

Art: Year 8 Ceramic Masks





F.E McWilliam Gallery Visit

Once again our enthusiastic Year 10 pupils visited the F.E McWilliam Gallery as part of their Human Figure Unit. This educational trip provided the students with the unique opportunity to delve into the life and works of the renowned sculptor, F.E McWilliam.

The F.E McWilliam Gallery, dedicated to the memory of the sculptor, houses a comprehensive collection of his works,

including sculptures, drawings, and personal artefacts. The gallery's mission is to celebrate McWilliam's legacy and inspire future generations through his art.

During their visit, the pupils engaged in a guided tour of the gallery, where they learned about McWilliam's artistic journey, his influences, and his contributions to modern sculpture. The tour highlighted some of his most famous pieces, such as "The Woman in a Bomb Blast" and "The Watchers," which reflect his unique approach to depicting the human figure.

One of the highlights of the visit was the exploration of McWilliam's studio, which has been preserved to give visitors a glimpse into the artist's creative process. The pupils were fascinated by the tools and materials McWilliam used, as well as the sketches and models that provided insight into his meticulous approach to sculpture.

The trip was not only an educational experience, but also an inspiring one. It allowed our Year 10 pupils to connect with the rich cultural heritage of their local area and gain a greater appreciation for the arts.



Art: Year 12 & 13



RUA Exhibition, Belfast, Visit

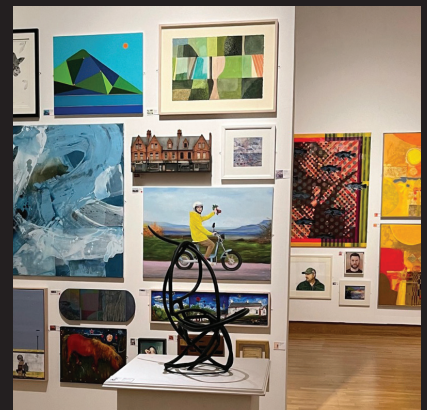
Our Year 12 and 13 pupils embarked on an inspiring educational trip to the 142nd Royal Ulster Academy (RUA) Annual Exhibition, held at the Ulster Museum in Belfast. This prestigious event, a highlight of Northern Ireland's cultural calendar, provided our students with a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in the vibrant world of contemporary art.

The exhibition showcases an eclectic mix of paintings, drawings, sculptures, photography, and video installations by both acclaimed artists and emerging talents. As our pupils wandered through the galleries, they were captivated by the diverse range of artworks on display, each piece telling its own story and evoking a spectrum of emotions.

The visit was not just about viewing art; it was an educational experience that broadened our students' understanding of artistic techniques and concepts. This interactive approach allowed our pupils to engage deeply with the

art, fostering a greater appreciation for the visual arts.

Many of our students found the exhibition to be a source of inspiration for their own artistic endeavours. It provided them with a broader perspective on the world of art and encouraged them to think creatively and critically. Our visit to the 142nd RUA Annual Exhibition was a resounding success, leaving a lasting impression on our Year 12 and 13 pupils. It was a day filled with learning, inspiration, and a deeper connection to the world of art.





Set Painting and Makeup

Cadey- Lee Jess and Joanna Kane

Getting involved in the school play was an enjoyable and worthwhile experience. We were the artistic minds and hands behind the giant lollipops held by the munchkins and large elements of the set and large scale props.

Helping paint the props and set for the Wizard of Oz introduced us to a lot of people in all year groups, creating a fun and slightly chaotic environment where lots of time was spent getting to know each other and lots of new friends were made. It was class craic to be in school after dark- paintbrush

in hand, with everyone belting out to Miss McCullough's awesome playlist. There were many teams involved in the backstage crew, including the sound, lighting, set painting, running crew and more, creating an amazing production where we all worked together in order to ensure a smooth-running show.

Although the majority of our time was spent painting parts of the set for The Wizard of Oz production, we also helped with makeup on the three performance nights. We arrived well before the show began and were tasked with painting the faces of our incredible acting peers, including what felt like a never-ending queue of first to third year munchkins

who all looked stunning once we were finished with them.

We thoroughly enjoyed this task as it allowed us to make use of our talents and explore our interest in painting, similar to the opportunities given to everyone who took part as each individual was recognised for their own ability. We loved being involved in this production-even though we weren't always the most cool, calm and collected. It was definitely a character-building experience, and we would no doubt do it all over again, especially if it involves a new hoodie with our initials on it!



Art: GCSE

GCSE Art Exhibition

The Banbridge Academy GCSE Art Exhibition served as a vibrant celebration of creativity and talent, showcasing the artistic prowess of our students. This annual event highlights the diverse range of artwork produced by young artists; from photography and fine art to textiles and sculpture.

Banbridge Academy equips students with the skills and confidence to pursue their artistic passions and turn them into fulfilling careers. The exhibition stands as a testament to the power of art education in nurturing individual expression and fostering a lifelong appreciation for the arts. With each piece displayed, the students have not only showcased their technical skills but also their unique perspectives and creative voices. We eagerly anticipate the future artistic endeavours and successes that await these talented individuals.



Aimee Gilmore with her Grandfather



Beth Jordan pictured with her mother.



Callum Nixon with his sculptural portrait



Lucy Thompson pictured with her father and teacher Miss Emma McCullough



Elianna Bowles pictured with her parents



Sarah Liggett pictured with her sister Kimberley

Art: A Level

A Level Exhibition



The Banbridge Academy A Level art exhibition was a showcase of creativity and talent, celebrating the hard work and dedication of the students, as well as the guidance and inspiration provided by the teachers.

Retiring Head of Department Olga Casey, affectionately known as Mrs. Casey, has been part of the art department at Banbridge Academy for over three decades. Her passion for nurturing young artists and fostering a creative environment has left an indelible mark on the school and its students. The A Level art exhibition served as a fitting tribute to her enduring dedication and influence on the artistic community within the school.

The exhibition featured an impressive array of artworks across various mediums, including paintings, sculptures, digital art, and mixed media pieces. The diversity of styles and themes on display reflected the individuality and talent of the students, showcasing their growth and artistic development under the guidance of the dedicated art department.

The retiring Head of Department, Olga Casey, shared her thoughts on the exhibition, expressing her pride in the students' accomplishments and the joy of witnessing their artistic progression throughout their time at the academy. Mrs. Casey's heartfelt reflections resonated with attendees, highlighting the profound impact of her mentorship and the legacy she leaves behind.

Teachers Emma McCullough and Patricia McKenzie, who have worked alongside Mrs. Casey, also received recognition for their instrumental roles in fostering creativity and providing unwavering support to the budding artists. Their combined efforts have helped cultivate a nurturing environment where students can explore their artistic visions and flourish as emerging talents.

The vibrant atmosphere at the exhibition exemplified the sense of community and encouragement that has been foundational to the students' artistic journey at Banbridge Academy.



A2 Aidan Farr pictured with retiring Head of Department Olga Casey



A2 pupil Daniel Reid with his family



A2 pupil Ellen Jack with retiring Head of Dept Olga Casey



A2 Pupil Katherine Otley pictured with her family



Amy Mitchell, Grace Hill and Emma McCullough



AS pupil Amber Bradley pictured with her family and teacher Patricia McKenzie



AS pupil Cadey Lee Jess pictured with her parents, Principal Robin McLoughlin and teacher Patricia McKenzie



AS pupil Clara Cunningham, her granny Millie Moore and retiring Head of Dept Olga Casey