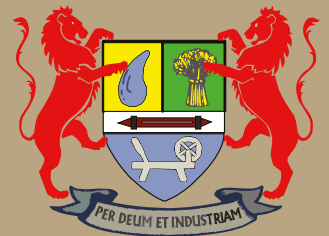
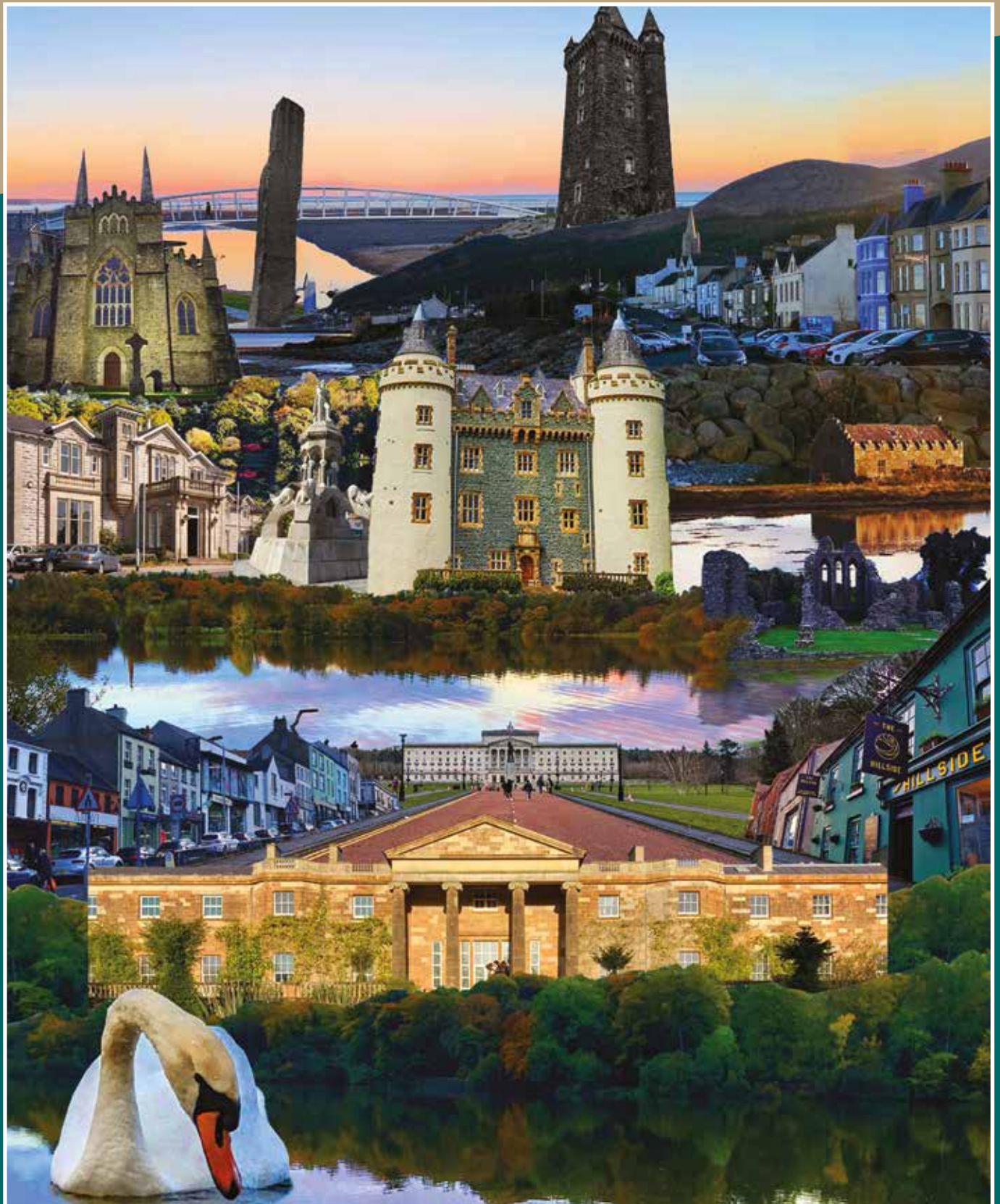


Review



BANBRIDGE ACADEMY 2021 - 2022



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Editorial

Mrs G Gough

The 2021-2022 school year saw a gradual return to movement between classes, smiling faces (no longer concealed by blue masks) and externally assessed examinations, as we gratefully took a step closer to 'normality' than we had managed during the two years before.

Pupils eagerly and enthusiastically embarked on trips to destinations such as Paris, Austria and Oxford, whilst also exploring attractions closer to home to aid them in their learning and strengthen relationships with their peers. I think it's safe to say that we were relieved to enjoy (once again) the routines and activities that we had taken for granted 'pre-covid'. Successes were celebrated, both inside and outside of the classroom, as commitment and teamwork were rewarded. Pupil appreciation

and enjoyment of extra-curricular activities was perhaps even more pronounced, following the limitations and restrictions imposed by the covid pandemic. Indeed as editor, it's refreshing to have the opportunity once again to collate a more extensive range of pupil experiences and record the good times enjoyed.

I extend my thanks to the staff and pupils who have contributed to this edition of the School Review and also to the many local businesses who

continue to support our school through choosing to advertise with us. Without such involvement, the magazine could not exist.

To you the reader, as a pupil, parent, staff member or friend of the school, I hope you enjoy the 2021-2022 edition of the School Review.



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Mr D McFarland, BEd, MSc, PQH

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Physics	Mr D Stewart, BSc, PGD, PGCE
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Religious Studies	Mr W Brown, BEd
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Technology	Mr G Winter, BEd

Year Heads

	Year
Miss A McClelland / Mrs P McKenzie	14
Mr M Cordner / Dr R Dobson	13
Miss J Cosgrove / Mrs J Neill	12
Mr J Erskine / Mrs J McCullagh	11
Mr C Walker / Mr C Beacom	10
Dr C Lorimer / Miss S Anderson	9
Mr M Miskelly / Miss K Jess	8

School Record

Marriages

Jill McCormick and Keith Hetherington
Lynne Elliott and Andrew Dow
Claire Hamilton and Guy Munton

Births

To Chris and Robyn Beacom, a daughter, Jessie Maggie

Engagement

Rebekah Warnock and Chris Hannon

Teaching Staff

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 Mrs H Adair, BA, PGCE
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 Mrs R Armstrong, BA, PGCE
 Mr C Beacom, BSc, PGCE
 Mrs R Beacom, BSc, PGCE
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 Mr M Cordner, BA, DIS, PGCE
 Miss J Cosgrove, BSc, PGCE
 Mrs K Curran, BA, PGCE
 *Mr R Currie, BEd, PGCE
 Mr S Dawson, MSc, PGCE
 Dr R Dobson, BSc, PhD, PGCE
 Mr J Erskine, BA, PGCE
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 Miss L Forsythe, BA, MA, PGCE
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 *Mrs V Harrison, BA, PGCE
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 Mr S Jess, MSc, PGCE
 Mrs B Kernaghan, BSc, PGCE
 Mrs H Lawther, BA, PGCE
 Mr B Leslie, BEd
 Mrs J Leslie, BSc, PGCE
 Mrs K Li, BSc, PGCE
 Dr C Lorimer, BSc PhD, PGCE
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 *Mr M McCandless, BEd
 Mrs J McCullagh, BA, PGCE
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 *Mrs J MacNeice, BA, PGCE

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 *Mrs N Reilly, BSc, PGCE
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 Mrs H Stewart, BA, PGCE
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 Mrs D Wilkinson, BA, MEd, PGCE
 *Mrs L Wilson, BA, PGCE

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Principal's PA

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 Mrs A McCurdy, Mrs D McRoberts,
 Mrs J Sayers, Mrs N O'Neill
 Mr B O'Shaughnessy

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Y14 Study Supervisor

Laboratory Technicians

ICT Technicians

HE/Art Technician

Technology Technician

Pupil Welfare Auxiliary

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 Miss L Shannon, Mr S Sturgeon, Miss G McFall
 Mr S Gilliland, Mr K Curran
 Mrs N Hazley
 Mr M McKinley
 Mrs H Singer
 Mr M Barlow, Mr P Bingham, Mrs N Beggs,
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 Mrs S Gibbons, Mrs B Hampton, Mrs A McGovern,
 Mrs N Stewart
 Mr S Curry, Mr J Kernaghan
 Elise Gerard, Pedro Jose Valero Martinez
 Mr S Savage

Building Supervisors

Foreign Language Assistants

Groundsman

(* denotes temporary)

Principal Awarded OBE - Queen's Birthday Honours 2021



Banbridge Academy was delighted that our Principal, Mr Robin McLoughlin, was awarded an OBE (Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2021 List for services to Education. Mr McLoughlin, joined Banbridge Academy as Principal in January 2015 after serving as Principal at Grosvenor Grammar School from 2008.

The Chairman of the Board of Governors, Mr Dennis Livingstone, reflected on the wonderful news for our popular Principal by saying, 'Mr McLoughlin is an outstanding leader who demonstrates unstinting commitment to the pupils, parents, his colleagues and the wider community. His child-centred approach, vision and boundless energy ensure extremely high quality education for our pupils'. Mr Livingstone continued, 'He supports the pupils and colleagues in every aspect of school life and is ever present at school events and at the side of the sports pitches on Saturday mornings. He epitomises the Academy's ethos of knowing and caring for the pupils as individuals, it is reassuring to see Robin as a man of faith living out his commitment to serve on a daily basis. Mr McLoughlin has been instrumental in securing the status of the Academy as one of Northern Ireland's leading schools.' The Chairman congratulated the Principal and noted his response - Mr McLoughlin modestly stated he represents the school and the award was not just for him but also for the colleagues and Governors who work alongside him, as well as his supportive family.

Mr McLoughlin graduated with a 1st Class Honours degree from Queen's University Belfast and began his teaching career at the Academy in 1995, when he spent 11 weeks at the school as a student teacher. He joined Bangor Grammar School as a Physics Teacher in 1995 and subsequently occupied a number of posts, including Senior Housemaster, School Timetabler and Senior Teacher, alongside numerous extra-curricular commitments. He moved to Grosvenor Grammar School as Vice-Principal in 2003 and 5 years later was appointed Principal, leading the school through a period of sustained improvement and a £24m new school build.

Mr McLoughlin said he was honoured and completely surprised when he received notification of the prestigious award from the Cabinet Office. He said it was a very pleasant surprise particularly for his mother, as he lost his father earlier this year. Referencing the fond memories of his father, he said 'My Dad (aka 'Boss') would have been very proud, as mum and he taught me on the family farm in Portadown, to work hard and give your best to help others'. Mr McLoughlin continued 'I have been very blessed to work in three great schools, working alongside fantastic colleagues and parents helping to educate outstanding students. It is an absolute privilege to work in Banbridge Academy and this award reflects the part played by all pupils, staff, parents and Governors - definitely a shared honour.'

Throughout his career, Mr McLoughlin has worked on a number of steering



groups tasked with compiling reports for government on improving education in Northern Ireland. Most recently he has been a member of the Department of Education's Practitioner Group to plan for the safe reopening of schools following lockdown. He is a member of the DE and DfE Transition of Young People into Careers (14-19) Project Board, helping to plan for improvements in the future education system in Northern Ireland. He has also been nominated by his peers to represent them in a number of positions including - President of the Association of School & College Leaders (NI), Chair of the Association of Controlled Grammar Schools and Director of the Controlled Schools' Support Council. The Education Minister has also appointed him to the Independent Panel who will undertake the biggest review of our education system in the history of Northern Ireland.

Mr McLoughlin acknowledged the support from his wife, Jennifer - they have been stunned with the numerous messages of congratulations and goodwill. He also stated that he has been extremely grateful for the support the school and he personally received during this challenging year. He concluded by saying 'Everyone deserves congratulations and an award, just for getting through this year. We have all stepped up and successfully adapted to the complex world of living through a pandemic.'

Mr Dennis Livingstone, Chairman of the Board of Governors



Headmaster's Report 2021/22

Mr Chairman, Lady Chief Justice, Archdeacon West, parent and Deputy Lord Mayor - Councillor Tim McClelland, members of the Board of Governors, our former Principal Mr Pollock, partner Primary School Principals, colleagues, parents, ladies and gentlemen and, most importantly, our prize winners, welcome to Prize Day – it is a privilege to present my eighth Annual Report in Banbridge Academy.

After Covid over the previous two academic years, I think we can all agree it is great to be able to gather again as a school community in this beautiful building. A special thanks to Archdeacon West and the Select Vestry of Holy Trinity for the warmth of their welcome.

Mr Livingstone will outline later the very distinguished career of our Guest of Honour – The Right Honourable Dame Siobhan Keegan, the first ever Lady Chief Justice of Northern Ireland. I wish to note the Lady Chief Justice's connection to the school – her mother attended the Academy and over many years we are extremely grateful to Dame Keegan for her considerable support with the Bar Mock Trial competition. Dame Keegan thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to join us today – applause.

Prize Day is a happy and joyful occasion when we celebrate success, however, since the last time we met many in our school community have faced health, financial and personal challenges, we remember them in our prayers. Today we remember especially David Hanna, our colleague and dear friend who passed away tragically whilst on holiday. David was a much-respected member of our cleaning and caretaking team. He was a long-serving and friendly member of the team who had time for everyone – he is greatly missed by everyone in the Academy.

We were delighted that the academic year 2021/22 saw a further return to normality and our extensive extra and co-curricular programme. **Our students, their parents and my**



colleagues deserve to be highly praised for their resilience over recent years. It is amazing how the students and my colleagues adapted to the challenges, many phrases entered our daily vocabulary – Zoom, Google Classroom, Google Meet, synchronous and asynchronous teaching – the circumstances necessitated a frightening pace of change.

Anyone who knows the Academy well understands the vital role the support staff play in maintaining our special ethos. I thank the office, the technical and support staff and record my gratitude to our Financial



Year 8 Class Prizes



Year 9 Class Prizes

Headmaster's Report

Administrator, Mrs Neill and Mrs Johnston, my PA for all their friendship and support. **We have continued to remain true to the Academy's central aim - for everyone to be happy at school, known personally and cared for individually. Our special ethos is due to the quality of relationships across our community,** and I thank The Academy Association and their Chair, Mrs Audrey Wilson-Reid, for their unstinting support and dedication to the school.

Today I will only be able to provide a brief outline of the academic year. However, I record my thanks to Mrs Gough and her team for compiling a wonderful record of the School Year in our School Magazine, a digital version will be available later in the year. I also encourage you to visit the school website and follow us on Twitter to keep up to date with the success of our students.

At the end of the year, we said farewell to Mr Alan Kennedy who retired after 23 years of service in the Science Department. We wish Alan a long and happy retirement. We also wish Dr Terry Myers well as he continues his teaching career overseas, after 23 years in the Academy.

We welcomed several new appointments at the start of term. Permanent appointments - Mrs D Dreading (Head of Geography), Miss E Hall (History & Politics), Mrs K Li (Biology) and Mr K Curran (ICT Technician). Temporary posts - Mr R

Currie (Technology & Design), Miss H Gordon (Spanish and French), Mrs V Harrison (English), Mr M McCandless (Technology & Design), Mrs J MacNeice (Home Economics), Mrs N Reilly (Mathematics) and Mrs L Wilson (Home Economics). We welcome them to the Academy and trust they enjoy working in our happy community.

As my colleagues and the community have heard me say repeatedly, high-quality outcomes are secured when leadership is distributed and dispersed effectively across the school. There were several internal promotions: Mr J Clarke (Senior Teacher), Miss E McCullough (Public Relations), Mrs P McKenzie, Miss S Anderson and Dr C Lorimer (Year Heads).

Our students **excelled** in the first public examinations since 2019. **Every student passed every A Level. 91% of students achieved 3 grades A*- C and 62% of all entries were A*/A grades - truly exceptional results. Out of the 183 A Level students, 79 obtained a minimum of 3 A*/A grades or better,** 22 achieved at least 3 A* grades and 48 obtained at least 2 A* grades. Susie Black, Erin Colgan and Charlie Porter all obtained 4 A* grades. Two students progressed to Cambridge, Susie Black - Newnham College, Psychological and Behavioural Sciences and Daniel Moore - Pembroke College, Law.

AS Level results were equally impressive, a pass rate of 100% and 94.5% of all entries achieving A* - C grades. These results provide an

excellent foundation on which to build for A Level success in 2023.

The GCSE results were outstanding. **Every Year 12 student achieved at least 5 A*-C grades, including English and Mathematics, and 99.5% of the students achieved at least 7 A*-C grades, including English and Mathematics - truly remarkable results. 61.1% of all entries resulted in top grades A*/A.** Beth Corder, Will Egerton, Johnny Leathem and Lukas Moles all obtained at least 9 A* grades. **A further 54 students obtained 9 A*/A grades or better.**

We commend the Class of 2022 for their resilience and maturity, we thank them for the wonderful memories they have created in the Academy and wish them every success in the next stage of their educational journey.

The education of our young people involves a partnership and I want to pay tribute to my colleagues in our primary schools who have created the foundation for the success our students enjoy. I pay tribute to the dedication and commitment of the teaching and non-teaching staff of the Academy; their professional approach has undoubtedly underpinned this success. I also commend the ongoing support provided by our parents and the wider community. I ask the pupils to show a token of appreciation to their parents and my colleagues.

The Academy continues to be at the forefront of Education in Northern



Year 10 Class Prizes



Year 11 Class Prizes

Banbridge Academy

Headmaster's Report

Ireland. We welcomed the Chief Executive of the Education Authority, Mrs Sara Long, in September. Mr Colm Gildernew MLA, Chair of the Health Committee, joined our newly formed Medical Society and Government & Politics students for a question and answer session. The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, The Right Rev Dr David Bruce addressed Religious Studies and Politics students.

Miss Michelle McIlveen MLA, Minister for Education, visited the Academy and met with the Senior Prefects and the Senior Leadership Team of the School. The Minister was interested to hear about the challenges we faced during Covid and how the students, my colleagues and the entire community had moved forward together to ensure the young people in our care continued to receive the best possible education.

The Independent Review Panel was established, a commitment by the Northern Ireland Executive in New Decade, New Approach. I have been appointed by the Education Minister, alongside four others to complete the first ever comprehensive review of Education in Northern Ireland in our 100-year history – I am now realising the enormity of the task!

Our wider school family continues to contribute to the life of the school. The Bradford family generously donated further funding to the Margaret Bradford Memorial Bursary and have agreed that the funding should be

used towards the Reach Mentoring programme, which helps pupils across the school who are struggling and experiencing difficulties in their lives.

Covid prevented our concerts/shows and several visits from taking place, but we still raised over £6,000 for various charities and contributed many Shoe Boxes for Operation Christmas Child.

Due to the relaxation of the restrictions, we were able to see a return to many departmental and co-curricular trips and activities, as well as our annual ski trip, which saw almost 100 pupils travelling to Austria. We also continued to supplement our extensive pastoral curriculum with a range of external speakers and guests, covering many important topics, such as, Human Rights, alcohol/drugs misuse and relationship & sexuality education and further developed the role of our anti-bullying ambassadors. A new Year 8 Induction Programme gave pupils the opportunity to forge strong relationships during an immensely successful team-building Adventure Day.

The Politics and Religious Studies departments continued to provide many opportunities for our young people to understand the importance of diversity and inclusion, which are integral to our society and our school ethos. The Art and Technology departments continued to inspire creativity and the pupils participated with distinction in a

range of competitions. The History department also continued to provide a plethora of opportunities to enrich the understanding of local and national history for our pupils.

The Royal Mail stamp design based on Covid Heroes saw Cadey-Lee Jess (Year 11) selected as a regional finalist and one of the top ten in Northern Ireland with her wonderful Captain Tom tribute.

Two Year 11 groups were successful in getting to the semi-final of the prestigious ABP Youth Challenge. Gordon Porter and Katie Moore, from 'Moovement' progressed to the final and were presented with the task of rearing a mini-herd of Angus cross calves. A great competition that saw both Gordon and Katie visiting Brussels as one of the winners of the competition.

Year 10 Home Economics pupils developed their entrepreneurial skills participating in a project to develop a new product in association with Avondale Foods. Their brief was to create a new and exciting salad – Avondale's Product Development Officer and his team, commented that the pupils demonstrated flair and creativity as well as great expertise and imagination in the selection and execution of their chosen salad recipe.

Many senior students participated in the Bar Mock Trial competition, held online this year, due to Covid restrictions. Following tremendous



Year 12 Class Prizes



Year 13 Class Prizes

Headmaster's Report

performances the team were placed second across all the schools that participated in this unique year.

The Young Enterprise 'Step Up' Challenge, designed to encourage young people to develop skills and positive attitudes as they make the leap from primary to post-primary school. The pupils participated in a range of interactive challenges, through which they learned to evaluate their own potential for development. The pupils also had a chance to learn what goes on behind the scenes to keep schools running when a couple of the non-teaching staff dropped in to explain their roles.

Our budding young entrepreneurs from Year 13 represented the school, with schools from across Northern Ireland in the Young Enterprise Company Programme. 'Safe and Sound' wanted to create products that would make a difference. Therefore, they decided to tackle the issue of personal safety by designing, manufacturing, and producing 'Stop Spiking Scrunchies', which have a hidden drinks cover to keep nights out safe from drink spiking. Their endeavours and sales skills gained them the award for Company of the Year in the Southern Area, which was presented at a Gala Dinner in Belfast City Hall.

The Young Enterprise Company students also participated in the Young Enterprise Examination, which is supported by Ulster University. They enjoyed outstanding success being

awarded 15 Distinctions and Lara Crothers was one of the top 3 students in NI – a wonderful achievement.

We were also delighted to be one of only six schools in Northern Ireland to receive the Centre of Excellence Award from Young Enterprise NI at the Titanic, Belfast. The Award recognises the commitment by colleagues across the school to Enterprise and Entrepreneurial Education, we thank Miss Elliott for her extraordinary leadership of Young Enterprise over many years.

The school enjoys a longstanding partnership with the Confucius Institute who provide a Chinese Language Assistant each year for Sixth Form students and several of our Partner Primary schools who wish to study Mandarin Chinese and culture. This year, a team of Sixth Form students took part in the Chinese Bridge Mandarin Speaking Competition, and we were delighted when they won the NI section and finished runners-up in the UK Finals.

Kiera McQuaid (Year 13) represented the area in the Regional Final of the Rotary Youth Leadership Competition and secured a place on the Rotary trip to Dublin and Belfast. In previous years, this trip would have taken her to Europe, however, because of the Covid restrictions, that trip wasn't possible this year. Nonetheless, Kiera thoroughly enjoyed, the opportunity to meet other young people from across Ireland.

Pupils also enjoyed success in the District Finals of the Rotary Young Writer competition based on the theme 'Environment'. In the senior category, Beth Corder was placed first while Ibrahim Saleem Chaudhry came first in the intermediate category.

I thank our Music Department, under the leadership of Mrs Munton and Mrs Qua for the musical items we will enjoy today. It was an extremely successful year for the department with an amazing 15 junior and 11 senior students selected for the National Youth Choir of Northern Ireland training programme.

The necessity for an online Carol Service also provided a unique opportunity to showcase the talent of our students – a wonderful event and a heart-warming start to the Christmas period.

The Dance squad, choreographed by former pupil Mrs Ruth Cobb and managed by Mrs Neill and Miss Warnock, worked tirelessly throughout the year to compete at the highest level. At the Ulster Dance and Fitness Competition the Junior Dance team performed a sophisticated routine and were rewarded with the Gold medal. The Senior Lyrical team performed a delicate routine to win their section and the Senior Dance team completed a hat trick of Gold medals, by taking the top spot in the Senior Schools' Musical section for their enthusiastic and animated interpretation. Year 13 students, Mia Downey, Ruby Bushby



14 Years full attendance Hannah Spence and Kian Bingham with Lady Chief Justice and Principal Robin McLoughlin



BA Board of Governors with Lady Chief Justice Dame Siobhan Keegan

Banbridge Academy

Headmaster's Report

and Lauren Bell also obtained Gold in the Senior Trio section for a touching routine devised by the girls themselves. It is great today that we can award a new Senior Dance Trophy and we also thank the McKinney family for their generous donation of a Drama and Theatre Studies Trophy for Year 14.

Kathryn Morton (Year 14) enjoyed success at the European Field Archery Championships and secured a Bronze medal as part of Team GB at the European Indoor Archery Championships. I understand Kathryn is now No. 1 in the world in her category – a fantastic achievement!

Academy athletes had a very successful day at the County Down District Cross Country Championships. The Inter Girls qualified in first place and 12 individual athletes qualified for the Ulster Schools' Championships. Simon Ferris (Year 13) also qualified for the Irish Schools' Championships.

Tara Kennedy (Year 9) competed in the All-Ireland Triathlon, finishing 3rd in Ireland! It was made even more special when Tara was presented with her medal by the Olympian and former pupil Russell White. An amazing achievement for such a young athlete and bodes well for her future sporting career.

It was a very successful and enjoyable athletics season for our athletes. Ciara Patton (Year 10) won the Ulster Junior High Jump competition and went on to compete in the Irish Championships

and represented Ulster in the Inter-provincial Championships. Harry Gault (800m), Alyssa Somerville (High jump), Emma O'Neill (Triple Jump) & Katie McCleery (800m) all qualified from the districts for the Ulster Championships.

Katie Leslie (Year 8) won the U12 Ulster Table Tennis Title. Following on from their success in the Ulster Championships, the U19 Girls' Table Tennis Team maintained their momentum to gain victory in the Irish Schools' Championships. A great reward for the team who already had success at Ulster & Irish level as an U15 Team and a fitting reward for their resilience during the Covid disruption. The U13 Girls' Table Tennis Team also completed a very successful season as Ulster and Irish Champions. The success of these teams reflects the talent within the teams and the organisation and commitment of their coach Mr Arnold Morgan.

Nadia Radcliffe (Year 14) was selected for both the U17 and U19 Northern Ireland Netball Development Squads. Having played throughout her school career she now goes on to play at Senior National Level. The Minor Squads also enjoyed a successful run in their respective leagues each securing a place in the NI Schools' Finals.

The Ulster Short Course Swimming Championships are the pinnacle of the sport's Short Course season in Ulster and the qualifying times to get to the Championships are tough. It was,

therefore, an amazing achievement for ten of our pupils to be eligible to compete at these Championships. Also, an amazing 28 swimmers from the Academy represented the school at the Ulster Schools' Cup Championship.

Boys' Hockey at the Academy, under the leadership of Mr Cordner over the past 25 years, has had a reputation for producing remarkable talent. However, this year was truly exceptional with a record breaking 13 pupils selected for Ireland and 16 pupils selected for Ulster at U16 and U18 levels. Captains of the 1st XI, Charlie and Louis Rowe, had a fantastic season and were selected to represent Northern Ireland at the UK School Games, bringing home the Gold medal. Charlie was also selected at the end of the season for the Irish Senior Men's Team for the match series against Italy.

To say the 1st XI Team under the expertise of Coach, Mr Jess and Manager Mr Walker, had an outstanding season would be a complete understatement. The boys won the McCullough Cup title for the ninth time defeating a very tough rival, Wallace High School in the final. The boys became double title holders by becoming the Ulster Schools' Champions for the first time since 2016 after defeating Friends' School in the Burney Cup final. Unfortunately, during the Burney Cup run, Louis broke his collarbone to end his season early. The squad went on to compete in the All-Ireland Championship in Dublin but cruelly lost the final on run-ins.



BAA Award - Year 12 pupils awarded 9As or better at GCSE

Headmaster's Report

The 2nd XI followed in a similar vein, chasing an Ulster Schools' double, they won the Prior Shield title and narrowly lost in the final of the Dowdall. The U15 Team also had a great season and won the Richardson Cup to be crowned Ulster Schools' Champions. The U14 Team reached the final of their Ulster Schools' Tournament and finished in the Bronze medal position in the All-Ireland John Waring. The U12 were unbeaten throughout the full-pitch season and won the Annual Oxford Tournament. It was another tremendous season for Boys' Hockey!

With the absence of the Superleague competition due to Covid the Girls' 1st XI faced incredibly tough draws in the first few rounds of the Schools' Cup. Despite the challenges the girls built steadily throughout the season and defeated Strathearn in the final of the Ulster Schools' Plate to cap another great season.

The boys' Rugby teams enjoyed being back on the pitch following the pandemic. The Medallion exited at the 3rd round stage of the Medallion Shield but went on to win the Danske Bank Medallion Bowl after beating Antrim Grammar, Portadown College and Limavady Grammar.

The 1st XV progressed to the 3rd round of the Schools' Cup and Vice-Captain Marcus McNeill was selected for the Ulster Schools' U18 training Squad. Conor Magee played for the Ulster Clubs & Schools' U18 and the team in all three inter-pro matches. Ryan

Hanna played for the Ulster Schools' U17 Team and the Ulster Clubs & Schools' U18 Team. Andrew Jackson, Noah Bell and Matthew Morrison trained with the Ulster U16 squad during the summer and have now moved on to the Ulster U17 in-season squad.

Following such a wonderful year of sporting success for the Academy in a vast array of sports, numerous teams and individuals were nominated and successfully shortlisted for the City of Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Sports Awards. There are too many categories to mention today, but it is important to note the amazing breadth of talent, as you had to have reached Ulster or Irish standard to be shortlisted – we represented approximately a quarter of all nominees. Three of the top five prizes were awarded to Academy students - Boys' Hockey 1st XI (Youth Team of the Year), Kathryn Morton (Young Female of the Year) and Charlie Rowe (Youth Male of the Year).

I feel very humble and proud to lead such a talented group of staff who are highly professional and genuinely caring. Their enthusiasm and devotion to our students is the reason why the Academy is such an excellent school. I thank my Vice Principals, Mrs Evans and Mr McFarland, my Senior Leadership Team, the Heads of Department, the entire Pastoral Team and all of my colleagues for their enthusiasm, support, dedication and friendship.

I thank Mr Livingstone, our Chairman and the members of the Board of Governors for their support and encouragement. I can testify to the dedication of this group of volunteers, and I thank them for their willingness to accept their onerous responsibilities.

Prize Day is a significant event in the life of the School and the organisation of the day is a tribute to the considerable expertise of Mrs Evans and Mrs Morrison. I take this opportunity to thank them on behalf of everyone present for all their efforts in arranging such a special day. A special note of thanks to Miss McConkey for her tremendous pronunciation of our prize winners and to our own Mr Brown for his expertise in playing the organ today.

In conclusion, we continue to live in very challenging times with the political uncertainty in the UK and Stormont, the cost-of living crisis and inflation, but please be assured that the Academy will continue to meet the needs of the outstanding young men and women entrusted to our care.

Thank you
Mr R S McLoughlin OBE



Other Prizes and Trophies

Graduates

Queen's University



Kate Allen	PASS	MB Medicine	Owen McClory	2.1	BEng Chem Eng
Honor Atkinson	1st	MPharm Pharmacy	Mark McCullough	2.1	LLB Law
Joel Atkinson	1st	MPharm Pharmacy	Joshua McDowell	PASS	PhD Agri-Food & Land Use
Richard Baird	1st	MEng Struct Eng with Arch	Jonathan McIntosh	PASS	MB Medicine
Eli Baxter	1st	LLB Law	Samuel McKee	PASS	MB Medicine
Tara Bertholon	1st	MSci Biochemistry with Prof St	Katie McKnight	2.1	LLB Law with Politics
			Patrick McNiff	2.1	BSc Finance
Joshua Best	1st	LLB Law with Politics	Andrew Millar	1st	MEng Mechanical Eng
Kathryn Bingham	2.1	BMus Music	Andrew Mitchell	1st	BSc Planning Environ Dev
Ida Boardman	1st	BA English & History	Naomi Nelson	2.1	BSc Nursing
Adam Bronte	2.2	BSc Economics and Accounting	Rachel Newell	1st	MEng Electrical & Electro
			Christopher Patterson	2.1	BSc Actuarial Sci & Rsk Mg
Steven Campbell	1st	MEng ChemEng	Troy Pinion	2.1	BSc Business Management
Shannon Corr	1st	MEng ChemEng	Julia Pollard	1st	MEng ChemEng
Catherine Dodds	1st	BSc Biological Sciences	Ellie Purdy	1st	BSc Geography
Sara Edgar	1st	MEng Struct Eng with Arch	Peter Rountree	1st	MEng ChemEng
David Gibbons	1st	MEng Software Engineering	Arlene Rowan	1st	BSc Finance
Abbey Gillespie	1st	BMus Music	Hannah Russell	PASS	PhD Education
Thomas Greer	2.1	BSc Pol w Quant Mthds	Evan Russell	1st	MSci Physics
Emma Gregson	1st	MPharm Pharmacy	Nicole Savage	2.1	BSc Psychology
Lee Groves	2.2	BSc Economics with Finance	Clyde Scott	2.1	MEng Chemical Engineering
Jade Harrison	1st	BSc Biological Sciences	Kathryn Scott	2.1	BSc Geography
Megan Hughes	2.2	BSc Nursing	Ruairi Shannon	1st	MSci Physics
Isabella Innocenzi	1st	BSc Architecture	Sarah Shaw	1st	BSc Food Quality Safety & Nutrition
Ross Johnston	1st	BSc Computer Science			
Hannah Kelso	2.1	LLB Law	Peter Sleith	1st	BSc Computer Science
Robbie Keown	2.1	BSc Microbiology	Stephanie Smart	2.1	BSc Planning Environ Dev
Ellie Large	2.1	BSc Finance w Yr in Indust	Gemma Thompson	2.1	LLB Law
Jessica Lindsay	PASS	MB Medicine	Sarah Topping	2.1	BSc Biological Sciences
Robert Little	1st	MEng Civil Engineering	Stuart Totten	2.1	BEng Mechanical Eng
Bruce Lockhart	2.1	BSc Economics	Lucy Vella	DIST.	Msc Marketing
Sarah McAleavey	2.1	MSci Biochem with Prof St	Emma Warnock	DIST.	MB Medicine
Remi McAnearney	2.1	BSc Mathematics	Daniel White	1st	BEng Computer Science
Sarah McCallister	1st	BA History	Lisa Wilkinson	1st	MSci Physics

University of Ulster



Holly Abraham	1st (with dist.)	BSc Biology	Ione Jennett	2.1	BSc Politics with Ciminology
Timothy Beattie	2.1	BSc Radiotherapy and Oncology	Victoria Kerr	2.1 (with dist.)	BSc Food and Nutrition
Reuben Brown	1st	BA Fine Art	Sarah McCoy	2.1	BSc Occupational Therapy
Timothy Brown	1st (with dist.)	BSc Construction Engineering & Mgmt	Lauren McGaw	1st (with dist.)	BEng Biomedical Engineering
Harry Campbell	2.1	BSc Sport and Exercise Science	Rebecca McKeown	2.1	BSc Physiotherapy
Emma Cartmill	1st	BSc Accounting	Jack Montgomery	1st (with dist.)	BA Product Design
Rebecca Craig	2.1	BDes Graphic Design and Illustration	Calum Moore	2.1 (with dist.)	BEng Software Engineering
Alex Cromie	2.1	BSc Accounting	Rhys Murphy	1st	BA Fine Art
Natalya English	1st	BSc Psychology	Holly O'Donnelll	1st	BSc International Hospitality Mgmt
Katie Gibson	1st (with dist.)	BEng Biomedical Engineering	Marcus Pentland	2.1	BSc Politics
Alexandra Haire	1st (with dist.)	BSc Cons Mgt & Food Inn	Phebe Redmond	1st	BSc Geography
Ben Heaney	1st	BSc Criminology and Criminal Justice	Robert Reid	2.1 (with dist.)	BSc Business Studies
Hannah Irwin	1st (with dist.)	BSc Architectural Technology mgmt	Zara Sloan	1st (with dist.)	BSc Marketing
Adrian Januzi	2.1 (with dist.)	BSc Computer Science	Sarah Sloane	Pass	Dip in Found Std Art and Design
Ciara Januzi	Pass with commendation	Dip in Found Std Art and Design	Chloe Stafford	2.1 (with dist.)	BSc Marketing
			Gina Woods	1st (with dist.)	BSC Communication, Advertising & Mrkt

Mr Alan Kennedy

(Banbridge Academy:
1999 – 2022)

Mr Alan Kennedy retired this year after 23 years of service in the Science Department of Banbridge Academy. As a teacher of Science, Alan had a particular passion for Biology and taught it with great enthusiasm. His main aim was always to encourage and help his students to develop that same love for the subject and to grasp how Biology could play a part in their future careers.

Alan occupied a number of different roles across the school over the years. As a Year Head and Head of House, he sought to engage the pupils to ensure they became involved and participated in the vast array of activities on offer in the school. He was a very experienced and knowledgeable Cricket and Rugby coach. For over a decade he coached Cricket and Senior Rugby including the Ulster Schools' U19 tours in 2001 and 2002; he also participated in many school rugby tours. His passion for the outdoors ensured the pupils

understood the holistic benefits of participating in the extra-curricular life of the school.

Alan worked as an Assistant Examiner for CCEA, which enabled him to develop a greater understanding of the examination system and thus benefited his students and colleagues within the department. He also contributed to other areas of school life, including Teacher Representative on the Board of Governors for a term, within the Careers Department and as



a trained First Aider. His commitment and dedication to the pupils will be missed by all in the Academy.

We wish Alan a long and happy retirement.

Dr Terence Myers

(Banbridge Academy:
1999 – 2022)

Dr Terence Myers resigned this year from his post as Teacher of Biology after 23 years of service to Banbridge Academy. He joined the school after working in temporary posts in Methodist College Belfast, Portadown College and St Mary's Grammar School. He studied Biochemistry at Queen's University Belfast and completed an MSc in Molecular Biology at the Medical College of Ohio before completing his PhD in Environmental Biology followed by his PGCE.

Terry was an experienced classroom teacher who was enthusiastic about his subject and capable of instilling a love of learning in his students. He was

a diligent colleague who always helped the students to succeed in and outside the classroom, with his involvement in the extra and co-curricular life of the school. Terry encouraged pupils throughout his career and was always extremely well prepared to ensure he set the highest standards in all aspects of his teaching.

Terry took the opportunity to participate in the Career Break scheme and took up a teaching post in the Middle East for a number of years. On his return, it was obvious he had gained a considerable amount of experience during his career break and was keen to continue to teach his career in international schools. We thank Terry



for his service to Banbridge Academy, his contribution to the school over the years has enhanced the lives of the pupils who were in his care.

We wish him and his family well for the future.

Portrait Gallery

Miss Hall

Maeve Magowan, Angelina Parks and Emma Oakes

We were excited to have the opportunity to interview the newest member of the History Department, Miss Hall, and find out a few interesting facts about her interests both inside and outside of the classroom.

How are you finding Banbridge Academy so far?

Fantastic! It's very warm and welcoming, all the staff and students alike! I'm really enjoying it and have found the school to be a very close community; all the teachers and staff get on really well and the students have been great so far.

How do you spend your time outside of school?

Outside of school I'm involved in a few church organisations; I play the guitar and lead a worship band every few weeks in church. I also play the banjo and the ukulele. Sport also takes up a lot of my spare time and I enjoy playing badminton, running, walking, hiking and mountain biking. I especially enjoy going for walks and coffee at the North Coast, in places such as Portrush and Portstewart.

What A Level subjects did you study?

I studied English literature, history, politics and PE.

What did you study at university?

I studied history and politics at Queen's University and then completed a PGCE in politics (also at Queen's).

What has been the best thing about school so far?

This is a tough one! *(Miss Hall looked pensively for a few moments before answering...)*

If we are going 'school specific', in relation to classes and teaching, I have found the eagerness of pupils to learn and to take part in lessons to be so refreshing! Students (especially in the

junior school) are so eager and keen to share all of their knowledge and to talk about history. So their eagerness to learn has been really quite impressive and I've also enjoyed the 'craic' between staff; it makes break and lunch times quite relaxed and fun.

If you could speak to your 16 year old self, what would you say?

This is a good one! 16 year old self? *(The pensive expression returned once again...)* I would say to try and slow it all down, to just take your time and live in the moment. This is getting very deep! But just live in the moment instead of constantly looking to the next thing. Take it all in; it's all going to work out ok; don't stress too much but enjoy the experience when it's happening! *(We all agreed that this was very good advice from Miss Hall and something that we could apply to our own lives.)*

If you could implement any law, what would it be and why?

As a politics teacher, you would expect me to have an answer ready for this question but I'm going to have to think for a moment. I was actually talking to Miss Jess about how wonderful it would be if everyone could bring their pet to school- even for just one day. It would be absolute mayhem, but aside from that I think it would be great. So, I'd maybe introduce a 'Pet to school day' policy! *(We quite like the idea of this policy!)*

If you weren't a teacher, what do you think you would be doing right now?

I would quite like to be involved in the news, possibly working in the BBC as a news reporter or a correspondent. Or, I also like the idea of working with people through the ministry. They are two very different careers, aren't they? Although, teaching is something that I have always wanted to do and it's very difficult to imagine doing something



different.

What's your most embarrassing moment?

It has to be a badminton experience! I was in Year 14 and was playing against this boy and he hit the shuttlecock off my nose, which resulted in a broken bone in my nose! There was so much blood and the Vice Principal had to wheel me out, even though I could walk! It was pretty embarrassing!

Where is your dream holiday destination?

Australia, the Great Barrier Reef.

If you could go back to any time and live through any historical moment what would it be and why?

I'd say maybe Victory Day. I think to be in the streets of London, watching and cheering as all of the troops returned home from war would have been an amazing experience. There would have been such joy, relief and excitement experienced by all who were there.

If you could have dinner with any historical figure who would it be?

Probably Barack Obama.

We would like to thank Miss Hall for the friendly welcome that she greeted us with, and for taking the time to answer our questions. We wish her well in her teaching career in Banbridge Academy.

Portrait Gallery

French Assistant: Elise Gerard

Katlo Matlhodi

Where in France are you from?

I'm from the east part of France (called Reims) and it's well known for its architecture. It was in the Cathedral in Reims where Kings used to be crowned, and it is also known very well for its champagne.

What type of foods do you eat there?

"Le biscuit de Reims" is very well known and only our region makes it. Due to the fact that champagne is made there, there is also a famous meal that consists of meat and champagne.

What has been the biggest culture shock?

I have found that people here are so lovely and welcoming. In France, people can be quite 'closed off'; whereas here, I find myself smiling at people outside of my room that I don't know, because they are smiling at me. In France however, I would only ever smile at teachers that I knew.

What is the biggest challenge of being here?

Food. There are specific foods that you cannot find here. I have to go to three supermarkets to find what I am looking for. I like to cook, so I need so many ingredients to make my meals. I would say that it is much easier to cook in France as I can easily find the ingredients that I need.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I like to take pictures. I go out with my camera and I take pictures, especially in Belfast and the countryside. It is not really something that I have done in France.

Why did you choose to come to Northern Ireland?

I had a choice between any of the

regions in the UK and my decision was between Scotland and here. I wanted to come here because of the accent. I really like the accent because I think that it's so special, and it's very different from the English accent. I would like to study further the English language and the different dialects in 'British English' and 'Irish English' as there are so many variations. I find it very interesting and important to my studies.

Are there any other countries that you would like to visit?

South America: Brazil and Uruguay especially. I want to visit them because they are so different from France and all of the countries that I've seen. My boyfriend's Godfather lives in Brazil and whenever he talks about it I'm thinking, 'I want to go there!'

What is the first thing someone should do when they go to France?

Go to a bakery and buy 'pain aux raisins', which is a round sweet thing with cream. Also get a real croissant, a 'croissant au beurre' as it's so different from those here.

Quick fire questions

Favourite movie: Avengers.

Favourite book: The fourth Bridgerton book.

Favourite author: Julia Quinn.

Favourite artist: Harry Styles.

Favourite season: Spring time.

Favourite subject: English.

Favourite word: Daffodil.

Favourite thing: Cereal.

I would like to thank Elise for taking time to answer my questions. One final message from Ms Gerard, 'Come to France and eat everything you can!'



Portrait Gallery

Spanish Assistant: Pedro José Valero Martínez

Katie McBride and
Bethany Scott

We ventured down the geography corridor and into the language assistant's room, which is inhabited by the new Spanish language assistant, Pedro. Many Spanish students may have already encountered Pedro, but if not, we hope to reveal a little bit more about his new experiences in Banbridge Academy.

What part of Spain are you from?

I am from a little city in the south of Spain.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I like to read books. When I lived in Spain, I used to go to the cinema on weekends, but I haven't had the opportunity to visit one here yet. I haven't really seen many.

How are you enjoying your time in Northern Ireland so far?

It's great! I haven't visited many places yet but I'm looking forward to visiting nature attractions like forest parks.

What do you think about the accent?

The accent is quite difficult to understand but I think I'm getting used to it.

What's the biggest difference between Spain and Northern Ireland?

One of the biggest differences is the time at which lunch and dinner are eaten. In Spain, we are used to eating much later than you do here. We usually don't eat lunch until about 3pm or 4pm.

Is there anything you would recommend for people who visit Spain?

I would certainly recommend the food. The food is really good and in Spain we have a lot of vegetarian options. Spain is also full of natural places and landmarks that I would recommend visiting.

Is there any food from Northern Ireland that you wish you could bring back to Spain?

(This question was highly influenced by the fact that it was breaktime and it honestly made our tummies rumble even more!) I haven't had the chance to visit many proper Northern Irish restaurants that sell authentic Northern Irish dishes, because there are a lot of pizza places for example. I did however try "ensalada de cole" the other day and I thought that it was nice. *(After conversing in Spanish and doing a quick google search, we figured out that Pedro was talking about coleslaw and that he favoured the Tesco brand.)*

What are your overall opinions of Banbridge Academy so far?

The students are all very friendly and welcoming and they always say, "Hola" in the corridors when they see me passing. The school is very different to Spanish schools, but I'm really enjoying it!

We would like to thank Pedro for answering our questions and hope that he continues to enjoy his time in Banbridge Academy.



Portrait Gallery

Chinese Language Assistant: Rui Zuo

Abbie Patterson and
Sarah Nesbitt

What part of China are you from?

I am from the southwest of China, Sichuan Province. I live in a city named Chengdu.

How long have you been in Northern Ireland? Are you enjoying your time here?

I will stay here for at least two years, three years at most. I like Northern Ireland because the scenery is so beautiful.

Where did you go to university? What did you study?

I started my undergraduate degree at a university in the North of China; it is near the sea! My major is teaching Mandarin as a second language.

What made you decide to be a Chinese teacher in Northern Ireland?

It is related to my major degree study, so that's why I picked this job. The job is related to the Confucius Institute at the Ulster University, so they gave me the position.

How different is food in China compared to the UK and which do you

prefer?

The food is quite different in China compared to the UK. My city is very famous for its hot and spicy food, so that's the type of food that I enjoy.

What do you miss most about China?

The first thing I miss would definitely be my family, my parents and the second is the food (of course!), as it's difficult to get the same ingredients here.

If someone was to go to China next week, what is the first thing they should do?

The first thing is to get vaccines! And then you need to make a schedule as the transportation in China is very different and all of the signs will have Chinese characters, so you won't understand the meaning unless you make a schedule.

QUICK FIRE ROUND

Favourite colour?

Blue.

Favourite school subject?

Philosophy.



Favourite season?

Spring.

Favourite animal?

Dog.

Any siblings?

No siblings, so sad!

We would like to thank Rui for answering our questions and wish her well during the remainder of her stay in Northern Ireland.

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Portrait Gallery

Head Girl: Pippa Wilson

Rose Widdis and
Bethany Wallace

What subjects are you studying at A Level?

This year I'm studying biology, chemistry and maths. I also studied geography last year at AS, and I actually miss it a lot - it was my most laid back subject and felt like less pressure than the others.

So what's your favourite now?

It's got to be maths, probably because I love the sense of achievement when you finally get a question right. It's very satisfying.

Who's your favourite teacher and why?

My favourite teacher would have to be Mr Beacom, just because he really takes the time to make sure you understand the subject.

What are your aspirations for after school? Where do you see yourself in five years?

If I'm being idealistic, I see myself on a pool lounge in some hot sunny country- or maybe in my future apartment in Paris with a nice buttery croissant and a good book. I plan to do medicine - so realistically I might still be studying- but that definitely is my ideal.

So you want to travel? Are your university plans for across the water?

I guess I always thought that I'd love to go away, but now that I'm in my last year of school I honestly couldn't think of anything worse than leaving my family and friends. I have applied for uni across the water but there's something comforting about the thought of staying close to home.

What is your fondest memory of Banbridge Academy?

It would have to be the laughter and blasting music on the bus home from a hockey win. After the tension and

anxiety of the way up, getting a win feels so good because you just know all the training has paid off, and it's so funny looking at the horrific sports photos taken of us during the match.

What will you miss most about school?

Definitely just the normality of the routine and atmosphere- having a home base to go to every day, where I know I will see my friends.

We all know you play hockey, and play for the 1st XI. Give us the backstory!

Hockey's always been a big part of my life- I've been playing since I was in P4. It's such a social thing for me as well as loving the sport and I honestly have made the most amazing friends through it, that I wouldn't have otherwise.

What would you say has been your biggest achievement in hockey?

I guess it would have to be back in 2020 when I captained my under 15 team at Dromore Ladies Hockey Club. We were so ecstatic when we won the Irish playoffs down in UCD and were given the opportunity to represent Ireland in the EYHL tournament in Holland - if it hadn't been for COVID, we'd have taken the other European teams by storm.

Other than hockey, what's your favourite way to spend your time outside school?

I always love spending time with my little sister, Nina. I love hearing her stories and we always laugh so hard. In the summer though it's reading. At the moment I'm reading 'IT' by Stephen King, which isn't my usual rom-com trope, and it's absolutely terrifying- in a good way!

Are you excited for the formal? Has it been stressful to organise?

Initially it was really stressful because



I just had no idea where to start, but I had the best help from last year's head girl and boy, Zara and Ben, who took Matthew and I for coffee to talk through it. It's all coming together now and I'm excited to get the ball rolling- (no pun intended;)

Biggest fear?

Planes. I promise I'm not a crybaby but I have to admit I've shed a tear or two over being on a plane. I am definitely the type to clap when the plane lands because I am just so happy it's all over. I also hate boats - basically if my feet aren't on the ground, it's a no from me. And the ocean. And sharks. Basically all fish. Even seaweed freaks me out a bit.

You mentioned DofE - tell us about that?

Well, I've done it all the way from bronze in Y10. At the start I was a bit hesitant because I knew it would require a lot of dedication and time, but I'm honestly so glad that I took the opportunity to do it because I made such good memories - after spending four days together without showering and looking grim, it's hard not to form a

Portrait Gallery

Head Girl:

Pippa Wilson

Rose Widdis and
Bethany Wallace

close bond with your group.

You've heard of Room 101? What's one thing you would put in a box and hide away forever if you could?

Probably my Dubarrys. If I had a pound for everytime my laces came undone, I would be one rich girl!

'Go to' canteen order?

My wrap order is such a mouthful and I always feel bad for the canteen ladies when ordering but it cannot be beaten - lettuce, chicken tikka, peppers, red onion, cucumber, mayo and sweet chilli sauce. It's so good!

Quick fire questions

Tea or Coffee?

Tea. I have about 7 cups a day.

Movies or Books?

Movies.

Cadbury or Galaxy?

Galaxy all the way.

Chinese or indian?

Chinese. Nothing beats a good portion of salt and chilli king prawns.

Summer or winter

Winter.

Favourite colour?

As cliché as it sounds, probably pink.

Best concert ever?

One Direction. The Jonas brothers were a close second.

Cats or dogs?

Dogs. I have a miniature golden labradoodle called Humphrey who literally comes everywhere with me.

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Portrait Gallery

Head Boy: Matthew McKee

Rachel Sands and
Beth Cordner

Despite planning the interview weeks before, an impromptu Prize Day interrogation from Mrs Morrison led to Rachel sitting alone in study with the Head Boy, both in confusion as to where Beth was. Luckily, she was able to sprint down the corridors and start the interview (despite being out of breath – it was worth it!).

How did it feel to find out that you were Head Boy?

It felt pretty good. I actually wasn't in school when everyone found out, so I found out over text which made it even more interesting.

What is your favourite memory of Banbridge Academy so far?

(After a lot of deliberation, Matthew couldn't think of one specific memory.) I don't know...it has all been a lot of fun. *(We later messaged him to see if he had thought of one...luckily a couple of days had given him enough time to think!)* My favourite memory would have to be winning the Ferris Cup in Year 10.

What A levels are you studying, which one is your favourite and what are you hoping to do when you leave school?

So, I study biology, maths and PE and my favourite is definitely PE. I'm still not completely sure what I want to do after school, but I'm currently looking at courses around finance and accounting, so I may do that.

So we heard you are the captain of the 1st XI hockey team (congrats by the way!), what has been the highlight of your hockey career in school?

Well, last year we won both of the Ulster trophies, so that was a pretty big achievement for us I think. *(We thought so too!)*

What advice would you give to your

Year 8 self?

Work hard. *(Short and sweet – yet very true!)*

Do you have any secret talents that we may not know about?

Secret talents? Hmm...well, I can play the piano up to Grade 6. *(Impressive!)*

What is your biggest pet peeve?

I'd have to say when people are arrogant.

What is something no one knows about you?

Well, I scored two goals against Barcelona! *(Intrigued, we asked Matthew to tell us more)* We had a tournament in Spain and we happened to play their academy team in one of our matches. *(While we may not know much about football, scoring against Barcelona does give pretty good bragging rights!)*

If you were on a desert island with three teachers, who would you bring with you and why?

Hmm...Mr Cordner *(as Beth rolled her eyes)* because he would be resourceful and he would know how to survive. I would also say Mr Miskelly as he is in charge of Duke of Ed for school and would know what to do. Then, I would go with Mr Jess as he is also very resourceful.

What would be your favourite canteen meal?

It would have to be toast with a carton of milk at breaktime *(I don't know if we would go as far as calling that a delicacy in the canteen, but whatever floats your boat Matthew!)*

If a movie was made of your life, what genre would it be and who would play you?

(After a LOT of thought, we eventually



got Matthew's production ideas...) It would definitely be a feel-good movie. I'd say Tom Cruise could play me.

Quick fire questions:

Cats or dogs? Dogs.

Spend or save? Save.

Coffee or tea? Neither *(although thankfully Matthew proceeded to tell us that he did like hot chocolate, phew!)*

Apple or Android? Apple.

Winter or summer? Winter.

Introvert or extrovert? Introvert.

We would like to thank Matthew for taking time to do the interview with us (and for being so patient!). We wish him all the best in his last year at Banbridge Academy and in the future.

Portrait Gallery

Deputy Head Girl: Lara Crothers

Tanya Haslem, Emma Kirkwood,
and Naomi Hillis

We conducted our interview with Lara on an average Wednesday break, a rare occasion when we found that she actually had some free time in her busy schedule. After a few minutes of trying to find somewhere quiet, we eventually decided upon a small language room hidden away from the bustling crowds. As we escorted the deputy head to our designated 'interrogation' room, she collected some extra interviewers along the way- Pushti and Anna, who were more than willing to instigate their own questions...

What primary school did you attend?
Ballydown Primary School.

Why did you choose Banbridge Academy?

Other people in my family had come here and they really liked it, so it seemed like the obvious choice.

What subjects do you study, and do you have a favourite?

I am currently studying biology, chemistry, maths and politics. My favourite would have to be chemistry and that's mainly due to my teacher, Mrs Morrison, who I really like. I also enjoy politics because we have a lot of discussions, which usually prove very interesting!

Do you have a desired career?

I want to study sciences at university, natural sciences or biochemistry and I think I would like to work in research and development.

What would be your best memory of Banbridge Academy?

I know it sounds cliché but probably just all the times my friends and I have sat in comfy study laughing together, relaxing and spending time together.

Do you have any embarrassing memories of Banbridge Academy?

When I was in Year 8, I came out of the sports hall after games; it was the end of the day. I was walking (*whilst on my phone*) and I walked headfirst straight into a tree and smacked my head on it.

Who is your favourite teacher and why?

I think it would have to be a tie between Mrs Morrison and Miss McClelland because they are both really nice and very helpful! I also like Mr Erskine because I enjoy his sarcastic humour.

Are you involved in any extracurriculars?

(brace yourselves!) So... last year I was involved in 'Bar Mock Trial' and I really enjoyed it so I'm doing it again this year. Also last year I did Young Enterprise, my business was called 'Cosy Creations', and we sold hot chocolates. I'm on the senior netball A team, and I have played tennis and table tennis for school as well.

What advice would you give to the next deputy heads?

I would just say to enjoy it because it's quite fun going to the meetings and having tea and biscuits with Mr McLoughlin. Obviously, it's quite stressful when you're planning the formal and everybody wants it a certain way, but I would just say to get the planning started early and to enjoy it.

Quick fire round

Favourite Disney movie: The Emperor's New Groove.

Favourite singer: Taylor Swift (*we endorse this*).

Tea or coffee: I think I drink more tea.

Pizza or pasta: Pasta.

Morning or night: Night.



Fruit or veg: Veg.

Chocolate or sweets: Chocolate.

Blue or black pen: Black.

Cats or dogs: Dogs.

If you could take anybody dead or alive to the formal, who would you take?

Ryan Reynolds.

We thank Lara (and her faithful friends- Pushti and Anna) for allowing us to take up their valuable break time.

Portrait Gallery

Deputy Head Boy: Simon Ferris

Mollie Gailey and
Nicole McCully

After plucking up the courage to ask for help from a fellow hockey player, Noah, we were finally able to reach Simon and he kindly gave up his valuable free period to speak with us.

What subjects are you studying and what are your future plans?

I am currently studying chemistry, biology and maths and next year I hope to do veterinary medicine. I am not quite sure where yet; I am still thinking of a few options - possibly Liverpool, Nottingham or Glasgow.

What is something you wish you'd known in junior school?

Teachers will talk about you so try and be in their good books. Take part in as many things outside of school as possible, for example, sports. You will meet lots of new people there; I have made most of my friends through extracurricular activities, such as hockey.

Advice for people doing important exams this year?

Start revising as soon as possible and do not leave it to the last minute. But even if you do leave it to the last minute, do as much as you can. It's okay if you cram it, just keep going. But that's probably not the best thing to put into the magazine (*he said with regret*). Also, it's important to revise for class tests.

If you could be anyone in the world for a day, who would you be?

(After much deliberation) Maybe, this might sound really cringe, but I think I would be Mr. McLoughlin just to see what it is like to have to run a school and what he gets up to in his office all day when people don't see too much of him.

Funniest memory in school?

I wouldn't say that there would be one funniest memory in particular because there have been a lot, but last year on one of our practice Duke of Edinburgh walks my friend Ben tried to jump across a bog from one mound to another and face-planted into the ground. It was probably a bad start because Ben ended up getting sick and by the end of three days, almost everyone in our group had a vomiting bug. *(We then laughed at the video he sent us of the failed jump).*

Do you have any phobias?

No (*he is fearless!!*) However, there are some things that I find creepy. This might sound weird, but butterflies. I was at a butterfly farm and there was a massive butterfly eating an apple. That just freaked me out.

Who is your favourite teacher and why?

I would say my favourite teacher is probably Miss McCullough. In junior school when I studied art, she was always good craic and she is a friendly face around school.

Who is your celebrity crush and describe your ideal date with them?

I would probably say my celebrity crush is Madelyn Cline (*although he initially said Cillian Murphy*) and my dream date with her would be some Outer banks type stuff, like going on a boat.

Quick fire questions:

Cats or Dogs? Dogs.

100 toes or 100 fingers? 100 toes.

Dream holiday? New Zealand.

Favourite food? *(after changing it three times)* Fish and Chips.

Have to wear 10 layers in the summer or 1 layer in the winter? 1 layer in the winter.



Favourite movie? Cars.

See the future or the past? The past.

Be stuck on a desert island or the moon? The Moon.

We would like to thank Simon for his time and hope he gets his date with Madelyn Cline.

Portrait Gallery

Deputy Head Girl: Ellie Lindsay

Adam Kelly, Eve Montague
and Erin Johnston

After weeks of attempting to organise a convenient time, we finally managed to meet with this year's deputy head girl, Ellie Lindsay.

What are your hobbies?

As you know I love to bake; as a child I baked my own birthday cake with my mum and it therefore became something of a tradition for us. I really got into baking during lockdown and it gave me something enjoyable to focus on. I also play netball, both inside and outside of school, and dance as well. I enjoy all of these different things equally.

Do you have a signature dish?

My favourite thing to do is to decorate cakes (*having seen some photographs of Ellie's handiwork, we can confirm that she is truly talented!*) but most people would say that my mars bar brownies are my signature, because they are quick to make and everyone always really loves them. They really are a crowd pleaser!

What subjects are you studying and do you have a favourite?

It's really quite a random selection of subjects to be honest! I'm currently studying chemistry, biology, nutrition and food science and English literature. I enjoy all of my subjects and don't think that I could select one as my favourite. Chemistry definitely has to be my most difficult subject, whilst English allows me to develop my creativity.

What extracurricular activities have you been involved in?

I've always been involved in a mix of different activities in school. I've been a member of the netball team since first year and am now on the senior squad. I have also been involved in the girls' choir, I'm on the medical society

committee and I'm an ambassador for the health promotion team. Last year I also got the opportunity to take part in the bar mock trial competition and the senior dance team. SU has been a big part of my time here at the Academy as well and I would really encourage anyone interested to come along. Really, I just tried out as many activities as I could to see what I enjoyed! I'd definitely recommend this for everyone, especially juniors, to get involved in as much as they can!

What is your favourite school memory?

I have so many happy memories at school but I would say that the ski trip in Year 11 was definitely one of my favourite times, as it was my first experience of skiing with friends and we had so much fun!

Have you had any embarrassing moments in school?

This one is also from Year 11 and involved me tripping, much to the amusement of those who were watching! I had broken my ankle whilst playing netball and had to use crutches with a huge boot on my foot. I was on my own in the corridors to English and I tripped on a mound of bags that were against the wall. A group of people walked past laughing and I was mortified!

What do you think you'll miss most when you leave school?

I'll definitely miss the structure that school provides and how it enables me to have a good balance between my social life, school and work. I will also really miss chatting to my friends at break and lunch.

Where do you see yourself in the next five or ten years?

That's actually the same question they ask in school if you want to study



medicine. I think in five years I'll still be in university (as I'm applying for medicine) or in the early F1 stages. In ten years I will hopefully be out of university and working on my career.

If you had to select a favourite quote to summarise yourself, what would it be?

It would have to be a bible verse that I have as my lock screen and it's from Psalm 112.7: 'She confidently trusts the Lord to take care of her.' It comforts me and when I'm feeling stressed out, I take a few minutes to read it.

Quick fire Questions:

Favourite teacher? This just feels wrong...I can't choose!

Favourite movie? Cinderella Story.

Celebrity Crush: Conor Murray.

Favourite Taylor Swift Album: Up until a week ago it would have been her old country music, but now it's her midnights.

Morning or night? Definitely night.

Baking or eating the bakes? Baking.

We would like to thank Ellie for answering our questions and we wish her well in her plans to pursue a career in medicine.

Portrait Gallery

Deputy Head Boy: Josh Glover

Lauren Bell and
Carly Bell

After spending some time at the start of break attempting to locate Josh, we eventually found a quite apprehensive deputy head boy. We reassured him that our questions would not be too probing and so the 'interrogation' began.

What is your greatest achievement at Banbridge Academy to date?

Probably getting selected as deputy head boy.

What subjects are you currently studying?

I'm currently studying maths, technology, SSD and physics, although I'm not sure how long studying four subjects will continue for, but I'm hoping that I will keep them all on until the end of the year. I would say that my favourite subject is software systems development (SSD) because it is the most interesting and practical.

Are there any funny memories you have from your time in school?

During the time of the geography trip to Newcastle, we left my friend Scott behind at school. We had told him he had to come with us to the bus, but he was convinced he had time to go and eat his break in the canteen first, so he ignored us and went there instead and then he ended up being left behind because he didn't make it down to the bus in time.

What is your dream job?

It would probably have to be a software engineer because there are flexible hours and you're quite free with the work you do. It is also well paid (which we agreed is probably the biggest plus for this career!)

What is your favourite hobby?

That would be tennis because it's good exercise as well as also being a

good social event as you get to meet loads of different people throughout the week, from playing matches and different competitions (*which makes it both exciting and extremely competitive*). I have been playing tennis since early primary school and so have been able to develop many different skills.

This is a somewhat controversial question, but who is your favourite teacher? (And you're not allowed to say your mum!)

Oh, I think I would have to say Miss McConkey as she would always make her classes interesting and interactive and also she was very enthusiastic in her teaching, making time in her class enjoyable.

Quick fire questions:

Blue or Black pen: Black.

McDonald's or KFC: McDonald's.

Morning or Night: Night.

Cats or Dogs: Dogs.

Summer or Winter: Summer.

Pineapple on pizza? No.

Favourite youtuber: ILMango (Minecraft).

Favourite movie? Pirates of the Caribbean.

We would like to thank Josh for taking time out of his busy schedule as Deputy Head Boy to answer our questions (even though we searched all of break time for him!) We would also like to wish him well in all of his future endeavours and hope that he enjoys his final year in Banbridge Academy.



Portrait Gallery

Deputy Head Girl: Kiera McQuaid

Rachel Kirkpatrick and
Julia Englefield

After rescheduling several times and the highly inconvenient case of Covid, we finally tracked down this exceptionally busy deputy head girl.

What subjects are you studying and what are your future plans?

I'm studying religious studies, biology and chemistry and I'm hoping to go to Queen's University next year to study medicine.

Favourite club or activity in your school career?

It definitely has to be the Medical Society because I established this in school last year and have further big plans for it this year. I did however also really enjoy 'Bar Mock', so it's definitely a close second.

What about outside of school?

Definitely the Rotary Competition. I had the opportunity to go to Belfast and Dublin, which was really good and I met some interesting people. We got to go to the Free Mason Hall, which isn't usually open and it was just a great opportunity that I really recommend that anybody else take up.

Who is your Favourite Teacher?

(After a very dramatic refusal to answer and a long pause) Well, I definitely have to say Mr Brown, Mrs Cartmill, Dr Lorimer... just basically everyone who's ever taught me but those three are right up there!

Pet Peeves or Phobias?

PEOPLE BEING LATE! *(Kiera did place deliberate verbal stress on her response! Clearly this irritates her greatly!)*

Most embarrassing story?

When I was in Year 10 I had a music exam, and when I have a music exam, I wear tights. Now all the girls know

that when you wear tights you always wear another pair of pants over your tights to keep them up. *(Pause for uncontrollable laughter as we remember where this story is going.)*

I came back from the exam and was on the way to French and I felt my tights slipping but I thought it would be grand, until I got into the classroom and was in front of Mrs O'Shaughnessy -another brilliant teacher by the way- and the extra pants fell down and I just stepped out of them and put them in my blazer pocket and everyone started laughing! I have to admit that the worst part was afterwards when I went to the bathroom and I could hear these girls saying, '...And then she just stepped out of them, and put them in her pocket!' It was awful but the key part of the whole thing (and you have to publish it) is that you have to take ownership of the embarrassing things that happen to you and laugh about it.

What advice would you give to a Year 8 you?

In the nicest way possible, NOBODY CARES! Like if you are in the corridor and you think that you look a bit odd or that your schoolbag is a bit off or whatever, nobody cares. Everybody has their own things going on in their life that day and you just need to chill out and not care about what other people think because they're probably not even thinking about you. So, just be less self conscious and more able to laugh at yourself. *(We think you'll agree that this is brilliant advice!)*

Best part about being deputy head girl?

I have a parking space and I have a cool badge!

Quick fire questions

Cats or Dogs? Dogs.

Favourite movie?



Top Gun or A Few Good Men.

Favourite TV Show?

ER.

Favourite junk food?

Caramel chocolate.

Morning or night?

Night (Obviously).

Tea or Coffee?

Coffee!

Favourite Season?

Winter.

Favourite Book?

I am Malala or the Jack Reacher series.

We would like to thank Kiera for taking time out of her busy schedule to answer our questions and we wish her well for the remainder of her studies.

Portrait Gallery

Deputy Head Boy: Peter McGrath

Isabelle McKenzie, Mia Downey
and Emilie Williamson

After weeks, indeed months, of attempting to track Peter down to complete this interview, we finally managed to find a quiet area (without any of Peter's 'fan club') to ask our questions.

What A Levels are you studying?

Maths, physics and chemistry, but I also studied biology at AS.

What are your responsibilities as deputy head boy?

I have to do break and lunch duty just like every other prefect and then the main responsibility is organising events for our year, such as formal and preformal. This is quite stressful but the team really pulls together and I know we'll have a great year.

What is your favourite sport?

I'm torn between two: rugby and rowing. I've been involved in both of these sports throughout my time at Banbridge Academy. I love the teamwork in both and I'm not sure which one I'll take up again at university.

What is your favourite subject and why?

My favourite subject has got to be physics. There are probably three reasons for this: the topics are really interesting and challenging, but once you get it you feel great; our teacher (Mrs. Topping) is really good at explaining the topics so you're never really confused by the end of the lesson and finally (for reason number three) we get cake on Fridays!

What are you hoping to do once you leave school?

I'm hoping to go to university either here or across the water to study physics. I can't wait to start the degree and begin what most people say is the

best part of their lives.

What advice would you give to Year 8s?

Please do not run in the corridors. I get second hand embarrassment! And also, to help me out during canteen duty and please wipe down your tables. Junior school is also the most fun and least stressful years of secondary school, so make the most of it.

Where could you see yourself in five years?

Who knows? I could be finishing my degree and getting my first proper job or going on to do a PHD. Maybe even travelling the world! I'll see where the next few years take me.

What is your favourite hobby outside of school?

I really loved Duke of Ed this year (I'm sure this is a big surprise to most people because many describe it as the worst week of their lives). So I'd really love to reach the top of some of the more famous peaks throughout the world!

If you could bring three things to a deserted island what would you bring?

Probably matches, a knife and then my two dogs. I'm counting the dogs as 'one item' as I can't live without either of them!

Quick fire questions

Favourite takeaway?

Pizza.

Coffee or tea?

Neither.

Morning or night?

Night.



What superpower would you choose?

Superspeed (I love the scenes in movies where everything slows down).

Sweet or savoury?

Sweet.

Biggest pet peeve?

People doing tiktoks or tiktok dances in public.

Favourite teacher and why?

It's got to be Dr. Dobson; her classes are always very relaxed and there's always a bit of humour within her class when she's teaching.

We would like to thank Peter for answering our questions and wish him well in his future studies!



Match the teacher to their favourite song!

Katherine Otley

I asked a variety of different teachers to name their favourite song of all time. Can you attempt to match the teacher to the song choice?

Miss McCullough

Mr Cromie

Mr Beacom

Mrs Gough

Mr Erskin

Mr Harvey

Miss Forsythe

Mr Robinson

Mrs Munton

Mr McAuley

Mr Stewart

Mr Thompson



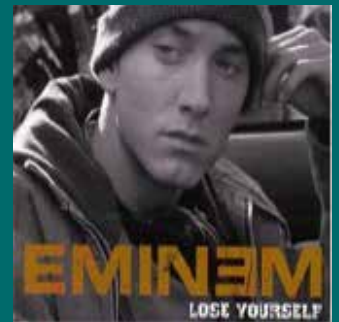
1. 'I heard it through the Grapevine', Marvin Gaye



2. 'All for you', Janet Jackson



3. 'Superstition', Stevie Wonder



4. 'Lose yourself', Eminem



5. 'Bohemian Rhapsody', Queen



6. 'Cherry Tree', The National



7. 'Thunder', Imagine Dragons



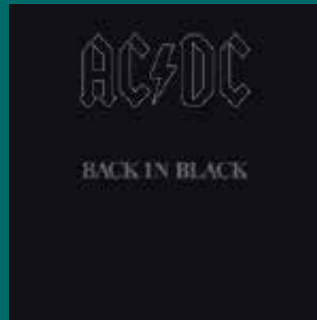
8. 'Love Story', Taylor Swift (Taylor's version)



9. 'All too well' (10 minute version) (Taylor's version)



10. 'I bet you look good on the dance floor', Arctic Monkeys



11. 'Back in Black' AC/DC



12. 'The Dance' Garth Brooks

Answers: 1. Mr Cromie, 2. Miss McCullough, 3. Mr Erskin, 4. Mr Robinson, 5. Mr Thompson, 6. Mrs Munton, 7. Mr Beacom, 8. Mr McAuley, 9. Miss Forsythe, 10. Mr Stewart, 11. Mr Robinson, 12. Mrs Gough

A year 8 pupil presents a hyperbolised recount of her first day at "Big School"...

My First Day

Alicia Jeffers

It was a Thursday morning. The air around me smelt of fear mixed with excitement, which was quite strange at 7:15 in the morning. As I sat on my bed for 5 minutes before getting up, I wrote my will (just in case I didn't come out of school that day!) I decreed that my amazing, heroic, fluffy cat would get my room and everything in it. I was very happy with my decision!

Once I had built up my courage, I went downstairs for breakfast. As I sat down waiting for my waffles and eggs, I was thinking over my life. As far as I knew I was going in through those rickety gates and being gobbled up by the school and never coming out. When I finished my wonderful breakfast of tea and waffles, I got dressed into my boring plain white shirt and jazzed it up with my business-like blazer and funky stripy tie.

I went outside with my bag to be greeted by my mum. 'It's time for a front door photo,' she excitedly bellowed. A couple of minutes later the tiny, sad figure of my brother Ethan came trudging out of the house towards the front door (as he grumbled to himself all the way.) If you looked at him, he kind of looked like a grumpy dwarf. He stood about a meter away from me, which then led to an argument about him moving closer to me for the photo. After that dilemma, we finally got into the car and made our way to school.

My mum drove me down to the bottom of the huge hill for me to walk in. When I was walking in, I met up with my best friend Lily from primary school. We talked about our different form classes and how I couldn't remember which form class I was in. At this point I had world record butterflies doing formula one racing in my belly, which was really not helping my nervousness.

As I walked through the gates of the Academy, I could smell the faintest whiff of freedom. I took a deep breath and walked through the old iron gates and from then on, I knew there was no turning back. I had just sold my soul to the dreaded school. I looked up at the school and said my final goodbyes to the world as I stepped reluctantly forward.

I walked through the dreaded glass doors of death to be greeted with groups of people everywhere. Me being the genius that I was, I just about barely remembered that I was in 8F. I cautiously walked over to my new class of crusaders and fearfully thought about how I knew none of these people apart from Ava, and she hadn't come in yet-which was just my luck!

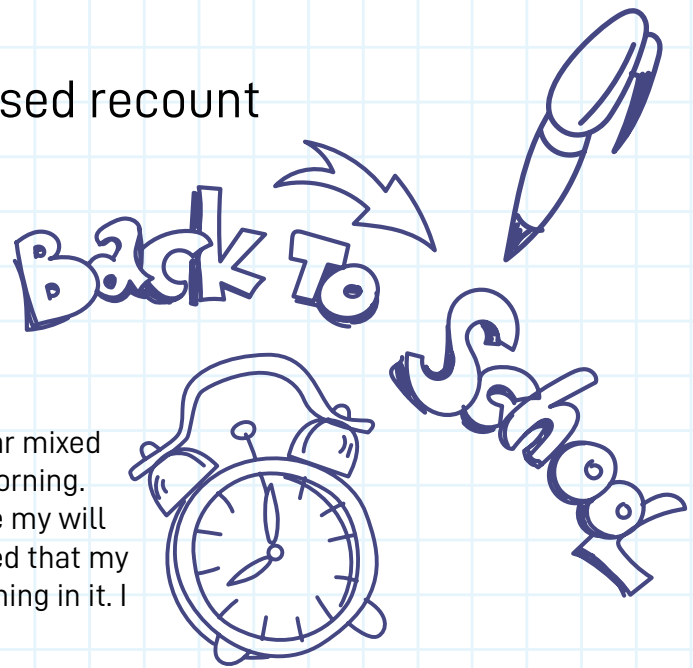
As my form group went to our form class I stuck to Ava like glue. As we walked through the dark, mysterious corridors I was confronted by my biggest fear... STAIRS!!! I started to think of all the possible things that could go wrong here on my first day. Irrational fear number 1: I could get lost in a corner of the school and live there for the rest of my life, feeding off the rats around the kitchen. Irrational fear 2: I could fall down the stairs and crack my head and my brains could start falling out like Humpty Dumpty. But as I reached my formroom, a wave of calmness came over me. I thought

to myself: 'I'm fine, I'm fine', and those words kept me from dying that fateful day.

Once we reached our form classroom, we met our form prefects Sasha, and Daniel. I didn't know a lot about them back then (I still don't know much about them) but as we started to get settled in they decided to do a tour. I was quite excited but I dreaded going back into the dark mysterious corridors that weirdly smelt like paperwork. As we were walking down the corridors we were introduced to different teachers and our different classrooms. The teachers were nice and calm and the classrooms looked amazing with more equipment than my old school could only dream of.

At the end of the day, I was exhausted as I hopped into my mum's car and drove home thinking of my day in Banbridge Academy. Once I got home, I curled up in bed with some tea and watched BBC iplayer on my tablet. I was very happy with my first day in school and thought it went well but I was still anxious about going the next day.

Overall, I felt really happy about my first day and I wouldn't change a thing.



Teachers' Trinkets

Deborah Elliott and Aaron Millen

Match the Trinket to the Teacher!

You're in their rooms every day but how much do you actually notice in your teachers' classrooms?

Below are objects that can be found in eight different classrooms. Can you use the clue to match the object to the teacher?



1. This frog has heard so much he **PHYSICALLY** can't take it anymore!



2. With this teacher you're gonna **ERUPT** into laughter **WEATHER** you want to or not.



3. This teacher is known for really **LAYING DOWN THE LAW!**



4. With this teacher's spirit, every day is a **Fiesta**.



5. There are no secrets in this teacher's class- they can read you like a book!



6. This teacher seems to be constantly **STUCK IN THE PAST!**



7. This teacher's class gets surprisingly **technical**.

8. This teacher really **POOTS** in the effort!



Answers: 1. Mr Stewart, 2. Mrs Curran, 3. Miss McClelland, 4. Mr McAuley, 5. Miss McConkey, 6. Mr Clarke, 7. Mr Winter, 8. Miss Poots

Year 8 Experiences

Lucy Gough and Grace Walmsley

The transition from P7 to Year 8 can prove to be quite the challenge and usually involves a lot of worry (for both pupils and their parents!) We chatted to this year's new intake and learnt a little more about their experiences thus far...



Name: Daisy Douglas.
Previous Primary School: Dromore Central.
Most enjoyable part: Studying a wider range of subjects (especially science).
Most surprising discovery: How long the queues in the canteen can be.
Greatest challenge: Managing my lunch and break money.
Advice for future Year 8s: Don't spend all your lunch money at the beginning of the week!

Name: Rachel Whitson
Previous Primary School: Edenderry Primary School.
Most enjoyable part: New surroundings and so many different opportunities.
Most surprising discovery: Settling in is not as difficult as I had thought it would be.
Greatest challenge: Finding my way around school.
Advice for future Year 8s: Don't listen to stories that older people tell you about how difficult 'big school' is.

Name: Alice Campbell
Previous Primary School: Iveagh Primary School.
Most enjoyable experience: Making new friends, studying new subjects and moving around to get to class.
Most surprising discovery: How little you feel - after being at the top of primary school, to become the bottom of 'big school'.
Greatest challenge: Finding your way around the school in the first few weeks.
Advice for future Year 8s: Don't stress about the AQE and really don't worry about moving as the teachers are all so lovely and the work is manageable.

Name: Heidi Hanon.
Previous Primary School: Bridge Primary School.
Most enjoyable experience: Playing hockey.
Most surprising discovery: The workload is manageable and there's just the right amount of homework.
Greatest challenge: With different floors and sections of the school, it can be tricky to find your way around.
Advice for future Year 8s: Use your student planner - it really works!! (Heidi really emphasised her point.)

Name: Nathan Frizell.
Previous Primary School: Dromore Central.
Most enjoyable part: More independence and opportunity to buy ice-cream after school.
Most surprising discovery: Just how big the school actually is.
Greatest challenge: Remembering to complete all of my homeworks.
Advice for future Year 8s: Go to Centra quickly after school to avoid long queues.

Name: Rachel McMurray
Previous Primary School: Abercorn Primary School.
Most enjoyable part: So many new subjects.
Most surprising discovery: How large the slices of pizza are in the canteen!
Greatest challenge: Carrying my bag around (as it's so heavy).
Advice for future Year 8s: Enjoy the AQE experience - because you won't get to do it again!

Name: Zach Alexander.
Previous Primary School: Bocombra Primary School.
Most enjoyable experience: All of the new subjects and playing more sport.
Most surprising discovery: How quickly I have been able to make friends. I feel like I've known everyone in the class forever!
Greatest challenge: Initially not knowing anyone else in my class.
Advice for Future Year 8s: Stick together with people in your class when moving around school - it really helps if you get lost.

Name: Gabrielle Balfour
Previous Primary School: Waringstown Primary School.
Most enjoyable experience: Studying new subjects and playing netball.
Most surprising discovery: I can actually do all of the homework that's set.
Greatest challenge: Walking around and trying to find classes.
Advice for Future Year 8s: Always write down your homework!

Pupil Experiences

Football with Ellie Scott

Abi Dreaning and Freya Livingston

What is your name and how long have you been playing football?

My name is Ellie Scott and I have been playing football for seven years.

Can you tell us about the position you play?

I am a goalkeeper and this position is the backbone of the team and is quite demanding, requiring me to communicate with all of the other players (as I can see the whole pitch) and provide them with instructions of where to go, who to watch and when to move. A goalkeeper also requires quick reflexes; it's also necessary to have an element of 'craziness' and a complete lack of fear as you have to throw yourself on top of shots, while the opposing players are kicking towards you and throwing their full body weight at you. In summary, you have to do anything in your power to prevent goals.

What team do you play for?

I play international football for Northern Ireland Women's under 17s and my club team is Lisburn Rangers Ladies.

How do you train for your role on the pitch?

With Northern Ireland I currently train three times a week. I have structured gym sessions to help me improve my power and jump height. At other times I'm out on the pitch with my goalkeeper coach practising footwork, kicking and handling, followed by match scenarios. Not everything is on the pitch however, for example, we have specialised nutritionists that come in every few months to provide us with dietary advice. We also have ice baths for recovery available for use.

What have you achieved with your team?

With Northern Ireland, last year, we travelled to Israel and became the first ever Northern Ireland women's side to win all three matches in the UEFA European Championship qualifying tournament, to top our group and be promoted to the A-League. In our group was Luxembourg, the Faroe Islands and Israel; I had the privilege of receiving 'player of the match' against Luxembourg in that tournament. With my club side (Lisburn Rangers Ladies), we won our league and gained promotion for the third year in a row, and this season we remained undefeated throughout the whole league, while also not conceding a single goal.

What teams have you played against?

I have played against so many amazing teams. Just to name a few, I have played against Belgium, Poland, Finland, Austria, Israel, Luxembourg, Faroe Islands, and the Republic of Ireland. I have also played against big-name clubs like Manchester United and Glasgow Rangers. There are many more, but these are the main ones.



Have you ever received any injuries when you were playing a match?

Yes, a few weeks ago I was playing in an international fixture against Belgium. I made a save and the ball was still in open play, so I dived on the ball for a recovery save to collect the ball. I had the ball in my hands and the Belgian striker followed in to compete





for the ball and kicked me in the face, leaving me with a broken nose. Although I spent the evening in A&E at the hospital and had to have my nose re-broken to reset it, it is a great story to tell people, so it is not all bad.

Were you always invested in football?

I went through multiple sports when I was younger, such as hockey, gymnastics, and football. One day in primary school there was after school football, and I gave it a go. It just clicked and I fell in love with the sport. This was when I was about ten years old, and I realised that it was what I

wanted to do. Ever since then, football has not left my mind.

Where do you want football to take you with your career?

My dream would be to play football professionally in the English Women's Super League and compete against the best players in the world. Earlier this year, I was offered a scholarship to play for Leicester City's Under 18s but I decided to reject it as it was just too soon to leave home for me, but I am hoping I will still be able to go in the next few years. My other dream is to have the privilege to play for Northern

Ireland Senior Ladies.

Do you see yourself ever giving up football?

No, never! The only reason would be if I were forced to, like if I suffered a severe injury that prevented me from playing. I love football- it is my passion. Playing, coaching, or training, whether it is in the sun, wind, snow, or rain- it does not bother me, I still enjoy every aspect of it. I am currently training six times a week and I would honestly be lost without it.

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Rotary Winner: Kiera McQuaid

Lucy Gough

For those people who don't know, tell us a little about what 'Rotary' actually refers to?

Their website defines Rotary as: '...a global network of 1.4 million neighbours, friends, leaders and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change-across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.' Their mission is to '...provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill and peace.' They have a vast number of different projects that all focus on helping different people. For instance there's currently an ongoing project that's based in Cork, which involves taking used bikes into prisons (for the prisoners to work on them) so that they can be sent to places like Zambia, where the children can use them as a mode of transport to school. Many people may also be familiar with the Rotary's Polio Campaign, as they do a lot of work on vaccination programmes to ensure that children are vaccinated against polio.

How did you actually come to enter the Rotary Competition?

I first heard about the competition in the morning notices in school and remembered that Joseph Garvey (from a few years ago) had been successful in his application and seemed to have gained a great deal from the experience. The focus of the competition was 'Leadership', with emphasis also on politics and current affairs. I enquired about an application form (which wasn't too long!) and then filled it in. Based on my application, I was successful in receiving an interview via zoom (at the Banbridge level of the competition) and I was interviewed by the President and the Youth Outreach Officer of



the Banbridge Club. I was competing against schools in the Banbridge area and was successfully selected as the Banbridge area candidate.

What did the next stage of the competition entail?

I then proceeded to the regional stage of the competition and was also successful in winning that. The process was all conducted over zoom and was focused on the discussion of pressing ecological and political issues. I was delighted to receive an email later in the day to inform me that I had been selected as the regional representative and would travel to Belfast and Dublin to meet with other successful candidates from all across Ireland.

What were your experiences when you met with the other winners?

In March I travelled to Belfast, where I met the other 13 winners. We spent two days together and during this

time we enjoyed: a visit to the Titanic Centre, a Belfast Bus Tour, a meal and a talk on how to deliver an effective presentation. We were divided into groups and were allocated topics, which we had to research and work together to devise a proposal that would eventually be presented to a panel in Dublin. My group's topic was 'The Environment' and our focus was on what the European Union could do in terms of increasing sustainability. I was working in a group with individuals from Tipperary, Cork and Roscommon and it was extremely interesting to share our own views on the topic, prior to carrying out any research. On our second day, we travelled to Dublin by bus, where we worked further on our presentations and then had dinner together. We also visited Dublin Castle and we were addressed by the President of Rotary, Ireland.

Was it a challenging proposal to work on?



I found this to be a real learning experience and it definitely was a 'step-up' from the presentations that we had all been asked to give in school. The proposal had to be pitched to a panel of three and it had to be realistic, meaning that the suggestions could actually be implemented by the European Union. It involved a lot of independent research as well as collaboration with the other members of my group, but I feel that we worked well together and even managed to overcome the unexpected challenge of one of the group members having covid and not being able to attend in person on the day of our presentation!

Where was the presentation delivered and how did you find the whole experience?

As I said earlier, it was an invaluable learning experience. We presented our proposals in the Masonic Hall (which isn't usually open to members of the public) and our parents had been invited to attend. Each group had to deliver their pitch from the podium, and group feedback was provided at the end. I found this to be both positive and very useful, as I gained invaluable advice that I will implement in future presentations.

Do you feel that covid had a negative impact on your experience?

Normally, winners of the competition would travel to Strasbourg, whereas we obviously did not receive that opportunity. In spite of this however, I really do not believe that I missed out as the people who were involved, 'made the experience.' I do love Europe and I thoroughly enjoy travelling, yet I still had the opportunity to meet a group of wonderful people, make

special friendships, enhance my knowledge and develop important skills.

I may not have travelled to Strasbourg, but I gained so much from this entire experience and I have some amazing memories.

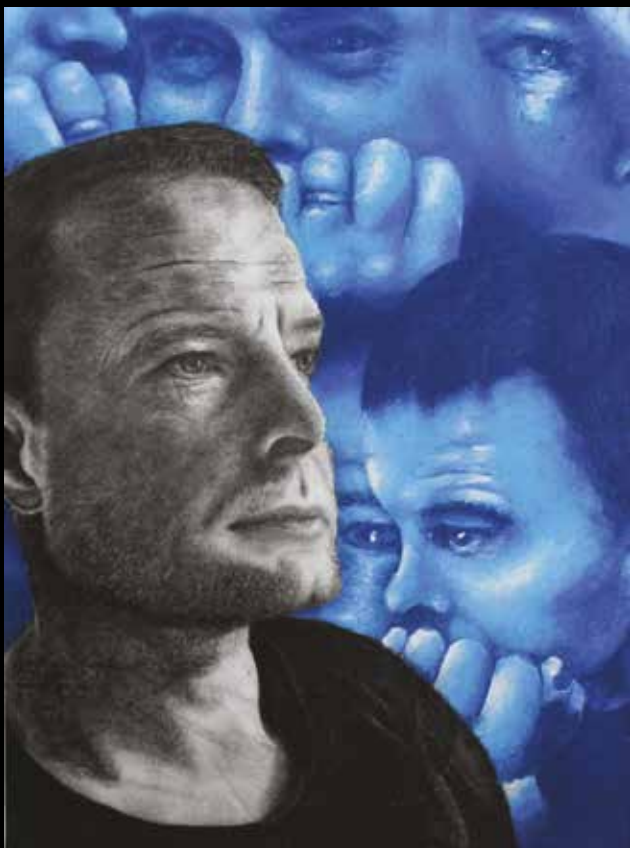
Would you encourage other pupils to apply?

Definitely. Just go for it because it is an amazing opportunity!





Elliott McAnoy-Harding, Aleyah Peneiro, Kayla Mullan, Grace Hill, Joy Mawson

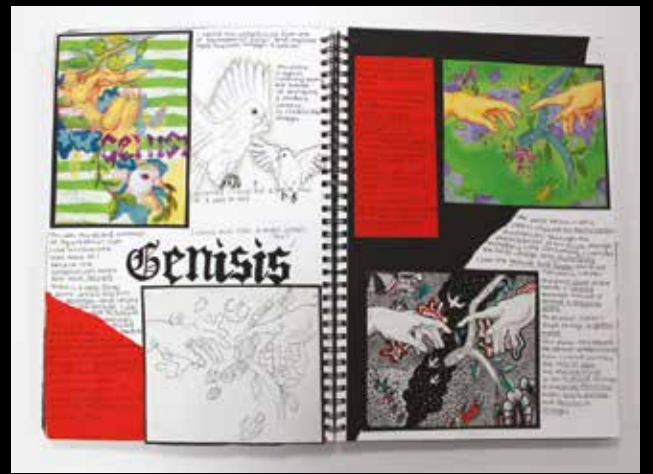
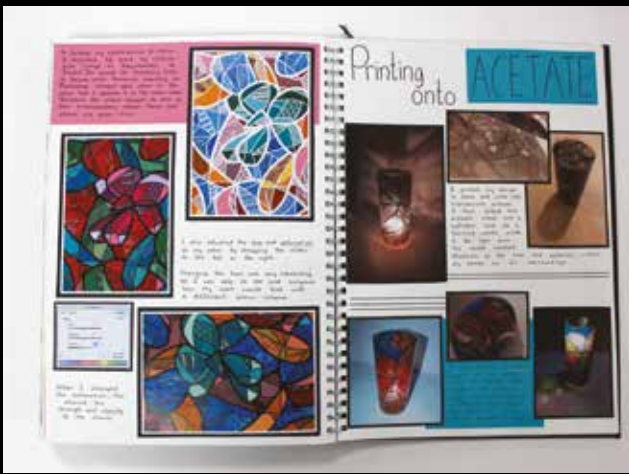


GCSE ART

AS ART

Emma Kirkwood
Julia Herron
Erin Johnston







A2ART



Kathryn Morton
Susanna Black
Victoria Silva-Reyes
Jemma Clydesdale
Sasha Martin
Affrica McBurney
Sophie Moore
Susanna Wilson

Careers Department

Trips and Events

Mr Bond

With so many Careers activities having been curtailed by Covid restrictions during 2020 and 2021, it was fantastic to get back into the cut and thrust of events and visits this year.

September kicked off with the Young Enterprise 'Step Up' programme for Year 8. Pupils got a chance to think about how the transition to secondary school would affect them, and to think about the many job roles that are necessary to keep a school running. At the other end of the age range, Year 14 had a day of mock interviews during which students had the chance to participate in a simulated recruitment process, culminating in an interview with a guest interviewer. We were very grateful to past pupils, parents and others with links to the school for giving up their time on this important day.



Later in the year, a number of trips were organised to major events in the local area where pupils from schools across the province were able to meet universities, colleges and employers and start thinking seriously about future opportunities. The Eikon Centre near Lisburn hosted two such events. Year 11 pupils visited the School Summit in October, while Year 13 attended the UCAS Exhibition in March. In both cases, it was great to see pupils engage meaningfully with exhibitors, and many came away not just with a bagful of freebies, but a bit of inspiration.

In June came the turn of Year 9, who attended the 4CUR Future skills development workshop at South Lakes Leisure Centre. This ambitious project saw employer representatives from some of Northern Ireland's biggest companies interact with pupils in tasks designed to test and develop

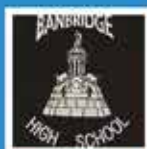
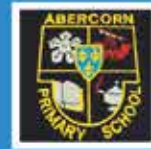
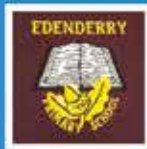
teamwork, communication, problem solving and organisation.

Back in school, pupils were busy developing these same skills through a range of extra and co-curricular activities. We were delighted to work with Young Enterprise on the Year 9 'QuickStart' programme, which saw 'Beachy Beads' crowned champion entrepreneurs for their start-up jewellery business. Year 10 had their chance to hone their business skills too through the Young Enterprise 10X Challenge, with some novel and opportunistic marketing ploys in evidence across the four weeks of the scheme!

Sixth formers had their share of visitors to school during the weekly lecture period, with talks from Queen's and Ulster Universities, Alchemy Technology Services, Work+, University of Cambridge and many more. We

were delighted at the end of the year to see so many Year 14 pupils secure places at their first choice universities, but also to send a number of pupils out into the workplace either in employment or on apprenticeship, with companies such as Deloitte, Norbrook and Almac.





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English Department

Heaney Trip

On a bleak, rainy morning in February 2022, 20 Year 13 English literature students travelled to Bellaghy to visit the Heaney Homeplace. Perhaps it wasn't exactly everyone's idea of a thrilling school trip; but since we're English literature students, it didn't take much more than the promise of a free lunch and some help with our unit one assessment to convince us.

Spirits weren't exactly high as we waited in the rain for the bus to arrive, and the prospect of the hour long drive certainly wasn't helping matters, but an utterly tuneless singalong to some pop classics on the bus was enough to lift spirits for our arrival in Bellaghy. Once inside, we were shown around the interactive Heaney exhibit. Our guide pointed out Heaney's Conway Stewart pen and some of the letters he wrote to his parents before giving us a brief background on Heaney's life. In the main part of the exhibit, we were given headsets and moved around the downstairs room which was split into sections corresponding with different events in Heaney's life; as we pressed a button on our headsets, we could hear Heaney's voice reciting his poems. Having spent 6 months studying Heaney's work, analysing and deconstructing every carefully placed word, it was amazing to simply sit and

listen to Heaney recite the poems he wrote, coming to life as he spoke.

Following our tour, we attended a lecture on two of the poems on the AS specification, 'Had I Not Been Awake' by Seamus Heaney, and 'Acquainted with the Night' by Robert Frost. This seminar not only aided with the essay we were later assigned on these poems, but we learned invaluable exam skills that really helped us in our Unit One English module, and also gained a flavour of what university lectures would be like. Following a quick lunch break, we split up into small group seminars with post-graduate Queen's University English students to discuss our thoughts on the poems, and before we knew it, it was time to embark on the journey home.

We returned back to Banbridge in significantly better weather conditions

Find the

So if, my dear, there
Old bridges breaking





End-rhyme

Rhyme is the repetition of syllables that sound identical. The most well-known rhyme in poetry is probably the end-rhyme, when a word at the end of one line rhymes with a word at the end of another line.



than the journey down, but with a significantly more tuneless singalong than before (hard to believe, I know, but several people had the migraine to prove it). Regardless of our group's somewhat reluctant initial approach to the trip, I can safely say that it greatly enhanced our understanding and enjoyment of the poems we were studying. I'd highly encourage anyone studying AS English, or with an even remote interest in Irish poetry or artisan sausage rolls to try and get down to the exhibit.



Anatomy of a poem

Find the Rhyme

So if, my dear, there sometimes seem to be
Old bridges breaking between you and me

End-rhyme

Rhyme is the repetition of syllables that sound identical. The most well-known rhyme in poetry is probably the end-rhyme, when a word at the end of one line rhymes with a word at the end of another line.

Internal rhyme

Internal rhyme is when a word within one line rhymes with another word in the same line.

Half-rhyme

A half-rhyme is a rhyme formed when only one or two syllables of the words match. Usually, only one syllable of the words matches. For example, 'The wind whistled through the trees' - 'whistled' and 'trees' are half-rhymes.

Set the Sound

Slaves, chill gates, wet slates, the greens and reds
Of outhouse roofs.

Alliteration

Something Slobbered Surtly, Close
Struggling the Silence

Sibilance

...maybe it's to get away from him,
Shattering his spit across the stove.

Creative Writing

In January, pupils were encouraged (by their English teachers) to enter Rotary Ireland's: 'Young Writer Competition'. The challenge was to produce a piece of prose or poetry entitled, 'Environment'.

The entry was to be a maximum of 550 hundred words for prose entries and up to a maximum of 40 lines for poetry entries.

In the Intermediate category, Ibrahim Saleem Chaudhry was placed first with Ellie Conlon coming second and Molly Conlon and Matthew Gough Joint 3rd. In the Senior category, Beth Cordner was placed first.

The entries are included below:

Environment

By Beth Cordner

Warmth. Food. Safety. Love. Isn't that the expected environment for a young child, hell, of any breathing organism? Why is it then that I am the only one faced with the polar opposite?

My environment: a cramped city flat, with a rusty sofa-bed in one corner. Home.

My mother sat in the opposite corner, hypnotised by the voice of a gambling host, prompting her to cash in her savings. It would be unusual to see her without a large bottle of vodka in her hand. Yes, she was an alcoholic.

I grew up sneaking cash out of men's pockets who would come to visit my mother – they left their jacket at home while they went 'to get groceries' together. I could easily find enough money to buy a sandwich – the only meal I would receive. I went to school and tried my best to stay unnoticed, but each day I came home bruised.

I can't say my life was all bad. After school, I would eagerly rush to my escapism: skateboarding. Feeling the wind slash through my hair at lightening speed made me feel in control; it made me feel alive.

Usually I would pack up my worn

skateboard and head out of the door unnoticed, but today was different.

"Whhuure yu gooin'?" yelled my mother, with an uneasy tone. She pulled herself out of her armchair and stumbled over to my only exit – my only chance at liberty.

"Why would you care? I bet you £50 the *Gambler's Game Show* is already live," I snapped back sarcastically, edging closer to the doorknob.

"Well I bet yeh £1000 that if yew don't come back to this house with ma magic water, yer nat gonna have a bed tonight, ye hear?" Her 'magic water' is a substance that smells like vodka, but I would guess there's more to it than that. Each Wednesday my job was to pick up the vile liquid.

"Whatever." I replied dryly, slamming the door shut.

Freedom. I set my board on the ground. Nothing held me back now. With a push I was away, whooshing down the bumpy paths to the ramps. At this precise time, there would be no one there. I am free to flip, jump and grind around the graffitied concrete.

After several hours of bliss, I skated



back to the flat. Everything was as I left it. Except, everything was different. There were no peculiar men in the flat. The TV sat noiseless. The battered armchair lay without its occupier. It was all gone.

I was sitting in my corner. The voices around me were muffled – countless questions swirled through my head. Through the avalanche, I felt a tap on my shoulder. I looked up to see a young man, dressed in a grey suit with a name card reading 'RH Social Work Services'. Without a word spoken, he placed the creased piece of paper into my palm and smiled. Curious, I cautiously opened it and began to read: *'Looking for a new start? Be in with the chance of winning £10,000 at Benny's Skateboarding Station by showing us your skills this Friday. Are you in?'*

Was this the chance I had been looking for? Should I do it? Why not? I have nothing to lose anymore. Friday...

The Last Hours

Ibrahim Saleem Chaudhry

The Earth. What a beautiful thing it was. An elegant, deep blue orb with flecks of white. Vibrant, emerald green plates of land on the surface, and pale, soft yellow kints across the land. A wondrous world, that was destroyed. There is no beauty any more, only dim, ugly brown with spots of dirty blue. Every time I look out and try to find the beauty I once saw, I see the same rubbish pile that we created, a filthy pile filled with hope that didn't exist. The past looks like a dream compared to the horrifying future, or my present. Existence is pointless, it is endless suffering and dissatisfaction with the world. We always want to escape to a different reality better than ours, rather than shape our own.

As I am writing this, I have twenty-four hours left to live, before oxygen completely runs out. I am floating in space, orbiting the Earth on a spaceship, as some people might call it. Our mission, named Project Abluo, was to clean up any waste or dangerous objects surrounding the Earth. Many years later, that mission is still incomplete and there is still junk everywhere.

Down on Earth, during the years we spend up here, everyone was trying

to do their part in stopping or slowing down the inevitable destruction of our environment. We moved to electric vehicles, biodegradable products, nuclear power plants, recycled plastics and many other alternatives, but it was already too late. Society slowly began to collapse and fall into dreadful chaos. People started having to check their phones regularly to see if it was safe to go outside. Air quality dropped and kept dropping rapidly. Sea levels were rising to dangerous heights. Fewer forests existed and more parts of the Earth were becoming inhospitable for humans. The Earth was transforming into a toxic, uninhabitable sphere of garbage. And nobody could do anything about it. All I could do was watch from above.

Year after year went by as quickly as passing space debris, and there is nothing left of the world. We watched it crumble and perish with every last human alive on it. Whilst knowing that soon we would run out of food, water and oxygen ourselves, and become the last survivors. That day is today. All of my comrades are dead, due to a massive oxygen outage that affected everyone's personal bedroom, including mine, three days ago. I just survived by completely blocking off all



parts of the spaceship except for my room remotely. I then activated the back-up oxygen supply that we kept for emergencies like this and directed all the oxygen to my room. This may sound selfish, but there was only enough oxygen to support one person. That oxygen has nearly run out, and I am now going to sleep. I haven't slept in a while.

I have no choice but to accept my fate and hope that one day, this is found by some sort of intelligent creature. I probably won't wake up, but that doesn't matter, any more at least.

Environment

Molly Conlon

I Attempt a Normal Day.

I walk to school. I am wearing my oxygen mask. Not exactly what people envisioned 2050 to be like. We punished the environment and so now it punishes us.

We used to cut down trees, diminishing their purpose. They decide that they should no longer serve us. They absorb the oxygen we have (the remains of it anyway) and produce carbon dioxide.

We strangled the fish in the sea—

Suddenly, my neck is captured by a plastic container. I choke and struggle, I fight. I fight. I fight for the plans I had for my future. I fight for the life I want with my friends and family.

My lungs expand, yet they are not filled with oxygen. I fight. I fight. Tick. Tock. The timer goes off in my head. I know my time is limited. It's a painful way to die. All I want to do is get to school, see my friends.

I fight. I fight. I have hope that I will survive. That the animals, the few that care, will rescue me. A troop of

monkeys cut me free, nurse me back to health. It's too late. I'm still alive but there shouldn't have been plastic there in the first place.

I know it will happen again and maybe next time I won't be so lucky. I live in fear, although there is nothing I do that actively puts my life in danger, a walk to the shop, to see a friend or to go to school can end up with me fighting for my life or ending up with no life.

I rely on them: the few animals that care. The few. Not enough. But still, I watch from the side, unable to communicate with them. I know they could do so much more. Yet they do not.

I take a bite of my chocolate cake that I've been looking forward to all day. Awaiting the satisfying taste that satiates my hunger. My friends are enjoying their cakes. Plastic. It's plastic. I fight. I fight. I can feel it scrape my throat.

My insides are being ripped out. Nano particles, accumulating in my brain. I fight. I fight. My central nervous system—failing. I fight. I fight. There's

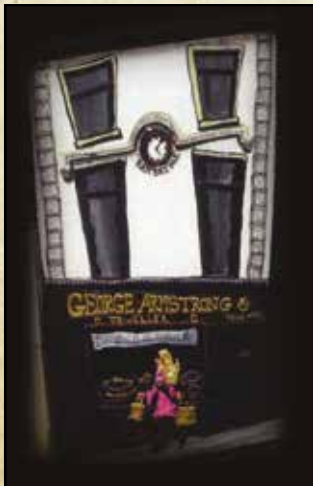


nothing I can do. As much as I fight. I just want it to end. I want to stop fighting. Stop the pain.

My friends carry me home. A safe place I can always rely on. I can go peacefully with all the people and things I enjoy. I get there. It's a blaze of fire and the places that aren't burning are nothing but a pile of ashes.

My hopes for the future: they burn down with my house. My family were my foundation. They had perished and it is only appropriate that anything I had wanted to celebrate with them, should perish with them. I don't fight. I don't fight.

Flip the story. It's what our current life is. We need to open our eyes and see the agony we put these poor, unsuspecting creatures, just trying to live life through.



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Environment

Ellie Conlon

I'm writing to you from the year 2122. We haven't been outside since 2050. The government has everybody brainwashed...it's now illegal to have windows on your house or even step foot further than your driveway; unless, of course, you have a job certified by the government that permits you to.

As always, at 8.45am a lorry pulls into my driveway – I obviously cannot see it as there are no windows but I've become accustomed to the sound of the gravel crunching under its tyres and the incessant grumbling coming from the engine. I put on my mask... it's also one of the new mysterious laws. I open my front door and bring my minimalistic bag of rationed supplies to get me through the day inside.

I live alone, in an isolated area with no neighbours... as long as I'm back in time for the 6 o'clock house check (where a certified member of the government checks to see if you're still inside and haven't stolen extra rations

from your neighbours), I'll be fine.

Just before we got put into this 'lockdown', my great-grandma (who passed away) in 2062 due to what doctors disclosed as a heart attack) used to take me to this river every Sunday afternoon and we'd eat a picnic and see who could spot the most fish... I think I will take a walk back there. I mean it can't be that bad – can it? I don't put my mask on and I step out the door. I'm walking down the road and notice that, even though it's the middle of June, there are no leaves on the trees. Even though I'm a little confused I carry on walking, I can smell smoke. Thick, black smoke. I'm still determined to get to the river so I once again ignore my gut instinct and keep walking. I'm sweating – in all the summers in my time I've never experienced one so hot!

When I finally get to the location of the river I am now wheezing and spluttering from the smoke coming

from the burning hedges. I can't turn back now so I try to find the river – I'm sure it was here but all that's left is a heap of plastic.

The burning in my chest is now something I can't ignore; I now realise why we aren't allowed outside, I never should have left, especially without a mask. I'm beginning to wonder if perhaps my great-granny didn't die from a heart attack after all. I look down at my watch – it reads 5.56pm – four minutes until my foolish actions are found out. Until my brainwashed loved ones are told some fib about how I 'peacefully' died of natural causes in my house. Having no windows kept us uninformed of the shambles but the news of my misadventure and its consequence is sure going to let them know the reality.

Why has it come to this? Why did the people of the past not stop it while they could?



Environment

Matthew Gough

To think a single cigarette has the power to kill off whole civilisations of birds, bees, and butterflies. The sweet aroma of assorted flowers gone by a sweep of a hand and the thoughtless act of littering. The trees swaying in clear skies, twisting and turning; to the barren broken bones of a tree snarling and whipping as if they have a mind of their own.

These thoughts were pondered by Adam Jackson during a boring English class. They were reciting Shakespeare's 'Macbeth' when a bird, a crow maybe, banged against the window bringing joy to everyone's Tuesday mid-afternoon. This weird and wonderful event was short-lived as the rising smoke brought confusion and distress. The next few moments flew by like a torpedo in water, the fire alarm went off and the shouts of panic from the teachers to calm the students down were drowned by the screams and stomping of the feet. As the school was evacuated the smoke had risen even higher than before and there were faint sounds of sirens in the distance. Adam thought maybe his dad was there as his dad

was a firefighter. Adams's dreams of becoming a firefighter were because of this man; he idolised him. The curiosity got the better side of Adam. The boy of eleven years sprinted across the field and down the road ignoring the apprehensive shouts from the teachers; he never was a star pupil and thought the teachers might be pleased by this action of his.

The park was smoking, and everything was on fire. The firefighters were trying to gather everyone to safety, but they were struggling to do so with all the panic and dismay. Knowing that his dad was probably here, Adam was preparing to do what was needed to help without his dad noticing. He got close enough to see his dad; a bulky man built like a bull. All the flocks of birds were gone, all the kaleidoscopes of butterflies were gone, all the colonies of bees were gone. No form of wildlife was there, nothing not even the ducks in the pond.

Adam knew what had to be done and advanced towards the hose like the first man on the moon; he thought

so anyway. He snatched the hose and galloped like a horse toward the entrance and past the elderly people who seemed oblivious to the danger of their situation.

The bushes along the path were destroyed, though not a religious person Adam was reminded of the burning bush from the bible. All the grass was a pale grey and to make matters worse the wind was as strong as a wild boar.

The cause of the fire was probably at the centre of the park, usually the only thing there was the kid's playground and the cafe. He approached the playground when he heard the faint noises from his dad chasing him. Determined, Adam raced to the finish line but the smoke was now too overwhelming; the leaves of the trees were meteorites to the ants and bugs on the ground. His vision was closing in; he was going to faint. As he dropped to the floor the last thing he saw was a flaming cigarette butt.



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Geography Department Year 9 field trip to Murlough Beach

Louise Chambers, Evie Cowan and Lola Brown

Last October, Year 9 went on a Geography Field trip to Murlough Beach, Newcastle. In class we had been learning about how our coasts are being changed through waves energy and coastal processes.

When we arrived at Murlough we were given three tasks: record wave frequency to determine the types of waves, find out if longshore drift was occurring and lastly record the size and shape of the pebbles at the front and back of the beach.

Our group started by recording wave frequency. We stood at the shore and timed how many waves broke during

that period. We carried this out on 3 occasions and then took an average. We discovered that the waves at Murlough were destructive.

Our second task was to record longshore drift. We timed how far a piece of driftwood could travel within 5-minutes. It was during this time that most of us got wet, as we were watching the piece of driftwood and not the waves. It also travelled further than most of us were expecting, therefore we discovered that longshore drift was very strong at Murlough.

Lastly, we measured the size and

shape of the pebbles at the front and back of the beach. We collected 20 random pebbles from the front and back of the beach and then measured their longest axis. We used a series of diagrams to decide if they were round, sub-angular or angular. We discovered pebbles at the back of the beach were bigger and less rounded, as the waves don't always reach that far to erode them.

Everyone had a great day out at Murlough discovering what we had learnt in the classroom in reality and we all came home happy but a little bit wet!!



Geography Department

Newcastle Tourism Report

Katie Bambrick



On the morning of the 23rd of September 2021, all Year 10 pupils began to board the buses ready for the day ahead. After the scramble to get the seats at the back of the bus (which I succeeded in) the excitement kicked in. The bus journey seemed to fly by as we conversed with our friendship groups and enjoyed some karaoke. Before we knew it, we had arrived in Newcastle.

We were given worksheets to complete, in which we had to evaluate tourist attractions as we walked up and down the main street, rating them on a scale of 1 to 5 while counting the number of hotels, B&Bs and other accommodation

the town has to offer. We worked really well with our friends to complete these tasks, so we completed them quite quickly. Our final piece of work to complete on this trip was to draw a field sketch of a tourist attraction. While the wind proved this a struggle, we completed our sketches.

As Newcastle is catered towards tourism, there was a lot to see and do. In our free time many of us rushed to do different things. One thing many of us could agree on is that we wanted to find somewhere to eat. Then a rather tricky decision emerged as we could not decide where we should buy our

food. There were so many options that it was difficult to choose. While some opted for food from places such as KFC, the most popular place was Mauds (rightfully so), where many of the teachers enjoyed something to eat as well. Towards the end of the day, we met at the Slieve Donard Car Park and joined the rest of the groups, revealing what we had bought, and boarded the bus for the journey back.

Unfortunately my friends and I did not get the back seats of the bus on the way back, but we did not let it dampen our spirits as overall it was a very enjoyable trip.



Geography Department

Rocky River Trip

Eve Kelly



On Tuesday 14th June 2022 our Geography class, as well as pupils from another class, went on a field trip to the Rocky River in the Mourne Mountains to collect data in preparation for our upcoming Unit Three GCSE Geography exam. For the duration of the trip, we were accompanied by the wonderful Mrs Dreaning, Miss McCullough, Mr Leslie and Mr Reaney.

On Tuesday morning, we piled into the bus and set off with the intention

of collecting data to show river characteristics change downstream. After arriving at our destination, we discussed our plan, gathered the necessary equipment and put on our very fashionable high-vis jackets, hard-hat helmets and wellington boots. At each site we measured the width of the river, depth, pebble size and river velocity. Some people spent the day wondering when we'd be stopping for lunch, while others were wondering how they were going to get all of the water out of their boots.

A few frog sightings and tumbles from Rebekah Kirkpatrick later, we had completed collecting all of our data and were ready to stop for lunch - soggy sandwiches and lukewarm water. Hooray! But the shenanigans didn't stop there. There were phones dropped, phones lost (and relocated) and helmets misplaced. Overall, the trip to the Rocky River was a success and allowed us to see just exactly what we had been studying in class. Of course, it was nice to get out of normal classes too!





Year 13 Trip to Magilligan

Ruby Wilson

After completing most of our AS Geography in the classroom, the last thing we had to do was venture to the Magilligan Centre in Limavady to complete our fieldwork, which we would have needed if we were doing the Unit 3 exam (...perks of COVID). We had amazing help from Mrs Dreaning and Mrs Curran, as they arranged the trip and our transport as well as keeping us safe and helping us learn.

The aim of our residential to Magilligan was to collect relevant data about the topic of sand dune succession. Upon our arrival we discussed our agenda, collected our equipment, were presented with fashionable attire (which consisted of wellies and blue overalls) and we quickly squeezed onto the mini bus to begin our journey. Once we arrived at our destination, we

had to begin the work. At each crest and trough of every site we measured the sand pH, the number of different plant species, the gradient of the dune and the light intensity. Although our trip consisted of plenty of work, it also contained lots of fun and laughter.

Once we arrived back at the centre it was time for lunch. The canteen was spacious and it catered to all our needs, supplying us with tasty sandwiches for lunch and brilliant options for dinner and even dessert!

There were mobiles on the site of the centre, where we did actually have to do written work in (I know it wasn't exactly a holiday!) but due to the fabulous teaching of Mrs Dreaning we worked hard for a couple of hours and it flew past. We learnt lots and had a



great time away. We were even allowed to stop at the Apple Green on the way home!

Thank you to Mrs Dreaning and Mrs Curran, as well as everyone at the Magilligan centre in Limavady for a wonderful educational experience; we were able to get a better understanding of our fieldwork and get an exciting day away from school!



History Department

Parallel Histories Debates

Mrs G Johnston

Year 13 and 14 History and Politics students took part in debates held online against schools from within Northern Ireland, schools in the Republic of Ireland and London schools.

Parallel Histories' aim is to encourage students to study disputed history by looking at relevant and controversial situations in history which have competing narratives, studying both sides of the argument closely using provided sources and forming coherent arguments to support both sides, ultimately allowing students to form their own judgements. Through partaking in debates, students are challenged to consider multiple

interpretations of evidence and different points of view, and this is a skill which is very useful in the study of history, as well as important in healthy democracies.

Some of the topics covered included: "Is the British government responsible for the devastating impact of the Great Famine in Ireland?" "Who is to blame for The Troubles in NI?" and "Who is responsible for the slow progress of the peace process?" We were provided with sources supporting both sides of the argument to look at by Parallel Histories, and under the guidance of Mr Erskine we developed our arguments and took part in the first debate. The aim is not to arrive at a predetermined

interpretation, but rather to challenge students to consider different viewpoints and develop their critical thinking, oracy and debating skills. All students had the opportunity to receive feedback from the teacher at the opposing school to help further develop their public speaking skills and development of arguments, and this made the debates a rewarding activity to be involved in.

Although all the debates which took place were online, our students have this year been invited to a live debating conference day in Stormont at the end of September as a result of our participation in the debates.



PARALLEL HISTORIES

Government And Politics

Miss McClelland

2021 – 2022 proved to be an extremely busy year for the Government and Politics Department as we made the most of all opportunities offered to us and fully utilised the increasing willingness of politicians and outside agencies to meet remotely.

September saw us receive an unexpected invitation to the swearing in of Northern Ireland's first Lady Chief Justice, the Right Honourable Dame Siobhan Keegan. We were one of only 2 schools invited to the online event and our invitation came as a consequence of the Lady Chief Justice's mother being a past pupil of Banbridge Academy.

In October and November a number of events were organised around the COP26 Conference which was held in Glasgow. A group of Politics and Geography students met remotely

with the Assembly Committee on Agriculture, Rural Affairs and the Environment to discuss COP26, environmental priorities and the 2 proposed Climate Change Bills that were going through the Assembly. This gave students a great opportunity to question MLAs directly and find out what they were doing individually to combat climate change. Another group of 4 Year 13 Politics students travelled to Stormont to take part in the COP26 Simulation Negotiation event which was organised by the British Council, where they took on the role of the Chinese delegation and negotiated with other schools who were also representing other countries.

Over the Halloween holiday Mr Erskine travelled with a group of Year 13 and 14 Politics students to Dublin to attend the Good Summit 2021, which was organised around the theme 'An

Ireland for Good?' Students attended workshops and met with a range of public figures from both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, including David Blevins from Sky News; the NI Chief Scientific Officer Professor Ian Young; Neale Richmond, Fine Gael TD; Mary Lou MacDonald, Sinn Fein leader; Sir Jeffrey Donaldson, DUP leader and Simon Coveney, the Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs.

January and early February was a time to try and motivate the electorate within Banbridge Academy. We were attempting to get Lara Crothers from Year 13 elected to the UK Youth Parliament. An election team was assembled, a manifesto written, videos made and we then had a 2 week campaign within school to try to get as many people voting as possible. It was a mammoth effort and while Lara polled very strongly, unfortunately





she did not win the overall vote in Upper Bann. We had fun trying to get her elected however and the school was one of the top 3 polling centres in Northern Ireland. In February we joined with the Banbridge Academy Medical Society to welcome Colm Gildernew MLA who is Chair of the Stormont Health Committee. Mr Gildernew was willing to answer questions on all aspects of his role as an MLA and there were enlightening discussions about the Covid pandemic and the future direction of the NHS. Also in February Year 13 and 14 Politics students contributed to a consultation on new legislation that was planned to allow parents flexibility in deciding what age their child should start primary school. This later reached the Assembly as the School Age Bill.

In March, following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, we took part in a really informative link up which gave schools the opportunity to question the former BBC Russia Editor Bridget

Kendall. She provided a wealth of material on Russia's motivations and told us about the different interviews she had carried out with Vladimir Putin. We also participated in a session with the Stormont Education Service and had the opportunity to meet with Doug Beattie MLA, who spoke about his work as UUP leader, as an MLA and his knowledge of nuclear weapons and international relations. Also in March, we linked up with the Religious Studies Department to welcome the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, the Right Rev Dr David Bruce for a very enjoyable and enlightening talk.

Both the students and teachers enjoyed and appreciated the opportunities that we were able to avail of this year as they helped bring Politics to life and allowed the pupils involved to see the many different aspects of Politics and how the subject is intrinsic to our everyday world.



Modern Languages Trip to Paris

Monday 11th – Thursday 14th April 2022

By Maddison McVeigh and Rachel Moore
Photos from Drew Frazer

After two long years of the COVID-19 Pandemic and several lockdowns, of not being able to go on holiday and of missing friends terribly, 48 pupils from Years 10 and 11 accompanied by Mrs O'Shaughnessy, Mrs McCullagh, Mrs Adair, Miss McCullough and Mr McAuley were ecstatic as they set off on an experience of, what felt like, a lifetime. A school trip to Paris! Formidable!

The build-up was unforgettable, the excitement surrounding all that we were going to see and do not forget to mention the 'will we ever get there?' fear that loomed in the midst of all the COVID red tape. But, got there we absolutely did and with bells on at that!

After a crack-of-dawn-start on Monday 11th April, endless (and painful!) queuing in Dublin and Charles de Gaulle airports, we were finally à Paris. Our first stop was the Sacré Coeur at Montmartre, and the sun was shining. We enjoyed a walk inside the Basilica where we admired the beautiful architecture and decor. We then enjoyed some time in the nearby Place du Tertre where we were finally able to sample some authentic French cuisine, *crêpes*, *croques monsieur* even *moules frites* if we so desired! The souvenir shops were also a hit and bargaining with the artists for a portrait was certainly the ultimate test of our French! Our first day finished with taking in the views of *la belle capitale* from the top of the Montparnasse Tower. From there we could clearly see all the city's most famous and beautiful landmarks, such as the Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame Cathedral. After this busy day of fun and excitement, we were ready to take the weight off our feet and settle in our hotel.



The weather continued to be kind to us and on day 2, after a restful night's sleep and a delicious French breakfast we headed back into the centre of Paris to meet our walking-tour guide. Our tour began at Place de la Concorde and took in all the city's main attractions: the jardins Tuileries, the Louvre, the Champs Elysées and the Arc de Triomphe to which we would later return. We window-shopped the exclusive designer boutiques of Louis Vuitton and Chanel for example, before arriving at Trocadéro where we enjoyed an impromptu sing-along with *David le chanteur*. Apparently Dancing Queen by Abba is still a hit in France!

After all this excitement and activity, we were ready for a pit-stop in the very chic McDonald's on the Champs Elysées, it has golden, not yellow, arches, did you know? There, we sampled food not found in any

McDonald's we'd ever been to (like macarons for example). Miam miam! Now that we had refuelled, we were ready to climb the 284 steps of the Arc de Triomphe. It is by far one of the most beautiful monuments in Paris. The views were spectacular and well worth the climb!

Our evening was spent at a crêperie followed by a cruise on the Seine on the Bateaux Mouches. It was amazing to see the sights of the city from the water and at dusk. The most special was the sight of the lights chasing up the Eiffel Tower once it became dark. A memory we'll cherish forever.

Day 3 started early as we set off for Disneyland. The weather was not as kind, the day was quite wet to begin with but that didn't dampen our spirits! We enjoyed a Disney-themed quiz on the bus journey, courtesy of Miss McCullough and Mr McAuley. Once



we were 'let loose' in the park we all rushed to the rides, the teachers included! We had a blast and they re-lived their youth!

Some of our favourite rides were Thunder Mountain, Tower of Terror and Space Mountain. We also hit the souvenir shops hard and lots of cuddly toys, keyrings and novelty hats were bought. We certainly didn't go hungry either, we had the choice of many different Disney themed restaurants throughout our day at the park, then in the evening we all met for dinner in Planet Hollywood. The teachers even managed to give us some more time back in the Disney Studios after dinner, so we really did have an amazing day!



Our fourth and final day had now arrived (*sad face*) as had the almost impossible task of packing all our souvenirs into our small suitcases! We still had lots to see and enjoy in Paris and once we checked out of our hotel, we headed straight to the Stade de France. We met our very friendly and helpful tour guides and were immediately struck by the size of the stadium. It can hold nearly 81,000 people! The tour brought us to the players' changing rooms, the medical rooms, the President's box and even to the built-in police station and cells!

Once we'd hit the stadium's gift shop we boarded the bus again and headed to the Musée de l'Air et de l'Espace, where we saw the now-grounded Concorde and many other impressive planes. Our last stop before heading to Charles de Gaulle airport was the Aéroville shopping centre for some final souvenir shopping.

lifetime and one we will never forget. *A la prochaine fois, Paris!*

And just like that we were back at the school gates after an action-packed and fun-filled four days in the City of Lights. It was an experience of a



Home Economics

Young Enterprise Food Masterclass

Year 9 pupils enjoyed an afternoon from Young Enterprise where they learned about the food industry and how it is such an important sector in Northern Ireland. Pupils worked in groups to create a food product, then pitched this idea to their peers. Great fun and some excellent concepts!



Junior Cooks' Club

Junior pupils learned how to make a range of exciting dishes after school including cookies, ice cream mochi and carrot cake muffins!



Queen's University Belfast

Dr Alison Calvert, lecturer at Queen's University on Nutrition, came to speak to our A Level pupils about careers in the food industry and also what they cover in their course. Dr Calvert also brought some future food trends, such as insect flour, to show our pupils how the industry is changing and what to expect in the next few years.



Home Economics

Year 10 New Product Development with Avondale Foods

This year the Year 10 Home Economics pupils participated in a New Product Development assignment in the Summer term with Avondale Foods. Avondale Foods (based in Craigavon) manufacture vegetable accompaniments, side salads, fresh soups, sauces, porridge and noodles for distribution throughout the UK and Ireland. Product development lies at the heart of Avondale Food's continued success.

The pupils' brief was to create a new and exciting salad. They showed great expertise and imagination in their selection and execution of the chosen salad recipe. Richard Bond, Product Development Officer along with his team, had the difficult task of selecting the top three recipes. He commented on the creativity and flair the pupils demonstrated. This



was a unique opportunity for pupils to work alongside a local company and gain a greater awareness of the job prospects a food-based company such as Avondale can offer.

Richard presented prizes to the following pupils:
1st – Amelie Knott and Rola Huang
2nd – Arianne Bell and Lily Agnew
3rd – Carly Fong and Rebekah Graham

Healthy Eating Week 2022

Pupils enjoyed free fruit kebabs at breaktime during Healthy Eating Week. It was great to see so many pupils enjoying their 5 a day!



Home Economics

Future Chef Competition

Hayley Mannion competed in the Future Chef competition and was the County Down finalist with a beautiful fish dish showcasing excellent culinary skill and the ability to work under pressure.



Northern Ireland Future Chef BakeOff

Springboard's Future Chef BakeOff, is a nationwide culinary initiative which is delivered in over 600 schools nationwide. The main goal of Future Chef BakeOff is to assist young people aged 12-16 to learn the vital life skills of baking, as well as providing invaluable insight into and inspiration for building a career within the hospitality industry.

The Future Chef BakeOff required pupils to demonstrate high level practical skills to produce a fruit tart. They also had to provide a written planning section. A group of 6 Year 9 pupils worked extremely hard to make their own pastry and come up with their filling, with Evie Cowan placed third and Sienna Heasely fifth.

However, all six girls are winners in the eyes of Banbridge Academy as they displayed great determination, hard work and enormous dedication.



Home Economics

ABP Angus Youth Challenge



programme. Throughout this year they have benefitted from farm-to-fork 'work experience' with the meat processor, ABP and its partner the NI Angus Producer Group; learning all about sustainable beef production in Northern Ireland. They have had 5 calves to rear and look after as well as studying for their GCSEs!

The pupils also enjoyed a 3 day trip to Belgium where they went with the other schools in the final to visit farms, learn about agriculture and pioneers in the farming world and they even got a cookery lesson on how to cook the perfect steak!

Banbridge Academy has been selected as one of the 5 schools in the final of the 2022 ABP Angus Youth Challenge. To make it into the final, our pupils had to compete against 22 other Yr. 11 school teams at an exhibition in the Logan Hall, Balmoral Park. Their exhibition displays were judged by an independent panel of agri-food and education experts.

Our school had two teams exhibiting

at the event which was attended by the Minister for Education, Michelle McIlveen MLA. The Moovment's focus was on reducing the carbon footprint in the farming industry and The Farming Five were focused on farming and mental health.

As one of the lucky finalist teams, Gordon Porter and Katie Moore from The Moovment are now taking part in an agri-skills development



Music

Junior Choir

Alyssa Sommerville

At the start of the new school year Mrs Hamilton put up an announcement calling all pupils in 1st to 3rd year to come join the Junior School Choir. My friends and I thought this would be super fun, so we decided to come along and see what would happen. For the first few weeks Mrs Hamilton focused on making our choir a united voice. This happened by doing some very funny sounding exercises as a big group. In November we were invited to a choir workshop by the National Youth Choir NI led by Andrew Nunn. I must say I thoroughly enjoyed this. As it was

leading up to Christmas we started learning, "The Holly and The Ivy". Due to Covid 19, there were no 'in person' concerts so instead we recorded the performance for an online concert.

In January we began to prepare for the marvellous music week. The two songs we sang were "This is Me" and "Build Me Up Buttercup" and if I do say so myself we were a big hit with the audience. We rounded off a great year of choir with a party. Mrs Hamilton brought in an endless amount of cake, tray bakes, crisps and chocolate.

She knew we liked food because my friends and I would sometimes bring chocolate to choir practice. I'm not sure how pleased Mrs Hamilton was with this!

Even though I only joined choir this year I feel I have formed some great friendships and I have had the best time. I don't think any of this would have been possible without Mrs Hamilton, so therefore I say a big thank you and I can't wait to see what is in store for next year!



Cappella Group

Mya Jess

In April of this school year the new singing teacher, Miss O'Mahony, was introduced to six year nine pupils and myself, with the intention of forming a cappella group. We began by rehearsing the piece 'Lean on me' by Bill Withers without the use of sheets to read from, therefore helping us to listen to each other's voices and the rhythm of the music rather

than constantly focusing on paper. After a couple of weeks there was a suggestion to sing, 'The cup song'. The majority of us were familiar with this piece and really enjoyed practising it. In such a short time we have all learnt to work with each other's voices while enjoying our break time practices to put together pieces of music.



My Experience with Music

Sophie McNaulty

My name is Sophie McNaulty and I am in Year 10. My experience with music this year at Banbridge Academy has been fantastic. I have attended singing and guitar lessons, participated in choir practice and performances. I am also the lead singer and guitarist of the girl band, which was set up by Mr Tom McConnell. This year has been really good and I have had so many different and great opportunities in

music, one of them was having the chance to perform with the girl band in front of the whole school during junior/senior lunch. I absolutely loved the experience and opportunity I was given, and it gave me a great confidence boost for performances in the future. As well as the great opportunity the girl band has given me, it has also been great to make new friends who I share similar music tastes and hobbies with.

I also must thank Mrs Hamilton and the rest of the music department for the opportunities they have given me and the rest of the Banbridge Academy pupils this year! It has definitely been my favourite year of music in Banbridge Academy so far and I hope to have many more great years ahead of me!

Music week 2022

Amelia Kennedy

Music week was a really enjoyable experience for me as I'm sure it was for everyone else. The restrictions in the past two years meant that there were very few occasions permitting live music and I was feeling nervous about playing. Music week provided me with an opportunity to perform in front of a transient audience, which was much

less daunting.

I thoroughly enjoyed listening to the variety of musical talent, for example, Beauty Shop Quartet, choir, orchestra, 'the band' and many solo performances. I found it exciting not only to sing and play for others, but also to hear live music from amazing

musicians throughout the school as I walked by.

Thank you Ms Hamilton and Mrs Qua for giving me this opportunity. Music week rejuvenated my passion for entertaining.

Percussion

Carter Henning

Percussion in Banbridge Academy is a fun way to learn how to play different types of percussion instruments such as: Drums, Xylophone, Glockenspiel etc. The teachers, provided by the Education Authority, are very nice and they provide a good teaching of musical education. I started around November and my teacher has helped me get up to grade 2 already. Mrs Hamilton, our new Head of Department for Music, has been very good at organising and sorting out times for students who are keen on music lessons.



Music

Wind Ensemble

After two years of Covid19 restrictions, musical instruments had been buried at the back of wardrobes and the idea of playing "live" in front of other people was more than a little daunting. A lot of music lessons during this time had been cancelled or were online, so that vital interaction performers have with each other was long overdue. During the first few rehearsals there were lots of nervous faces and pupils were not that keen to be heard. In order to try and get more pupils involved, we decided to change the rehearsal time to Monday mornings from 8.30am. Getting everyone out of bed even earlier was going to be a challenge but it was worth it.



The pupils both shocked and delighted me with their enthusiasm. The numbers started to grow and Banbridge Academy Wind Ensemble was reborn. The ensemble consisted of anyone who wanted to join. Trumpets, euphonium, horn, flutes, clarinets, saxophone, pianos, xylophone all ranging from beginner to grade 8. The parts were adapted for the individuals and we played to our strengths. It was great to have dedicated senior pupils helping out and assisting with introducing the younger pupils to ensemble playing. Their contribution was vital and helped enable the group to perform at Banbridge Academy Music Week in March. They performed Wagon Wheel, the theme tune to

Jurassic Park and Wellerman.

In preparation for this article I chatted to some of the Year 8 pupils about their experience in the wind ensemble. I had thought they might give me some words of wisdom for this article. The answers were certainly interesting, though not necessarily what I was looking for! However, while chatting to them, the laughter from the room was fantastic. These pupils have all really bonded over their triumphs and mistakes. They worked hard on their individual parts and came together as a group to put on a thoroughly enjoyable performance. They have no other connection, they are all in different classes, but playing music together

has had a huge impact on their enjoyment of first year in Banbridge Academy and great friendships have formed. One comment from Georgina Harkness about her feelings on the Wind Ensemble stood out, "Don't be afraid to play!" This really is the theme throughout our rehearsals. Don't be afraid to just join in and give it a go. Georgina is a piano student who came along on the first rehearsal and began performing on the xylophone just for us. Thank goodness these guys didn't leave the instruments buried at the back of the wardrobe. We are now taking requests for next year and we are on the lookout for a drummer and guitarists. If you're interested, get in touch!

Liam Hickmann Nesbitt: Reflecting on music

Katlo Matlhodi

Liam's passion for music was evidently clear during our interview. He explained where his love of bass playing has taken him thus far and where he would like it to take him in the future...

What instrument do you play?

I play the bass and I started playing it in November 2018 and the guitar two years ago. I wanted to play the keyboard at first, but to be honest it looked kind of boring and my friend advised me that I should try the bass. I had never really heard of the bass before I started playing; I think most people don't really know what the bass is and think it's just a guitar.

How has your experience been studying A-level music?

I didn't do GCSE music, so I attempted to 'teach myself' the GCSE music that I was required to know AS Level. This obviously proved to be quite a challenge, so Mrs Munton helped 'bump me up' to where I needed to be. I am obviously very grateful as if it wasn't for her, I don't think I would have been able to do as well as I did and get my A at AS Level. It didn't come naturally but since music is my passion, I was already studying music at home by playing and caring about music

Have you had any 'public performances' yet?

I met a guy named Oliver Miller in Year 14 and after a band practice together, we managed to get ourselves a gig. Unfortunately covid greatly impacted our plans and everything got cancelled. After lockdown, I started going to open mic nights and found that my playing attracted quite a bit of attention and I was asked if I would do gigs with a

variety of different bands.

Do you ever get nervous before you play?

Not so much anymore, but it does really depend on the size of the gig. When I started I was really nervous and terrified but you get used to it. There's not really much you can do about it, you just have to trust yourself and do it. But once you get on stage and get that momentum going, it just feels good.

How did you know music was the right career for you?

I suppose I don't know for definite if it is. But I care about it a lot and have put a lot of effort into it.

What advice would you give to younger people that want to pursue music?

Do everything you can to get experience. Go out and play with people; the one thing I regret is that I didn't do that earlier. Music is about the genuine connection you get with people while playing with people; people who have the same love for music that you do. It's possible to communicate without even saying a word.

To Mrs Munton: how do you feel knowing that one of your students is already in the music industry?

I am absolutely thrilled that I have pupils who are networking in such a way and already playing professionally. I am also always reflecting on how I can best support pupils like that because it's so much bigger than what we do in the classroom, to nurture our pupils' talents and let them be the best version of themselves



Psychology Department

My Journey In Clinical Psychology

Dr Holly McSpadden

There is something strange about reaching the end of a long journey. It would be all too easy in a way to skip on to the next thing without making much time at all to pause, breathe, take note of where you're standing, and look back at how far you have come. I have very recently completed my doctorate in Clinical Psychology at Queen's University, Belfast and in the next few weeks will begin my new role as Dr Holly McSpadden, working therapeutically with looked after and adopted children, young people, and those that care for them. It's a dream I have passionately and painstakingly pursued since around the time I picked my GCSEs. I'll be honest, it doesn't feel real quite yet!

The journey to become a Clinical Psychologist is competitive and can take years of dogged commitment and hard work. So much so, that during the first week of my undergraduate Psychology degree in 2013, those of us with such aspirations were advised to invest in a 'plan B' career, advice I decided to throw out the window. After achieving first-class honours in my degree in 2016, I developed my therapeutic skills and confidence whilst on a graduate mental health placement in Sri Lanka, before returning home to support adults with learning disabilities within residential and community services.

Following this, I spent an incredible year working with children and families within the Paediatric Psychology service at the Royal Belfast Hospital

for Sick Children. Within each role I gained invaluable experience, grew ever more passionate about working alongside and helping people in distress, and took a step closer toward 'readiness' for clinical training. In 2019, I was ecstatic to secure my place on the doctorate and joined fifteen other women in attempting to juggle the demands of research and academic study, alongside five clinical placements within psychological services across the country, with the challenges of a global pandemic and surviving our mid-twenties thrown in for good measure. It has been both an incredibly demanding and endlessly rewarding experience.

I'll admit that it's an achievement that I'm very proud of. However, as I think back over the last ten years, what strikes me most are the dozens of people God placed beside me at just the right moment to support and champion me at times when it would have been much easier to give up and walk (or run) away. It's a moving and humbling realisation. Believe it or not, my first such experience was at Banbridge Academy. Whilst I was academically successful at school, I faced tremendous challenges with anxiety and panic attacks. I remember asking myself during my A-levels, "If I can't manage this, how on earth will I ever be able to manage a degree, a doctorate, or life as a therapist?!" Understandably, what seventeen-year-old me hadn't yet learned is that emotional resilience isn't about getting rid of difficult feelings, but



rather in learning how to bring some compassion to them and to do the hard thing anyway.

I am so grateful that my A level psychology teacher, Mrs Duke, already knew this. On the day of my Psychology exam, I was so overcome by spiralling panic that I arrived at her door unable to breathe or speak. She was calm and kind and proceeded to spend what must have been an hour walking me up and down the hill at the Academy before delivering me quietly to the door of my exam, and then walking away. I remember it vividly. She told me afterwards that she wanted me to know that I was bigger than my fear and could walk into the room on my own. It was a powerful lesson in courage that has carried me through every exam, interview, and moment of emotional burnout ever since: "Just walk into the room Holly."

To the teachers who may read this, I hope there is something here that encourages you of the tremendous impact you can have on your pupils long after they have left the corridors of the Academy. Your kindness and encouragement will be remembered even when your classes are forgotten. And to any pupils reading this who are struggling, stop and rest if you need to, reach out for as much help as you can, but please don't give up. You are so much bigger than your worst feelings and you have no idea what incredible feats you might achieve in ten years' time.

Modern Languages

European Day of Languages

We love to celebrate the annual European Day of Languages each September and use it as an opportunity to spread the joy of learning a language throughout our school community. 2021 saw the 20th anniversary of this great celebration and we put on a fun-filled week of events.

The week kicked off with a Design a T-Shirt activity for Year 9 pupils & Year 10 pupils were also encouraged to think creatively and bake a European cake or bread.

Pupils from all year groups thoroughly enjoyed the Euro Scavenger Hunt and followed very clever European or languages-related clues around school. We had several winning teams and pupils were delighted to collect their prizes.

On Tuesday lunchtime, pupils were

asked to bring their singing voice along to our Eurovision Sing-Along where the old classic The Macarena was a particular hit!

On Wednesday morning, Form Classes took part in a Languages of the world quiz during registration and freshly baked croissants were sold at break time.

On Thursday morning our A-Level pupils had the very exciting opportunity to share their knowledge with the children of Banbridge Nursery and Edenderry Primary. Our AS French and Spanish students went along to Banbridge Nursery to teach the children a French and a Spanish song, while our A2 students of French and Spanish visited Edenderry Primary to work with the two Primary 3 classes. The A2 French students taught the pupils how to count to ten in French



and enjoyed a couple of games of Loto! The A2 Spanish students taught the pupils some very useful greetings in Spanish and enjoyed practising them with the children.

On Friday, to finish the fun-filled week off in style, staff came into school in fancy dress to celebrate languages not only from Europe but from all over the world.

Religious Studies Department

Moderator's Visit

Banbridge Academy welcomed the Right Rev Dr David Bruce, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland Friday 4 March 2022. Dr Bruce was born in Banbridge and has always retained a great interest in the wider life of the town. During his recent week-long tour, he availed of the opportunity to visit the school, where his wife and he had a tour of the building before meeting with A Level Religious Studies and Politics students for a very enjoyable and varied Q & A session.



Religious Studies Department

Holocaust Educational Trust Lessons From Auschwitz

In March 2022, Year 13 Religious Studies students had the opportunity to take part in the Lessons from Auschwitz project, organised by the Holocaust Educational Trust. The project took place online this year due to the various restrictions which were in place following on from Covid. This didn't lessen the experience for our students, who heard the testimony of a Holocaust survivor, explored Auschwitz-Birkenau virtually and then undertook a Next Steps Project which involved them passing on what they had learned during the project to their school and local community.

Jessica Su, Kiera McQuaid and Robert McCullough summarise their experiences as follows:

Jessica

At the beginning of the Lessons from Auschwitz project we were sent many amazing things to help aid us in fully understanding the Holocaust. We were given a copy of the book 'Night' by Elie Wiesel which is a 1960 memoir based on his Holocaust experiences with his father in the Nazi German concentration camps at Auschwitz and Buchenwald in 1944-1945. Also, we were gifted a homemade virtual reality headset to see key sites at the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum. I personally thought this was a fantastic experience and it was also very fascinating to use and set up.

One of the first online activities was to consider what the Holocaust really was. We defined it as the murder of approximately six million Jewish men, women and children by Nazi Germany

and its collaborators during the Second World War. We were also provided with images of pre-war Jewish life to examine what life was like for Jews in Europe before WW2. After discussing whether we thought the individuals in these pictures were experiencing a normal life, we were provided with some information about the context of the photographs, as you can see below:



This was taken in Prague, Czechoslovakia, around 1930. It features Ota and Katerina Margolius, a young Jewish couple. Ota was a captain of a Jewish sports club in Prague and an international hockey player for Czechoslovakia. Katerina studied art and then went on to work as a milliner (hat-maker).

Czechoslovakia had about 350,000 Jews before World War II.



This shot was taken in Kodawa, Poland, in 1935. It depicts members of the Tabaczynski family, a Jewish family.

Poland's pre-war Jewish population was estimated to be around 3,300,000.

Following on from these introductory activities, our knowledge and understanding of the Holocaust was developed greatly through a range of online activities which were led by the Holocaust Educators.

We discovered that the Germans invaded the Czech lands in March 1939. They promptly imposed anti-Jewish laws, for example all Jews over the age of six were required to wear a yellow Star of David badge in public by September 1939. Approximately 90% of the Jews in Czechoslovakia (nearly 315,000 persons) were slaughtered in gas chambers before the end of the war, including Ota Margolius who is in the first picture, above.

The Nazis also subjected Polish Jews to murder, slave labour and several discriminatory laws following their invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939. Jews were often subjected to famine and sickness while working as slaves. Approximately 90% of Poland's Jews (over 2,970,000 persons) were slaughtered by the end of the war, including many of those in this photograph.

When the Nazis invaded Poland in 1939, they changed the name of the town Oswiecim to 'Auschwitz.' The 'Auschwitz I' camp was previously a Polish Army barracks on the outskirts of town. This town was a gathering spot for communities to trade and socialise.



In the heart of Oswiecim, barely 3 kilometres from Auschwitz-Birkenau stood The Hertz Hotel.

Various organisations, notably Zionist organisations, had political gatherings there. Many Jewish theatre companies visited Oswiecim, and the hotel hosted theatrical performances, balls, charity activities, and lectures.

At the Auschwitz camp people were forced to sleep in barracks that were little more than shelters with hundreds of people inside. Hundreds of prisoners would sleep in cramped three-tier bunks in each barrack.



At the end of the first online seminar, we considered how thousands of people from all over Europe were needed to organise, plan, manage, and implement these activities in order for Auschwitz to exist. Huge numbers of people contributed to the Holocaust, whether they were directly involved in it, collaborated remotely, or just did nothing to stop it. A very poignant lesson for us all was the reminder that genocide is perpetrated by society, not simply by a small group of radicals.



Elie Wiesel wrote "When you listen to a witness, you become a witness" and in the second online seminar we had the amazing opportunity to hear a live witness testimony of a Holocaust survivor called Eve Kugler. Eve was a seven-year-old German-born child in 1938, the year of Kristallnacht. Her parents escaped from concentration camps, her youngest sister was forced into hiding, and Eve and her other sister were sent to America and placed in foster homes. The Nazis tore her family apart. Remarkably, they were all reunited in 1946. Hearing Eve's story was heart-breaking. Being a 7 year old, having to go through three different foster homes, not knowing where your family was, and living in a world of antisemitism. Eve's life was cruel to her for the first few years, but that did not stop her from starting again after she was reunited with her family. She worked, earned a university degree and became a journalist.

In the final online session, we were asked to consider what our 'Next Steps' project would be. For me, I decided to put together this Magazine Article to show people in our school community what I have learned and reflected on during this project. I also asked Kiera and Robert to summarise their experiences of the project and their comments are below.

Kiera

It is important to understand the role of the bystander as we look towards the contemporary relevance of the Holocaust and the lessons learnt. This is the role we are most likely to take on during our lives and it is crucial we understand the detrimental impact of turning a blind eye to others' suffering. Currently, there is a genocide going on against Uighur Muslims which is being ignored by many - perhaps due to ignorance, fear of speaking out or prejudice. We must overcome these barriers and avoid being bystanders as this only leads to more suffering. We often say 'never again' but fail to take action to prevent history repeating itself. As I have learnt, genocide and persecution

take a predictable cycle: classification, symbolisation, dehumanisation, organisation, polarisation, preparation, extermination, and denial. There is no excuse for individuals or Governments to turn a blind eye.



My Lessons from Auschwitz Next Steps project centred around the origins of the Holocaust and prejudice against Jewish people and religious resistance in the camps. I shared my experience with Year 9 Religious Studies classes. I prepared an interactive PowerPoint presentation which was shared during the Religious Studies lessons and a worksheet about medieval and Nazi prejudices/anti-Jewish beliefs to demonstrate the origins of persecution and anti-Semitism. I also drew the pupils' attention to the lessons passed on from the Holocaust survivor, Eve Kugler, around not letting history repeat itself and getting to know others - not confining yourself to friends just like yourself.

Robert

I found the Lessons from Auschwitz project to be very informative. Its focus on the victims of the Holocaust was very enlightening and the Holocaust educators delivered the seminars in a detailed and challenging manner. For my next steps project, I decided to write a short story to encourage others to reflect on the Holocaust, as I had done during the online seminars. What follows is my short story which is entitled A Vision in The Sand.

A VISION IN THE SAND

The alarm managed to penetrate every

Banbridge Academy

part of my body as I leapt up from my previous residence at a small chair at the corner of the bland, black painted, wooden room. I, like everyone else here, had heard this sound before. But since I was new here, this was only the second time my ears had been assaulted. It was still terrifying. I can only imagine what the people being held here felt like when they heard it. The last time they were summoned, their faces gave me the impression of stone-cold terror, to the point where they looked like they might drop to the floor in tears.

Heading out, through the chipped, green door, the stark contrast of the dimly lit realm of the room, and the bright sunlight outside temporarily blinded me. Blinking heavily, I regained my sight. I wish I hadn't. The sight of their orderly fear would be enough to strike guilt into my soul, but the sight of one of them on the floor, as one of my fellow guards kicked him in the stomach almost made me sick. I had fought at the front. Apparently, the centre of the war wasn't the worst of its deadly reach. My eyes had seen a lot since the outbreak of war, but not this. This was something very different. A new breed of horror. The prisoner lay on the floor, screaming from the pain. The guard towering over him seemed like this pleased him. Every part of me felt weak. The guard dropped down on his knees to the level of the wailing man on the floor. He spoke something inaudible. I regained my self-awareness, and swiftly moved into my position across from the ensemble, quickly standing at ease. The other four guards in my row stared up to the sky. They seemed as though they were avoiding the sight of their surroundings. I didn't. I couldn't.

The guard grabbed the man on the floor by the collar and yanked him off the floor. Then he shoved him into what I assumed was his position in the field of hopeless souls. He resumed his stance as fast as he could, but his face read of hidden pain. The guard that had attacked the solemn man, wasn't just any guard. He was the chief around here. He was no joke. He was the

embodiment of a wolf in this camp. The prisoners were his helpless sheep. Very thin sheep at that. Too thin. He didn't seem to struggle looking at them, as he just simply grinned every few steps, holding his baton in his hands. I guessed that he wouldn't hesitate to use the gun strapped to his left thigh either. I also noticed a skull on his right shoulder as he turned. Death's head. No wonder. Hitler had made sure that he had enough ruthless subjects to keep people in line. However, I had been conscripted. I had fought well for my country, and I had been moved here after our latest string of defeats in Russia. I was convinced it was a mistake, as I didn't belong here, nor did I deserve to be here. It was torture to walk out of that door every morning, but who was there to stop this? The Nazi regime was unstoppable. Better to serve, than to be hung by piano wire.

I couldn't help but cast my gaze downward for a few seconds. That was when the next unfortunate thing to reach my eyes graced them. Three children. They looked like they were younger than five. My gaze couldn't be moved away from them. My brain struggled to take in the sight. In that moment, I felt a flicker of joy, as I was reminded of my three children back in Berlin. I thought of our journey to the beach. My children played around for hours, building sandcastles, swimming, and eating too much ice cream.

I let out a restricted smile. I was immediately cast back to the present. The children looked frightened. My gaze shot back up, as the chief guard cast a glance in our direction. After a brief but painful gaze at me and the others, he spun around to resume his analysis of the rows of captives. If anyone thought this was right, they were warped. What had these people done wrong? For me, the propaganda had never been as persuasive as it was supposed to be, I couldn't imagine eating it up to this extent. As the alarm sounded, my irrational thoughts were silenced, as we were dismissed by the baton-wielding demon. Those kids were just like my own. They wanted to play. Build sandcastles. Eat ice-cream. So, with a generous amount of thought, I decided that they would...

The next night, I stood at the edge of the nearby forest, far from the deathly camp. I watched three young figures sprint as fast as they could into the distance. The moonlight shone through the cracks in the ancient trees that surrounded me. Their wooden figures moved freely in the wind. I heard the ruffle of leaves as I caught my last sight of the children. I let out a smile. This one was not restricted. It was free. Then, the bright white moonlight engulfed my face, temporarily blinding me. This time I was not afraid to open them. This time I was glad of the sight.

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Science Department

W5 trip

On Friday 17th June 2022 Year Nine went on a Science trip to W5 in Belfast. We departed at the beginning of the school day and spent the entire day there. When we arrived, we were split into groups based on our form classes and we then dispersed to different sections.

The group I was in was given about forty-five minutes to independently explore floor four; there were four exhibits on this floor one of which being "Making sense" which explored light and sound and was packed full of optical illusions, visual tricks and multisensory experiences that were designed to push your senses and your mind to the limit. The other sections were "Explore" which was a very hands-on experience – it concentrated on what can be built and balanced; this section also contained glass panelling so that you could look down onto Belfast. "The studio" was aimed at displaying all things digital! There was a wide range of activities including the chance to design a character and to create a short stop motion video. The last section, "In our nature" was mainly focused around the four seasons and the changes that come with them, the water cycle and how our actions impact the world around us.

After this, we all went to a workshop. The workshop began by looking at roller coasters and learning about which ones were the fastest, longest, quickest and oldest. We were then given the chance of designing our own! Equipped with plastic railings and in groups with the people at our tables, we set out to safely transport a marble along our design and get points for danger, time and design. In some cases, our patience was tested to the limit as the plastic railings wouldn't cooperate.

After all our designing it was definitely time for lunch; we were given about half an hour to eat and the opportunity to grab something sweet from the shop.

As soon as lunch was finished, we headed to the second floor for some more exhibits; here we found a display named "The marvellous machine" which was actually multiple amazing machines instead of just one! Very soon there were cogs turning and things flying into the air. One of the machines was something similar to tug of war and that was definitely a favourite with the group I was in; suddenly everyone was lining up to show their strength (or lack of). "Move it" was the next section; its main attraction was an area where you could build your own model car and test it on a racetrack. The last section on this floor was "energise" which sadly very few people had time to explore, but it was focused on electricity and renewable power sources.

The last activity of the day was a climbing tower called "climbit", it was a selection of ovals positioned at different angles with the aim being to climb to the top and then back down, it was a bit of a struggle in some places

due to some people's height, but everyone made it back down safely.

We then departed on buses back to school, happy and exhausted from an amazing day out. I believe that everyone made memories that will last a lifetime! Thank you to all the amazing staff at W5 for creating such a welcoming atmosphere and for being very helpful.





Science Department

Science Outreach Day

Year 14 pupils reflect on their experiences assisting with the science outreach day with Primary 6



It was my privilege to help and guide a group of P6s on their visit to Banbridge Academy. On their visit to a chemistry classroom they were able to perform a number of experiments, such as applying different indicators to various acids and bases, doing flame tests with sodium, copper, and lithium ions and even making their own sparklers. I was amused to see their awe at the flame tests - something that I had to painstakingly memorise prior to exams. Overall, I am sure a fun day was had by the children and I have no doubt some of them will return to Banbridge Academy to study chemistry in the future.

- Jacob Porter

The younger students had a blast in the physics department as they experimented with static charge. Their first challenge was to make paper stick to balloons and move small strips of plastic bags just by holding their hands nearby. Following that they attempted to direct rulers and bubbles using static charge that they generated themselves with their ties. Their final challenge was to race cans down the table in a head to head battle, using a static charged ruler to move them. They also got to see a Van der Graaf generator in action.

-Josh Glover

I really enjoyed taking younger pupils around the Academy for our first ever Science Outreach Day! I especially liked the biology station, where pupils worked against the clock to solve the escape room challenge and discover the treasure that awaited them. We started with a video outlining the history behind local hero Captain Francis Crozier and the mysterious circumstances around his death. The children took part in a series of tasks including code breaking, science problems and piecing together a puzzle. While we were unable to locate Captain Crozier's remains, their efforts were rewarded with a sweet sticky treat!

- Kiera McQuaid



Science Department

A Question of Taste: DNA Workshop

In the Spring term the Biology teaching staff organised a trip to W5 to give our Year 13 pupils some practical experience of experimental work with DNA. The Year 14 Biology syllabus has a large topic on gene technology, so we saw this as a great opportunity to get a trip out of school, learn some interesting Biology and carry out practical work that cannot be completed in school.

With such large pupil numbers in Biology at A-level, the trip had to run over 3 days so all pupils had the opportunity to attend. Mrs Tully and Miss Anderson accompanied the pupils on the first day and both were very impressed with the organisation and delivery of the workshop and the high standards of behaviour and engagement from our pupils. The workshop was based on the theme: 'A Question of Taste'. The pupils were asked to take a simple taste test to begin the session. Paper strips impregnated with a chemical called Phenylthiocarbamide (or PTC for short), were given out. Whether or not one can taste the chemical is down to genetics. Some of us are born 'Tasters'



(if we have inherited a dominant copy of the TAS2R38 gene for tasting from one or both our parents), whilst others are born 'Non-Tasters' (if we have inherited two recessive copies of the gene). PTC is a chemical found in brussel sprouts, so 'Tasters' generally dislike sprouts as the chemical has a bitter taste.

The pupils then extracted their own DNA from their cheek cells and carried out a PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) procedure to make many (23 billion to be precise!) copies of their own TAS2R38 gene.

After lunch a procedure known as a 'Restriction Digest' was completed. This involved chopping up their amplified DNA sample with a special enzyme called a restriction enzyme, which makes targeted cuts in DNA at the TAS2R38 gene. Individuals who

have inherited two dominant copies of the gene from their parents will have 2 fragments of DNA produced as a result of the restriction digest; individuals who have inherited one dominant and one recessive copy of the gene will have 3 fragments of DNA produced and those who have inherited two recessive copies of the gene, will have 1 fragment of DNA produced.

In the final stage of the experiment, the pupils used a technique called 'Gel Electrophoresis' to separate their fragments of DNA. Using an electric current and radioactive labelling, it is possible to separate and visualise fragments of DNA based on their size, thus producing a Genetic Fingerprint. The pupils could then use the results of the electrophoresis to determine their own genotype for the TAS2R38 gene and if it matched their ability/inability to taste the PTC chemical.



Physics Department

Orbits Program

Thomas Dean

Have you ever wondered how the universe was formed and how it progressed from there?

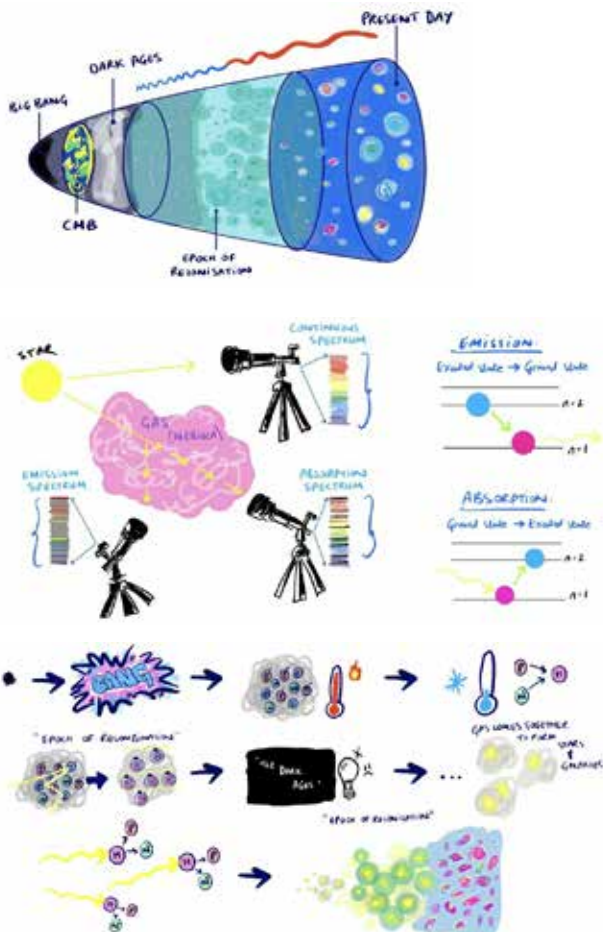
Over 10 weeks from February to June, Dylan Stewart and I participated in the Orbits program. This was a program from UCL, where school students were given the opportunity to help with research in Astrophysics by handling and processing real data. From the Art rooms on Wednesday afternoons, we used Python programs on Google Colab to analyse the spectra of mid-redshift galaxies ($z=2-5$, the Z parameter being a measure of redshift), looking at various spectral

lines such as Lyman-alpha, Carbon III and Helium II, in order to try and find out whether star-forming or active galaxies played a larger role in the epoch of reionization.

The epoch of reionization was a period in which the universe, having become de-ionised 300,000 years after the Big Bang, was re-ionised by light from the first stars, leading to the universe being almost completely ionised today. In the first half of the program we looked at a mix of galaxies, and in the second half we looked at galaxies of specific redshifts- me looking at galaxies with redshift over 4 and Dylan looking at galaxies with redshift

between 2 and 3, to try and compare and contrast the different spectral lines at different redshifts. We each analysed the spectra of around 20 galaxies and at the end I presented our findings to a virtual conference attended by faculty of UCL and answered questions about our findings, such as how the values were obtained and how AGN's and SFG's can be differentiated.

I would like to thank past pupil and program instructor Mark Cunningham as well as Mr. Stewart for organising and running the program.





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Senior Dance Team

Mia Downey

As the school year began, we all enthusiastically waited for Mrs Neill to announce the reformation of dance team. After not being able to compete for a year due COVID-19, pupils from all year groups were eager to try out for the team. After one quick audition, we split into the junior and senior teams and the hard work began!

We began rehearsals the following week with our coach Ruth Cobb, who worked us hard right from the beginning. We immediately started the choreography for our chosen routine. Ruth had selected the song "You don't even know it" from the hit musical "Everyone's talking about Jamie". It was a dynamic routine which was full of energy yet packed with technical dance. We would learn the choreography with Ruth for 30 minutes and then spent a further 30 minutes cleaning up the routine with Miss Warnock in the Drama Studio. After the first few months of rehearsals Ruth decided to challenge us by entering a second routine, a lyrical dance to "Symphony" by Zara Larsson. It was a big jump from the high energy jazz routine to the delicate lyrical piece, but with lots of extra rehearsals and support from our teachers both



routines looked slick.

Finally, after months of rehearsals, the time came for us to head to our first competition NICMAC in mid-March. We nervously boarded the bus in our brand-new dance team quarter zips and headed to Lisburn Leisure Plex. We were all anxious yet excited to perform. The atmosphere and the support from the audience was incredible and we couldn't wait to get on that stage in our fabulous costumes. We ran on the floor with our heads held high as we knew we had the support of Ruth, Miss

Warnock, Mrs Neill and the juniors. We danced our hearts out and gave both routines our all. After a quick break, the part we were all waiting for arrived...the awards. Both teams sat in a massive circle knowing that no matter the outcome, we had all given everything we had. We were delighted that "You don't even know it" placed third! Knowing the standard of our competition, we knew it was a great achievement to come away with a medal. Our faces lit up as we definitely felt a great difference between how we boarded the bus that morning, and





how excited we were that afternoon. Unfortunately, our lyrical piece didn't place, yet we left feeling more determined than ever. After a quick trip to McDonald's, we returned to school with smiles on our faces.

With our final competition quickly approaching we got straight back into the sports hall and continued practising with Ruth. Our final competition was the Ulster's, which was being held in the Eikon centre. Knowing this would be our final time dancing these routines together, we gave it everything we had. We were overjoyed to find out that we had

placed first in both of our routines! It was an incredible way to end the year knowing that everyone's hard work had paid off.

This year, some of the dancers had the opportunity to perform duets and trios. The lyrical trio choreographed and performed by Year 13 pupils Mia Downey, Ruby Bushby and Lauren Bell placed first at NICMAC and at Ulster's! Samara Radcliffe and Caitlyn Colgan (Year 13) performed a duet choreographed by Miss Warnock, which placed 3rd in the intermediate section at Ulster's. Year 14 pupils, Leah Crawford and Mia McAviney performed



a moving duet to Celine Dion which placed 3rd in the senior section at Ulster's!

On behalf of the entire team, I would like to thank Ruth, our choreographer and coach for her creative direction, dedication and for always pushing us to be our best! I'd also like to thank Mrs Neill and Miss Warnock as without them dance team would never have happened! Their dedication, support and hard work is so appreciated as dance team played a big part of our school lives. Thank you for always cheering us on!



Junior Dance Team

Freya Downey

After missing out on dance class over the last 2 years due to the pandemic, everyone was eager for a brand-new year, exciting new routines and competitions.

Our dedicated dance teacher, Ruth Cobb, kindly came into school every Friday afternoon and taught us our brand-new routine. Our chosen routine for the Junior Dance Team was "The Schuyler Sisters" from the musical Hamilton, a dynamic number loved by all. We started rehearsing in September and after weeks of dance practice, falling over, messing up (but with lots of fun and smiles), we all pulled together, and everyone played their part. We looked amazing!

In March 2022, we had NICMAC - our first dance competition of the year. We all looked very stylish in our dance costumes, and we were all very excited to show off our hard work. We danced our very best and gave it our all, but sadly we didn't place...this time! Although everyone was disappointed, Ruth and the teachers restored our confidence and reminded us that we had to work harder for the Ulster's competition which was coming up in a couple of weeks, and that's exactly what we did.

Over the next few weeks, we had to make sure everyone was perfect. The day finally arrived; we all eagerly ran onto the bus, attempting to conceal the fact that we were all very nervous. However, we still laughed and sang throughout the journey to the Eikon Centre...we had finally arrived! We were one of the dances in the afternoon so all we could do until then was remain calm, practise, be patient and watch everyone else. The competition was very intimidating and of a very high standard. We waited for our turn with butterflies in our stomachs.

When the time came, we walked on



with our shoulders back and heads held high...ready for action. Show time! As we ran on to perform, it was so reassuring to hear all the seniors and Mrs Neill and Miss Warnock cheering us on and this made us determined to try our best and that's exactly what we did! When the music started to fade, we all took a bow and had massive smiles on our faces; we did it! Then, there was the agonising wait for the results! It felt endless. The team and I stood in the middle of the stage and waited for our category to be announced. We all held our breaths in anticipation and crossed our fingers.

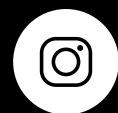
Finally, we heard the adjudicator announce, "First place goes to... Banbridge Academy with The Schuyler Sisters!" We all leapt up and cheered whilst everyone clapped as we walked up and grabbed our gold medals, which the team and our amazing teachers worked so very hard for. I am now so excited for this year and finding out what Ruth and the teachers have planned for us! To celebrate another successful year of junior dance team, the teachers organised a celebration for us at "The Vault" in Banbridge. It was a great night spent with friends, pizza and even some prizes!

Thank you so much to Ruth, Mrs Neill, and Miss Warnock for all their help and dedication. We are so thankful and happy that everyone's hard work paid off!



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Bar Mock Trial

Isabelle McKenzie

At the beginning of September 2021, a group of sixth form students who were interested in participating in the Bar Mock Trial each prepared a discursive speech on a current topic. This was presented to Miss McClelland who, based on the quality of the speech and the confidence of the delivery, then chose pupils to fill the roles of barrister, witness, court clerk, usher and jury.

As soon as practices began, both the barristers and witnesses were given their roles, quickly discovering the challenges ahead. Once familiarised with the cases, the barristers began to assemble their questions, which were to be put to the witnesses. Barristers had to prepare two questions for both cases (examinations in chief and cross examinations) alongside opening and closing speeches. Both of these were to be kept to a tight time limit, which had to be followed meticulously. The prosecution barristers were Abigail Noke, Daniel Moore and Catherine Lonsdale, while the defence barristers were Lara Crothers and Ben Greer.

Meanwhile, the witnesses of Joe Magee, Dylan Harrison, Owen Evans, Rose Widdis, Mia Downey, Simone



Kucina, Kiera McQuaid, Aoife Magowan, Isabelle McKenzie, Pushti Patel and Ellie Lindsay were tasked with memorising the statements specific to their character. A thorough knowledge of these answers was essential for the examination in chief but was particularly important for the cross examination, during which the witness would be rigorously questioned by a barrister from one of the other schools. Here, they had to answer in line with their statement and give convincing responses to a series of unknown questions designed to put them on the spot.

Practice took place every Wednesday from 1:45 until 3:20. This time was extremely valuable not just for rehearsal purposes, but also as it provided an opportunity to ask for and receive feedback from the two barristers who had volunteered to help the team, Severina Kelley and Vikki Singer, both of whom are past pupils of Banbridge Academy. Sev and Vikki were invaluable in explaining more about the legal system and the process of a court trial.

The first case to learn for the competition was R v Summers and was a case concerning intimidation of a witness, while Case 2 was R v Piper where Alex Piper was accused of causing Actual Bodily Harm. Both were complex cases which, in their own ways proved to be challenging. All the team members dedicated hours of their time preparing for whatever they could be asked on competition day. We worked closely as a team and as the competition grew closer, the work began to pay off. Speeches were finalised, answers perfected, and both were rehearsed down to the second.





and expert help was paramount in our preparation for this competition. From advice on writing the opening and closing speeches and guidance on writing questions, the whole team is hugely grateful for their expert help throughout our preparations, we could not have done it without them.

In conclusion, to anyone who has a passion for advocacy or Law and feels that the Bar Mock Trial challenge may interest them - get involved! Our past and current teams have had students from all subject backgrounds including science, mathematics, languages, and drama. Bar Mock can truly be enjoyed by anyone. Our Year 13 members would like to wish the Year 14 the best of luck in their paths to further education as they move on from Banbridge Academy. Those taking part in Bar Mock Trial in 2022 – 2023 are looking forward to competing in person for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic and we can't wait to get started and hopefully improve on last year's result.

Due to Covid restrictions, we still had to compete through Microsoft Teams and were still unable to travel to the High Court in Belfast to perform the cases. This meant dealing with potential issues with sound cutting out and WIFI breaking up. We met in school early one Saturday in September fully prepared and ready to show what we could do. Luckily, things went smoothly, and the technology was on our side. We had to perform two cases back to back this year; during the competition we were set Case 1 twice - prosecution in Round 1 against St Patrick's Grammar and Defence in Round 3 against the Royal School Armagh and Prosecution of Case 2 against Belfast High School. We managed to win 2 out of 3 of our rounds thanks to genuine deliberations from the jury and the hard work and dedication of our teams of barristers and witnesses.

After being judged by a QC, a High Court judge and even a former Chief Justice we came a very creditable second place. Every team member gained valuable transferable skills and we learnt that Bar Mock Trial was often more challenging than expected and at times high pressure. I am confident that all of the team members would agree that everyone

can gain something from the experience. Whether a career in Law is your goal or something in a completely different field, what can be learned from participating in Bar Mock Trial can improve your skills in many areas of work. Our confidence improved, as well as our public speaking, teamwork and thinking on our feet. Despite the difficulty of having to compete online, our team still presented convincing cases throughout.

A special extra note of thanks must be given to our barristers Severina Kelley and Vikki Singer, as their attentive



Charity Report

J Leslie

Once again the pupils and staff proved their generosity this academic year by donating £6296.00 to various charities.

The year started with a collection to support local rugby star Rory Best with his "Miles to Mayo" appeal in aid of the Cancer Fund for Children. Altogether the school donated an impressive £600 to this worthwhile cause. NI Chest, Heart and Stroke Association, Action Mental Health and the NI Hospice also benefited from collections before the half-term break.

Children in Need took place in November and poppies were also sold this month to raise money for The Royal British Legion. Concern benefitted from a group of pupils who made the brave decision to give up social media for 24 hours, collecting £800 in the process. Beth Cordner was the top fundraiser in this event with an impressive £47.00 in sponsorship.

Before Christmas each form class filled two shoe boxes with gifts and toiletries to be sent around the world to help children less fortunate than themselves. This was coordinated through the charity Samaritan's Purse. A non-uniform day was held at the end of term with the proceeds helping the charity Books4Africa. The staff wore their Christmas jumpers to work collecting £500 for Save the Children.

The A2 PE class donated money to VIP to help the visually impaired from the proceeds of their organised coursework events. The Southern Area Hospice, RNIB, Autism NI and Comic Relief all received donations in the period before Easter. The school worked closely this year with Banbridge Rotary Club to support their work for the School Water Project - Kenya as well as Lifeline Radios - Zambia, donating a total of £500 to these worthy charities.



The final term saw donations for Simon Community, Anthony Nolan Trust, Epilepsy Action, Childline and the Alzheimer's Society. A special well done to class 9A (Miss McConkey's Form Class) who collected the most money in the weekly collections. As usual a massive thanks to all pupils and staff who donated so generously throughout the year, recommended charities to support and enabled so many worthwhile organisations to be helped.



Senior Debating

H Cartmill

This year saw the return of the Senior Debating Society with a group of dedicated enthusiasts turning up on Fridays at lunchtime in the Drama Studio. As always the newly elected committee put together an ambitious programme striking the balance between pre-planned and spontaneous debates in response to world events. Highlights from this year include:

- Is the Monarchy Fit for Purpose in the C21st?
- School Uniform Should Be

Abolished

- Should Covid Vaccinations Be Mandatory?
- Should N. Ireland Become a Flag Free Zone?
- Interventionist Foreign Policies Are Doomed to Failure
- Bearing Arms Makes a Country Safer
- How should we respond to the war in Ukraine?

Thanks are due to the committee, all of our speakers and participants and to

those who attended.

However special thanks are also due to Mr Graham who helped throughout the year by chairing and participating in numerous debates and attending all the others. His wit, extensive knowledge and humour make him a skilled debater and we will miss his input next year.

All in Years 11-14 are very welcome so please look out for the meetings in the notices in September.

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Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Mr Miskelly - Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator.

Due to the pandemic, we have not been able to run the award as normal for 2 years. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award comprises of 5 sections. In school we coordinate the Expedition section.

To prepare for our expeditions, we met each Friday afternoon for some classroom sessions which focused on expedition skills such as: - camp craft, cooking, first aid, map, compass skills.

With restrictions on camping and sharing tents finally easing this year, it was great to get pupils back into the hills. This is a summary of what we experienced this Expedition season.

Practice 1

Our first practice took place in March; this was a 2-day practice. We started at Hen track and headed towards our campsite at Gorsehill via Pigeon rock mountain. This was an opportunity to practise some basic navigation skills and get used to carrying the rucksacks. The weather on this occasion was great and ideal for walking. Some of the groups were caught messing about in the forest searching for their inner Ray Mears. When we caught up with them, we were not happy and chased them on. All groups arrived safely at camp in good time, where they put up a tent and cooked an evening meal, before parents arrived to pick them up. The next morning once all groups were back at Gorsehill, we then headed over Hare's gap and along the Brandy pad. The weather was very different, it was quite cloudy and windy on the higher ground. As some of the groups were not carrying big rucksacks, we thought we would bring them on a ridge walk to slow them down a little. This walk took us to Hare's gap; we then followed the Mourne wall along to summit Commedagh, the second highest peak in the Mournes. On the way up the climb at Commedagh the groups got some refreshment at 'Paddy's pipe', a natural spring on the side of Commedagh. All the groups then

made their way down to Slieve Donard car park in Newcastle to be collected by parents and get an ice cream!

Practice 2

Our second practice was on the first weekend in April. We started at Gamekeeper's Lodge in good conditions. Now that the groups had the experience of navigating in the Mournes, they were ready for the challenge of finding their own way to the campsite. Day 1 saw the groups head past Loughshannagh and Foffanny Dam and make their way towards Trassey track. All groups managed to navigate well and again made good time to camp, even after stopping for a hot chocolate at Meelmore Lodge Café. At Gorsehill campsite each group cooked a meal and pitched tents before parents picked them up.

Day 2, once parents had dropped all groups back at Gorsehill the routes took us through Tollymore forest park on a loop walk. This would test navigation skills with the maze of tracks in Tollymore. All groups made it back to camp in good time, without any coffee stops on this occasion. We had hoped to camp but as the temperature at night was forecast to be -2 degrees, we decided to wait until the third practice.

Day 3, after another night at home and well rested the groups were set for a longer day. With the clear sky at night, it was a cold start with blue skies. From Gorsehill we headed over to Trassey track and Hare's gap with each step the temperature was increasing. From Hare's gap some groups followed the Brandy pad, a route used by smugglers in the past, this brought them to the Bog of Donard for a welcome lunch stop. Other groups headed along the ridge walk taking in Commedagh before coming down to the Bog of Donard. From here it was a

simple walk down to Bloody Bridge car park in the heat, some groups took the opportunity to cool off in the river on the way down.

Practice 3

Our third practice started in the rain, the first time we experienced any rain during our training. We started at Gamekeeper's Lodge, a familiar spot. With waterproofs on the groups headed up Bann's Road to meet the Mourne wall, following the wall over Carn Mountain. The weather wasn't great as the groups made their way across to Ben Crom reservoir. The first camping the group experienced was a little further at Carricklittle track. The groups arrived a little damp and tired as they were carrying full packs now. The rain eased as the groups set camp and started to cook evening meals. This would turn out to be an experience that many would rather forget. During the night/early morning a bug hit the camp and throughout the next 2 days it affected several pupils. One pupil down at this point, the groups started off Day 2 in dry conditions, heading over Long Seefin following the wall. This route was quite boggy; Ronan Quinn ended up waist deep in a bog much to the delight of his group. The Blue group took some time to share a snack with a horse enroute, I think they were hoping to get their bags transported in return.



Following the wall to lunch at the Bog of Donard and then the familiar route along the Brandy pad and back to Gorsehill campsite. The second night camping took its toll and several more pupils were hit with the tummy bug.

Review 21/22

Day 3 was a long day, many struggled after 2 days walking with a full pack and 2 nights in a tent. We ended up cutting the walk a bit shorter on the third day as many more were struck with the tummy bug. The Red group was the only group to complete the full day that had been planned, so they earned the bragging rights. Special mention though to the Blue group, many suffering with tummy bugs decided to climb Slieve Muck on their route. All the groups were picked up at Hen track car park and nursed home by parents, armed with crocs for aching feet and basins for anything else!

Qualifying expedition

Any other year we normally travel to Wicklow for our expedition. With issues around Covid we were allowed to complete the Expedition in the Mourne. This meant that the groups were all now very familiar with the Mourne and their routes, however the weather we experienced certainly made for a challenging expedition.

As can be seen from the group photos, we experienced a lot of rain. Day 1 started out wet and the route took the groups over Ben Crom reservoir and down towards Carricklittle track. Most of the groups stopped here for lunch and some even managed to have a nap. Crowded House sing about 'four seasons in one day' and we experienced that on Day 1, we even had snow flurries on top of the Dam wall.

Day 2 was a pleasant day for walking; we had quite a bit of sunshine which was a welcome change but brought its own challenges. With the 'Taps off' type weather we were thankful that the tops stayed on but there were quite a few legs out. Many of the groups arrived at Gorsehill campsite with red legs and faces due to the lack of sun cream applied during the day. The staff were on hand to give out bottles of after sun to those in need. The mood in camp was good as the tents were up in the dry and all were well fed. The night would be a different matter! All were in their tents at 11pm and then the rain and wind came throughout the night. When the staff arrived to check

the campsite at 7am we were faced with carnage! Throughout the night the ground had become saturated. Sleeping bags were wet, tents were blown down, tent poles were snapped, tents were ripped. The pupils were moved out of the tents and put into the Barn at Gorsehill for some shelter before starting Day 3.



The route for Day 3 was changed due to the terrible weather and the groups were sent through Tollymore Forest park as it provided a bit more shelter. We avoided crossing at the stepping stones for obvious reasons. The groups returned to Gorsehill to pack up camp and return home to get dried out. With restrictions on camping due to Covid we didn't have to camp, this allowed us the opportunity to send pupils home for one night.



Day 4: the last day. After a good sleep and all dried out, the spirits were high for the last day. The route was familiar to all the groups. Thankfully the rain had stopped and the sun came out again. The groups made their way past Foffanny and Spelga Dam, which were nicely topped up after the previous night's rain. Safely navigating the river crossings and climbs enroute, all the groups arrived in good spirits at

Leitrim lodge car park, the end of their qualifying expedition.

Thanks to Mr T. Baxter, Mrs E. Spratt and Sammy for all their help and support throughout the year.

The Groups 2021-22



Red Group



Orange Group



Green Group



Purple Group



Blue Group

Engineering Society

D Stewart

As the first year of the Engineering Society took off, we welcomed many guests to speak about their various fields and the opportunities that present themselves within them. The first guest who joined us was Jordan Poots, a past pupil studying mechanical engineering. This was a great start to the society with lots of questions being answered and an inside scoop of life as a student. We were then joined by Kellie Cowan, an Electrical Engineer at NIE networks. This showed the great possibilities of electrical engineering and the opportunities that are available in the field.

These were just the first meetings that took place. We also welcomed a Civil Engineer who talked about the different fields inside civil engineering; a Software Engineer, who once again showed off the opportunity in that field; a Marine Engineer- a field that not so many knew of but which proved to be very interesting none-the-less. One of the most interesting guests we had was Scott McMurray, who started his own business using his engineering background. This showed us the opportunity for business and working for yourself within the engineering field.

We were then joined by another mechanical and electrical engineer, further exploring opportunities with apprenticeships in the fields and the benefits of these. The Engineering Society took off to a great start with consistent meetings and helped greatly in educating students about the field and the diversity within engineering .



Young Enterprise Company of the Year in the Southern Area

Safe and Sound

Banbridge Academy Year 13 student company "Safe and Sound" wanted to create products that would make a difference and therefore decided to tackle the issue of personal safety. After hearing many news reports of attacks they decided to create products that take positive steps towards a safer future for all. They designed, manufactured, and produced Stop Spiking Scrunchies, which have a hidden drinks cover to keep nights out safe from spiking. They also sold Personal Protection Alarms and Protective Portable Door Locks.

They reached out to the local community through social media pages and through trade fairs. Their products were placed in many local shops and restaurants including the Downshire Arms & Harry's Bar in Banbridge and Barrell and Bean in Dromore. Safe and Sound were overwhelmed by how enthusiastic local businesses were about their products and are so thankful that they supported them on their Young Enterprise Journey. They also made contact with ABC Council PCSP officers Lynette Cooke and William Stewart, who very kindly met to discuss their products and how they



could positively impact the local community. Their hard work ethic and sales skills gained them the award for "Company of the Year" in the Southern Area.



Centre of Excellence Award

Banbridge Academy were delighted to be one of six schools in Northern Ireland to receive their Centre of Excellence Award from Young Enterprise NI at the Titanic, Belfast. The award recognises the commitment by colleagues across the school to Enterprise and Entrepreneurial Education.

Young Enterprise NI Assessment

Well done to the 31 of our Year 13 Young Enterprise students who completed an assessment that was examined by the University of Ulster Business School. 15 passed with Distinction. Lara Crothers was one of the top 3 students in NI in the YE/Ulster University Assessment.





Senior Scripture Union



We were delighted to be able to have Scripture Union in person this year after 2 years of only meeting online. Alongside our main Thursday lunchtime meetings, we also met regularly at Spark, a prayer meeting held in Mr Beacom's room each morning before school with a short devotional shared by a pupil, and in Small Groups, which allowed pupils to build relationships with each other whilst discussing and growing in their faith.

Each Thursday lunchtime we had meetings in the assembly hall, where we had a time of praise and different speakers shared with us. We enjoyed our series of study on the book of Philippians and 1 John, as well as looking at a four-part bible study on a series called, 'What is the gospel?' From this study we were able to learn more about the message of the Gospel. We believe it is a message about God, who created a perfect world that was tainted by sin. God sent his one and only son the Lord Jesus to die on the cross for our sins, but He rose three days later so that we can have the opportunity to repent and turn away from sin through a living faith in Christ and one day spend eternity in Heaven.

As well as our weekly meetings we had various events throughout the year. We started off the year with a 'Welcome back to SU BBQ'. It was so encouraging to see the school pitches filled with pupils from all year groups, enjoying a time of fellowship, games and food. We also had a pupil and teacher panel, where pupils and teachers in school shared about their faith and how it can be challenging to stand out for God while, also focusing on the importance of church in a Christian's life.



The SU weekend was one of the highlights of the year in Castlewellan Castle. Colin Hylands from CEF, shared with us on the book of Hebrews focusing on 'Considering Jesus.' We had pupil led seminars tackling topics such as 'Trials and Tribulations' and 'Confidence in Christ.' We also enjoyed a panel where past pupils shared

advice and encouragement for the next step in their life. The weekend was fun packed, with a praise and testimony night, prayer workshops as well as quizzes and team challenges.

Another highlight of the year was our SU formal, which was held in Edenmore golf club. After dinner we had an epilogue focusing on how Jesus has always been King and He is still our King now. He is our Saviour, the only one who can secure our future in heaven seated at the right hand of God, but only through our acceptance of Him as our saviour. We also had awards followed by a social held by Kingsways events.



Our focus for SU this year was based on Matthew 28v19, 'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit'. Our aim is to share the good news of Jesus Christ in school and the wider community. As a SU we believe that God loves us as children of God and wants to display His love to others. We displayed His love through a collection of aid for the people of Ukraine, as we are deeply saddened by the events unfolding.

I would like to thank the SU committee who were involved in organising weekly meetings and events in school and for sacrificing their time to serve God. Our prayer as a committee is that



all in SU would know God's unfailing love and that as followers of Christ, we would be disciples that plant the seeds of the Gospel.

As a now past pupil, I pray that SU will continue to grow, and that the committee will be blessed as they serve God through the work of SU.

Junior Scripture Union

In 2021, after a COVID break, Junior SU returned, moving from its usual slot on Tuesday lunchtimes to Thursday break in the Gym. The bigger venue meant room for more people, more games and more fun.

This year our programme included a series on the lesser-known characters in the Bible and the attributes of Jesus. We also enjoyed visits from Crown Jesus Ministries who took us through the parables. Unfortunately we were not able to go on our annual weekend away but we compensated for this with a range of day trips and after-school activities.

The joint senior and junior SU barbecue allowed us all to get to know each other at the start of the year and later in that first term we went to Airtastic for bouncing, food and mini-golf.

After Christmas, the seniors held a quiz night and we celebrated the end of the year with a trip to Let's Go Hydro.

Junior SU is a great chance to share our love for Jesus and strengthen our relationship with Him and with each other. For anyone who is curious, or would like to find out more, we meet every Thursday break time in the Lecture Theatre and everyone in Years 8-10 is welcome.

Hope to see you there.



Ski Trip

Hana Merjava, Ina Merjava, Stephanie McArdle and Lilia McKinney



Last year we had the greatest privilege of being part of Banbridge Academy's infamous ski trip.

The night before was filled with anxiety, tension and anticipation as we awaited our COVID test results. The next morning we were all buzzing like a swarm of excited bees, as we carried our heavy bags to the bus. We quickly said goodbye to our parents and we were on our way!

The day of travelling from Banbridge,

to Dublin, to Verona and then the coach journey to Austria, was long and tedious but at 11pm we finally arrived and we were greeted with dinner.

We were up bright and early the next morning for our first ski session. Every day we had 4 hours of skiing and it is safe to say that our legs were tired and aching every evening. To brighten our moods the teachers organised fun activities every night including: bingo, quizzes, a late-night snow walk, bum boarding and a Valentine's Day disco,

where we saw some of the teachers' dance moves. Dancing with the ski instructors to YMCA and singing with Mr Erskine to Bohemian Rhapsody were some memorable moments.

After some of the evening activities, we were lucky enough to have hot chocolate to keep us warm in the snow. One of the greatest experiences was taking our pack lunch to the summit of the mountain behind our hotel and enjoying the most breathtaking views.



On the last day some of the teachers agreed to race us down the nursery slope behind the hotel. We won each time, but the best victory was by far when we took on and beat Mr McLoughlin and rumour has it, that it was caught on camera! However he did ask for a rematch, which he won, so technically we ended up with an honourable draw.

never skied before, it is an unforgettable experience and we would definitely recommend it to everyone.

The ski trip must be the best trip that Banbridge Academy offers, whether you are a skilled skier or you have



Wellbeing Ambassadors

Tanith Norton and Bea Kinkaid

The Champions programme is an EA Youth Service REACH scheme designed to enhance youth participation and to promote the emotional health and wellbeing framework in schools throughout Northern Ireland. The programme is designed to empower young people to be "champions" in their own school environment and have an active and meaningful role in embedding this framework. In this programme we looked at multiple areas of emotional health and wellbeing, and learnt how to be responsible and empathetic individuals on the front line for the mental health support framework in school.

Firstly, what is emotional health and wellbeing? Well it can be summarised as the description of how we think, feel and relate to ourselves and others and how we interpret the world around us. There are many things that affect our emotional health and wellbeing and we looked at 3 in this programme: personal identity, building positive relationships and self care. Personal identity is the concept we develop about ourselves that evolves over the course of our life. Consequently, having a positive personal identity i.e. a positive view of oneself better our mental health. Being able to build positive relationships is also an important factor in our emotional wellbeing as having meaningful personal relationships in our lives improves our sense of security and can help provide meaning in our lives. Lastly, learning how to take care of yourself can help manage stress, increase your energy and can also help maintain our self-confidence and self esteem.

By learning and understanding these key factors it helped us manage our own mental health but also allowed the ability to listen to others about their thoughts on each topic and how



they interpreted it. This allowed us to develop the skills to be responsible, empathetic individuals.

We, the Banbridge Academy Wellbeing Ambassadors, all strive to improve the mental health support framework in our school. The final aspect of our theory of emotional health and wellbeing concluded with leadership and mentoring. We learnt what it meant to be a REACH champion and how to implement the strategies learnt. We applied these strategies to our social-action project. This is a particular aspect we created together, that we could add to the school's emotional health and wellbeing framework to improve it. Our social-action project was to transform the quiet room beside the office hatch into a meaningful, relaxing environment that pupils could use at break and lunchtime to make new friends or simply to talk to someone new. It also lets us as Wellbeing Ambassadors to provide social cohesion through shared community experience. This has never been more important in a post-pandemic society and helps develop

everyone's communication and social skills.

We were given excellent opportunities to enhance our learning through a number of team-building events throughout the year, ranging from indoor puzzle solving and mental challenges to outdoor sports and physical activities. In order to enhance our role as Wellbeing ambassadors within the school, we attended the Anti-Bullying convention hosted at Newbridge High in which we were presented with scenarios where we had to adapt and work out the best possible way of solving problems; some challenges given were teamwork ones such as building the tallest tower from spaghetti and blu tack while still making sure it could stand up on its own and retain stability. We also presented our own powerpoints on the progress we were making and the improvements within school.

On one particularly frosty winter morning, we made our way up to Camlough Lake in Newry for canoeing, each of us wrapped up in as many

layers of clothing as we could manage! Once we arrived we put on our life jackets and got our equipment ready, before we were split into groups and instructed on how to correctly row before we pushed off and started our race across the lake. Working together we made sure not to hit our oars off each other, which was especially hard as some of us were a lot taller than others so it was a challenge to make sure everything ran smoothly. Rowing while standing up was tricky, as the boat shook rapidly under foot but once you managed to stand up it was easy to keep your balance.

Later in the year we made our second trip out for an activity day in Newry, making our way into a pavilion in the woods which thankfully gave us cover from the rain pouring down on us! We started with bushcraft activities and skills such as collecting firewood, tying secure knots and lighting the firewood using flint and steel-which was particularly hard with how wet everything was! The second part of the day was spent at the archery range, and after receiving our training and collecting our equipment we got right to it, receiving a lot of bruises from the string hitting our arms!



In conclusion, we are so thankful for all the opportunities we were provided with to learn and help build up our skills which we cannot wait to develop and use further with our work this year.



Banbridge Academy Association

Mrs A Wilson-Reid

Banbridge Academy Association (BAA) is a group of former pupils and parents supported by the teaching and ancillary staff within school.

BAA's focus is providing support at Open Night and also various other events throughout the year. We also fundraise to provide some extra financial support, to enable the varied range of extra-curricular activities offered to the pupils to continue. Our biggest aim is to foster the network between school, community and home. It is an enjoyable and rewarding experience for all involved.

BAA organises events throughout the school year, however over the past two years our activities and events have been curtailed due to COVID. On a positive note however, we did extend our community outreach and I shall give you a flavour of our efforts over the past year.

Christmas Cards

Thanks are extended to Mrs Evans and the Art Department for supporting this initiative. The Year 8 pupils relish the challenge of taking part in this activity, with one entry being selected each year as the school's Christmas Card.

Outreach

With the onset of COVID, BAA members wanted to reach out to those in our community who were isolated and in need, especially those with children at home. BAA, supported by pupils and staff, collected food and household items, which were donated to the 'J29' project for distribution to families throughout the community.

Last Christmas with the support of Mrs Evans and Mrs Dreaning, BAA also supported the 'J29' Christmas Appeal and 'Via Wings' in Dromore.

Food items and gifts for teenage boys and girls were distributed to those who may not have had anything at Christmas. This was a rewarding and enriching experience for BAA and has strengthened the link between community and school.

Catering

Unfortunately, it was not possible to provide our usual refreshments at sporting and school events due to COVID. However, towards the end of the school year we were able to reinstate the welcome refreshments for parents, staff, pupils and visitors at sporting events on several cold and blustery Saturdays on Mount Misery. It is our privilege to provide refreshments and, in this way, to give something back to the school.

With the easing of restrictions, it was nice to help with the annual Year 14 leavers' barbecue, an event enjoyed by the pupils and staff.

Chromebooks

BAA were successful in applying for a grant from Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Council. With the grant we were able to purchase several Chromebooks, which were distributed to pupils to support their learning and exam preparation at home. It is enriching and humbling to be able to support all the pupils in the school and we look forward to hearing about their future success. A special word of thanks to Mrs Evans for her ongoing support in ensuring this initiative was a success.

Car Wash

With the easing of restrictions, on a sunny Saturday BAA held a car wash. This was a great way to regroup and catch up with each other in person, as opposed to our usual zoom meetings.

Grateful thanks are extended to David Munroe for his donation of consumables and to Johnson's coffee for their sponsorship of coffee. Members provided traybakes, power washers, technical expertise and washed cars. The fellowship and craic was great!

Uniform Swap

What began as an end of year 'Swap and Sale' in 2020 has now mushroomed into a tremendously successful regular event. The aim of this initiative is to provide a facility where pre-loved, quality uniform and sports equipment can be swapped for a different size or purchased for a small fee. It is also great to help reduce waste and promote sustainability in the current climate.

The shop has a permanent home in school and opens on a monthly basis. We have extended our hours following feedback from parents and are now open on some Saturday mornings. We were also able to open on Results days in August and it was wonderful to be able to support pupils and parents as they prepared for a new school term.

I would like to thank all those who have supported my year in office and look forward to working with everyone to continue to support the school's staff and pupils.

The Association puts a lot of time and effort into organising events and I would call on all to help support and sustain our efforts for the good of all the pupils within the school. Everyone is warmly invited to attend our meetings and will be made most welcome. Even if you can volunteer at any of the events, we would love to see you there. A little help goes a long way!

House Reports

Crozier House Report

Rose Widdis

2021 saw a return to relative normal in terms of school life- and that (thankfully) included picking up where we left off with the annual House Competitions.

We kicked the year off with football on the front pitches, where Crozier put on a skilled performance in front of anyone who wanted something fun to watch at lunch. Our boys' teams came third overall, narrowly beaten by Waddell, whilst the girls came out on top thanks to competitive fervour all round. The girls also came out on top in the cross-country, with the boys following in close third, with a

combined total of 60 points which made us joint first with Waddell overall.

Then, at the end of term, we placed first again in the annual December House Quiz, demonstrating our general knowledge and intuitive skills whilst scoring a sweet 100 points and sending everyone home in a good holiday mood.

When we came back, the boys in blue took the basketball pitch by storm, coming out with another gold, whilst the girls also took an easy joint first which pushed us to first by nearly

90 points. Then in the summer, the U6 had a tug-of-war competition, in which Dunbar knocked us quickly into the dirt, leaving us defeated in 4th place. However, we got back up again and the sun blessed us for sports day- both the Crozier boys and girls placed second in their events overall, meaning that we came joint first again with 240 points at the end of the day!

So, at the end of the school year, we gladly took our place at the top of the podium with 772.5 points, and plan to maintain that 1st place standard this year.



House Reports

Dunbar

B Leslie and J Leslie

It was great to get a full return to house competitions again this year after the pandemic. Dunbar was represented by House Captains Will Russell and Emma McPolin, who did a great job organising competitions throughout the year.

The first events of the year were the football competitions; here we performed well in the boys' competitions, finishing third, and likewise in the girls' competitions we also finished third and everyone showed great skill and determination throughout. This was followed up by the cross country competitions. A massive crowd of people ran and in the boys' competition we did particularly well and finished second, however our girls were unfortunate to come in last place despite a strong showing in several categories.

The annual quiz at Christmas was a really enjoyable occasion, unfortunately we were unable to return to the normal mass table quiz format but it was still a really good

competition which, even though we came last, we thoroughly enjoyed! The basketball competitions followed and in the boys' basketball we finished in second position and in the girls' basketball we finished in third position; both competitions were extremely tight and hard-fought. A new competition this year was the Year 14 leavers Tug O' War. This was a massively fun competition, where both sets of boys and girls mixed together and had a very entertaining competition at lunchtime. It also resulted in a fantastic win for the Dunbar Tug O' War team who should be justly proud of their performance in their last house event for Banbridge Academy.

Sportsday returned this year after a long absence and what a day it turned out to be! The weather was absolutely glorious and the sun shone on a full day of athletic competition. Over 200 pupils took part and those not involved cheered on from the sidelines, as all of Years 8-11 enjoyed the spectacle. All the traditional athletics track & field

events were included as well as a golf chipping event and the ever popular Tug O' War competition to finish the day; the Ice cream van and the crepe truck were a big hit too! At the end of the day, when all the scores were added, the winners by the narrowest of margins were McWilliam with Dunbar coming in last place (but the scores were tight!) All in all, it was a fantastic day and everyone was delighted to get one of the school's big events back on track (pun intended) after a long time away.

Overall, unfortunately, Dunbar came in fourth place in the House Competition which was disappointing considering the huge amount of effort that went into competitions but it didn't distract from the fact that everyone had a fantastic experience and really enjoyed getting back into competitive house activities. Everyone is now looking forward to next year. Will we have a chance to redeem ourselves and hopefully move up the leaderboard and reclaim the house trophy?



House Reports

McWilliam House Report

J Glover and M Miskelly

It was the football competition to start us off this year. The rivalry between the houses was easily seen on the front rugby pitches. Unfortunately this competition was not for us this year as we finished 4th overall in both the girls' and boys' event, but a special mention must go to the senior girls as they won their year group.

Only a few days into November and it was time to think about the cross country. A massive thanks goes to all those hearty souls who came out to run around the grounds of the school twice. The result from that day was 2nd place in the girls' event and 4th in the boys' event. Special mention must go to Casey Cousins, Ellie Cousins, Zara McCormick, Anna McKernan, Daniel McKee, Owen Dobson and Simon Ferris, who were all either winners or runners up of their year group.

Christmas term always ends with a superb house quiz with the whole school taking part. Thanks firstly must go to Masters Miskelly, Irwin and Acheson for dreaming up the questions and to Mr Farrell for his compilation of the film and music rounds. The skill, time and effort to do this for us

is immense. At the end of two days of questions, we finished second in this close competition.

It was then February and with exams completed and analysed, it was time to head indoors to the sports hall. Basketball added something new for the boys and girls this year. This sport did not have the best results for us however as we finished last in the girls (overall) and third equal in the boys. Better luck needed for next year!

We felt that the Year 14 should have a final competition to celebrate their final year at school and with fond memories of the enthusiastic and competitive edge, we decided on a mixed tug-of-war. So the battle commenced at break time on a glorious Thursday 7th April. After a lot of laughter, sweat, tense muscles, painful hands, blisters and hoarse staff members, we finished third.

Traditionally the last competition of the year is Sports Day. We could not have planned for better weather. The sun shone and we even had two different sellers of ice cream to keep the spectators happy. The pressure

was on as we had WON the trophy in 2018 – the last time we managed to hold the event, could we retain it? We had great races, throws, golf swings, and jumps, not to mention the puffing and panting of the tug of war. Once again, going into the final relays it was too close to call with only a handful of points between the Houses. With the help of the Year 11 boys and 9 & 10 girls winning their races, we were announced as WINNERS of the House Sports Day Competition. Needless to say I was a little more restrained this year (no embarrassing jig was seen!!!).

With all scores tallied it was time to announce the final House totals. Congratulations once again to Crozier who retain the Griffin House Trophy. We were in third place behind Crozier and Waddell.

Our last thanks have to go to each and every one of our little lions and lionesses who put their best paw forward and entered any of this year's competitions or who came out to support their team mates. We will be seeing you again soon!



House Reports

Waddell House Report

Conor Doyle

The mighty Waddell ducks once again performed fantastically in the House tournaments this year, doing well across the wide range of the activities on offer.

The House competition started off with the ever-popular house football. We started off superbly in the boys' football, with many of our players scoring clinical goals to top that activity. The girls closely matched this coming second in the girls' football, with some excellent displays by them.

Following this we had a huge effort in the boys' cross country, which led to us also coming top of that competition. The girls helped us with a huge joint win in the girls' basketball. On top of this, they also came first in the girls' sports day which helped us massively getting points on the board. Thanks to all the efforts of everyone involved we finished second in another very successful year of sports for our house. Some special mentions to some of our top point scorers must go to Ryan Hanna, who scored a whopping 22 points in individual events, the girls did equally as well with Grace Wills and Abbi Harrison both scoring an impressive 16 points each and Alyssa Somerville scoring 18 points. Thanks to these people and many more fellow Waddellians, we finished with a very impressive score on Sports Day. We also must give thanks to the teachers who helped us in letting us know when the competitions were and getting teams sorted. Without them, we would've been nowhere! If it wasn't for Mr Acheson's Jose Mourinho-esque coaching, we wouldn't have won the boys' football.

In conclusion, it was a great year for



the Waddell house with the boys and girls in green applying an amazing effort throughout the whole year and this is reflected in our result. With an impressive total of 705 points, we performed admirably and came 2nd overall, only narrowly missing out to Crozier who won overall. It shows how our House as a collective came together and performed superbly and we will continue to do this every year. Thank you to everyone involved and well done to the mighty ducks; let's do even better next year!



Boys' Hockey

Boys' Hockey 1st XI

Charlie and Louis Rowe (co-captains)



Coming out of a challenging couple of years due to the coronavirus, we weren't sure how this group would perform and gel together. After a few preseason games against multiple opponents, we began the McCullough Cup campaign with a comfortable 6-1 win against Regent House. Following that game we played RBAI without co-captain Charlie Rowe and managed another win with goals from Cody Large and Louis Rowe in a 2-0 victory at Havelock Park. To cap off the group games and secure a spot in the semi finals, we faced Sullivan Upper and picked apart easily to cruise to an 8-0 win.

The All Irelands' campaign commenced with fixtures spread throughout the whole year. Firstly we faced Munster side Villiers at a neutral venue in Dublin. It seemed to be a more challenging match for the Academy boys until the third quarter arrived, where we scored 5 goals while conceding one to leave the final score 8-1.

En route to the McCullough Cup

Final, we faced a strong Cookstown side in the semi final but sailed to a convincing 3-0 win. Between the semi and final we faced RBAI again, this time in the All-Ireland's where Charlie Rowe returned to help us to a comfortable 8-0 win including a hat-trick from Cody Large.

In early December we faced rivals Wallace High School in the McCullough Cup Final, where we fell into an unfamiliar losing position in the first quarter. This was quickly rectified following a link up between the co-captains to even the score. The score remained even until the fourth quarter when Cody Large gave Banbridge the goal they had been searching for. This goal opened the Wallace defence as another goal quickly followed by Louis Rowe again, which secured him the Man of the Match Award and the McCullough Cup for Banbridge Academy after a six year drought.

Following the Christmas break, the Academy boys did not slow down in any form as we faced Southern rivals Wesley College in the final All Irelands'

group match. We secured our spot in the All Ireland Finals Day with a 3-0 victory. Mr Jess and his team then began their Burney Cup campaign in early March, when we faced Campbell College in the quarter finals after a bye in the first round. A sudden challenge on Louis Rowe would cause a season-ending injury and a sense of franticness in the Banbridge defence where Campbell managed to equalise at 2-2. Charlie Rowe then stepped up



Banbridge Academy

Boys' Hockey

with two goals to make it 4-2 which saw Campbell fall apart, allowing an 8-2 victory for the Academy.

Next up was the semi finals, where a sense of déjà vu kicked in as we faced Cookstown again. With Louis Rowe out, someone else needed to step up. That person was Matthew McKee, who scored two goals accompanied by one from younger brother Adam and another by Ben Pollock, leading to a 4-2 victory and a spot in another final. A week later the final took place at Playball Stormont with again a matchup with a Lisburn rival (except this time it was Friends' School). Bann took the lead early through young gun Matthew Stevenson from a penalty corner but the lead was quickly whipped out by Friends' by a penalty corner of their own. Matthew Stevenson stepped up again from another penalty corner, converting his second effort to take the lead going into half time. After many valiant efforts from Banbridge they couldn't seem to break down the Friends'

defence until captain Charlie Rowe sliced through multiple defenders and slid the ball under the goalkeeper to put one hand on the cup for the Academy boys. Cody Large then added another to firmly secure the Ulster Double for Banbridge. Charlie Rowe took home the Man of the Match award this time.

After securing the double, the Academy boys had their eyes set on a treble to cap off an unbeaten season coming into the All-Ireland Finals day. We faced Middleton in the semi-final, where four different goal scorers allowed for a comfortable 4-0 victory to book their tickets to the final. Banbridge looked to finish their season on a high against Bandon Grammar in a thrilling final, which ended 2-2 in regular time and went to 8-second penalty shoot-out. Sadly, Bandon came out on top to claim the Tasmanian Shield.

Although a disappointing end to the season, overall it was one of the best



in the school's history with the team never losing a game in regular time. One of the main reasons for this great season was the coaching staff of Simon Jess and John Clark, who put endless hours and work into helping this team be successful and in shaping them into the team that they were by the end of the season.

Ulster Schools' John Minnis Estate Agents Burney Cup Final

Charlie and Louis Rowe (co-captains)

Banbridge Academy 4 – 1 Friends' School Lisburn

Banbridge Academy Senior Boys' are the Ulster Schools' Champions for the first time since 2016 after defeating Friends' School 4-1 in the Burney Cup final at the Playball Arena, Stormont.

In front of a raucous crowd, captain Charlie Rowe lifted high the most prestigious cup in schoolboy hockey as the Academy completed the provincial double following their McCullough Cup triumph in December.

The Academy's route to the Burney Cup final had been relatively straightforward. After a bye in Round 1, they defeated Campbell College 8-2 in the quarter-final with Charlie Rowe, Matthew McKee and Ben Pollock all scoring two goals each. Unfortunately during this match, influential forward Louis Rowe broke his collarbone to end his season early. The semi-final against Cookstown High School proved a more stern challenge for the Academy boys, but their dominance paid off as they won 4-2 after a stunning hat-trick from Matthew

McKee.

And so onto the final at Stormont against a Friends' side who the Academy had easily dispatched earlier in the season 8-0 and 5-0 in friendly matches. But a cup final was never going to be easy. The Academy lads got off to the perfect start when defender Matthew Stevenson scored his first goal of the season after converting a penalty corner drag low past the Friends' goalkeeper. However, if the Banbridge side thought this match was going to be all one-way traffic

Boys' Hockey



they were quickly proved wrong. A poor defensive tackle led to a Friends' penalty corner and after Connor Part in the Banbridge goal had made the initial save, Tom Archbold was on hand to tap in the equaliser.

The Academy regained the lead from another penalty corner in the second quarter. After the initial attempt was charged down, the ball broke kindly for Stevenson who slapped in his second goal. The Academy had complete control of possession as half-time approached but Scott Hosiack in the Friends' goal was inspired as he kept out efforts from McKee and Tommy Dobson.

After the break, Friends' became extremely defensive as they struggled to cope with the Banbridge onslaught. While Hosiack was keeping Friends' in the game at one end, they had little threat in attack as Stevenson was magnificent as he marshalled the

Academy backline. However it took a piece of magic from Charlie Rowe to make the game safe for the Academy. He picked the ball up in midfield and drove with speed and skill, cutting past four defenders, before sprinting along the by-line and lifting the ball over the advancing goalkeeper to score from a ridiculously tight angle. Minutes later the game was dead and buried when pressure from Matthew Spence saw the ball break to Cody Large in the circle who lashed a superb reverse stick shot high into the net to the delight of the large support of parents and pupils.

There were emotional scenes at the end of the match as the players celebrated a magnificent achievement as they completed the provincial season in Ulster winning every game. After putting in a man of the match performance, captain Charlie Rowe said afterwards that, "It was an amazing game with a great

atmosphere. This win now gives us more motivation and confidence heading into the All-Ireland's in Dublin. The only regret is that I couldn't play alongside my brother Louis due to his injury."

Banbridge Academy Boys' Hockey Senior Squad:

Connor Part(GK), Charlie Rowe(C), Matthew Stevenson, Aaron Baxter, Seb Best, Luke Watt, Ben Walker, Tom Hamilton, Tommy Dobson, Matthew McKee, Matthew Spence, Louis Rowe, Ben Farson, Cody Large, Ben Pollock, James Evans, Josh Brownlee, Adam McKee, Denver Golbey(GK)

2nd XI Boys' Hockey

Mr M Miskelly

With all the disruption and disappointment of our 2020/2021 season due to COVID, it was fantastic to get back to fulfilling regular fixtures and competing in cup competitions.

We started the season with a loss to Wallace which was only 1 of 2 losses this season, the second loss was more difficult to take as we lost to Wallace again in the Dowdall Cup Final.

In our second game of the season we played Friends' 2ndXI, coming away with a 4-0 win. Josh Cash scored a great reverse from the edge of the D and Matthew Spence was dominant in midfield. Both performances earned them a place on the 1stXI training panel.

Now that we had banished the memories of our first game, the team started to really gel and put in some great performances, just in time for our Cup matches in the Dowdall Cup and the Prior Shield.

A 7-0 victory away to RBAI, the 'old guard' of Kian Bingham, Cameron McCombe and Nathan Reid all appeared on the scoresheet.

In our second Prior Shield group match at home, we faced a much improved Friends' 2ndXI. We struggled to get into any rhythm and Friends' took an early lead after a defensive error. We managed to get an equaliser through some good play by Simon Ferris, with Nathan Reid getting the last touch on Simon's effort to make sure we went in level at half time. Another defensive lapse allowed Friends' to take the lead early in the second half. Although we rallied and created chances, we didn't level the scores until late in the



final quarter when Cameron McComb slotted the ball calmly into the Friends' goal. This was an important draw for us as it kept our qualification hopes alive from our group.

One of the best games of our season was a friendly against Bangor 1stXI, who drew with our 1stXI earlier in the year. This game was to help our preparations for the later stages of our cup competitions and proved invaluable. The team played superbly in this game. A strong defensive performance in the first half from the backline of: Joshua Moles, Lewis Cousins, Kian Bingham, Tom Hamilton and Charlie Keery, kept us in the game. We were 1-0 down with only a few minutes to go to half time. Daniel McHugh brought the scores level with a fantastic goal from the edge of the circle to shock the Bangor team.

Bangor started strongly and soon were ahead again in the 3rd quarter. The midfield of Ben Farson, Simon Ferris,

Thomas Cunningham and Lukas Moles all worked hard to create chances. We eventually got the well-deserved equaliser from persistent pressure. We ended the game in the ascendancy and were unlucky not to get a winner. Cameron McComb came close, just before the final whistle.

Having successfully reached both finals we were hopeful of picking up some silverware. In the Dowdall Cup we faced Wallace at Havelock and the team were excited about the prospect of a victory in front of a home crowd. Having lost to Wallace earlier in the season but then beating them 5-0 in the Prior shield, we were hoping for a similar performance. There wasn't much between the teams in the first quarter and it wasn't until the second quarter that we broke the deadlock through Josh Cash. Wallace started the second half strongly and were awarded lots of short corners, some were very questionable. We managed to defend these well, with Denver



Golbey playing an important role in goal. Eventually they scored and this shook our confidence and we never really recovered from it. Umpiring decisions were not going our way and it felt like it wasn't going to be our day. When we eventually were awarded a short corner, our first of the game compared to Wallace's 17, Josh Brownlee's drag flick was well defended. In the last 5 minutes of the match Wallace managed a second goal and despite our efforts we couldn't get an equaliser. The nature of this result was tough for us to take as we knew we hadn't played anywhere near

our potential. This meant that all our hopes of silverware this season were now dependent on the Prior Shield Final.

We faced a strong Portadown College 1stXI at Lurgan Junior High School in the Prior Shield Final, with Portadown College bringing a lot of support. Following our distraction in the Dowdall Cup Final we travelled with very few supporters, so that we could concentrate on our game.

The first quarter started end to end with both teams creating chances to

score. In the second quarter we began to have success up the right hand side of the pitch. The breakthrough came with Josh Cash playing a ball up to Josh Brownlee who rounded the keeper calmly to slot in our first goal. The main threat from Portadown College was from penalty corners. Before half-time Portadown won 2 short corners, but we defended these well.

In the second half we began to win a lot of penalty corners but were not able to convert any of these. Portadown battled hard and in the last 5 minutes of the match, with us down to 9 men after 2 green cards, Portadown were awarded a penalty corner. Fortunately for us they hit the crossbar with a drag flick. This was to be the last opportunity for both teams before the full time whistle. We deservedly were Prior Shield winners and even the heavy rain after the match couldn't dampen our spirits.

I would like to thank Charlie Keery for his Captaincy throughout the year. Thanks to Kian Bingham, Nathan Reid, Cameron McComb, Jack McFarland and Josh Holden for their commitment to training throughout their time at Banbridge Academy. It is my hope you continue to enjoy your hockey when you leave school.

It has been great for me to coach such a committed squad of players with such potential. Here's hoping towards an even more successful season in 2022/23.

Played	Won	Drew	Lost	Scored	Conceded
18	13	3	2	62	15

Matches

Date:	Team:	Score:	Date:	Team:	Score:
9/4/2021	Wallace	1-3	1/8/2022	Sullivan	1-1
9/18/2021	Friends'	4-0	1/22/2022	Friends'	1-0
9/25/2021	RBAI	7-0	1/29/2022	Bangor 1's	2-2
10/13/2021	Grosvenor	6-0	2/2/2022	Campbell	8-0
10/20/2021	Bangor	2-0	2/26/2022	Wallace	5-1
11/6/2021	RBAI	3-0	3/3/2022	Campbell	3-2
11/10/2021	Friends'	2-2	3/19/2022	Bangor	5-0
11/13/2021	Sullivan	3-0	3/23/2022	Wallace	1-2
11/17/2021	Kilkeel	7-2	4/6/2022	Portadown	1-0

Dowdall

Date:	Team:	Score:	Stage:
3/3/2022	Campbell	3-2	Quarter Final
3/19/2022	Bangor	5-0	Semi Final
3/23/2022	Wallace	1-2	Final

Boys' Hockey U15

Ben Thompson (Captain)

The boys had a very strong start to the season, with numerous victories against Friends', Methody, Bangor and Grosvenor, while being led by the tactical genius Mr Stewart. These early season games allowed Alfie Norris, Ollie Small and Adam McKee to rank up their goal tally, which would in turn help us throughout our Richardson Cup run.

The lead up to our Cup campaign saw us inherit a new coaching team including Mr Walker, Mr Jess and goalkeeper coach Mr Bingham. With more coaches came more games, against strong sides like Wallace and a trip to Dublin to play Wesley College. Throughout these games, Max Nicholson and Ben Thompson's centre back partnership was a solid platform for our defence.

The Richardson Cup started in March against Campbell College after



Ballyclare gave us a bye in the first round. We had a great victory over Campbell with Josh Osbourne, Mark Hanna and Adam Ewart controlling the midfield to send us through to the semi final against Sullivan. This was always going to be a tough game, but the boys showed what they were made of when the match went to penalty shuttles.

Goalkeeper James McCoy was a brick wall in nets whilst shuttle scorers Josh, Adam and Ben allowed the Bann boys through to the final where we dominated the game. The 5-0 scoreline reflected the dominance against RBAI and lifting the Cup was a very big high to end on after an undefeated season as an U15 squad.



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Boys' Hockey

Ulster Schools' Richardson Cup Final

Ben Thompson (Captain)



Banbridge Academy 5 – 0 Royal Belfast Academical Institution

The Banbridge Academy U15 team convincingly won the Richardson Cup at the Playball Arena to become the Ulster Schools' U15 Champions.

After several tight matches earlier in the season between the Academy and RBAI, this was expected to be a close final. The match started as expected with both teams being nervously defensive but RBAI had the best of the early chances, with Banbridge goalkeeper James McCoy making a number of impressive saves.

The Academy sprung to life mid-way through the first half when, from their first penalty corner, captain Ben Thompson fired the ball high into the side net to give Bann the lead to the delight of the large support. By half time, the lead had been doubled. Adam McKee played a wonderful through

ball to Alfie Norris who was brought down to give the Academy their second penalty corner. With everyone's eyes on Thompson, McKee stepped up this time to drag the ball across the keeper into the far corner.

Coaches Simon Jess and Colin Walker were thrilled with the half-time lead and the Academy boys grew in confidence throughout the second half. Max Nicholson and James Macauley worked tirelessly to thwart any RBAI attacks and Mark Hanna was a constant threat breaking from midfield. McKee further increased the lead when he stole the ball before going on a solo run and slipping the ball past the advancing goalkeeper.

After a succession of penalty corners, the ball eventually fell perfectly for Charlie Tumilty to slot in goal number four. McKee looked certain to complete his hat-trick when Josh Osborne fed him from midfield but

McKee rounded the goalkeeper only to see the ball bobble just wide of the post. However, McKee was determined not to miss out and just before the final whistle he scored to make it 5-0 and earn his well-deserved treble.

The immaculate Ben Thompson lifted the Richardson Cup high to cap a remarkable season for the Academy's U15 side.

Banbridge Academy Boys' Hockey U15 Squad:

James McCoy(GK), Ben Thompson(c), Adam McKee, Max Nicholson, Drew Copeland, Ryan Jess, Mark Hanna, Ollie Small, Alfie Norris, Tom Mawhinney, Shaun Ward, Michael McHugh, Josh Osborne, Charlie Tumilty, James Macauley, Adam Ewart, Sam Bingham

Boys' Hockey Under 14

C. Walker

Played: 18 Won: 10 Draw: 5
Lost: 3 Goals for: 40
Goals against: 13

Top Goalscorer – Josh Osborne (12)
Player of the Season – Josh Osborne
Most Improved Player – Adam Ewart

With full pitch 11-a-side hockey being new to the U14 boys due to missing so much sport during the pandemic, this season could not have got off to a better start with a morale boosting 9-1 defeat of Friends' School. The squad showed just what a talented bunch they are by following up this victory with a 7-0 thumping of Grosvenor Grammar. New pupil Josh Osborne quickly proved what a great addition he was to the squad, with seven goals in these two matches.

Captain Adam Ewart led a powerful midfield through all the pre-Christmas friendlies as the team suffered just one defeat, and that was to a very good RBAI squad. Bangor Grammar, Sullivan Upper and Cookstown High were all well dismissed, as were Campbell College when a Covid-depleted squad put in a courageous performance to dig out a 2-0 victory. One of the most consistent performers throughout the season was Jack Fleming in goal, who was nearly unbeatable at times as he laid his credentials to be a certain Ulster goalkeeper of the future. Stephen Grattan scored some crucial goals as he popped up seven times during the season to tap the ball home. Sam Bingham's speed and skill saw him score five goals as he was often on the end of an Osborne through-ball to out run the defence.

Due to other teams not playing their ties in time, the Ferris Cup campaign was squeezed into just two weeks.



After a bye in Round 1, Royal & Prior School from Donegal were the visitors to Havelock Park on a wet afternoon. The unknown quantity started the game well but the Academy boys soon found their rhythm and romped to a 6-0 victory with Ross McCombe scoring two goals. The semi-final away at Cookstown High was a daunting affair. A raucous and intimidating home

crowd unsettled the Academy boys as they struggled in the first half but composed themselves after the break to equalise through Owen Dobson and set up a penalty shootout. Jack Fleming was outstanding in goal as he saved all three of the Cookstown efforts and Ewart, Osborne and Michael McHugh all scored for the Academy. And so, on to the Ulster Schools'



Boys' Hockey

Ferris Cup final which was played at Havelock Park to the delight of the Academy support. The boys played very well but they could not get past an inspired Bangor Grammar goalkeeper. It seemed like countless efforts didn't go in as the Academy lads hit the crossbar and the post twice. A late Bangor goal from a penalty corner led to bitter disappointment for all at the final whistle.

By getting to the Ferris Cup final, the squad had qualified for the John Waring All Ireland U14 competition played at

Lisnagarvey Hockey Club. The one-day tournament saw the Academy finish in 3rd place, only missing out on the silver medals on goal difference, after defeating Munster's Newtown and St Andrews from Leinster. A draw with the squad's nemesis Bangor meant a win against Wesley College could see the boys clinch the title, but the Dublin side were worthy 4-1 winners. Star of the tournament was the Red Army's own Charlie Tumilty, who scored in two of the matches and created several other goals and chances.

I wish all the players the very best of luck next season in the Richardson Cup and there is no doubt sufficient talent in this group to be successful in that competition.

Squad: Jack Fleming (GK), Adam Ewart (C), Josh Osborne, Michael McHugh, James Macauley, Charlie Tumilty, Sam Bingham, Stephen Grattan, Moby Murdock, Andrew Grattan, Shaun Ward, Ross McCombe, Max Murphy, Owen Dobson, Daniel McKee, Harvey McBride, Adam Liggett, Noah Hansen, James Scanlon, Jamie Ramsey, Jay Nicholson.

U13 Boys' Hockey

Foreword by Mr Clarke (Coach) & Report by Ross McCombe (Captain)

It has been a great pleasure and joy to coach such a great bunch of lads in the U13 Hockey this year. Over the course of the year we have witnessed significant development, progress and growth among the boys, both individually and as a team. While the cup run ended prematurely, undoubtedly we witnessed a team who were more than willing to listen, learn and improve. It was amazing to see the return of some normality with a full hockey season completed, and full credit to all lads who trained and played throughout the long season. Over the course of the season, I note 3 moments of defining progress - defeating FSL after two defeats in earlier fixtures, narrowly losing 1-0 to RBAI after being demolished 7-0 earlier in the season and following a change in formation, going on to defeat KJHS 3-0 in the Bannister Bowl.

While it was an unfortunate loss to Cookstown in the Bannister Bowl, which could have been different on another day, we have embraced the lessons from it and aim to grow as a squad to be better next year.



I would like to conclude with a few notes of thanks:

- Ross and Shaun - who have led the team with distinction this school year;
- Sam Farson and Mr Cosgrove - for drilling the basics and helping to get us competing against the top Ulster schools;
- Mr Corder - for his unwavering support;
- Most importantly, all the boys who trained and played over the course of the year. Well done!

It is important that we continue to grow as a squad, build on the basics and go again next year.

U13 Cup Squad

Archie Knott
Andrew McQuiston
Shaun Ward (VC)
Elijah McKinstry
Charlie Patterson
Harvey McBride
Ross McCombe (C)
Adam Liggett

Boys' Hockey

Daniel McKee
Harry Gough
Isaac Steele
Matthew Patterson
Max Murphy
Patrick Murray
Owen Dobson
Thomas Chapman
Cameron Jones
Jay Nicholson

End of Season Captain's report

The U13s this year were led by Mr Clarke, ably supported by the fantastic coaching of Mr Cosgrove and Sam Farson on a Monday afternoon. This helped the squad to grow in confidence with the strict drilling to focus on basics. By doing the basics well, we were able to improve as individuals and as a team over the course of the season.

The team had a rocky start to the season with a hard fought 2-1 defeat to Wallace High followed by a 7-0 demolition at the hands of RBAI (eventual winners of the Bannister Bowl). However, as the season progressed with more focused training and a tweak to our formation and style of play, we grew as a team and started to play more flowing and attacking hockey. This change of tactics culminated in a fantastic 3-0 win against Killicomaine Junior High School in the first round of the Bannister Bowl. The season of progress culminated in a disappointing 1-0 loss to Cookstown High in the next round of the Cup. However, we know that with more hard work and determination, that we will be able to grow as a team.

Overall, there is some excellent talent across the squad, which was ably supported by the Year 8 boys who stepped up. Owen Dobson played a free role which linked up well with Max Murphy, contributing to many team goals across the season. A classic goal as a result of this was when Owen and Max linked up perfectly to find Harry Gough through the defensive line to score the opening goal against

KJHS. The change of formation allowed a very capable Daniel McKee to step into a solid back 5 to support Ross, Charlie, Shaun and Isaac. Daniel made some big game changing tackles, which allowed counter attacks to flow. Shaun, on the right, was able to push the ball forward to the front line which led to many back post goals by Elijah McKinstry. Archie Knott, reserve goalkeeper for the U14 Ferris Cup finalists, made some amazing and vital saves throughout the season and kept the team in the game on many occasions. Adam Liggett, came back into the squad after injury, making some incredible tackles and goal line clearances to help win games. In finishing, the squad is hungry to improve more next year and we look forward to improving and being even better. Thank you to our coaches and all lads who played a role in our season.

#excellencethroughtradition

Bannister Bowl Results

Game 1: Banbridge Academy 3-0 Killicomaine JHS (Dobson, Murphy, McCombe)

Game 2: Banbridge Academy 0-1 Cookstown HS



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Boys' Hockey

Boys' Hockey U12

Owen Dobson (captain)

Looking back on the season for the Year 8 team, we had a slow start as only a few people had played before getting to this school. However, a few weeks into the term and our team really started to develop. By the end of the season we were unbeaten in our age group and we really started to find our footing in this brilliant sport.

When it was nearing Cup season, we got more into full 11-a-side matches, as before Year 8 mainly played small pitch games. Our first competitive game in the Bannister Bowl was against Methody's Year 9 team and was a closer game than we expected. In the last few minutes we got a short corner and a rebound goal from Daniel McKee to take us through to the next round against Wallace's Year 9 side. Unfortunately a bad injury to Daniel just a few days before the match reduced our attacking strength against older boys and despite a close first half, we were well-beaten.

Nearing the end of the season we had our brilliant Oxford trip. We arrived, by boat and minibus, on Friday morning at Manchester Grammar School who gave us a hard match but fed us well after the match even though we won! We then went to RAF Cosford, who provided a nice place to rest for the night and gave us a tour of their hangar which was unreal. The next day we headed to Oxford for the big tournament. It was lots of fun to play in a tournament in a different country. Due to the hard work we put in, both of our teams won all their matches. I believe this was the first time some of us were away from their family for 5 days but I know everyone had a blast on tour and thank you to our coaches: Mr Cordner, Mr Walker, Sam Farson and



Peter Bingham for all the hours you put in throughout the season. Also thank you to this dedicated Year 8 squad.

Oxford Squad

Jay Nicholson
Cameron Jones
Harvey McBride
Adam Liggett
Adam McGerrigan
Oliver Wakeling
Daniel McKee
Joshua Quinn
Isaac Steele
Patrick Hart
Rueben Murdock
Oscar Niblock
Alexander Love
Owen Dobson



Girls' Hockey 1st XI

The 1st XI team had a fantastic season winning the Ulster Schools' Plate.

The team of fresh faces after a year's break in school competitions started the season off successfully with wins over Friends', Grosvenor and Sullivan. Cancellation of the Ulster Superleague meant the Belfast Telegraph Cup competition started early. With growing confidence and the team gelling well together, we started our Cup campaign against Strathearn. The first round of the Cup was a tough fight with both teams battling hard, but a superb play between Pippa Wilson and Amy Somerville put us ahead in the third quarter and the score remained sending us into the second round with a 1-0 win. For the next month the team worked extremely hard, aware that we would face a tough Armagh side in November. In spite of our best efforts in the second round of the Cup, Armagh Royal sealed the win in the third quarter leaving the score 0-3. The team showed great determination battling to the very end, but it wasn't to be and we were left very disappointed. Whilst the Cup run was cut short, we were determined to get something for all our hard work and quickly turned our attention to the Plate competition.

We welcomed Lurgan College to Havelock in December to begin our battle for the plate. After a slow start, Ellen Jack opened the scoring in the first quarter with a brilliant strike into the bottom corner, which helped the team get into the zone and hold possession for the rest of the game. One goal wasn't enough and in a well-worked short corner, the score was made 2-0 by Hannah Spence. The win boosted the team's confidence as we began training for the quarter-final of

the competition.

In the quarter final stage, we were drawn against long time rivals Belfast Royal Academy (who in the 2019/20 season beat us on run ins for a place in the Cup final). A strong desire to win and the added bonus of revenge, meant that we played the highest level of hockey we'd shown all season. From the start Ban girls controlled the game, rattling the Belfast side and forcing them to make mistakes with Pippa Wilson running rings round the



opposition's defence, firing in 2 goals in the first half. A period of pressure from BRA allowed them to snatch another goal, but we remained composed and the final whistle blew booking us a place in the semi-finals.

After cancellations due to covid cases we finally got our chance to fight for a place in the final against Sullivan at the end of February. Sullivan's pace from the whistle caught the team off guard and within minutes Sullivan opened the scoring with a penalty corner. However, we were not prepared

to be put out that easy and brilliant play across the pitch, lifted the level of hockey for the rest of the first quarter and into the second. Banbridge finally got our chance after numerous saves by the Sullivan keeper when Lucy Copes won a stroke, our youngest team member Abbi Harrison stepped up to take the first stroke of the season and to little surprise of the team she sent the ball soaring past the keeper. The second half of the game was all to fight for with the score 1-1, although we had finally settled and Sullivan

didn't see much of the ball. Going into the final quarter we were confident we could win without run ins and that we did. In the opening minutes a perfectly executed penalty corner saw Amy Somerville send the ball into the bottom corner; we kept pressure on Sullivan defence for the rest of the game and were very pleased to be on our way to the final with a 2-1 win.

Exactly two weeks later we travelled to Playball Stormont in the hope of coming home with gold medals and the plate in our hands. For the second



time in our competitive season we faced Strathearn, after beating them in the first round of the Cup. Eager to get ahead early, we put immediate pressure on the opposition and halfway through the first quarter Hannah Spence slotted the ball in at the post putting the team one up after a penalty corner. Only minutes later Pippa Wilson added another to the tally in a second short corner, so entering the second quarter we were 2-0 up. Strathearn didn't drop their heads and by the final whistle the score was drawn 2-2 sending the game to penalty run ins. Ruby Wilson, Ellen Jack, Pippa Wilson, Abbi Harrison and Hannah Spence all stepped up to take the run ins. Katie McCullough made some brilliant saves and after the first round of run ins, both sides had scored

3. Moving into sudden death, all 5 Ban girls scored beating Strathearn with a final score of 10-9. Lifting the plate was very satisfying and a testament of all the hard work and early Saturday mornings throughout the season. I could not be prouder of all the team accomplished this season and have thoroughly enjoyed my time on the 1st XI. The upper sixths (Lauren Hanna, Emily Mathers, Emma McPolin, Amy Somerville, Hannah Spence) wish the team the best of luck next season, and we are looking forward to supporting you from the sideline.

We could not have done it without our coach Neil Madeley, who always believed in us even when things weren't going to plan and gave up so much time throughout the season to

help us develop not only a team, but as individual players. A huge thank you also goes to assistant coach Hannah Buchanan, a former 1st XI captain, who coached, encouraged and motivated using her experience from previous years of school hockey throughout the season. The team would also like to extend thanks to Mrs Todd for organising girls' hockey matches for all teams and Mr McLoughlin for his continued sideline support.

Team:

Katie McCullough, Natalie Hale, Lauren Hanna, Hannah Spence, Emily Mathers, Abbi Harrison, Pippa Wilson, Ellen Jack, Amy Somerville, Lucy Copes, Ruby Wilson, Emma McPolin, Charlotte Waugh, Rebekah Baker, Lara Jameson, Leah Rodgers.



Girls' Hockey: 2nd XI

Tara McCambley 2nd XI Captain

All in all the 2nd XI girls had an excellent season of hockey, starting off the season strong with a friendly win against Grosvenor Grammar followed by two draws against strong sides, Ballyclare and Sullivan Upper. The next two matches of the season saw the girls secure a 1-0 win against Dromore High School's 1st XI and a 2-0 loss against Wallace High, setting them up nicely for the commencement of the McDowell Cup competition. In the first round of the Cup the girls once again met Grosvenor Grammar, beating them 4-0 and securing a place in the next round.

In the next round of the Cup the girls met Portadown College where they were narrowly beaten 1-0 for a place in the quarter final, bumping them into the quarter final of the McDowell Cup shield. After a well deserved Christmas break the girls were back and raring to go for the McDowell quarter final against Royal School Dungannon,



where a penalty corner goal won them the match in the final quarter of the game, allowing them to progress into the semi final of the shield. In the semi final the girls met Strathearn, hoping for a place in the final. Unfortunately Strathearn narrowly beat us, bringing the strong season to an unfortunate ending.

A big thank you definitely goes to our

two amazing coaches, Miss Anderson and Mrs Todd. They were so supportive and have given up a lot of their time to ensure that we have been as successful as possible.

Thank you to everyone on the team for making the 2021/22 season great fun and definitely one to remember!

Girls' Hockey: 2ndXI(B)

Joy Mawson (Captain)

The 2nd XI(B) season started with a lot of enthusiasm and energy as everyone was excited to be back at hockey after a rough couple of years with COVID. We started off strong with a great team and progressed swiftly through the league, however our victories were cut short when we played Ballymena. They were a strong side and both teams played well, however the score line was not enough to keep us in the league. This was disappointing as Banbridge definitely deserved a win.

After being dropped from the league morale was still high and everyone continued as a team, playing friendly and putting lots of effort into practice. Overall it was a great and fun season for the 2nd XI B team.



Girls' Hockey

Girls' Hockey: 3rd XI

Megan McPolin (Captain)

After having a break from playing due to the COVID restrictions, the 3XI hockey team was happy to get back to some normality with training and matches. The season wasn't as long and successful as we hoped it would be when we lost our cup game to Ballymena Academy away, at the start of the season. The game started even with good runs and opportunities being made by Grace Hamilton and Emma O'Neill. Despite a gutsy effort from our defence, Ballymena came through strong and got their goals. However

the team spirits still ran high as everyone still participated in training for a bit of fun and friendly matches that continued throughout the season, letting us play good hockey without the pressure of the cup, never letting our loss bring down our motivation to play.

The 3rds had a good year finding their confidence again after losing the cup and began working well together practising essential skills for the season ahead, with coaches Miss McCullough and Mrs Sally

always making training intense and challenging but enjoyable.



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Girls' Hockey

Girls' Hockey: U14a

Zara McCormick

My name is Zara McCormick and I was the captain of the under 14 A team last season and I'm going to tell you how we dominated through our season.

We started our season off strong, winning many matches which had opened up a space for our team in the junior cup. For our first match we travelled to Strabane. While we were nervous, we were still excited for the match and those nerves were soon gone as we worked well as a team and ended up winning 5-0! We continued to play Saturday morning matches some of them being Sullivan Upper, Grovenor, KJHS and Armagh Royal. As well as that, we played a good friendly against Sullivan. We met them again in our 2nd round of the cup and we came out on top winning an excellent 2-1. Later on in our cup we played Royal School Dungannon and as we normally did, we put all of our passion, hard work and determination into our match to come out on top once



again winning an amazing 4-1! All smiles were on display on the bus back. We had now made it to the ¼ final against Methodist college Belfast. MCB got a few early chances making their score go up, we still fought and worked together but in the end MCB beat us to it, even

though both teams played brilliantly.

I am very proud of the team and with the progress we have made, but we couldn't have done it without the help of our coaches Mrs Todd, Mr Bingham and Mr Campbell.



Girls' Hockey

Girls' Hockey: U14b

After missing a year of hockey the U14bs quickly got back to training as a team. Throughout the year each member of the team has grown to become a better and quicker player. We have made progress as a team and improved our hockey and professionalism on and off the pitch.

Our first match was away against Victoria College, Belfast. We started off strong with Zoe, Katherine, Carly and Grace as forwards. For the most part the match was played in the middle with neither side able to break through. Our strong defence team consisting of Sophia, Amy and Cady kept the ball clear from the net. The second half proved to be tricky with Victoria scoring an early goal; our determination did not fade however and we kept our heads up. Within the final minutes of the game we got a breakthrough Victoria's defence with Katherine scoring a goal, finalising the game to a 1-1 draw. This demonstrates the determination we had as a team.

We have had many tough matches this season against Wallace H.S, Kilkeel, Friends', Methody, Markethill, Tandragee and Armagh Royal. Each match has challenged our skill, determination and our ability to work as a team. Despite the fact some of our matches were played on gravel, we never gave up. We've had wins against Killicommaine JHS and Dromore HS, with goals from both Zoe and Shruti.

Zoe Acheson and Katerine McConnell have proved their skill, both being our top goal scorers this year. Sarah Liggett, Carly Fong and Shruti Suresh have worked hard in midfield keeping the ball moving, keeping it away from opponents and pushing forward.



Grace Monroe, Anna Russell, Leah Malcolmson and Kezia Hylands have worked tirelessly to get the ball towards the circle and into the opponent's net. Our defence team consisting of Sophia Brown, Amy Porter, Olivia McDowell and Cady Mcfarlane all have strived to keep the ball away from the net, proving to be strong and vital members of the team. Ellie Walker as Goalkeeper this season has played extremely well, saving many goals and being the eyes of the pitch.

Many thanks to the following squad members for their dedication and hard work towards training every afternoon and matches:

Ellie Walker
Amy Porter
Sarah Liggett
Sophia Brown
Katherine McConnell
Grace Monroe
Carly Fong (Captain)
Shruti Suresh
Cady Mcfarlane
Leah Malcolmson
Kezia Hylands

Zoe Acheson
Olivia McDowell
Anna Russell

I would also like to thank Dr Dobson and Mr Campbell for all their efforts influencing the way we play, keeping our fitness and skill up every week at training (even though none of us enjoyed it after a long day at school!) and helping us improve to become better and more skilful hockey players.



Girls' Hockey: U13a

Sophie Tate - U13a Captain

On Saturday 11th September the U13a team played their first match against Grosvenor Grammar School. We had a lot of dominance during the game and secured a 7 nil win. This was a great start to our season and gave us plenty of motivation to go into our next match against Methody CB when once again we found the goal and won 6 nil. After more Saturday morning matches, we faced Royal School Armagh on 4th December who were strong and defended well to have a nil all result.

2022 started with LJHS and we once again found ourselves dominating despite a few attacks from the Lurgan side and we won 2 nil. In the return fixture to Methody, we had to defend well against some fast attacks however with a lot of determination we won 5 nil. KJHS was one of last fixtures, and this was probably our most challenging yet; with the scoreline line of 1 nil going into the last few minutes we dug deep and managed to score with seconds to go winning the match 2 1.

Throughout the season we have all



progressed well as individuals and a team, overall we scored 28 goals, conceded 6, and in terms of matches we won 7, drew 1 and lost 3.

Many thanks to my team and to coaches throughout the year !

Team:

Ellie Walker
Charlotte Betts
Tara Kennedy
Clara Lewis

Kizzy Gley
Martha Malcomson
Charlotte Best
Grace McConville
Ella Marshall
Alyssa Somerville
Mya Jess
Sophie Tate(c)
Ruby Johnston (vc)
Katie Maginnis
Ciara Aiken
Emma Stewart
Allegra Muldrew

Girls' Hockey: U13b

This year the U13B team were ready to go from day one – but had a bit of a later start due to the COVID 19 pandemic, which put hockey on hold.

Despite this the team did not disappoint, and at the end of the season of eight matches we had four wins, three draws and only one loss.

On the 18th September we had our first

match against Victoria College. We got going and soon found that we were up against a strong team but by the end of the first half Lucy Farrell had scored a goal! The match finished 2 – 1 to Banbridge Academy – our second goal being scored by Allegra Muldrew.

The following week was played against Wallace High School and a hat trick from Martha Malcolmson secured a

great victory.

The next two matches left us with yet another win against Kilkeel High School and a draw against Dromore High School. We met Dromore High School again after Christmas and after losing possession a countless number of times and having to defend 13 short corners, we left with our first and only defeat.

Girls' Hockey

Girls' Hockey: U12

Last year many girls attended after school hockey, and so we had four different teams. Every single team got to play a match, no matter what level the players were at. The A team and B team competed in the Mid Ulster league, and the A team ended up in an amazing 2nd place!

We played 5 matches and scored a total of 13 goals, including an outstanding 6-0 against Killicomaine. In October, we had a halloween tournament, where everyone got to play in a team with their friends and dress up. Everyone really enjoyed themselves.

Those in C and D teams hosted Wallace High School in April in two good matches.

To finish off the season we had a Domino's pizza party!

A big thank you to our amazing coaches: Mrs Todd, Mrs Leslie and Mrs Sally, for teaching us great skills and making the hockey season fun for everyone.



The U12 team was as follows:

- Hannah Carswell
- Nancy McCusker
- Casey Cousins
- Harriett McClelland
- Sophie Little
- Abi Cherry
- Katie Leslie
- Evie Hobson
- Hannah Topping
- Maddison Wilson
- Kirsty Fisher
- Rachel Pollock
- Kirsty Fong
- Caitlyn Topping
- Rebecca McAnulty



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Rugby

1st XV Rugby

B. Leslie

After losing a full season to the Covid pandemic, it was great to get back to normality for this season and play an almost full schedule of games and a Schools' Cup campaign. The pre-season was elongated slightly to ensure a safe return to rugby for everyone but our first match in 18 months took place away to Omagh Academy where we put up a good fight, but looked understandably rusty, to lose out 7-38. This was followed by 3 close losses to Enniskillen RGS, Lurgan College and Limavady Grammar. Our season caught light with a fantastic 22-19 win against a strong Down High side. A disappointing loss 17-24 away to Belfast High was followed up by a well-deserved 15-7 win away to Portadown College and a 10-10 draw with RS Dungannon in a training game used as a pre-Schools' Cup warm-up.

Schools' Cup

In the first round of the Schools' Cup we had drawn Friends' School. The game, played at Banbridge Academy, was hampered by the wet and windy weather but both teams still put on a great display of attacking rugby and were full of endeavour. Banbridge, playing with the wind at their backs in the first half, opened the scoring with a long range penalty from Full Back Ryan Matthews after 7 minutes. They increased their lead on 20 minutes, when some good phase play led to Ulster U16 Hooker Connor Magee forcing his way over in the corner for a well-deserved try. Ryan Matthews was just wide with the extras. 10 Minutes later after some further pressure from the Academy and slick set play off, a scrum saw winger Ronan Quinn touch down in the corner after good play from No 8 and Captain Ben Bradshaw. Matthews was successful



with the conversion to give Banbridge a significant, but still precarious, 15-0 halftime lead.

The second half saw Friends' use the wind to force Banbridge into their own 22. After ten minutes some good play from the Friends' backs led to a score in the left-hand corner, but the difficult conversion was missed. This however proved to be the last score of the game as the Academy, playing into a strong wind and heavy rain tightened their grip on the game with some great phase play and some dogged defence. Flanker Marcus McNeill, a clear Man of the Match, was to the fore in this with endless carries and some bone-shuddering hits in defence. The team rallied around his lead and denied Friends' any real opportunities to close the gap. The final whistle blew to some relief and the players, and the large home crowd, celebrated a hard fought but well-earned 15-5 victory. Unfortunately, the win came at a cost with No 8 and Captain Ben Bradshaw breaking his jaw, which would see him miss the rest of the competitive season.

This fine Cup victory was followed up with an impressive 40-12 friendly win over Larne Grammar in a pre-Christmas run-out. We then played Down High again in early January, and with injuries starting to mount, we lost 12-35 while also losing another of our influential back row in flanker Ollie Norris to a broken hand.

Our next match was our Schools' Cup 3rd Rd game against local rivals Dromore High. Both sides put in a committed and industrious performance on a damp and dreary morning on Barban Hill. A large crowd had gathered to watch the local derby and despite the weather, both teams gave them plenty to cheer. Dromore got off to a fast start but determined defence by Banbridge Academy, led by 'Captain on the day' Marcus McNeill, repelled them at every attempt. It wasn't until the 20th minute that Dromore crossed the line for their first try. The score was unconverted. With the half drawing to a close, Banbridge were starting to tire as they were having to make a huge amount of

1st XV Rugby

B. Leslie



tackles and Dromore took advantage of this to score on 30 minutes and again on the stroke of halftime. The 1st try was converted leaving the score 0-17 at halftime. The second half saw a resurgence from the Academy boys and wing Dylan Stewart was a hair away from picking up a bouncing ball and dropping over for a score, but the greasy ball slipped from his grasp. Out half Daniel Hutchinson was also a 'whisker away' as he chased down a hack through and dived to try to ground the ball but a Dromore player also slid in and the referee deemed it a Scrum five. Throughout this period the Academy were playing their best rugby with Full back Ryan Matthews very much to the fore with some astute kicking. But it was Dromore who would have the final say when a good phase of play saw them pressure the line and they slid in for a score on the final whistle leading to a 24-0 defeat for the Academy. While the Academy boys were disappointed to lose, they can be very proud of their fighting performance against a seeded Dromore side who play great rugby. The players showed great character throughout and when they had the chance they played some really good attacking rugby.

As a result of this loss the Academy would play Grosvenor Grammar in the ¼ final of the Schools' Bowl. Unfortunately, a horrendously windy day blew away any chance the Academy had and we put in a much below par performance to lose 10-26 to exit the Bowl in disappointing fashion. Ironically the season finished a couple of weeks later at Grosvenor again, where we played a round robin tournament with Grosvenor and Dromore. We drew 0-0 in the first game and lost 7-0 v Dromore in the second to round off what was ultimately a really enjoyable season, where not only did we get back on the rugby field but we also put in some really good performances and played some brilliant rugby.

The Forwards

The front row was made up of Jonathan McCrum and Thomas Williamson at prop and Conor Magee at hooker. This was a unique mix as it is very rare indeed to have an all Year 12 front row at 1st XV level, but all three boys did brilliantly in their first seasons. Jonathan, a late convert to rugby, progressed magnificently throughout the season and his scrummaging and

ball carrying both improved immensely. Thomas also made good strides forward and is a constant threat over the ball and willing carrier. Hooker, Conor Magee, has an excellent all-around game and is becoming the complete package at hooker adding good throwing to his armoury. Conor was involved with Ulster U17 all season and has been rewarded with selection for the summer training squad. John McAlister also deserves a mention; John would have been our senior prop and is a very talented rugby player but unfortunately a heavy concussion early in the season meant his year was cut short. This was a disappointment for John and the team as he is such a quality player and strong character. The 2nd Row combination was Joel Good and Tom King. Joel took on responsibility for calling the lineout and led from the front in this. Joel was awarded the 'Clubman' trophy at the end of season award ceremony. Tom is a strong ball carrier and his lineout continues to improve. The back row was undoubtedly our strength though; led by No 8 and Captain Ben Bradshaw and supported by Flankers Marcus McNeill and Ollie Norris. Ben is a talismanic leader and great loose player. Unfortunately, injuries at both



the start and the end of the season meant his season was short but he was still influential throughout both on and off the pitch. Ollie, who was equally at home in the front row, had a brilliant season and was an immense ball carrier and hard worker and justifiably won the 'Most Improved Player' award. But our standout player was flanker Marcus McNeill. Marcus was the epitome of leading from the front. His work-rate, tackle count and ball carrying ability were second to none and his dominant tackle statistics would have been through the roof. Marcus was involved with Ulster U18 squads throughout lockdown and just missed out on selection for the Interpros. He was awarded Player of the Year at the end of season dinner. An exceptional season from an exceptional player. Henry Knox also played the majority of 1st XV games and he is quickly becoming a really good back row player with his work-rate and tackle count. Adam Logan was also involved many times and always put 100% into any game he played and was improving week-on-week. Jack Shaw, Ollie Kelly and James Seifert were also heavily involved throughout the season and all are young Year 12s with big futures ahead at senior level.

The Backs

Scrum-half was Noah Myles. Noah is a tenacious and industrious player who worked hard on his skill set and got the team moving forward. Fergus Alway made several appearances at scrum half and his quick service and bravery at the base will stand him in good stead in future years. Noah's half back partner was Daniel Hutchinson. Daniel was relatively new to the 10 position but grew into it throughout the season and has attacking flair and

an eye for a gap. Daniel was involved with Ulster U17 throughout the season. The centre pairing was Matthew Daly and Will Russell. Matthew has a gliding running style and picked some great lines in attack, while Will was the hard-hitting centre who worked tirelessly for the team and was always willing to carry the ball. On the wings were Ronan Quinn and Dylan Stewart. Ronan was industrious and dogged in defence while Dylan, after 5 years away from rugby, was ever present in attack looking to break down defences. At full back was Ryan Matthews who started at out-half, but revelled in the positional switch to 15 which saw him with more time and space to use his own formidable attacking game and kicking prowess. Jacques McCauley made many appearances both on the wing and at centre and has wonderful attacking flair and athleticism and is a strong defender. Luke Charman and Darragh Knox are two Yr 12 players who played several matches and both are strong attacking players who love nothing more than running with ball in hand. Luke was involved with the Ulster U17 squad throughout the season.

In addition to those detailed earlier the following players also represented the 1st XV during the season: Harry Wan, Daniel Lappin, Thomas Humphries, Ethan Vince, Adam Wightman, Joey Mackrell and Matthew Colvin.

The 1st XV playing record was:
 Played 16, Won 5, Lost 9, Drew 2.
 Points for 171, Points against 214.

Top points scorers:

	Tries	Penalties	Conversions	Drop Goal	Total Points
Ryan Matthews	2	7	15	-	61
Ronan Quinn	3	-	-	-	15
Jacques McCauley	3	-	-	-	15
Matthew Daly	3	-	-	-	15

Thanks

I would like to take this opportunity to thank a few people for their invaluable help throughout the season.

Thanks to Mr Roy Stevenson, Mr Robbie Ervine, Mr Brian O'Shaughnessy for all their coaching and help with the 1st XV throughout the season, their expertise and enthusiasm are greatly appreciated. Thanks also to Mr Charlie Farrell for his regular input with the senior teams; his contributions were always meaningful and positive for the team. Finally, thanks to the caretakers, and John Kernaghan in particular, for their hard work on Saturday mornings looking after the changing areas and grounds. Without the help of these people we could not have had such a successful and enjoyable season.



U16/2nd XV

Mr O'Shaughnessy

With the current Year 12 having missed out on the Medallion Shield in 2020/21 due to the pandemic, a newly formed U16 competition was set up to allow the players the chance to win some silverware. The U16 XV and the 2nd XV essentially became the same team for the first few months of the season. To get us back up and running again, RS Armagh came to Banbridge to play the U16 XV in a warm up game for the Cup Competition. The home side came away with a hard fought 15-14 victory with tries from Connor Magee, Darragh Knox and Jacques McCauley. The following week the 2nd XV then took on Omagh Academy away and narrowly lost 22-15, with two tries from centre Jamie Gibson and another try from Jacques McCauley. Our final U16 XV warm up game came with a resounding 28-0 home defeat to a very strong Enniskillen RGS side.

The U16 Cup competition drew us in a formidable group with Down HS, Dromore HS and Dalriada knowing that only the winners would progress to the final. First up was an away game against Down HS, which resulted in a narrow 13-12 victory for the Academy side. Fullback Luke Charman put in a superb all round display in horrendous conditions. Next up was Dromore HS at home which was won convincingly, 57-7. Medallion XV player Ryan Hanna scored with two tries, to get his Player of the Match award. Further tries were scored by Luke Charman (2), Jacques McCauley (2), Thomas Williamson, Harry Wan and Medallion XV Captain, Andrew Jackson. With Dalriada having beaten both Down HS and Dromore HS as well, it was semi-final time with the winner guaranteed to progress to the final. The match was played up in Dalriada and unfortunately the



Academy side were on the wrong end of a 15-10 defeat. All the players were superb that afternoon and deserved a place in the final, but it just wasn't to be. With the U16 competition now finished all the players were able to concentrate on either playing for the 1st or 2nd XV's.

The 2nd XV were finally able to put a run of games together against Down HS (twice) in the Cup competition against both Portadown College and Lurgan College. With the results not going their way the players showed remarkable commitment and enthusiasm each week. With injuries and unavailability, it was difficult to find the level of consistency needed at this level. A large number of 2nd XV players did get a chance to represent the 1st XV and definitely did themselves proud. The U16 XV managed to squeeze in an end of season friendly against a determined Rathfriland HS side, winning 42-7. The highlight of the game, and in fact the season, was substitute winger Joba Okikiolu scoring with his first touch in his first ever game of rugby! The season then concluded with the

2nd XV travelling to RS Dungannon. Although the result didn't go their way, it was pleasing to see Year 14 players Matthew Colvin, Angus Campbell and Rory Fergusson being acknowledged for their 7-year contribution to school rugby. A disappointing season overall but with the Medallion XV winning silverware and the U16 XV coming agonisingly close, senior rugby is in a good place for the next few years. Both the U16 and 2nd XV squads would like to thank Mr Leslie for all his help and also thank Roy Stevenson and Robbie Ervine for all their help and assistance too.



Rugby

Medallion XV

Mr O'Shaughnessy

Due to the pandemic, the 2021-22 Medallion rugby squad were able to complete a full season of rugby for the first time since Year 8 (2018-19) and what a season it was! 25 players turned up to our first session in September with a good few players having been to pre-season training in August with the senior squad. Banbridge RFC Development Officer Charlie Farrell and his wife Jemma joined the coaching team and were keen to see what this talented group of players could achieve.

The season started slowly with the team losing two of their first three games. A comprehensive 69-0 home win over Omagh Academy was sandwiched in between two away defeats to both RS Armagh (36-7) and Enniskillen RGS (31-14). The win over Omagh was significant, as 'stand in' outhalf Michael Porter scored an impressive 29 points with 3 tries and 7 conversions. With the intensity at training starting to step up, the squad then went on a three game winning streak seeing off Limavady GS (40-0), Down HS (34-0) and Belfast HS (57-14). Then came the turning point in the season, a disappointing 21-15 away defeat to Friends SL. The players felt that they deserved to win the game but realised that they had to make the extra effort if they wanted some success from the rest of the season.

Grosvenor GS were next up and felt the full force of the revitalised squad with a 60-0 demolition. Hooker Callum Little scored a superb hat-trick of tries. The start of the Medallion Shield (Round 2) saw us drawn against old rivals Dromore HS away. A resounding 43-0 win set us up nicely for the next round with a hat-trick of tries for number 8



Ryan Hanna, and two more for Callum Little, making their battle for top try scorer a two horse race. 2021 finished with a hard fought away win against a strong Larne GS side, 35-25. Our five tries were once again shared by Ryan Hanna (four) and Callum Little (one).

2022 started with the 3rd round of the Medallion Shield away to Rainey ES. After a titanic battle it was the home side who scraped a 13-7 victory, leaving the Academy side with the chance of some silverware in the Medallion Bowl competition. The quarter-final of the Bowl drew up yet another away game, this time against a determined Antrim GS side. Having conceded an early try the team then scored four superb team scores through Callum Little (two), Noah Bell and captain Andrew Jackson, leaving the final score 22-14.

Finally the home Cup tie came in the shape of Portadown College in the semi-final. With very little between both sides it was a score each from Ryan Hanna and Callum Little and a penalty from Andrew

Jackson to send the home side into the final, 17-7. Limavady GS were the opponents in the final, which was played at Ballymena Academy in horrendous conditions. Having led for most of the game through tries from Ryan Hanna and Jonathan Howard, Limavady threatened a comeback with a converted try five minutes from time, to trail by only four points. Academy winger Alfie Geoghegan had the final say with a try in the corner to leave the final score 19-10 to the victorious Academy side. Having played 15 games and only losing 4, the Medallion squad picked up the Team of the Year Award at the rugby end of season dinner. The four defeats came away from home, meaning that the squad finished the season unbeaten at home. Other winners included:

Captain - Andrew Jackson
 Player of the Year - Ryan Hanna
 Most Improved Player - Peter Lewis
 Top Try Scorer - Ryan Hanna (19)
 Top Points Scorer - Andrew Jackson (110)

Medallion XV

Mr O'Shaughnessy

The squad would like to pay particular thanks to coaches Charlie and Jemma Farrell for all their hard work throughout the season and to Mr Leslie for all his support. A special mention must also go to all the parents who turned up week in, week out to cheer

on the team. Five of the squad gained representation honours with various Ulster provincial squads, so we wish Callum Little, Ryan Hanna, Noah Bell, Andrew Jackson and Elijah Dempsey all the best and congratulate them on their success. Many of this squad will

return next year to fight for a place on the 1st XV, which in turn will only strengthen the 2nd XV. The future is bright for this talented group of players.

U14 XV

Noah Haughey – U14 Captain

The U14 rugby team, coached by Mr Beacom and Jemma Farrell, had yet another fantastic year with the team building in terms of speed and technique.

Despite having lower squad numbers than expected at times, the team still outperformed most of their rivals during games, showing pride, determination and drive.

For a few of the tougher games we were grateful for the support on the pitch by some of U13 squad, who showed their skills and encouraging signs of real talent within the younger age groups at Banbridge Academy Rugby.

Notable games this year included: wins against Larne, Friends' Lisburn, Armagh Royal and Clounagh Junior High (where we came away without 1 point scored against us). Some of the tougher matches were against Friends' at home, where the game was decided in the last phase of play when Max Ireland kicked a penalty to seal a 15-14 win and also against Belfast High, where we turned the game around to win 38-12.



2021/2022 has shown some real improvement in all the players; notable were Max Ireland and Arturs Jonuss who are both not long into their rugby careers at Banbridge Academy and played significant roles in the points scored this year. In a game against Omagh, Adrian Loggins showed his skill with a hat trick of tries. Also in many matches throughout the season, Alex Anderson was the man we all looked to as he scored up to two tries almost every game.

During this year's rugby awards held

at the Belmont Hotel, Miles Mawson came away with player of the year and Arturs Jonuss with the well-deserved most improved player.

Lastly, we wish to extend our gratitude to Jemma and Charlie Farrell, Mr Beacom and the whole U14 rugby squad for their hard work, dedication and commitment in training and matches this year.

We look forward to a successful new campaign as we enter into the Medallion Rugby season next year.

Rugby

U13 Rugby

Patrick McElroy - Captain

Our U13 rugby team had a mainly successful season. This included a nine game winning streak, which sadly came to an end when we narrowly lost a well-fought battle to Grosvenor 14-28.

The highlight of our winning streak was when we played Friends' School, Lisburn and we were down 14-28, we clawed back one try but with five minutes to go it seemed unlikely we could come back. We persevered and were awarded a penalty. Quickly, Sam Leslie advised Calum McMurray to cross field kick. With pinpoint precision Calum executed the kick and it landed perfectly in the goal area. Ethan scored the try. It was left to Calum with the last kick of the game and he skilfully scored the conversion.

Nearing the end of the season, we had a successful tournament in which we played some beautiful rugby. With close fought games and heart from the team we made it to the final where we had to meet Grosvenor, the hosts of the tournament, and also the team that put an end to our winning streak. Unfortunately we lost the final, but we can build from it and every loss is a lesson that we can use to win games in the future.

At the end of season awards, Sam Leslie won best player and Adam Boggs won most improved player, both highly deserved awards. Two other players that I would like to mention are Luke Wills and Allan Kenna. Luke Wills has improved massively this year, he is a key player in our team and fights for every ball and never backs down from a tackle. Allan Kenna is a solid prop, he is always there putting in a hard shift.



The team would also like to thank our coaches; our main coach Mr Reaney and our games coaches Mr Leslie and Mr O'Shaughnessy for staying with us throughout the year and improving our overall rugby ability. Also thanks to Adam Hanna for coaching us at the start of the year.



Under 12 A & B Rugby

The Under 12 had a great first season as Banbridge Academy rugby players. After two months of training to get everyone up to speed, their opening game of the year was A and B matches against Friends' School in Lisburn. In spite of a valiant effort from our players, unfortunately both teams lost out but it was still two really good games of rugby for their first ever proper rugby matches. The second games of the season were played on a wet and windy day against Down High School and both A and B teams put up a great fight, narrowly losing both matches. The Man of the Match Award was won by Connor McNamee for the A team and Patrick Porter for the B team. The next outings for both teams were against the Royal School, Dungannon where unfortunately again both teams came out on the losing side (but once again the scores were very tight.) Noah Thompson and Danny Scott were the 'Man of the Match Award' winners.

Next up however, we got our season truly underway with two good wins at both A and B level against local rivals Dromore High School. Man of the Match was Dawson Knox for the A team and Ethan Harris for the Bs. This was followed by two more good wins against Royal School, Armagh and here Charlie Geoghegan was the A team's 'Man of the Match' and Vaughan Hamilton was the B team's 'Man of the Match'. Our third set of wins in a row came when we travelled to Clounagh Junior High School; again our A team won well with Man of the Match being Jay Priestley and the B team also won comfortably, with Stephen Comiskey as Man of the Match. These were followed however by a reversal of fortune when Lurgan Junior High travelled over on a terrible winter's day



and won both games at A and B level. The next games saw two more wins, this time away to Killicomaine Junior High school. The As won in a very tight game and the Bs won comfortably; Man of the Match was Daniel Byrne for the A team and Ethan Harris for the B team .

Unfortunately, weather put an end to ties against Wallace High School so our next outing was a squad tournament at Down High where we had narrow losses to the hosts Down High School and then Royal School Dungannon. This was followed up by a good win against Dromore High in the Bowl semi-final but unfortunately we lost out to Killicomaine in the final. Our last games of the season were in the Master Shield Competition against our local rivals Dromore High once again. The B team had a comfortable win with Jesse McCauley as Man of the Match and the A Team followed a fantastic 6 tries to 5 victory to seal their points in the Master Shield, which was enough to help the Banbridge Academy

Medallion, U14, U13 and U12 win the Master Shield overall.

The Under 12s thoroughly enjoyed their first season at the End of Season Award Ceremony there were four A team players of the year: Dawson Knox, Daniel Byrne, Charlie Geoghegan and Conor McNamee. The B team players of the year were Riley Dixon and Carter Kenny.

All the players would like to thank their coaches Mr Erskine and Mr Baxter for all of their help on Wednesday afternoons and at matches. Adam Hanna should also get a special mention for all of his help and assistance with the under 12 teams this season.

The players now look forward to next year when they will play their first full schedule of fixtures; playing every Saturday and a number of mid-week games throughout the season.

Rugby

Rugby Awards Ceremony

Banbridge Academy held their annual Rugby Awards Ceremony in late March to mark the end of their season and honour the teams and standout players for all seven rugby teams in the school. The dinner took place in the Belmont Hotel on Wednesday 30th March, with 125 players and staff gathering to celebrate the school's rugby successes.

The special guest for the evening was the Ireland U20s Grand Slam winning Captain, Reuben Crothers. Reuben is a combative Back Row player who left Wallace High School in 2020 as a Schools' Cup winning Captain and was immediately signed to Ulster on an Academy contract. He has been involved in the Irish U20 Squad for 2 years and Captained the team to their very recent Six Nations and Grand Slam triumphs. Reuben spoke to congratulate all of the players on their efforts and encouraged those not fortunate enough to have received an award to keep working hard on their game and keep improving.

Headmaster, Mr Robin McLoughlin, passed on his congratulations to the coaches and players alike. He commended the players on their hard work throughout the season and congratulated them on another fine year in terms of results and performances. He also commented on the commitment of the coaching staff, namely the school staff of Brian Leslie, Brian O'Shaughnessy, Tim Baxter, Jonny Erskine, Chris Beacom and Jonathan Reaney and the outside coaches Roy Stevenson, Robbie Ervine, Charlie Farrell, Jemma Farrell, Adam Hanna, Troy Pinion and Harry Patterson; and paid tribute to their hard work in coaching, refereeing and organisation

of teams.

The performance of all the teams was commended and with five teams playing each Saturday and two Under 12 teams playing each Friday, the numbers playing the game are certainly on the rise. The highlight of the season was the fantastic performance of our Medallion XV to win the Medallion Bowl Competition and indeed the juniors in general to win the Masters Shield against Dromore High.

A full breakdown of the individual award winners is below:

U12 'A' XV

Players of Year: Dawson Knox
Daniel Byrne
Charlie Geoghegan
Conor McNamee

U12 'B' XV

Players of Year: Carter Kenny
Riley Dixon

U13 'A' XV

Captain: Patrick McElroy
Player of Year: Sam Leslie
Most Improved: Adam Boggs

U14 'A' XV

Captain: Noah Haughey
Player of Year: Miles Mawson
Most Improved: Arturs Jonuss

Medallion XV

Captain: Andrew Jackson
Player of Year: Ryan Hanna
Most Improved: Peter Lewis

2nd XV

Captain: Fergus Alway
Player of Year: Jacques MacAuley
Most Improved: Joey Mackrell

1st XV

Captain: Ben Bradshaw
Top Try Scorer: J. McCauley/
R Quinn/M Daly
Overall P.O.Y.: Marcus McNeill
U6 P.O.Y.: Marcus McNeill
L6 P.O.Y.: Ryan Matthews
Yr 12 P.O.Y.: Conor Magee
Most Improved: Ollie Norris
Clubman: Joel Good

Team of the year

Medallion XV – Medallion Bowl Winners



Netball in a Nutshell

Mrs Lawther

We have had a very exciting but manic season!

Covid had curtailed all netball school competitions for the year so to try and paint a positive picture of the challenges we would face, we spent a lot of time doing both fitness and training - all with the mitigations and advice given to us by Netball NI.

Further changes to the game included rule changes to help with social distancing and a strict, no spectator policy. Our teams adapted quickly though and happily continued, whilst using precautionary measures such as constant hand and ball sanitising. This became the norm, with the smell of hand sanitizer becoming our new skin care regime!

There were also administrative changes to the school committee at Netball NI. This allowed a working committee (who were committed to school competitions) to help move school girls netball forward during this challenging time. In addition, it was decided that there would only be a League competition so no Cup, Plate, Bowl or Shield competitions for the year ahead.

All of this took time to get up and running. Thankfully school sports halls soon became available once again for netball activities with most schools agreeing to return to competitions. This knock on effect meant that, whilst this year saw a very welcome return to netball, it was albeit a much later start than normal. This meant that what would normally be an eight month season for training and competition, was now down to only three or four months!

For this shortened season, Banbridge Academy were thankfully able to enter two Minor, Junior and Senior teams each, and one Intermediate team. It did prove to be a bit of the unknown. Schools did not enter as many teams compared to previous years, mainly due to the risks of Covid transmission and following individual school protocols and practices.

Please appreciate that during this time we were all still constantly washing hands and wearing masks!

As a result there were fewer schools entered into the Intermediate competition (possibly due to schools concentrating on preparing pupils for GCSE, given the challenges of homeschooling).

Each Academy team had an area assigned to them. Some age groups had 6 areas each with 6-7 schools competing in that area. So a good healthy return to netball indeed!

Another bonus was that our Academy pupils got to play a number of schools that we hadn't previously competed with, such as Rockport, Regent House, St Columbanus, Glenlola, Assumption, and Acquina.

Now came the real challenge of finding enough days in the week to get all the matches played and completed by the deadlines!

In addition, Netball NI had appointed a Schools' Officer, Lisa Bowman, who became exceptionally busy during lockdown by offering zoom training to try and keep Netball skills as "live" as possible. Now Lisa had a challenge ahead - half the normal time to get

schools' Leagues and Finals Day up and running throughout the Province!

As you will read by the articles written by our pupils, Banbridge Academy fully entered into the spirit of things by continuing to commit to training after school, whilst being coached by Nicole Beggs and then successfully attaining their place at the school finals.

School Finals Day was a real highlight and an absolute high point for the Academy girls who had worked hard all year. Our Minor B and Junior A teams competed on Thursday 12 May at the Lisburn Rackets venue, with the Minor B team being crowned overall winners after heavily defeating Regent House. The Junior A team were deemed runners-up after losing to a very strong St Ronan's College team. So well done to both sets of Academy girls!

As a bonus, this event finally allowed spectators to be present and what a real spectacle this was!

The Lisburn Rackets halls were alive with the sound of netball activity, as each school competed for the various titles. A real celebration of the game of netball ensued and it was wonderful to witness it once again.

Other achievements which celebrated pupil successes included the following selected to the Future Performance Academy Squad:

U15
Samantha Burns-Atkins
Alex King
Lucy Megaw
Lassara Magennis

Netball

U13
Tara Kennedy
Casey Cousins

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Mrs Beggs for her continued coaching and training with our netball pupils at Banbridge

Academy. Post-Covid, we can hopefully have a return to netball and school competitions as we know it.

I would also like to thank our Academy pupils who continue to give up their time and commitment to both training and matches, and yet who

still manage, somehow, to get their homework/coursework completed on time! So thank you to them!

It is great to see netball back in action with our Academy pupils buzzing once again both on and off the court!

Senior 'A' & 'B' Netball

Katie Baxter

The 2021/22 season finally got going again in February of this year, after a very delayed start due to the disruptions caused by covid. Nonetheless, the girls were ready to get playing and Mrs Beggs was ready to get us in playing form again after a two-year long break from any netball!

This year the girls only had three very tough matches to play: first we met Strathearn and after putting up 21 fantastic goals, the girls narrowly lost out to a very strong side. Evie McKinney received 'player of the match' after a fantastic game on her part, as she played a major role in setting up crucial scores.

We returned after half term to travel to Regent House, with the score line again not going our way, but Oliveen O'Rourke picked up player of the match after a fantastic performance in her first game playing for the senior A team.

With our final match of the year, the girls were excited to play as a team for one last time. As most of the team has stayed the same since Year 8, we were ready to just enjoy the game. We walked onto the home court together for the last time and as the final whistle blew, Glenlola were the team to come out victorious. Katie Baxter



and Alex Finney played an unbelievable game in the centre court, and they both shared the 'player of the match' award as a result of their impressive performances.

them for a lifetime!

Team

Katie Baxter (C)
Zara Ginnif (VC)
Nadia Radcliffe
Evie McKinney
Zeta Gley
Erin Colgan
Annie Robinson
Alex Finney
Emily Johnson
Oliveen O'Rourke
Selena Cunningham

We want to thank Mrs Lawther and Mrs Beggs for their continued effort in organising matches, training, and supporting us this season and with the majority of our team being Year 14, we wish them all the best in their futures and hope that their fond memories and friendships formed in Banbridge Academy Netball will remain with

Netball



Senior 'B' Netball

The Senior B team also had a delayed start due to covid disruptions, but we were eager to get going as most of us hadn't played netball since Year 11. When we heard the season was starting up, we were excited to form the team again.

Our first match was at home to Sacred Heart and after a very defensive game we did not walk away with the win, however Ellie Lindsay and Oliveen O'Rourke were recognised for their tremendous efforts on the court with Ellie in GA and Oliveen in GD. We then played a friendly match to get us prepared for up and coming games, where we met Portadown College on our home court. After leading for the first three quarters, Portadown managed to secure a narrow win in the final minutes. After learning many lessons from the Portadown game, we

went on to play St Malachy's and after a lot of hard work from the full team we finished the game with a victory of 31-16. This match really showed the hard work that had been put in from the entire team and coaches paying off, with Sasha Herron and Katie Mulligan being named players of the match for their excellent attacking skills, which proved crucial in securing our win.

We went on to play our final match of the year against St Paul's; it was a tough match against a very strong side and unfortunately (after the four quarters) the girls were narrowly beaten. Their hard work prevented a major score difference, with Georgia Frazer and Katie Mulligan playing a great game to be named players of the match. At the end of the season we only walked away with one win, however we learnt many lessons in

the sport and created many lasting friendships and memories. I would also like to thank Mrs Beggs and Mrs Lawther for their continued effort in developing our team, and supporting us through the years.

Catherine Black (C)
Oliveen O'Rourke (VC)
Lois Ginniff
Ellie Lindsay
Zara Moore
Lara Crothers
Sasha Herron
Brooke Gilliland
Katie Mulligan
Katherine Otley
Georgia Frazer
Eve Fitzimmons

Netball

Minor 'A' Netball

Our netball minor 'A' team has played very well throughout the whole season, always trying their hardest and playing their best. Some parts of this season were harder than others, but everyone kept playing to their full potential. We won 2/3 of our matches this season, which is an incredible achievement for everyone on the team.

The year didn't start off in our favour with many things being restricted from us due to covid, which also slowed down the process of the teams being chosen. However even though our team didn't get as much time to practise with just one another before the tournament started, everyone got stuck straight into training.

We won our first match of the season against Sacred Heart with a final score of 10 - 9. It was a tough game, especially up until the end of the first half, however our team made a great comeback in the 3rd quarter with our amazing GS, Lexie Kerr scoring an outstanding 4 goals with the help of



our very good GA, Abigail Walker. Our 'players of the match' were Lexie Kerr and Tasja Sneddon, who helped to defend our end of the court incredibly.

Our second match was another win, this time against St Joseph's, resulting in a final score of 15 - 9. The match was very tight the whole way through but we were able to make a slight breakthrough during the last quarter, bringing us up 5 extra goals. This team played slightly more aggressively and harshly than our team was used to, but we tried our best not to let it scare us off. Lexie Kerr got another well deserved player of the match, this time along with Emma Newell.

Our final match was against a very strong St Ronan's team in which we unfortunately lost 28 - 9. This was a big loss for us but we didn't let it dampen our spirits. The game didn't start off badly, with us finishing the first quarter in a 6 - 6 draw. However we got let down in the second quarter with St Ronan's scoring 11 goals! We ended the first half of this match with a score of 17 - 6 to St Ronan's. We scored another 3 goals in the second half of our match, but St Ronan's also were able to grab 11 more altogether. This match was a bit disappointing for us all but we continued to hope for a place in the finals.

Once we got through to the finals we found out we would be playing St Ronan's again, but this time we all went in with high hopes and good spirits but also we were also able to prepare ourselves ahead looking back on the previous match. This match was again very tough, but overall I think we had improved from our other match against St Ronan's. Everyone got stuck



in and played to their absolute best, but unfortunately we just couldn't play well enough to beat them. We ended this match and the season with a 16 - 3 loss against a very strong St Ronan's team. Our player of the match was our very talented WA Cliodhna who made some very good steals and passes!

We would like to thank the whole netball team for their impressive commitment and hard work this season and we hope that we can only improve from here.

Many thanks to our Minor A team players: Emma Newell, Ella Bell, Ellie Walker, Izzie Taylor, Abigail McConville, Grace Mussen, Rebekah Matthews, Tasja Sneddon, Christina Bickerstaff, Abigail Walker, Lexie Kerr and Cliodhna McGrath!

Minor 'B' Netball

First Match - Regent House (away)

Our first match this season on the 23rd February 2022 was against Regent House, a superb team to play. They were a great team to play against and we excitedly enjoyed every minute of our first match together. Each player tried her very best on court and we strived to succeed each time.

As we played, Ruby (GK), Gracie (GD) and Mia (GK - third and fourth quarter) were amazing at saving goals and defending our net against the super Regent team and in no time we were scoring points with the help of Evie (GA), Tara (GS) and Charlotte (WA), while Leona (C) and Samantha (C - third and fourth quarter) stayed in the centre third to intercept balls and help with attacking. The match ended in a wonderful score of 10 - 0 to Banbridge Academy. Well done Regent and we hope to be able to play again next time! Congratulations to our player of the match Mya Jess!

Second Match - Shimna (home)

On 7th of March 2022, we played against a wonderful school, Shimna. The match was great and the girls were very excited throughout. The girls were brilliant and were an overall strong team, demonstrating phenomenal teamwork. Alongside this, the girls showed great determination and it certainly paid off in the end.

The team went into the match much more confidently as it was our second match of the season, so we weren't as nervous as before. When playing, each and every team member strived to succeed as we did once before and continued to do as the season continued.

All team members were superb and all of them played an important role in the game. However, the ones who really helped when earning the victory of the game were the players of the match: Tara Kennedy (GA and GS) and Gracie Johnstone (GD).

In the first quarter we won with the score 4-0 and then succeeded once again in the second quarter with the score 8-1. Then throughout the match we continued until the score was 14-2 in the third quarter. Finally, we really came together as a team and came out of the match victorious with the score 25-3.

Last but not least, a big thank you to Shimna who were a wonderful team throughout the match and we hope that we will be able to play again sometime in the future.

Third Match - Down High School (home)

Our third match this year, on the 28th March 2022, was against the strong Down High School team. As a result of the previous victorious matches the Minor B team had enjoyed, we had more confidence entering this match against the superb Down High School

. The match started with tension as the whistle blew and straight away the two teams sprang into action with dedicated defence and advanced attackers on the ball.

Each player made a good effort on court as we played on for each quarter of the match and, with the help of Evie (GA) and Tara (GS), we scored and managed to take the lead with Down High School receiving a point later on in the match. With an amazing amount

of effort applied, we ended up with a final score of 22 - 1 to Banbridge Academy!

And lastly, we'd like to thank Down High School for an amazing match played and we wish them success in their future matches ahead!

Fourth match - Finals (away)

Our fourth and final match was against Regent House, which was a lovely surprise for our team. The previous three matches had strengthened our Banbridge Academy team in confidence and in skill. With extreme excitement, we headed off into the massive court and after an hour, headed on court to warm up and play.

Our skilled players rolled onto the team and we started with Regent passing the first strong centre pass of the match. Our defence sprang into immediate action and quickly intercepted and passed the ball back down the court, where Tara (GS) scored our first point of the match.

Minutes later Samantha (C) had leapt into the circle ready to pass the ball to a talented player and they started the next round. With the help of Evie (GA) and Tara (GS) we managed to score plenty of points in no time and soon we were in the lead with 11 points after the first half.

The second half started with gusto as the players were more determined than before. Regent (GA) almost shot the ball in but just missed the hoop, and they tried to pick it back up, but it was too late. The ball had already shot across the court with the help of three players, Gracie (GD), Mya (WD) and Evie (GA) and finally, Tara scored the point

Netball

for us.

As the match went on, Regent kept trying to defend against us, but it was no use; at the end of the match, Banbridge Academy had won with a final score of 20 - 0!

And lastly, well done again to Regent House and we wish every success in the future!

We enjoyed the finals day best, as we were so pleased that we had been able to get in.

The Minor B team members are:

Leona Lin, Samantha Burns-Atkin, Mia Graham, Mya Jess, Gracie Johnstone, Ruby Johnston, Caitlin McErlean, Evie Macauley, Charlotte Hampton, Tara Kennedy and Lola Brown.



Junior 'A' Netball

To begin, on behalf of the whole Junior A team, we would like to say thank you to Mrs Beggs and Mrs Lawther for all of their hard work and dedication this season.

Our first match was against Aquinas, which we lost 22-17, and the player of the match was Lucy Megaw.

The second match was versus Regent House and we lost 11-2, as we just struggled to find the net. The player of the match was Lucy Megaw.

For our third match, we were against Assumption. In this close match, we lost 15-11 and the player of the match was Jessica McCullough.

The next match was versus Lagan College, where we were defensively very strong and the player of the match was Lassara Magennis. We lost narrowly 17-12.

Our penultimate game was against Belfast Royal Academy, during which our attack played excellently and we consequently got our first win of the



season, 14-15. The player of the match was Alex King.

For our final match, we had a home game against Rockport. We also came out with a win (9-18), thanks to our defence who were crucial to the win. The player of the match was Kristin

Ginniff.

The most improved player of this season has been Sarah Cairns. Well done to all of the players this season! Keep working hard over the summer to get ready for next season!

Junior 'B' Team Netball

The season for the Junior B team was played overall very well, considering that these were the first matches played since Covid. The players are developing well and there has been great improvement amongst all the players. In total there were 4 matches played, the first of which was an away game, played against St Mary's, Newry on the 25th March. This was a great first match played with the Academy winning 9-1 and the players of the match being Sienna Scullion (GS) and Rachel Moore (WA).

The second match played was another away game against Our Lady's on the 1st April, where we lost 24-7. Although this did not result in a victory, it was a great match to figure out where improvement needed to be made; the players of this match were Rachel Greer (GD) and Aimee Gilmore (GA).

The third match played was at home against St Malachy's on the 5th April, which was won 13-3 ;this was our best match of the season and was very well played with the players of the match being Sienna Scullion (GS) and Lucy Hodgson (GK).

The final match was played at home against St Paul's on the 6th April, which was unfortunately lost 28-7. It was a very competitive match and although not won, it was a great end to the season and everyone on the team had improved significantly and the experience was brilliant. The players of that match were Kathrine Graham (GS) and Arianne Bell (C).

The team met after school every Tuesday with the Junior A team and the Intermediate team to train with Mrs Beggs. Being with the other teams helped everyone to improve, as we all



could learn from each other. Everyone worked equally hard at the practices and their skills are much better than at the beginning of the year.

The most improved player over the course of the year would have to be Sienna Scullion (GS), as she has constantly worked hard to develop her skills and has shown determination throughout the year.

The best goal scorer is Kathrine Graham (GS); she has scored the majority of goals in all the matches, and she has worked well together with the Goal Attack.

The season player is Rachel Moore (WD); she has shown brilliant skills throughout the season and has been a great asset to the team, displaying impressive enthusiasm during all the matches and training.

The whole team this year has been great and have worked very well as a team. It has been a fantastic experience for everyone and has been well enjoyed. This couldn't have been achieved without Mrs Beggs and Mrs Lawther training and organising matches, so a big thanks must go to them.

Equestrian

BA Equestrian Team

Rachel Sands

When I mention that I am a member of the Equestrian Team to a fellow pupil, you can immediately see their expression changing. I wonder is it a look of loathing as they imagine the state-of-the-art facilities that I must have at my backdoor, or the £5 million lorry parked up in my yard? However, what many of you may not know is that not everybody in the Equestrian Team rides a horse worth six figures; some of us loan horses (similar to rent) and some of us have no facilities at home so must keep our horses at a livery yard, which can get awfully expensive. In the Equestrian Team we have a team captain who takes care of all the behind-the-scenes work; it is usually the member who is in Upper Sixth and this year it is Julia Herron.

A handful of people will be aware that there is a competition that goes on for horse riders within our school. This is true! Indeed, every other Saturday between the end of September and the end of November, 6 mornings in total, we can compete in schools' show jumping at The Meadows Equestrian Centre, which is located just up the road from Lough Neagh Discovery Centre. Here we compete in a range of classes. There are team and individual classes for heights between 75cm and 1.10m.

Within each class there are people from across Northern Ireland. As much as we think it's a long way to travel from say Rathfriland, every week we are competing against teams from Foyle College, Derry or Enniskillen Royal Grammar. So for any rugby or hockey players reading this article, it is like a big tournament although instead of competing against one school at a time, we compete against about

fourteen.

Some of you will be wondering about how much the show jumping costs. Well, up until this year it cost £12 per person but recently, due to the cost-of-living crisis, this entry fee has increased to £15 per person. We had to pay this money out of our own pockets until about 2020 when the school started to pay for us. We are forever grateful to the school!

Later in the school year, usually about February or March, there are several qualifiers that take place in locations around Northern Ireland for people jumping 1m or above to qualify to compete at Balmoral Agricultural Show at the end of May. Last year, one team tried to qualify but unfortunately were unsuccessful but hopefully this year a team will qualify. Several years ago, a team of Academy students competed at Balmoral Show and got on extremely well!

On a chilly morning in October a competition was held at Eccelseville Equestrian Centre in Fintona by Omagh High School for their Diamond Jubilee. Emma Stewart, Julia Herron and Tilley Tumilty competed in the 95cm class and placed an impressive fourth place!

This year, so far, in the TRI Interschools League, we have had two 85cm teams one consisting of: Tilley Tumilty, Emma Baird, Freya Fisher and Harry Purdy. The second 85cm team is: Alana Eadie, Harry Purdy, Holly Rice and Rachel Sands. We have also had a one metre team of: Molly Davidson, Julia Herron, Lexie Kerr, Emma Stewart and Emma Irwin. Lastly, we have had Erica Ingram competing in the 75cm individual and Charlotte Betts in the 1.1m individual.



I want to wish everyone competing in the next few weeks the best of luck and as we are all aware within the team, there are some schools that are simply unbeatable!

We would love to see some school support from anyone who needs something to do on a Saturday morning, or wants to learn more about the sport of equestrianism.



U12 Football

A new season over and some very impressive football played by our new recruits in the Under 12s football. We began the year with some technical drills in training to improve passing accuracy, team tactics, and to establish positions best suited to the boys.

After several training sessions our first match was against St Patrick's Academy, Dungannon in the Northern Ireland Cup. The boys played a tough opponent with determination and good pace, with a notably commanding performance from Charlie Geoghagen in midfield. Despite the team's efforts, we unfortunately lost out and continued to the Northern Ireland Shield later in the year.

Through the months of November and February we played several friendly matches to establish 'seeding' for the end of year Under 12 Blitz finals. The boys displayed a great team spirit and drive to win in the lead up to the Blitz finals, with wins of 2-0, 1-0, and 2-1 against Dromore High A and B teams and Banbridge High. Three goals from Daniel Byrne earned two well-deserved Man of the Match awards, with Patrick Porter taking the third award for his efforts in helping to keep the clean sheets.

The Northern Ireland Shield was contested against St Colmans' College and despite a relentless effort up and down the wings by Oscar Niblock and Oliver Wakeling, the boys couldn't convert the final pass to a goal and were narrowly defeated in the closing minutes of the match.

The final of the season was played at Cheney Park in Banbridge, with



Banbridge Academy seeded second in their group. A convincing 4-1 win against Shimna started the tournament off well, with goals from Ethan Harris and Daniel Byrne. This was followed by a closely fought game against Killeel High School which ended in the favour of our opponents.

The boys progressed to the Quarter Final and defeated St Mark's High School 2-1 with Charlie Geoghagen again taking the reins and guiding his team to victory. Banbridge Academy met St Patrick's College, Banbridge in the Semi Final and played the game out to a 1-1 draw before extra time and penalties. Extra time couldn't separate the two teams and the boys went to a penalty shoot-out with the crowds watching. It was a fantastic shoot-out with some top quality shots and a superb save from Harvey McBride, but ultimately ended in defeat.

The Under 12s had a very good season and enjoyed the competitive matches against our local schools throughout

the year. Particular mention should go to Charlie Geoghagen who took home the player of the season award and who will continue to lead on the pitch with the Under 13s. Both Mr McAuley and Mr Thompson enjoyed coaching and watching from the side lines and look forward to seeing how the boys continue to progress as they compete in the Under 13s league.



Football

Under 13 Football

Group Match 1

Banbridge Academy 1 – 4 Newbridge
Callum Todd

Group Match 2

Rathfriland 2 – 6 Banbridge Academy
Morgan McMullan (2)
Callum Todd (2)
James Henning
Corey Hylands

Group Match 3

Banbridge Academy 10 – 0 Newry High
Harry Gough (3)
Callum Todd
Conor Comiskey
Corey Hylands (2)
Patrick McElroy
Morgan McMullan (2)

Semi – Final

Banbridge Academy 9 – 2 St. Joseph's
Harry Gough (4)
Morgan McMullan (2)
Corey Hylands (2)
Callum Todd

Final

Newbridge 3 - 3 Banbridge Academy
Harry Gough (3)

Banbridge Academy won 4-3 on penalties

Penalties scored by Harry Gough, Morgan McMullan, Callum Todd and Reuben Walsh

The Under 13 Football team had a very successful and enjoyable season. 35 – 40 boys turned up at Havelock every Tuesday for football practice with Mr Irwin and Mr Hanlon. The boys were a credit to the school with their behaviour, attitude and ability throughout training and matches. Despite a difficult start, losing 4-1 to



Newbridge in their first game, the boys recovered well to finish 2nd in their group, comfortably winning against both Rathfriland and Newry.

The boys were absolutely superb in the semi-final, beating the other group winners, St Joseph's, 9-2. The final proved to be a more tense affair against the favourites, Newbridge. We were 3-1 down at half-time but fought back to draw 3-3 in dramatic fashion and won the subsequent shoot-out 4-3. Special mention goes to goalkeeper Aaron Stafford for saving a decisive penalty and for the team captain, Harry Gough, for scoring 3 hat-tricks in the last 3 games!

U13 Football Squad 2021/22

1. Aaron Stafford
2. Jason Sands
3. Ben Millington
4. Harry Johnston
5. Reuben Walsh
6. Morgan McMullan
7. James Henning
8. Harry Gough (c)

9. Callum Todd
10. Corey Hylands
11. Ben McKeown
12. Isaac McIlwaine
13. Jacob Frizzell
14. Patrick McElroy
15. Conor Comiskey
16. Sam Leslie
17. Max Murphy
18. Matthew Patterson
19. James Nesbitt
20. Harry Davidson



U18 Football

Looking back at the season for the U18 football team will feel very bittersweet, combining some great moments with some heart-breaking ones too. After several training sessions to work on tactics and develop skills, a strong team was put together.

Our first game of the season was against local rivals Dromore in a keenly contested derby. The game started like any first game of the season, with a lack of match sharpness and some nerves. However, as the game progressed Banbridge Academy took control of the game and dominated possession. Despite being in the ascendancy a fortunate own goal gave us which helped settle nerves and increase the flow of the game. An eventual 4-1 victory ensued with goals from Mikey Wood, Josh Magill, and

Jamie Gibson, setting us up well in the group.

Next up was a tricky away tie to Shimna in Newcastle. The weather was not kind to us that day and turned the game into a scrappy affair. A heated encounter with strong tackles and determination ended goalless at half time, despite Banbridge Academy edging the encounter. After a helpful team talk at half time we saw a more composed second half performance, with Jamie Gibson and Sam Baillie paving the way for victory for the Academy men.

These two results placed us top of the group and guaranteed our qualification to the final for a rematch against rivals Dromore. Despite previously beating Dromore in the competition, Banbridge

Academy found it a tough challenge. A tight game was broken by a fantastic Sam Baillie goal. Unfortunately, a well-earned half-time lead was short-lived as Dromore equalised early in the second half. The game remained 1-1 until the end, which forced a dreaded penalty shootout. Despite some fantastic saves from Aaron Knox, Banbridge Academy ended on the losing side.

A superb season that ended in bitter disappointment but enjoyable for all. Special thanks and acknowledgement must go to captain Ethan Rodgers and vice-captain Mikey Wood. Also, thanks to Dawson Patterson for his contribution to the coaching team of Mr Thompson and Mr McAuley.



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Cross Country

District Championships

B Leslie



Banbridge Academy athletes had a great day at the County Down District Cross Country championships held at Dellamont park on Wednesday 19th January. On what was a perfect day for Cross Country running, the Academy had 12 individual athletes qualify for the Ulster Championships with 1 team, our Inter Girls, also qualifying in first place.

The first race of the day saw our Mini (Yr 8) girls team of six with Anna Chamber, Evie Hobson, Hannah Topping, Antonia Vlad, Casey Cousins and Katie Leslie all running really well in a field of 150 runners. Casey in particular excelled to finish in 9th place and qualify for the Ulster Championships. The team finished in



4th place, an excellent result, but just one place outside of qualification for the Ulsters. Race 2 was the Mini (Yr 8) boys' race with 2 athletes in Daniel McKee and Owen Dobson, again in a huge field of 150 runners, Daniel excelled and ran to 10th place to qualify for the Ulsters and Owen also had a good day finishing a very creditable 33rd. Race 3 was the Minor (Yr 9) girls' race with Clara Lewis and Tara Kennedy running strongly and Clara put on a strong finish to place 15th and qualify for the Ulster Championships, while Tara ran well in 21st place. Race 4 was the Minor boys' with James Henning, Harry Gough and Ross McCombe. Harry got off to a great start and was in 2nd place at the halfway point when a pulled hamstring saw him effectively out of the running, he bravely finished the race but moved down the field as he was badly hindered by the injured leg. Ross McCombe surged on though and finished 8th to qualify for the Ulsters and James ran solidly. Race 5 was the Senior (Yrs 13/14) girls' race where Holly Fisher ran brilliantly to finish 12th and qualify for the Ulsters while Amy Agnew also ran strongly to 20th place.



Race 6 was the Senior (Yrs 13/14) boys over a remarkable 6KM distance. Here Simon Ferris and Conor McKee ran really well with Simon finishing 7th to qualify for the Ulsters and Conor running to 19th place. Race 7 was the Inter (Yrs 11/12) girls with our team of Katie McCleery, Anna McKernan & Grace Hamilton. Katie and Anna ran to 6th & 7th places respectively and both qualified for the Ulsters while Grace also ran strongly to 20th place, which meant that the team finished in 1st place and they all qualify for the Ulster Championships. Race 8 was the Inter (Yrs 11/12) boys' race and our team consisted of Kian Moran, Jake Redmond, Sam Dorman and Kristian Brown. Kian had a super race and finished in 9th place to qualify for the Ulsters and Kristian also did well to finish 25th. Sam and Jake ran strongly to finish in the top half. Race 9 was our Junior (Yr 10) girls race and our team of Ciara Patton, Zara McCormick, Ellie Cousins & April McFarlane ran superbly. Ellie led the team and finished 8th to qualify for the Ulsters and was followed in by the rest in good finishing positions. Race 10, the final race of the day, was the Junior (Yr 10) boys race with a team of Charlie Tumilty, Alex Moran, Robbie Nicholl,

Banbridge Academy

Cross Country

Samuel Stevenson & Teddy Turkington. Here Alex and Charlie led the group finishing in 14th and 15th respectively to secure a spot in the Ulsters and was backed up by Samuel Stephenson in 16th with Robbie and Teddy running strongly in the middle of the pack. The team finished a very creditable 4th place.

Overall it was an outstanding day for the Academy athletes and credit should go to every student who ran so hard in a tough event.



Ulster Championships



Wednesday 9th February saw the very best cross Country runners from every school in Ulster gather for the annual championships at a cold but dry Mallusk playing fields. All the athletes had previously qualified through their district championships and with a field of over 100 athletes in all 10 races, it was sure to be a challenging day.

Stars of the day for the Academy were Year 8 pupil Casey Cousins and Year 13 pupil Simon Ferris, who each finished 8th in their respective races with Simon qualifying for the Irish Schools'

Championships at the same venue on Saturday 12th March.

Casey was first to race in the mini girls' event and her great 8th place finish was backed up by Daniel McKee, in the mini boys' race, finishing in 34th spot. In the minor races Ross McCombe ran to 30th place while Clara Lewis placed 39th. Alex Moran was our only junior athlete (Ellie Cousins and Charlie Tumilty were forced to withdraw with injury) and he competed well after illness to finish 86th. In the Inter races Anna McKernan finished 54th and

Grace Hamilton was 66th, while Kian Moran also ran well to 66th place, again he was recovering from illness. In the senior races Holly Fisher ran very strongly to 28th place and the day was nicely bookended with Simon Ferris racing his way to the Irish Championships with that 8th place finish.

All the Academy athletes showed real grit and determination and it was a joy to see them back racing at this level after the enforced break from competition in 2021.

Cross Country

Irish Championships

In the Irish championships held at Mallusk, Simon Ferris in Year 13 was our only competitor. Simon ran a strong race to finish well up the field in 31st place; no mean feat in such illustrious company. Simon should be very proud of his efforts this season as he has represented himself and the school with great distinction.



Track & Field



Track & Field Athletics Report

B Leslie/G Todd

District Championships

Banbridge Academy's Athletics season got off to a great start at the Co Down Track & Field Championships held over 3 days at the Mary Peters track.

The star performers were gold medallists Emma O'Neill in the Inter Girls' Triple Jump and Ciara Patton in the Junior Girls' High Jump. Both girls jumped school records in their events, with Emma jumping 9.37m and Ciara jumping 1.44m (adding some 6cm to the existing record!)

In the Inter girls' 800m Katie McCleery also had a good day running to a very good silver medal in a fast time. We also collected two bronze medals with Harry Gough powering to 3rd in the minor boys' 800m race and Alyssa Somerville jumping well for third in the Minor high jump. Our Minor girls' relay team (Alyssa Somerville, Kizzy Gley, Allegra Muldrew & Mya Jess) also deserve a mention as they were initially awarded a Silver medal for a fantastic run in the 4x100m relay but they were adjudged to have run out of lane at a changeover and unfortunately were disqualified.

Over the 3 days we had 50 athletes, competing in multiple events, and also 6 relay teams running. It was fantastic to see all our pupils out enjoying their athletics again and all did well, especially since for most this was the first athletics championships they had been in for over 3 years and for many it was their first ever.

Ulster Championships

Banbridge Academy's 5 qualifying athletes competed in the Ulster Schools' Athletics Championships on



Saturday 21st May at a sunny Antrim Stadium. The star of the show, was also our last athlete to compete, when Junior Girl High Jumper Ciara Patton jumped brilliantly to win the Ulster title.

The Academy's first competitor was Minor boy Harry Gough in the 800m. Harry is new to the event but ran really well to finish in 12th place in a time of 2 mins 23 seconds. Another newcomer, Minor girl Alyssa Somerville, was next to compete and she jumped really well to finish in 9th place in the High Jump with a height of 1.33m. Year 12 pupil Emma O'Neill was competing in the Intermediate Triple Jump competition and she did really well to finish in 11th place with a distance of 8.91m. Katie McCleery also competed well to place 6th in the Intermediate 800m, with a time of 2 minutes and 26 seconds. But the best was saved for last when Ciara jumped in the Junior Girls' High Jump. She grew into the competition and with just 3 athletes left, at a height of 1.51m, she was the only one to go clear and she claimed the Gold medal,

the Ulster title and increased her own school record by some 7 cm. An outstanding performance from a young athlete who has only started high jumping this year. Ciara will now go on to represent the Academy in the Irish Championships in Tullamore stadium in Co Offlay on Saturday 4th June.

Irish Schools' Championships

Ciara Patton was our sole representative at the Irish Championships in Tullamore in Co Offlay. While Ciara was unable to produce the same form that saw her win the Ulster title, she still finished 11th and should be very proud of her achievements as she still gained valuable experience in what is undoubtedly the best underage championships in Ireland.



Interprovincial Championships

Ciara Patton's performance at the Ulster Championships was so good that it got her selected for the Ulster U17 squad for the interprovincial championships at Tullamore with

Track & Field

Munster, Leinster and Connacht. This was a remarkable achievement as Ciara is only in Yr 10 and Yr 12 girls are eligible for selection. An outstanding achievement for someone so young! On the day Ciara jumped well to clear 1.45m and finish in 8th place to help her Ulster team to 3rd place in the interpro.

Sportsday

Banbridge Academy's sportsday returned this year after a long absence and what a day it turned out to be! The weather was absolutely glorious and the sun shone on a full day of athletic competition between the four houses of Crozier, Dunbar, McWilliam and Waddell. Over 200 pupils took part and those not involved cheered on from the sidelines as all of Years 8-11 enjoyed the spectacle. All the traditional athletics track and field events were included as well as a golf chipping event and the ever popular Tug O' War competition to finish the day; the Ice cream van and the crepe truck were a big hit too! At the end of the day, when all the scores were added, the winners by the narrowest of margins were McWilliam; and worthy winners they were too.

All in all it was a fantastic day and everyone was delighted to get one of the school's big events back on track after a long time away. Well done to all involved in making such a fantastic day happen. Roll on next year!

Interschools' Championships

Banbridge Academy athletes enjoyed a wonderful day out at the final event of the season, the Banbridge District Inter Schools, held at St Coleman's College's track in Newry. In a restructuring of the event it would include athletes from Years 8-10 across 6 different events competing for individual medals and team silverware. The usual schools of Banbridge Academy, Newbridge Integrated College, Banbridge High School, Dromore High School &



Rathfriland High School were joined this year by Newry High School.

Throughout the day the Academy had numerous medallists across the different events and some outstanding individual performances. A brilliant day of track and field was rounded off when the Academy won 5 of the 6 relay events and when the overall trophies were presented at the end, the Academy won the Year 8 Boys and Girls and the Year 9 Boys titles while finishing 2nd in the Year 9 girls. The Year 10 scores were not included in the team competition as they did not have full entries from all schools, but again we performed well in the individual events. This success meant that once the overall totals were calculated Banbridge Academy were the overall winners of the competition and took home the wonderful trophy.

It was undoubtedly a very successful and enjoyable season for the Banbridge Academy athletes and it was great to get back to competitive athletics after two years out. Well done to everyone!



Ciara Patton	Year 10 Girls	High Jump	1.51 m
Joy Mawson	Year 11 Girls	200M	32.26 secs
Katie McCleery	Year 12 Girls	1500M	5 mins 26.95 secs
Emma O'Neill	Year 12 Girls	Triple Jump	9.37 m
Paige Swain	Year 13 Girls	Shot Putt	6.21 m
Zara Morton, Nancy McCusker, Maddison Wilson, Mya Kennedy	Year 8 Girls	4 x 100M	59.4 secs

In 2022 several new school records were set. These were as follows;



Irish and Ulster Table Tennis Success

B Leslie/G Todd

Irish and Ulster Table Tennis success for Academy Teams

Banbridge Academy U19 Girls' Team completed a successful season with victory in the Irish Schools' Championships at The National Indoor Arena, Abbottstown on Thursday 28 April. Following on from their success in the Ulster Championships at Lisburn Rackets Club, the team maintained their momentum, with all the girls scoring points to contribute to the success. This is a great reward for the team who already had success at Ulster & Irish level as an U15 team and a fitting reward for their resilience during the Covid disruption.

The U19 team is made up of the following players:

Ruby Bushby, Kerry Crothers, Lara Crothers, Maya Forsthye, Kristen Ginniff, Melissa Neville and Aleyah Peniero.

The Banbridge Academy U13 Girls' Team also enjoyed success at Ulster level, however disruption at Irish level prevented them from competing at Abbottstown. This young team displayed great potential in winning the Ulster Championships' at Lisburn Rackets Club on 6 April. As with their senior counterparts, all of the girls on the team contributed points through success in both singles and doubles, building a substantial team total that would ultimately lead to success.

The U13 team is made up from the following players:

Sophie Crothers, Alana Eadie, Lexie Kerr, Katie Leslie, Selena Neville and Emma Newell.

The success of both teams is a reflection of the talent within the

teams and the organisation and commitment of their coach Mr Arnold Morgan. Arnold is the quiet man behind the scenes organising, motivating and coaching these teams and many others in the area, and he deserves recognition for the tremendous work he does.

Katie Leslie U12 Ulster Champion

Many congratulations to Katie Leslie, Year 8, who won the U12 Ulster Table Tennis title, beating players from Sullivan and Cavan.



Swimming

Swimming

B Leslie/G Todd

On Saturday 5 February, 28 swimmers from Banbridge Academy were set to represent the school at the Ulster Schools' Cup Championship. Due to Covid this is the first time since 2019 that this event has taken place in Aurora Aquatic Centre in Bangor. It was an early start for the younger swimmers and volunteers, with warm up starting at 8.00am.

The 28 swimmers represent 3 different local swimming clubs (Banbridge, Lurgan and Lisburn) and this was the first time for some of these swimmers to be on the same team. It was great to see them come together and show great team spirit. They all swam



Amy Agnew	Girls 17-19	100 Breaststroke & 200 Individual Medley
Sophie Black	Girls 13-14	100 Backstroke, 200 Individual Medley & 200 Free Relay
Zachary Black	Boys 15-16	100 Breaststroke & 200 Individual Medley
Rachel Blemmings	Girls 17-19	100 Breaststroke & 100 Freestyle
Alana Burns-Atkin	Girls 15-16	100 Butterfly & 200 Medley Relay
Lauren Burns-Atkin	Girls 13-14	100 Breaststroke & 200 Medley Relay
Samantha Burns-Atkin	Girls 13-14	100 Breaststroke, 100 Butterfly, 400 Freestyle & 200 Medley Relay
Ciara Daly	Girls 15-16	100 Breaststroke & 200 Freestyle Relay
Aimee Dawson	Girls 15-16	100 & 400 Freestyle, 200 Individual Medley & 200 Medley Relay
Adam Ewart	Boys 15-16	100 Breaststroke & 100 Freestyle
Tara Kennedy	Girls 13-14	100 Backstroke, 200 Individual medley, 200 Medley Relay, 200 Freestyle Relay.
Rebecca Lane	Girls 13-14	100 Breaststroke, 200 Individual Medley & 200 Freestyle Relay.
Sarah Macauley	Girls 15-16	100 Backstroke, 200 Individual Medley & 200 Freestyle Relay
Cara Magee	Girls 13-14	100 Breaststroke, 100 Freestyle & 200 Freestyle Relay
Ella Marshall	Girls 13-14	100 Backstroke, 200 Individual Medley & 200 Freestyle Relay
Hannah Marshall	Girls 15-16	100 Freestyle, 200 Individual Medley & 200 Freestyle Relay
Ross McCombe	Boys 13-14	100 Breaststroke & 100 Freestyle
Edie McCusker	Girls 15-16	100 Freestyle & 200 Medley Relay
Nancy McCusker	Girls 13-14	100 Breaststroke, 100 Freestyle & 200 Freestyle Relay.
April McFarlane	Girls 13-14	100 Freestyle & 200 Medley Relay
Anna McKernan	Girls 15-16	100 Butterfly, 200 Individual Medley, 200 Medley Relay & 200 Freestyle Relay
Henry Niblock	Boys 15-16	100 Butterfly & 100 Freestyle
Oscar Niblock	Boys 13-14	100 Breaststroke & 100 Freestyle
Ben O'Reilly	Boys 17-19	100 Breaststroke & 100 Freestyle
Rose Turley	Girls 13-14	100 Backstroke, 100 Breaststroke & 200 Freestyle Relay
Anna Webster	Girls 13-14	100 Backstroke, 100 Freestyle & 200 Freestyle Relay
Adam Wilson	Boys 17-19	100 Breaststroke & 200 Individual Medley
Finlay Wright	Boys 17-19	100 & 400 Freestyle, 100 Butterfly

Swimming

amazingly well, cheered each other on in the individual swims and got behind the relay teams.

Unfortunately, in the current climate, sickness definitely affected the Banbridge Academy Team. Zachary Black was unable to compete at the gala due to recovering from illness. He was greatly missed by the team, but we know he would have been cheering from home. We also had a number of swimmers who performed very well, considering they had just recently returned from being ill - an even greater achievement for these fantastic swimmers, who are so keen to represent their school and give of their best.

Overall, from these Banbridge Academy swimmers there were:
Personal Bests - 31
Finalists - 14

The standard of swimming was excellent, with tight races and some swimmers just missing out on finals by the slimmest of margins.

Those making finals were:

Amy Agnew	100 Breaststroke
Rachel Blemmings	100 Breaststroke
Alana Burns-Atkin	100 Butterfly
Lauren Burns-Atkin	100 Breaststroke
Ciara Daly	100 Breaststroke
Aimee Dawson	100 Freestyle
Adam Ewart	100 Breaststroke
Tara Kennedy	100 Backstroke
Ross McCombe	100 Breaststroke
Anna McKernan	100 Butterfly
Ben O'Reilly	100 Breaststroke
Adam Wilson	100 Breaststroke
Finlay Wright	100 & 100 Butterfly

The 200 Individual Medley and Relays didn't have finals and were what we call "Heat declared winner" so there was only one chance for these swimmers to get medals.

Out of these finalists and the 'heat



declared winner' events, Banbridge Academy took away 9 medals.

McCombe and Tara Kennedy.

Individual medals went to:

Adam Wilson 1st in 100 Breaststroke and 1st in 200 Individual Medley
Alana Burns-Atkin 1st in 100 Butterfly
Finlay Wright 1st in 100 Butterfly
Tara Kennedy 2nd in 100 Backstroke
Lauren Burns-Atkin 2nd in 100 Breaststroke
Ross McCombe 2nd in 100 Breaststroke

In the teams relay, we won medals in two events:

3rd in Girls 13-14 200 Medley Relay Team was Tara Kennedy, Lauren Burns-Atkin, Samantha Burns-Atkin, April McFarlane
2nd in Girls 14-16 200 Medley Relay Team was Aimee Dawson, Alana Burns-Atkin, Anna McKernan, Edie McCusker

Interpro Team

Qualification for the Ulster Interpro Team requires being placed in the top two of the event for the specific age group. This is a significant achievement and means that anyone selected will be representing the school at Regional level against other Irish provincial teams later this season. Those that will be selected for the team will be Adam Wilson, Finlay Wright, Lauren Burns-Atkin, Alana Burns-Atkin, Ross

Finally, there are Cups awarded to schools for each age group for the highest scoring teams based on individual events. These are generally won by schools in the Belfast, Bangor or Ards areas and so to win one of these Cups is another great achievement. The Girls' 15-16 age group narrowly missed out winning the Cup for their age group, finishing second behind a strong Strathearn Team.

The Senior Boys' 17-19 age group were not to be beaten and won the Cup for Banbridge Academy. A fantastic achievement from the three boys representing this group, Ben O'Reilly, Adam Wilson and Finlay Wright.

A special mention has to be given to Rachel Blemmings, Adam Wilson and Finlay Wright, as this will be their last year representing the school. These three swimmers have represented the school since Year 9 and some even in the Interpros team.

A final thank you goes to the people who coordinated the competition and supported these swimmers on the day to ensure they could give their best. Thank you, coaches, parents and other volunteers!



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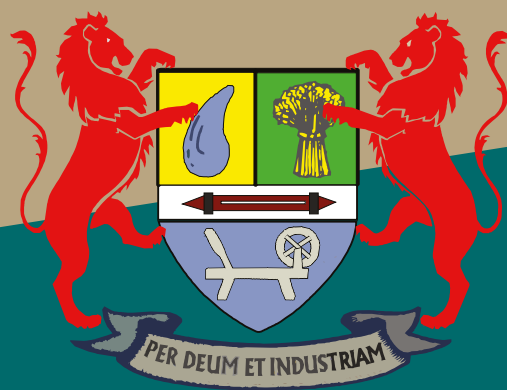
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