

The OWL

Belfast Royal Academy
Christmas 2022



The Owl Team 2022

Editor: Miss Watson

Photographs: Mrs Graydon

Thanks to: Mr. Ingram, Mr Carolan, Mr McCamley, Mr P McKenna

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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 approval of the Board of Governors, become a member of the Academy upon the payment of a registration fee of £1. Applications should be made to the Head of Finance and Corporate Services 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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Chairperson:	Ms C. Dillon
Vice Chairperson:	Mrs N. Johns
Hon. Secretary:	Mrs C. McGovern
Hon. Treasurer:	Miss J. Richardson
To join the Association, please email:	BR Ao ld girls @ outlook . com
Registered Charity Number: NIC104739	Annual Membership: £5.00

OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

President:	Mr B. Gray
Hon. Secretary:	Mr P. McKenna c/o Belfast Royal Academy, Cliftonville Road, Belfast, BT14 6JL or email: philmac49@gmail.com
Hon. Treasurer:	Mr N. Simon, 210 Belfast Road, Dunadry, Co. Antrim, BT41 2EY
Membership, annual dinner and alumni enquires:	alumni@belfastroyalacademy.net
London and Edinburgh dinner enquires:	doc_malone2004@yahoo.co.uk
Annual Dinner enquiries	iainknox@cd-group.com

Life Membership.....Old Boys' Committee has suspended membership fees.

Membership (School Leaver)First year after leaving is free.



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Classroom Assistant Mrs. L. Caddell
Classroom Assistant Miss. E. Murphy
Classroom/After School Club Assistant Miss. H. Crossen, B.A., M.A., P.G.C.E.



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Valete



MARTIN WILSON

Martin started at the Academy as a full-time teacher of Chemistry on 1st September 2002 and it didn't take him long to settle in because he had already carried out his 12-week PGCE placement here during the previous school year.

He took up the position of Form Master of Form I during the next school year and he was a highly effective Form Master from 2003-2011. In this role, he provided pastoral care, monitored academic progress and dealt routinely with disciplinary matters. He worked closely with parents and pupils alike and proved to be very efficient in his duties and to have the capacity to influence, to encourage and to admonish while at the same time attracting the loyalty and commitment of his Form. In this role, he exhibited both the moral courage and the tact necessary to deal with sensitive issues.

On 1st January 2009, he was appointed Deputy Senior Teacher. In this role, he had the opportunity to join the Senior Leadership Team where he led a number of whole-school initiatives. He was the School Attendance Officer and he introduced a completely new procedure for attendance across

the school, as well as pioneering the use of a new electronic communications system in order to promote good communication with parents. He was also Deputy Examinations Officer during this time. The experience that he gained from these two roles, Head of Year and Deputy Senior Teacher, shaped and equipped him for what lay ahead.

In May 2011, he was appointed Senior Teacher. His range of responsibilities obviously increased in this new role. These allowed him to contribute both to academic initiatives through the Curriculum Committee and in the leadership of the Tracking and pupil target-setting schemes and to the efficiency of school procedures in areas such as staff cover, pupil attendance, examination organisation and communication with parents.

Around this time (2010 – 2014) he was also a member of the Board of Governors and this gave him a valuable insight into a wide range of educational issues and school management.

His very impressive CV continued to develop with the award of his PQH in 2014 and then his appointment to the post of Vice Principal, which he commenced at the start of the academic year in 2015. Most of us are aware of his role over recent years as the pastoral VP. This is an extremely challenging role and, up until now, there was no better person for this post. Many, many difficult conversations and situations have landed at his door and this only escalated when the pandemic took over. He always has a sympathetic and understanding ear when required and, on the other hand, he can interpret, decipher and conclude disciplinary issues. It is quite a talent to possess.

Our previous Headmaster, Mr Moore Dickson, said the following about Martin: "Of good character and stable, equable temperament, Mr Wilson is industrious and wholly reliable. He has a clear strategic vision and understands the transformative



potential of education. He is accustomed to high personal and professional standards and is dedicated to his family. He possesses personal qualities of a high order and his impressive leadership and management skills have secured the confidence and support of our staff, an important factor in the successful implementation of change. I believe that he will be a highly effective school leader one day.”

Martin has always been a very enthusiastic teacher of Chemistry throughout his time at Belfast Royal Academy. His love and passion for the subject was and is evident to all of whom he has taught. He would always encourage his pupils to push themselves that little bit extra. He would always share the many career opportunities available to Chemists and when he had talented pupils in front of him at GCSE and especially A level, he would open their minds to the prospect of actually studying Chemistry beyond school rather than the more ‘glamorous’ options of the medical-related courses. He will always treasure the memories of teaching pupils like Conor Brogan and Maia Hamilton, both of whom went onto study Chemistry at Oxbridge universities, mainly down to his teaching, his love, passion and enthusiasm for the subject and down to the fact that he sowed the seed to this possibility in the first place.

In June 2003, Martin met Maggie West and they got married in June 2004. Their marriage is built around a strong Christian faith with God always at the cornerstone. Martin was a leader of Scripture Union for many years at the Academy. This involved leading a committee of staff and pupils, planning the annual weekend in Castlewellan, chairing weekly meetings and organising guest speakers. He is also heavily involved in his local church.

Martin’s connection with the school will continue through Maggie, Jamie and Jenna. On behalf of the School and the Chemistry department, in particular, I would like to thank you for all that you have done for Belfast Royal Academy and Chemistry for the past 20 years and, from me personally, I would like to thank you for being my friend first and colleague after and for helping me over these years in trying to move the Chemistry department forward.

We will miss you Martin and wish you all the best in your new role as Principal of Antrim Grammar School.

B.M.M.



ROSE MCCAY

Rose McCay joined Belfast Royal Academy in 1977 as a Form I pupil. During a French lesson in J10, Rose made a promise to herself that she would return to the Academy to teach French, and that is exactly what she did.

After attaining her A Levels in English Literature, French and German, she read both languages at the University of Birmingham, where she received honours.

During her time at Birmingham, she travelled extensively, studying at the Universities of Strasbourg, Trier and Magdeburg and touring around Australia and the Far East.

She was Vice-President of the German Society, giving her a number of opportunities to organise social and educational events, and had lead roles in the German Society’s annual plays.

In her PGCE year in 1992, an advertisement came up for a French Teacher in the Belfast Telegraph for Belfast Royal Academy. In her cover letter to Bill Sillery, her dry yet professional sense of humour was evident when she wrote:

‘I have also completed two periods of Teaching Practice at ‘Model School for Girls’ and ‘RBAI’



and have found both to be rewarding and extremely enjoyable- if also hard work!’

Naturally, she got stuck into her post, preparing students for the Literature element of the Oxbridge entrance examinations, as well as organising a number of trips and having responsibilities in Swimming and Girls’ Games. During this time, she completed a Masters in French.

When she passed her probationary year, John Cameron noted how Rose was ‘thoroughly positive in everything she undertakes. She is both firm and fair with her pupils, yet shows a good sense of humour which they enjoy.’ Words which could be said to this day.

It was Charlemagne who said that- “To have another language is to possess a second soul.” In the Modern and Classical Languages Department in Belfast Royal Academy, there is no doubt that all members of staff have inherited traits from the country whose language they have studied.

Whilst the French teachers are deep thinkers, the Spanish teachers are completely raucous, the German teachers super organised.

Rose’s decluttering skills would put Mrs Hinch and Marie Kondo to shame. If dust can lie on it, it shouldn’t be there. Furthermore, Rose’s knowledge of specifications, assessments and anything to do with the Raising Standards and Achievement calendar is second to none.

As a Subject Leader, she has given her students every opportunity to excel in the German Language, from links with the Goethe Institute, debating at Queen’s University to Spelling Bee Competitions with NICILT. Despite reduced teaching hours and composite classes for AS and A2 students, she has produced not only excellent results but has prepared students for a variety of Universities, including Cambridge and Trinity.

Although Rose is reliable, organised and meticulous, her sense of collegiality is exceptional. If you need to know how many days are left in the term, Rose can tell you; even if you walked into

J10 on the first Staff Day in August, she could tell you how many sleeps there are until Halloween. Her pragmatic approach to work reminds us that we are in a profession which is challenging and it is imperative that we support one another through said challenges.

There is no doubt that as a staff we have faced grief. However, the support of the BRA family has and continues to support us. Rose’s way of supporting colleagues is through her little emails, a check-in to remind them that they are being thought of.

Although Rose sees this as a small act, she is completely unaware of how grateful we are to receive those emails, and this act is what we will miss the most.

Wohlan denn, Herz, nimm Abschied und gesunde!
Courage my heart, take leave and fare thee well.
“Stufen” by Herman Hesse

K.L.W.



JANE MCGOWAN

Upon completion of her A Levels in Latin, Greek and French, Jane read Classics at St. Hugh’s College in Oxford. It should be noted that her academic life did not end there; she read Spanish and French in Queen’s University and there, she also completed a Masters in Classics. In between this time, she married her husband Paul and became a mother.



Jane's passion for language led her to complete her PGCE. Before coming to Belfast Royal Academy, Jane was a proactive member of the Classics Department in Methody; Methody's loss and our gain.

Jane is an amazing multi-tasker: apart from teaching all of her classes with inspiration, creativity and thoughtfulness, she runs the Classics Society, teaches Classical Greek at lunchtimes and also organises an excellent trip in June each year, for the junior forms, to Hadrian's Wall.

As many of you know, school trips are not easy; too much sugar is consumed, there's complaints of lack of sleep- and that's just the teachers!

Regardless of the madness, there is no doubt that Jane is passionate about the Classics and reminding students of the importance of them in the 21st century. Although to some, Latin is a dead language, I promise to you, Jane, that Latin will remain alive in Belfast Royal Academy.

In Ancient Rome, once freed a Gladiator would become a rudiarius and would be given a rudis, which was a wooden sword that would symbolise their freedom. Jane- there is no doubt that you have been like a Gladiator in Belfast Royal Academy, an entertainer of audiences five times a day and a mercenary in the promotion of the Classics.
Per vias sapientiae.

K.L.W.



JOHN MCCOMBE

Dr John McCombe joined Belfast Royal Academy in 2006 as a temporary member of the History Department, and joined the permanent teaching staff in 2007. He was appointed by Mr Billy Young and worked under Michael McCoy until his retirement in 2010, when John became Head of the History Department.

A former pupil of Ballyclare High School, John completed his first degree, a Single Honours in Modern History, at Queen's University Belfast. He went on to complete his PGCE in History at the University of Ulster at Coleraine, where he did teaching practices at Ballyclare High School and Glengormley High School. He remained at this institution to complete his doctorate under the supervision of Prof. Alan Smith and Dr Alan McCully, where he looked at 'The introduction of Local and Global Citizenship Education into the Northern Ireland Curriculum: the views of History teachers.'

John displayed an impressive and erudite knowledge of a wide range of different historical periods. He constantly engaged his classes with his passion for the subject and his ability to present detailed information in a very clear and interesting manner. Pupils were always enthused by his ability to convey difficult historical and political concepts in a way which could be easily understood, using his wit, analogy, diagrammatical illustrations, and humour. Often his cricket bat would be used as a signal in lessons for the commencing and ending of discussions, as well as a stand for his trademark mug of tea, and even as a device for opening the



skylight windows in C4!

John read voraciously and added to his historical knowledge by watching and taping a plethora of historical documentaries, which were carefully catalogued and used in class as part of what he called “televisual learning.” He loved to visit historical sites when on holiday, and it came as no surprise to hear that his marriage proposal to the former Miss Carson occurred at Carrickfergus Castle!

While his interests span many different periods, he particularly enjoyed teaching A Level courses on the controversial reasons for the “Outbreak of World War Two,” “Mussolini’s Italy,” and “The First World War.” Many pupils over the years will have both benefited from and enjoyed John’s sharp analytical assessments of these historical modules and will have had their minds expanded and challenged to think reflectively and deeply about key events in world history. Few teachers possess the natural articulate flair and sophisticated communication skills which John demonstrated.

A keen sportsman, John fully embraced the extra-curricular activities offered by the Academy. Outside of school, he was a member of Templepatrick Cricket Club where he played for their 2nd XI team as the opening batsman and he used his experience and expertise to coach the 1st XI cricket team from 2006 until 2010. Those pupils taught in C4 were well accustomed to cricket paraphernalia dotted around the room.

Along with cricket, he also coached the Medallion B rugby team for the first four years of his time in BRA and was a keen and somewhat competitive participant in the weekly staff five-a-side football matches. He was an enthusiastic member of the Boys’ choir and looked forward to performing at Christmas and at the Spring Concert and really enjoyed this aspect of school. Faith is central to John’s life. Anyone who knows John well will testify to the strong personal relationship he has with Christ. In work his daily devotions, attendance of the weekly prayer meeting and his longstanding involvement in the Scripture Union were all important parts of his witness. He led Senior Scripture Union ably and enjoyed a

special relationship with the committee members and pupils that leading an extra-curricular club affords. Over the years John has attended many SU weekends and I know this is an area of school life that he will really miss.

C.J.A.



GAVIN FORDE

Gavin Forde joined the Music Department in 2014. Mr Forde’s well thought-out lessons, detailed preparation and enthusiastic teaching style created a buzz in the classroom and the Department. Gavin also directed the Junior Traditional Group, Junior Choir and Orchestra and produced many arrangements for each group.

Gavin will be missed in the Department, but we wish him all the very best in his new teaching post in Rathmore Grammar School.

M.M.M.



CARON DEVLIN



Caron took over as Matron in October 2021 and quickly settled in. Her caring nature allied to her professional approach quickly made an impact on the school and especially the pupils.

Caron worked well with colleagues and made important contributions to school strategies which helped to ensure that pupil welfare was always prioritised.

Unfortunately, Caron decided that life as a school nurse was not what she wanted in the long term, and she decided to return to her former role in March 2022. Caron found this a difficult decision as she had developed strong relationships with the pupils. We wish her every success in the future.



CLAIRE REID

Claire joined the School in August 2019 and worked with Patricia and Amanda in the General Office. Claire quickly became confident in the role and dealt effectively with the many demands.

During the pandemic, Claire worked very hard to deal with the many unusual demands facing the School and she also stepped in to pick up additional tasks in Patricia's absence.

In February 2022, Claire left the school for a new opportunity and her bubbly personality and expertise will be missed. We wish her every success in the future.



ALISON FAULKNER

Alison joined the school in August 2019 where she worked as the Chemistry Technician. Alison was diligent in her work and did a very good job reviewing the chemicals held by the school.

As with all staff, Alison's stay at the Academy was heavily impacted by the pandemic e.g. practical work was cancelled for a considerable period of time.

After a period of absence, Alison decided to leave the School in April 2022. We wish her every success in the future.



TARA CORCORAN

Tara joined the school in August 2007 as the fulltime librarian. On return from maternity leave in 2012, Tara entered into a flexible working arrangement and reduced her hours. Since then, she has worked with Eileen McAtamney to ensure that



the library is a great place to visit in Belfast Royal Academy.

Tara was a fully qualified librarian and made every effort to keep up-to-date with developments in the field. She worked with the English Department and Eileen to make sure that the library was fully integrated into the delivery of the curriculum.

Tara was also a very sociable person and participated fully in school life, making many friends along the way. In September 2022, Tara applied for a post at another school nearer to home. She was successful and left the school in October. We wish her every success in the future.



HOLLY BLAIR

Holly joined the school in August 2014 as a classroom assistant in the Learning Support team and always had a familiar face around for support with her mum, Nuala, working as Matron.

Holly worked diligently over the seven and half years she was here to support the children she was assigned to and, like others in the learning support team, worked hard to support the children of keyworkers and vulnerable children through the lockdown.

Holly decided to pursue other opportunities in March 2022 and left the school in April.

Holly's cheery personality will be missed and we wish her every success in the future.



DANIEL GRAHAM

Daniel joined the school in October 2017 as a classroom assistant and worked here for the school years 2017-18 and 2018-19 before leaving to go and complete his PGCE. He then returned in August 2020 to work as a classroom assistant again. Daniel worked for a further two years in the school until deciding in June 2022 to leave and pursue his teaching career.

During his two stints at the Academy, Daniel was very professional and worked hard to support the children he was assigned to. We wish him every success in his teaching career.



MATT GILLEN

Matt joined the School in February 2021 as a classroom assistant and quickly developed into a very competent member of the Learning Support team. Matt worked with the school for a period of 16 months before deciding to leave to pursue



his PGCE. Matt's friendly, easy-going demeanour made him a valued colleague and we wish him every success in the future.



CRUITHINE HYNDS

Cruithine joined the school in August 2021 as a classroom assistant and developed into a valued member of the Learning Support team. Cruithine worked with the school for a year before deciding to leave to pursue her PGCE. Cruithine was a pleasure to work with and we wish her well in the future.



LIZZIE RATCLIFFE

Lizzie joined the school in August 2021 as a classroom assistant and her considerable experience made her a great addition to the Learning Support team. Lizzie worked with the school for a year before deciding to join the EA. Lizzie brought a lot to the Academy and we wish her well in the future.



MEGAN MCGARRY

Megan joined the school in August 2021 as a classroom assistant and developed into a valued member of the Learning Support team. Megan had a very kind and considerate nature which worked well with the pupil she was assigned to.

Megan was also a keen musician. However, due to the Covid-19 restrictions, the school did not get a chance to make the most of her talents. Megan worked with the school for a year before deciding to pursue other opportunities. Megan was a pleasure to work with and we wish her well in the future.



JORIS MEUWESE

Joris joined the school in August 2021 as a classroom assistant, having found himself a long way from his native Netherlands. Joris had teaching experience which was very useful in his role within the Academy.



Joris worked with the school for a year before deciding to leave to pursue her other opportunities. Joris was a pleasure to work with and we wish him well in the future.



BROOKLYN JAMISON

Brooklyn joined the school in August 2021 as a classroom assistant and developed into a valued member of the Learning Support team. Brooklyn was a former pupil of the Academy and her familiarity with the school and the staff was invaluable.

Brooklyn worked with the school for a year before deciding to leave to pursue her PGCE but managed to stay long enough to work with her mum, Kelly. Brooklyn was a pleasure to work with and we wish her well in the future.

S.B.





Obituaries



ANNE CAMPBELL

Anne Campbell's association with Belfast Royal Academy began when she was appointed to the Home Economics Department in 1970. In her 31 years as a member of staff, Head of Home Economics, House Mistress and Form Mistress she involved herself fully in the academic and extracurricular life of the school and its pupils.

As Head of Home Economics, she came to know a large number of pupils, especially in the junior school; she encouraged pupils to considerable success in inter-school competitions, while teaching cookery as a basic life skill to those in the Sixth Form. Her competence and expertise were recognised in the wider context by CCEA, where she was, for many years, examiner in her subject.

Outside the classroom, she was a loyal and valued member of the choir and gave support to all school activities, sport and drama, social and educational. Her links with Banbridge Academy (where she spent her school years) were strong. Her time at Garnerville College of Domestic Science laid the basis for her professional career, but her sense of duty and service took her first to Malawi, where she spent a year as a VSO volunteer.

When she retired in 2001, she remained in contact with many of her former colleagues and pupils, still sharing her friendship and good humour. Periods of ill-health did not deter her from travelling or from supporting Voluntary Service Overseas and other charities in her retirement.

Anne's death on 17th November 2021 was keenly felt by her family – her sister in Kilkeel and nephews and nieces around the world. The Belfast Royal Academy family also mourn her passing. Y.A.H.



HAZEL MACKINTOSH

The school community was saddened to hear of the death of Hazel Mackintosh in August. The following "Valete" appeared in The Owl at the time of her retirement.

Miss Mackintosh was educated at Kilkeel High School before moving to Queen's University, where she graduated with an Honours degree in Chemistry. After completing a Diploma in Education, also at Q.U.B., she was initially offered a three-month temporary contract at the Academy (to replace a teacher who had been offered a Ph.D.



place in Dublin) but, to use her words, “has been here ever since.”

Hazel’s ability and reputation as a Chemistry teacher were second to none. Her grasp of the subject was first rate and her ability to impart the subject to willing and not-so-willing pupils was also of the highest quality. There are many ex-pupils of the Academy who can testify to her thoroughness and dedication to the profession. It is now a little-known fact that in her early days at the Academy Hazel helped out with girls’ hockey and basketball. However, her main interest in extracurricular activities centred on the schools’ Air Training Corps. Miss Mackintosh’s name was practically synonymous with A.T.C. shooting. Her expertise as a coach with our school Corps and outside clubs was acclaimed far and wide. Ken Perrin’s far-sightedness in asking her to teach the A.T.C. how to shoot reaped rich rewards over the years. The Squadron’s standing rose to become one of the top four A.T.C. shooting squadrons in the U.K. Several of her pupils went on the Athelings Team to Canada and she was twice coach to the team.

Hazel’s own shooting ability should not be overlooked. In 1982, she became the first woman ever to shoot full bore matches at the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane. With teammate David Calvert, she won a bronze medal in the pairs match.

Outside school Miss Mackintosh was closely associated with things military. For a number of years, she was a member of the T.A. before transferring to the Army Cadet Force. She was later appointed by the National Rifle Association as Regional Coach for Full Bore Target Rifle Shooting for Northern Ireland. Her dedication to the Cadet movement was recognised in 2002 when she was awarded the M.B.E.

In school, Miss Mackintosh also had a major input into the Careers’ Department for almost twenty years. Her considered advice and guidance was much appreciated by many pupils during this time. To those who knew her well, it did not come as a tremendous shock when she announced that she was retiring from teaching in 1997. Fortunately,

her services were not lost to the Chemistry Department. She continued to serve the school as a Chemistry Technician – a role she continued in until 2006. After finally retiring, she maintained a keen interest in Academy news. May she know eternal peace.

L.C.



MR S.D. CONNOLLY

The school community was saddened to hear of the death of Stephen Connolly while on holiday in Switzerland in July. A member of staff at the Academy from 1975-2001, the following “Valete” appeared in The Owl at the time of his departure from the school.

Mr Connolly was a member of staff at the Academy for twenty-six years. He is an Old Boy of Foyle College, Londonderry, where his father, Stewart Connolly, was Headmaster. He attended Foyle from 1963 till 1970 and was deeply involved in school life: as a member of the School Drama Society, he took a role every year in the school play; he held the rank of sergeant in the platoon of the Army Cadet Force, he was Secretary of the Prefects’ Council and a member of the Debating Society, representing the school on numerous inter-schools debates and reaching the final of the Queen’s University Schools’ Debating Competition in 1970.

The energy and versatility that were to characterise his professional life were already in evidence.



From Foyle, he went to Trinity College, Dublin where he had an impressive academic career, achieving an honours degree in Modern Languages (English and French) in 1974. Alongside his academic commitment, he took full advantage of university life, as an office bearer in the Theological Society, and a member of the Modern Language Society, of the Dublin University Players and of the Historical and Philosophical Societies. In the Theological Society he won the Silver Medal for Oratory in 1972/3 and the Silver Medal for Composition in 1973/4. Before coming to the Academy, he studied for his Post-Graduate Certificate of Education at Durham University.

In 1985 a telegram arrived at school from Durham, "Headmaster, can come interview, S.D. Connolly." Many have come for interview to the Academy over the years, but Mr Connolly's transport must be the most unusual ever – a milk float. Because of an airport strike, he was unable to attend for interview at the original time and had to make quick progress across England to Liverpool, to catch the boat for an early Saturday morning appointment. The streets were virtually deserted. He asked in a corner shop near the city centre for directions to the Academy and was offered a lift by a milk man on his round. In March 1975, he was appointed to the staff by Mr Lord to teach English and so began a career of distinction, which would lead him through significant posts in the school (Form Master from 1977; Head of English 1986; Senior Master 1991) to an H.M.C. Headmastership at Bangor Grammar School.

In the classroom he was a first-rate practitioner, an exciting and challenging teacher, who inspired pupils of all ages and won the respect and admiration of his colleagues. Brisk, thorough, conscientious, he was creative and open-minded; he was a firm disciplinarian and yet had the capacity to give his pupils a sense of freedom to explore and to challenge. He was passionate about the central place of English in the curriculum because of its development of the imagination and its encouragement of humane values and he always counted it a privilege to have been able to "talk about books."

When he became Head of English, he gave his

Department leadership of the first rank. He relished his new responsibilities and carried them out efficiently and without fuss. He was also on the Library Committee and welcomed the extension of the Library's influence across the curriculum, as a result of the successive work of George McConnell, Kaye McQuillan and Valerie Watkins. A sympathetic listener in his dealings with parents and with colleagues, he was sensitive, tactful and thoroughly professional. In speech and on paper, he is a fluent, stylish and persuasive communicator.

As Senior Teacher, he had wide and varied responsibilities. He was mentor for student teachers and he oversaw the process of Early Professional Development; he promoted study skills throughout the school and he had responsibility for liaison with primary schools and with the media. He readily accepted the new role as Head of the Middle School and organised a highly effective revision programme for Form 5. His appetite for work and his skills of organisation may also be discerned in his central role in the workings of the Curriculum Committee, of the I.C.T. Core Team, of the Open Evening Committee and of the Arts Award Committee. His opinion carried weight and his influence in school was extensive. He has moral courage and sound judgement and can present his views both with firmness and with good humour.

He was always ready to help out and to undertake his share of the onerous and repetitive tasks. His gifts have also been recognised outside school. In 1991 he was appointed by Lord Belstead, then Minister of State with responsibility for education in the Northern Ireland Office to chair a Ministerial Working Party, to make proposals for the inclusion of Drama in the Northern Ireland Curriculum. This group comprised teachers from all sectors (primary, secondary and further education), professional arts administrators and practitioners from the Belfast Festival, the Arts Council and Theatre-in-Education. He has also been actively involved in drama outside school and he has in addition a strong commitment to his church at both parochial and diocesan level (he is a Commissioned [Diocesan] Lay Reader in the Church of Ireland Diocese of Down and Dromore).

If this gives some sense of a busy life, there



remains that central core – the working Schoolmaster. While academic excellence and its pursuit are important to Mr Connolly, he estimates highly education in the round and seeks to create opportunities for young people to develop their gifts outside the classroom and to gain experiences and confidence from extra-curricular life.

He produced the Senior School Play for 25 years; his credits include musicals such as “West Side Story” and “Oh! What a Lovely War”, vehicles for ideas like Brecht’s “The Caucasian Chalk Circle” and Shaw’s “Saint Joan” and comedies such as Stoppard’s “On the Razzle” and Hecht and MacArthur’s “The Front Page.” He faithfully coached junior cricket teams from 1976 till 2000, playing down his own expertise and giving invaluable service to the club year in year out. At times too he was in charge of Junior Drama, the Junior Debating Society, the School Railway Society, a number of quiz teams and the Roller-Blading Club (here his leadership was only in a supervisory capacity). He believed in the benefits of shared enthusiasm between teacher and taught; he never (visibly) grew tired, never gave up and retained his good humour and spirits. His influence over a large number of pupils will be lasting and his contribution to our corporate life was immense.

Fair-minded, loyal, he has extensive physical and mental stamina, a commanding presence and rich personal qualities. He expects and achieves high personal and professional standards from those around him. Down-to-earth and imbued with sound common sense, he has always been impatient with ideas which are vague or impractical and he has a clear vision of the intellectual, social, physical and spiritual needs of young people.

He has always been seen to have the qualities of mind and of character to become a Headmaster and news of his appointment at Bangor Grammar School was received with much approbation and pleasure; his presence in this school as a leader, schoolmaster and colleague will be greatly missed. Our good wishes go with him as he takes up his new responsibilities, and we are confident that he will discharge them with typical vigour and style.

W.S.F.Y.



RUARI MCALEESE

Ruari McAleese was an outstanding debater, and one of the best in recent school history. Not only did he participate in internal school debates, he represented the school in the Northern Ireland Schools’ Debating Competition, which he won in the Senate Chamber at Stormont.



He was a highly engaging speaker, formidable in composing arguments and very talented in presenting stunningly incisive points of information, which could silence his opponents. Clearly the talents which would take him into a memorable legal career where nurtured and showcased in his membership of the debating society within school.

H.T.



RUTH FREEMAN

Ruth Freeman was a researcher, author and teacher in dental public health, with much of her work focusing on helping those who were unable to access necessary dental care. Ruth was born in Glasgow and spent her early years at Demonstration School in Dundee, before attending Belfast Royal Academy. She went on to complete her Dental training at Queen's University, Belfast, qualifying in 1974. It was here where she became the first female professor of the dental school in 2000. The school community was saddened to hear of the passing of such a distinguished former pupil and would like to extend our sincere condolences to Ruth's loved ones. H.E.W. (adapted from an article by Gerald Humphris)





Distribution of Prizes

The Annual Distribution of Prizes took place this year on Friday 21st October at The Spire's Centre. The Warden, Dr. K.M. Bill, commended staff, pupils and parents on their continued resilience in the 'post-COVID' era. Mrs H. Woods introduced the Guest of Honour, Yolanda Cooper, to the prize-giving ceremony.

In her speech, Yolanda Cooper offered advice to the prize-winners on what it takes to be successful in life. She reinforced the importance of 'not being afraid of hard work,' recognising that this indeed was in line with Belfast Royal Academy's values.

The Guest of Honour went on to highlight the significance of approaching life with an open mind, stating that, with this attitude, 'you think bigger, broader and with no boundaries.'

In closing, Ms Cooper presented to the audience what she believes to be the key to success: mindset. She concluded her speech by advising pupils that they should always adopt an 'I can do it' attitude.

The Senior Orchestra gave a skilled performance of 'Marche au Supplice' by H. Berlioz, while the Chamber Choir gave a gripping rendition of Mozart's 'Ave Verum Corpus.'

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

THE PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

Good afternoon Warden, Professor Taylor, ladies and gentlemen, pupils, staff, Governors and our guest speaker, Yolanda Cooper.

We are delighted to welcome everyone to this splendid venue for our first 'proper' prize day since October 2019, as we reflect on the last academic year and recognise the achievements of our pupils.

One of the many privileges I have as Principal of this great school, is interacting with alumni, recognising the impact they have had and continue to have in a variety of fields and linking this to our school's values. Yolanda Cooper is an entrepreneur who has founded the beauty company 'We are Paradoxx.' The word 'paradox' refers to the brand being simultaneously chic and green. Yolanda recognised that there was a huge gap in haircare for a brand that ticks the boxes in terms of the high-quality products that consumers desire but also speaks to them in terms of being eco-conscious, vegan and cruelty free.

When I introduce a guest speaker, I always try to include some information about their time as a pupil in Belfast Royal Academy. Yolanda loved Business Studies and Art equally, although she confessed to me that she often used to absent herself from timetabled Business Studies class to continue with her work in Art.

Steve Jobs advised that entrepreneurs should not let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice and, most importantly, to have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. Yolanda – we know that you have followed your inner voice and demonstrated considerable courage in establishing your business and we are delighted to welcome you to our Prize Day this afternoon and look forward to hearing your address to the pupils. A warm welcome also to your parents who are here today.

As we continue to recover from and reflect upon the most challenging of situations in education that any of us has ever experienced, it was inevitable that a debate on what our education system should be like would get underway. The independent panel appointed in September 2021 to review the education system in Northern Ireland has just published its interim report. As acknowledged, further work is necessary



before recommendations can be made in the final report to be published by April 2023. Although scant on detail, the report references a survey that found in the eyes of stakeholders, religious segregation in Northern Ireland is the biggest weakness with the current system. We await with interest the recommendations in the final report about what a 'single education system' would mean for the country and how it might be implemented. It is clear that there are a number of significant challenges facing our schools, not least upwardly spiralling energy costs but also the underperformance of vulnerable pupils, increasing mental health issues impacting on young people and the vacuum created by the lack of a functioning executive. There are certainly plenty of issues to be debated.

However, our focus today is to celebrate the achievements of the Class of 2022. I am unable to reference every single pupil achievement unless you, the audience, are prepared to sit here for about 4 hours! The full range of pupil achievements and events that took place in the last academic year can be viewed in The Owl magazine and on social media – my report is simply a snapshot of the activity within the Academy.

In March 2020, we did not know what was coming and for the next 2 years adapted to school closures, online teaching, staff and pupil absence due to Covid-19, cancellation of school examinations, resulting in the huge pressure on teachers to determine grades and the mitigations that had to be put in place to reduce the spread of the infection. And so it is fair to say that the Class of '22 – pupils who completed GCSEs, AS and A levels – are perhaps the most resilient, the most deserving because of what they have achieved.

Today, we also celebrate you - parents and staff - for your determination and your care and your belief in our pupils. This afternoon I would like to acknowledge the extraordinary lengths that Belfast Royal Academy staff took to help our pupils, never giving up and embracing the uncertainty. They made a difference to our pupils by improving life chances and pupil outcomes and in 2023 we will make a difference again. I would like to pay tribute to the Warden, Dr Moyna

Bill, for her guidance through these uncharted pandemic waters in which her medical expertise proved to be invaluable and our fantastic Board of Governors who put in so many unheralded, unpaid and largely unrecognised hours on behalf of the pupils. I would like to acknowledge the work of the Head of Finance and Corporate Services, Mr Simon Burrows, the Estates Manager, Mrs Jill Lambert and all of the support staff who work so hard for the benefit of pupils and staff. I would like to thank the Senior Leadership Team for their professionalism, hard work, their willingness to embrace the challenges of school improvement and to meet the needs of our pupils. Last year's Vice Principals – Mr Martin Wilson, Ms Wynn Graham and Dr Andy Bell – provided a calm approach, focused leadership and courage to guide the School through the most challenging of times.

The Preparatory Department has been an integral and important part of the Academy since 1829 and has undergone a number of changes in title and location since this time. Looking forward to a new and exciting chapter, we are delighted to have secured the appointment of Mrs Rebekah Dallas as the new Ben Madigan principal. Mrs Dallas is currently Deputy Head in Casterton Sedbergh Preparatory School and we look forward to welcoming her in January and to seeing her leadership in action as she continues the school improvement journey. In June, we bade farewell to a number of long-serving colleagues who took their leave of the Academy to begin a new chapter in their lives. Mr Martin Wilson, Pastoral Vice Principal, has been appointed as Principal of Antrim Grammar School. Those of us who worked closely with Mr Wilson will acknowledge that he is an exceptional teacher and leader and I know that the quality of his relationship with his pupils has deeply affected their lives and choices in a positive way. We wish him much success and happiness in his new role.

Miss Rose McCay took her farewell from the school she attended after 30 years' teaching in the Modern Languages Department where she made a significant contribution to pupils' education. Miss McCay has been a superb teacher, with an eye for detail and, dare I say it, a Germanic approach to efficiency and to get things done but always with



a smile. We know the deep respect in which she is held by pupils and staff and therefore the extent to which she will be missed. We wish her well in retirement.

Mrs Jane McGowan has inspired so many pupils through her infectious enthusiasm of Classics from the Form I escapades on the Hadrian's Wall trip, to tutoring Sixth Form pupils to ensure success in Oxbridge applications. Her vast experience of teaching pupils in Latin and Greek will be missed but her legacy lives on as we are proud to continue to offer Latin as a subject to A level as it was when it was part of the curriculum at the school's foundation in 1785. We will also miss the sight of Mrs McGowan calmly cycling her way through the chaos of the Cliftonville Road traffic on her push bike, defying the health and safety advice to wear a helmet like a serene Mary Poppins.

Dr John McCombe has taken up a role of Senior Lecturer in Stranmillis University College and we hope that the students in a different phase of their career benefit as much from Dr McCombe's subject specialism, expertise and support as Belfast Royal Academy pupils have over the years. We wish him every success for the future.

Mr Gavin Forde has swapped the Music Department at BRA for the Music Department at Rathmore Grammar School and we hope that he will be very happy in this new and exciting role.

It is also appropriate at this time to pay tribute to two former Academy teachers, Mr Stephen Connolly and Miss Hazel Mackintosh who died this summer. Both of these individuals lived life to the full, one day at a time, and also in service to others and in, particular, the pupils they taught. The comments left by former pupils on the School's Facebook page in tribute and in farewell to their teachers and mentors are a reflection of profound relationship and affection. We thank both Mr Connolly and Miss Mackintosh for the significant role they played in contributing to the school's ethos and values over many years.

The arts are instrumental to academic achievement and personal development and we are so fortunate to have excellent Music, Art and Drama

departments in school who offer participation in the creative arts to our pupils. Opportunities for performances were limited last year as we were unable to host our normal full programme of musical and staged events. However, pupils did perform at Prize Day and the Carol Service last year, albeit in a socially distanced manner. The very last school event before the pandemic took hold in March 2020 was the Spring Concert and therefore it was fitting that the return to normality was heralded by a fantastic performance by all of our musicians for the Spring Concert in the familiar surroundings of the Ulster Hall in March 2022. We are really looking forward to the return of all of our productions this year, including our 'School of Rock' musical that will be staged next month.

Five pupils gained a place in the Ulster Youth Orchestra: Hugo Reilly-Stewart (Form V), Connor Gillam (LVI), Theo Hayward (LVI), Rory Nethercott (LVI) and Jamie Wilson (Form IV). These places are highly prized and gained only by audition against the stiffest of competition province wide. The pupils participated in a summer residential course in August 2022 and performed in two concerts in Belfast and Derry, and we are extremely proud that we have helped nurture these elite musicians.

Art, Drama and Music are as important as sport in our school, and they command the same team-building skills and adrenaline-making confidence boost. Today is an opportunity for us to showcase some of the amazing talent that we have in school and to reiterate the value that we place on the creative subjects that so enrich our curricular and extracurricular provision.

Thanks to the dedication of teaching staff and coaches and the involvement of parents, we are able to field a huge number of teams across a wide variety of sports: hockey, netball, rugby, football, cricket, swimming, show jumping, water polo and athletics. We are also extremely proud of our pupils who have attained representative honours for their sport.



Girls' Hockey

In March, the 2A XI hockey team won the McDowell Shield by beating Strathearn School. Zoe Place, Alex Snoddy and Rachel Beattie were selected for the Ulster Hockey U16 Development squad;

Abbie Braniff was selected for the Ulster U18 development squad.

Olivia Beattie and Emma Uprichard were selected to the Ireland U18 squad.

All netball teams played in the District League Competition, with the Minor B, Junior B and Junior A teams reaching the Northern Ireland League Finals Day. The Minor B and Junior A won their sections, with the Junior B team finishing runners up. This was fantastic success for BRA netball and well deserved for all of the dedicated players and coaching staff involved.

Representative Honours

U13 Regional Development Squad-

Emilia Gordon, Jessica Smyth, Keri Gray.

U15 Regional Development Squad – Jane Martin, Ruby Hanna, Lucy Smyth, Beth Strong, Wiktorja Januszevska, Aditi Saneesh Krishna.

U17 Northern Ireland Long Squad- Erin Gray.

U17 Northern Ireland Development Squad- Anna Falls, Ciara Murray.

U21 Northern Ireland Long Squad- Catelyn Burns, Siobhan Baine, Nada Hawela.

Rugby

The Senior 7s rugby team won the Ulster Schools' Senior 7s competition.

A number of players were selected to be part of the Ulster Rugby age grade programmes last summer: -

Ulster U16

Oliver Cox
Conor McVicker
Adam Hewitt

Ulster U17

Aaron Caldwell
Joshua McLaughlin
Ulster U18 Clubs
Oliver Smyth
Josh Manson
Frank Davis

Ulster U18 Schools

Oliver Scott

26 Academy pupils participated in the Swim Ulster Schools' Cup and Championships at the beginning of February.

The Junior Boys' team won the overall cup for their age group.

The Senior Boys' team won the gold medal in the 4 x 50m medley relay.

The Senior Girls' team won bronze medal in the 4 x 50 m freestyle relay.

Special congratulations to Bryn Mawhinney (Form III) who was selected to compete for the Ulster team at the Irish Schools Interprovincial gala along with Moss Scott (Form I) and Jan Boersma (Form I) who were selected for the Swim Ulster Regional Skills Squad. Congratulations also to Ellen Loane (LVI) who represented the Irish Water polo team in the Senior European Cup Qualifiers in Romania.

In Cricket, we extend congratulations to Fiona Murray and Ciara Murray who continued their training with the NCU U17 Girls' Regional Development Squad during the season.

David Kane was selected for Cricket Ireland U17.



Pupils also excel in their individual sports and you can see a selection of these on screen now.

Chester Enriquez (Form II) who was awarded first place in the vault in the British Championships in March, Chloe Craig (Form III) who reached 3rd place in the Irish Sailing Championships last August, Evan Tosh (Form I) who won the Ulster U13 cross-country championships in November,

Sean Chen (Form III) who was selected to represent Northern Ireland at the Commonwealth Fencing Championships 2022 in August, Abbie O'Neill (MVI) who finished in 2nd place in the Senior Girls' pole vault in the all-Ireland championships in June.

We know what it takes for our pupils to achieve highly in sport – many hours of practice and sacrifice in order to build their skills. For our pupils, and parents/guardians who ferry them to practices and matches, to juggle their sporting commitment alongside their academic work, is a testament to their dedication.

We teach pupils before we teach subjects. We teach them to have educated hearts as well as educated minds and the importance of contributing time and money in service to others is central to our ethos. The generosity of the BRA community in donating to the Christmas toy appeal never ceases to amaze as we know the gifts will provide much needed joy at Christmas time for families living in poverty. Money donated through the non-uniform day supports the charities chosen by the pupils within their houses: Action Cancer, Macmillan Cancer and Jigsaw Counselling. We also commend the fantastic efforts of Form IV pupil, Mia Gibson who continues to raise significant sums of money for the Allen Children's Ward in the Royal Hospital and in so doing, models the conscience and compassion towards others that is the core of having a mind to be kind. In June, our Forms I-IV pupils had a wonderful day at our Sponsored Walk and inaugural Colour Run, with 800 pupils tackling the 5-mile Cave Hill walk. The weather was glorious, and pupils and staff had so much fun whilst also raising over £4000 in aid of three very worthwhile local causes.

The majority of our fundraising is co-ordinated via the House System and we are fortunate to have such a vibrant house system in school which provides opportunities for giving back to our local community as well as competing (in friendly and not so friendly ways) in sporting events and novelty events such as Lego making, pumpkin carving and bake off. We are indebted to Mr Dorman for his leadership of this very important aspect of school life, alongside the house staff and the House Captains who successfully create smaller communities within our large school community and help our pupils forge an allegiance to their house that they will cherish for a very long time. Some of our parents did cry when Currie won the Evans Trophy for the third time this year and they were not all tears of joy.....

During the past academic year, pupils were able to access a number of enrichment activities which underpin the high-quality education we aspire to provide in the Academy. These activities including the Oxplore Book Club run by Oxford University, Art Club where pupils can extend their creative skills using a variety of media and Technology run STEM events to help pupils explore careers. Pupils had the opportunity to compete against other pupils at the highest level within both Ireland and the UK in a variety of disciplines including the Linguistics Olympiad, Junior and Senior Mathematical Challenges, Biology, Chemistry and Physics Olympiads and poetry and creative writing competitions. These events are made possible because our staff are committed to providing a truly academic education which is about growing young minds to search for answers, to seek new solutions and which are curious beyond the confines of the curriculum or the examination board specification. Thank you to my colleagues for preparing our pupils to seek out these distant horizons.

Although this year was the most difficult year in terms of disruption, we posted record breaking results at GCSE, AS and A level in August 2022. At A-level, 92% of pupils gained 3 or more A* - C with an amazing 71 pupils achieving 3 or more A*/A grades. 4 pupils gained 5 A levels and 7 pupils attained 4 A*.



At AS level, 84% of pupils gained 3 or more A-C grades, 55 pupils gained 3 or more A grade and 17 pupils gained 4 A grades.

At GCSE, 96% of pupils gained 7 or more GCSEs grades A* - C, 52 pupils attained at least 9 A grades. Within this group, 5 pupils attained 10 A* grades, 4 pupils attained 9 A* and 1 A grade.

Congratulations to all of our pupils and staff on these excellent set of results and thank you to parents for supporting our pupils so well to ensure this level of success.

Our school community extends beyond the confines of our buildings and we rely heavily on the goodwill and support of Friends of the Academy, the Old Boys' Association and the Old Girls' Association. In the last year, the OGA provided money to enable us to purchase a class set of Chromebooks for the English Department, FOTA funded the awards and trips that underpin our successful merit scheme and also pay for the installation and maintenance of the various water dispensers situated around school and the OBA has commissioned a WWII memorial that will be installed in the Crombie Building entrance hall. We were delighted to host a number of alumni reunion lunches throughout the summer term and hope that these will become an annual event to allow former pupils the opportunity to reconnect with each other, with former teachers and with the school. We launched the 1785 Foundation last November and are pleased to see it continue to grow. The monies raised have been used to purchase PE kit and provide free cereal bars and fruit for those who are most in need within our school community.

I would like to thank last year's Head Boy and Head Girl – Finn Wallace and Eva McGoldrick-Mathers and Deputies, Christina Warnock and Ellie Reid, Adrib Ahmed and Ben Golden. The 21 – 22 year presented them with unique challenges and some very testing events and they demonstrated strong leadership whilst keeping a balance with their academic studies and contribution to the extra-curricular life of school, marketing the school, facilitating tours and keeping the M6 group together. A huge thank you to them and the prefects for their perseverance and resilience.

For MVI Leavers, this is a watershed moment as you step out into the adult world. Always remember the privilege you have had in terms of your education and experience. You have been given an opportunity to be leaders so sharpen your skills and go on to lead in all the various disciplines that you will be studying and vocations and professions that you will be entering. Remember that your life is about opportunities and chances. Never leave anything to chance and never let an opportunity slip away that you will always regret.

I hope you feel affection for your school and teachers, that you have learned to be honest and kind people in a way which prepares you for your future and enables you to step confidently into that exciting and unknown world.

May you travel safely and in following the example of Mr Connolly and Miss Mackintosh, have a full life, lived one day at a time and lived for others.

Warden, this concludes my report for the 2021 – 22 academic year.



2022 PRIZE LIST

Form I

Adair, James G	McCall, Olivia R
Adams, Molly J	McCullough, Michael R P
Allen, Marco G	McCune, Isabelle K
Campbell, Elsa J	McFarlane, Amy E
Chojnacka, Zuzanna	McLaughlin, Ben R
Cleland, Adam	McLean, Harry R C
Crawford, Layla R	Millin, Nathan C J
Cunningham, Niamh	Mulholland, Melissa R
Dann, Conall J A	O’Kane, Ella H
Eneh, Lois C	Pogue, Ryan M
Forsythe-Horan, Ben T	Scott, H. Moss C
Graham, Kady J	Simpson, Isabella M
Ingram, Charlotte R A	Smyth, Jessica E
Johnston, Holly J	Williamson, Harry L T
Mallon, Harry J	Wilson, Jenna M

HONOURABLE MENTION

Adams, Mylie	Manley, Amelia E
Baird, Hannah G B	McVicker, Inis
Brooks, Jasper J	Mogey, Charlie J
Crainey, Jake P	Murphy, Jared
Hipkins, Hollie A	Strong, Max A
Johnston, Rachael E	Wilson, Faye J

Form II

Adam, Ella J	McAuley, Keon S
Bryan, Finn K	McCarthy, Roisin M
Crowe, Elizabeth G	McKeown, Rebecca L
Curley, Bethany R	McVeigh, Lucy E
Dalzell-McGhee, Rebekah A	McVeigh, Sophie R
Derezinski, Antoni	Murphy, Eleanor E
Duffy, Zara A	O’Kane, Aoife T
Keenan, Rose	O’Reilly, Kacie E
Lane, Timothy J A	Press, Hannah R
Laverty, Ciaran M B	Raghuram, Keshav
Lewis, Evie R	Rossal, Nadia E
Lockhart, Sam J R	Simpson, Zach M
Maitland, Daniel J	Stevenson, Lucy G
Manson, Eve L	Suresh, Arjun
Marron, Charlotte E	Walsh, Ethan J



HONOURABLE MENTION

Aidaroos, Shimous	Knott, Aaron A
Boersma, Jan C J	Kyle, Lucas M
Callaghan, Leah	Leavey, Reuben R
Clarke, Rosa J	McNevison, Leah G
Downey, Ella Sofia	O'Brien, Erin S
Foley, Ethan A	Tate, Eimear I A

Form III

Akmad, Aliyah N	McCurley, Toby J
Blayney, Lydia L	McKeown, Eve G H
Cahill, Grace E	McLaughlin, Jacob R
Campbell, Maya M	Moreland, Lily V
Chen, Sean	Morrison, James R
Coulter, Jake C	O'Hanlon, Patrick J
Craig, Chloe A	Scott, Ines A J
Daniels, Hope C E	Seymour, Mya J
Donaldson, Rosa J	Shute, Imogen
Gray, Erin S	Smyth, Lucy K
Januszevska, Wiktoria	Staworzynski, Olivier P
Johnston, Samuel	Strong, Beth S
Kearney, Clodagh	Taylor, Finn L
Kirkpatrick, Rebecca C	Torrens, Ethan E
Kulig, Oliver	Wallace, Malachy P

HONOURABLE MENTION

Baird, Finlay J	Laughlin, Maya
Clements, Ruby I	Mawhinney, Bryn A
Gibson, Joshua G S	McGrath, Ben
Gilmore, Madison M	McQueen, Alex N
Jones, Ema	Moan, Odhran J
Kell, Tammie Jayne	Teague, Sarah

DEPARTMENTAL PRIZES

Agnew, Robyn E	Geography
Anderson, Rachael A	English Language, German
Blaskett, Niall I	English Language, English Literature,
	French, History, Latin, Music, Physics
Bosket, Anouk	Physical Education
Campbell, Emma G	Physical Education
Chambers, Lucy H	English Language, English Literature



Clarke, Billie A
Cox, Oliver H J
Finnegan, Eva E M
Gallagher, Eamonn G
Gastar, Kian F
Geddis, Katie C
Gibson, Gabrielle
Graham, Melissa
Horkan, Katie E
Hui, Moses
Kerr, Ethan B
Kilpatrick, Ella E
Lane, Jessica S
Mallon, Amber C
McCall, Jenna R
McCarney, Katie E

McKenna, Tom A

Science
Economics
Chemistry, English Literature, Physics, Technology
Digital Technology
Music
Art and Design, History
Business Studies
Religious Studies
German
Digital Technology, Mathematics
Business Studies
Drama
Biology, Chemistry
Art and Design
Biology
Biology, Chemistry, English Language,
History, Mathematics, Religious Studies
Economics

Form IV

McWilliams, Anna J
Mills, Kristopher T
Nemeth, Benjamin
O'Dowd, Anna

Pandiaraj, Madhumitha
Piddington, Zoe
Reid, Max
Riddell, Aoife M
Robinson, E Grace
Rossal, Nathan C

Saneesh Krishna, Aditi
Walsh, Clara E
Warnock, Emily S
Watters, Maria R
Whiteside, Matthew
Wilson, Jamie T
Yates, Charlie H

Art and Design, Geography
English Literature
Computer Science
Chemistry, Computer Science, Mathematics,
Physics, Spanish
Religious Studies
Food and Nutrition
Physical Education
Drama
Technology
Chemistry, Computer Science, English Literature,
German, Technology
French
English Language, Latin, Spanish
Geography
Music, Spanish
Business Studies
French, Latin
Drama

HONOURABLE MENTION

Form IV

Agnew, Robyn E
Anderson, Rachael A
Bacon, Jack J

Latin
Mathematics, Music
Geography



Barsalini, Oisin R	Computer Science, Spanish
Baxter, Mark A	Computer Science, Technology
Bell, Lorcan E J	Physical Education
Blayney, Daniel J	Physical Education
Bosket, Anouk	Food and Nutrition
Burton, Lilly M	Drama
Chambers, Lucy H	French, History, Religious Studies
Chesnel, Amandine A C	English Language, Latin
Curran, Anna C	Art and Design, German
Dabrowski, Jakub J	Technology
Davidson, Penny J	Drama
Falls, Anna E P	Science
Finnegan, Eva E M	Biology, Mathematics
Gallagher, Eamonn G	German
Gastar, Kian F	Mathematics, Spanish
Gibson, Gabrielle	Religious Studies
Gibson, Mia G J	Religious Studies
Gilchrist, Ciara E	Art and Design, Food and Nutrition
Gregg, Noah	Economics
Hackett, Rachel C	Business Studies
Lane, Jessica S	English Language, French, Music, Physics
Lizlovs, Sasha	English Literature
Lyons, Lucy B	Drama
Martin, Jane H	Music
McCarney, Katie E	French, Physics
McGuigan, Conor S	Economics
McKenna, Tom A	History
McKittrick, Max	Digital Technology
McLean, Sarah J	English Literature
McVicker, Luan	Business Studies
Milne, Georgia M	Food and Nutrition, Science
Mitchell, Eva	Digital Technology
Murphy, Aidan S	Business Studies
Nemeth, Benjamin	Technology
O'Dowd, Anna	English Literature
Pandiaraj, Madhumitha	Chemistry, German
Philip, Fiona	Biology
Purvis, Oscar	Geography
Rea-Lavery, Sofia L	Latin
Rossal, Nathan C	Physics
Saneesh Krishna, Aditi	History
Saunders, Sam J	Economics
Schilling, Clara E	English Language
Srikanth, Samvritha	Art and Design
Trimmings, Lucy R	Science
Webb, Jack W P	Geography
Welsh, Nathan J	Physical Education
Whiteside, Matthew	Spanish
Wilson, Jamie T	Biology



HONOURABLE MENTION

Form V

Adam, Beth M	General Excellence
Akmad, Aoife M	General Excellence
Allen, Matthew J	General Excellence
Barr, Katie	General Excellence
Bell, Ellie R	Food and Nutrition, Geography, Exceptional Performance
Boone, Charlotte L	General Excellence
Brogan, Sarah E	Spanish
Burns, Sophie E	Physical Education
Callaghan, Beth	Business Studies, Geography
Canning-Ward, Rosa E C	Science
Cleland, Andrew S	Economics
Connolly Mulcahy, Dara M	Economics
Convery, Hannah C	German
Crawford, Georgia M	Biology, Chemistry, Religious Studies, Spanish, Exceptional Performance
Dalzell, Tara A	Drama
Dillon-Wright, Haydn A	Geography, German
Doherty, Cormac	Further Mathematics, Physics
Donaldson, Daisie B	Religious Studies, Exceptional Performance
Eneh, Iruoma B	Computer Science
Evans, Hannah E J	General Excellence
Ferguson, Andrew J	General Excellence
Golden, Joseph L	Biology, English Literature, Mathematics, Physics, Technology
Gueye-Dorval, Carla-Lina	Art and Design, French
Haddock, Jackson	General Excellence
Hamilton, Molly K	General Excellence
Harvey, Emma A	History
Henderson, Rex A	General Excellence
Hill, Oscar T	Latin, Technology
Joseph, Alana	English Literature
Kelly, Shannen L	Art and Design, French
Kirk, Harrison S	Chemistry, Further Mathematics, Mathematics, Music, Exceptional Performance
Logan, Alice R	General Excellence
McCord, Leah C	Art and Design
McGrath, Lois R	Physical Education
McLaughlin, Matthew R E	Business Studies, History
McMahon, Cara	General Excellence
McNeilly, Thomas R	Digital Technology
Millard, Riona J	General Excellence
Mirfield, Jasmine K	Business Studies, Drama
Montgomery, Sasha	French
Moore, Tom S	Drama
Morrison, Natasha E	General Excellence



Morwood, Felix	English Language
Murray, Ciara R	Physical Education
Murugaperumal, Gopi G	Digital Technology
Nibu, Siona	Chemistry, English Language, German, Technology
Nicholson, Harry	English Language, English Literature, French, History, Latin, Exceptional Performance
Ogunleye, O. Debby W	General Excellence
O’Kane, Hannah J	General Excellence
O’Kane, Joe M	Computer Science, Mathematics, Music
Ogilby, Grace	Art and Design, English Language, Mathematics
Pearce, Oliver P D	English Language, English Literature, Further Mathematics, Latin, Mathematics, Physics, Religious Studies, Exceptional Performance
Rankin, Matthew A	Music
Robinson, Ciara A	General Excellence
Sittlington, Mia	English Literature
Smith, Casey J	Food and Nutrition, Spanish
Stewart, Daniel J	Biology
Storey, Brooke A	General Excellence
Venkatesan, Bhuvanesh	General Excellence

HONOURABLE MENTION

Form V

Adam, Beth M	Business Studies, History, Physical Education
Agbonkpolor, Jesse O	Economics
Akma, Aoife M	Spanish
Allen, Matthew J	Further Mathematics, Spanish, Technology
Boone, Charlotte L	Economics
Cairns, Jack D R	Drama
Choi, Etta	Food and Nutrition, Physical Education
Crawford, Georgia M	English Literature, Further Mathematics, History
Dalzell, Tara A	Physical Education
Doherty, Cormac	Music
Eneh, Iruoma B	Physics
Fletcher, Marcus W	Digital Technology
Gibson, Abbie	Religious Studies
Gilmour, Jack S	Computer Science, German
Golden, Joseph L	English Language
Gueye-Dorval, Carla-Lina	Spanish
Hamilton, Molly K	Business Studies, English Literature
Harold, Joshua C	German
Harvey, Emma A	Religious Studies
Hill, Oscar T	Computer Science, Mathematics, Physics
Hobson, Samuel J	Digital Technology
Hunter, Layla G	Food and Nutrition



Joseph, Alana	History, Latin
Kelly, Shannen L	Technology
Kirk, Harrison S	Biology, French, Physics
Maguire, Lexie C H	Science
McAuley, Lewis E G	Science
McCrea, Erin L	Physical Education
McFarland, Joshua J	Science
McKee, Finlay A C	Latin
McLaughlin, Matthew R E	Chemistry
Millard, Riona J	Technology
Montgomery, Sasha	Economics
Morrison, Natasha E	Geography
Morwood, Felix	English Literature, Latin
Nibu, Siona	Biology, Mathematics
Nicholson, Harry	Business Studies, Chemistry, Religious Studies
O'Sullivan, Myia	Drama
Ogilby, Grace	Computer Science, French
Ogunleye, Debby W D	English Language
Pearce, Oliver P D	Biology
Reilly-Stewart, Hugo J	Music
Sabri, Zaynab	Drama
Scott, Aoife M G	Physical Education
Simon, Alex N	Art and Design, Music
Sittlington, Mia	Digital Technology, English Language, Geography
Stewart, Daniel J	Further Mathematics
Taylor, Elyse R	Food and Nutrition, Geography
Walker, Aoife R	Art and Design
Woods, Harry R	German

HONOURABLE MENTION

Form LVI

Armstrong, Archie H	Sociology
Atienza, EJ	General Excellence
Balgos, Jericho A D	General Excellence
Baxter, Scott E	Technology
Black, Eleanor P	English Literature, Music, Spanish
Boyd, Jessica R	General Excellence
Braniff, Abbie A	Physical Education
Campbell, Emily M	Government and Politics
Coburn, Izzy E	Business Studies
Coulter, Lucy R	General Excellence
Crook, Jude J T	General Excellence
Dann, Aoife E	General Excellence
Dickson, Ryan J	Life and Health Sciences
Doherty, Alex L	General Excellence
Elliott, Elynn C	Art and Design



Enriquez, Robert	Digital Technology
Ferguson, Ryan C	Biology, Chemistry, Physics
Gamble, Hannah M	General Excellence
George, Henry R A	Physical Education
Ghosh, Soham J	General Excellence
Gilchrist, Noah J	General Excellence
Glendinning, William R	General Excellence
Green, Eleanor E	General Excellence
Hasan, Noah D	English Literature, Religious Studies
Hayward, Theo P	Economics, History, Music
Higgins, Amy S	Physical Education
Hoogelander, Ebony M	English Literature
Hooks, Holly K	Art and Design
Irwin, Bradley	General Excellence
Jain, Aleena	Religious Studies
Jan-Dickens, Kian S	Religious Studies
Joseph, Alby	General Excellence
Kane, David G	Technology
Khosla, Aryan	Digital Technology
Lennon, Lara S D	Geography
Loane, Ellen B	French
Loat, Sarah C	General Excellence
Logan, Sasha G	General Excellence
Mack, Joshua D R	Software Systems Development
Majury, Abi E	Health and Social Care
Mallon, Sophia M	French
Marshall, Helen S	General Excellence
McCafferty, Emily J	English Language
McCammon, Alanis	General Excellence
McCarney, Sarah P R	Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics
McDaid, Connie A	General Excellence
McGrath, Cara J	General Excellence
McGuigan, Christopher M	Business Studies, Government and Politics
McIlwaine, Alex M	General Excellence
McIvor, Ellie F	Business Studies
McKnight, Abbie M	Spanish, General Excellence
Millar, JP G L R	General Excellence
Mullan, Matthew H	Economics
Nazareth, EJ	Mathematics
Nethercott, Rory A	Software Systems Development
Newton, Natasha H	Chemistry
Raghuram, Riya	Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics
Ramalho-McCourt, Sofia	Technology
Richardson, Katye-Louise	General Excellence
Scott, Isabella	General Excellence
Scott, Katie	General Excellence
Scott, H. Oliver	Government and Politics
Shephard, Leah M	Art and Design, History, Sociology
Smyth, Oliver J	History, Physical Education



Spence, Charlotte B
Swann, Emily R
Taylor, Eve V
Thompson, Hannah E
Toal, Kaitlyn H
Todd, Naomi E
Vasilache, Gabriela
Whiteside, Callum S
Willey, Ethan J
Wilson, Anna E
Zboralska, Emilia

Software Systems Development
General Excellence
Geography
General Excellence
Biology, Sociology
Spanish
General Excellence
Music, Physics
General Excellence
General Excellence
French

HONOURABLE MENTION

Form LVI

Anderson, Ben M
Baxter, Scott E
Beattie, Charlotte E
Beattie, Samuel J
Boyd, Jessica R
Brown, Ellie R
Burton, Jacob J
Campbell, Emily M
Chow, Tiffany T
Coulter, Lucy R
Donnelly, Mia L
Ferguson, Ryan C
Gamble, Hannah M
Ghosh, Soham J
Glendinning, William R
Hasan, Noah D
Hetherington, Jason R
Jan-Dickens, Kian S
Jewiss, Victoria R
Johnston, Charlie L
Johnston, Jude G
Loat, Sarah C
Logan, Sasha G
Mack, Joshua D R
Majury, Abi E
Mallon, Sophia M
McCammon, Alanis
McCarney, Sarah P R
McGrath, Cara J
McIvor, Ellie F
McKendry, Calum
Millar, Ethan J
Morrow, Robbie J

Geography
Mathematics
Nutrition and Food Science
Business Studies
Mathematics
Health and Social Care
Computing, Physical Education
History
Health and Social Care
Business Studies
Life and Health Sciences
Mathematics
Business Studies, Life and Health Sciences
Biology, Chemistry, Physics
Physics
Government and Politics
Technology
Music
English Literature
Technology
Digital Technology
History
Spanish
Government and Politics, Religious Studies
Sociology
Music
Health and Social Care, Life and Health Sciences
Biology
Spanish
Music
Geography
English Language
Digital Technology



Mullan, Matthew H	English Literature
Nazareth, EJ	Chemistry, French
Obukene, Kevwe A T	French
Pojda, Emilia M	Government and Politics
Richardson, Katye-Louise	Art and Design, Religious Studies
Ritchie, Ben E	History, Physical Education
Rutherford, Sophie C M	English Literature, Spanish
Scott, H. Oliver	Economics
Shaw, Logan J A	English Language
Smyth, DJ	Software Systems Development
Sturgess, Kate H	Art and Design
Swann, Emily R	Software Systems Development
Thompson, Hannah E	Biology
Toal, Kaitlyn H	Mathematics
Watt, Cassie	Religious Studies
Whiteside, Callum S	Technology
Willey, Ethan J	Economics
Wilson, Anna E	Sociology
Withers, Cameron M	English Language

DEPARTMENTAL PRIZES

Form MVI

Agbonkpolor, Timothy O	Chemistry, Religious Studies, Exceptional Performance
Ahmed, Adrib	Mathematics
Allen, Giulia N	Physical Education
Baine, Siobhan M C	Physical Education
Bannon-Mutlu, Eva	General Excellence
Beattie, Lauren A	General Excellence
Black, Jude S	General Excellence
Boersma, Sorchia C M	Government and Politics
Bowman, Rafferty D	Software Systems Development
Briggs, Mark D	Physics, Technology, Exceptional Performance
Brolly, Shannon L	Art and Design
Burns, Catelyn J	Physical Education
Carter, Ethan L	General Excellence
Clarke, Eva J	English Literature, German, Latin
Cole, Eve L N	Geography
Craig, Katie M	Exceptional Performance
Crawford, Aine I G	Art and Design
Crawford, Hannah J	General Excellence
Davis, Ruth	Life and Health Sciences
Dickinson, Jack A	Software Systems Development
Dillon, Ethan C A	Software Systems Development
Don Joseph, Alvin	General Excellence



Donaghy, Caitlin M	General Excellence
Elliott, Neil C	English Literature, Religious Studies
Finnegan, Adam J	General Excellence
Gaspar, Denise Q	Spanish
Gergett, Gabriel L	Biology, Physics, Exceptional Performance
Gillespie, Jack A	General Excellence
Golden, Ben E	Further Mathematics, Mathematics, Physics, Exceptional Performance
Gourley, Arron	Drama and Theatre Studies
Haken Keery, Emma	Exceptional Performance
Hamilton, Sophie L	Sociology
Handcock, Lucy X	General Excellence
Harvey, Georgia R	Health and Social Care, Nutrition and Food Science
Hawela, Nada	Biology, Religious Studies, Technology, Exceptional Performance
Hennessy, Caitlin	Physical Education
Hillis, Beth M	General Excellence
Holman, Mia	General Excellence
Irvine, Emma G	Drama and Theatre Studies, English Literature
Johnston, Alex R	Exceptional Performance
Johnston, Maria C	General Excellence
Kirkpatrick, Molly E	Further Mathematics
Leavey, Nina P	General Excellence
Linton, Ella	Music
Lough, Becky	General Excellence
Mahood, Thomas J	Government and Politics
Malone, Kathleen M	Art and Design, Drama and Theatre Studies, Exceptional Performance
Martin, Ben E J	Mathematics, Spanish, Exceptional Performance
McAllister, Harriett	General Excellence
McAuley, Sacha	General Excellence
McBride, Shannon R	Drama and Theatre Studies
McCurley, Mia J	Business Studies
McGoldrick Mathers, Eva	General Excellence
McGrath, Donal	General Excellence
McGrath, Rebecca A	History
McGuigan, Joseph P	Chemistry, Further Mathematics
McHenry, Abbie	General Excellence
McIlroy, Grace J	General Excellence
McIlroy, Olivia	General Excellence
Misiunas, Domas	Technology
Miszuk, Julia	General Excellence
Monro, Kristie M A	General Excellence
Moore, Cullan H	Business Studies, French
Moore, Ellie V	French
Murugaperumal, Veda M K	Exceptional Performance
Nicholson, Jay	General Excellence
Norwood, Lara V	Exceptional Performance
O'Neill, Abbie M E	Physical Education



Osman, Lila A E O	General Excellence
Read, Benjamin D	General Excellence
Rodgers, Alex R	History
Ross, Jady N K	General Excellence
Ross, Rebecca	General Excellence
Scott, Alex K	General Excellence
Shevlin, Mason	General Excellence
Simpson, Alex C	Business Studies, French
Smith, Harry	History
Templeton, Ellie D V	General Excellence
Tharun, Jaana	Geography
Thompson, Eve K	Sociology
Tirupathi, Sudeep	Sociology
Uprichard, Emma	General Excellence
Urbanczyk, Martyna N	General Excellence
Wallace, Finn J	Chemistry, Exceptional Performance
Walsh, Ellie A	General Excellence
Warnock, Christina A	Biology, Spanish, Exceptional Performance
Watt, Emma S	General Excellence
White, Lucy M H	Geography
Wilson, Evan A	General Excellence
Zilionis, David	Economics

HONOURABLE MENTION

Form MVI

Agbonkpolor, Timothy O	Biology
Ahmed, Adrib	Physics
Ahmed, Elwaleed H	Mathematics
Aquino, Julianne T	Life and Health Sciences
Beattie, Lauren A	Sociology
Buckley, Anna M	English Language
Carleton, James L	Technology
Carter, Ethan L	Drama and Theatre Studies
Clydesdale, Hannah E	Sociology
Craig, Katie M	Chemistry, Geography
Dickinson, Jack A	Economics
Don Joseph, Alvin	Life and Health Sciences
Duffy, Ethan J	Government and Politics
Dwyer, Rebecca N	Nutrition and Food Science
Finnegan, Adam J	Government and Politics
Gergett, Sabriel L	Further Mathematics
Golden, Ben E	Biology
Irvine, Emma G	History
Johnston, Maria C	French
Kirkpatrick, Molly E	History
Kerr, Susie M	Health and Social Care
Landa, Jessie K	Business Studies
Lapworth, Molly Y T	Nutrition and Food Science



Leavey, Nina P
Linton, Ella
Lough, Becky
Mahood, Thomas J
Martin, Ben E J
McAuley, Sacha
McBride, Shannon R
McGrath, Rachael E
McGuigan, Joseph P
McHenry, Abbie
Monro, Kristie M
Murugaperumal, Veda M K
O'Neill, Abbie M E
O'Neill, Emma C
Read, Benjamin D
Ross, Jady N K
Ross, Rebecca
Seawright, Daniel J
Shevlin, Mason L
Simpson, Alex C
Smith, Harry
Thompson, Eve K
Uprichard, Emma
Urbanczyk, Martyna N
Varghese, Fabin

Wallace, Finn J
Wallace, Ryan P
Wallace, Tristan L W
Walsh, Ellie A
Warnock, Christina A
Watters, Adam R
White, Lucy M H
Wilson, Evan A
Zilionis, David

English Literature, Religious Education
French, Spanish
Technology
History
Biology, Chemistry
Life and Health Sciences
English Literature, Religious Studies
English Language
Mathematics
Geography
Sociology
Physics
Further Mathematics
Nutrition and Food Science
Religious Studies
Technology
Drama and Theatre Studies
Software Systems Development
Art and Design, English Language
Spanish
English Literature
English Literature, Health and Social Care
Business Studies
Mathematics, Spanish
Business Studies

Further Mathematics, Physics
Economics
French
Art and Design
Chemistry
Geography
Art and Design
Physics
Software Systems Development

**SPECIAL PRIZES**

ANNE BARRON PRIZE
(Ben Madigan)

Ryan D Teague

SIR SAMUEL FERGUSON PRIZE
(English Literature)

Emma G Irvine

FREDERICK WHITE MEMORIAL PRIZE
(For the top performance at G.C.S.E.)

Oliver P D Pearce

HAROLD RAINEY MEMORIAL PRIZE
(English)

Harry Nicholson

THE ANNE CAMPBELL CUP
(Nutrition and Food Science)

Georgia R Harvey

J. J. KANE MEMORIAL PRIZE
(for contributions to 'The Owl')

Ruth Davis

THE MARK LONG POETRY PRIZE

Rachel E Duncan

T. R. COLLIER PRIZE
(Mathematics)

Ben E Golden

THE J. W. and EVELYN DARBYSHIRE AWARD
(Geography)

Jaana Tharun

J. C. PICKEN MEMORIAL PRIZE
(Art and Design)

Shannon Brolly

ANTHONY TAYLOR MEMORIAL PRIZE
(History)

Alex R Rodgers

J. N. SHEARMAN MEMORIAL PRIZE
(Classics)

Eva J Clarke



R. H. HARTE MEMORIAL PRIZE
(Greek)

Oscar T Hill

G. B. TAYLOR MEMORIAL PRIZE
(Mathematics)

Molly E Kirkpatrick

TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGN AWARD
Sponsored by Envision Intelligent Solutions
(GCSE Technology and Design)

Joseph L Golden

R. J. BRYCE MEMORIAL PRIZE
(Irish Studies)

Emma G Irvine

THE W. L. CLEMENTS MEMORIAL PRIZE
(Music)

Grace McIlroy

R. M. FANNIN MEMORIAL PRIZE
(Music)

Neil Elliott

McCORMICK PRIZE
(English)

Ruby Clements

ALLISON HERON PRIZE
(Biology)

Nada Hawela

AMY DICKSON TROPHY and PRIZE
(Art and Design)

Aine Crawford

S. S. N. PIERCE MEMORIAL TROPHY
(for outstanding endeavour at GCSE)

Aidan J Hanna

TROPHY FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE PERFORMING ARTS
(Presented by the Old Girls' Association)

Jayne H Kennedy

McCAUGHEY PRIZE
(Science)

Veda M K Murugaperumal

MERVYN SEMPLE PRIZE
(Chemistry)

Joseph P McGuigan

R. S. J. H. MAGOWAN PRIZE
(GCSE Geography)

Haydn Dillon-Wright

MARY A. HYNDMAN PRIZE
(GCSE Home Economics)

Ellie R Bell

WALTER TATE PRIZES



Economics
Government and Politics
Physics
Chemistry
Religious Studies
Sociology

David Zilionis
Sorcha C. M. Boersma
Ben E Golden
Timothy O Agbonkolor
Nada Hawela
Sudeep Tirupathi

MIDDLETON PRIZE

(Music)

Ella Linton

CLYDE PRIZE

(GCSE Religious Studies)

Georgia Crawford

LEO FORTE PRIZE

(Music)

Hugo J Reilly Stewart

McCLAY PRIZE

(Business Studies)

Mia J McCurley

JACKSON PRIZE

(GCSE Science)

Harrison S Kirk
Joseph L Golden

KNOX PRIZE

(Physical Education)

Abbie M E O'Neill

HAROLD HUTCHINSON PRIZE

(Religious Studies)

Kian Jan-Dickens

OWL TROPHY

(Presented by W. H. and J. Gray
for outstanding endeavour at Advanced Level)

Ellie D V Templeton

SIR DONALD CURRIE SCHOLARSHIPS

(for the top overall performance in the Form)

Form I
Form II
Form III
Form IV

Form V

Layla R Crawford
Keshav Raghuram
Jacob R McLaughlin
Niall I Blaskett
Katie E McCarney
Oliver P D Pearce

LEAVING SCHOLARSHIPS

SIR PAUL GIRVAN
J. M. CLEMENTS

Lauren A Beattie
Christina A Warnock



SIR FRANCIS EVANS
WHITEHEAD
MAURICE JACKSON
HUGH GIRVAN
WALTER TATE
KNOX
ANTHONY TAYLOR
C. B. and A. M. MURRAY
McCLEERY
G. B. TAYLOR (Mathematics)
PICKEN
ARCHIBALD
BRUCE and PIM PRIZE
DR L.H. CAMPBELL (Chemistry)

Adrib Ahmed
Ethan C A Dillon
Sabriel L Gergett
Finn J Wallace
Donal McGrath
Cullan H Moore
Becky Lough
Alex K Scott
Siobhan M C Baine
Lara V Norwood
Emma Haken Keery
Jack A Dickinson
Katie M Craig
Mark D Briggs

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY BURSARY

Ben E J Martin

W. A. RAW BURSARY

(Modern Languages)

Ben E J Martin

MacDERMOTT TRAVELLING BURSARY

(Modern Languages)

Alex C Simpson

SHEARMAN TRAVELLING BURSARY

(Modern Languages)

Eva J Clarke

GLORIA SIDWELL (née KINKEAD) MEMORIAL BURSARY

(Art and Design)

Kathleen Malone

J. S. LOUGHRIDGE BURSARY

(Geography)

Eve Taylor

THE MONA McCONNELL CARES AWARD

(For work in the Community)

Mia G J Gibson



WALTER TATE AWARD
(Head Girl)
Eva McGoldrick Mathers

MARTIN PRIZE
(Deputy Head Girls)
Ellie J Reid
Christina A Warnock

WHITEHEAD AWARD
(Head Boy)
Finn J Wallace

ANNUAL PRIZE FOR BOYS
(Deputy Head Boys)
Adrib Ahmed
Ben E Golden

J. C. PICKEN BAT
(for overall contribution to Cricket in School, presented by the Old Boys' Association)
Ryan T Armstrong

N. M. SAVAGE AWARD
(for the most impressive combination of academic attainment,
prowess in organized games and sense of corporate responsibility)
Nada Hawela

ULSTER UNIVERSITY ENDEAVOUR CUP
(for outstanding achievement throughout the year)
Abbie M E O'Neill

THE EVANS TROPHY
Currie
Captains:
Oliver J Smyth
Kate H Sturgess



BELFAST ROYAL ACADEMY SENIOR PREFECTS 2021/2022

HEAD BOY: H. Oliver Scott
DEPUTY Archie H. Armstrong
HEAD BOYS: Jack R. Saunders

HEAD GIRL: Riya Raghuram
DEPUTY: Connie A. McDaid
HEAD GIRLS: Cara J. McGrath

BOYS

Miko Z. Akmad
Ben M. Anderson
Jacob J. Burton
Benjamin C. Dewhurst
Ryan J. Dickson
Robert Enriquez
Ryan C. Ferguson
Henry R. A. George
Soham J. Ghosh
Noah J. Gilchrist
David G. Kane
Harvey A. Latham
Piaras Millar
Matthew H. Mullan
EJ Nazareth
Rory A. Nethercott
Ryan H. O'Hara
Callum S. Whiteside
Ethan J. Willey

GIRLS

Eleanor P. Black
Ellie R. Brown
Aoife L. Caldwell
Izzy E. Coburn
Emily T. Collins
Lorena Del Castillo
Alex L. Doherty
Felicity J. Fagan
Ebony M. Hoogelander
Lara S. D. Lennon
Abi E. Majury
Sophia M. Mallon
Helen S. Marshall
Aileana L. McDowell
Ellie F. McIvor
Abbie M. McKnight
Fiona M. Murray
Natasha H. Newton
Daisy Purvis
Sofia Ramalho-McCourt
Anna Saunders
Tianna J. M. Savage
Isabella C. Scott
Leah M. Shepherd
Kate H. Sturgess
Kaitlyn H. Toal
Naomi E. Todd
Lucy-Beth Watson
Anna E. Wilson





School Societies

JUNIOR SCRIPTURE UNION

Junior Scripture Union is held every Wednesday lunchtime for Forms I-III, where we hang out, play games, and most importantly of all, explore the Word of God and His great plans for us. It is organised and run by the Junior Scripture Union Committee, which is made up of a group of pupils from Forms V-MVI, with the help of our wonderful teachers Mr Morrison and Mrs Graydon. The committee organise the games and activities and deliver talks on topics we think will be really engaging for the Junior SU members.

After a slightly disrupted year for clubs and societies due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Junior SU returned to its in-person meetings in September of 2021, and we continued to use our Covid-designated venue of the upper floor of the Sixth Form Study Centre as it accommodates for the popularity of Junior SU.

We started off the year by looking at some of the big questions such as 'What is Christianity?' and spent several weeks diving into some of the big Bible stories to uncover God's message to us. Looking at these fundamental questions was a great way to dive into God's word for those looking to further their walk with God, and a great introduction to pupils who haven't yet begun a faith journey.

We then spent the next while exploring the book of Ruth and, as in previous years, the committee made use of the WordGo app to guide in delving into God's message in a way that would be engaging to the members of Junior Scripture Union. There were plenty of brilliant discussions that arose from our study of Ruth, and Junior SU members really enjoyed being able to chat to the committee and each other about what they had learned. The talks also tied closely with the games and activities we ran, which helped to keep the focus on God's

message and Good News.

Outside of the weekly meetings, Junior SU was able to hold several events that allowed pupils and committee to grow even closer as a community and get to know each other better through their walk in faith. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we couldn't run our 'Big SU Weekend' as normal, but instead we organised a non-residential weekend in the school full of activities and great banter. It was a huge success, and everyone had a brilliant time, despite the unusual structure. As well as the weekend, we were also able to hold our annual joint Junior and Senior Scripture Union BBQ at the end of the year and it was a great way to celebrate a year full of fun, games and the gospel.

Junior SU really is the most exciting, fun and welcoming society you can get involved in at BRA, and the work and commitment put in by teachers and committee is testament to the incredible experience it offers. With banter, BBQs and the Bible, what more could you want?

Noah Hasan (LVI)

SENIOR SCRIPTURE UNION

The Senior Committee worked with enthusiasm throughout the year to create a diverse and fun programme for pupils from Forms IV-MVI attending Senior SU. In spite of the restrictions still in place to keep students and staff safe, for Senior SU it has been one of the most memorable years yet. Every Friday lunchtime on the top floor of the Sixth Form Study area, the 8 members of the Senior Committee took it in turns to lead the SU gatherings with fun activities, including teacher panels, games and thought-provoking talks. We studied different books of the Bible and also addressed topics relevant to our everyday lives, like dealing with exam stress and living out our faith in the real world.



The committee members enjoyed crafting their individual talks every week, which helped the pupils who come to SU to learn about and become closer to God. This also challenged the committee to live out their faith in a very real way by learning how to effectively share God's Word.

We held various events throughout the year, combining Junior and Senior SU. With Covid-19 restrictions still in place, it was not possible to have our Big SU Weekend in Castlewella but, not to be deterred, the SU held its first ever 'Big SU Weekend at Home!' It took place on a Friday evening and Saturday afternoon and evening in October. The committee had to be creative in finding ways to have fun on a very different SU Weekend than we had experienced in the past. We took part in team games and energetic activities, including a school-wide scavenger hunt.

The committee members led the sessions with music, quizzes and talks, and Mr Coulter (Principal of Ben Madigan) was our main speaker. It was a brilliant experience to be able to spend a weekend together, even if we weren't able to travel too far!

Another opportunity we had to meet as a whole school SU was at our Easter event, which was held in the assembly hall on the last day of term before the Easter holidays. Reece Johnston, a former pupil, was our guest speaker. We were challenged to think about the importance of the Easter story as well as taking part in group games, some of which got very competitive between staff and students! We all got Easter eggs at the end which was a lovely surprise!



We were thrilled that the easing of restrictions meant that we were to be able to get away for our Senior Weekend to Kilkeel in March. Because the weather was so good, we were able to go onto the beach, shop and eat our way around the town and take part in activities outside the centre.

Although we didn't get much sleep, we were all happy to stay awake to listen to one of our favourite speakers Stee, who joined us again from Crown Jesus Ministries! All in all, it was an unforgettable weekend for everyone there.





We closed our year in SU with our traditional BBQ for all year groups in the beautiful grounds of Ben Madigan Prep. One of the highlights was a competitive game of dodge ball between the Form II and the LVI pupils, in which no serious injuries occurred to the sixth years, despite the best efforts of the junior pupils! It was fitting that our speaker for this event was Dr McCombe in his final weeks of term as a BRA teacher.

We want to say a massive thank you to the committee members who leave us this year: Harriett McAllister, Rachel McGrath, Neil Elliot, Timothy Agbonkpolor and Jude Black. They have been such an enthusiastic part of the Senior SU, and we are really going to miss having them with us every week.

We are very sad also to say goodbye this year to two teachers who have been at the very heart of BRA SU throughout their time in school; we wish Mr Wilson and Dr McCombe all the best in their new jobs, and thank them for their leadership and dedication to SU in school.

Thank you also to Mr Morrison, Mrs Graydon and the many other staff who have supported and encouraged us throughout the year; it will be a year long remembered.

Eleanor Black (LVI)

THE SCHOOL LIBRARY

The library continued to meet the educational, informative and recreational needs of both pupils and staff. Besides serving the pupils in their studies and teachers in their research, the library continued its aim of creating interest in reading amongst the pupils by providing the best of resources and environment. The school joined up with Oxford University to participate in the Oxplore Book Club. This was a fabulous experience and pupils got to meet with many renowned authors during the club.

Innovation and adaptability continued to be key to the smooth running of the Academy library due to the continuation of the Covid-19 pandemic. Pupils and staff were welcomed back to a safe library with socially distanced seating and a Perspex screen at the issue and returns area. A hand sanitation station had also been in place at the library entrance. New systems such as click and collect and a 3-day quarantine system for returned books were used to ensure books were circulated safely.

The library thoroughly enjoyed joining with committees, departments and clubs throughout the school to co-host interesting events and competitions. The school was awarded a certificate from the Anti-Bullying Alliance as a result of an anti-bullying and kindness project the school library hosted alongside the Wellbeing Committee during Anti-Bullying month in November.

Form I and II classes continued to attend weekly library classes as part of their studies in

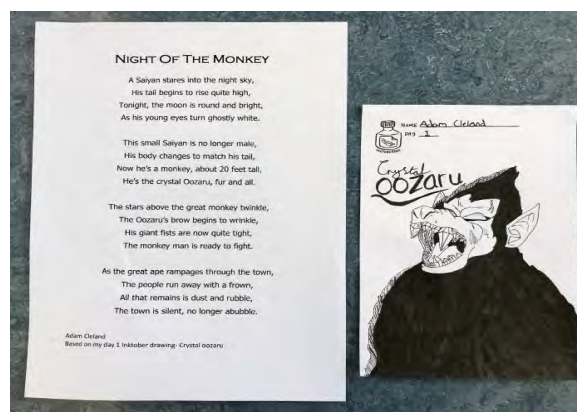
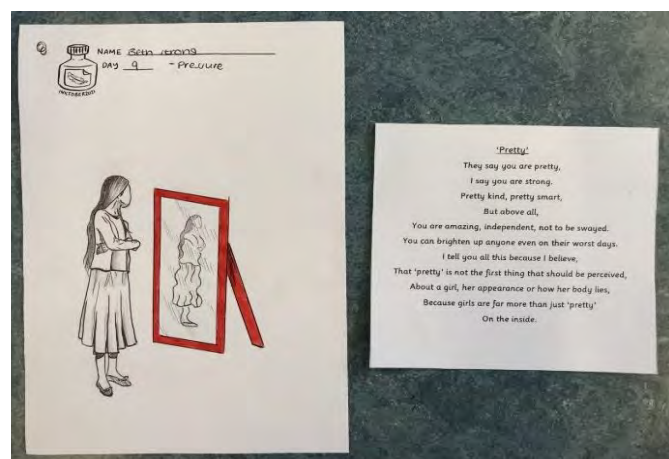
English. They continued to take part in the very successful Accelerated Reader programme. Many pupils continued to help out in the library as Pupil Librarians before school, during break, lunch and after school.

NATIONAL POETRY DAY CELEBRATED AT THE ACADEMY LIBRARY

On Thursday 7th October, the School Library hosted its 'Poetic Pirates' Scavenger Hunt as part of its National Poetry Day celebrations. Pupils had to solve riddles and find rhyming picture clues hidden throughout the school buildings. There was great enthusiasm and excitement throughout the school.

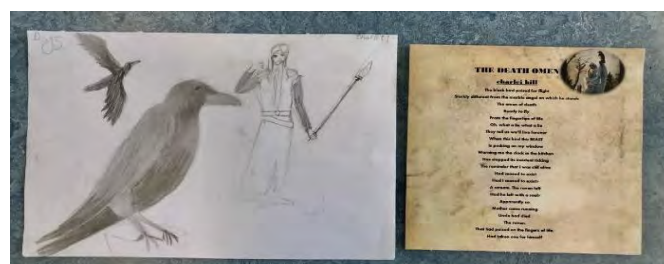
Adam Cleland and Jenna Wilson, both from Form I, were the winners of the hunt. A very well done to the two super sleuths. Both won a voucher to spend at the school Scholastic Book Fair.

The library also linked up with the Art Department to create a joint competition to celebrate both 'Inktober' and 'National Poetry Day'. The theme for National Poetry Day 2021 was 'Choice'. We decided it would be a great idea to let pupils choose one of their Inktober drawings and write a poem on the 'Inktober' prompt.



The library received many great entries to its competition. Judges worked hard to choose the overall winners. Beth Strong in Form III won 1st place. She chose to base her poem and drawing on the prompt of 'Pressure.' Beth produced very thought-provoking work, encouraging females to see beyond physical appearance. Her poem encouraged all to see the beauty and importance of what lies within them.

A huge congratulations also went to Adam Cleland, Form I and Charlei Hill, Form III, on submitting excellent poems and drawings to the competition. Adam chose to base his poem on the Inktober prompt of 'Crystal' and got awarded 2nd place. Charlei based hers on the prompt of 'Raven' and got awarded 3rd place.



All three pupils were awarded vouchers to spend at the library Scholastic Book Fair. They were also awarded book bags and Oxford Helix writing/drawing pens. We hope all three will continue to produce fabulous art and poems. Well done!



SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

For an entire week in October, the school library was abuzz. Academy pupils had been bowing their heads over book trolleys, excitedly discussing what they hoped to purchase at the Scholastic Book Fair.

The Academy Book Fair provided something critical and unique for pupils: the fair showed that books are not something to be dreaded, nor viewed as compulsory and difficult. Instead, books are desirable, talked about, and treasured.

The tell-tale signs of the upcoming book fair not only got Academy pupils excited about books, but it also got them talking about books of their own accord, rather than being compelled to discuss assigned reading in the classroom. The unique sounds, smells, and sights of the library book fair are hard to beat. Heavy metal cases that are like a band's equipment, except full of books, rolled into the school library to mark our National Poetry Day celebrations. The Autumn 2021 Book Fair was our most successful since Autumn 2015. Over £600 was raised and the School Library has been awarded over £300 worth of free books as a result. We have been absolutely delighted with such a success and with our lovely new books.

MEETING FAMOUS AUTHORS

PHILIP PULLMAN

Book Club pupils were very excited to meet with acclaimed author, Philip Pullman on Wednesday 24th November, as part of our Oxplora programme with Oxford University.



During the event, we heard about his inspiration behind *Northern Lights* and the *His Dark Materials* trilogy. There was an extended Q&A, which gave pupils the opportunity to share their thoughts on the book and learn more about the characters, themes and process of writing.

We were very pleased that Academy pupil, Jamie Wilson, had his question picked by Oxplora at Oxford. Philip Pullman answered Jamie's question: "What is your favourite book?"



We found out that, *The Matter with Things* by Iain McGilchrist has been the most recent favourite book of Philip Pullman. He told us this book "is a very good guide to mysterious questions". He also informed us that he likes thrillers and is a fan of books by Lee Child. He loves a good murder mystery!

Philip Pullman advised budding writers that he does "not believe in writers' block." Instead, he reminded pupils that "sometimes things can become difficult" and that "nobody ever said it would be easy." He advised those interested in writing to "keep at it" and that "eventually it will come to you." He encouraged pupils wanting to be



writers of the important “need to read.” We also heard of his deep love for poetry. He informed us he is very responsive to the poetry of John Milton. It had been a real treat to get to hear from one of our favourite authors!

JEFF KINNEY

International bestselling writer and illustrator of the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series, Jeff Kinney, paid a virtual visit to Academy book club pupils as part of the UK leg of his global tour to celebrate the release of his new book, Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Big Shot. This virtual event was live streamed to over 80,000 school children from 800 schools across the UK. Book Club pupils were delighted to be a part of this live event. The Diary of a Wimpy Kid books are incredibly popular at the Academy Library.

Jeff Kinney is the number one New York Times bestselling author of the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series and the Awesome Friendly Kid series. He is a six-time Nickelodeon Kids’ Choice Award winner for Favourite Book and has been named one of Time magazine’s 100 Most Influential People in the World. It was great to receive some writing tips from him and to hear how he creates his stories.

NIKKI SHEEHAN

BRA was delighted to be one of 250 schools to be awarded by Oxplore at Oxford University with their December book, Who Framed Klaris Cliff? by Nikki Sheehan. Our book club greatly enjoyed the live Zoom with Oxford. Author Nikki Sheehan answered two questions from the Academy book club.

ALEXANDRA SHEPPARD

On 30th March, Academy Book Club pupils were excited to begin a new series of the Oxplore Book Club and experience a live Zoom with Alexandra Sheppard. Alexandra discussed her book and the first book club read Oh My Gods. Pupils were able to ask the author questions about her book, and it was a thoroughly interesting and engaging afternoon.

MANJEET MANN

Academy Book Club pupils spent April reading The Crossing by Manjeet Mann. This book was announced winner of the Costa Children’s Book Award in January and is one of only eight children’s books currently shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal 2022. It has also been one of only six children’s books nominated for a Waterstones Award in 2022.

Pupils were incredibly excited to meet via a live Zoom with the multi-award-winning author and have the opportunity to ask her questions. We look forward to our next Oxplore meeting with Oxford at the end of May.

KIRAN MILLWOOD

The book club was delighted to meet virtually with the best-selling author, Kiran Millwood Hargrave, on Wednesday 25th May.

The Girl of Ink & Stars was Kiran’s debut novel and won lots of book awards. We were delighted to have the opportunity to meet with the author and discuss the book. During the event, Kiran talked about her inspiration behind The Girl of Ink & Stars. There was also an extended Q&A, which had been pupils’ opportunity to share their thoughts on the book and learn more about the characters, themes, and process of writing. Book club members have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the Oxplore Book Club with Oxford University. It has been fabulous to meet the authors of all the books we have read.



ACADEMY STAFF AND PUPILS COMPLETE 'KINDNESS CHALLENGE'



The Academy marked Anti-Bullying Week with a range of activities and special assemblies. The School Library hosted a month long 'Kindness Challenge'. Both staff and pupils took part in the challenges.

Pupils completed some challenges in an online Google Classroom. This taught the importance of being kind behind a screen. Pupils also completed many creative kindness tasks. We were particularly impressed with anti-bullying posters and poems on the theme of kindness. Entries to the baking challenge were hugely impressive.

Overall winners of the challenge were: Molley Fivey Madhumitha Pandiaraj Caleb Molloy

The following pupils were highly commended: Dexter Thompson Gopi Muragaperumal Evie Lewis Brodie Mitchell McCullough 22 pupils were also awarded individual kindness reward bags. The Academy was awarded with a certificate from the Anti-Bullying Alliance in recognition of its work.



LIBRARY CLUB

At library club, pupils train 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 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.

The pupil librarians give up their free time before school, break, lunch and after school to fulfil their assigned duties



MILLIONAIRE READERS

Well done to the following pupils on reading over 1 million words on Accelerated Reader in the 2021/22 academic year:

Pupil	Words Read
Brogan, Shay	3,789,695
Scott, Moss	3,509,660
Mawhinney, Alex	2,298,914
Lawrence, Esther	1,971,577
McClusker, Lorcan	1,887,156
Mallon, Harry	1,626,268
Ingram, Charlotte	1,378,488
Crainey, Jake	1,009,129

OUR FAVOURITE BOOKS

The below table lists the books we read most this year and took most AR quizzes on.

Rank	Title	Author
1	The Hunger Games	Suzanne Collins
2	The Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Big Shot	Jeff Kinney
3	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban	J.K Rowling
4	The Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Deep End	Jeff Kinney
5	Stormbreaker	Anthony Horowitz
6	Catching Fire	Suzanne Collins
7	Megamonster	David Walliams
8	Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince	J.K Rowling
9	Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows	J.K Rowling
10	Sycthe	Neal Shusterman

POLITICS SOCIETY

With Covid-19 still restricting the meeting of clubs and societies, the LVI Politics in Action group met up once again over Zoom in the North Belfast cluster. Four BRA pupils met with pupils from St Malachy's College and Dominican College, Fortwilliam headed by David McCann of Ulster University and Slugger O'Toole. The pupils' goal was to discuss issues relevant to young people in North Belfast, with the goal of creating a manifesto to present to politicians at the end. Emily Campbell, one of the four BRA students explains more:

'With help from David to organise our ideas, the group decided that the issues of mental health, housing, community interfaces and young peoples' safety were at the forefront of concerns we would like to see politicians address. The group felt as though these concerns could often be overlooked by an older generation of politicians as something that young people would not take notice of or feel removed from. We were able to articulate these concerns to North Belfast politicians such as the Green Party's Mal O'Hara who discussed mental health services and access. We were very passionate about mental health services becoming more accessible in schools, a key feature of their manifesto. We were also fortunate to have a representative from Fact Check NI, who was able to teach us more about how to spot 'fake news' and the importance of reliably sourced information, a transferable skill we can benefit from in many careers going forward.





Alex Kane
@AlexKane221b

Replying to @dmcbs and @AllisonMorris1

I wish some of our parties/politicians approached their manifestos with the same passion, thought and broad mindedness as these pupils did.

5:44 pm · 7 Apr 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

‘The complete manifesto was presented to Alex Kane, a political commentator and columnist and Allison Morris, of the Belfast Telegraph. From Dominican College, Natalie presented on mental health, especially pertaining to the impact of Covid-19. Morhaf and Oisin from St Malachy’s discussed the housing crisis, which especially affects North Belfast more than any other constituency.

Alex Kane expressed his own personal experience and opinion on interfaces, which I presented on, including discussions of integrated education. Leah from Dominican College voiced concerns about the safety of young people, something young people have been increasingly wary of during the culture of ‘spiking’. The manifesto also received replies from very prominent Northern Ireland politicians, including DUP leader Jeffrey Donaldson, who sent his best wishes for the pupils going forward. Sinn Fein’s Finance Minister Connor Murphy sent a detailed response to each issue discussed and what he hopes to achieve going forward.’

Overall, despite the restrictions of Covid-19, the North Belfast Politics in Action group represented young people with the ambition of change going forward.

K.S.B.

BIOLOGY COMPETITIONS

The Academy’s budding Biologists have been participating in UK-wide Biology Competitions. In March, four of our MVI pupils, Timothy Agbonkpolor, Ben Martin, Joseph McGuigan, and Veda Muruga Perumal, were among 10,000 students who undertook the challenge of the British Biology Olympiad.

Their performances were very impressive. Ben Martin achieved a Gold Medal, Joseph McGuigan a Bronze Medal, and both Timothy and Veda were awarded certificates of commendation. Congratulations to each of them on this excellent personal achievement. The Biology department wishes them the best of luck with their further study. In June, eleven of our LVI pupils participated in the Intermediate Biology Olympiad alongside 12,566 others. Riya Raghuram achieved a Gold Medal, while Sarah McCarney, Emilia Zboralska, Bradley Irwin, and Abbie McKnight took home Bronze, and Emily Swann was ‘highly commended.’ We are so proud of all our pupils who challenged themselves to extend their problem-solving skills and understanding of core principals. Among 41,000 students from 550 schools worldwide, twelve of our Form IV pupils represented the Academy in the Biology Challenge in May. Lucy Chambers was awarded a Silver Medal while Katie McCarney, Sofia Rea-Lavery, Emily Warnock, and Madhumitha Pandiaraj were awarded Bronze. Jessica Lane and Darragh Quinn were ‘highly commended.’ We are very impressed, especially as they had completed only one year of their GCSE course and were competing against older pupils. Well done to all who took part.

J.B.S.

SENTINUS RESEARCH ACADEMY

Riya Raghuram and Lugin Osman (MVI) took part in the Sentinus Research Academy during Summer 2022. The girls broadened their skillset by engaging in a series of online webinars and virtual collaborative seminars. They conducted research that focused on risk factors of cardiovascular disease, working with independence to analyse real patient data. This research in Public Health aligns with their aspirations to work in the healthcare sector. Both girls prepared posters and presented their research in the Whitla Hall at Queen’s University Belfast in October where they were awarded certificates for their work.

J.B.S.



SCHOOL COUNCIL REPORT 2021-2022

It was a busy year for the School Council in 2021-2022. We held our annual non-uniform day in October. The Pupil and School Councils chose to split the money raised for this fund-raising activity between Jigsaw CCC, NI Children's Hospice and Macmillan. Representatives from each of these organisations received cheques for £600 at whole-school Assemblies in December. At the beginning of the academic year, all schools were offered a time capsule to commemorate the centenary of Northern Ireland and capture key moments and themes of this anniversary year for pupils of the future. The Pupil Council agreed the contents of the time capsule which includes items to reflect the Covid-19 pandemic and the impact on daily life, families and the school community. At a ceremony on 27th May, the capsule was placed in its location within the Crombie foyer by members of the Pupil Council, Mrs Woods, our oldest alumna, Mrs Beattie Metcalfe, and our youngest Form I pupil, Amelia Manley.

Throughout the process, pupils enjoyed thinking of artefacts that reflect our school history and what life had been like for students during the past year in the pandemic. Some items included in the capsule are a school crest, the Christmas 2021 edition of The Owl magazine, a programme for the 2022 Spring Concert, a facemask, a lateral flow test kit, a memory stick containing promotional videos and handwritten accounts from members of the Pupil Council involved in this project. It is hoped that the contents of the time capsule will create an important part of the school's history for future generations of pupils to discover.

There were also plans to bring some greenery back into our school. The Council agreed to work with the Horticulture Society to try to improve the school environment. The Pupil and School Council were also involved in the introduction of the Merit Wheel in Year Assemblies. The Merit Wheel is now used to reward pupils for their good behaviour in school in relation to Character, Culture and Currency Merits. The Merit Wheel was funded by a generous donation from Friends of the Academy. Other issues discussed by the Pupil and School

Councils throughout the year included the food provision in the canteen; ways to reduce litter throughout the school site; recycling facilities; and the possibility of the installation of bike racks. The Head Boy, Head Girl and their deputies addressed whole-school assemblies regarding these various issues in December.

T.H.

MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Model United Nations welcomed a return to weekly meetings in C5 with a strong turn out from junior boys. We debated a range of topics such as nuclear weapons, refugees, sustainability, the pandemic and the war in Ukraine. The pupils really enjoyed the role-play component of debating as the delegate of a particular country and enjoyed competing for the accolade of delegate of the week. Particular thanks to Ethan Wiley (LVI) and Soham Ghosh (LVI) who acted as guest chairs on a weekly basis.

In November, two LVI pupils, Emily Campbell and Lara Lennon represented Belfast Royal Academy at a COP26 Climate Negotiation Simulation event at Stormont Parliament Buildings.

This was a difficult task considering the same nations were also lobbied by climate activists. As part of their preparation for the event, the pupils attended a TEAMS pre-conference briefing with Dr Peter Doran, School of Law, QUB.

C.J.A





THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

The last school year has been another challenging but successful one for our D of E participants. The impact of Covid-19 restrictions were still being felt, and we had a backlog of expeditions to work our way through, but our D of E participants rose to the challenge, progressing their sections and many achieving their Certificates of Achievement and full awards.

Registration started later than normal in the school year and even then, we were uncertain if we could run expeditions or not. However, membership remained strong with 300 pupils continuing to work on their D of E Awards - 171 of whom signed up in January 2022 when everything was very much uncertain.

It wasn't until March that we received the go-ahead to run expeditions again, and that D of E had retained a number of rule-relaxations that enabled us to get as many participants as possible out in the hills safely. This included the use of a set campsite each night (which just so happened to have toilets), so the tents could be left up in one place for the duration of the expedition and the teams ferried by minibus to their start and end points each day.

On the flip side however, we had a short window of opportunity to plan and organise the training and expeditions, including amended routes, staffing and assessors. It is only with great thanks to our team of volunteers that we were able to run this season, and to work with so many participants to help them complete their Expedition section - 143 of them! Not only were we able to get each Award level out on their Expeditions, we were also able to do a bit of catch-up. The Golds were able to complete their Silver Expeditions as part of their Gold training and the Silvers were able to complete their Bronze. Next year, we're hoping to clear the last of the Expedition backlog with our LVI Golds. In recognition of a very difficult time since March 2020, and because Expeditions were nearly impossible to run, D of E have been issuing Certificates of Achievement for anyone who completes the Volunteering, Physical and Skill sections of their Award. To achieve this, the

participants have shown their determination to keep on going, to push themselves and in many cases, think outside the box in order to safely do their activities. They have also had to work with Assessors in a different way since face-to-face contact has been severely restricted, or even impossible at times. Some have arranged to chat on video calls with their Assessors or share fitness tracker app screenshots to verify their progress. With the lifting of restrictions, it has been much easier for our participants to return to clubs and groups, though many have continued with activities they had started while under lockdown. Volunteering for your community activities this year have included checking up on neighbours, gardening or doing shopping for those who were isolating, as well as getting involved in litter picking in their neighbourhoods and mentoring at sports clubs.

Potentially the most easily completed section continues to be Physical, with many of our participants tracking their daily walks or runs that had started as a way to get out of the house, some of which built up into challenges to raise money for charity. Our kayaking course also resumed with Brain McLaughlin and Robert Armstrong working with 22 Bronze and Silver participants over the year. This highly popular course trains participants in the safe handling of a kayak canoe and paddling skills, all in the safety of the school swimming pool.

As for Skills, there have been a range of activities taking place: learning a language, cooking, sewing, playing a musical instrument, singing, drama, physics and creative design, to name a few.

In the last school year, we have had 31 Bronze Awards, 3 Silver Awards and 2 Gold Awards successfully completed, alongside 9 Bronze, 7 Silver and 1 Gold Certificate of Achievement, which is a fantastic achievement in itself, considering the difficult circumstances. The total number of awards gained from 1984 to date are: Bronze – 1,488; Silver – 739; Gold – 482.



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 volunteer supervisors who generously gave their time and assistance whenever possible this school year:-

Matthew Blair
Rebecca Burns
Holly Grant
Dennis McArthur
Peter McArthur
Emma McAllister
Maurice Miller
Gabrielle 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; Shelley Wilson and Holly Grant for Award administration; and to Niall Mowbray and Margaret Mullan from the Education Authority for very valuable assistance with administration work.

Although the Volunteering, Physical, Skill and Residential Sections are primarily co-ordinated and supported 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. and Music Departments for all their much-appreciated help throughout the past year. Many thanks are due to the numerous members of staff who gave up their time to act as Skills section assessors. Thanks must go to Maurice Miller for his help in looking after our finances. We would like to say a huge thank you to the school office staff who have been fantastic, as always, helping us collect forms etc and distributing participants' logs, projects and other important information.

In conclusion, 2021-22 was another highly unusual year for everyone, but one in which our

participants have shown even greater resilience, determination, initiative, drive, commitment and sense of responsibility to others than what we would normally expect. We are incredibly proud of those who are pursuing their Certificate of Achievement and remind them to keep in touch. Finally, pride of place and congratulations must go to the following pupils and past pupils who gained awards during the past year: -

BRONZE AWARD

Julianne Aquino (MVI)
Aaron Caldwell (IV)
Emma Campbell (IV)
Lucy Chambers (IV)
Nathaniel Gihon-Mcclurg (IV)
Aaron Gourley (MVI)
Ruby Hanna (IV)
Gabrielle Hannaway (IV)
Leah Hetherington (IV)
Cara Houston (IV)
Charlotte Hume (IV)
Katie Keed (MVI)
Ethan Kerr (IV)
Grace Kirkpatrick (IV)
Molly Lapworth (MVI)
Amber Mallon (IV)
Jenna McCall (IV)
Alex McIlwaine (LVI)
Lucy McKnight (LVI)
Evie Murray (LVI)
Ben Needham (-)
Madhumitha Pandiaraj (IV)
Oscar Purvis (IV)
Darragh Quinn (IV)
Julia Robinson (IV)
Aditi Saneesh Krishna (IV)
Samvritha Srikanth (IV)
Finn Taylor (III)
Annabelle Toal (IV)
Grace Upritchard (LVI)
Malachy Wallace (III)

SILVER AWARD

James Carleton (MVI)
Jack Jamison (-)
Ryan Simpson (-)



GOLD AWARD

Mollie Haddock (-)

Alison Shaw (-)

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT:

BRONZE

Daniel Armstrong (V)

Beth Callaghan (V)

Amandine Chesnel (IV)

Rory Gordon (V)

Cara Johns (V)

Ethan Kerr (IV)

Matt McLaughlin (V)

Jaan Molloy (V)

Siona Nibu (V)

SILVER

Aoife Caldwell (LVI)

Andrew Cleland (V)

Jamie O'Brien (LVI)

Grace Ogilby (V)

Matthew Rankin (V)

Elyse Taylor (V)

Hannah Thompson (LVI)

GOLD

Evan Robinson (-)

BRONZE QUALIFYING EXPEDITION

Saturday 18th - Sunday 19th June 2022

MAN'S INFLUENCE ON THE MOURNES

On Day One, my group and I began walking beside a long road that had been built along the mountain for around the first couple of hours. The walk was quite easy at the beginning but as we made our way forwards, the ground began to turn into small areas of marshland which was tough to walk across, particularly in areas with deep water.

Many of us ended up falling over in the water or the mud, including myself, which resulted in plenty of dirt on our clothes and rucksacks.

We took a small break once we came across a wall that had been built that stretched quite far up the hill. A ladder had been placed there to help people cross the fence to a small area where we took our break. We eventually ended up crossing the road and continuing along a path that was still mostly grass but a small trail helped lead us to where we ate our lunch beside the lake. The trail had been marked out by people who had made the same journey before us and it was mostly just the path where there was the least grass covering it, although it was extremely useful being on even ground since the next part of our journey was slightly more difficult.

After we had eaten our lunch, we crossed the road and ended up on a similar-looking area to before with quite tall grass but there was no trail to follow. Another difference was that we were walking on the side of a mountain with plenty of rocks, so it wasn't an easy task trying to reach the other side on uneven ground. The majority of the falls happened here but it was all good fun. We reached our first river which thankfully had a bridge built across it. Here, we were able to fill up our water bottles and quickly cross the river without having to use the various rocks littered below the water.

The next bit of the journey was probably one of the easiest for me since the ground was a lot flatter than before and it was getting quite warm so we were all able to take off our fleeces and raincoats. After a while, we came across a long path which would lead us to the campsite. It was a strange swap from the grass, but I was grateful that it would be a lot simpler than before.

The journey on Day One wasn't as hard as I expected. Many useful things had been created along the way by people before us, for example, the bridge helped us cross the river, the discreet trail through some of the journey helped guide us on an easier route, the long path gave us a quicker option to reach the campsite and prevented us from having to walk on potential marshland like before etc.



In my opinion, Day Two was a much easier journey for the sole reason that we had access to a path for much of the day rather than grass or marshland. The beginning of the day, however was very different. Once we came to the end of the path from the day before, we had to make our way through plenty of marshland which did not end well for some, especially Aleesha who ended up knee-deep in the mud.

Our first river to cross came up next. I was quite anxious about crossing it and it was definitely more complicated than the previous one before which had a bridge built across. It took a while but once we figured out which rocks to step on etc., our group carried on.

The next part was one of the toughest since we found ourselves once again walking on the side of a steep hill. There was once again no trail to follow and I found it quite hard trying to navigate which way to go and which places to step to get down safely without falling. I was so happy to see another path ahead of us that we were instructed to follow. My group and I took our lunch break right before the path on a nice grass area with a small river for us to fill up our water.

Continuing on was the turning point of the day since we were no longer on ground with tall grass or mud or rocks. The path didn't last too long though as it stopped and ran into a trail. It was still relatively easy to follow but the ground began to get uneven again.

This is the part of the expedition where we came across a large area of trees that had been cut down. We have been taught about deforestation a lot in school but seeing it on such a large scale was quite frightening since we have been taught about the large negative impact it can have such as loss of habitat for animals.

Moving on from the trail, I was thankful to spot another path and judging by our map, that was the last until we reached the bus. It was a simple walk with a beautiful view, so this was probably my favourite part of the expedition. The downside was that we spotted bits of rubbish littered along the

sides of the path. We made an effort to try and lift some along the way and put it into the nearby bins to try and clear up.

To conclude, the man's influence on the Mourne Mountains is both positive and negative. Things like deforestation and litter are some of the negative impacts that have affected the area and the people around it. However, as before, people have created many helpful structures to assist and guide others. This is very much a positive impact for people like us, e.g. the trails and paths helped guide us along with our map and was also a way to help us stick together as a group as opposed to spreading out, trying to navigate the easiest route on uneven ground. Bridges and ladders made it a much easier job to cross rivers, fences and walls which proved handier than anticipated.

I agree that there has been a positive influence from people but there is still much work to be done to clear the negative impact that we have made on the mountains.

Grace Cahill (Form III)



The “Dos” and “Don’ts” of DofE

(By Finlay Baird)

First “Do/Don’t”

- At the very start of our D of E, we were going really fast and within the first 20 minutes, we were nearly caught up to the group in front. But that is when one of our group started to get quite tired and slowed down. The “don’t” in this is that you should be very careful about how much you pack as if it is too heavy, it will make progress a big struggle.
- The first “do” that became clear in the first few minutes is that you have to keep hydrated as going up hills can make you very sweaty which uses up the water in your body!

Second “Do/Don’t”

- The next “do” that we encountered was when we left the forest part of the journey. Without any tree cover, the sun heated everything up a lot so you have to remember to put suntan cream on otherwise you will end up with serious sunburn!
- The next “do” that we noticed in our trip was that you should always keep a constant supply of food such as dried fruit or slow-release sugars, otherwise your energy will drain very quickly, and it will be hard to keep pace with your group.



Third “Do/Don’t”

- The next “do” that became apparent was when we entered the marsh area! Check where you are putting your feet because a small puddle can turn out to be very deep!
- The next “don’t” is don’t try to run in the marsh as you will very quickly go over on your ankle and that will make for a miserable journey to camp.
- On the left you will see a little frog we have named Groggy. When we were having a quick break in the marshes, this little guy jumped up on Matthew!

Fourth "Do/Don't"

- Once we had entered the camp, we started building our tent, (after a quick break). When it has been put up, there are little orange ropes that need to be pinned into the ground. The "Do" here is that you should shorten the ropes as much as they will go, otherwise passers-by can trip on them and collapse your tent!
- Another thing that is pretty obvious when putting up your tent is that you should not build your tent too close to the water or other tents.

Fifth "Do/Don't"

- Once we had set up our tent, we needed to refill our water bottles. This required us to go to the river beside us. When refilling your water from a nearby river, you need to make sure that the water is fast-flowing and there is no contamination up-stream.
- The "don't" is that you must never urinate anywhere near a river as people may be drinking from that later on.
- The picture on the right shows one of my friends cleaning a bowl and the other person going in to help but slipping and falling on the way there.



Last "Do/Don't"

- The last "Do" was when it started raining. You need to always make sure to have waterproofs close at hand as the rain can get very strong very fast.
- The last "Don't" of our D of E experience is that you should **NEVER** go on the roads.





SILVER QUALIFYING EXPEDITION

Friday 6th - Sunday 8th May

MAN'S INFLUENCE ON THE MOURNES

The Mourne Mountains are the highest mountain range in Northern Ireland. An important landmark, its twelve peaks have been designated as an area of outstanding natural beauty. A favourite with hikers, it would take years to walk all the trails that the Mournes has to offer. The views of the valleys, lakes, rivers and reservoirs make it well worth the climb. However, it is important to note the care that is needed, the damage that can be done and the continued effect to these beautiful surroundings as more and more take to the hills, valleys and mountains.

In the past two years alone, there have been two devastating, deliberately-set gorse fires. The devastation still felt from last year's was greatly impacted by the further fires in March. Heathland, the area of 325 rugby pitches, was destroyed. A river acted as a natural fire-breaker, leaving one side completely devoid of any mature heather and rich biodiversity normally expected. Instead of diverse vegetation, only the quick growing purple moor grass grew back this year. The ecological balance is still very much disrupted and teams from the Wildlife Project are carrying out many essential surveys in an attempt to understand what wildlife and important vegetation has started to come back.

The wildlife in this area has been greatly impacted too. With the loss of many other essential slower growing heathers and heathlands, many birds like the meadow pipit and skylark are fewer in numbers this year, having less or none of the slow growing heathers to make their nests from or as a source of food. Following these fires, the heathers alone will take at least ten years for the base growth to return, taking a further 15 or 20 years before it will reach maturity. Only then will the

mosses and other mountain wildflowers thrive after that.

Although there is some bird song and a number of butterflies and lizards have been spotted, it will be a very long and slow process before the type and size of the previous biodiversity will be reached again. This habitat will take decades to get back and all because of a wilful act which devastated countless plants and animals. The impact on the flora and fauna, wildlife and ecosystem in that area will be felt for quite some time to come, with much co-operation and funding needed between organisations to establish the habitat again.

In some instances, man's influence on the Mournes has been a positive one, with many wildlife rangers carrying out essential work and surveys to encourage the environment and biodiversity. The National Trust, for example, cares for and maintains 526 hectares of the Mournes, while major conservation projects have been funded and planned by other organisations. The Mourne Mountains Landscape Partnership has identified key areas and are undertaking conservation work. Nine sites have been identified where biodegradable material will be used to restore collapsing banks. A new path is to be laid which hillwalkers will be asked to use instead of walking on the open heath. Many walkers and farmers have been helping conservationists identify problem areas.

During my trek as part of the Silver expedition, my team and I adhered to the 'Leave No Trace' programme, making decisions to enjoy our outdoor activity while minimising the impact on the natural environment. We planned ahead, were considerate of others, while respecting farm animals and wildlife. In addition, we disposed of waste properly and minimised the risk of fire.

Our goal was to enjoy our activities, while hopefully leaving little or no impact on the natural environment. With the Tourist Board continuing to offer a range of activities in the



Mournes for visitors, including hiking, cycling and rock- climbing, it will become more essential for people to adhere to and respect the rules while visiting this beautiful area. By respecting the habitat and environment and by ensuring the conservation and preservation of this national treasure, man can ensure it develops and expands, giving joy to people while continuing to help create a healthy biodiversity and wildlife area.

Darragh Quinn (Form IV)

GOLD QUALIFYING EXPEDITION

Thursday 4th - Sunday 7th May

ALBY'S LOG

Day 1: We woke up at 6am to start walking at 8. We began at Bloody Bridge. After handrailing Donard Forest, we made our way into the forest. We followed the track to a viewpoint in Tollymore Forest for lunch. We continued following the path in Tollymore, and walked towards Meelmore Lodge. Everyone was tired at the campsite that night, and after dinner, we went to bed.

Day 2: We woke up again at 6am and I boosted the group morale by singing Daily Duppy by Fredo. We left from Meelmore Lodge, from there to Fofanny Dam, continuing on to contour Butter Mountain, Spaltha and Spelga, down to the footbridge for lunch. We went on to the col between Cock Mountain and Slievenamiskan, down the Hen track, and over the col of Tornamrock and Altataggart mountain. We finished at Leitrim Lodge car park.

Day 3: I woke up at 2:30am to the sound of vigorous snoring from Jamie. I eventually managed to go back to sleep and started breakfast at 6am. We started our walk at Leitrim Lodge, back up through the col of Tornamrock and Wee Slievemoughanmore,

towards the col of the dreaded Pigeon Rock and Slieve Moughanmore, down contouring the rest of Pigeon Rock, towards the car park on the Moyad road for lunch. After lunch we contoured Slieve Muck towards Lough Shannagh. I decided to try raising group morale by going paddling in the lough. The group were submerged ankle deep in the water which wasn't the smartest idea as for the remainder of the walk we had wet feet. We finished by going up the col at Slieve Loughshannagh and Ott, ending at Ott car park. We spent the night at camp playing cards and talking.

Day 4: We got up at 6am and packed the tents up, to start our walk at Ott car park. Back up through the col of Ott and Slieve Loughshannagh, contouring Meelbeg and down through Meelmore and Bernagh to the Pollaphuca. We continued on to Hare's Gap for lunch. After lunch, we followed the Brandy Pad. We reached a stream and had a water fight. I threw water at Daisy and she fell in the stream, and then poured water over Jamie's head. After the Brandy Pad, we followed the track down past the castles and towards Annalong Wood to finish. We were all excited to finish but it was a great experience, made more enjoyable by everyone in both the groups.

Alby Joseph (LVI)

GOLD QUALIFYING EXPEDITION

Thursday 4th - Sunday 7th May

TEAM DYNAMICS

Team dynamics are the behavioural relationship between members of any given team. How a team interacts, communicates and works together has a dramatic impact on how successful a team is in meeting its goals.



Team members, Faith Drummond, Kate Sturgess, Hannah Thompson, Anna Wilson and myself, Lara Lennon, had one goal in mind-to complete our Gold expedition. This would be one step further to gaining our Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. So, with steely determination and the knowledge that we would have to persevere with the hardships of the next four days, we boarded the mini bus and set off for the Mourne Mountains in Newcastle, Co Down on the night of Wednesday, 3rd August, 2022.

We set up our tents that night in Meelmoore Lodge and everyone was in excellent spirits. The weather was kind and it really shaped the mood of the group for the next four days. It helped that in the team three girls were best friends and the other two were on good terms with them. We felt safe and comfortable in each other's company and accepted each other's unique character. Most of the team had "a glass half full rather than a glass half empty" attitude. This enabled us to talk to each other about our concerns without embarrassment. Each member of the group trusted others to commit to the expedition, to do their share of the work and be fair in how the team equipment that had to be carried, was shared out. Everyone contributed to the team effort. It was also a bonus that we had completed the expeditions for our Silver award together.

We also had a good relationship with the other team although there was some competitiveness, which was all pretty good natured. At night we would all sit together, toasting our marshmallows and discussing the highs and lows of the day. There was always some "banter" as to which team would finish the next day's route first.

At different stages of the expedition, each of us lacked motivation to continue but there was

always another team member who had the capacity to lift their spirits and help us all stay focused to achieve our goal. At times when group morale was low, we would all take a break to share and reflect on our reasons for doing the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. I believe this brought us closer together as we were compassionate to each other's reasons and it enabled us to learn more about our teammates. Although we all had our own individual reasons for wanting to do the Award and partaking in the expedition, we were determined to complete it as a group no matter what.

Each team member was responsible for a particular task i.e. setting up the Trangia, map reading, organising the tents, keeping time on the walks and ensuring that the team does this correctly. We equally delegated the equipment between the 5 of us to carry during the day-I carried the group sleeping bag and Kip mat. The Trangia, methylated spirits, pegs, poles, inner and outer of the tent was split equally between the other girls.

Although it was difficult living in such a small area with 2 other girls for 4 nights, I'm grateful that in my team we were all respectful of what time we each wanted to go to sleep at and mutually came up with a bedtime which suited us all. Although slightly cramped, we kept our tent organised and our stuff somewhat neatly together. Although it wasn't the comfiest when sleeping, I valued the other girls being there when I woke up. In the mornings we needed each other's motivation to get out of our sleeping bag then to venture outside to make breakfast.

As a team we had to make decisions and agree on them. At times certain members of the team dominated discussions but, with some compromise, we were all able to agree and



act on a solution. At times, tension was high after heated discussions on whether we should take breaks for a rest or a snack or to keep walking. Aggravation could only be expected in this environment as we were tired, sore and hungry and sometimes ankle-deep in marsh. However, after some rest and refreshments, peace and harmony were quickly restored. I believe I've become a more compassionate and caring person from my team as when people were upset or in pain, I was eager to listen and comfort them as best I could and I deeply appreciate they would have done the same for me.

On the last day, Sunday, 7th August, team spirits were high. We all worked in harmony to take down and pack up the tents and ensure the campsite was tidy. Only one more walk to complete the expedition. There was no tension within the group that day - we all chatted whilst eating lunch, shared snacks and talked about what we would buy from the Chinese take-away that evening. When we passed the finish line and got onto the mini bus, we all felt a sense of achievement, despite a few tense moments and some disagreements, we all continued to work towards our common goal.

The Duke of Edinburgh Gold Expedition was completed and we were all still friends! One of my favourite things over the 4 days was every night when we were having our dinner, we would go round the group and each say our favourite part of the day. I thoroughly enjoyed this reflection as it showed me how even though things meant little to me, they meant a lot to other people. This showed me the importance of teamwork and how beneficial the support network of a team is.

Although I don't miss the walking from the expedition, I do miss the deep talks and jokes we all shared and I made memories I will

cherish forever. I'm thankful for my team for making my experience enjoyable. The expedition has taught me valuable life lessons, that perseverance, resilience, compassion, compromise and most importantly, teamwork can get you through the toughest of situations. When the team reflects on the expedition, we are able to laugh at the trivial things we disagreed on and overall it made our friendship stronger.

Lara Lennon (LVI)

Music in School

MUSIC IN SCHOOL 2021/22



2021/22 has proven to be a very busy and exciting year for the Music Department. Rehearsals commenced immediately in September for all groups socially distanced in the Assembly Hall. With only seven rehearsals between the beginning of the new school year and the Senior Orchestra and Senior Choirs performances at Prize Day, we settled down to concentrate on the music chosen for that occasion. The Senior Orchestra performed Rondeau by Purcell and the Chamber Choir sang A Clare Benediction by John Rutter. Due to Covid restrictions, the performances were recorded in School and broadcast during the ceremony.

Immediately after the half term break, rehearsals

commenced for the Carol Service. Once again, the Senior Choir, Chamber Choir, Intermediate Choir and Junior Choir performed. Belfast Cathedral was a wonderful venue and we were all able to socially distance accordingly. Due to Covid restrictions, only 1 parent per child was allowed to attend the service – hopefully things will be different this year.

The Annual Spring Concert in March was a huge



success. Fourteen different groups and over three hundred students performed in the Ulster Hall. With so many different musical genres represented throughout the two evenings, it really was a feast of music. Special mention must go to the various members of MVI for whom this will be their last concert. There are simply too many to mention by name in this short article but Mr Forde, Mrs Prior and myself have greatly appreciated your support during your time at B.R.A.

The Music Department would like to take this opportunity to thank the various members of staff who sing, conduct, accompany and take part in so many instrumental and choral groups. Without your support the Music Department would find it very difficult to produce music of such a high standard. Thanks also to the instrumental teachers in the school who have shown such commitment to the groups that they have taken in school throughout the year.



All in all, we have yet again much cause for celebration and I am looking forward to the next academic year already!

WIND BAND



Finally, news of some successes in the wider instrumental scene. Hugo Reilly Stewart, Connor Gillam, Theodore Hayward, Jamie Wilson and Rory Nethercott all gained places in the Ulster Youth Orchestra. These places are all highly prized and gained only by audition against the stiffest of competition province wide. Many congratulations to them all. The UYO's concert at the end of the summer in the Ulster Hall was fabulous and it was wonderful to see so many past and present pupils of B.R.A. playing in the youth orchestra or leading the course.

It has been another successful year for the Wind Band. The Wind Band now consists of pupils from Forms I - MVI and the amalgamation of the Junior and Senior Wind Bands has proven to be a success. The music chosen for this year was Hootenany, a collection of American folk tunes, and an arrangement of the popular jazz song Sing, Sing, Sing. Both pieces proved challenging, especially with members of the junior school now also in the band. However, after a lot of hard work by the band, both pieces were ready for performance. With the departure of our percussion player, Andrew Nesbitt, at the end of the year, it was imperative that we should try to find someone who would be capable of taking over from him next year. Luckily, two junior school pupils, Lauren O'Donnell Anderson and Daniel Laird both jumped at the chance to play with the band and to gain valuable experience from Andrew, the master percussionist!

Our performance at the Spring Concert got the audience clapping and dancing along, with Hootenany containing favourites such as Down by the Riverside and Michael, Row your Boat. The audience certainly seemed to appreciate the performance. I would like to thank all the members of the MVI who helped the younger pupils throughout the year at each rehearsal.





SENIOR STRINGS



Once again, the Senior Strings had a full calendar of events planned for the year ahead. Rehearsals started straight away in September for our performances at the Open Evenings and the Spring Concert, as well as a number of smaller events throughout the school year. The music chosen for Senior Strings is always challenging as each member of the ensemble is Grade 7 or above and this year proved to be no exception. We decided to tackle the St Paul's Suite by Gustav Holst and the Serenade for Strings by Edward Elgar. Despite their technical difficulties, the group enjoyed the challenges involved in learning both pieces. Our attention then turned to the Open Evenings held in January. Positioned in the foyer of the Crombie building, we treated our visitors to old favourites such as Palladio by Karl Jenkins, Capriol Suite by Peter Warlock and Playful Pizzicato by Benjamin Britten. These occasions provide a good opportunity to try out the proposed repertoire for the Spring Concert, so the Primary 7 pupils visiting the school were also treated to the first movement of Holst's St Paul's Suite.



Our performance at the Spring Concert went brilliantly. With a little help from Miss McGinley in the 'cello section, we played movements I and IV from St Paul's Suite and movement I from the Serenade for Strings. I would also like to thank Gillian McDowell, Karen Harte and Andrew Nesbitt for all their hard work over the past four years. I wish you all well for the future.

JUNIOR CHOIR



Junior Choir recommenced in September under the leadership of Miss Marion Wood. Preparations were quickly underway for their first performance of the year at the Junior Carol Service. After Christmas, with the departure of Miss Wood, Ms. McMullan took over the leadership of the group. The next performance was at the Spring Concert and it was decided that the choir should perform a collection of African Spirituals as well as a rendition of Bohemian Rhapsody by the rock band, Queen. Their performance at the Spring Concert was electrifying, especially with Mr Finlay, aka Freddie Mercury, at the piano and James Martin and William McAteer playing the guitar. I would like to thank all the members of the Junior Choir for their hard work and dedication throughout the year.

M.M.M.



ARTS HONOURS AWARDS

Major New Award

Charlotte, Beattie
Eleanor, Black
Jessica, Boyd
Neil, Elliott
David, Eyjolfsson
Ryan, Ferguson
Conor, Gillam
Theo, Hayward
Jayne, Kennedy
Sophia, Mallon
Shannon, McBride
Cara, McGrath
Niamh, McIlroy
Ellie, McIvor
Fiona, Murray
Rory, Nethercott
Riya, Raghuram
Tianna, Savage
Kate, Sturgess
Lucy, White
Anna, Wilson

Major Re-Award

Hannah, Crawford
Caitlin, Donaghy
Sabriel, Gergett
Lucy, Handcock
Georgia, Harvey
Nada, Hawela
Emma, Irvine
Ella, Linton
Kathleen, Malone
Grace, McIlroy
Rachel, Ramsey
Sarah, Saunders



Intermediate New Award

Daniel, Armstrong
Anna, Buckley
Jack, Cairns
Cara, Campbell
Ethan, Carter
Andrew, Cleland
Cormac, Doherty
Noah, Gilchrist
Holly, Hooks
Kian, Jan-Dickens
Anjana, Kandel
Harrison, Kirk
Alice, Logan
Cara, McMahon
Riona, Millard
Madeleine, Morwood
Ciara, Murray
EJ, Nazareth
Alessandro, O'Hara
Grace, Ogilby
Matthew, Rankin
Hugo, Reilly Stewart
Martha-Rose, Rooney
Alex, Simon
Lucy-Beth, Watson
Anna, Wilson
Emilia, Zboralska

Intermediate Re Award

Catelyn, Burns
Aoife, Caldwell
Maia, Erwin
Ben, Golden
Eleanor, Green
Alex, Johnston
Olivia, Jones
Lara, Lennon
Sasha, Logan
Helen, Marshall
Sarah, McCarney
Rachel, McGrath
Natasha, Newton
Jamie, O'Brien
Bella, Scott
Hannah, Thompson

MINOR NEW

Rachael, Anderson
Adrienne, Balili
Tannisha, Biswas
Niall, Blaskett
Amandine, Chesnel
Sophia, Chowne
Chloe, Craig
Eva, Crossan
Anna, Curran
Lucy, Donald
Rosa, Donaldson
Jane, Finnegan

Denise, Gaspar
Thomas, Gillam
Jack, Gilmore
Olivia, Hadden
Jackson, Haddock
Leah, Hetherington
Alice, Hew
Faith, Hillis
Katie, Horkan
Ema, Jones
Clodagh, Kearney
Rosa, Kerr

Rebecca, Kirkpatrick
Jessica, Lane
Molly, Macauley
Amber, Mallon
Jane, Martin
Bryn, Mawhinney
Clodagh, McAuley
Katie, McCarney
Jessie, McCauley
Hugo, McCollam
Eve, McKeown
Abigail, McKinty

Sarah, McLean
Alex, McQueen
Anna, McWilliams
Jasmine, Mirfield
Ed, Nethercott
Siona, Nibu
Adam, O'Brien
Ella, O'Carroll



Joe, O’Kane
Madhumitha, Pandiaraj
Gail, Payot
Zoe, Piddington
Darragh, Quinn
Seraphina, Rooney
Emily, Saunders
Toby, Sayers
Clara, Schilling
Ines, Scott
Aoife, Scott

Samvritha, Srikanth
Olivier, Staworzynski
Beth, Stewart
Annabelle, Toal
Bhuvanesh, Venkatesan
Emily, Warnock
Emily, Warnock
Maria, Watters
Jamie, Wilson
Rosie, Woods

Minor Re-Award

David Kane





Senior Choir

SOPRANO & ALTO

Ellie Bell
Sophie Burns
Beth Callaghan
Carla-Lina Gueye-Dorval
Blessing Eneh
Olivia Hadden
Shannen Kelly
Alice Logan
Riona Millard
Matheline Morwood
Jasmine Mirfield
Ciara Murray
Siona Nibu
Grace Ogilby
Debbie Ogunleye
Aoife Scott
Alex Simon
Lauren Beattie
Anna Buckley
Caitlyn Burns
Hannah Crawford
Caitlyn Donaghy
Maia Erwin
Denise Gaspar
Sabriel Gergett
Emma Haken
Sophie Hamilton
Lucy Handcock
Georgia Harvey
Nada Hawels
Emma Irvine
Alex Johnston
Maria Johnston
Jayne Kennedy
Ella Linton
Kathleen Malone
Shannon McBride
Eva McGoldrick-Mathers
Lois McGrath
Rachel McGrath
Niamh McIlroy
Grace McIlroy
Martha Rooney
Sarah Saunders

Christina Warnock
Lucy White
Charlotte Beattie
Eleanor Black
Jessica Boyd
Aoife Caldwell
Aoife Dann
Rachel Duncan
Ellen Elliott
Eleanor Green
Alice Hew
Ebony Hoogelander
Holly Hooks
Olivia Jones
Anjana Kandel
Lara Lennon
Ellen Loane
Nina Magee
Sophia Mallon
Helen Marshall
Harriet McAlister
Sarah McCarney
Cara McGrath
Ellie McIvor
Abbie McKnight
Anna Monaghan
Fiona Murray
Natasia Newton
Lara Norwood
Riya Raghuram
Sophie Rutherford
Tianna Savage
Bella Scott
Katie Scott
Charlotte Spence
Kate Sturges
Eve Taylor
Hannah Thompson
Kaitlyn Toal
Grace Uprichard
Lucy Beth Watson
Cassie Watt
Ellen Watt
Anna Wilson
Emilia Zboralska

TENOR & BASS

Jack Cairns
Jack Gilmore
Harrison Kirk
Joe O'Kane
Matthew Rankin
Ethan Carter
Neil Elliott
Benjamin Read
Tristan Wallace
David Eyjolfsson
Ryan Ferguson
Conor Gillam
Theo Hayward
Kian Jan-Dickens
Rory Nethercott
Niall Blaskett
Thomas Gillam
Adam O'Brien
Jamie Wilson
Hugo McColam
Jacob McLaughlin
Ed Nethercott
Toby Savers
Andrew Cleland
Bhuvanesh Venkatesan
Daragh Quinn
Finn McAlorum
Stuart Knox
Gopi Murugaperumal



Belfast Royal Academy

Spring Concert

Tuesday
15th March 2022
Ulster Hall, Belfast
7pm



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PROGRAMME

Wind Band	<i>Brass Fever</i>	J. Cacavas
	<i>The Ecstasy of Gold</i>	
	(saxophone: Grace McIlroy & Eleanor Black)	E. Morricone arr. L. Bocci
Junior Traditional Group	<i>The Boy in the Gap; The Lobster; Ryan's Rant</i>	Traditional
	(fiddle: Jane Finnegan)	
Junior Strings	<i>Mexican Clapping Song</i>	arr. T Kenny
Junior Choir (accompanist: Callum Whiteside)	<i>Into the Unknown</i>	K. Anderson-Lopez & R. Lopez
	(soloists: Ella-Sofia Downey & Sophie Wilson)	C. Lauper
	<i>Time After Time</i>	
	(soloist: Leah Carter)	
Senior Strings	<i>Amadeus!</i>	Mozart arr. J. Hoffman
	<i>Introduction and Allegro</i>	Boismortier arr. R. McCashin
	Violin 1: Hugo Reilly-Stewart Violin 2: Maria Watters Viola: Theo Hayward	
Intermediate Choir (accompanist: Harrison Kirk)	<i>A Thousand Years</i>	D. Hodges & C. Perri
Ben Madigan	<i>Sing!</i>	The Carpenters arr. J. Raposo
	<i>Shivers</i>	E. Sheeran
Senior Orchestra	<i>Game of Thrones</i>	R. Djawadi arr. GJF
	<i>Dance of the Knights</i>	S. Prokofiev arr. GJF

Senior Strings

1ST VIOLIN

Hugo Reilly-Stewart
Rory Nethercott
Connor Gillam
Ryan Ferguson
Jamie Wilson
Ella Linton
Anna Wilson
Shannon McBride
Sabriel Gergett
Jessica Boyd
Molly Lapworth

2ND VIOLIN

Maria Watters
Jane Finnegan
Cara Campbell
Cara McMahon
Jessica Lane
Alessandro O'Hara
Thomas Gillam
Riya Raghuram
Katie Horkan
Rachael Anderson
Chloe Craig
Helen Marshall
Olivia Hadden
Sarah Saunders

VIOLA

Theo Hayward
David Eyjolfsson
Alex Simon
Tristan Wallace
Lucy Donald

CELLO

EJ Nazareth
Kian Jan-Dickens
Alex McQueen

DOUBLE BASS

Oliver Starowski

Chamber Choir

SOPRANO

Aoife Caldwell
Eleanor Green
Ella Linton
Ellie McIvor
Jasmine Mirfield
Riya Raghuram
Martha-Rose Rooney
Lucy White

ALTO

Eleanor Black
Jayne Kennedy
Kathleen Malone
Alex Simon
Ellen Watt

TENOR

Niall Blaskett
Ethan Carter
Neil Elliott
Harrison Kirk

BASS

Jack Cairns
Theo Hayward
Rory Nethercott
Benjamin Read
Tristan Wallace

Junior Strings

1ST VIOLIN

Zachary Saunders
Hannah Rankin
Eleanor Murphy
Rebecca McGowan
Aoife O'Kane
Lucy Stevenson
Sophie Curran

2ND VIOLIN

Michael Eyjolfsson
James Adair
Zoe O'Kane
Inis McVicker

VIOLA

Gemma Duffy

CELLO

Timothy Lane



Saxophone Ensemble

Alto 1 Grace McIlroy
Alto 2 Neil Elliott
Alto 3 Hannah Crawford
Tenor Sax Eleanor Black

Junior Traditional Group

FIDDLE

Jane Finnegan
Ema Jones
Maria Mallon
Zachary Saunders
Maria Watters

TIN WHISTLE/FLUTE

Zara Duffy
Jessica McCauley
Erin O'Brien

BODHRAN

Hugo McCollam

GUITAR

Aoife O'Kane
Lara Morrow
Lydia Blaney
Leah Callaghan
Rosa Kerr
Abby Lavery
David McFerran
Gail Payot
Keshav Ragurham
Charlotte Maroon

Wind Band

FLUTE

Sasha Logan
Lucy Handcock
Sophia Mallon
Grace Ogilby
Emma Haken
Fiona Murray
Alice Logan
Noah Gilchrist
Jessie McCauley
Amber Mallon
Erin O'Brien
Samuel Johnston
Samuel Lockhart
Leah Hetherington
Eve McKeown
Zara Duffy

TROMBONE

Riona Millard
Danny Armstrong
Andrew Cleland
Finlay Baird
Jonah Black

Lucille Boulan
Serena Gibson
Charlotte Hughes
Sophia Johnston-Crowe
Niamh McKenna Murray
Lelilia Scullion
Sophia Simon
Jessica Clendinning
Grace Cunningham
Marley Hamill
Isabella McBurney

CLARINET

Neil Elliott
Aoife Dann
Nada Hawela
David Kane
Beth Stewart
Abigail McKinty
Hannah Beattie
James Murray
Rebecca Kirkpatrick
Sophia Chowne
Cate O'Dowd

TENOR SAXOPHONE

Eleanor Black
Reuben Leavey
Ciarrin Laverty

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Grace McIlroy
Rachel Ramsey
Georgia Harvey
Ciara Murray
Cormac Doherty
Alex McQueen
Bryn Mawhinney
Keshav Ragurham
Samvithra Srikanth
Hannah Crawford

TENOR HORN

Jamie O'Brien
Holly Hooks
Seraphina Rooney
Hannah Wonnacott

TRUMPET

Ben Golden
Harrison Kirk
Caitlyn Donaghy
Adam O'Brien
Emily Warnock
Ed Nethercott
Roisin McCarthy
Harry McIntyre
Allie Challenger
Michael Kerr
Milo Platt-Bell

PERCUSSION

Matthew Rankin
Stuart Knox
Hugo Reilly Stewart
Jessica Oliver

BASS

Joe O'Kane

Ben Madigan

Craig Boulan
Ryan Boulan
George Cole
Sofia Fitzpatrick
Ciara Groombridge
Layton Magowan
Amber McIlwaine Biggins
Fergus McNeilly
Joshua Strain
Thomas McRitchie
Darcy Patterson
Eden Trueick
Grace Kelly
Jack Knox
Jacob Picking
(Percussion)
Eoin Seavard
Sophia Simon
Ryan Teague
Ollie Trueick
Serena Gibson
Sophia Johnston-Crowe

Ukulele Orchestra

Grace Kelly
Jack Knox
Jacob Picking
(Percussion)
Eoin Seavard
Sophia Simon
Ryan Teague
Ollie Trueick
Serena Gibson
Sophia Johnston-Crowe

15 Minute Interval

Big Band

Happy

Gospel John

(trumpet: Ben Golden)

P. Williams arr. J. Berry

Steinberg arr. A. Clark

Chamber Choir

Human

Water Fountain

R. Graham & J. Hartmann arr. O. Gies

N. Brenner & M. Garbus

Saxophone Quartet

Sir Duke

S. Wonder arr. P. Marilla

Senior Traditional Group

Top Floor: The Rambles of Kitty and The Blackbird

Traditional arr. R. Ferguson

M6 Solo

Ella Linton

'Wishing you were somewhere here again'

A. Lloyd-Webber

Senior Choir

(accompanist: Harrison Kirk)

Cantique de Jean Racine

The Rhythm of Life

G. Faure

D. Fields & C. Coleman arr. R. Barnes

When the Saints go marching in

J. Rutter

Intermediate Choir

Racheal Anderson
Adrienne Balili
Tanisha Biswas
Lucy Chambers
Amandine Chesnel
Stephanie Chow
Sophia Chowne
Chloe Craig
Eva Crossan
Anna Curran
Lucy Donald
Rosa Donaldson
Jane Finnegan
Madison Gilmore
Leah Hetherington
Faith Hillis

Katie Horkan
Wiktorija Januszewska
Ema Jones
Annabelle Junk
Ella Kilpatrick
Clodagh Kearney
Rebecca Kirkpatrick
Jessica Lane
Lucy Lyons
Molly Macauley
Amber Mallon
Jane Martin
Jessie McCauley
Clodagh McQuay
Katie McCarney
Sarah McClean
Eve McKeown
Abigail McKinty
Alex McQueen

Anna McWilliams
Ella O'Carroll
Madhumitha Pandiaraj
Gail Payot
Fiona Phillip
Zoe Piddington
Seraphina Rooney
Emily Saunders
Clara Schilling
Ines Scott
Beth Stewart
Annabelle Toal
Emily Warnock
Maria Watters
Rosie Woods

Senior Orchestra

1ST VIOLIN

Hugo Reilly-Stewart**
Ryan Ferguson*
Connor Gillam
Rory Nethercott
Cara McMahon
Anna Wilson
Jamie Wilson
Lara Norwood
Ella Linton
Shannon McBride
Molly Lapworth
Sabriel Gergett
Jessica Boyd

2ND VIOLIN

Maria Watters*
Jane Finnegan
Charlotte Beattie-Logan
Tianna Savage
Thomas Gillam
Jessica Lane
Alessandro O'Hara
Cara Campbell
Riya Raghuram
Rachael Anderson
Katie McCarney
Katie Horkan
Madhumitha Pandiaraj
Chloe Craig
Sarah Saunders

VIOLA

Theo Hayward*
David Eyolfsson
Alex Simon
Tristan Wallace

'CELLO

Kian Jan-Dickens*
Niamh McIlroy
EJ Nazareth
Alex McQueen
Rosa Kerr

DOUBLE BASS

Olivier Staworzynski*

FLUTE

Sasha Logan*
Sophia Mallon
Lucy Handcock
Noah Gilchrist
Jessica McCauley (piccolo)

CLARINET

Eleanor Black*
Neil Elliott
Grace McIlroy
Aoife Dann

SAXOPHONE

Cormac Doherty
Samvithra Srikanth
Bryn Mawhinney

TRUMPET

Ben Golden*
Harrison Kirk
Ed Nethercott
Emily Warnock

TROMBONE

Riona Millard*
Andrew Cleland

HORNS

Holly Hooks*
Jamie O'Brien

PERCUSSION

Matthew Rankin*
Rafferty Bowman

** = Leader
* = Section Principal

Big Band

SAXOPHONE

Grace McIlroy
Neil Elliott
Hannah Crawford
Alex McQueen
Cormac Doherty
Bryn Mawhinney
Eleanor Black
Aoife Dann

TRUMPET

Ben Golden
Harrison Kirk
Emily Warnock
Ed Nethercott

PERCUSSION

Matthew Rankin

PIANO

Niall Blaskett

GUITAR

Gail Payot
Jack Gilmore
Jackson Haddock

BASS GUITAR

Joe O'Kane

TROMBONE

Riona Millard
Danny Armstrong
Andrew Cleland
Jonah Black

Junior Choir

Senior Traditional Group

FIDDLE

Ryan Ferguson (leader)
Rory Nethercott
Conor Gillam
Anna Wilson
Theo Hayward

TIN WHISTLE

Fiona Murray (co-leader)
Ciara Murray
Jessie McCauley
Madeleine Morwood

FLUTE

Grace Ogilby
Sophia Mallon
Noah Gilchrist

BANJO

Jane Finnegan

BODHRAN

Kathleen Malone

GUITAR

Emma Irvine
Matthew Rankin
Kate Sturgess
Ellie McIvor
Jack Gilmore
Cara McGrath
Eleanor Black

CONCERTINA

Jamie Wilson

Kayla Adair
Ella Adam
Grace Alison
Eva Bettany
Leah Carter
Zuzanna Chojnacka
Aaliyah Clarke
Rosa Clarke
Layla Crawford
Sophie Curran
Rebekah Dalzell-McGhee
Zara Duffy
Rachel Easdon
Cora Johnston
Holly Johnston
Rose Keenan
Lauren Knockner
Matilda Magill
Amelia Manley
Charlotte Maroon
Lola Mateer
Gracie McCormick
Nathaniel McCracken
Isabelle McCune
Amelie McKeown
Rebecca McKeown

Leah McNevison
Sophie McVeigh
Lucy McVeigh
Inis McVicker
Nathan Millin
Sophia Morwood
Melissa Mullolland
Eleanor Murphy
Jayden Njanina
Erin O'Brien
Ella O'Kane
Zoe O'Kane
Miah O'Reilly
Hannah Press
Keshav Raghuram
Holly Ross
Beatrice Seath
Jessica Smyth
Ella Sofia Downey
Pujitha Srikanth
Lucy Stevenson
Ria Tohani
Lucy Whitley
Sophie Wilson
Jenna Wilson

School Games

RUGBY

1ST XV



Senior rugby began in mid-July. This summer period has become an integral part of preparation for senior rugby. This involved training both in the gym and the sports hall to maximise player strength and conditioning for September.

The season started with an away fixture against a strong Royal School Armagh team, played on a beautiful morning in Armagh. This was a very tight game, with Armagh coming out on the right side of the result (19-12). Callum Savage and Ryan O'Hara scored two well-worked scores. This was followed by a game against Methodist College Belfast. An excellent start was made, with Josh McKee scoring first to give an 5-0 lead and then

converting a penalty. Methody, however, came back and scored three tries taking the final score 21-8.

The next game was against Sullivan Upper School in Holywood. A disappointing performance saw the team lose this fixture by 19-5.



The 2021/22 season saw the school arrange to play the annual Wallace High School fixture on a Friday evening at The Dub, Queen's University Belfast. The Arena pitch was in excellent condition and there was a great atmosphere around the ground in the build-up to the game! BRA started the game superbly, with David Wilson finishing off an excellent back line move to take an early 5-0 lead. Wallace replied with two cored and one conversion to take the score to 12-5. BRA continued to push late into the game and got their reward with a well finished try from Josh Manson. The conversion fell just short. BRA continued to push for a late win, however fell short. This game felt like a turning point. After a disappointing September, this performance showed that there was a team with real heart and potential.

It was important to back this performance up the following week against Rainey Endowed School. There was a confident atmosphere amongst the team on the morning of this game. An excellent



performance followed winning 38-5. Captain Liam Davis scored two tries, as did winger Henry George. Tries from Scott Baxter, Callum Savage and Adam Gooderham added to the excellent team performance.



Up next was Royal School Dungannon who had a particularly strong team. Played midweek at Roughfort, Dungannon came out of top 40-14. This was a disappointing performance, given how well we had played in the weeks previously!

The next two games were against Bangor Grammar School and Down High School. The game against Bangor was played in very tough conditions, as it was particularly wet and windy.

However, this did not stop the team from playing very well. Tries from Ben Lonsdale, Callum Savage, Adam Gooderham, Reuben McCrea and two for Liam Davis led to a convincing 38-12 win! The following game against Down High saw another disappointing performance, losing 18-10 in a game that really could and should have been won.

At this stage of the season, it was hoped that some consistency would start to appear in performances. The Schools cup was not far away, but there was still plenty of work to be done!



The following game against Dalriada saw another good victory recorded. Played on a wet morning in Ballymoney, tries from Callum Savage, Liam Davis, David Wilson, Ben Dewhurst and Ben Lonsdale saw a 33-5 victory. It was pleasing to see such a positive attitude away from home. The following game against Regent was a huge disappointment, losing 12-10, particularly because BRA were the much better side.

Coleraine Grammar played the team next at Roughfort, recording a well-deserved 31-0 win. It was important to bounce back from this in the final game before the Christmas break against Enniskillen Royal Grammar School. Selection was tight for places for Schools Cup spots, so everyone was keen to be at their best. A 22-7 win was recorded, with two tries from Joe McGuigan and one from Reuben McCrea.

The Christmas break was now just around the corner. It had been an excellent term's work with some really good performances. The team was beginning to gel very well. Players took a break for a week or so over Christmas. After Christmas, it was time to prepare for a difficult fixture against Campbell College. This game proved to be a real test. With some key players missing, it gave an opportunity for some others to claim their place in the Schools Cup. Campbell, however, in the end proved much too strong, winning substantially.



Players returned to their school routine the following Monday. Preparation now focused solely on getting ready for our Schools Cup game. The team had been drawn away to Royal School Armagh. Players knew they would need to be at their very best! However, it was exactly where they wanted to be, competing with the very best in the competition. There was a buzz of excitement. Schools cup days are special.



All preparation had been done. In the week building up to this game, we had reiterated to players that Armagh is always a very difficult place to go to! The morning was crisp and a large crowd gathered to watch the game. Although the team made a good start to the game, ill discipline was proving a weakness. Armagh kicked at goal well and took their opportunities when they needed to. Training 11-0 at half time, we knew that if we could take our chances we were still very much in the game. However, Armagh scored late on to take the score 10 18-0- a well-deserved victory.

The exit from the Schools cup was difficult to process. Players were understandably very disappointed. So much work and effort had gone into this and we had a chance, given the start. However, here was so much for players to learn from this experience. It was time to put energy into the bowl competition. The team was drawn at home to Bangor Grammar School. It was a blustery morning at Roughfort. Bangor played into the wind in the first half. BRA, with the wind, did not make enough of this, taking a 5-0 lead into the break. Bangor, in the second half, played well and kicked the ball, using the wind very effectively. They looked energised and went on the score 3 converted second half tries winning 21-5. This was

a disappointing way to finish the season.

The focus now turned to some 7s training. With few 15-a-side games remaining, it was an opportunity to try something new. The 7s squad went to the Ulster Schools Sevens competition in good spirits. Defeating Ballymena Academy and Down High in the group stage was a very good start. This, however, was followed by a narrow defeat to Coleraine Grammar in the group, leaving us second. Enough had been done to qualify to the Quarter Final against Regent House Grammar. This game was tough. However, a good win (26-12) took the team to a semi-final against Campbell College. A big crowd gathered for this game. Josh McKee's restarts proved to be the winner in this game winning 24-0. The final was next against Coleraine Grammar. In an incredibly close game, the team came from 12-0 down to win 19-12, Captain Liam Davis scoring on the last play to win. A fantastic way to finish the season, Ulster Schools Sevens Winners.



As coaching staff, it was a pleasure to work with this group. To those that leave, we wish you well and hope you continue to give to the game that you all love, elsewhere.

I would like to thank Brian McLaughlin for his continued expertise and support; Mike Bentley for his work conditioning players; Chris McCarey for his support with the team and organising all fixtures throughout the year; Luke Bonnar for his support in video analysis and Daryl Service as team Physio. Without these members of staff, Senior players wouldn't get the fantastic experience they do. Finally, I would like to thank Liam Davis for his leadership as Captain throughout the year.

D.J.C.



MEDALLION XV



The Medallion XV had a good season and were competitive against all teams. There were a lot of talented boys in the squad with much competition for places. The side struggled to find consistency in their play- some of this could be attributed to injury to key personnel throughout the year. The team won more games than they lost and recorded two convincing wins against Methodist College.

In the Medallion Shield competition, the team were drawn away to Rainey Endowed School. This was a difficult draw as their opponents had had a good season and built up a reputation as a hard side to break down, particularly at home. The side rose to the challenge and put in an excellent performance, both individually and collectively. Their game management was outstanding, and the team recorded a convincing victory. This set up a quarter final draw at home to Campbell College. This was a very tight encounter. The team got off to a slow start and conceded an early try. This shocked the team into action and BRA dominated large parts of the game, literally falling centimetres short of the try line on two occasions. The Campbell College defence stood strong against the onslaught and a late try was enough to see Campbell College progress to the semi-finals, before they eventually went on to win the competition.

Oliver Cox, Hadwyn Hughes, Adam Cairns, Finn Connolly and Nathan Rossal were all regulars in the front row. All contributed significantly during the season and have a lot to offer senior rugby over the coming seasons.

Kain McGrory, Sam Saunders, Conor McGuigan, Charlie Craig and Noah Gregg played key roles in the second row, providing good lineout ball and mobility around the pitch.

The back row consisted of Ethan Kerr, Aaron Caldwell, Ryan Calwell, Evan Lemon and Kristopher Mills. This was a real area of strength for the team, with good mobility, power and ball-carrying evident throughout the season. Scrum half was a keenly contested position. It is unusual to have three players of quality to pick from. Harper McCluskey, Lorcan Bell and Conor McVicker, an U14 player, all contributed significantly to the success of the team. Each bring different strengths to the position and it will certainly be interesting to watch them develop over the coming years.

Frank Davis was the starting out half. He is a player of real quality. His game management was a key area of development and he worked hard on this throughout the season. This became an area of strength, as demonstrated in the Medallion Shield game at Rainey.

The areas of centre and outside backs saw lots of different combinations throughout the year, some enforced by injury. This was an area of much competition for places, with the starting team rarely being consistent on consecutive weeks. Adam Hewitt, Jake Carpenter, Luan McVicker, Max McKittrick, Michael O'Gorman, Jack Webb, Daniel Blayney and Jack Bacon all featured in many positions throughout the year. They have much to offer and all will contribute positively to senior rugby in school.

Alex French, Aaron Brolly and Zach Archer from the U14 squad bolstered the Medallion squad during the competitive phase of the season. All three have the potential to be key players for the Medallion XV next season.

I would like to thank Mr Patterson for all his expertise, commitment and enthusiasm in coaching the group this year-it is greatly appreciated.

C.M.C.

UNDER 13 A AND B



The U13 A & B squads had a successful first year of inter-school rugby, rising to the challenges of the 15-a- side game and the increase in physicality. Ably led by Captain Caleb McWhinney and Vice-Captain Adam Carpenter, the squad was in good hands for the coming season as both these boys showed good leadership on and off the pitch.

The A team started the season well, narrowly overcoming close rivals MCB by 15-12. This was a game which showed real determination and set a solid platform for the rest of the year.

In the following weeks, victories against Sullivan, Antrim Grammar, Down High and Wallace High School followed. These performances were built on resolute defence and an ability to keep control of the ball for long periods of time. During this period, we made a lot of ground through the hard running of Antoni Derezinski and Harrison McMahon, alongside the strong kicking of Daniel Bell. Frustratingly, we suffered our first defeat the following week, narrowly losing 14-12 to Dalriada. This was our weakest performance of the season during a wet and windy Saturday morning at Roughfort, but it showed the boys never to be complacent in their desire for success.

Learning from the defeat, the squad bounced back with an enormous 60-7 victory against Regent House, with players such as Finn Hanna, Adam Moore and Zach Simpson making a breakthrough to the starting line-up. Our team's fast paced play with quick ball from our scrum-halves Isaac Mukula and Harry Burns linking with hard running forwards like Oscar Coiley and side-stepping backs tore through most teams' defence.

The next big challenge our lads faced were back-to-back matches against RBAI and Campbell Collage. We suffered heavy and hard-fought defeats to both schools. Although the defeats were disappointing, the attitude and effort shown by everyone on the pitch was a major positive. This attitude to get better and play for their teammates will serve this squad well as they move on to U14 and Medallion Rugby.

Two of our final matches before the end-of-season tournaments were against Ballyclare High and Campbell Collage. However, the fact that both teams had given us trouble earlier in the season only gave these boys more determination to come out on top. We secured a fantastic 28-14 win at Roughfort against Ballyclare and finished with a nail-biting 21-19 victory at Campbell Collage, with some excellent team and individual tries from Antoni Derezinski, Daniel Bell, Harrison McMahon and captain Caleb McWhinney, who led from the front all season at inside centre.

We should also mention our number 10, Blake McCloskey who kept us ahead in many games with his pinpoint accuracy from the tee and to Daniel Henderson, whose textbook tackling kept most opposing teams behind the gain line.

The B team should also be proud of how their season has developed. The U13 A Team quickly became a squad as the season developed with players moving up to the challenge regularly. The team showed great progress throughout the year and had a number of victories as well as a few losses. Their passion and determination were a pleasure to coach and I hope to see many of them playing senior rugby for the school in the years to come. We cannot mention everyone, but some stand out players deserve a mention. Harry Burns led the side from scrum half and continues to be a passionate and talented player, Zach Simpson and Adam Moore pushed on and have become hard-hitting second rows who led from the front and players, including Jay Young, Charlie Swann and Carey Hughes continue to get better every week. In my first season as a Coach at BRA, this group of A and B team players deserve credit for their hard work and determination throughout the season. They will develop into a strong squad of players



in the coming years, and I look forward to seeing them in a 1st XV jersey in the future.

Thanks to Caleb and Adam for their work organising the players and to the other coaches, Mr Shields and Mr McAuley, along with the parents who supported the boys so well throughout the year.

C.G.N./Caleb McWhinney

3rd XV



Under 16's



Under 14's



BOY'S HOCKEY

UNDER 14 XI



Boys' hockey fixtures finally returned after a significant break due to Covid-19. The under 14s managed 4 fixtures and, while ultimately none yielded a victory, significant progress was made. The core of this team even managed to get some experience playing for the 1st XI by the end of the season. Some of these players will indeed form the nucleus of what could become a relatively successful cohort if they continue on the same trajectory.

Our first match saw us take on Regent House at the Valley. Without a goalkeeper of our own, we shared the use of the Regent 'keeper in what turned out to be a closely fought contest, which, in spite of a well taken Jacob Clements's goal, Regent edged 2-1.

Next up, we made the journey across to Campbell College, with Jacky Lin making his debut as our goalkeeper. The greater experience of the hosts told as a number of late goals saw them surge to a comprehensive 8-0 victory.

This was followed by a fixture away to Grosvenor Grammar. The more established home side went ahead early on. However, we stuck to our task well and competed much better in the second half, with Jacob Clements again getting his name on the scoresheet as we lost 6-1.

Our final game saw us visit Bangor Grammar to play their 'B' team. Unfortunately for us, the only non 'B' team player they had was their goalkeeper who made a string of excellent saves. On the balance of play, we perhaps deserved to win a close



contest, but a consolation Max Colvin short-corner goal on the final whistle in a 2-1 defeat was our only reward.

In total, eight players featured in every match: Jacky Lin stepped up to become our goalkeeper. He was a good shot-stopper and played the position without fear. However, he needs to improve upon his footwork and come off his line more frequently to narrow the angles if he is to be more effective. Malachy Wallace played in the defence. He is a quietly determined character who gave his all every time he stepped onto the pitch. He is a solid tackler but needs to develop more confidence when he is on the ball and be more vocal on the pitch to increase his effectiveness.

Max Colvin played at sweeper. Max is technically the most gifted player on the team, with the best basic skills. He hits the ball cleanly and took control of a lot of our hit outs. He captained the side well. To be of greater impact, especially moving up to the 1st XI next year, he needs to be a bit more composed on the play and play with his head up more.

Matthew McFarland was another who played in defence, although he preferred to operate in a more advanced role. Matthew has the ability to do basic things well, but all too often is attempting the high tariff skill. If he can focus on improving his basic skills first, his first touch, improving his footwork and giving the simple pass, his impact on the game will be greater.

Jude Craig filled a role in midfield, usually centre midfield. He, like Max, gained some experience playing on the 1sts at the end of the season. He is another with good basic skills and he linked up well with his midfield partner, Ben Montgomery. He would benefit from taking on a bit more responsibility within the team and reacting quicker to events on the pitch.

As mentioned already, Ben Montgomery also operated in midfield, usually on the right. Like Max and Jude, his basic skills were at a higher level than many of the others and he improved his 3D skills during the course of the season. He too, didn't always appear to have a conviction in his

abilities. Often, he would have his man beaten and instead of going round the outside, would turn back into traffic.

James Quigley played most of his hockey at left midfield. He had a sound positional sense and good basic skills. He needs to get stronger on the ball and tackle with greater force and conviction if he is to have as much impact on the matches as his ability suggests he can.

Jacob Clements was the last of the ever-presents. He plied his trade up front. Far from the finished article in terms of his stick skills, he competed manfully in every situation. His movement was instinctively good and he got himself into good positions on the pitch from where he could influence the game.

Ryan Graham featured in three of the four matches. Ryan's effort was relentless, and he is a strong boy, who was willing to put his body on the line in defence. When we are in possession of the ball, he needs to show a lot more composure and calm in maintaining that possession. Another who featured in some of the matches was Daniel Kirk. A convert from multisport, he showed promise and had good basic skills and was positionally disciplined in defence.

Others who featured included Conor Burnett, Jay Crawford (when we could prize him away from multisport and until a fractured arm curtailed his involvement), Daithi Brogan, Hugh Dougal and Frankie McKay.

Overall, it is a group who showed potential, improved during the course of the year and will improve further, especially if they can get involved with local hockey clubs to augment the coaching they are getting within school.

M.G.H.

GIRLS' HOCKEY

The Girls' Hockey club welcomed back the expertise of elite coach, Stephen Watt for a fifth season. Stephen's focus again would be with the 1st XI and 2A XI squads, although he would also have an important input working with the junior teams through the week.



For the 2021/22 season, we fielded 4 Senior and 4 Junior teams every week for our Saturday morning fixtures. Some weeks, we also played an U15s team if the opposing school were able to provide one, such were the high numbers attending our Senior club.

In addition to our 8 regular teams, the Form I club practised every Saturday.

2 8-a-side Form I teams played friendly fixtures against Sullivan Upper, Methodist College, Antrim Grammar and Belfast High.

As always, the club boasted girls who gained representative honours;

Emma Uprichard and Olivia Beattie represented Ulster and Irish U18.

Abbie Braniff represented Ulster U18.

Rachel Beattie & Zoe Place represented Ulster U16.

1ST XI



Played: 19 Won: 11 Drew: 4 Lost: 4

Captain: Eve Thompson

Vice- Captain: Emma Uprichard

1st XI squad: Aoife Caldwell, Abbie Braniff, Olivia Beattie, Anna Matthews, Zoe Place, Lorena Del Castillo, Rebecca Dwyer, Sasha Logan, Holly Woodside, Rachel Beattie, Sophia Burns, Eve Cole, Beth Hillis.

In the girls' 4th and final year of representing BRA 1st XI, Eve Thompson captained the team and Emma Uprichard was Vice-Captain.

Disappointingly, the Ulster Hockey School's Committee took the decision to cancel the Superleague, anticipating that there would be too many pupils absent with Covid-19 to make it viable to run.

The Superleague is a prestigious annual competition for all schools' 1st XI. The competition runs at the start of the season in September, culminating in a final played in November, and is also used to seed teams for the Senior School's Cup.

Instead, we would play friendly fixtures until the Cup competition would start.

Following a good pre-season in August, it was disappointing for the girls to lose their opening fixture at home to Strathearn 3-1.

A good performance the following week against a Rainey team that was arguably one of the Cup favourites this season, resulted in a 2-2 draw, with Sasha Logan and Lorena Del Castillo getting the goals.

In the 3rd fixture, the team worked hard to beat Friends School 2-1 at home. This time, Rebecca Dwyer and Emma Uprichard got the goals.

The following week was our biggest test so far, when we met Royal School Armagh who would have regarded themselves as one of the favourites for the Cup. The girls played and fought hard for everything and went 2-1 up, with goals from Emma Uprichard and Abbie Braniff.

Unfortunately, with only minutes of the match left, a controversial decision by the Armagh umpire awarded them a penalty corner and an opportunity to equalise which they duly did, leaving both coaches and players feeling extremely hard done by!

Despite this, the girls had demonstrated how far they had come since that first match of the season



and proved that on their day, they were as good as the top team.

The following week, the team produced another excellent performance, beating Portadown College 7-0!

Methodist College were always going to be tougher opposition the following Saturday at Roughfort, and although the game could have gone either way, ended in a 1-0 win to Methody.

Although competitive, all the matches prior to the Cup were 'friendly' fixtures.

As there was no seeding this year, all teams went in to the first round of the Cup and our draw saw us meet Wallace High School away.

As the Cup holders, we were determined that we could go all the way to the final again and approached the game in a confident mood. There were clear signs of nerves from the girls, missing numerous goal scoring opportunities and then with their first attack, Wallace scored from their only penalty corner and then proceeded to defend for their lives!

We managed to get a goal back, with a moment of individual brilliance from Emma Uprichard, but the 2nd goal never came, and the game went into extra time.

Extra time proved just as frustrating for our girls, with Wallace defending like lions and forcing the game to be decided by penalty runs!

When we missed our first 3 penalty runs, I knew it just wasn't going to be our day! Wallace managed to score 2, despite the heroics from our goalkeeper, Aoife Caldwell who made 3 fantastic saves.

Unfortunately, we only converted 1 and we 'crashed' out of the cup and went into the Plate! There was shock and disbelief after we had totally dominated the match. The girls were inconsolable, we had tasted the highs of sport when we won the cup, now we most definitely were tasting the lows! The half-term Halloween holiday break came at a good time.

We drew Bloomfield Collegiate away in the first round of the plate and a comfortable double figures win took us through to the next round.

The next round was in stark contrast as we lost 2-1 to Banbridge Academy to go out of the plate, Abbie Braniff getting our only goal!

We finished the season on a high, with a 2-1 win over Ballyclare High to win the South Antrim League.

The fact that the team only lost 4 matches all season and won 11 meant there were plenty of positives to be taken and these foundations would be important to build on when looking ahead to next season.

N.S.N.

2ND XI



Played: 23 Won: 15 Drew: 5 Lost: 3
Captain: Sabriel Gergett

2nd XI Squad: Aoife Caldwell, Eve Cole, Beth Adam, Beth Hillis, Zoe Place, Anouk Bosket, Beth Callaghan, Daisy Donaldson, Amy Higgins, Emily Anderson, Faith Hillis, Rachel McGrath, Sophie Burns, Lois McGrath.

The 2nd XI were captained by Sabriel Gergett, with Beth Hillis the Vice-Captain, and had a good combination of older experienced girls, with younger girls coming in new to the squad.



This was easily the best season in many years from BRA 2nds, losing only 3 of their 23 matches and winning both the South Antrim League and the 2nd XI Shield competition.

After a loss to Strathearn on the first day of the season, our 2nds went on an unbeaten run of 8 games! This run included a 4-0 win in the 1st round of the Cup against Dalriada, with Beth Hillis and Beth Callaghan getting 2 apiece that day. The girls met Glenlola Collegiate in the 2nd round of the Cup and another excellent team performance resulted in a 6-0 win.

However, their unbeaten run sadly ended in December, when they lost 2-0 to Ballyclare High in the 3rd round of their Cup, meaning that they went into the McDowell Shield.

Before that quarter-final Shield match scheduled for February, they drew against Sullivan Upper and had an outstanding 11-0 win over Antrim Grammar, so they were back playing really well again after their poor performance in the cup. Against Strabane Grammar in the quarter-final, we hit double figures again, with Beth Hillis scoring 4 and Eve Cole getting a hat trick amongst the scorers.

In the semi-final against Wellington College, there was no let up and the team scored 11 again to no reply- they had really developed into a superb 2nd XI.

Another example of this was when they beat Larne Grammar 9-0 in the South Antrim league at the end of February.

We had to play Ballyclare High again in the South Antrim League also and, unlike in our Cup defeat, the girl's 'turned up,' winning 2-1, meaning they also won this league!

The final of the Shield, played in March and our last match of the season, put us against Strathearn who had beaten us on the first day of the season. This proved to be a tense and exciting final, despite no goals being scored at the end of full time.

The match had to go to penalty runs to decide who

would lift the trophy and, thankfully, it was to be our day this time with BRA winning 3-2!



An exciting and fantastic end to the 2s fantastic season! Well done to Captain Sabriel Gergett and the squad who had worked so hard and given so much from August right through the season to the final in March!

Well done and thank you to coach Stephen Watt who worked possibly even harder.

N.S.N.

2B XI

Played: 19 Won: 10 Drew: 3 Lost: 6

Captain: Kate Sturgess

Vice-Captain: Eva McGoldrick Mathers

Player of the year: Hannah Thompson

Top goal scorer: Eva McGoldrick Mathers

Most Improved Player: Madeleine Morwood

2BXI Squad: Elyse Taylor, Hannah Thompson, Ella Linton, Kate Sturgess, Emma Harvey, Anna O'Dowd, Charlotte Beattie Logan, Anna Saunders, Bella Scott, Faith Hillis, Eva McGoldrick Mathers, Madeleine Morwood, Sarah Saunders, Hannah O'Kane.

CAPTAIN'S REPORT

It took a couple of friendly games for the team to start playing as a unit, and once that happened, we were off and running.



In preparation for the League matches and, subsequently, the cup matches, everyone's skill level and intensity were increased. The pressure was on to improve on last year's cup finish, but we didn't let it get to us. We were more than prepared for what was to come, thanks to several team building nights and a lot of effort from Mrs Shaw.

We played Larne Grammar in our first cup match, and I was so proud of my team that day; it was incredible to watch from the back. We brought what we'd learned with us and played fantastically. Then, in the second round, we faced a tough Banbridge team, and we fought as hard as we could that day, winning 1-0 by the skin of our teeth in the final three minutes. This relegated us to the quarter finals against our main opponents, but we weren't deterred in the least.



When the big day arrived, Covid-19 decided it wasn't going to be our day, leaving us with two players missing, including our goalkeeper, Elyse. We were quite unlucky to concede a goal in the first quarter, but we were able to hold off for the rest of the game, demonstrating our willpower. Sarah's goal in the third quarter was a stroke of luck for us. However, after the final whistle, it was a stalemate, resulting in run-ins. This is the worst route to take. Despite our best efforts, we were unable to achieve the victory. But we couldn't allow it to get to us now since we still needed to win the league. Ballyclare, on the other hand, took it from us by the skin of their teeth.

Throughout the season, we were constantly hungry for the ball and showed tenacity. I'm really proud of everyone's performance and how we came together as a team. I've really enjoyed being captain this year, and I genuinely love this team. They put their entire heart and soul into each match this year and I couldn't have asked for more.

I really believe we would have won the cup if we had been at full strength that day. However, these things happen, and we move on, ready to win next year. Mrs Shaw's commitment to showing up every week and leading us is greatly appreciated. I am looking forward to the upcoming season ahead with the rest of the team, but we will miss the three middle sixth players, who are outstanding and always give it their all. Thank you as well to Samantha McGrath, for coming every week and umpiring with a smile on her face.

Kate Sturgess

This season proved to be a most enjoyable and enthusiastic experience for the team, with a very encouraging set of results, only to be improved upon next year. The year started out with a tough match against Strathearn, resulting in a 1-0 win, with a goal from our Head Girl, Eva. Once a strong team was established it showed in the results. Match highlights including defeating Larne 7-0 and Methody 3-0.

The 2BXI this season was a fantastic team. Players always arrived to training and matches with enthusiasm and a 'will to win' attitude. The success of this year's team was down to a large squad of



girls from Forms IV – MVI who bonded as a team very quickly. Team morale and spirit remained high throughout the season, led by our Captain Kate Sturgess, who always turned up with enthusiasm to training and on Saturday mornings. It was a great pleasure to work with such a dedicated, exuberant group of girls.

This season, the 2BXI came second to Ballyclare High School in the South Antrim Schools League. The league consisted of Antrim Grammar, Ballyclare High School, Belfast High School, Carrick Grammar and Larne Grammar.

I have noted this season's Gibson Cup and League results below.

Gibson Cup Results – Quarter Finalists

Fixture	Result
1st Round Larne Grammar	Win 6-0
2nd Round Banbridge	Win 1-0
Quarter Final v Methody	FT 1-1 lost on penalty runs

South East Antrim League Results – 2nd overall

Fixture	Result
Belfast High	Win 4-0
Larne Grammar	Win 6-0
Ballyclare High	Loss 1-0
Carrick Grammar	Carrick conceded the match
Antrim Grammar	Antrim conceded the match

I would like to thank all members of the 2BXI squad for their commitment and enthusiasm throughout the season. Special thanks must go to Kate Sturgess who made an excellent Captain, motivating and encouraging her team. I would also like to wish the girls leaving this year all the very best. I hope that Eva, Ella and Sarah will continue to carry on playing hockey at university or club level. I look forward to the new season and hope the girls continue their enthusiasm for school hockey.

J.R.S.

3RD XI

Played: 14 Won: 9 Drew: 1 Lost: 4

Captain: Regan Greer

Player of the year: Sophie Hollywood

Top goal scorer: Madeleine Morwood

Most Improved Player: Ella Kilpatrick

3rd XI Squad: Maya Anderson, Ella Kilpatrick, Cara Johns, Sophie Hollywood, Julia Robinson, Regan Greer, Caitlin Shaw, Emma Campbell, Maddie Beggs, Lara Norwood, Jenna McCall, Madeleine Morwood, Lucy Chambers, Grace McAllister, Anna Morrow, Anna Wilson.



3rd XI Results 2021/22

Fixture	Result
Portadown College	Win 1-0
Strathearn	Loss 4-0
Lagan College	Win 10-0
Ballyclare High School	Win 3-0
Friends	Loss 1-0
Methody	Win 2-0
Lagan College	Drew 0-0
Sullivan Upper	Win 2-1
Ballymena Academy	Win 4-1
Friends School Lisburn	Loss 3-1
Dromore High School	Win 1-0
Grosvenor	Win 9-0

4th XI Cup Results 2021/2022 – Semi Finalists

Fixture	Result
Quarter Final Ballyclare	Win 2-1
Semi Final Strathearn	Loss 4-3



Many thanks go to the girls for their commitment and effort this season. The team members worked very hard to produce their best in all games and had some fantastic results, reaching the Semi-Final of the Cup. Thank you to our 3rd XI Captain, Regan Greer for encouraging and organising the team throughout the season.

I look forward to building upon this squad next season.

J.R.S.

U14 A

Played: 17 Won: 9 Drew: 3 Lost: 5

Co-Captains: Erin Gray & Alex Snoddy

Top Goal Scorer: Alex Snoddy

Squad: *Rosie Woods, Beth Strong, Erin Gray, Hannah Cole, Harriet Brobyn, Alex Snoddy, Hope Daniels, Sarah Teague, Maya Campbell, Chloe Craig, Ema Jones, Lucy Smyth, Leah Carter, Rosa Clarke, Leah Callaghan, Eve Manson.*

CAPTAIN'S REPORT

This year has brought many emotions but was thoroughly enjoyed by all. We had lots of ups and downs, wins and losses, but it brought us closer together as a team and helped develop our play and teamwork. We were determined and hardworking in training to give us the best opportunity for success. We were doing well after a wobbly start at the beginning of the season and by October, we became more consistent and started winning more of our matches.

The first round of the U14 Cup against Wallace HS arrived on 13th November 2021; the nerves were running high but there was still an aroma of excitement in the air. The match ended 0-0 and we had to go to penalty runs. Unfortunately, we ended up losing 2-1 and everyone's hearts shattered. It took a few weeks to realise that there was still plenty to play for as we were into the plate competition and also sat top of the standings in the South Antrim Area league. We progressed well in the Plate competition, winning our quarter-final against Limavady 8-0. We walked into the semi-final against Coleraine Grammar with our heads held high, a close match and, although Alex Snoddy brought us hope scoring an equaliser in the first half, Coleraine came back strong in the second half to score the winning goal. We had gotten so far and so close to the final, but it was to prove elusive. Even though everyone was full of tears, we had to take away the positives and take them forward with us for our final match of the year against Carrick GS.

This was our last chance of success-if we won this, we would win the South Antrim league. The game was postponed on a number of occasions and unfortunately, Carrick GC were unable to play the fixture and we were awarded the points. We had won! We eventually had our well-deserved success - winners of the South Antrim U14 League. We are so proud of the team and our ability to never give up and give our best in all circumstances. We wish all players the very best as we progress onto Senior hockey next year. We hope that they excel through their hockey no matter what team they are in, even if we are not all together.

Finally, we would like to say a big thank you to our amazing coaches. Firstly, to Stephen Watt for training us hard and helping us to improve our basics and refine our skills. And secondly to Miss Brady, who has been a fantastic coach and amazing support to us throughout the season. None of this would have been possible without her and we owe her so much credit. We all love her so much and will miss her dearly. A big thank you from all the team.

Erin Gray & Alex Snoddy



U14 B

Played: 11 Won: 5 Drew: 2 Lost: 4

Co-Captains: Ellie Donald & Lucy Smyth

Top Goal Scorer: Emily Dwyer

Squad: Rosie Woods, Gail Payot, Phoebe Bradley, Abigail McKinty, Mya Seymour, Ellie Donald, Annabelle Junk, Ruby Latham, Lucy Smyth, Sarah Teague, Rosa Donaldson, Emily Dwyer, Rebecca Kirkpatrick.

CAPTAIN'S REPORT

The team trained hard to improve their skills and enjoyed competitive matches. We played strong opposition and had notable wins against Larne (7-0), Belfast High School (3-0) and Friends (3-0). During this year the team has improved in many aspects of our play and overall, we have enjoyed the season. We hope that next season we can build on our progress. Thank you to Miss Robinson and Miss Jackson who encouraged us to develop our skills each week and motivated us to do our best.

Ellie Donald

It was fantastic to see the U14A team win the South Antrim Area League and also reach the Semi-final of the Junior Plate Competition, losing 2-1 to Coleraine Grammar School. The U14Bs had a good season, given such a dedicated and hard-working group of girls. Many matches were extremely closely contested and the team always worked hard until the final whistle.

Overall attendance at training was excellent and a great deal of work was devoted to improving both skills and fitness. I would like to thank the girls for their enthusiasm and effort this year, it has been a very enjoyable and successful season. I would also like to thank Mr Watt and Miss Jackson for all of their coaching and umpiring throughout the year.

K.E.B.

U13A XI

Played: 14 Won: 4 Drew: 4 Lost: 6

Captain: Sophia Morwood

Vice-captain: Eve Manson

Player of Year: Leah Callaghan/Rosa Clarke

Top goalscorer: Eve Manson

Most improved: Leah Carter



CAPTAIN'S REPORT

The U13A team have had a successful season. We have had our fair share of victories though not without losses. We started off the season strong with a 4-1 win against Strathearn. Some of our best matches included a 3-0 win against Larne Grammar and a 8-0 win against Grosvenor. In these matches I feel we worked better as a team to achieve these victories. We owe our success to our wonderful coaches, Stephen Watt and Miss Robinson, for the hours of training they put into us, motivating us to do better every step of the way. Thank you also to all our supporters for enduring Roughfort's gale force winds and rain. It has been a very enjoyable season for everyone in the team and I hope we improve further in next year's hockey.

Sophia Morwood

U13B XI

Played: 10 Won: 6 Drew: 2 Lost: 2

Captain: Rachel Easdon

Vice-captain: Rebecca Petticrew

Player of Year: Ella Downey

Top goalscorer: Cate O'Dowd

Most improved: Holly Ross



The U13B team had a successful season of hockey with Miss Robinson. We have beaten teams we thought were competitive. In our season, we played our first ever match on a Saturday morning against Strathearn, winning 3-0 in a good match. We played another match later that season against Royal School Armagh, having a tough play against them but coming home with another win of 2-0. Our next match was a home game at Roughfort against Larne Grammar and this was also a big win for us on gravel, resulting in a victory of 4-0. One of our final matches was against Grosvenor at Roughfort and again, having an achievable win of 3-0 in our first full year of playing hockey. The highlights of this year were definitely the bus journeys as a team. Our team have a special friendship due to the teamwork that was present in training, matches and Saturdays together. Thank you to all the coaches who assisted with Miss Robinson who have taken their time to come and help at our matches on Saturday mornings, never mind going to be at their own that afternoon!

Rachel Eason



The U13 hockey squads had a brilliant year of training and matches. Throughout the season, the girls made massive improvements in their skill level and match awareness, and this was a credit to

the intensity and effort that they brought to training each week.

The U13A and U13B teams both started their seasons with strong wins against Strathearn School, winning 4-1 and 3-0 respectively. As the season progressed, results varied but the commitment from the girls never changed and their hard work on the pitch was excellent. This season was a very enjoyable one for the U13 hockey squads, as it was their first full season as BRA hockey players. Due to their hard work at training, I believe they have laid a strong foundation to progress and be successful U14 hockey teams. I would like to thank the support of Stephen Watt during the U13 coaching sessions and Miss Gamble for her coaching and umpiring on Saturday mornings.

E.P.R.

OWLS LADIES HOCKEY CLUB

Owls Ladies Hockey Club enjoyed a successful season, fielding four senior squads each week. The 1st XI finished 7th in Senior 2, 2nd XI finished 4th in Junior 4 following tight competition at the top of the table to the end of the season, 3rd XI finished top of Junior 8 earning promotion and 4th XI finished 4th in Junior 10 in their debut season. Owls were represented at the Masters Interprovincial tournament, with Jill Arbuckle and Alison Johnston being selected for Ulster over 35s. Furthermore, Karen Brady and Gail Nicholson were Team Managers of the Over 35's and Over 40's teams.

Our Club President, Rosie Rea, continued her duties as Ulster Hockey President (2020-2022) and was dedicated to seeing a successful return to hockey following the pandemic. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Rosie for her hard work and dedication to both Owls and Ulster Hockey during her tenure.

Going into the 2022/23 season, we are looking forward to getting back to playing hockey and progressing as a club. We hope that this season will bring even more success for all of our players and we encourage new players, coaches and club volunteers to get involved! All new members are welcome.



For further information please contact: owslshc.secretary@gmail.com

Senior Training Times:

Monday: 7.10pm-8.15pm BRA Playing Fields, Mallusk (Astro Pitch)

Wednesday: 7.00pm-9.00pm BRA Playing Fields, Mallusk (Astro Pitch)

K.E.B.

NETBALL

Both coaches and players were delighted to see a return to school netball this year and enjoyed getting back to competitive matches! Due to Covid-19 restrictions, there was a reduced league structure which started later in the school year. Nevertheless, we had ten teams playing competitive games. All teams played in the District League Competition, with the Minor B, Junior B and Junior A teams reaching the Northern Ireland League Finals Day. The Minor B and Junior A won their sections with the Junior B team finishing runners up. This was a great success for BRA netball and well deserved for all of the dedicated players involved.

It is fantastic to see many players competing at representative level. I would like to thank all of the players and coaches for their hard work this season.

Representative Honours

U13 Regional Development Squad- Emilia Gordon, Jessica Smyth, Keri Gray

U15 Regional Development Squad – Jane Martin, Ruby Hanna, Lucy Smyth, Beth Strong, Wiktorija Januszewska, Aditi Saneesh Krishna.

U17 Northern Ireland Long Squad- Erin Gray

U17 Northern Ireland Development Squad- Anna Falls, Ciara Murray

U21 Northern Ireland Long Squad- Catelyn Burns, Siobhan Baine, Nada Hawela

FORM I



Form I netball was well attended. The players were enthusiastic and worked hard to improve their skills and fitness. The girls enjoyed some friendly matches and House Competitions throughout the year. We hope to see the return of the Form I league competition next season.

I would like to thank the girls for their dedication at training. The level of participation was excellent, and we will continue to build upon the skills and promise shown next season. Congratulations to Emilia Gordon and Keri Gray who were awarded Players of the Year and to Gwen Clements and Jessica Smyth who were awarded Most Improved.

MINOR NETBALL



Minor A Squad: *Isabella O'Connor, Grace Allison, Sophia Morwood, Rosa Clarke, Lucy McVeigh, Josie Glover, Kacie O'Reilly, Zara Duffy, Sophie McVeigh, Beatrice Seath, Miah O'Reilly, Kara McCoubrey.*



Player of the Year: Rosa Clarke
Most Improved Player: Kacie O'Reilly
Captain: Sophia Morwood

Minor B Squad: *Sophie Curran, Rebekah McKeown, Kacie O'Reilly, Miah O'Reilly, Erin O'Brien, Eimear Tate, Zara Duffy, Alicia McMullan, Rebecca Petticrew, Hannah Kayes, Lola Mateer, Niamh Mooney.*

The Minor 'B' squad had a successful season, with notable performances against Belfast Model and Rathmore. The team progressed to the Northern Ireland League Finals Day where they displayed excellent skills and a calm performance to win against Dominican College. I would like to thank the girls for their efforts throughout the year and look forward to training with them in the coming season.



JUNIOR NETBALL



Player of the Year: Miah O'Reilly
Most Improved Player: Zara Duffy
Captain: Miah O'Reilly

The Minor 'A' squad had tough competition from schools such as Our Lady and St Patrick's College Knock, Aquinas and Dominican which challenged their court skills and tactics. They worked incredibly hard no matter the opposition and improved week on week as the season progressed. They finished the season with a well-deserved win against Lagan College.





Junior 'A' Squad: *Wiktorja Januszezwska, Lucy Smyth, Maria Mallon, Beth Strong, Ines Scott, Erin Gray, Siofra McCormick, Zoe Ingram, Harriet Brobyn, Alex Snoddy, Hope Daniels.*

Player of the Year: Erin Gray

Most Improved Player: Wiktorja Januszezwska

Captain: Erin Gray



Junior 'B' Squad: *Grace Cahill, Megan Morris, Ella Crawford, Hope Daniels, Imogen Shute, Abby Lavery, Izzy Barber, Ellie Donald, Harriet Brobyn, Ava Logan, Ema Jones, Molly Macauley, Zoe Ingram.*

Player of the Year: Hope Daniels

Most Improved Player: Harriet Brobyn

Captain: Hope Daniels

Commitment from the junior netball squad was excellent. The Junior 'A' squad overcame strong competition against Assumption, Aquinas, Rockport and Lagan College, only losing one game by a goal to Banbridge Academy.

Nevertheless, the girls qualified for the Northern Ireland League Finals Day where they gained revenge against Banbridge Academy winning their section! The Junior 'B' squad had notable league performances against Ballyclare Secondary and Sullivan Upper without conceding a single goal. They too, competed at the League Finals Day, finishing runners up against Dominican College. Congratulations to the players for their hard work and success this season!



INTERMEDIATE NETBALL

Intermediate 'A' Squad: *Beth Adam, Anna Falls, Etta Choi, Tara Dalzell, Ciara Murray, Erin Gray, Layla Hunter, Lucy Smyth, Penny Davidson, Erin McCrea.*



Player of the Year: Ciara Murray

Most Improved Player: Layla Hunter

Captain: Ciara Murray

Intermediate 'B' Squad: *Eva Mitchell, Penny Davidson, Aditi Saneesh Krishna, Anna Falls, Jane Martin, Rosa Gribbon, Ruby Hanna, Melissa Graham, Clara Walsh, Emma Campbell, Jenna McCall, Rachel Hackett.*

Player of the Year: Anna Falls

Most Improved Player: Aditi Saneesh Krishna

Captain: Anna Falls



The Intermediate squads unfortunately had no League Finals Day, but it was great to see the return to Inter-school games across Northern Ireland. The Intermediate 'A' team had some exciting matches against Belfast High School and Dominican College, showing great skill and composure on court. The Intermediate 'B' squad enjoyed plenty of success against Belfast Model, St. Joseph's and Ulidia College. Both teams fought hard in tough leagues and worked tirelessly at training- well done to all of the players who took the court! I hope to see the girls build upon this success next season.



SENIOR NETBALL

Senior 'A' Squad: *Catelyn Burns, Nada Hawela, Emma Connolly, Charlotte Stronge, Fiona Murray, Abbie Braniff, Molly Connolly, Ciara Murray, Layla Hunter, Tara Dalzell, Sofia McCourt, Etta Choi.*



Player of the Year: Catelyn Burns
Most Improved Player: Emma Connolly
Captain: Catelyn Burns



Senior 'B' Squad: *Beth Adam, Sofia McCourt, Etta Choi, Tara Dalzell, Ciara Murray, Fiona Murray, Layla Hunter, Erin Gray, Penny Davidson, Kate Sturgess, Erin McCrea, Eleanor Green, Abbie Braniff, Anna Falls, Rosa Gribbon.*





Player of the Year: Tara Dalzell
Most Improved Player: Etta Choi
Captain: Etta Choi



Sadly, there was no League Finals Day for the senior age group. The players enjoyed the introduction of strength and conditioning training in addition to their court sessions, which proved beneficial to their overall game. The Senior 'A' squad had strong performances against Friends School Lisburn, Wallace and Rathmore. The team always gave their best efforts and were dedicated to improving. The Senior 'B' team won all of the matches in their section, showing strong defensive skills to limit their opposition from scoring double figures. I would like to thank all players 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 at BRA and I hope they continue their netball careers with their clubs.

K.E.B.

CRICKET

1ST XI

Played: 8 Won: 4 Tied: 1 Drew: 1 Lost: 3
Captain: Ryan Armstrong



The cricket season of 2022 saw something of a return to normality as we got what, for all intents and purposes, was a full season for the first time since 2019. The side ultimately lost out convincingly to RBAI in the Schools' Cup quarter final but with only three players departing at the end of this season, the experience accrued this year should stand the team in good stead for next season's campaign.

Our first fixture saw us travel to Bangor to take on Bangor Grammar in a 12-aside match. Batting first our innings got off to the worst possible start as James Carleton, Ollie Scott and Adrib Ahmed all fell without troubling the scorer too much. Max Wylie and Ryan Armstrong provided some stability, albeit at a slow and steady scoring rate. When Armstrong departed, Adam Gooderham provided the innings with some impetuous, as he and Wylie accelerated the scoring rate to ensure we got to a competitive total of 124.

Bangor's reply was slow but steady as McMillan and Orr put on 43 in about 10 overs for the first wicket. Thereafter, Bangor lost wickets at regular intervals, with the spin of the miserly Alex Armstrong and David Kane causing them most problems. When their 10th wicket fell with the score on 123, we could claim the moral victory, but a bye saw them tie the scores before Peter Richardson ran their last batsmen out with the scores level of the penultimate ball.

Our visit to the Mall in Armagh to take on the Royal School in the first round of the Schools' Cup was our next fixture. Armagh won the toss



and elected to bowl. Our innings didn't get off to a great start as the Mann brothers bowled a tidy line and length to restrict scoring opportunities. James Carleton's day did not start well as he was removed for a six-ball duck. Ollie Scott batted well, in spite of the fact wickets fell quite regularly at the other end. When he was eventually out at 67-5 we were in a spot of bother, but Connor McVicker joined Adam Gooderham at the crease and their 57 run partnership in 7 overs enabled us to reach 135-7 in our 25 overs.

Armagh's reply should have got off to the perfect start for us as Ollie Scott induced a false shot from Oliver Mann, who hit a straight drive straight to James Carleton, who seemed to be surprised that it arrived so quickly to him and couldn't hold on. Unfortunately, this would prove to be a bit of a theme, not only in this match but throughout the season as too often we failed to take very presentable opportunities in the field. Mann went on to top score with 31 until David Kane took matters 'into his own hands' and dismissed him Caught and Bowled. It was one of 3 victims for Kane, ably supported by skipper, Ryan Armstrong who bowled a miserly spell of 1-10 of his 5 overs. In truth, all bowlers did well, even if the fielding was not at a commensurate standard as RSA fell well short of our total finishing 107-7 off their 25 overs.

Our second outing saw us travel to Rashee Road to take on Ballyclare High School. Winning the toss, Ryan Armstrong sent the hosts in to bat. They made a steady start as Whittman and Gillespie put on 32 for the first wicket, albeit at a steady pace as Kane and the Armstrongs kept the bowling tight, but provided relatively little threat of taking wickets. Kane, in his second spell, removed Gillespie. However, the Ballyclare innings continued to move gently along until Ollie Scott's wicket maiden saw the end of Whittman. Alex Armstrong picked up a couple of wickets and Max Wylie one, but it was only the introduction of McCallan that saw any change in the impetus of the innings. His 24 not out off 16 balls saw the hosts climb to 81-5 in their 20 overs.

The BRA reply did not start particularly well when David Kane was bowled for 4 in the 3rd over. Max

Wylie came in to join Ollie Scott, but too many dot balls saw us fall behind the run rate a little and put us under a bit of pressure. This pressure was increased in the 9th over when Ollie Scott and James Carleton, the latter for a golden duck, were bowled by consecutive Whittman deliveries. When Ryan Armstrong fell to the same bowler in the 11th over, we were in a spot of bother. However, an assured innings by Matthew Williamson and a generous 26 wides from the hosts saw us home by 5 wickets, with just over 2 overs to spare.

Next up was the visit of Sullivan in the second round of the Schools' Cup. Attempts to play the game at the Castle Grounds were aborted as the players and umpires (eventually) agreed to try again at Roughfort. BRA won the toss and elected to bat in a 23 over game. Max Shannon opened the bowling for Sullivan, yielding 13 runs in his opening over. 12 of these were wides, helping extras to be our top scorer with 39. Extras aside, Adrib Ahmed's better than a run a ball 22 was our largest contribution as he and David Kane provided some late momentum to get us to 119-8. Sullivan's reply started well as they raced to 23 before Ollie Scott removed Tindall. This put the brakes on a little as Shannon and Farrell took the score to 58 before Alex Armstrong removed the latter in the 13th over. A maiden from Max Wylie in the 14th over put some pressure onto the Sullivan batsmen and then Connor McVicker in his next over struck twice to tilt the tie in our favour. When Wylie removed the dangerous Shannon in the next over, the game was all but won. In spite of a late flurry of runs from Howe, we ran our victors by a margin of 30 runs. Max Wylie and Connor McVicker were the pick of our bowlers as we set up a quarter final meeting with RBAI.

Three days later, we welcomed Wallace to the Castle Grounds for what would turn out to be a disappointing result. Ollie Scott and Ryan Armstrong were a bit too wayward in their opening spell, our early start meant the morning dew made bowling with a wet ball a tricky proposition. Michael Waite and Max Spence both scored 50's at better than a run a ball as Wallace amassed 146-2 in their 20 overs. Things could have been very different as Ollie and Ryan both found the outside edge of Waite's bat in their first over.



Unfortunately, both fell in the gap, which would have been large enough to drive a bus through, between keeper Peter Richardson and first slip Harvey Latham. David Kane was the tidiest of the bowlers, with his 4 overs yielding just 18 runs. Our reply was pretty adequate as Ryan Armstrong, Ollie Scott and Adam Gooderham all got decent starts, but couldn't quite kick on and give the innings that bit of extra impetuous we needed, as we were always behind the run rate. At 121-4, we wound up 25 runs short.

A week later, we faced Wallace's near neighbours, Friends in Lisburn. Winning the toss and electing to bowl, the early morning starts continued to trouble Ollie Scott, whose radar was once again not quite fired up. His 4 over spell for 31 runs including 10 wides was his least impressive of the season, as Reddy 28 gave Friends a good base. Our spinners, Alex Armstrong and David Kane, arrested control back, as Friends went from 36-1 to 55-5. Mulholland's well made 25 enabled Friends to post 90-9 in their 20 overs. Ollie Scott's day didn't improve much as he was the first man out for 4, but a much more accomplished display from James Carleton, supported by Max Wylie, lifted us to 32-1 before the latter fell to the bowling of Aoife Fisher. When Ryan Armstrong fell 3 balls later to the same bowler at 36-3, we were in a spot of bother. However, a cameo from Adam Gooderham and a composed 18 not out from Matthew Williamson saw us home by 5 wickets.

Our Schools Cup run was to come to a somewhat abrupt end as we travelled to Osborne Park to face a very strong RBAI side in the Schools' Cup quarter final. Batting first, things were going along quite nicely as James Carleton and Ollie Scott got us to about 30 for no loss. However, the introduction of the leg spin of Rose turned the game on its head very quickly. His spell of 5-12 saw us dismissed for 67 as nobody else was able to get to grips with the RBAI bowling. Their 'Inst' openers Ly and Ellerby were virtually untroubled as the knocked off the 68 required for victory in double quick time. It was a disappointing end to our cup run, which was a fair reflection of the gulf in class between the two sides. While there was an air of inevitability about the result, it was disappointing that, having made such a decent start

with the bat, we didn't go on to post the sort of total that might have put a little bit of pressure on their batsmen. Our bowling attack, particularly our two spinning options, had shown over the course of the season that they had the ability to cause even a good batting side some problems.

Following our defeat to RBAI in the cup our next opponents were...RBAI. A slightly understrength RBAI side won the toss and inserted us to bat. Some tight bowling from Bates and Carter had us immediately under pressure with Ollie Scott bowled by Carter in the second over. Things went from bad to worse as Connor McVicker was run out 2 balls later. Adam Gooderham and Max Wylie steadied the ship somewhat as they put on 25 for the 3rd wicket. However, they couldn't build any scoreboard pressure as they scored at less than 3 runs an over. This was quite often symptomatic of our batting, as we were capable of occupying the crease, but not really scoring fast enough to build a defendable total. Whether by being busier in terms of running between the wickets or by playing some more expansive shots this is something the team will have to improve upon next year. Gooderham was the first to depart, being caught of the very occasional spin of Adam Ly, which might best have been described as buffet bowling. However, none of our batsmen seemed too keen to help themselves as he ended up with 4-17 of his 4 overs. We limped to 59 all out with the best part of 3 overs not utilised. This was never going to be enough to defend, in spite of the best efforts of our slow bowling duo. David Kane bowled well, but Alex Armstrong at the other end was excellent as 'Inst' were reduced to 17-4. But Gray (38 not out) and Ellerby were too good for the remainder of the home attack. The run out of Ellerby to a direct hit run out by David Kane offered a brief glimmer of hope, before the door was firmly closed and a 5-wicket victory for RBAI confirmed.

Our final game of the season saw us take on a strong Old Boys' XI. The match was to coincide with the unveiling of a plaque to the late Alf Chapman former groundsman and cricket coach, who inspired many generations of BRA boys to fall in love with the game. The Old Boys won the 'toss' and elected to bat. Matthew Palmer and Ross Bryans were the star turns for the Old Boys who



scored 144-9 declared in 24 overs. They could have batted longer if Ross Bryans in particular had not caused us to spend too much time looking for balls in the long grass on the Antrim Road side of the Castle Grounds. The Armstrong brothers were the best of the school's bowlers – Alex bowled a probing line and length, picking up a couple of wickets, including removing his father LBW for a golden duck! Skipper Ryan recovered well in his second spell to pick up a couple of late wickets. The school's reply started off well enough as Adrib Ahmed hit a couple of lovely boundaries off the spin of Luca Johnston, but the wily skills of Robin Arbuthnot's left arm seamers proved too much for the inexperienced schoolboys. He removed four of our top five batsmen and at 24-4, we were in real trouble. Our progress was fairly glacial, and the site of Ross Bryan's coming in off his full run up did nothing to calm the nerves. The fall of the 8th wicket brought Peter Richardson in to join Harvey Latham, with seven and a half overs remaining to grind out the draw. The pair batted with great skill and concentration to keep the Old Boys at bay and ensure the season ended with a losing draw. It was good for the boys to face a different challenge in a homogenous cricketing landscape of T20 bashes and Peter and Harvey seemed to feel a sense of achievement in seeing it through to stumps!

In addition to those mentioned in the report, Fiona Murray and Ben Ritchie played in matches for the 1st XI. To the best of my knowledge, Fiona may well have the distinction of being the first girl to have done so. I would like to thank the boys and girl, for all their efforts during the course of the season. I wish Ryan, James and Adrib every success in their future cricketing experiences. Their 1st XI experience has been limited by the pandemic over the last couple of years. To those returning next summer, I hope they do so with safer hands, more accurate bowling and a busier attitude to running between the wickets! I would like to thank Mr Creighton for his assistance in looking after the team and for his organisation of fixtures, buses and umpires. I would also like to congratulate the three boys who gained representative honours this season – Connor McVicker and Alex Armstrong with the N.C.U

Under 15, and David Kane, who played for both

the N.C.U Under 17 side and toured with the Ulster Schools' U19 team to the West of Scotland. I hope they will have learned a lot from these experiences and that they can share that learning with the rest of the group.

Brief summary of matches:

Bangor G.S. (a) – BRA 124-6 off 25, MR Wylie 36, AT Gooderham 25 tied with BGS 124-11 off 24.5, ARA Armstrong 5-2-6-3, DG Kane 5-1-23-2

R.S. Armagh (a) Schools' Cup 1st Round – BRA 135-7 off 25, HO Scott 28, AT Gooderham 35*, CM McVicker 22 beat RSA 107-7, HO Scott 5-0-22-2, DG Kane 5-0-17-3 by 28 runs.

Ballyclare HS (a) – BHS 81-5 off 20 over lost to BRA 82-5 MD Williamson 19* by 5 wickets.
Sullivan US (h) Schools' Cup 2nd Round - BRA 119-8 off 23 overs, A Ahmed 22, beat SUS 89 all out, MR Wylie 4-2-14-2, CM McVicker 4-0-12-3 by 30 runs.

Wallace HS (h) – WHS 146-2 off 20 beat BRA 121-4 off 20 overs RT Armstrong 25, HO Scott 32, AT Gooderham 22, by 25 runs.

Friends SL (a) – FSL 90-9 off 20, ARA Armstrong 4-1-14-2, DG Kane 4-2-9-3, MR Wylie 4-0-15-2, lost to BRA 94-5, JL Carleton 22, MD Williamson 18*, by 5 wickets.

RBAI (a) Schools' Cup ¼ final – BRA 67 all out lost to RBAI 70-0 by ten wickets.

RBAI (h) – BRA 59 all out, MR Wylie 22, lost to RBAI 62-5, ARA Armstrong 4-0-13-4 by 5 wickets.

Old Boys' XI (h) – Old Boys 144-8 off 24 overs R Bryans 53, M Palmer 30, RT Armstrong 8-1-39-3, ARA Armstrong 4-0-8-2 drew with BRA 60-8, R Arbuthnot 5-4-3-4.

M.G.H.



U15 CRICKET

It was great to see the return of cricket. The U15 cricket team started the cricket season well, winning against Ballyclare High School by 4 wickets. Adam Hewitt took three wickets, bowling very well. Charles Smallwood had a good batting performance, scoring 15 runs.

The following game for this team was against a strong Lisneal College side in the U15 Cup. Lisneal won the game by 9 wickets.

This took the team into the plate competition, against Lurgan College first. Played at Roughfort, the team won by 55 runs, with notable batting performances from Max McKittrick (32) and Bradley Coburn (17). Alex Armstrong bowled superbly, taking 3 wickets for four runs. Adam Hewitt also took 3 wickets for 6, with Bradley Coburn taking 2 wickets for 6. An excellent team performance!

This meant the team progressed to the quarter final of the competition versus Bangor Grammar School. Again, another strong performance saw the team win by 46 runs. Alex Armstrong (25) and Adam Hewitt (36) both batted superbly, with the team scoring 131. Alex, Adam and Fiona Murray all bowled very well, taking several wickets to record a well-earned victory!

The semi- final was against a strong Friends School, Lisburn team. Friends won the game in the end by 6 wickets.

It was a pleasure to coach this team throughout the year. Many of these players have a great future in school cricket and I wish them all well!

D.J.C.

GIRLS' CRICKET

Cricket continued to be a popular extracurricular activity throughout the summer for girls in Forms I-MVI.

The U15 Girls' Cup team won against Shimna Integrated College by 94 runs in their first match, with a special mention to Aditi Saneesh-Krishna who took five wickets for four runs. The squad met a strong team from Friends' School Lisburn at the semi-final stage and were unfortunate to lose.

The U15 group showed much enthusiasm and determination throughout training, and for the first time, we were able to field an U15 B team, who played some friendly competitions. In the junior school, two teams competed in the U13 Super 8's tournament in June at Friends' School Lisburn and thoroughly enjoyed their first experience of the competitive game.

I would like to congratulate Ciara Murray and Fiona Murray, who continued to represent the U17 NCU squad and also played in the NCU Women's Cricket Team at the Future Series Interprovincial Competition. Both girls also competed for the boys' U15 Cup squad for Belfast Royal Academy and contributed to their success.



It was fantastic to see so many girls who were dedicated to improving their skills this season. I would like to thank the girls for all their hard work, enthusiasm and determination. I look forward to working with them next year.

K.E.B



BOYS' ATHLETICS



The District Athletic Championships took place at the Antrim Forum on Tuesday 3rd May.

MINI BOYS – 3rd in the Team Competition

1st 100m Jack McNab 12.7
1st 800m Evan Tosh 2.24.9

MINOR BOYS- 1st in the Team Competition

1st Shot Putt Antoni Derezenski 10.53
1st Long Jump Daniel Ogilby 4.83
2nd 800m Michal Woloszyn 2.28.7
2nd Shot Putt Oscar Coiley 10.11
2nd 4 x 100m 52.5

JUNIOR BOYS- 3rd Team Competition

1st Hammer Yasha Peters 25.13
1st Shot Putt Aaron Brolly 10.19
1st 4 x 100m Relay 49.10
2nd Discus Zach Archer 24.84
3rd Shot Putt Yasha Peters 10.04
3rd 800m Odhran Moan 2.24.7
3rd 200m Reuben Gourley 26.1
3rd 80 m Hdl's Finn McAlorum 17.1
3rd Long Jump Chris O'Hara 4.89

INTERMEDIATE BOYS- 2nd Team Competition

1st 1500m Steeplechase Lorcan Bell 5.58.0
2nd 1500 m Hugo Reilly Stuart 4.26.6

2nd 100m Josh Manson 11.3
2nd Discus Aaron Caldwell 21.76
2nd 200M Josh Manson 23.9
3rd 3000m Max Reid 10.03.9
3rd Javelin Kain McGrory 21.83
3rd Hammer Johnny Beck 20.12



The Ulster Schools' Athletics Championships took place at the Antrim Forum on Friday 20th and Saturday 21st May. Congratulations to all those athletes who qualified to take part in this completion. There were some excellent performances, with numerous athletes recording personal bests.

MINOR BOYS

1st Shot Putt Antoni Derezenski 10.93
2nd Shot Putt Oscar Coiley 10.16
3rd Long Jump Daniel Ogilby 5.05
5th 4 x 100m relay 51.81

JUNIOR BOYS

2nd 80 m Hdl's Finn McAlorum 15.36
2nd Discus Zach Archer 30.92
3rd Shot Putt Yasha Peters 10.00

MINI BOYS

3rd Long Jump Evan Tosh 4.24
The Irish Schools' Championships took place in Tullamore on Saturday 4th June.



MINOR BOYS

4th Shot Putt Antoni Derezenski 11.15
 5th Shot Putt Oscar Coiley 10.75
 7th Long Jump Daniel Ogilby

JUNIOR BOYS

8th Hammer Yasha Peters 21.86
 7th Shot Putt Yasha Peters 9.66
 8th 80 m Hdls Finn McAlorum 15.0

C.M.C.



GIRLS' ATHLETICS

The athletics season began mid-March. Our first Saturday fixture was an Inter-School meet at Campbell College. Our pupils competed against Campbell and Strathearn. This was the first opportunity for athletes to prepare themselves for the season ahead.

Enthusiasm and commitment to train was evident, with large numbers turning out to games and extra practice. This laid the foundations for a successful season to come, at District, Ulster and Irish level. In all, 45 girls represented BRA at the District Championships, with many debutant performances. The girls successfully achieved 5 Gold, 7 Silver and 6 Bronze medals. There were distinguished performances from Keri Gray, Eve Manson, Hope Daniels, Grace McAllister, Abbie O'Neill and Maia Erwin.

5 girls qualified for the Irish Championships in Tullamore. To reach this level is a superb achievement for our athletes.

Thank you to all staff who helped coach and support our athletes at athletics this season. Thank you also to Ms Ritchie for all her hard work during winter athletics in the sports hall-her coaching and enthusiasm has been invaluable.

J.R.S.

GIRLS' DISTRICT ATHLETICS RESULTS 2022

**Tuesday 3rd May
 Antrim Forum**

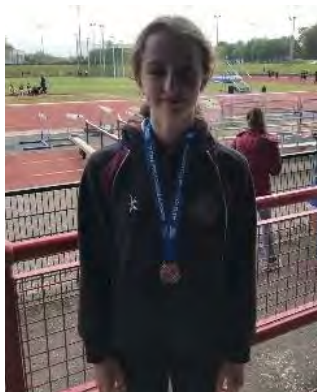
MINI GIRLS

1st Relay Qualified for Ulster Schools'
 2nd Long Jump Keri Gray Qualified for Ulster Schools'
 4th 100m Keri Gray
 4th Shot Niamh Cunningham
 6th 800m Amelie McKeown



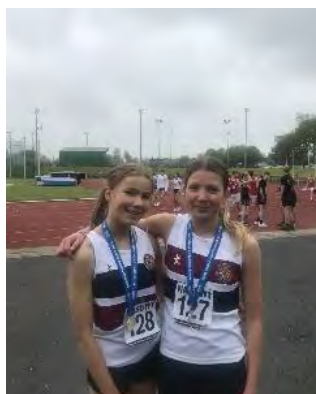
MINOR GIRLS

1ST Relay Qualified for Ulster Schools'
 2nd 100m Eve Manson Qualified for Ulster Schools'
 2nd 75m Hurdles Rosa Clarke Qualified for Ulster Schools'
 3rd Shot Erin O'Brien Qualified for Ulster Schools'
 5th 75m Hurdles Holly Ross
 6th 100m Ella Sofia Downey
 6th High Jump Ella Sofia Downey



JUNIOR GIRLS

1ST 75m Hurdles Hope Daniels Qualified for Ulster Schools'
2nd 800m Chloe Craig Qualified for Ulster Schools'
2nd 75m Hurdles Ines Scott Qualified for Ulster Schools'
3rd Javelin Phoebe Bradley Qualified for Ulster Schools'
4th Relay
5th 800m Ines Scott
6th High Jump Maria Mallon
6th Long Jump Maria Mallon
6th Shot Erin Gray



INTERMEDIATE GIRLS

1st Javelin Grace McAllister Qualified for Ulster Schools'
2nd 300m Faith Hillis Qualified for Ulster Schools'
3rd Shot Anouk Bosket Qualified for Ulster Schools'
4th 100m Anouk Bosket
4th 200m Jenna McCall
4th Long Jump Emma Campbell
4th Triple Jump Emma Campbell

4th Relay
6th 200m Evie Caldwell
6th High Jump Ella Kilpatrick
6th Triple Jump Anna Falls

SENIOR GIRLS

Pole Vault Abbie O'Neill Qualified for Ulster Schools'
2nd 1500m Maia Erwin Qualified for Ulster Schools'
3rd 100m Abbie O'Neill Qualified for Ulster Schools'
3rd High Jump Ruth Davis Qualified for Ulster Schools'
3rd Discus Hannah Thompson Qualified for Ulster Schools'
4th Long Jump Fiona Murray
5th Long Jump Amy Higgins



GIRLS' ULSTER ATHLETICS RESULTS 2022

**Friday 20th May & Saturday 21st May
Antrim Forum**

**5 girls qualified for the Irish Schools'
in Tullamore on Saturday 4th June.**

MINI GIRLS

5th Long Jump Keri Gray
6th Relay



MINOR GIRLS



2nd 100m Eve Manson Qualified for Irish Schools'
3rd Relay
7th 75m Hurdles Rosa Clarke
14th Shot Erin O'Brien



JUNIOR GIRLS

2nd 75m Hurdles Hope Daniels Qualified for Irish Schools'
6th 75m Hurdles Ines Scott
6th Javelin Phoebe Bradley
7th 800m Chloe Craig



INTERMEDIATE GIRLS

3rd Javelin Grace McAllister Qualified for Irish Schools'
12th Shot Anouk Bosket
5th in 300m Heat Faith Hillis

SENIOR GIRLS



1st Pole Vault Abbie O'Neill Qualified for Irish Schools'
3rd 800m Maia Erwin Qualified for Irish Schools'
5th 100m Abbie O'Neill

IRISH SCHOOLS' TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS RESULTS 2022

Saturday 4th June
Tullamore

MINOR GIRLS

8th 100m (Final) Eve Manson

JUNIOR GIRLS

8th 75m (Final) Hurdles Hope Daniels

INTERMEDIATE GIRLS

7th Javelin Grace McAllister



SENIOR GIRLS

2nd Pole Vault Abbie O'Neill
DNS 800m Maia Erwin

SPORTS DAY

Sports day was held at The Mary Peters track on Monday 20th June. Thankfully, it was a beautiful sunny day and approximately 230 girls were able to take part. There were many good performances and a good time was had by all.

IRISH SCHOOLS' INTERPROVINCIAL

Congratulations to Grace McAllister Form IV (javelin) who was selected to represent Ulster at the Tailteann Irish Schools Interprovincial in Tullamore on Friday 24th June. The first two in the Interprovincial in each event were selected to represent the Irish Schools' team to compete against England, Scotland and Wales in Belfast on Sat 16th July 2022.

J.R.S.

The Minor Girls' team qualified for the Ulster finals by finishing 3rd, with highest finisher, Sophia Morwood, finishing an excellent 7th. The 2nd and 3rd counters for the team were Holly Ross and Bethany Curly respectively.

The Junior Girls' had 2 individual Ulster final qualifiers, with Ines Scott running fantastically to get 6th and Hope Daniels finishing 12th. Robbie Tosh was the highest finisher in the BRA Junior Boys team, finishing a creditable 9th, with Jay Crawford and Odhran Moan also finishing in the top 15 to qualify for the Ulster finals.

The Intermediate boys team also qualified for the Ulster Finals, with Max Reid and Hugo Reilly-Stewart their highest placed finishers. Indeed, both boys went on to qualify for the Irish Championships too after they both ran superbly at the Ulster Final, with Max Reid finishing 8th and Hugo finishing 11th in a race of 120 runners!

The Senior Girls' team also qualified for the Ulster finals, with an excellent 7th place finish by Maia Erwin and a creditable 11th place finish by Abbie Braniff. Lucy McKnight was the other runner in the team.

Maia Erwin demonstrated real courage in her Ulster Final to finish 25th from 80 girls who ran.

N.S.N.

CROSS COUNTRY 2022

The Annual Cross Country District Championships were held at Ormeau Park in February and, as always, BRA entered a boys and girls team at all levels.

Evan Tosh ran an incredible race by finishing half a lap ahead of the rest of the field to take gold medal in the Mini boys race. Evan had a tougher race in the Ulster final as the athlete who finished runner-up to him chased him down the whole race. Again, Evan demonstrated his character as well as his talent to hold off his closest competitor and win gold again. There is no All-Ireland competition at the Mini boys level, so it will be another year before we can see Evan compete at the Irish Championships.



FOOTBALL CLUB



In the 2021/22 season, the football team competed in the Grammar School League, Belfast Cup and Northern Ireland Cup.

The League competition was played from October to April and involved fixtures against seven grammar schools. The campaign got off to a difficult start, with losses to Bangor Grammar, Regent House and Belfast High. Although there were periods of good play in all three games, poor defensive decisions and missed chances cost the team dearly.

The second half of the season saw much improved performances. Hard-fought wins against Campbell College and R.B.A.I. brought much needed confidence to the squad. A loss to a strong Grosvenor team and a final day draw with Methody saw the team finish mid-table in fifth place.

In the Belfast Cup, the Academy had a difficult draw for the opening group stage. The players gave their all in three difficult games. Competitive 2-1 losses to both Boys' Model and St. Malachy's College were followed by a 1-1 draw against Campbell College.

A heavy loss in the Northern Ireland Cup to an experienced Laurelhill side, that included several Irish League players, meant the school would play out their remaining games in the Plate competition.

The team progressed to the quarter-final stages of this with a comfortable 5-2 win over St. Patrick's Academy and a 2-1 victory against Aquinas, following a last-minute winner from Carter Wilson.

Ballymena Academy were the opponents in the last eight of the competition, and the game was played away from home. The first half was evenly balanced, with both teams creating chances. However, it was Ballymena who edged proceedings, scoring just before the half-time whistle. Knowing they had to level to have any chance of remaining in the competition, the boys pushed for an equaliser, and were rewarded with 15 minutes to go when Carter Wilson calmly slotted home from 18 yards out.

What followed was a frantic period of end-to-end play. Both teams tired, but it was Ballymena who made the most of their opportunities to score two goals in the last 10 minutes. A second goal from Wilson with two minutes to go made for an exciting finish, but an equaliser wasn't to come.

Carter Wilson was the standout player for the Academy over the course of the season. He was creative on the ball and finished top goal scorer with a tally of 8.

He will be a big loss for the 2022/23 season, along with the other M6th regulars: Ben Donnelly, Dylan McCord and Josh McFarland. However, with most of the squad LVI pupils, the team should find itself competitive during the 2022-23 season.

R.B.



SHOW JUMPING TEAM





SWIMMING & WATERPOLO



Trips and Events

SPONSORED WALK AND COLOUR RUN



In June, pupils in Forms I- IV had a wonderful day at our annual Sponsored Walk and inaugural Colour Run which was a HUGE success, with 800 pupils tackling the 5-mile Cave Hill walk before enjoying the fun-filled run. As well as having a fabulous day of fun in the sunshine, the colourful event raised over £5500 for local charities!



Sponsorship money raised went to three very deserving local North Belfast charities – the Northern Ireland Children’s Hospice, and Yeha and Streetbeat Youth Projects, who both provide much needed youth support and counselling services. Proceeds from the BBQ stall and the Belfast Wood Fired Pizza Company van on the day were also sent to Save the Children Northern Ireland.



Special mention must also go to pupils for some amazing sponsorship efforts. Well done to Cezar Spack in Form II, who raised over £400 – an amazing result! And House prizes and huge thanks for the highest sponsorship money raised also went to: Hannah Kayes (Form II); Lorcan McCusker (Form I); Gabriel Hendrix (Form I); Ella Crawford (Form III).

A huge thank you to pupils’ parents, families and friends and everyone who supported the event and made it such a success. Also, thanks again to our very generous local sponsors, without whom the day would not have been possible: Calvert Office Equipment; Madigan’s Court; MAD Colour and The Signature Works.

J.E.H

SAVE THE CHILDREN

After a difficult year of lockdowns and virtual classes, the Save the Children committee were ready to kick off the year strong by organising several fundraising events and encouraging all members of the school to get involved.



To begin the new school year, we assisted with the Great BRA Bake-Off. Students from all year groups were involved and they showed their creativity through a range of amazing bakes which were then judged by a panel of teachers. After much deliberation, the winners were chosen, each securing valuable points for their houses. The committee then sold the bakes at lunch, with all proceeds going to Save the Children.

The Christmas season at BRA brought many great fundraising opportunities. The first was the Staff Christmas Jumper Day, allowing all members of teaching and support staff to show off their fantastic Christmas wardrobes. This was closely followed by the pupils' turn to spread the festive spirit with our candy cane deliveries. Pupils were able to purchase the treats and have them delivered anonymously during class time by our Christmas Elves.



Our annual non-uniform day was very successful and gave the school population an opportunity to attend classes in their own clothes for a day in return for a donation to the charity.

This year, we introduced a hamper raffle for the first time. Committee members created and donated eight amazing hampers that pupils were able to purchase tickets for in an attempt to win one. A special thank you to Dr Springer who bought the most tickets in the school and a huge apology that his efforts to win were unsuccessful (we promise it wasn't rigged!).

We ended the year with the BBQ at the Sponsored Walk. As usual, with the help of staff, the burgers were gratefully received by the hungry pupils after their arduous walk over Cavehill. A huge thank you to Belfast Woodfired Pizza Company who also donated to the money raised on the day.

In total, we raised over £3000 for the Save the Children charity. The committee would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms McMillen, Mrs McIntyre and all the dedicated staff who make our events possible. Their continued support helped us raise money for an amazing cause and made our time serving on the committee a terrific experience.

Save the Children Committee



FOTA SECRETARY'S REPORT 2021/2022

The 2021/2022 year has continued to present challenges due to the ongoing Covid restrictions. However, the FOTA committee continued to meet remotely throughout the year and, while it was certainly not a return to normality, these regular meetings helped ensure a sense of continuity and stability.

Once again, thank you to all members for your continued commitment and dedication to FOTA over this year. Our first meeting of the year was held in September, which was also the Annual General Meeting.

We were then able to hold meetings by Zoom every month throughout the school year a definite positive from the previous year. In this meeting we welcomed Mary Keeling and Maureen Thompson to the committee as new members. Their support is greatly welcomed.

We also said goodbye to Yvonne Thompson, who left the committee. Later in the year, Orla Purcell also resigned from the committee. We thank Yvonne and Orla for their time and support over the last number of years.

Officers for the coming year were elected, with the following being confirmed in post:

Chair: Kim Burns

Vice chair: Deborah McAuley

Treasurer: Martin Wilson

Secretary: Alison Monroe

EVENTS

Our usual fundraising and support events continued to be curtailed due to Covid restrictions. However, we were able to continue to support the school in a number of ways.

UNIFORM SALE



Our summer uniform sale was held in July 2021 in the Jackson playground. Thankfully we had a dry and sunny day for this. Social distancing meant we were only able to let a certain number of people in at a time, with parents queuing in the front car park.



The sale was a great success and very appreciated by parents. A second uniform sale was then held in November. We were able to hold this inside the girls gym which gave sufficient space to ensure social distancing was maintained.



The summer uniform sale was then held in June 2022, with a further small sale during the Form I induction meeting. Parents continue to express their gratitude to the school and FOTA for running these events. With increasing pressure on household budgets, the price of school uniforms is coming under increasing scrutiny. Preloved uniform sales have been running at BRA for over 30 years and this is a service we are proud to provide to our parents.

Many thanks to everyone who assisted with the logistics of running these sales, particularly the gatekeepers who had the task of collecting details for Track Trace purposes. Thanks also to Mary for the donation of large moisture proof bags for storage of clothing.

FORM I PARENTS' BREAKFAST

A breakfast for the parents of new Form I pupils for the 2021/22 academic year took place in August 2021. We were able to hold this inside the Jackson Suite rather than remaining outside. This breakfast

took the form of a "Brown Paper Bag" event with a prepacked breakfast being provided to all parents. This event was well received by parents, who were almost as nervous as their children! Again, many thanks to all who assisted with these events.



STAFF APPRECIATION

Following the Form I Parents' Breakfast, we were able to run a similar staff appreciation event. This was a small token to demonstrate our appreciation of everything all staff do to ensure the safe, secure and smooth running of the school.

At Christmas, sweets were given to staff to further demonstrate our thanks.





OPEN NIGHTS

The main Open Nights in January were again held virtually this year. It was therefore a wonderful occasion when an in person Open Morning took place in May.

FOTA provided refreshments for this and once again ran a photo booth for prospective parents and pupils. We look forward to the re commencement of these events as we move away from the restrictions imposed due to Covid.

CAROL SERVICE

While the Carol Service took place this year, FOTA were unable to serve refreshments at this due to Covid restrictions. We sincerely hope this event can take place this year and look forward to supporting the school at it.

DONATIONS

MERIT AND REWARD SCHEME

Following a presentation by Mr Wilson, FOTA agreed to donate £1,000 to the revamped Merit and Reward scheme.

By the end of the year, over 70 pupils had received prizes through this ranging from a voucher for a free curry chip, to pizza vouchers and cinema tickets. Hundreds of packets of Haribo had been given out and an ice cream van came to school for the top merit winners.

The end of the year saw the top 10 merit winners throughout the school, along with a friend, being taken on a Magical Mystery Bus Tour! We are glad to be able to support such a positive reward based activity within the school.

PINK PAPER BAG PROJECT PERIOD DIGNITY

Donations of clothing were made to the "Period Dignity" project, providing a change of clothes for girls when required.

FOTA CONSTITUTION

A revised constitution was drafted during the year and approved at an Extraordinary General Meeting held in April.

MR WILSON

FOTA were delighted to hear that Mr Wilson had been appointed as Principal at Antrim Grammar School. We are extremely sorry that this means we lose him from FOTA his knowledge and support have been invaluable to us over the years. We would like to wish Mr Wilson every success in his future role.

A.Monroe

ORACY HOUSE COMPETITION



In March, an Oracy House Competition was held for Forms 2 and 3 to show what they had learnt in tutorial about how to become a more effective speaker. Pupils had to speak for 60 seconds on a topic of their choice. Well done to Ryan Cleland (Shaw) who came first with his speech on the outbreak of WWI. Congratulations also to Maya Campbell (Currie) who came second and Wiktorija Januszewska (Shaw) who came third.

C.J.A.



BBC SHARE YOUR STORY



The BBC is 100 years old this year, and as part of their Centenary celebrations they selected 100 schools from across the UK to visit and host a major event called “BBC Share Your Story,” which focuses on improving pupils’ oracy skills and inspiring them through the power of storytelling.

BRA was delighted to be selected as one of only two schools in Belfast, and our event was hosted by Phil Taggart, Radio 1 DJ.

Our BBC Ambassador was Sarah McCaffery, who shared her inspirational story through storytelling about her experiences of racism and the difficulties she experienced handling pressure at school which resulted in anxiety.

There was also an opportunity for some pupils to participate and a selection of pupils from Forms I, II and III pupils had the opportunity to speak in front of their peers on the topic of “finding something you love.”

All pupils thoroughly enjoyed this interactive learning experience.

C.J.A



Literary Contributions

100 WORDS: FIND SOMETHING YOU LOVE AND DO IT!

I love dance because I made lots of friends. I would always just sit in my room on my iPad or phone. But then, someone from my primary said I would be really good at dancing because I would always dance on the grass. So, I started dancing and it was the best choice I ever made.

I did it for a while and then started doing competitions. It was so fun because it was like mini holidays but with most of my friends. I loved dancing on stage in front of people and it was amazing and fun.

Yazmin McNamee (I)

My passion in life right now is running. I became interested in running because my dad used to run and do triathlons. He entered me in a few races and it turns out I'm pretty good at it.

I love the buzz I get on the starting line of a cross country race. It makes me want to run as fast as lightning and prove how good I can be after all the training I commit to each week.

Most of all, I love running as it calms me down when I'm grumpy or angry. My worries all disappear. Running is the best medicine!

Evan Tosh (I)



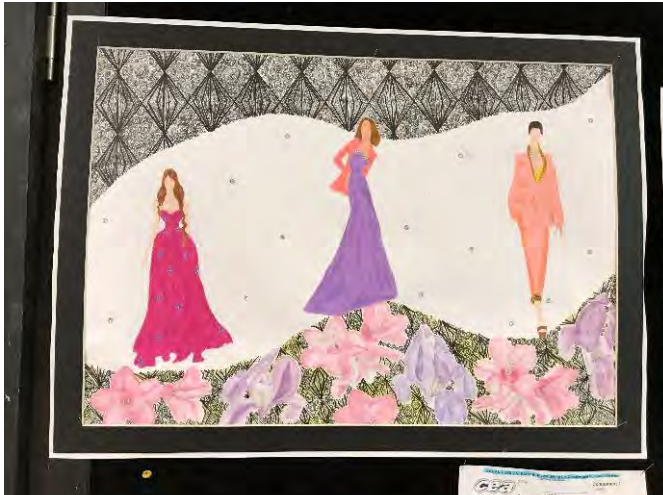
Cara Johns F5

Justice; tragedy; comedy, a few words to illustrate the melancholic yet amusing fact that's the future, present and past. You might wonder what I'm referring to, and my answer would be, "something we'll love, loved and will love." This 'something', may be not what you think, but let me assure you, it's everything, and everything is it; we're living it, people lived it, and people will live it, because it's living.

You may think to yourself, "that's a very comprehensive view on something which seems so elementary, but it's quite convoluted."

This convoluted thing, is history, and I love it.

Daniel Maitland (II)

*Aoife Scott F5*

You know, travel is a special thing. You can relax on the sunny, sandy, shores of Dubai or Miami.

No?

Well, ok then, how about somewhere mild like Japan or Germany?

Yes? Ok.

Then hop on a plane and – wait, you are afraid of flying?

Well, count out exotic Japan then, but you can probably still go to Germany.

Does Germany have a wet climate?

Well, let me see, maybe?

Ok, yes it has. It is seasonal.

You know what?

Just kick back, relax and stay in the most wonderful place of them all.

Scenic, social and historic Northern Ireland.

Austen Miskimmin-Young (II)

I love plants, and here's why you should too. Plants teach you things like patience, as you anticipate new growth. It helps us understand that nothing

can last forever, because plants all die sooner or later. But that doesn't have to be bad, as a plant's death teaches acceptance and how not to linger on past mistakes. Plants remind you that your flaws make you special, as plants with a mutation called variegation can sell for thousands. So, even though you may be different, there are people out there who'll love you for who you are and embrace your flaws.

Jacob McLaughlin (III)

*Kathleen Malone M6**Grace Ogilby F5*



I love writing. I love the idea of making a daydream come alive with words on a page. I love the never-ending flow of thoughts and ideas, the beauty of creating a magical land with unique people to fall in love with, and a whole realm of places to explore.

I love when everything comes together, creating a beautiful picture, a vision of your ideal world. I love when you have a thought that just never leaves your mind, then you add to that thought and all of a sudden there's a wonderful world, just waiting to be shared.

Zoe Ingram (III)

STARS

The drive was long,
the roads rugged
lambs called to mothers
asking for milk and security
as we walk, gravel crunches beneath our feet
I will tell you now, that your breath
will literally catch in your throat
at the land scape
of the Mournes
at night.

Mountains with stars draped round
like sugar spun,
the air sweet with grass
you will take a breath
and inhale stardust and wanderlust
finally knowing exactly where you belong.
The patch work quilt of fields
cover the peaks,

like a blanket to a sleeping giant
Heather scratching at socks
and mud pulling at boots
shepherds' huts, long abandoned
and the wall that stretched
and wound through the mountains
Now you breathe ancient rocks, and earth
Reassuringly home.

Charlei Hill (III)



Ayesha Begum Miah F5

OUR WORLD- OUR WORDS

Walking on the beach
I feel sand between my toes
hear the splashing sea
then I see ugly plastic
Poisoning our beaches.

Martha Donaldson (I)

In Universal
A hot day in Florida
The smell of candy
Beside two life-sized penguins
Smiling at the camera.

Zoe Falls (I)

Lovely smells flood the room
A warm scent, oh the bed silky sheets
A delightful duvet
Strong colours from the LED, awaits
The call for dinner...

Paddy Gillies (I)

I like Christmas
But do not touch the Christmas tree
As it is big and spiky
Beautiful and sparkling
An angel on top.

Bryn Hewitt (I)



Sightseeing tourist
London Eye and Tower Bridge
Tower of London
Beefeaters and Royal Guards
The sound of planes heading home.

Hollie Hipkins (I)

Beautiful sunset
Prawns on the barbecue
The calming waves
Warm sand in between my toes
The sight I would never leave.

Christopher Houston (I)

My ears popped
The smell of the trees
The road that never ends.

Katie-Nicole Kane (I)

Walks in the winter
On the way to the stables
The crunchy leaves underfoot
On the way to the stables
Happy in the breezy air.

Petra Keeling (I)

It's dangerous
One wrong move and that's it
Suddenly a huge rock appears
I paddle faster
and miss it.

Imogen McComiskey (I)

I'm on holiday
In the Egyptian desert
Taking in the great sights
Having fun with family
Wondering if the pyramids are real.

Jack McGahan (I)

Oh my lovely park
The one my dog loves so
But it's sad you see
the river destroyed
All down to pollution it is.

Jude McKeown (I)

Pink sky at the window
People walk up and down the aisle,
Picking a show to watch
A baby crying somewhere
Lanzarote, here I come!

Archie McNeilly (I)

High above the clouds
Such beauty I've never seen

Abbie McHenry M6





Zach Shaw L6

Oh, McDonald's
Your golden nuggets are delish
I love your big 'M'
Although your burgers are dry
Your salty fries are heavenly.

Nathan Millin (I)

The sky is plain blue
So blue that it's calming
The sea smells salty
The smell is quite weird to me
And the waves roar loudly.

Joshua Moore (I)

Trees swerve in the air
The river flows by
Leaves crunch beneath my feet
The winds smash into me
Suddenly the heavens open.

Darcey Moriarty (I)

Blades of verdant grass
Run across the whole garden
Rainbows of colour
Sprout from the flower bed
Happy memories grow here.

Jared Murphy (I)

Bars, music and joy
The great Irish atmosphere
Dublin is the name
Shops, restaurants to explore
Sights, smells, sounds and much, much more.

Michael O'Hanlon (I)

Gentle waves ripple
Through the Mediterranean
While they glide the sea
It is appealing to see
I fall asleep, hypnotized.

Ryan Pavlovic (I)



Julianna Aquino M6

The breeze in my face
The muck and dirt on my clothes
Walks through the forest



The leaves in the wind
I love all my winter walks.

Bella Redfern-McBride (I)

Warm sand between my toes
My tongue tastes the salty air
The briny smell of seaweed
Crashing waves surround the island
Trapped with nowhere to go.

Ben Saunders (I)

I hop into the sea
cold rushing to my head
My brother splashes in
I crash in my rubber ring
And fly right into a wave.

Autumn Stirling (I)

ANTRIM

From the lowly grumble of Belfast town
to the North Coast far beyond,
this is my corner of the world
and its where I best belong.
Be it relaxing on the sofa
with my cat across my knee
or laughing, cold and soaked right through
on my bodyboard in the sea.

I'd be up atop Fair Head
like Deirdre of the Sorrows,
my story ends much better than hers,
for I'll be here tomorrow.
When the Children of Lir are human once more
and the spell on them finally broke,
I'll mount up on my horse and ride through the
glens
like Oisín, home from Tir na nÓg.

The thought of going far abroad
is easy enough to bear,
but if I were off in Canada,
how would I reach the Lammas Fair?
I do not care to give much thought

on how my life could yet unfurl,
all I know is that I want my life
in my wee corner of the world.

Rachel Duncan LVI

FINÈ

Handcuffed to CO2 emissions
Life holds its breath until it can no longer bear
No way to flee from the toxicity of human activity
Confidence and strength dispersing
Leaving corrupt lungs and devastated spirits
For sympathy they ask
Because once they die there's no coming back

Fight for green and efficiency
Because its consequences aren't distant
Blinded by ignorance their choices have become
foolish
What they owe respect to
Is being tossed to the side
When earth becomes nothing
They'll be the ones shamefully regretting

Bitter life and dark skies
Rain spitting ammunition
That luxurious house is no longer sitting
Souls escape from the fissured ground
The painful image will leave you agape
Deadly fires consume life
An emulsion of flares projected in your eyes

The dome begins howling
Disrupted sleep never ending
As unease and danger are lurking
Please play your part
So Earth can stop hurting.

Lugin Osman LVI

MORNING GLORY

The sun had set, and the night was heavy. The
afternoon heat had given way to gentle rain that
left the sweet air rich with petrichor.
Two figures emerged from the blackness,
displacing the cloud of mist that billowed thick

from above. Their white clothes ruffled in the light breeze, in stark contrast to their surroundings. Each ambled at pace with the other, though not once did their faces deviate from rigidity. Life did not flush their cheeks, though their pallor was far from pale.

The pair seemed to exist between worlds, belonging to some stretch that lay in the middle. The dewy grass danced as they approached, yet did not crunch beneath their steps. They walked in an amicable silence; however, their journey did not seem to be without intent. Reaching the peak of a hill, its face jutting out against the skyline and overlooking the sprawling city of their choosing, they halted. Neither seemed enthralled at the prospect of speaking, nor directly opposed. The taller of the two spoke first, her dark eyes not once wavering from the bright lights below her.



Holly Hooks L6

“Has the time elapsed already?” she began in an upbeat tone. “The years seem to hasten the more of them there are.”

Her companion, refusing to be drawn into anything

unnecessary, replied shortly with, “Yes.”

The taller stiffened slightly, unprepared for such steely indifference, though she stifled a greater reaction. “If only you would live as I do, these meetings wouldn’t be necessary.”

“They would,” replied the smaller, as a gust blew back a stray lock of raven hair, revealing an impassive expression that soured slightly as she spoke. “It is our duty to ensure they do not overstay their welcome. I will admit you have softened me over the years, this should have been done sooner. I should have gotten involved before now. It is cruel,” she said, gazing at the lights in distaste, “that they have been allowed to fall so far without intervention.”

The other shook her head slightly in bemusement before replying. “You misunderstand the word, old friend. Cruelty would be to halt them after all this time. They are far from perfection, that even I can say with certainty. But they have changed so much from your original design, and you of all things in this universe should understand change.”

The smaller considered it for a moment, but contempt quickly returned to her features. “They may look different, but they are still nothing more than I made them to be – a distraction. I was alone for eons, I yearned for excitement. But time cannot change the flaw in their design, they are too complex for longevity. They’re hardly functional even now, least of all sustainable long-term. Though I doubt you would grasp such a concept.”

The taller was taken aback by the brash tone and replied with indignation. “I know more than you, I should think,” she said coolly, golden curls whipping in the wind. “Why do you do this to yourself, spend the years like this? These nights should be a celebration of our efforts, not condemnation. And you, friend, are colder, harsher than you should be.”

“And you are too weak to do what must be done,” came the snide reply.



Kaiden Ahmed-Fennell F5

“Oh, do stop blaming me for your poor choices. You chose this for yourself all those millennia ago,” she retorted, exasperated. It wasn’t the first time they had argued over this. “And if I recall correctly,” she added, “I offered to exchange, yet you would not hear of it. You chose this path, stop acting like you lost mine.”

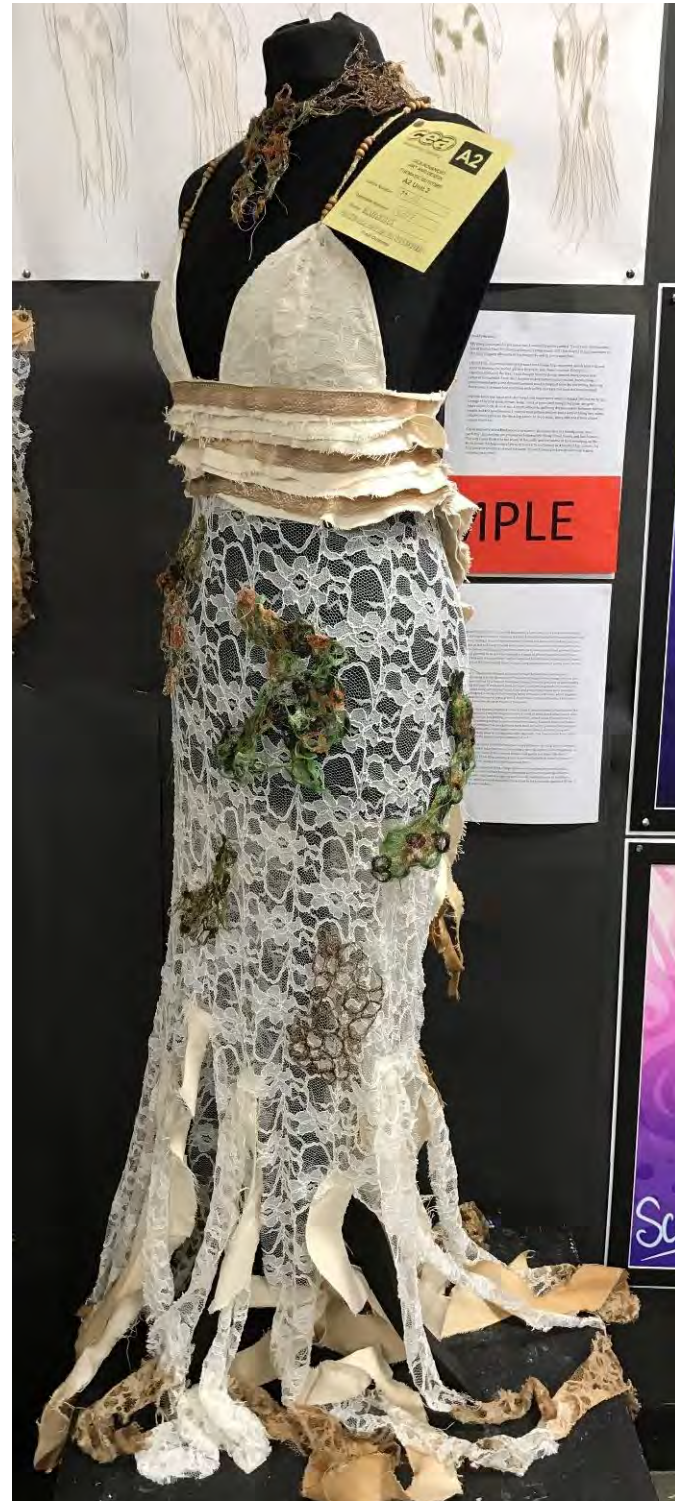
The second span around, fury in her eyes. “You know nothing of loss.” Her voice grew louder as she spoke, rising and raging through the octaves. Nature halted around her, waiting with bated breath. The trees stilled, not daring to rustle, and even the wind seemed to stop dead. The hill’s nose lay in silence and anticipation. “Do you have any idea how lucky you are? To see them as they live? To hold them as they go?”

The blonde, initially matching the rage of her partner, softened at the outburst. The city and the stars bounced off her eyes, each shining in their own way, and in the reflection the two didn’t look so different. Pity glistened in the soft brown of her irises.

“Friend, do you not think I mourn for them too?” Her thoughts were unreadable as she held her head out to the world, golden strands blocking any betraying expressions from the view of her companion. Though the sorrow lining her voice made her feelings clear.

The smaller sensed the grief in the other’s voice. “You do?” she whispered, her anger faltering. “Of course,” said the taller. “You know how many specks of life twinkle in this overhead sea. They are so alive when they live. Yet all too soon they fade, and their memory does too. I think that’s why I put them in the stars. Their names are

always lost to time eventually, but they live on as constellations and shooting stars, and in that way, you could argue they’re never truly gone – because you can always look up.” She tilted her head skywards, pensively surveying the darkness. “But why make them do it, then? Why sentence them to such a miserable existence?” the smaller said.



Ellie Walsh M6



"That is your mistake," the blonde whispered back. "It is not miserable at all. They're not beautiful because of how long they last. Their beauty comes from how bright they shine, even if but for a fleeting moment."

"I don't understand," she replied, mystified. "Do you remember my favourite flower?" the taller said, the ghost of a smile crossing her face. "I do," came the reply. "Though I could never figure why. I gave you thousands of flowers in all the colours of the rainbow. All the scents of the world. And yet your heart has never wavered, not even once."

"Show me," the taller said. Her companion obliged, twirling long, delicate fingers in swirling shapes until the flower came into shape. Its golden petals unfurled slowly, blossoming despite the darkness.

The blonde gave a wistful sigh, looking on in wonder at the plant. She reached for it, brushing slightly the hand of the other. As her grasp settled, she watched with an unreadable expression as it withered away. The gold faded, tarnishing to brown and quickly to grey as the petals fell away and the stem crumbled in her clasp. All too soon, the remnants of the flower were whisked away by the wind and her palm lay empty.

"Why do you do that to yourself?" the smaller said, confusion marring her features. "To prove a point," she breathed, still with her palm lying open. "And because I love to see it every time."

"What is the point?" said the raven-haired girl, still blind to the significance of the flower. "All your gifts are like this one, friend. They are all like the Morning Glory." Her gaze was still trained on her hand, as though she believed if she stared long enough it would come back.

"That plant was a disappointment," the smaller said. "It doesn't even bloom for a day. It's born with the sunrise, then mere hours and it wilts. By sunset it's dead." Dejection was plain in her tone. "But when you're us, do all creatures not feel as though they only last for that long?"

"I suppose," she mumbled, looking at the ground. "Your mistake, friend, is believing that because the flower blooms only for a short while, that it is not worth the time it takes to enjoy it." The taller had chosen her words carefully, clearly having spent long trying to articulate them. "That just because of its single bloom it does not warrant love."

"Love is exactly like those flowers," the smaller cried. "Pretty, but ultimately nothing more. It blooms and then it dies. The end. You can cherish it while it lasts, but why bother? It's so temporary. It's all so temporary." She threw up her hands, her face curling into a frown as her voice wavered and tears stung her eyes.

The statement seemed almost to hurt the taller, and she winced when she heard 'dies'.

"Love is not a Morning Glory," she stated, quite determinedly. "Love, my friend, is the dandelion that blooms in the spring. The one forever being wished upon, the one that scatters across the earth. A wish that creates a hundred more. Love is the butterflies that span every shade, each flap creating a tornado. Love is the roaring red flame that gives life as it burns."

The other had no reply.

"Love is not a Morning Glory," she repeated. "It blooms and fades to a bittersweet memory, in much the way a flower does. But it never dies. It passes through everything, both breathing and still, silently, touching them, changing them. It ties even the diamonds that paint the sky together." The blonde glanced down at her hands, melancholy flashing across her face. "Love transcends every barrier, friend. Even mine."

The outburst was long, but her partner did not interrupt. She stood silent as the taller talked, either unaware of or indifferent to the tears that slid down her cheeks, twinkling in the moonlight.

"Look at them," she muttered, extending an arm in the direction of the city. "What they're doing to the other creatures, to their world, to each other. How can you stand by and not stop them before they destroy it all?" Her voice was unsteady, poorly



hidden emotion brimming at the edges of her words.

The taller considered the question for a moment before answering.



Kalid Martin L6

“Sometimes I feel like that too,” she admitted. “You only hear of the worst, but I see all their evils. The small and the big and the cruel. The trick is knowing where to look to find their good. Their good gives them hope, and hope is what keeps them going. Their hope is refreshing, inspiring. It convinces me that one day, they will be better.”

She sighed, her eyes unfocused, remembering all she had seen. “It’s hard to overestimate their wickedness, friend. Even I can admit that. But in turn it’s very easy to underestimate their kindness, too.”

Her companion relented, her resolve to argue further disappearing. “You always know how to make such a good argument on their behalf,” she chuckled, any remnants of animosity vanishing, replaced with something else, not unlike optimism. It suited her. “Very well. I’ll see you when we next meet.”

She went to depart, but her companion grabbed her arm.

“Promise me you’ll visit someday soon. Not through gifts, in person. There’s much you must see, friend. Much to do, to experience. You could live a thousand lives beneath the sea of life.”

“I promise,” the dark-haired girl said back, surprised by the request.

Normally she would have tried to drink in the other’s features, knowing it would be a long time before she would see them again. But not this time. She hadn’t made a promise in many, many years, however this one she intended to keep.

The taller, satisfied they were both in agreement, faded into the night air in a shimmer of golden flecks. The smaller looked out across the world for a moment, allowing herself to enjoy it for the first time, a long-overdue smile brightening her face.

Eternities worth of grief and regret and a thousand other things melted away, revealing another girl entirely. She sighed and faded too, her glittering flecks floating away in the night-time breeze, carried away towards a sleepy lough, its waves lapping gently against the shore.

And so, the meeting concluded, an agreement once again reached, Life and Death parted ways once again.

Clara Walsh (IV)



Kate Sturgess L6



Shannon Kelly F5



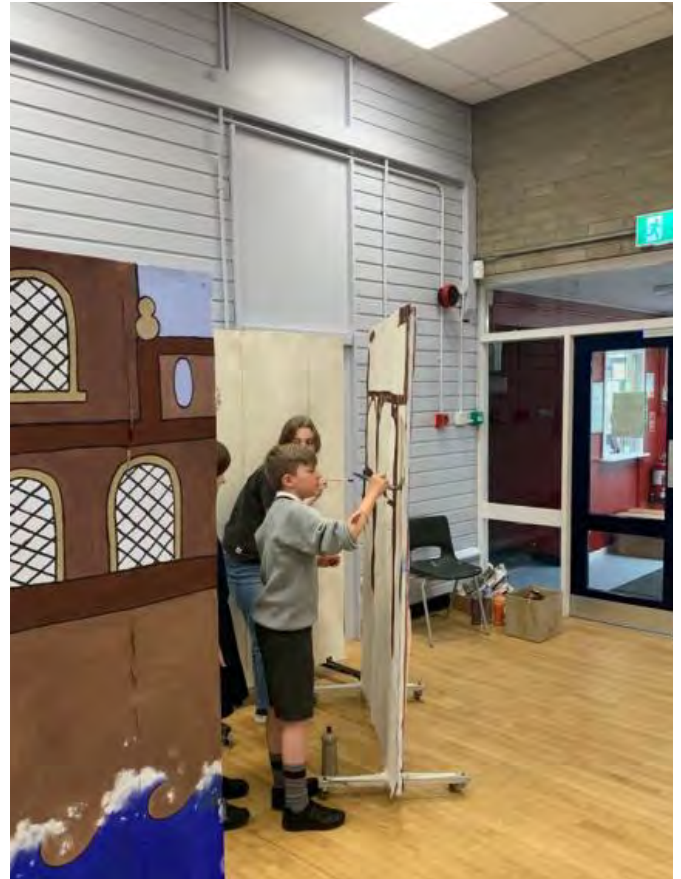
Brianna Sterritt F5

Ben Madigan Preparatory School

Investigating insulators and conductors in the material topic



Oscar Ferguson on scenery



Play Practice





Garden Centre Prep 3



Painting Christmas Decorations



Dinosaur Museum Trip and Class Role Play Prep 3





Prep 4 Making Pancakes





Jubilee Tea Party



Streamvale Farm



Team Building



Prep 4 Colour Run



World Book Day



Prep 5 Halloween





P6 and P7 Breckenhill



**Prep 7
Halloween**



Christmas

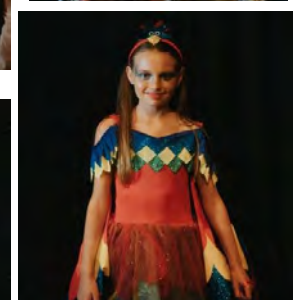
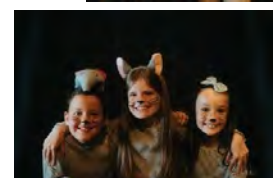
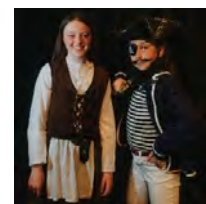


Spring Concert



The Natives

'Pirates of the Curry Bean' performed at The Courtyard Theatre, Ballyearl





ROSS COULTER



Ross Coulter leaves Ben Madigan after just over 2 years. He joined in the most challenging times after Christmas 2020 when Covid hit. He guided staff and pupils through home- learning, constant Covid Testing, and key worker support. Mr Coulter's energy and quirky sense of humour enabled him to develop a good relationship with the pupils. His love of football was particularly apparent in the playground. As Prep 4 class teacher, he delivered learning with enthusiasm. He embraced the strong musical tradition in Ben Madigan, accompanying singing with his guitar. We will miss the smell of coffee every morning as Mr Coulter loved to take the time to make the perfect cup – a bit like a chemistry experiment.

Outside school, Mr Coulter was blessed with a second daughter, Margot, moved house and continued to ride his muddy track bicycle. We wish him well as he starts a new headship much closer to home.

F.G

ELAINE WILSON



Mrs Wilson has retired after just over 30 years as a teacher in Ben Madigan. Mrs Wilson was primarily the Prep 1 teacher who welcomed the new intake of pupils to the school every September. She was committed to the educational experience of her young pupils and inspired them with her passion for wildlife and nature. There are many stories of Mrs Wilson and her tortoises, butterflies, snakes and frogs. She will be remembered also for her wonderful witch costumes at Halloween! Mrs Wilson ran the Cross-Country Club for many years, guiding pupils to compete at Championship level. We enjoyed a lovely lunch with current and former staff to celebrate her years of service and shared many happy memories. We wish her well in her retirement and know that she will be busy as she has just become a grandmother for the first time.

F.G



History Corner

BELFAST ROYAL ACADEMY IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR

In the months leading up to the outbreak of war, defence experts had warned that Belfast was likely to be a Luftwaffe target. Despite this, few steps were taken to defend the city and its citizens. Belfast had no fighter squadrons, no barrage balloons and few anti-aircraft guns. At the beginning of the war, most of the city's searchlights were transferred to England. There were few public air raid shelters and no domestic shelters. The reason had to do with a general feeling of complacency both within the Northern Ireland government and Belfast City Council, this in spite of the fact that Belfast was a major industrial city, with shipbuilding, engineering and linen being of particular importance. There was a feeling that Belfast was too far away and attacking the city would involve German bombers having to cross the British mainland and Irish Sea twice, putting themselves at great risk from British defences.

On 1st September 1939, Germany invaded Poland. Britain and France responded by declaring war on Germany. Between September 1939 and March, 1940, little seemed to happen, so-much-so that the period was, in some quarters referred to as "the phoney war".

However, on 10th May Germany launched a huge offensive in Western Europe and within 6 weeks France, Belgium, Holland, Norway and Denmark were under German control. At the end of May, 338,226 allied troops were evacuated from Dunkirk. Only Britain stood alone. The Germans were confident that victory over the UK was only a matter of time. On 7th September the London blitz began. Attacks on other British cities followed. A greater sense of urgency now prevailed within the Northern Ireland government.

In Belfast, public air raid shelters were hastily and belatedly erected. However, the city's defences remained woefully inadequate.

By early spring 1941, with no attacks having occurred, many of Belfast's citizenry reverted to an earlier confidence that their city would escape the blitz – air raids were something that happened elsewhere. They were soon to be sorely disabused. The general complacency was not shared by the Academy Headmaster, A.R. Foster. On the outbreak of war in September 1939, 8 members of the teaching staff and 2 members of the maintenance and ground staff attended the headquarters of the Belfast Fire Brigade to receive instructions on how to deal with incendiary bombs. Foster and the Board of Governors also devised a scheme to evacuate pupils to safer areas of the province. He put these plans to a meeting of parents, but was appalled when the majority attending rejected the proposals, accepting government assurances about the impossibility of Belfast being bombed. Staff and pupils now carried gas masks and took part in weekly practice air raid drills.

On the night of Tuesday 4th April 1941 (Easter Tuesday) about 180 aircraft approached Belfast and over the next 3 hours pounded the city with hundreds of tons of high explosives and parachute mines. While some industrial targets were attacked, the majority of bombs fell on the northern suburbs of the city and huge swathes of north Belfast were devastated. Whether this was deliberate or accidental isn't clear. Many bombs fell in the immediate vicinity of the school, causing massive destruction with many casualties. St James's church, next to the school was badly damaged, but remarkably survived relatively intact. All 700 windows were blown in and several ceilings partially collapsed.



After the Easter raids, a number of staff and pupils undertook fire watching activities. Not surprisingly, Belfast's citizens now viewed the situation with a considerable degree of urgency. There was a large exodus from the city. This reduced the number of pupils attending the school, particularly in the lower forms. Foster quickly re-activated his plan for branch schools for junior pupils, this time meeting with no disapproval. Four such branches were started: at Portrush, Ballygally, Donaghadee and Cookstown.

A second major raid on Belfast took place on the night of the 4th/5th May. Again, damage was severe and casualties high. Central and East Belfast was to bear the brunt of this attack.

A number of staff, pupils and former pupils were to contribute to the war effort. 2 members of the teaching staff, Charles Harte and Steven Wynburne, both serving members of the T.A. were called up upon the outbreak of war. Both were to serve with distinction. The school Registrar, T.E.C. Shearman, who had been awarded the Military Cross in the First World War, was called up to the Reserves. Other staff participated as volunteers in various civil defence organisations, as did the Head Boy of the school, George Woodward.

He was to receive a commendation from the King for his bravery during the Easter raid in rescuing 2 trapped women. Another Academy pupil, 16-year-old Alastair Bennett, a civil defence messenger, along with an air raid warden burrowed into the rubble of a ruined house to rescue its elderly occupant. This involved taking the weight of debris on their backs to allow the inhabitant to crawl to safety. This courageous act was recognised by the conferring of the British Empire Medal on Bennett. Over 300 former pupils enlisted in the armed forces, 32 of whom were to lose their lives in the conflict.

The Owl indicates that school continued to thrive during the war years. Remarkably, sporting fixtures, concerts, plays and school clubs and societies functioned much as they had done prior to 1939, a tribute both to the determination and resilience of staff and parents.

Of considerable value in writing this article were:
Brian Barton's definitive study of the Belfast Blitz:
The Blitz: Belfast in the War Years.
Edward McCamley: Belfast Royal Academy 225.

The Owl

J.H.C.



QUEEN ELIZABETH II (REIGNED 1952 – 2022)

The death of Queen Elizabeth on 8th September 2022 reminded the school community of its long-standing royal connections. Queen Elizabeth fully embraced the cultural diversity which developed in the United Kingdom during the course of her long reign. Belfast Royal Academy too has sought to mirror those developments during the period of its existence.

Belfast Academy was established by Presbyterians in 1785. In the century following the school's foundation, the town of Belfast rapidly expanded and became an important industrial and commercial centre. As recognition of its growing status, Queen Victoria, Elizabeth's great, great grandmother, granted the town city status in 1888. At the same time, she also gave Belfast Academy permission to style itself Belfast Royal Academy.

Queen Elizabeth's children have maintained the royal connection with the school. In 1985, Her Royal Highness the Princess Anne visited the Ben Madigan site at the Castle Grounds to open a new kindergarten building. 30 years later, her younger brother, His Royal Highness Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex visited the main school to observe the Academy's success in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, BRA being one of the largest school-based Award centres in the UK. He was extremely impressed by the social and religious mix of the school's pupils and the range of activities provided for in the Academy's Award scheme.

J.H.C.



Alumni News

ALUMNI – KEEP IN TOUCH!

In the Development Office we now have a growing network of over 8500 alumni on our database, made up of former pupils and staff connected with BRA, which enables alumni to enjoy the benefits of their ongoing association with the School and each other; socially, professionally and commercially. Additionally, our vibrant and dynamic Alumni Association plays a vital role in providing an invaluable resource back to the pupils and the school - volunteering their time, advice, services and philanthropic support in a myriad of different ways. We are all so very grateful for the continued support shown by the wider BRA community over these past two testing years in our history, including the assistance the School has received in many forms from Alumni, friends and current parents. Without this ongoing wider network, Belfast Royal Academy would not be the vibrant and progressive school we are today.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

We are incredibly proud of all our former pupils and the impact they have had and continue to have both in Northern Ireland and around the world. Linked by a common educational heritage, our alumni can benefit the school and themselves by staying in touch.

There are various ways to keep in touch with the school – by joining the Academy Alumni Association or through membership of the Old Boys' and Old Girls' Associations.

You can join the Alumni Association online in the Alumni section of the website

www.belfastroyalacademy.com or by emailing

alumni@belfastroyalacademy.net

Membership is free and open to all past pupils and former staff. Alumni members will receive regular email updates and newsletters and be eligible to attend any alumni events. Your contributions

and news are always welcome. Please keep your contacts up to date and let us know of any changes to your details.

SCHOOL REUNIONS





This year saw us embark on a programme of Alumni Reunion lunch events in School, celebrating 50, 40 and 30 year anniversaries for the Classes of 1971, 1972, 1982 and 1992. It was wonderful to welcome so many former pupils back to the Academy to join us for a celebratory lunch and tour of the school. Former classmates and friends were thrilled to be reunited back at BRA, with even some of their favourite former teachers in attendance! We were so pleased that so many people made the effort to join us at these reunion events, many of whom had travelled far to be able to attend.

Following on from the success of these reunions, we plan to host similar events for the classes of 1973, 1983, 1993 and 2003 next year and look forward to welcoming many more of you back to meet up with former classmates and teachers. Such events provide the opportunity to take time to enjoy a tour of the school and appreciate all the changes since you last visited, and remember everything that is exactly as it was all those years ago.

Dates for the anniversary reunions in 2023 are as follows:

Class of 1973 - 50 year Reunion
- **Friday 19th May**

Class of 1983 - 40 year Reunion
- **Friday 26th May**

Class of 1993 - 30 year Reunion
- **Friday 9th June**

Class of 2003 - 20 year Reunion
- **Friday 16th June**

To find out more please email
alumni@belfastroyalacademy.net

J.E.H

THE 1785 FOUNDATION – OUR ANNUAL FUND

Our **1785 Foundation** continues to grow and we welcome all our new members who joined this year. The Foundation is the ideal opportunity for alumni to reconnect with the Academy and to share some of the pride and ambition that we have for our pupils and support the school on a regular basis. The Foundation, named after the year the school was founded, is a key way in which the entire Belfast Royal Academy community can support the school.

As you are aware, BRA was founded to provide an exceptional education for young people from all walks of life. The school has always demonstrated a strong social purpose and an ethos of caring for pupils from diverse backgrounds. While we strive to provide a secure and supportive environment for all pupils, we recognise that, from time to time, some pupils need additional care and support, and we are most grateful to Foundation members for their ongoing support to enable us to do this. The school also has plans for a range of future development projects as well as academic and cultural programmes which will enhance the school experience of pupils for many years to come. The 1785 foundation will play a major role in the fulfilment of these plans.



HOW TO JOIN

You can become a member of the 1785 Foundation by making a periodic contribution and all Foundation members will receive news and information about the school as well as recognition in the Foundation's membership review. Donors who contribute at higher levels will receive additional benefits including invitations to an annual reception and selected school events.

The 1785 Foundation

Plan	Contribution	Annual Total Contribution	Donation on over 5 year period including gift aid
Bronze	£1.78 monthly	£21.42	£133.50
Silver	£1.78 weekly	£92.56	£587.50
Gold	£17.86 monthly	£214.20	£1338.75
Platinum	£178.50 Quarterly	£714	£4462.50

UK taxpayers can Gift Aid their donations and increase its value to the school by 25% at no extra cost to them. The school will claim the basic rate tax paid on the value of your donation from HMRC.

To find out more, visit the **SUPPORT US** section of the school website – www.belfastroyalacademy.com

or contact the Development Office on 028 9074 0423

or email development@belfastroyalacademy.net

J.E.H

PROFESSOR STEPHEN SMARTT



Congratulations and good luck to Academy alumnus, Professor Stephen Smartt, on his appointment to the Philip Wetton Chair of Astrophysics at Christ Church, Oxford University. Stephen is a world-leading astrophysicist, currently at Queen's University of Belfast, and is a recipient of the Royal Irish Academy Gold Medal in the Physical and Mathematical Sciences in 2018, as well as the Royal Astronomical Society's George Darwin lectureship. He was elected Fellow of the Royal Society in 2020.

COLIN MIDDLETON STEVEN SMITH

Colin Middleton attended the Academy in the 1920s and trained as a linen damask designer before becoming, according to the art critic Brian Fallon, 'one of the most naturally gifted Irish painters of his generation.' Working in a variety of styles and media, Middleton expressed his profound sense of place in vigorous and sometimes mysterious paintings. His first one man show was in Belfast in 1943, and two years later his work was exhibited in the Grafton Gallery, Dublin. Thereafter, major retrospectives were organised in Belfast, Dublin, Glasgow and London. Middleton was appointed MBE in 1969, and by his death his paintings featured in every significant public and private collection of Irish art.

Colin Middleton has been acclaimed as Ireland's greatest surrealist painter. Curiously perhaps, in the light of this later reputation, when he was a pupil at the Academy, the then Headmaster, AR Foster, had come to an agreement with Middleton that one of his duties would be to paint the numbers on the schoolroom doors.





Steven Smith is currently the President of Lagan Scullers. He recently turned 80 and received a Medal at the 2022 World Rowing Masters Regatta where he competed at Libourne, France. For those interested in a long sporting career, Steven illustrates that rowing allows scullers to continue into their 80's in a sport ingeniously age-structured to encourage serious sculling competition for all age groups!

KIM MAWHINNEY



Having left the Academy in 1986, I was fortunate to get an unconditional offer to study at the Art College in Belfast. Having decided, at the age of nine that I wanted to work as a curator in the Ulster Museum, I studied all things museum. After completing a degree in Combined Studies in Art and Design and a Master of Philosophy on the history of museum collections, I volunteered at the Ulster Museum before being appointed Curator of Applied Art in 1995 and Head of Art for National Museums NI in 2009.

I was a project manager and member of the Project Board for the redevelopment of the Ulster Museum, which reopened in October 2009 and won the Art Fund prize in 2010. Following on from this experience, I worked with national partners, including the National Portrait Gallery and the Courtauld Gallery in London, to secure capital funding for their own redevelopment projects through the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Working as an art curator in a national museum is a completely unpredictable job and best-laid plans

can shift and change when exciting opportunities arise. One such opportunity was to bring the sculpture Weeping Window: Poppies from the Tower of London to the Ulster Museum in 2018. The sculpture by its very nature is a complex feat of engineering and trying to display it on an equally complex iconic and listed building was indeed a challenge, not to mention the added issues here around the symbolism of the poppy.

Building relationships and engaging with collaborative projects with national and international partners has been key in both my curatorial practice and for bringing important exhibitions to the Ulster Museum. This has included working in partnership with the National Gallery, Victoria & Albert Museum, British Museum, Tate Gallery, Centre Culturel Irlandais (Paris) and the McMullan Museum of Art (Boston College). I also work outside the museum field to support other organisations and I currently sit on the Board of Directors for the Tyrone Guthrie Centre, Co Monaghan, the Belfast International Arts Festival and Craft NI.

Working with students is also hugely important to me. I was recently external examiner for two international PhD students for the Ulster University and from 2007-12 I was external examiner for the National College of Art & Design in Dublin for both BA Honours and MA degrees. I also lecture on museum careers and curation, and actively mentor artists, curators and academics.

Through my personal experience of growing up in North Belfast during the Troubles, I have become involved with art and the legacy of the conflict. In 2014, I curated the first major scale exhibition Art of the Troubles, which looked at artistic responses to the conflict in Northern Ireland. The following year I curated Colin Davidson, Silent Testimony exhibition, which displayed portraits of eighteen people who had suffered personal loss during the Troubles. This has led me to be invited to be part in the international debate on post-conflict communities including working with the WAVE Trauma Centre, the Centre for Democracy and Peace Building, the Victims and Survivors Forum and Healing Through Remembering. I have also given papers at national and international



conferences on Troubles Art and Colin Davidson: Silent Testimony exhibitions.

I have many incredible highlights throughout my career, including travelling with the art collection across the world but my focus is still to challenge the public's perception of the role of art and that museums exist for everyone. In a post-conflict society, art has become more important than ever to help us understand our past, examine our present and confront our future.

OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION



The BRA OBA Annual General Meeting was held on 26th April 2022. The Senior Vice-President, Mr Bobby Gray was elected President and he thanked his predecessor, Trevor Sturgess for his efforts during 2020-21 and for getting events such as the Annual Dinner up and running again after the break due to covid. The Junior Vice-President Mr Philip McKenna was elected Senior Vice-President.

THE BRA OBA ANNUAL DINNER



B.R.A. OBA Annual Dinner Speakers - The Europa - 27-Nov-2021
Terry Templeton Trevor Sturgess President BRA OBA Mrs Hilary Woods BRA Principal Christopher Harte

The BRA OBA Annual Dinner, held at The Europa Hotel, is our major annual function. The dinner was restarted again after missing 2020 due to the Covid pandemic on 27th November 2021. It is scheduled for 26th November 2022, and provisionally for Saturday 25th November 2023 at The Europa Hotel. It will be hosted by the BRA OBA President, Bobby Gray. If you have not previously attended and would like to be kept informed, please email the Alumni Office at

alumni@belfastroyalacademy.net

THE BRA FORMER PUPILS' LONDON AND EDINBURGH DINNERS



Belfast Royal Academy FP London Dinner @ the R.A.F. Club (11-Mar-2022)
Trevor Sturgess (President BRA OB) Dr Michael Hutchinson (Speaker) Hilary Woods (BRA Principal) David Haslett (Organiser/Past President)

The BRA Former Pupils' London Dinner was held at the R.A.F. Club on Friday 11th March 2022. It was very pleasing to see this dinner up and running successfully again after it had to be cancelled in 2021. Thanks for another successful event are due to David Haslett and Dr Louis Campbell, and the guest speaker, Dr Michael Hutchinson. The 2023 London Dinner is scheduled for Friday 11th March 2023.

BUSINESS BREAKFASTS



BRA Business Breakfast - 10 Square Hotel - 8-June-2022
Steven Johnston MD ADHAUS Louise Brogan Alumnae Class of '92 Claire Colvin Co-Founder SimpleScaling Joanne Harvey Communications & Dev't Manager Michael McDowell Breakfast MC



These breakfasts are aimed at former pupils who are still working and who would like to widen their business contacts. Some current BRA pupils have also attended. These breakfasts have had between 20 and 40 attendees and are usually held at the Ten Square Hotel. They are suspended due to Covid-19, but we had a successful event on 8th June 2022. The speakers were Steven Johnston – MD ADHAUS and Claire Colvin – Director & Co-Founder SimpleScaling. Please email the Alumni Office at alumni@belfastroyalacademy.net if you would like to be on the notification list.



MONTHLY LUNCHEON CLUB



The monthly lunches attract between 40 and 50 members – mostly retired members of the Association. The attached photo is from the last time we lunched at the Royal Belfast Golf Club. Robin Reid initiated and coordinated these lunches for many years, with the help of local hosts. The Old Boys' Association greatly appreciates Robin's efforts, and we are grateful to Robb Fletcher for stepping in to run these in the future. Due to the pandemic, the lunches are temporarily suspended but we are hopeful that they will recommence after the summer.

GOLF

The Association plans to hold two golf outings each year. The first outing was held on 20th June 2022 at Malone Golf Club. Mark Cooper (left) won the Picken Cup Cup, presented by this year's Captain – Andrew Magee.

The second outing was scheduled for the Royal Belfast Golf Club on Friday 9th September 2022, but had to be cancelled due to the death of Queen Elizabeth II. Any former pupil interested in playing in these competitions should contact Ken Knox at ken@cd-group.com. Please see the dates for next year below.

TOM MCKIBBIN HAS COMMENCED HIS CAREER AS A PROFESSIONAL GOLFER.

Congratulations to Tom McKibbin on his decision to become a professional golfer. Tom has settled into life as a golf professional and is pushing for a tour spot.

CRICKET

UNVEILING OF ALF CHAPMAN PLAQUE AT CASTLE GROUNDS

The Annual Old Boys' vs the School XI Cricket Match took place at the Castle Grounds site at Ben Madigan. This year's match included a special ceremony to unveil the Alf Chapman Plaque at the Cricket Pavilion by former pupil and School Cricket and rugby legend, Mr Ken Houston. Guests also enjoyed a special screening of a new BRA Cricket video during the break for tea.



MATCH REPORT

The Old Boys' batted first and scored a healthy 144 by tea. After tea, the school were in deep trouble at times, but in the way cricket can, there were a nerve-jangling final few overs as they held out for a draw. All enjoyed the afternoon and look forward to next year. Special thanks to Umpires Brian Boyd, Chris Harte and Cricket Master, Michel Harte. Thanks to all who supported the event on what proved to be a great afternoon.

J.E.H

RUGBY NEWS



Congratulations to Iain Henderson on captaining Ulster and continuing in a major role in the Ireland international squad.

Congratulations also to Tom Stewart who is now playing in the senior Ulster rugby squad and was awarded 'Man of the Match' on his starting debut.



OBITUARIES LESLIE LEOPOLD



Leslie Leopold, former pupil of Belfast Royal Academy, passed away in Manchester at the age of 77 following a short illness.

He studied Dentistry at Queen's University and, apart from a short time in London, spent his life in Belfast where he and his wife, Lisa raised their three daughters.

In addition to his dedication to his career and family, Leslie will be remembered as an avid golfer and prominent figure within the Jewish community.



He played an integral role in organising the visits of the then Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Prince Charles to the Belfast Hebrew Congregation.

DONATIONS

The President has continued the negotiations with the Principal, on behalf of the BRA OBA Old Boys' Association, to contribute to the plan to replace the WWII memorial with a new appropriate memorial which would better match with the existing WWI memorial. The planning and design is well under way, but this will not be rushed into place for Remembrance Day this November. We expect to present the Principal with this contribution in the coming months.

BRA OBA WEBSITE



The BRA OBA website is at www.braoba.com and has had a major revision, providing news and archive documents.

FUTURE DATES

Golf: Picken Cup, Thursday 15th June 2023 at Malone Golf Club.

Golf: Captain's day, Friday 8th September 2023 at Royal Belfast Golf Club.

Annual Dinner: (Provisional date) 25th November 2023 at The Europa Hotel.

London Dinner(s): Friday 10th March 2023 and Friday 8th March 2024.

CONTACTING THE BRA OBA

The Membership fee is currently suspended. New members are always welcome! Please notify the Alumni Office at alumni@belfastroyalacademy.net to register with the Association, or notification of changes to email address, or contact details. Notification of reunions is very welcome. Please inform the Alumni Office at alumni@belfastroyalacademy.net of any items of news for inclusion in The Owl and the Old Boys' Association website. Any notification of births/ marriages/ deaths or career developments etc will be very welcome and of considerable interest to other Old Boys.

Michael McDowell promotes the Association on social media through the Old Boys' Twitter account @TheBRAoldboys.

Jim Carolan is the Alumni Officer, and will liaise between the Association and the school.

Thank you.

Philip McKenna,
BRA OBA Hon. Secretary
philmac49@gmail.com

OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION

As many of you will be aware, the Old Girls' Association is comprised of female pupils who previously attended Belfast Royal Academy, along with current female staff, and past colleagues. We are delighted to have members living around the world, as well as many local ladies from Northern Ireland and other parts of the UK and Ireland!

In 2021/22, we welcomed new members and would like to extend an invitation to all past female pupils, as we are always keen to grow our



network. Our aim is to support pupils of Belfast Royal Academy with all aspects of school life. We provide opportunities for our members to network, socialise and help raise funds for the school.

It is with a great deal of pleasure that we can report that this academic year was a more 'normal' year in terms of events and life returning to how it was. Although we made the decision to postpone the Annual Afternoon Tea until the Autumn of 2022, we were able to hold a number of other events.

CONNECTING WITH PUPILS



In December, we were able to hold our Christmas Coffee Morning. This was a lovely morning, meeting with the MVI girls to wish them a Merry Christmas and hear all the excitement about the upcoming formal and their plans for university, gap year, employment and beyond.



The end of term was as hectic as ever and as a result we could not schedule our normal talk. We did send the girls a video, with the help of the School's IT Manager, Mr Cleland, to wish them all the very best for their exams and in the next stages of their lives. We are very grateful to Mr Cleland for his technical support, as we appreciate how busy he is within school.



<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Lb0lmSNpe0HyyRx6IZATmVcwuSh7ZsDa/view?ts=636256f0>

FUNDRAISING

The Christmas Wreaths were another success as a fundraiser. The playground was a flurry of activity and resembled a nursery on the collection morning, which was great to see. Our sincere thanks go to all those who ordered and supported this event to raise funds for the school.

We launched a 'House' branded drinking bottle. This was very popular as the pupils all love to support their Houses. If you would like to order a bottle, please email as we may place another order.





The school playground again resembled a garden centre later in May. The hanging basket and planter sale continued to be a great success, with over 100 items sold. Hanging baskets and planters were once again provided by Dundonald Nurseries. Our thanks go again to all those who placed orders and helped to raise funds for the pupils of BRA.



EASYFUNDRAISING

Don't forget, we are registered with Easyfundraising! This is an easy way to help us raise funds at no additional cost to you. The Association earns commissions from online purchases made by our members on a huge variety of shopping sites, including: Amazon, Currys, ASOS, Marks and Spencers amongst hundreds of others.

So, when you are next shopping online simply follow these simple steps:

Step 1 - click www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/braoldgirlsassoc/?q=bra&cat=cause-autosuggest

Step 2 - shop as normal.

Step 3 - A donation will be made automatically to The Old Girls' Association based on a percentage of what you spend online, at no extra cost to you!

EVENTS

HOCKEY MATCH

On 26 April the OGA Hockey team played against BRA's 1st XI at Roughfort. It was a beautiful evening and both teams played competitively. The final score was OGA 1 – BRA 3.

Goal scorers:

OGA – Ashleigh Beattie

BRA – Emma Upritchard x 2, Olivia Beattie

We were delighted to have so many spectators to support both teams.



QUIZ

May saw the return of the joint Old Girls'/Old Boys' quiz at the Academy Club. Our sincere thanks go to Adrian Browne, our witty Quiz Master. A fun evening was enjoyed by all who attended. The turnout was fabulous, with the club



packed to capacity. We look forward to more joint events in the future. We were also very grateful to all the businesses and individuals that donated prizes for the raffle.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM was held via Zoom on the 27 January 2022. During the meeting, we reviewed fundraising ideas, updated everyone on membership, accounts and planned events for the forthcoming year. We had members attend the Zoom meeting from England, which was lovely. This was certainly one of the benefits of holding the meeting virtually.

Election of the committee took place. Nikki Johns informed the committee that, after many years of serving as Chairperson, that she was stepping

down. On behalf of the committee and the Old Girls' Association, we would all like to thank Nikki for her enthusiasm and hours of work that she dedicated to the association in her term as Chairperson.

The committee is now as follows:



Caroline Dillon:
Chairperson



Nikki Johns: Vice
Chairperson



Johanna Richardson:
Hon. Treasurer



Claire McGovern:
Hon Secretary

STAY CONNECTED

We love hearing from our members, please get in touch if you have some news to share. If you would like to register as a member of the Old Girls' Association and would like to offer your support, please go to our new automated registration form at Old Girls' ... | Belfast Royal Academy. Our annual membership is just £5, members who are previous life members can also subscribe to the annual fee if they wish. All fees contribute to our financial contributions that we pass on to the school.

Get in touch:

email – braoldgirls@outlook.com

twitter – @braoldgirls

Facebook – BRAformergirls



Births, Deaths and Marriages

BIRTHS

BUDDEN: 25th November 2021, to Robbie and Katie, a daughter, Stella

SPENCE: 26th April 2022, to Katie (nee McAvoy) and Conor, a daughter, Clara Jayne

TSANG: 13th May 2022, to Rachael and Leon, a daughter, Cali Susan

MARRIAGES

MUDGE-DIAMOND: 24th April 2022, Lydia Mudge and Jonathan Diamond

SHIELS-MCKIBBIN: 4th August 2022, Jenna Shiels and Sean McKibbin

DEATHS

BRENNAN: 26th April 2022, Leslie

CAMPBELL: 17th November 2021, Anne

CONNOLLY: 20th July 2022, Stephen

COPPEL: 17th March 2022, Dr Dennis

COPPEL: Jeffrey B.

FREEMAN: November 2021, Ruth

LEOPOLD: August 2022, Leslie

MACKINTOSH: 5th August 2022, Hazel

MARTIN: 1st June 2022, Grahame

MCDOWALL: 16th June 2022, David Stewart

MCGAVOCK: 30th January 2022, William Rainey (Ray)

OLDING: 3rd March 2022, Gary

THOMPSON: 9th July 2022, David



[illegible]

Notes

[illegible]

