



Extra-Curricular Senior Scripture Union



Senior Scripture Union at Banbridge Academy had another busy year. It was hard to pick a highlight, but as usual the SU weekend to Castlewellan and the Formal at Edenmore Golf Club provided plenty of fun and good memories.

SU met weekly in the Lecture theatre on Tuesday break times, our theme for the year being that God is in complete control of the world we live in. Throughout the year we had a number of guest speakers, as well as some discussion based bible studies focusing on the biblical book of 1 Peter. Weekly SU meetings provided pupils with an opportunity to grow in their faith and get to know other like-minded Christians. Throughout the week we also met each morning for 'Spark' in Mr Beacom's room (a longer trek for some) to start each day with prayer based on a thought shared by Charis, usually from a portion of the bible. On Friday mornings F15 became the home to 'Tea and Toast' and we enjoyed a cuppa and invited our

friends for breakfast before the school day began.

The 'back to school' SU BBQ took place in early September and it brought together members of both Junior and Senior SU for games, activities and some food. As always, a competitive spirit throughout the games meant there was only one winner (sorry Mrs Duke).

My favourite event in the SU calendar was the annual SU weekend. On Friday the 7th October we set off for Castlewellan Castle with the anticipation of a sleep deprived weekend and we weren't disappointed (and that was just the teachers). Our Speaker for the weekend was Paddy Hayes who shared with us from the book of Jonah and how God speaks to each one of us, even in the midst of storms in our lives. We also enjoyed a number of seminars presented by members of SU on 'Surviving your lions' den' and 'How to be a Daniel', both focusing on how Christian

young people can live in the face of difficulties and problems.

There are far too many other highlights to go into lots of detail, but notable mentions must go to the SU Social during outreach week and small groups on a weekly basis. We finished the academic year in SU by studying the lives of some Bible characters who went through some situations similar to our own; maybe they were outcasts, or were faced with difficult tasks against overwhelming odds, but that even in these situations, just like in our own lives, God was and is always in control. The words of the book of Job speak really clearly to the purposes of God, "I know that you can do all things and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted."

Our hope for SU in school next year is that the pupils grow in the knowledge that God is in control of all their lives, and as they put their trust in Him they will know His peace as they try to live for Him.



Extra-Curricular Junior Scripture Union

Faith Anderson and Ciara Aiken



In 2022 and 2023 Junior SU was held in the lecture theatre and drama studio during Thursday breaktime, where we had a lot of fun.

This year our programme included the parables of Jesus and the armour of God. We also enjoyed visits from Crown Jesus Ministries and Dave Sellwood from Teach it Train it.

At the start of the year we had a joint junior and senior barbecue, which meant we could meet new people from throughout the school and compete in a range of challenges. In October our

annual weekend away was back after a two year Covid related break. We went back to Ganaway Activity Centre in Millisle. There were lots of fun activities, such as zip-lining, caving and laser tag in the forest, as well as a walk to the beach. Dave McConkey was our speaker. We also played lots of games and had good craic in the evening (although not much sleep).

In February, a group of Year 8 pupils joined with Scripture Unions from other local schools in a sports night, led by Teach it, Train it, where they heard testimony from local sports stars



including Kyle McCallan and Bethany Barr. We celebrated the end of the year by going to Let's Go Hydro, where everyone had lots of fun and really enjoyed themselves.

Junior SU is a great place to meet other Christians who want to learn more about God and strengthen our relationship with Him. If anyone 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!

