Championship held at Edenmore, Magherlin in March of this year. Although Olivia finished outside the qualifying positions, she has much potential





and that on 'her day', she will enjoy futures success.



Golf Team 2017/18

## BOYS' GOLF

In the winter league, a tournament that began in October 2017, we won our group and qualified for the semi-final against Sullivan. Various postponements saw Sullivan withdraw giving us a welcome path to the Final against RBAI. This was eventually played in June 2018. Unfortunately, Keaton Morrison was unavailable for selection, meaning that we had to play with a slightly weakened team. Despite Tom McKibbin winning his match 5&3, Rhys Goodall, Owen Donnelly and Andrew Greer narrowly lost their matches, seeing us lose by 3 matches to 1.

Defending the Ulster Junior Championship that we won at Fortwilliam Golf Club last year, a very young but able team consisting of Ryan Armstrong, Ben Anderson, Josh McKee and Peter Richardson finished in a very impressive 3<sup>rd</sup> place in this year's tournament held at Greenacres Golf Club. This was a superb achievement considering that it was the first time that three of the four boys had represented the school in a competitive nature and bodes well for the future.

The other Golf Competition that ran either side of the Easter break was the Darren Clarke Schools Golf League. We were paired in this competition with Aquinas Grammar

School, St. Malachy's College and Rockport. Unfortunately, we failed to make it through to the latter stages, but I believe this was largely due to us giving youth a chance. There were some excellent individual performances but unfortunately, some of our less experienced players were paired against some very able golfers, and despite handicaps being considered, our opponents were often too strong or played with handicaps that were too high! I am confident, however, that with an extra year's experience behind them, this group of players will be much more competitive next year.

Our outstanding achievement this year was saved for an extremely cold, blustery, wintery day in Portrush. Our Senior Team, consisting of Owen Donnelly, Rhys Goodall, Tom McKibbin and Keaton Morrison played and won the Ulster Schools Scratch Competition. This was brilliant performance. The nature of the tournament means that the best golf played on the day, irrespective of handicaps will determine the winners. Our combined best three scores saw us defeat RBAI and take the title of Ulster Schools Scratch Champions, with Tom McKibbin posting the best gross score on the day. This achievement is reward for the hours of practice and dedication the boys have put in over recent years. Our most recent outing saw Rhys Goodall, Tom McKibbin, Keaton Morrison and Andrew Greer qualify for the next stage of the Irish Schools competition, finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> place, with the top four teams qualifying.

The other Golf Competition that ran either side of the Easter break was the Darren Clarke Schools Golf League. We were paired in this competition with Aquinas Grammar School, St. Malachy's College and Rockport. Unfortunately, we failed to make it through to the latter stages, but I believe this was largely due to us giving youth a chance. There were some excellent individual performances but unfortunately, some of our less experienced players were paired against some very able golfers, and despite handicaps being



considered, our opponents were often too strong or played with handicaps that were too high! I am confident however, that with an extra year's experience behind them, this group of players will be much more competitive next year. The players that competed in this competition included Keaton Morrison, Sam Caldwell, Olivia Snoddy, Ben Anderson, Ryan Armstrong, Josh McKee, Peter Richardson, Noah Bickerstaff and Robbie Morrow.

Of further note, outside school, during the recent summer holidays, Tom and Keaton had significant international success. Tom was a member of the GB and Ireland Golf team who won the 2018 Jacques Leglise Trophy in Finland against Europe, and Keaton represented Ireland U16's at 3 separate tournaments; the Italian open, the English open and the European young masters. These are tremendous achievements.

On a final note, sadly, this was Owen Donnelly's last year at the Academy. I would like to thank him for his contribution to the BRA golf teams over the years and wish him well for the future.

Furthermore, I would like to thank the pupils for their efforts throughout the year and give special thanks to parents and grandparents (you know who you are) who regularly support and give lifts to the various events. My job would be much harder without you. I look forward to the year ahead and am optimistic for further success.

*P.M.*

## KARTING

The 2017-18 season was very similar to last year. The team finished 11<sup>th</sup> in the UK and were keen to maintain that result heading into the next season, but with the competition becoming fiercer each year, the team would have their work cut out on track to make it happen.



Karting Team 2017/18

The year started with the team taking their place at the Extra Curricular Fair in September – this gave new first year pupils the chance to see what the BRA Karting Team had to offer. Two weeks later, a large group of enthusiastic FIs went to Need 4 Speed Karting – many of whom had never been karting before – to give the karts a go. Several more Arrive and Drive events took place through October and November, which gave the senior team the chance to get some laps under their belt, ahead of the 2018 British School's Karting Championships (BSKC).

The BRA 'A' team performed very well in the Semi-Final at Eddie Irvine's in March, finishing in 1<sup>st</sup> place on the day with Bangor not far behind in terms of points. This was enough to ensure their progression to the National Final at Whilton Mill for the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. It was here that the team performed exceptionally well; finishing 11<sup>th</sup> overall. Nathan Duddy secured a win in the 1<sup>st</sup> race of the day which set the team up well for the next races. Michael Woods and David Rea had solid races as well, helping the team secure their joint-highest finish in England. The team look forward to next season.

The whole team was saddened by the sudden passing of our team leader and friend, Mrs Alexander. Mrs Alexander devoted a large amount of her time to extra-curricular activities in the school and was a highly respected figure in school and beyond. The energy and character that she gave to those involved in her teams was contagious, and



she encouraged so many people to push the limits of their ability – to reach a summit that one would have believed to be unreachable.

Mrs Alexander, thank you for everything.

*Stephen Rea (MVI)*

The swimming team had another successful year becoming Ulster Grammar school champions. Laura Lennox, Sinead Gourley (selected as girl's captain of the team) and Lorcan Gourley where selected to represent Ulster at the Inter-provincial championships in Dublin.

*N.N.*

## LIFESAVING



Lifesaving Team 2017/18

Finn Purdy and Ollie Parkes represented the GB performance squad in Holland at the Orange Cup. Sinead Gourley represented the GB performance squad at German Cup. Finn Purdy, Sinead Gourley, Lorcan Gourley, Ollie Parkes and Lui Hurson have been reselected to join the GB performance squad.

*N.N.*

## SWIMMING



Swimming Team 2017/18

## SHOW JUMPING



Show Jumping 2017/18

Congratulations to Form One pupil Erin McCrea who competed in the Novice individual event on her pony Woodrow Rosewood. They achieved some really good results winning the St. Patrick's Day competition at the Meadows Equestrian centre and placing 2nd at the Ulster Schools Derby at Gransha Equestrian Centre.

For the first time in a few years BRA produced a team to ride in the Open competition. Teams can be made up of four riders and the scores of the three best riders are counted towards the final score. The BRA team was made up of Captain Olivia Quinn Form V, Rocco Quinn and Jessica Davidson Form IV. On most occasions Olivia or Rocco had multiple rides. Olivia on Redwood Thor, Rock Black or Blue, or Ricardo Colours, Rocco on Knockagarron Fear Bui Princess and Knockagarron Fear Bui Phoenix and Jessica on NH Nadal. Throughout the season competing against 18 teams we were placed





in the top six every week during the Meadows Equestrian Centre's Schools' Show Jumping League. Many schools had multiple full teams which afforded them more chances for success. However, against the odds we finished 4th overall in the League.

Our top achievement was when Gransha Equestrian held the Ulster Schools Derby Championship. With only two competitors, Olivia and Rocco, succeeded in being the only team with a zero score and consequently were placed first and became champions. As well as this honour, Rocco with two exceptionally fast times, was placed individually 2nd and 5th.



We are grateful to our parents for giving up so much time and dedication which enables us to compete at this level. Thanks also go to Mr Murphy whose leadership skills, organisational ability, constant support and a listening ear have contributed to our success. We eagerly anticipate next season when we hope to add to our achievements and continue to make our school proud. **S.E.G.**



**COLOUR AWARDS - EASTER 2018****CROSS COUNTRY**

Major Re-Date:-	Riognnach Catney.
Minor New:-	Ellen Dalzell, Thomasa Kennedy.

**HOCKEY BOYS**

Major Re- Date:-	James Campbell, Luke McGarvey, Barra Patterson, David Rea, Ethan Thompson, Peter Watt.
Major New:-	Andrew Dorman, Eoin Bradley, Rory Flynn, Conor Gallagher, Issac Jarman, Zak Lundy, Tom McKee, Christopher Pollock.
Minor New:-	David Russell

**HOCKEY GIRLS**

Major Re- Date:-	Irish Alvarado, Charlotte Anderson, Harriet Dougan, Rachel Duff, Trinity Geddis, Naomi McGuckin, Alice Reid, Julia Uprichard.
Major New:-	Ellie Armstrong, Ellie Collins, Thomasa Kennedy, Niamh McIvor, Katie Ritchie, Megan Warke.
Minor New:-	Julliah Allen, Amy Bradley, Ellie Bradley, Sophia Del Castillo, Ellen Dalzell, Emma Dobbin, Olivia Donaldson, Julia Forbes, Thomasa Kennedy, Erin McQuiston, Hannah Marshall, Sophie Mills, Olivia Thompson, Kerry Uprichard.

**NETBALL**

Major Re- Date:-	Kerrie Johnston, Olivia McConnell, Becca Reel.
Major New:-	Ellen Dalzell, Niamh Gutermann, Charlotte Frazer, Caitlin Joyce, Amber McCalmont, Eilish McEwan, Zara Ryan, Amber Vick

**RUGBY**

Major Re- Date:-	Brandon Hassan, Adam Kane, Adam Keed, Daniel Logan, Jack Plackett, Nikki Ryan, Kurtis Scott, Tom Stewart.
Major New:-	Callum Davidson, Aaron Heatley, Rory Linden, Aaron Lyons, Dominick Rhodes, Rob Sturgess, Harry Warke, Louis West.
Minor New:-	Douglas Adams, Ben Brown, Ben Coleman, Jack Davis, Charlie George, Patrick George, Aaron Gooderham, Matthew Graham, Andrew Greer, Jack Higgins, Ryan Jamison, Nik Kane, Adam Lamb, Andrew Meeke, Neil Og Martin, Philip O'Callaghan, Ollie Parkes, Patrick Termini, Jack Whitley.



## MEDALLION

Louis Adams, Callum Brady, Max Braniff, Zach Burton, Sam Caldwell, Tom Davis, Eliot Donaldson, Cameron Dougan, John Gamble, Michael Harvey, Daniel Irvine, Samuel Jameson, Michael Kane, Jack McKee, Aaron McGrotty, Ronan Poots, Ryan Simpson, Matthew Todd.

## SWIMMING

Major Re- Date:- Katie Baird, Sam Brown, Ellie Cross, Maria Del Castillo, Sophia Del Castillo, Cher Enriquez, Lorcan Gourley, Sinead Gourley, Lui Hurson, Laura Lennox, Naoise McCormick, John Montgomery, Ollie Parkes, Zoe Parkes, Ewan Purdy, Finn Purdy, Rosie Strutt.

Major New:- Monica Del Castillo, Adam Mahood, Amy Harpur, Alex McKnight, Ellie Watson,

Minor Redate  
Minor New:- Monica Del Castillo, Adam Mahood, Amy Harpur, Alex McKnight, Ellie Watson, Eve Wilson, Giulia Allen, Siobhan Baine, Sorchia Boersma, Rachael McGrath, James Strutt.

## WATERPOLO BOYS

Major Re- Date:- Andrew Boyle, Lorcan Gourley, Lui Hurson, Joe Loane, Philip O'Callaghan

Major New:- Adam Mahood, John Montgomery, Ewan Purdy, Cameron White.

## WATERPOLO GIRLS

Major Re- Date:- Sam Brown, Cara Carson, Emma Gourley, Jennifer McCorry, Anna Whiteside.

Minor Re-Date:- Sinead Gourley

Minor New- Eva Bannon-Multi, Caitlin Hennessy, Alex McKnight, Christina Warnock, Ellie Watson.

## LIFESAVING

Major Re- Date:- Lorcan Gourley, Sinead Gourley, Lui Hurson, Ollie Parkes, Finn Purdy.

## KARTING

Major Re- Date:- Nathan Duddy, David Rea, Michael Woods, Reece Armstrong.



**COLOUR AWARDS - SUMMER 2018****BOYS' ATHLETICS**

Major Colours	Jack MacNeill, Shane Martin
Minor	Michael Harvey, Daniel Logan

**GOLF**

Major Re- Date:-	Rhys Goodall, Tom McKibbon. Keaton Morrison
Major New:-	Owen Donnelly

**GIRLS' ATHLETICS**

Major Re- Date:-	Riognach Catney, Erin Moffett
Major New:-	Ellie Bradley, Ellie Collins, Leah Doran, Hannah Hill, Erin McMahon, Olivia Snoddy
Minor:-	Bryanna Catney, Aoife Corry, Monical Del Castillo, Harriet Dougan, Eve Henderson.

**TENNIS**

Minor Colours:-	Sophia Del Castillo, Julia Uprichard, Kerry Uprichard.
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**BRIDGE**

Major	Lauren Colville, Conor Gallagher, Luke McGarvey, Lucy O'Kane, Xander Todd
Minor	Josh Boyd, EJ Etienza, Adam Ferguson, Nathan Fung, JP Miller, Josh Mills, Alex Scott, Ewan Todd

**CRICKET**

Major Re- Date:-	Max Burton, Robbie Moffett, Harry Warke
Major New:-	Ben Greenless, Andrew Greer, Ryan Jameson, Luca Johnston, Nik Kane, Rory Linden, Ollie Parkes
Minor:-	Tom Stewart, Oran Corry, Ben Brown, Max Braniff.

**INDIVIDUAL AND TEAM AWARDS**

Major	For the most promising Junior cricketer- Ryan Armstrong John Shaw Cricket cup- for the most successful team- 1st XI
Tweedie Cup	For the girl who has contributed most to Girls games - Erin Moffett

**SHOW JUMPING**

Major New:-	Jessica Davidson, Olivia Quinn, Rocco Quinn
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## BOYS ATHLETICS

Best performance by a mini boy	Jay Minor AR. Foster
Best performance by a minor boy	Christopher Sayers
R.A.F. Cup Best performance by a Junior boy-	Reuben McCrea
G.B. Taylor Athletics Cup – best performance by an intermediate boy	Michael Harvey
Girdwood Cup - best performance by a senior boy	Shane Martin



## GIRLS ATHLETICS

Mini Girls' Athletics Cup	Rachel Baird (Districts 5th in Long jump)
AR Foster Cup (Best Minor Performance)	Anna Saunders (6th in 800m at Ulster's)
Air Formations Signal Cup (Best Junior Performance)	Abbie O'Neill (Districts 1st in pole vault, Ulster's 1st, Irish schools' 1st)
Glanville Cup (Best Intermediate Performance)	Leah Doran (Districts 1st in pole vault, Ulster's 1st, Irish schools' 4th)
Girdwood Cup (Best Senior Performance)	Erin Moffett (Districts 1st in hammer, Ulster's 3rd, Irish schools' 3rd)



## GIRLS' TENNIS

Junior	Ella Linton
Intermediate	Julia Uprichard























# *Ben Madigan Preparatory School*

## **SCHOOL CALENDAR 2017/18**

### **September**

8<sup>th</sup> Fun Day

25<sup>th</sup> Prep 4 and 6 to Chichester Library

Gathering Drums to Pre-Prep

29<sup>th</sup> MacMillan Cancer Coffee Morning

### **October**

12<sup>th</sup> M+M Pantomime – Hunchback of Notre Dame

20<sup>th</sup> Prep 6 Bring and Buy Sale

25<sup>th</sup> Stormont Hockey Prep 4-7

26<sup>th</sup> Halloween Disco

### **November**

17<sup>th</sup> Children in Need

Children's Movie Night

### **December**

5<sup>th</sup> Race for Life

6<sup>th</sup> Prep 2 Elf Trip City Hall

7<sup>th</sup> Athletics NI

Choir to Clifton House

School Christmas Lunch

8<sup>th</sup> Open Afternoon and Santa's Grotto

13<sup>th</sup> Carol Service at Whitehouse Presbyterian

Prep 5 Tennis Camp

Prep 6 HMS Caroline

15<sup>th</sup> Prep 4-7 Christmas Trip

Prep 1-3 Nativity Play

18<sup>th</sup> Prep 1-3 Christmas Trip

19<sup>th</sup> Prep to Logwood Santa Trail

### **January**

20<sup>th</sup> School Ski Trip

22<sup>nd</sup> Scientific Sue Litter Lab Prep 4-7

25<sup>th</sup> Athletics NI

26<sup>th</sup> Prep 4 to Castleward

### **February**

1<sup>st</sup> Athletics NI

5<sup>th</sup> Travelling Book Fair

8<sup>th</sup> Valentine Disco

23<sup>rd</sup> Owls Visit Prep 1 and 5

### **March**

1<sup>st</sup> World Book Day

6<sup>th</sup> Belfast High School Hockey Prep 6 and 7



8<sup>th</sup> Quiz

15<sup>th</sup> Choir to BRA Spring Concert

22<sup>nd</sup> Whitehouse Holy Week

## **April**

16<sup>th</sup> Belfast Primary School Cross Country Championships

17<sup>th</sup> Rugby Festival Prep 5-7

20<sup>th</sup> Great Ben Bake Off

## **May**

3<sup>rd</sup> Cross Country Ormeau Park Final

11<sup>th</sup> Kids' Games Night

18<sup>th</sup> Campbell College Mini Rugby Festival

Prep 3 to Balmoral Show

22<sup>nd</sup> MS Walk

23<sup>rd</sup> STEM Belfast Castle

24<sup>th</sup> Prep 4 Breckenhill Shared Education

30<sup>th</sup> Sports Day

Parents' Breakfast Graduation

## **June**

1<sup>st</sup> Fire and Rescue to Prep 5

Pre-Prep Induction

5<sup>th</sup> Crossfire Gaming Safety

6<sup>th</sup> Prep 1 to Butterfly House

Prep 6 BRA Science Day

7<sup>th</sup> Prep 1 Induction

13<sup>th</sup> Prep 7 Leavers' Party

19<sup>th</sup> Mary Poppins Summer Concert

21<sup>st</sup> Golf Day

22<sup>nd</sup> Fun with Drums

Windsor Tennis Prep 7

26<sup>th</sup> Prep 4 Cultural Dance Shared Education

28<sup>th</sup> Prep 5-7 Big Day Out





## PREP 3

### The Lifecycle of a Sunflower

First you need to plant the seed. You need it to have sunlight, water and air to grow. Growing is called germination. Wait until it's a shoot and the roots grow down into the ground. Then it can be a seedling and its leaves make food. A little bud appears and makes the face and then a bee gets stuck in the pollen, which is on the stamens and flies to another flower. While it's covered in pollen it goes all over the carpels. The pollen fertilises the eggs and they grow into seeds.

*Jack Knox, Prep 3*

### The Lifecycle of a Chicken

If you don't know anything about a chick you came to the right place. There are three

different stages – egg, chick and hen. The hen can't make a chick unless the hen has a mate. The egg is just a normal egg because the hen does not have a mate. When a hen finds the right rooster, the father makes the eggs fertilised. Then the chick starts to grow. The chick eats the remaining albumen and all of the yolk and that helps it grow. The mother sits on the egg. That's called brooding. The mum turns them over every once in a while. The hen turns them over so they don't stick and die. She sits on them so they stay warm and after 3 weeks they start to poke a hole all around the egg and the egg tooth helps them. But when it comes out the egg tooth falls off and the chick can go outside with its mother after 2 weeks of being inside. The chick goes out and looks for worms and bugs to eat. After 6 months it lays its own eggs and it happens again.

*Ryan Teague, Prep 3*

### How to Make Bread

Ingredients:

Strong plain flour 500g

3 tbsp olive oil

7g yeast

Warm water 300ml

Salt 2 tsp

Sugar

Method:







1. First you put the flour, salt, sugar and yeast in a bowl and mix it.
2. Then put the wet olive oil and water in the bowl and then it will turn into dough.
3. Start putting flour on your work table and then knead the dough.
4. Then put the dough in the bowl and let it rise for an hour.
5. Then put in in the oven and wait for it to cool.

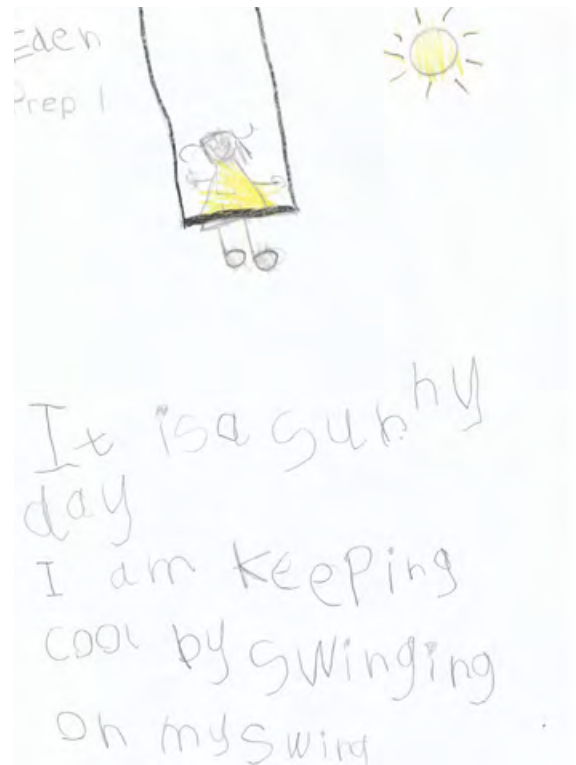
***Niamh Mckenna-Murray, Prep 3***

### **The Adventures of Woofly-Puff the Super Pig**

One day Woofly-Puff was practising his hula-hooping for *Super Pigs Hula* on TV. But what Woofly-Puff did not know was that his greatest enemy Evil Dr Duck was competing against him with his egg bottom blasters. But one day Farmer Donald thought there was something wrong with him. So one day Farmer Donald took him to the vets. All of Woofly-Puff's friends knew that he was going to the vets but Woofly-Puff thought he was going on a tour to see Piggies Poofs We Love Piggies. Woofly-Puff said "Boo-ya baby" and showed off his piggy grooves to all the other animals but they said nothing. Woofly-Puff was proud. Finally Farmer Donald grabbed Woofly-Puff and shoved him in the car. Woofly-Puff was excited.

Two hours later...

They were parking the truck at the vets. Woofly-Puff was confused. "Where are we?" Woofly-Puff was saying in his head. Finally Farmer Donald lifted Woofly-Puff and shoved him in a cage. Woofly-Puff was scared. Farmer Donald took Woofly-Puff



into the room. The vet called out his name. Donald opened the cage but just as he opened it, as fast as Woofly-Puff could he jumped off the table and ran out of the room and out of the door. Farmer Donald tried to chase him but he was too fast for old Farmer Donald. Woofly-Puff ran down the road back to the farm. But what Woofly-Puff thought was that it was the Super Pigs Hula competition. SO that night Woofly-Puff packed his stuff and headed to London. He was so excited and this time he was sure of it. He took the train, the bus and the subway. The next day... Woofly-Puff was happy because he found out that he won. He phones all of his friends and told them about how much he missed them and how he escaped from the vets and his journey. But Evil Dr Duck would not be defeated. He was hatching another plan to finally defeat Woofly-Puff and his friends once and for all. Who's won? Find out next time in *The Adventures of Woofly-Puff the Super Pig*.

***Sophia Simon, Prep 3***



## PREP 4

### Way Back to Space

There was a girl named Jessica. She was 10. She had navy leggings, a navy top with a silver star on it and black trainers. She had hair just past her shoulders, which was brown and curly, her eyes were brown and she wasn't at all fancy. She lived on Camber Lane – which was a gloomy, old street. She lived at number 27 – which was the gloomiest house of all. This is where the story began, on Chamber Lane, the gloomy, old street, at number 27, now this is the story...



Jessica woke up one morning at 9:00 am in the morning – it was gloomy and dark, same as always. She looked out of the window and stared at the sky dreamily, “If only I could see space right in front of my eyes”, she wondered sadly. Then she slowly got out of bed and got changed slowly too. After he got changed, her mum called. “Time for breakfast!” Jessica wiped her tears and went down slowly still. “Why do

you look so sad?” questioned her mum. “I just want to go on a space adventure”, she replied with a tear rolling down her cheek. Her mum looked so surprised she just packed up and went out the door. “I think she’s not coming back”, she thought with a tear rolling down her cheek.

The next day she just sat and stared at the sky through the window, She so, so wanted to have an adventure in space. Just then, something shot through the sky and crashed!... When she saw that ‘something’ crash she was so worried that she got the first-aid-kit and followed the smoke towards the crash. “Oh, I hope those people are not injured”, she wondered worriedly.

Then she got to the crashed spaceship and searched for the people. “They’re not anywhere!” she thought. Then she saw something stuck. So she helped it out of the crashed spaceship. “What are you?” she questioned the pink weird thing. “I am a pink alien and my name is Tina”, she replied back. “I think I know why you’re called Tina, you’re tiny!” she called back with a little giggle. She saw a scratch on her knee, so she put a bandage round it. “Let’s go to my house”, Jessica suggested and they went. “If you want to go on a space adventure”, Tina explained when they were in Jessica’s house, “come into your bedroom.” After they got into Jessica’s room, Tina hopped on the bookshelf and got her notebook. She wrote: Take us to the candy planet! She shouted it out of the window, then she quickly hopped off the bookshelf and held Jessica’s hand. There were sparkles around them glittering brightly in the dark. Just then, they disappeared into thin air.

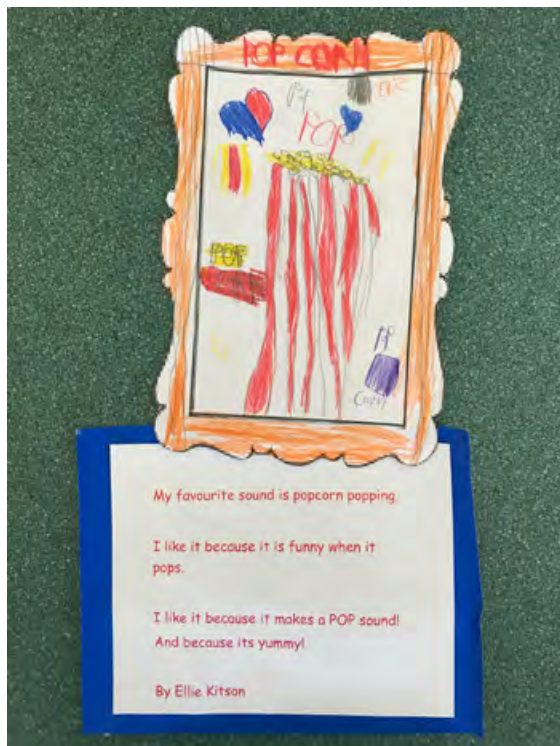
“Where are we?” asked Jessica, “and what happened to myself?” “Welcome to my home! The candy planet!” Tina replied excitedly. When Jessica heard the response,



she picked up some of the rock from the ground, when she felt it, she knew it wasn't rock, it was... CANDY!! So she gobbled it up! Just then, she heard a 'whoosh!' "What was that sound?" she asked. But there was no response. Then she turned around but Tina wasn't there. She saw what was causing the wind and 'whoosh' business. It was a marshmallow whirlwind! When she saw the whirlwind, she saw it picking up Tina. She had to go in there too to save her. So she went close and got picked up into the whirlwind like she planned. "Are you alright?" Jessica asked when she got pulled in. "Yea, but how on earth are we going to get out?" Tina replied and questioned. But Jessica had already grabbed hold of a lollipop at the side. Then Tina held her hand and they got out. The whirlwind popped and was forgotten. "I hope we meet again!" Jessica called as she hopped into a hole and went home.

To be continued...

*Amelia Manley, Prep 4*



## Way Back to Space

Once upon a time there was a little girl called Ella. She had long, straight, brown hair with a bun and a bow, a pink top with a heart, a silver belt and a denim skirt. Ella has a big white house with loads of flowers in the neatly trimmed garden. She has a dog called Rosie. It is a white Pomeranian, it is adorable. Ella has thousands and millions of money! One day Ella was texting her friend Mya. She heard the doorbell ring, she finished her text and thought that must be my new computer. She opened the door but instead of seeing a computer she saw a rocket! It was red in the middle and blue at the top and bottom. It was awesome, except for two reasons. 1 – it is a one seater, 2 – she doesn't know how to work it. Ella tried to pull it in through the door but it would not fit. What could she do now? She couldn't let her mum and dad see – they would have a freakout if they saw it and they were coming home from work soon!

Oh wait, Ella just had an idea. She dragged the rocket to the garage – her dad or mum never uses it. She ran inside the house and opened the garage door and tugged, tugged and tugged it into the garage. She went inside, closed the door and sat down and continued to text Mya. Just then her mum opened the door. She walked into the room and said hello to Ella. She started to ask Ella about her day. Then she said "I better get changed out of my work clothes and make the dinner". Her mum was in the middle of making dinner when her dad came bursting through the door. He said "Hello, I have lots of work to do, I will do it before dinner" and he went to his study.

AT THE WEEKEND. Ella was excited her parents had left to see Granny Rose. Today was the day that she could fly





up to space. She was still in her pyjamas so she went up to change into a new denim skirt and a white top with roses all over it, white Adidas trainers and her hair in a fishtail plait with a white bow at the end. She pulled the rocket out of the garage. She got in it and was about to press the start button when Ella realised she forgot her space camera. She ran inside the house and got it. Ella jumped inside the rocket, they were finally ready to go. Ella strapped her seatbelt in... 5, 4, 3, 2, 1... BLAST OFF! Uh-oh, it would not start! Oh yeah, there was fuel in the rocket, that would do it. She put it in the bottom. 'Voom', it whirled into life. "Yay!" She got inside and ... 5, 4, 3, 2, 1... BLAST OFF again. This time it went up! "Waow, this is hard to control. Oh I've got it!" celebrated Ella. "Whoah, stop celebrating Ella", shouted Ella! Let's go explore, she thought. Ella went around every single thing.

She saw a pretty, multi-coloured thing. Oh, let's go and investigate it, she thought. She drove towards it, "Oh it's very pretty, let's go get a closer look". Ella went forwards to it, she stopped but it wouldn't stop! She kept moving forward to it! Ella tried to reverse but it didn't work, she just kept going forward. "Ahhhhhh" she screamed as she went down. "Oooof!" She landed with a thump in a heap on a pink liquorice tree. Her rocket was tangled up and so was she. Ella wriggled and wriggled, thump, she landed on a spongy chocolate cake ground. A crushed lollipop path to a sweet caramel river with green popping candy bush. Ella walked around the place exploring it. She even bumped into a pink alien, it was adorable. She showed him around. They made friends like people popping candy. She told the pink alien that she wanted to go home but she couldn't find the portal. One day she was walking around and she saw a marshmallow guy, he told her

the way she had to climb to the top of the liquorice tree. So that's what she did.

*Charlotte Ingram, Prep 4*



### Go Visit the Moon

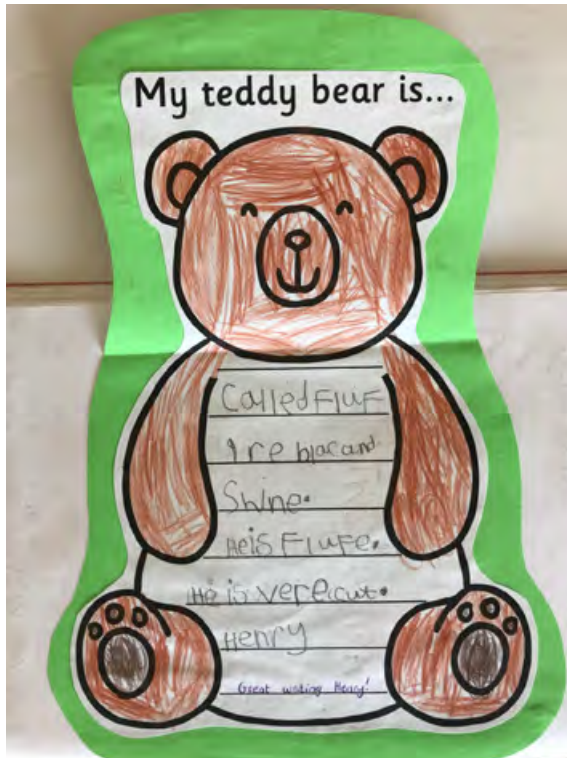
In this non-chronological report, you will find out all about the moon through lot of interesting facts.

Did you know?

The moon is just a big ball of rock. There are eight phases of the moon. They are: new moon, waxing crescent, first quarter, waxing gibbous, full moon, waning gibbous, last quarter and waning crescent. You could fit 49 moons inside Earth. Our moon is also called Luna.

More interesting facts!

If you have heard about the dark side of the moon, it is a myth. The moon doesn't make its own light. Every year the moon moves 3.8cm away from Earth. The moon has no atmosphere, meaning no noise can be heard on it and it is not protected



I hope you have enjoyed reading this non-chronological report.

*Isabelle McCune, Prep 4*

## PREP 6



from things such as cosmic rays, solar winds, meteorites and asteroids.

Quick facts:

Temperature: 120°C (midday)

Size: 3,475 km

Distance from the sun: 348.000km

Other names: Luna

Time to orbit the sun: 27 days

Surface: craters

Continuing...

As I said earlier, the dark side of the moon is a myth and that is because the moon doesn't spin, so we can never see the other side of the moon. That means we don't have proof that one side of the moon is dark. The moon is the 5th largest natural satellite in the solar system. The moon doesn't make its own light. The sun reflects light onto the moon and it reflects on to the Earth.

## The Magical Book

Once upon a time there was a book which was magical! A little girl called Nirvana-Rose was such a lucky girl. On 25th December a man gave her a book while she was at an exciting street carnival. There was lots of snow and a lot of people, but out of all the people was an old man with glasses. He had a hunchback which really scared her. It wasn't the hunch in his back but the way that he spoke. He spoke so slowly and very creepily.





She took the book back home and read the title – ‘Magic Is Real’. Nirvana-Rose is quite a childish so she opened it. She read the first bit of the book and what it was about. She read that if you open a chapter you go to that place! Nirvana-Rose opened up at Chapter 2- Singapore and said the magic words ‘ZOOMAGALA’. She started to feel butterflies in her tummy and BOOM she was in a pool in Singapore.

It was awesome; very warm. She started to feel exhausted so she whizz-popped back. The next chapter she opened brought her to freezing Alaska. She explored all around when suddenly a polar bear appeared. She ran and ran until she remembered she could go home. When she arrived home she burnt the book as it caused so much trouble and Nirvana-Rose, the beautiful young lady, lived happily ever after.

***Elizabeth Bates, Prep 6***

### **A Doggy Day**

Today is Thursday morning, you wake up at around 6 o'clock and turn off your HORRIBLE alarm and go and get a shower. But instead of water, dogs start to pour out! You scream and run away from the shower. When you walk back into your room extremely confused, you start to put on your uniform. You get thirsty and take a big drink out of your water bottle but you start to gag, and spit out a puppy! A Labrador puppy to be exact. You gently set down the puppy and grab your bag to set off to school. On the way you trip over an empty can filled with rainwater. When you look behind you, you see a massive German Shepherd. You hop on its back and ride your way to school. You're late so you sprint into the hall and everyone stares at. You rub your

eyes and they all turn into dogs! The headmaster, Mr. Bob walk – or should I say crawls over to you and stands on his hind legs. He slowly bends down to your height ... and eats you!

***Phoebe, Prep 6***







**DAVID CAVAN**  
PHOTOGRAPHY



# Former Pupils' News

## BRA MEDALLION SHIELD REUNION OF 1968 SQUAD



On Wednesday 27th March 1968, following wins over Methodist College, R.B.A.I., Bangor Grammar and Ballymena Academy, the BRA. Medallion team defeated Coleraine Inst. in the final of the Medallion Shield by 9 pts to 3 pts, at Eaton Park, Ballymena. Fifty years on, the team and their coaches, Mr. David Carruthers and Mr. Michael Rea, got together for the first time since leaving the School.

On Friday 23rd March 2018 all but 4 members of the 23-man squad came from all over the world to assemble in the

Heritage Room. Sadly, two of the squad have passed away, one could not be traced, and one was unable to attend due to ill health. Captain Crawford McConkey delivered an excellent welcome speech and the Principal, Mrs. Hilary Woods, provided an impressive resume of recent achievements and indicated some of the current issues within the School.

We had a splendid lunch in the Library, provided by the School's caterers and there were a number of memories shared which was greatly helped by some very detailed match statistics collated at the time by Alistair Bill.

A tour of the School was led by former Head of History, Eddie McCamley, and those who had not been back to the School for 50 years were gratified by the improvements which have been made to the school campus over the years.

On Saturday lunchtime some of the squad attended a Pre-Match Lunch at the Academy Club before watching the Academy v P.S.N.I. league match at the JC Picken playing fields. Academy won a well





contested match and we were rather taken aback at how the game has changed since the days of leather rugby balls and footwear in terms of speed and intensity, even at Junior Club level.

In the evening, a celebration dinner was held in James Street South restaurant for the squad and coaches and their respective wives/partners.

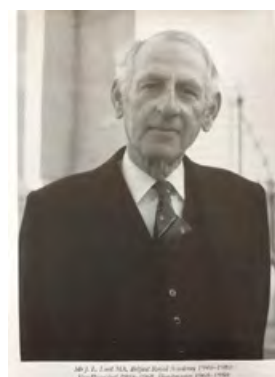
We had hoped to recreate our Team Photograph on the steps in front of the Crombie Building, but the weather conspired against us and we had to use the Library. However, as can be seen from the below photograph, the result was very pleasing.



Our thanks to former 1965 Medallion Shield winner, Philip McKenna, for taking the photographs of the event for us.

1968 was an extremely successful year for sport in the School in that, apart from the success of the Medallion team, the 1st XV reached the final of the Schools' Cup and the 1st XI Girls Hockey team shared Ulster Senior Schools' Cup with Strathearn School. It was also the year when headmaster, John Darbyshire, retired and the then Vice-Principal, Louis Lord, took over.

All in all, this was a highly successful and enjoyable reunion which enabled old friendships to be renewed. It confirmed how this group of young men had worked together fifty years ago under the strong direction and leadership of our coaches to win this coveted trophy against the strongest opposition in Schools rugby at that time.



*Tim Reid*

**RACHEL BOLD (NEE LEOPOLD),  
JILLIAN JOSEPHSON (NEE  
LEOPOLD) AND DARA WAKNINE  
(NEE LEOPOLD)**

I left BRA in 1999, having started my school career along with my two sisters, Rachel and Dara, at Ben Madigan. We were two academic years apart and all had a great time at school, which set us up for professional life in Manchester, where we have all settled.





### THE CLASS OF 1999

I left BRA straight from sixth form to start university life studying law at Manchester University. In my second year of studying, I was offered a training contract with one of the large commercial law firms in Manchester (Cobbetts and latterly DWF), and stayed for ten years learning as much as I could about my specialism- commercial property- and the workings of a large legal business. I was privileged to have the opportunity to work alongside some of the north west's legal greats and to kick start my career in such a dynamic environment.

I often joke that I left Northern Ireland to study and forgot to come home! A large part of that was due to meeting and marrying a Manchester boy and after a fast and furious decade in Manchester, I started a family, and have a little boy called Sam, who is now six years old.

This prompted a change of pace and I took up a role as a Regional Director supporting law firms with their business development.

I was headhunted in this role by one of my client's, AST Hampsons, to join their firm as a Partner and enjoy a busy and fulfilling career working with local SME's and investors. Outside of work I am Board Member of a local housing association, am

treasurer of my local law society and am heavily involved in a voluntary capacity with my son's school.

By coincidence my two sisters- one who studied medicine in Liverpool (Rachel) and my youngest sister (Dara) who studied optometry in UMIST/ Manchester University – now both live and work in Manchester.

Rachel is in the final stages of training to be a GP with an interest in sports medicine and Dara is a Director in Specsavers Opticians. Both are married with a daughter each- and to add to the story our three husbands were all in the same class growing up!

Manchester is now our happy home, but we will never forget the great years we spent at Ben Madigan and BRA culminating in the fantastic efforts made by the school to get us into the universities of our choice and the careers that we now pursue.



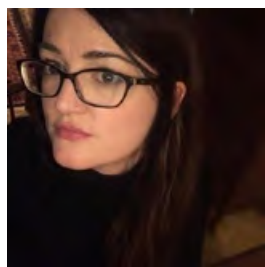


## NICOLA GLASS



Nicola Glass left the Academy in 1991. She went on to Edinburgh University to study Architecture, before deciding to move to Edinburgh Art College where she gained a BA in Jewellery Design. From there, Glass went on to obtain a Master's degree in Fashion Accessories at the Royal College of Art, London. She worked for Gucci and Michael Kors before becoming creative director at Kate Spade. She has received high praise for her debut collection which was showcased at New York Fashion Week and reviewed by Vogue magazine.

## DR ALASTAIR HARDEN AND DR SARAH HARDEN



Alastair and Sarah Harden (nee Cullinan) attended BRA from 1996 to 2003. Alastair studied at Christ Church, Oxford, while Sarah studied at Oriel College, Oxford and they were married on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2008 in Oriel College Chapel.

Alastair was awarded a Bachelor of Arts in Classical Archaeology and Ancient History and went on to complete a Master's degree in Classical Archaeology at Oxford, later taking a PhD in Classics at Reading University. Sarah read for a Bachelor of Arts in Classics followed by a Master's degree in 2008 and then a DPhil in 2012. From 2011 to 2012.

Sarah was the college lecturer in Classics at Trinity College, Oxford. She has been awarded many prizes, such as the Gibbs Prize in Classics and has published many pieces on several aspects of Greek poetry in academic journals including, *"Ramus"* and *"Harvard Studies in Classical Philosophy"*.

Alastair spent a year working in a medieval library at New College, Oxford cataloguing books donated from 1379. Alastair currently teaches Classics at Bedales School in Petersfield, England. Sarah now teaches Greek and Latin, and is Head of the Classics Department at Winchester College.

## BRIAN MCFARLAND



Brian McFarland's sporting accomplishments at the Academy anticipated his later success as a businessman.

The founder and Managing Director of McFarland Associates Ltd was, as a pupil, a



double international, in that, while rugby was his great passion, he also represented Ireland at athletics.

In 1984, he was selected for the for the Ulster Schools' rugby final trial, and was later chosen for the Ulster Schools' First XV. Brian had been with the Academy Firsts for three years: in Form V at the end of the season he had played in Edinburgh, and in the following two seasons he had played for the Ulster and Irish Schools. The combination of intelligence and determination that he demonstrated on the playing field was to serve him well when he left the Academy.

After completing his studies at Aston University he was recruited by Mott MacDonald where he became a Chartered Engineer. Thereafter, Brian was involved in prestigious contracts with a number of universities, including Queen's University, Herriot Watt, and Imperial College, London. Such was his reputation that he was consulted by the US Highway Authority for complex chlorine extraction project on a bridge structure in South Dakota.

In 2000 Brian returned to Belfast and established McFarland Associates, a company specialising in the maintenance of structural assets throughout their life cycle. The company is now acknowledged to be a leader in this field, and has expanded its business throughout Ireland and Great Britain. Recently, the Company has commenced on an *Invest NI* Research and Development Grant Aided project for developing its sophisticated business model in an international setting.

## BRENDA MCMANUS



*Alumna Brenda McManus with her former History teacher Eddie McCamley in July 2018.*

Mr McCamley and his wife were the guests of Brenda and her husband Claudio at their holiday apartment in Sabaudia, thirty kilometres south of Rome.

Brenda has been based in the Italian capital since leaving university. After hugely successful careers in both the public and private sectors, Brenda and her husband now share their expertise: he as a lawyer specialising in Labour Relations, and she as tax consultant.

## JOANNE SLOAN



Joanne Sloane Allen left the Academy in 1991 and has become a well-known, successful show jumper. Joanne has had a lot of success this year on the Global Champions Tour with her horses Wicked Hope and Fairplay and was recently third in a 140m class with her horse Amigo Cascada M. Joanne also runs her own stables, "The Sycamore Stables" which are





home to the WKD show jumping team. Joanna's mare, Sumas Zorro, recently won the first leg of the \$1millionmoney prize Rolex Grand Slam at Spruce Meadows. She will now go on to compete at the second leg in Geneva, where she will be able to win a potential €500,000 bonus. The third Grand Prix is in Holland and has an extra €1,000,000 prize attached. This is a huge success for show jumping and stables in Northern Ireland.

### GRAHAM WILSON



Having obtained 3 A levels in Physics, Chemistry, and Biology in Lower 6th form and having decided on a career in Agriculture but not having been brought up on a farm, I spent a year at Greenmount Agricultural College obtaining a first class certificate. I then headed to Queen's University to study Agricultural Science obtaining a 2:1 degree and then enrolling to study for a PhD in ruminant nutrition which I completed in 1973.

However, by then I had decided that research was not for me. Reading and writing scientific papers for a living held little appeal, so instead I went into

commerce with a company called Colborn Nutrition soon to be taken over by Shell who built up an international animal nutrition and health division under the name of Colborn Dawes. For 7 years I was responsible for the Irish business (all 32 counties) before moving over to Derbyshire to manage all of the UK and Irish operations. Soon after that move Shell sold the business to Roche, a major Swiss pharmaceutical and vitamin company.

In 1989, I was asked to return to Ireland to look after all of Roche's nutrition business interests on the island. This I did until 2003 when Roche in turn decided to sell on its nutrition operations in the face of major competition in the manufacture of vitamins from China. A major voluntary redundancy package was introduced which after 30 years in the business meant that I was able to secure my long term financial future. However, at 56 years of age I was still too young to "hang up the boots", so I joined The Department of Agriculture at Stormont as a Supply Chain Adviser until my eventual retirement in 2007.

Since retiring, I have done voluntary work with the National Trust and several Agricultural charities. To keep my brain ticking over I have attended many courses in The Open Learning Centre at QUB and my wife and I have enjoyed a lot of long haul holidays around the world. So far retirement has lots to recommend it.

On the personal side, I have been married for 42 years, have two sons, the youngest of whom Roger played professional rugby for Ulster and Northampton Saints gaining an Irish cap and 12 Irish A caps along the way.



## THE OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION

It's hard to believe that another year has passed! The Old Girls' Association have had another busy year supporting the School through events and volunteering. We welcome our new Members and hope they will enjoy being part of the Old Girls' network.

The Old Girls' Association is open to all former female pupils and female staff. We have members from all over the world, as far afield as Australia, New Zealand and the United States of America – as well as many local ladies still living in Northern Ireland and other parts of the UK and Ireland! We are keen to add new members. Our aim is to support pupils of the School with all aspects of school life; sport, music, clubs, careers etc. We also aim to provide an opportunity for our Members to network, socialise and help raise funds for the School.

Our AGM was held on the 21 November 2017 and was well attended. We discussed ideas for fundraising, increasing membership and planned events for the forthcoming year, as well as deciding how we could support the School financially. It was agreed that we would support the following initiatives, as these had been highlighted as priorities for the School:

- Contribution towards the cost of a hockey coach.
- Donation to the Governors' Fund which gives financial aid to pupils in circumstances of hardship, at the discretion of the Governors.
- Donation towards the cost of kit and equipment for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

Our committee remains as last year:

Nikki Johns  
Chairperson

Caroline Dillon  
Vice Chairperson



Johanna Richardson  
Hon. Treasurer

Claire McGovern  
Hon. Secretary



We would like to thank all those who contribute to our funds through our annual membership fee and by supporting our events. We are very grateful. Without these funds we simply wouldn't be able to support the School as we have been able to over the last number of years.

The proceeds for any fundraising in 2018/19 will go towards the renovation of the changing rooms at Roughfort and a dance coach, which had previously been a gap in the School's curriculum. Within school there is a group of female pupils with fantastic gifts in modern dance, and



we would be delighted to support their development, as they prepare for and enter prestigious competitions. We wish the new coach and the team every success.

April was a busy month with two important events. Firstly, we were delighted to host a joint careers breakfast with Old Boys' Association. This involved pupils from Sixth Form moving around various speakers to get an insight into a variety of career paths, as well as advice on moving between paths and potential opportunities. Many thanks to those Old Girls' who were involved with this event, which was a great success. The Old Girls' also supported a number of business breakfasts and lunches with the Old Boys' throughout the year, and we would encourage our members to attend these informative events. These provide the opportunity to network with, and learn from, the experience of former pupils.



On the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2018, the biggest hockey match in the calendar took place at Roughfort! The 1<sup>st</sup> XI took on the Old Girls', in what was a tightly contested match. The 1<sup>st</sup> XI pipped the Old Girls to the post and won the game 1 – 0! Both teams played well, and it was a great afternoon with hotdogs and burgers available from the new catering hatch. Who will win in 2019?



This year we were delighted to reveal the new Old Girl hockey kits, which were sponsored by Knightsbridge Private Hospital and we pass on our thanks for this most generous gesture.



Throughout the year we were very fortunate to have Old Girl's supporting the School in a variety of ways. These includes volunteering to support with library duties and reading skills in the Preparatory Department, providing work placements, offering information on various career pathways, advising pupils with interviews for various university courses, and supporting extra-curricular activities such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

Our Members also attended the London and Edinburgh dinners which were organised by the Old Boys Association, and we thank them for organising these events.

We are delighted to hear from all our Old Girls who are located in NI as well as those who are further afield. Do get in touch if





you have an interesting story or other relevant information.

We look forward to sharing news of our Autumn Afternoon Tea in next year's Owl. Notification of events for 2019 will be posted on Facebook, Twitter and the School website. We would love to see you and your friends at these events.

If you are not already a Member of the Old Girls' Association and would like to support us, please get in touch. Annual membership is just £5 and those who are previous life members can also subscribe to the annual fee. All funds raised are donated to the School.

### ***Get in touch:***

**Email** – [braoldgirls@outlook.com](mailto:braoldgirls@outlook.com)

**Twitter** – [@braoldgirls](https://twitter.com/braoldgirls)

**Facebook** – [BRAformergirls](https://www.facebook.com/BRAformergirls)

We can also be contacted via the Alumni section on the School website

## **OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION**

The main event in the Association's calendar is the Annual Dinner. As we go to press, the 2018 dinner is planned for Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at the Europa Hotel, hosted by this year's President, Professor Robert McIlhagger.

The venue last year was also the Europa Hotel, and on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2017, the President, Mr Martin Blake, welcomed a total of around 160 members and guests.

The speakers were:

- Mr Mark Orr who proposed the toast to the School.

- The Principal replied and proposed the toast to the Association.
- The President responded and proposed the toast to our guests.
- Supreme Court Justice, Lord Kerr of Tonaghmore responded.

The success of the occasion was again due, in no small measure, to the Secretary, Iain Knox, and his team, who worked extremely hard to encourage a large number of members to attend, and to manage the move to this new location.

## **LONDON DINNER**

The Old Boys' Association organised the fifth annual dinner in London which was open to all former pupils of the Academy who live in the Greater London Area or who have reason to travel from further afield. A total of 64 former pupils attended the dinner which was held on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at the RAF Club, Piccadilly. The main speakers were the President; the Principal, and Professor James Stirling CBE, Provost of Imperial College. Next year's London Dinner; is scheduled for Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019, again at the RAF Club, Piccadilly. Former pupils who wish to attend should contact Dr Louis Campbell at [doc\\_malone2004@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:doc_malone2004@yahoo.co.uk).



Belfast Royal Academy FP London Dinner @ the R.A.F. Club (9-Mar-2018)

*Photo: David Haslett, Martin Blake, Mrs Hilary Woods & Professor James Stirling CBE.*



## EDINBURGH DINNER

On 27<sup>th</sup> April 2018, the Old Boys' Association hosted a dinner for Former Pupils in the New Club on Princes Street, Edinburgh. We hope to have an increase in numbers next year. The toast to the school was made by Professor Johnny McKnight. After the Principal's reply, those present were shown a DVD of current school activities. A provisional booking has been made for this dinner to be held again in the New Club Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2019 (to be confirmed). Former Pupils who are interested in attending this dinner should contact Louis Campbell at [doc\\_malone2004@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:doc_malone2004@yahoo.co.uk).

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018 and the following officials were elected for 2018/2019:

President	Robert McIlhagger
Senior Vice President	Moore Dickson
Junior Vice President	Trevor Sturgess
Hon. Secretary	Philip McKenna
Hon. Treasurer	Nik Simon
Hon. Membership Secretary	Michael McDowell
Dinner Secretary	Iain Knox
Hon. Auditor	Drew Wilkinson

The Committee for 2018/2019 was also elected. The future of the Association depends upon Old Boys becoming involved

and I would again appeal to anyone who has an interest in joining the Committee to speak to the Hon. Secretary or any member of the Committee.

## ANNUAL CRICKET MATCH BRA OBS VS THE BRA 1<sup>ST</sup> XI:

The annual cricket match of the Old Boys' XI against the School 1<sup>st</sup> XI was played on 22<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at the Castle Grounds. The match was won, atypically, by the Old Boys' XI as this match is normally played out to an honourable draw.



*Photo shows combined teams, captained by Chris Magee & Harry Warke (school), school coach Mark Shields, and the two umpires Tony Cole and Christopher Harte.*

## GOLF SOCIETY

The Golf Society again attracted good numbers of golfers for the two main competitions. The results this year were:

**Picken Cup at Malone G.C.** Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018: Winner: **Chris Cooper**

**Jeremy Weir's Captain's Day at Royal Belfast G.C.** Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

Winner: **Mark Cooper**

**Ferguson Cup** for best aggregate score over two outings: Winner: **Mark Cooper**.

**The planned dates for 2019 golf competitions are:**

Picken Cup at Malone GC on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2019.



*The first photo shows Ken Knox (Hon Sec), Jeremy Weir (Captain 2018), and Tim Weir (Captain 2017 & Captain Larne Golf Club 2018), and the second photo shows Mark Cooper receiving the Ferguson Cup from Jeremy Weir (Captain).*

Captain's Day to be held at Royal Belfast GC on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

## MONTHLY LUNCHES

Throughout the year, Robin Reid once again masterminded, with the assistance of a member in each host golf club, monthly lunches. These are normally held in golf clubs around the greater Belfast area. These continue to be very popular with around 60 (and sometimes more than 70), members attending. There is also a summer lunch at the Royal Portrush GC in August, which had a record attendance this year.



*The photo shows the lunch at Royal Belfast Golf Club on 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

## NETWORKING BREAKFASTS

The Old Boys' Association led by Martin Blake and Michael McDowell, organised more Networking Breakfasts in 2018.

These are scheduled so that working past pupils can attend. These are run in conjunction with the Old Girls' Association.

The first event of 2018, was a lunch held on 1<sup>st</sup> February at the Piano Bar Restaurant in the Europa Hotel. The speakers at this lunch were Mark Regan, CEO of Kingsbridge Private Hospital and Dr Sam Sloan, Consultant Breast Surgeon. Four pupils from School attended; two boys and two girls.

This was followed by a breakfast held at BRA on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

Nine former pupils from different industries hosted career discussions, and 38 Sixth Formers were able to move around and join the discussions at different tables.



*This photo shows the President, Martin Blake, organiser Jillian Adams & the nine career advisors.*

The last Networking Breakfast this year was held on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at

Ten Square Hotel. The speakers were Simon Johnston of Danske Bank and Louise Brogan, Founder of Social Bee – a social media company.



*Photo Michael McDowell, Louise Brogan, Simon Johnston, Mrs Hilary Woods & Martin Blake.*





## DONATION TO THE SCHOOL

Each year, the Old Boys' Association plans to make a substantial financial contribution to the School to support particular projects. This year, the Association, with the guidance of the Principal, is in the process of donating around £3,000 to purchase some sturdy benches for the play-ground areas around the school. It is worth noting here that the Association has donated over £25,000 to fund various projects in School over the past number of years.

## OLD BOYS' WEBSITE

The Old Boys' website is currently under review. In conjunction with Martin Blake and a team of subject owners, David Cavan is working on a revamped website which is planned to be up and running by year-end 2018.

Michael McDowell also promotes the Association on Social Media through the Old Boys' Twitter account @TheBRAoldboys.

## OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

The Old Boys' Association Newsletter is in preparation for sending out to all members. A copy of the School's Academy Newsletter will also be sent with this Newsletter. Inevitably, many of these Newsletters are returned to School as members have moved away from the address held in the Alumni Office. All members who have moved in recent months (or years) are requested to contact Michael McDowell at [membershipsec@bra-oldboys.com](mailto:membershipsec@bra-oldboys.com) or contact the Alumni office at: [alumni@belfastroyalacademy.net](mailto:alumni@belfastroyalacademy.net)

Again, I appeal to those Old Boys of School who are reading these notes but who are not members of the Association, to think about joining and thereby restoring links to the School.

Thank you.

**Philip McKenna**

**Hon. Secretary**

[philmac49@gmail.com](mailto:philmac49@gmail.com)





# *Births, Marriages and Deaths*

## **BIRTHS**

**NORWOOD**, 9th August 2018, to Christine Ardis and Gareth Norwood, a daughter, Emma

**IRWIN**, 18th July 2018, to Stephenie Hill and Michael Irwin, a daughter, Grace

**LANDER**, 7th February 2018, to Matthew and Julie, a daughter, Amie Rose

**LEESIN**, 26th November 2017 (in Chiang Mai), to Bey and Jemma (nee Lander), a son Ben

**MCCLEAN**, 3rd September 2017, to Leanne and Richard, a boy, Benjamin James

## **MARRIAGES**

**BARNETT-OVEREND**: 29th June 2018, Katrina Barnett and Mark Overend

**KEALEY-KERR**: 5th May 2018, Christina Kerr and Daniel Kealey

## **DEATHS**

**ALEXANDER**: 29th March 2018, Elaine

**BROOKES**: 25th April 2018, Margaret (nee Sloan)

**FERRIS**: 5th September 2018, Hilary

**LOVE**: 18th October 2018, Joan Margaret Clements (Dr Henderson)

**MARTIN**: 26th August 2018, Joan (nee Wallace)

**MURRAY**: 20th February 2018, Rt Hon. Sir Donald

**YOUNG**: 28th August 2018, Stanley



# *Notes*





# *Notes*



