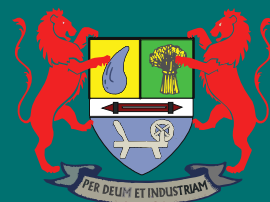


Review

BANBRIDGE ACADEMY 2020-2021



2for1 designer glasses from £99

No wonder
Nicole's smiling



Book an eye test at [specsavers.co.uk](https://www.specsavers.co.uk)

Banbridge 56 Newry Street Tel 028 4066 9811

Specsavers

With single-vision lenses to the same prescription. Cannot be used with any other offers. Second pair from the same price range or below. Both pairs include standard 1.5 single-vision lenses (or 1.6 for £169 Rimless ranges). Varifocal/bifocal: pay for lenses in first pair only. Excludes SuperDigital, SuperDrive varifocals, and safety eyewear. Additional charge - Extra Options. SKU 30829596.



Editorial

G. Gough

When writing last year's editorial, I was hopeful that phrases such as, 'online teaching' 'remote learning' and 'lockdown' would remain in 2020 and would not feature so prominently in this year's addition of the School Review. I couldn't have been more wrong!

January not only signalled the beginning of a new year, but the beginning of a new term of remote learning and the return (by both pupils and teachers) to computer screens and 'google meet'. Our own desks, dining rooms or kitchen tables replaced the classroom, and although benefitting from the technological experience gained last year, we were all eager to return as quickly as possible to our school setting, friends and colleagues.

This School Review is therefore reflective once again of the impact of Covid restrictions and its impingement not only on face-to



face teaching, but also on sport and extra-curricular activities. The four month closure of the school has evidently reduced the events held, but as we continue to make progress in our return journey to 'normality', let us celebrate the successes that have been achieved and fully embrace all of the opportunities that are on offer once again. I believe now, more than ever before, we can fully appreciate the benefits of school!

I extend my thanks to the staff and pupils who have contributed to this year's School Review and also to the many local businesses who, in choosing to advertise with us, continue to support our school.

To you the reader, as a pupil, parent, staff member or friend of the school, I hope you enjoy the 2020-2021 edition of the School Review.

Committee List

ARTICLES

Angela Baker
Catherine Black
Anna Boyd
Selena Chambers
Jemma Clydesdale
Lara Crothers
Alfie Davidson
Julia Englefield
Lucy Gilmore
Rachel Gray
Katie Gregg
Anna Harris

Tanya Haslem
Kerri Henry
Adam Kelly
Anna McInnes
Lara Kinkaid
Rachel Kirkpatrick
Emma Kirkwood
Ellie Lindsay
Erin Martin
Sasha Martin
Katlo Matlhodi
Isabelle McKenzie

Katie McBride
Kiera McQuaid
Lucy Miskelly
Ruby Mulligan
Abigail Noke
Pushti Patel
Emily Shields
Emma Simms
Bethany Wallace
Charis Walker
Rose Widdis
Emilie Williamson

Ruby Wilson

ADVERTISING

Julia Englefield
Rachel Kirkpatrick
Chloe McCabe
Megan Murray
Oliveen O'Rourke
Jenna Whiteside
Katie Wright
Olivia Wright

PHOTOGRAPHY

Sasha Martin

Staff Lists

Principal

Mr R S McLoughlin, BSc, PGCE, MEd, PQH

Vice Principals

Mrs H Evans, BSc, MEd, PGCE, PQH, EdD

Mr D McFarland, BEd, MSc, PQH

Senior Teachers

Mrs F Campbell BSc, PGCE

Mr W Cromie, BA, PGCE

Mr A Hanlon, BSc, PGCE

Mrs H Morrison, BSc, PGCE

Heads of Department

Art	Mrs O Casey, BA, PGCE
Biology	Mrs S Tully, BSc, PGCE
Careers	Mr S Bond, MA, PGCE
Chemistry	Mrs J Glover, BSc, PGCE
Computing	Mr A Hanlon, BSc, PGCE
Drama	Mrs J Neill, BA, MA, PGCE
Economics	Mr T Dempsey, BSc, PGCE
English	Miss L McConkey, MA, PGCE
French	Mrs C O'Shaughnessy, BA, PGCE
Geography	Mrs D Dreading (Temp), BSc, PGCE
History	Mrs G Johnston, BA, PGCE
Home Economics	Miss L Elliott, BA, DIS, PGCE
Mathematics	Mr D Irwin, BSc, PGCE
Music	Mrs C Hamilton, BMus, PGCE, ATCL, LTCL
Physical Education	Boys- Mr T Baxter, BA, PGCE Girls- Mrs G Todd, BSc, DIS, PGCE
Physics	Mr D Stewart, BSc, PGD, PGCE
Politics	Miss A McClelland, BA, MA, PGCE
Psychology	Mrs L Duke, BSc, MSc, PGDE, PGCert, ALCM (TD)
Religious Studies	Mr W Brown, BEd
Science	Mr D Stewart, BSc, PGD, PGCE
Spanish	Miss K Poots, BA, PGCE
Technology	Mr G Winter, BEd

Year Heads

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

**Full Time Teaching Staff**

Mr T Acheson, BSc, PGCE
Mrs H Adair, BA, PGCE
Miss S Anderson, BSc, PGCE
Mr C Beacom, BSc, PGCE
Mrs R Beacom, BSc, PGCE
Mrs B Callan-Rushe, BEd, MEd
Mr J Clarke, BA, PGCE
Mr M Cordner, BA, DIS, PGCE
Miss J Cosgrove, BSc, PGCE
Mrs K Curran, BA, PGCE
Mr S Dawson, MSc, PGCE
Dr R Dobson, BSc, PhD, PGCE
Mr J Erskine, BA, PGCE
Mr J Farrell, BSc, PGCE
Mr R Graham, MA, BA, PGCE
Miss J Greenlee, MA, MEd, PGCE
Miss K Jess, BSc, PGCE
Mr S Jess, MSc, PGCE
Mr A D Kennedy, BSc, MEd, PGCE
Mr B Leslie, BEd
Mrs J Leslie, BSc, PGCE
Dr C Lorimer, BSc PhD, PGCE
Mr A McAuley, BA, PGCE
Miss J McCormick, BA, PGCE
Mrs J McCullagh, BA, PGCE
Miss E McCullough, BDes, PGCE
Mrs P McKenzie, BA, PGCE
Mr M Miskelly, BEng, PGCE
Dr T Myers, MSc, PhD, PGCE
Mrs N Paolucci, BA, PGCE
Mr G Patterson, BA, MA, PGCE
Mrs T Qua, BMus
Mr J Reaney, MSc, BSc, PGCE
Mr G Robinson, BEng, PGCE
Mrs N Shaw, BSc, PGCE
Mr P Smyth, BSc, PGCE
Mrs H Stewart, BA, PGCE
Mr M Thompson, BSc, PGCE
Mrs L Topley-Willis, BA, PGCE
Mrs F Topping, BSc, PGCE
Mr C Walker, MSc, PGCE
Miss R Warnock, BSc, PGCE

Part-Time Teaching Staff

Mrs R Armstrong, BA, PGCE
Dr L Bradford, BSc, PhD, PGCFHE, Dip Ed
Mrs H Cartmill, BA, PGCE
Miss L Forsythe, BA, MA, PGCE
Mrs G Gough, BA, PGCE
Mrs S Hassard, BEd
Mrs B Kernaghan, BSc, PGCE
Mrs H Lawther, BA, PGCE
Mrs E Spratt, BA, PGCE
Mrs R Thompson, BSc, PGCE

Auxiliary Staff

Financial Administrator
Principal's PA
Secretarial Staff

Cover/Examinations
Reprographics Technician
Library Assistant
Y14 Study Supervisor
Laboratory Technicians
ICT Technicians
HE/Art Technician
Technology Technician
Pupil Welfare Auxiliary
Classroom Assistants

Building Supervisors
Foreign Language Assistants
Groundsman

Mrs C Neill
Mrs S Johnston
Mrs A McCurdy, Mrs D McRoberts,
Mrs J Sayers, Mrs N O'Neill
Mr B O'Shaughnessy
Mrs L Cochrane
Ms K McEvoy
Mr A Harvey
Miss L Shannon, Mr S Sturgeon, Miss G McFall
Mr S Gilliland, Mr J Curran
Mrs N Hazley
Mr M McKinney
Mrs H Singer
Mr P Bingham, Mrs N Beggs, Mrs C Bolwell,
Mr C Campbell, Mrs K Cromie, Mrs S Gibbons,
Mrs B Hampton, Mrs A McGovern, Mrs N Stewart
Mr S Curry, Mr J Kernaghan
Mr Alvaro Aguilera Moreno, Ms Roxane Bourhis
Mr S Savage

The Queen's Birthday Honours 2021

Mr McLoughlin Awarded OBE

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 2020/21

The start of the academic year 2020/21 led to many necessary changes to our daily lives in the Academy in order to ensure the safety of our pupils, colleagues and the entire community. I was delighted to welcome pupils back to school in September 2020 on a full-time basis after the first lockdown in the history of Northern Ireland. We introduced many protocols and measures to ensure we minimised risk and complied with the latest and ever changing Guidance from the Department of Education and the Public Health Agency. The Board of Governors had to take the decision to cancel Prize Day 2020 and likewise they also had to make the difficult decision to cancel Prize Day this year, but it is very important, for future years, that we have a brief record for the School Year 2020/21. Before outlining the year, I note as I did last year, the enormous health, financial and personal challenges faced by everyone in our community – my thoughts and prayers remain with you all, especially those who have lost loved ones and those who are lonely or isolated.

It is amazing how our pupils and my colleagues adapted to the many challenges over the past two years and I wish to commend the endeavours of our parents for supporting their children's education as we maintained our focus on supporting our students. Many phrases entered our daily vocabulary - Zoom (that was what we used to do on a camera!), online platforms, Google Classroom, Google Meet (which wasn't even invented until the second lockdown), synchronous and asynchronous teaching – the circumstances necessitated a frightening pace of change. During the year we remained true to the Academy's central aim - for everyone to be happy at school, known personally and cared for individually. As Christmas approached it was very apparent that a second lockdown was inevitable across the country. The investment in high spec iPads and high quality training for all the teaching staff, ensured we were ready for a period of remote learning. As

such, the quality of education was maintained throughout the lockdown period, both academically and pastorally. Obviously, the disruption to learning necessitated the cancellation of public examinations for the second successive year. However, the Senior Leadership Team and the Heads of Department, alongside their departmental colleagues, worked tirelessly to produce the statistics to ensure our pupils achieved the fantastic outcomes they deserved, enabling them to progress successfully to the next stage of their careers. The mental health of our pupils is paramount and during lockdown our pastoral team was central to the continuation of emotional support for the young people in our care. I place on record my personal thanks to my teaching and non-teaching colleagues for all of their efforts during these extraordinary times.

I also record my thanks to Mrs Gough and her team for compiling such a





Headmaster's Report 2020/21

wonderful record of the School Year, in the second year of producing our digital School Magazine.

At the end of the year, we said farewell to a number of colleagues. Mrs Gilpin, retired after 18 years of outstanding service to the Academy in many roles, including Head of Careers and Senior Teacher. Mrs Robinson, Head of Music, and Mrs McCurdy, Music teacher and Year Head, retired after 26 and 27 years of wonderful service to the students and the entire school community. Mr Chris Nash returned to his Alma Mater to take up the position of Head of Geography in Belfast Royal Academy. Mrs Topping left the school following many years of sterling work in the German Department. Mrs Carole Cross resigned from her post as Teacher of Biology having decided to settle permanently in Australia. We also said goodbye to Mrs Leathem, who had served in the school office for 25 years. We wish all of our colleagues a long, happy and healthy retirement and send our best wishes to those who have moved on to new roles.

We welcomed a number of new appointments. Mr Stephen Bond was appointed Head of Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance. Mrs Claire Hamilton is the new Head of Music and Mrs Deborah Dreading was appointed temporary Head of Geography. Miss Sarah Anderson, a former pupil, returns as Teacher of Biology. Mrs Bethany Kernaghan (Chemistry), Miss Lauren Forsythe (English) and Mr McAuley (Spanish) were appointed on a permanent basis. The Music and Religious Studies departments welcomed Mrs Tammie Qua and Mrs Elaine Spratt, another former pupil. Miss Rebekah Warnock joined the Home Economics department.

There were also a number of internal promotions: Mr Hanlon (Senior Teacher), Mrs Dreading (Head of House - Girls), Miss Jess, Mr Beacom and Dr Dobson (Year Heads).

The education of our young people involves a partnership and I pay tribute to my colleagues in our primary schools who have created the foundation for the success our pupils enjoy. The outstanding public examination results in 2021 are testimony to the endeavours of all of our pupils, the commitment of the teaching staff and the ongoing support of our parents. Such remarkable results would not have been obtained without the talent and dedication of the teaching staff of the Academy; their professional approach throughout the year undoubtedly underpinned the grades that were justifiably awarded. I know the vast majority of our parents were delighted with the outcomes and they too must be congratulated for their consistent support and encouragement as we work together to ensure high levels of success for our pupils. I firmly believe that the pandemic has consistently displayed the strength and resolve of the Academy family.

Three of our students progressed to Oxbridge Universities - Susanna Elliott (Law in Hertford College, Oxford), Elise Smyth (Law in Worcester College, Oxford) and Joseph Garvey (Engineering at Christ's College, Cambridge).

The Academy's special ethos is due to the quality of relationships across our community. The partnership and support provided by The Academy Association is fantastic and I place on record our sincere thanks to our Chair, Audrey Wilson-Reid and her dedicated Committee.

At the start of the academic year we welcomed the then Minister of Education, Mr Peter Weir MLA, to the

Academy when he spoke to pupils about returning to school following lockdown. In June we also enjoyed a visit from the First Minister, Arlene Foster, who took time to chat at length with many of our students. She acknowledged the challenges facing the students during these unprecedented times and noted that the energy and optimism of the next generation should give us all hope for our future.

Our wider school family also continue 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 has been launched to help pupils across the school who are struggling and experiencing difficulties in their lives. For many years, the school supported the annual Action MS Walk and we were very saddened to learn recently of the passing of Ann Walker MBE, Founder of Action MS – she was a very dear friend to the Academy over many years. We were extremely privileged to accept the Bronze Boot on a permanent capacity, in recognition of being the school who has raised the most for this worthy charity over the years. Due to the COVID restrictions our charity activities last year were greatly limited, however, we still managed to contribute many Shoe Boxes for Operation Christmas Child. We were delighted that Year 8 pupils could still deliver Christmas cards and gifts to Crozier House, Iveagh House, Bannview House and Seapatrick Care Homes on behalf of the staff and pupils of the school.

The outbreak of COVID-19 prevented our concerts, shows, visits and trips, and most of our extra and co-curricular activities from taking place. However, that didn't dampen the spirits of the House staff who arranged a wonderful Fun Day at

Headmaster's Report 2020/21

the end of the year. There were also a number of notable achievements during the year, which are detailed below.

Young Enterprise Company students participated in the Young Enterprise Examination which is supported by the School of Business, Ulster University. They enjoyed outstanding success being awarded 6 of the top 10 results across Northern Ireland. There were only 7 Distinctions presented in NI and Banbridge Academy students received 4 of them – what a wonderful achievement.

Our budding young entrepreneurs from Year 13 represented the school, with schools from across Northern Ireland in the Young Enterprise Company Programme. They set up their online businesses to sell to the general public for the first time! 'Monkey Business Sweets' had fantastic success achieving the 'Digital Marketing Award', as well as 'Overall Runner Up' in the Young Enterprise Big Market Competition. Monkey Business and Knotted were shortlisted for the Marketing and Social Media Awards. The students gained many interpersonal and employability skills from participating in the programme. During these unprecedented times we were delighted that so many students were able to take part in this excellent entrepreneurial opportunity. Banbridge Academy had 14 companies taking part this year and all worked tirelessly to run their businesses during difficult times.

Following a rigorous selection process, Kathryn Morton was awarded an Arkwright Engineering Scholarship, the most prestigious scholarship of its type in the UK, which supports students through the two years of their A level studies. In the summer Kathryn was selected to represent the Great Britain Field Archery Team (Team GB) for the European Field Championships in Zagreb, Croatia

and brought home a Bronze medal in the Junior (U21) Ladies' Team event, a Silver medal in the Individual event and came second place in the Junior Mixed Team competition, having been paired with a Slovenian archer!

Aimee Dawson impressively took on the challenge of the Carlingford Swim – a 7.5k sea swim from Omeath to Carlingford. Not only did Aimee finish as the first female amongst 130 competitors, but she also set a new female record (1:31:02), an incredible performance! Aimee went on to support her coach, Francie McAlinden, in his biggest challenge yet, to swim the circumference of Lough Neagh.

In Boys' Hockey, 14 pupils were selected to the Ulster U18 and U16 Interprovincial Squads. The U18 squad included the 3 Rowe brothers – Edward, Charlie and Louis. The Ulster U16 Interprovincial Squad included 11 Banbridge Academy players (including another set of brothers – the McKee brothers – Matthew and Adam). The U16 boys won the series convincingly - an amazing achievement for the boys and the school. Mr Cordner hosted a bespoke Men's Mental Health Awareness event at Havelock Park for the all of the Academy hockey players. The event also afforded the opportunity to congratulate former pupil, Mark Tumilty, on his appointment as Irish Hockey Senior Men's Coach, as far as we are aware, he is the first former pupil ever to hold a national coaching role.

Year 14 Sports Science students took over the Year 8 PE classes to lead their 12 Challenges of Christmas Virtual Fitness Event. Year 8 pupils tried their luck at the different challenges including Keepie Uppies, Frog Stand Holds and Standing Broad Jumps. The event was also a charity fundraiser with all proceeds going to Parkinson's UK.

Mr Baxter and former pupil Alex Cromie completed the challenge of the Mourne Wall Walk – 21 miles and 19 mountains, for Angel Wishes and Children's Cancer Centre. Many colleagues also participated in the Walking All Over Cancer Challenge in March – 10,000 steps per day.

Molly Davidson was selected for the NI Pony Club Mounted Games team, who travelled to the Royal Windsor Horse Show to compete against teams from England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. Charlotte Betts competed during the summer in the UK Pony Club Championships and finished 3rd in show-jumping in a field of 200 competitors.

Leah Radcliffe reached the semi-finals of the BBC Chorister of the Year 2020 singing competition where she was one of the 5 girls and 5 boys selected from hundreds who auditioned across the UK. Leah attended a mentoring session with Kathrine Jenkins in London where she received tips for her performance for the semi-final and final. Leah performed in front of a panel of talented musicians including Kathrine Jenkins and Aled Jones - what an amazing experience!

Beth Cordner and Larissa Harte were successful in getting through the heat stages of the BBC NI School Soloist of the Year 2021 contest but unfortunately, due to COVID-19, were denied the opportunity to perform at the Finals.

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

I feel very humble and proud to lead such a talented group of staff who are highly professional and genuinely caring. Their enthusiasm and



Headmaster's Report 2020/21

devotion to our pupils 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 teaching & non-teaching colleagues for their enthusiasm, support, dedication and friendship.

I can testify to the dedication of the Board of Governors and in particular our outgoing Chair, Mr Mark Orr QC. The School thanks Mark for his wisdom and commitment in the role of Chair of the Board of Governors and we are extremely grateful that he is staying as a Governor. We wish Mr Dennis Livingstone every success in his new role as the Chairman of the Board of Governors.

In conclusion, as we continue to live in uncertain times, please be assured that the Academy will continue to meet the needs of the outstanding young people entrusted to our care.

Mr R S McLoughlin – Headmaster

LENNONESTATES

**Big Enough
To Cope!**

**Small Enough
To Care!**

**Thinking of
Selling !**

Contact Lennon Estates
for a Free Valuation & Quality
Property Advice

27 Rathfriland Street,
Banbridge, Co. Down
BT32 3LA
Tel: (028) 4062 9000
www.lennonestates.com
E-mail: info@lennonestates.com

Con Lavery & Co. Solicitors

A MEMBER OF THE LAW GROUP



SENSIBLE PRACTICAL CLEAR ADVICE

A VAST RANGE OF SKILLS
& EXPERIENCE FOCUSED INTO
ONE COMPREHENSIVE LEGAL TEAM.

The Law Group have offices operating from Newry to Dungannon and Dublin to Armagh. We offer local knowledge and practical advice. Our skilled and experienced teams allow us to provide you with a tailor-made solution to your unique legal requirements.

OUR SPECIALITIES INCLUDE:

Accidents | Agriculture & Farming | Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) |
Bankruptcy & Insolvency | Business Advice/Corporate Law | Charities Law |
Commercial Litigation | Consumer Law | Conveyancing - Commercial |
Conveyancing - Residential | Criminal Injuries & Criminal Damage Compensation |
Criminal Law | Debt & Money Problems | Domestic Violence | Employment Law
& Tribunals | Enforcement Of Judgements | Environmental Law | Equality
& Discrimination | Family Law - Children | Family Law - General | Housing |
Immigration | Inquests & Inquiries | Insurance | Judicial Review | Land & Property
Disputes | Libel & Slander | Licensing | Mental Health | Planning | Professional
Negligence | Trusts, Tax & Financial Planning | Wills, Probate & Intestacy | Legal Aid



**CON LAVERY
& CO**

34 Bridge Street
Banbridge
BT32 3JS


T. +44 028 4062 9933

E. info@cjlavery.co.uk

www.conlavery.co.uk

Graduates 2021



		Rory Kelly BSc Hons Busn Econ w Acct	2.1	Joshua Reain BSc Hons Business Economics	1st
		Andrea Kennedy BSc Hons Bus Stds with Opts	2.1	Luke Roleston BSc Hons Sp&Exer Sc DPP	1st
Ross Cartmill BSc Hons Business Economics	1st & Distinction	Ross Malcomson, BSc Hons ComAdvert&Mark+DPP	1st	Matthew Smyth BSc Hons ComAdvert&Mark+DPP	1st
Lucy Cook BDes Hons Interact Design	1st & Distinction	Daire McCluskey BSc Hons Comp Science	2.1	Clare Taylor BSc Hons Int Travel&Tourism	1st
Mark Crory BSc Hons Internat Hosp Mgmt	1st & Distinction	Abbie Muldrew BSc Hons Business Economics	1st	Hollie Thompson BA Hons Textile, Des & Fash	2.1
Lauryn Farrell BSc Hons Biomedical Sc.	1st	Shane Mulholland BSc Hons Comp Science	2.1	Jessica Thompson BSc Hons Human Res Mgt	2.1
Kate Gallagher BA Hons Textile, Des & Fash	1st	Christopher Otley BA Hons Architecture	1st	Anna Tinsley BSc Hons Diag Radiog & Imag	2.1
Chloe Graham BSc Hons Accting & Law	1st	Alicia Price BDes Hons Graph Des& Illust	1st		



Charlotte Campbell
Speech and Language Therapy



Deborah Cartmill
English Literature



Beth McCullagh
French and Spanish

Unfortunately, due to the impact of the Covid Pandemic on Graduation Ceremonies, we are unable to obtain graduate details from Queen's University this year.

Congratulations

Valete

Mrs Sandra McCurdy

Banbridge Academy: (1993 - 2020)

Mrs Sandra McCurdy retired after 27 years of distinguished service as Teacher of Music and Religious Studies in Banbridge Academy. Throughout her career Sandra made a significant contribution to countless pupils during her long service in the Academy. She continually developed her own skills throughout her time in the school and was a very passionate teacher of all things musical. Her aim was always to enthuse the pupils and she founded the Music Society in 2017 to give young musicians the opportunity to lead and influence their peers.

Sandra also founded the Girls' Choir so that the girls could compete in the very first UTV Choir of the Year Competition. The Choir reached the finals every year and were runners-up in 2002. They also performed at many school concerts and Carol Services over the years and were runners up in the Navan Choir of the Year competition, having competed against many choirs of international renown. Under her leadership, the Girls' Choir recorded two CDs - Bel Canto and Let It Shine, to raise funds for the Music Department.

Sandra was also involved in the Cross Border Orchestra, which gave a number of our pupils the opportunity to perform at the Waterfront Hall. She was integral to the team who produced the School Productions, expertly directing the pupils as they delivered the musical elements for many wonderful productions over the years. She constantly encouraged and supported her pupils to develop their skills in singing, playing instruments and acting, all of which were valuable,

transferrable skills for their future career choices.

Sandra was Leader-in Charge of Senior SU for 20 years and helped to establish opportunities for the students to develop their leadership skills. She also co-ordinated the Horizon Project, a cross-community programme for Junior and Seniors from schools all over Ireland, offering weekends away focusing on breaking down barriers through working together, using activities such as drama, sport, music, cookery, dance and art.

As a Year Head, Sandra fulfilled the role with passion and commitment, treating each pupil as an individual with empathy, compassion and demonstrating great care and interest in all aspects of their lives. She was also Head of Waddell Girls' House for a period of time and again immersed herself in this role with her usual care and commitment.

We thank Sandra for her dedicated



commitment to Banbridge Academy and its pupils and we will miss her around school. We wish her good health and trust her retirement will be a time of fulfilment and will afford her the opportunity to continue to use her skills in a new arena in the future.

Valete

Mrs Diane Robinson

Banbridge Academy: (1995 - 2021)

Mrs Diane Robinson retired this year after 26 years of distinguished service as Head of Music in Banbridge Academy. She came to the Academy from Parkhall High School, where she had also been Head of Music.

Throughout her career, Diane made a significant contribution to the musical life of the school and to numerous pupils during her long service in the Academy. Her aim was to encourage and enthuse her pupils to become involved in all aspects of music, while developing their practical skills and their love of music. Diane's skill on the piano and her ability to motivate the pupils, resulted in many performances at local festivals and external competitions.

The Music Department was always a hub of activity and the preparations for the many events throughout the year, including Spring and Christmas concerts and Musical productions, were expertly executed. Tickets for these events were always in high demand such was the calibre of the performance of the pupils, never mind the performance value of the compere on the night!

Diane was an extremely accomplished

musician who was skilled at playing numerous instruments. She had many connections in the field of music outside of the Academy and made good use of these to ensure her pupils were aware of the opportunities available to them in the world of music as a career.

Diane was a committed Form Teacher who was able to offer sympathetic support to individual members of her Form Class, having built strong, trusting relationships with each one over the years.

We thank Diane for her dedicated commitment to Banbridge Academy and to generations of pupils; we will certainly miss her friendly personality around school. We trust her retirement will be a time of fulfilment and will allow her the opportunity to use her skills to continue teaching and mentoring pupils in the future.

Thank you for the music!



Valete

Mrs Aileen Gilpin

Banbridge Academy: (2002 - 2020)

Mrs Aileen Gilpin retired this year after 18 years of dedicated service to Banbridge Academy. Initially Aileen was employed as a part-time teacher of Home Economics, but progressed to the post of Head of Careers and ultimately was appointed Senior Teacher in 2018.

Aileen was an extremely committed teacher who made a significant contribution to countless pupils during her time at the Academy. She had a great love for Home Economics and drew on her experience in other schools, as well as her time as a freelance Home Economist with the Livestock and Meat Commission, to share her passion with generations of pupils. She always encouraged the pupils, helping them understand the essential role Home Economics played in their lives beyond the classroom, including the benefits of healthy eating and exercise.

In her role as Head of Careers, she introduced a range of whole school initiatives that resulted in our pupils developing lifelong skills for the world of work in the 21st Century. Her connection with business leaders, universities and Young Enterprise ensured our pupils had the best possible careers education, advice, information and guidance. Aileen also introduced a number of unique programmes to the school such as

Quick Start and Dragons' Den, which afforded the pupils an opportunity to develop essential skills.

Following completion of further leadership and management training, Aileen was appointed to a key role as Senior Teacher. In this role she consistently led the school in the best interest of the pupils and performed many different roles with aplomb. Most notably her attention to detail in relation to her role as Examinations Officer ensured the school was able to secure the best possible outcomes for our young people in public examinations during the pandemic. The school was incredibly grateful to Aileen when she delayed her retirement to ensure that all of the young people were not impacted during a time of great uncertainty.

We thank Aileen for her leadership and extraordinary commitment to both the pupils and the school. We wish her a long, healthy and happy retirement.



Valete

Mrs Hilary Leathem

Banbridge Academy: (1996 - 2021)

Mrs Hilary Leathem retired this year after 25 years of distinguished service in the school office. Hilary joined the Academy as a Clerk Typist on 1 August 1996, in what was becoming an increasingly busy school office. In 2006, she had a short career break to help care for her father before returning in 2007. In 2012 she opted, for family reasons, to reduce her working week to part-time hours.

Hilary was a dedicated member of the non-teaching staff and was always willing to do whatever was required on a daily basis to ensure the school functioned efficiently. She worked diligently as part of the administrative team and played her part in offering the Principal and teaching staff the support they needed. It was in the office, however, where her colleagues not only benefited from her work ethic but where they observed her compassionate, caring personality and practical outlook on life. Hilary was a

sympathetic ear and support to her colleagues in the office and displayed a genuine interest and concern. She has an infectious sense of humour and her laughter brightened many a busy day. We will miss her but understand her desire to spend valuable time with those who mean the most to her.

We thank Hilary for her loyal service to Banbridge Academy and wish her God's blessing for a long, healthy and happy retirement.



SUPERFRY AND FOURWAYS ***Hot Food Bars***

7, Scarva Street
4062 2887

2d Kenlis Street
4062 5641

Traditional Fish and Chips • ***OPEN MONDAY - SATURDAY***

Valete

Mrs Helen Topping

Banbridge Academy: (2008 - 2021)

Mrs Helen Topping joined the Modern Language department in Banbridge Academy as a substitute teacher back in 2008, teaching French and German. She was an extremely conscientious teacher and very committed to the pupils in her care. Helen quickly became an integral part of the Languages Department and her expertise was greatly valued by her colleagues.

Helen is a quiet, unassuming lady, who was willing to do whatever was required to help her pupils excel in languages. Her gentle and professional manner ensured that the pupils achieved excellent outcomes

and were always ready for the next stage of their educational journey.

We thank Helen for her loyal service to this school and wish her well in the future.



Valete

Mrs Carole Cross

Banbridge Academy: (2005 - 2021)

Mrs Carole Cross resigned this year from her post as Teacher of Biology after 16 years of service to Banbridge Academy. Initially Carole was employed on a part-time basis, but was subsequently appointed to a full time position in 2006.

Carole was a very effective classroom teacher who carefully and thoughtfully planned her lessons. She was a team player, and was actively involved in the extra-curricular life of the school. As a former netball player she utilised her skills to coach the Junior Netball Team. She also took an active interest and assisted with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, often supporting groups on their training walks in the Mournes. Carole also enjoyed helping out with the

junior discos and school productions and was always keen to be involved in the extra-curricular programme in school.

Carole decided to avail of the opportunity to take a Career Break in 2016 when she and her husband spent a year in Australia, where she experienced life and education in a different culture. As the time came for her to return home, Carole made the very difficult decision to remain in



Australia and continue to build a life there for her family.

We thank Carole for her service to Banbridge Academy and wish her and her young family well, as they embrace their new life in Australia.

Mr Chris Nash

Banbridge Academy: (2018 - 2021)

Mr Chris Nash was appointed to Banbridge Academy as Head of Geography in 2018.

Chris was an extremely effective teacher who made a substantial contribution to the pupils during his short time at the Academy. His love for Geography ensured that he taught the subject in such a way that encouraged his pupils to fully engage in all aspects of their lessons. Likewise, he ensured the pupils had the opportunity to engage in many trips and activities that inspired them to further study in the world of Geography.

Chris also made a huge contribution

to the extra-curricular life of the school and as an avid rugby player, he used his considerable skill set to coach a range of rugby teams across the school. The boys will greatly miss the 'big friendly giant' coaching sessions.

We will miss Chris' friendly face around school and we thank him for his service to Banbridge Academy, but wish him well as he returns to his Alma Mater, Belfast Royal Academy, as Head of Geography.



Portrait Gallery

NEW STAFF

Miss Anderson

Bethany Wallace and Katlo Matlhodi

How are you finding your time in Banbridge Academy so far?

Really good, I'm really enjoying it so far.

What A levels did you study and which was your favourite?

I studied Biology, Chemistry, Geography and Photography. I liked them all for different reasons. I liked Photography because it was something different and a bit more artistic. I liked Biology, obviously because I'm a Biology teacher. I really liked Chemistry and Geography too; I liked them all! The Geography fieldwork was brilliant. I would definitely advise pupils to pick subjects that you like.

Have you always wanted to be a teacher and why did you want to be a teacher?

No I haven't. Before I decided to enter the teaching profession I was doing Physiotherapy, but I soon realised that it just wasn't the job for me. It was during this time that I realised I actually wanted to be a teacher, so I 'course corrected' and started teaching.

What would you tell your 15-year-old self?

It's the same thing that I would tell a lot of pupils when they're trying to decide on subjects and careers. Fifteen is really young to be making such a big decision, so I would say to pick the subjects that you like because then they won't seem as difficult and you'll enjoy them more because you actually want to study them. I also think that it's important to realise that

it's okay to change, even if you think you have already decided for certain what you want to be.

Do you have any hidden talents?

I can lick my elbow (*we were very impressed by this secret talent and proceeded to ask Miss Anderson if she would demonstrate.*)

Name the top 3 highlights of your life so far.

Probably when my niece and nephew were born. They're really cool. Actually qualifying as a teacher was also a very big highlight because it was quite a long road and it was one of those experiences where you're frequently thinking, 'Am I doing the right thing?' or 'Will I actually ever get there?' So to actually get there and achieve it is very rewarding. The final thing I would say would be travelling. Definitely travel to where ever you get the opportunity and try to travel to as many places as you can, while you can.

Where is your favourite place that you've ever travelled to?

Thailand.

What made you love it so much?

The people are amazing and the culture is so interesting. The country itself is so beautiful. There are beaches, rainforests and it's just such a beautiful country! The weather is amazing and so is the food. It's class. Go travelling!

Name one thing you haven't done yet, but would really like to?

More travelling!



Where is top of your bucket list?

I'd really like to visit some South American countries like Chile and Peru. I'd also love to go to Vietnam and learn about the history of the country as well.

If you could be any animal, what would you be and why?

I'd be a giraffe because they're amazing. Have you seen how long their necks are? They're my favourite animals.

Tea or Coffee? Tea

Cats or dogs?

I like both! Same with tea and coffee. I like both!

Favourite Food? Broccoli

Books or Movies? Books

Favourite Author? Matt Hague

Pet Peeve? Rude people.

We wish Miss Anderson well in her teaching career in Banbridge Academy and hope she soon gets the opportunity to travel to those 'dream' locations.



Portrait Gallery

NEW STAFF

Mr Bond

Abigail Noke and Pushti Patel

After perusing the cavernous corridors to locate the elusive Mr Bond (while abiding by the one way system of course), we tracked him down for an interview, which for some reason, he was quite reluctant to do –one can only wonder why...

As a new member of staff, how are you finding Banbridge Academy so far?

It's great and is very like the school I came from. Everyone's very friendly and the staff are lovely. I quite enjoy the staff football on a Friday and also the fact that it's close to home too. It's not too far down the road from Dromore!

Where did you teach before Banbridge Academy?

I was a History and English teacher in Belfast High School.

What made you decide to become a Careers teacher?

Before I started teaching, I didn't know what I wanted to do and I actually worked in a few other jobs before deciding that teaching was for me. So, I guess I now have an interest in helping those who are similarly directionless, which is why I chose to become a Careers teacher.

Strangest experience as a teacher?

There have been quite a few over the years, but one that particularly comes to mind is when one boy started to eat his tie during class. That was quite... strange to say the least!

Favourite member of staff?

I couldn't possibly name just one, but I would say that all of the caretaking staff and the cleaning staff are really

very kind and they help me out a lot.

What time period would you travel to if time machines existed?

As a History teacher, I've actually thought about this one a lot and I think I'd either go to Paris in the 1920s or to Germany in the 1540s. The 1920s was a really exciting time for art and culture in Paris and the 1540s in Germany was a bit of a scary time to be honest, with a lot of religious wars and fighting going on that completely shaped how Europe would go within the next 500 years. I would therefore be interested in observing both of these time periods.

What is something you get asked/told a lot?

'Are you related to James Bond?'

Do you have any nicknames?

I have a nickname, but I couldn't possibly disclose that... no way! (After numerous failed attempts at persuasion, we shall have to leave it to our imaginations while Mr Bond guards his secret.)

Quick Fire Questions:

Celebrity crush?

Princess Kate

Biggest pet peeve?

Stupid spelling mistakes –particularly when people mix up led with lead.



Chinese or Indian?

Indian

Favourite year group?

Year 8 or Year 14 -either end of the scale

Cats or dogs?

Cats.

We would like to thank Mr Bond for answering our questions and advise all pupils to brush up on their spelling before entering his room, lest you find yourself on the other end of a scolding by a thoroughly irked teacher.

Portrait Gallery

NEW STAFF

Mrs Hamilton

Catherine Black and Rachel Gray

We were on a hunt for some 'treble' in the Music Department and we couldn't wait to get some note-worthy opinions from our new Head of Music Department, Mrs Hamilton!

What drew you to Banbridge Academy and this post in particular?

I have been told about how good this school is by other colleagues in teaching; it sounded like it would be a lovely place to work and I was drawn to the position of Head of Music because I really want to create a safe and happy place for children. I love my subject but I also want to create a place where members of the department can do what they do really well.

What was your first opinion of Banbridge Academy?

Oh, that it's a really lovely building!

What subjects did you study for A Level?

I studied French, Religious Studies and Music.

What's your advice for those pupils considering choosing music for either A level or GCSE?

Do it! We are really nice people. It will be fun! You will be encouraged and it is a fantastic subject; not only is it academic but it's practical and it's therapeutic!

How did you know that teaching was what you wanted to do?

My dad was a teacher, so there was something about his day to day routine that I must've liked. I always enjoyed the stories he would tell about pupils at the dinner table! When I was in lower sixth, I also started to teach piano outside of school and I enjoyed

watching people make progress.

Where do you think your passion for music comes from?

As someone who considers themselves 'fearfully and wonderfully' made, there is something in me that was designed to be this way and have a passion for both music and people and to then enjoy bringing these things together. I think that's just how I was made to be.

What's the most embarrassing thing that's happened to you at work?

I was conducting at a big event in the Ulster Hall and it wasn't until after I had started, that I realised I was wearing several bangles that were creating a percussive accompaniment to the song (completely unintentional). I tried to conduct whilst removing the bangles from my wrist, causing me some bruising and a lot of embarrassment.

How many instruments do you play and which is your favourite?

My voice is my main instrument. I play the piano as well, although my favourite instrument is my voice because I love singing and I think it is quite incredible to move people through song. I think it is an incredible gift.

If you could have any superpower, what would it be and why?

Superpower... (Mrs Hamilton pondered this question for a while before replying.) I think I would like the power to help people, or influence people to really



think about the things that they say to others. I would not only make them think about it, but assess whether their words would actually benefit the person that they were speaking to.

Describe your dream holiday.

My dream holiday is probably something that has already been a reality for me. Going to the Bush, to Kruger National Park in South Africa. I went on a very luxurious safari adventure two years ago and that was probably my dream holiday.

What's one thing you've always wanted to do and have not been able to yet?

It's always going to be about travel, so probably to go to Alaska. I have a list, but we'll go with that!

What's your most used phrase in the classroom?

'What else...What else?'

Do you prefer cats or dogs?

Dogs.

Would you rather be able to speak every language or speak to animals?

Speak every language.

Thank you Mrs Hamilton for taking time to allow us to interview you and we hope you have settled in well to life in Banbridge Academy!

Portrait Gallery

NEW STAFF

Mrs Qua

Emma Simms and Jemma Clydesdale



After many failed attempts at arranging our interview with Mrs Qua, we eventually found a time that suited us all in our busy schedules. We then began our trek to the music corridor where we eagerly quizzed one of the Music Department's new additions!

How has your time at Banbridge Academy been so far?

It's been great and I am really enjoying it!

What subjects did you study at school and which was your favourite?

I studied in the Australian system, which is similar to Ireland where you study five subjects at AS and A2 level. I studied Physics, Maths, Chemistry, English and Music and most predictably my favourite subject was Music.

What brought you to Northern Ireland?

I had been working for about two years in a Sydney primary school as a music specialist when I saw a poster on the staff noticeboard that read, "Please welcome Mr Qua." That is how I was first introduced to my husband, who is actually from Co. Armagh. We returned to Northern Ireland together over 15 years ago and I've been teaching in schools here ever since. I enjoyed teaching music in Sydney and I really enjoy it over here also.

Did you always want to be a teacher?

I had really enjoyed working with young people in various summer camps, so I thought that teaching would allow me to continue in this direction and to make an impact on young peoples' lives.

Are there many differences between schools here and in Australia?

The examination systems are quite different, but the teaching methods and styles in classrooms are very much the same. Courses may go into different levels of detail, but the setup of the classrooms is quite similar.

Aussie pupils are used to a different climate and I think this has a profound effect on the way people learn. Australian schools have a January to December calendar, and schooling is very much orientated towards outdoor activity.

Do you have a favourite musician/band?

I have varied tastes in music from all eras; I tend to go through phases. In Banbridge Academy, we are playing 'Viva la Vida' in orchestra at the minute, because I love the energy in many Coldplay songs. I've come to appreciate British, English and Irish bands much more since I've been living here. I've also been going through an 80s synth pop phase. I listened to 'Souvenir' by Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark on repeat throughout the summer.

What are your interests/hobbies?

My hobbies revolve around music, as my family are all very musical and are involved in different music clubs including Armagh Pipers' Club and Traditional Arts Partnership. In my spare time I love watching Netflix dramas, especially Korean dramas!

What country would you most like to visit?

Not so much a country, but a continent. Probably Africa, as I just think that it is a culture and part of the world that I haven't explored or understood. I'd love to have the opportunity to do this, but it's hard to know if that will ever happen due to this Covid pandemic.

What's your favourite movie?

Any Romantic comedy from the 80s! My favourite is possibly 'Sleepless in Seattle'.

If you could only eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?

This won't mean anything significant to anybody else, but it is a particular Vietnamese dish called 'Pho bo', which translated means, Beef Broth with noodles. It's a noodle dish with a soup base; it's a very common dish in Vietnam, even for breakfast! It would have been my favourite food in Sydney and I used to get very homesick because I pined for the flavours when I came here.

If you could go back in time, what year would you travel to?

Anytime in the 80s. That decade was just so iconic!

We would like to thank Mrs Qua for giving up her break time for this interview and hope she enjoyed it as much as we did!

Portrait Gallery

NEW STAFF

Mrs Spratt

Lara Crothers and Anna Boyd



At the mention of the word 'interview', we were greeted with a look of horror from the newest member of the RE department. Despite the initial apprehension, once we began talking we were met with some very interesting responses...

How has your first month in the Academy been?

It's been really good. I'm a former pupil so it's quite nice to be back and it's changed quite a bit in the past twenty years. Everyone's really friendly, the staff are lovely, the kids are good and I love all of the activities that are on offer.

(Upon further questioning we also discovered that Mr Brown was Mrs Spratt's former teacher!)

What A Levels did you study?

I studied Religious Studies, Biology (taught by Dr. Myers) and Geography.

If you hadn't become a teacher, what would you be?

I have worked for several charities such as Action for Children, Young Carers Programme and I also helped with fundraising for the Hospice Charity in the past, which is something that I enjoyed doing. So, anything involving working with people and children is something I probably would have pursued. *(It looks like Banbridge Academy has a good Samaritan in their midst!)*

Do you have any hobbies outside of school?

Yes, I like running and I would do 10K races, although I'm a bit rusty (we concluded that lockdown was to blame for this). I also enjoy hill walking and playing the piano.

What's your favourite year group to teach?

I actually quite like the Year 11s. They are quite good fun as they can give lots of opinions *(we unanimously agreed that this was very true!)*

If you could have any superpower, what would it be?

(After a lot of deliberation) It might be quite fun to go back in time, or is that a bit dodgy? Probably just travelling back to periods of time within my own life, but maybe that's a bit weird... I don't know.

What are your most annoying pet peeves?

Just people being pessimistic. I always like people to look on the brighter side of life *(we agreed that this was a nice sentiment and a good piece of advice!)*

Any secret skills or hidden talents?

I once worked as a first aid trainer when I lived in Jersey. Oh, but that's not very exciting! *(We reassured Mrs Spratt that this is indeed a very useful skill.)* Although I have never had to save anybody from anything life-threatening or do resuscitation or anything like that. *(Now we know who to go to in an emergency!)*

Number 1 on your bucket list?

I don't know, but what I would quite like to try is standing on a moving plane in the Red Arrows' air show, but

I can't remember what it's called... *(after consulting google, we discovered this was called wing walking, and we would not recommend searching this up if you have a fear of heights!)*

If you could have dinner with any celebrity, who would it be and why?

I recently read Matthew McConaughey's book, and he's nice to look at *(Gospel truths from the RE teacher)*. He's interesting and quite philosophical and during lockdown he was involved in self-discovery. So, I think he would be an interesting person to have a good chat with.

If you could be any type of animal, what would you be?

I like birds. *(We came to the conclusion that a duck would be a good choice of bird as they can manage all terrains and get fed bread all of the time!)* The freedom to fly would also be nice.

Quick Fire Questions

Pasta or Pizza? – Pizza

Early Bird or Night Owl? – Night owl

Beyoncé or Rihanna? – Beyoncé

Galaxy or Dairy milk? – Galaxy

Blue or Black Pen? – Blue

Books or Movies? – Books

Sweet or salted popcorn? – Sweet.

We would like to thank Mrs Spratt for taking the time to answer our questions and we wish her all the best for the future!



Portrait Gallery

NEW STAFF

Miss Warnock

Erin Martin and Lucy Miskelly

On a dull, monotonous Wednesday breaktime, we wandered into Miss Warnock's classroom to "grill" her with some of our questions.



What was your favourite thing about school?

The location of the Home Economics rooms was a definite favourite. It was down a long, glass corridor where we used to sit every break and lunchtime to sunbathe and socialise with friends. Another favourite was the sixth form centre as it had a sweet shop! *(We were both very jealous at this!)* Buying my daily 15p Flump was a massive highlight of my sixth form years.

What did you study for A level, and what subject was your favourite?

I studied Home Economics, Biology and Spanish, but my favourite was probably Home Economics; I mean I am a H.E. teacher after all! Although I must admit that Spanish was a close second as I love learning languages!

Where is your dream place to travel to and why?

Definitely Australia. I've already lived there for seven months but if I got to go back, I'd love to complete the Darwin to Perth side of the country to complete the whole experience! Another place I'd love to go to is South Africa to have breakfast with giraffes! *(We all agreed that this was the coolest thing ever!)*

How are you finding Banbridge Academy so far?

Banbridge Academy is an excellent school. I am loving my time here,

but I must admit that it's quite tiring getting used to everything! I love my senior classes as we can easily talk about nutrition, and I love my juniors because they never fail to make me laugh!

Do you have any lockdown highlights?

I did a lot of baking and walking over lockdown, and on TikTok we collated videos on what we did each day over numerous weeks to give our day a purpose. So as I look back on all the videos, I realise that lockdown actually wasn't the worst experience ever for me.

Did you always want to become a teacher?

When I was little, I dreamed of being a teacher in a special needs school until I did research in Australia and thought of becoming a researcher instead. When opportunities for both arose, I realised that teaching was ultimately for me and so here I am!

If you could say anything to a 'Year 8 you', what would it be?

I'd say that it does not matter about every single grade you get. You might not be at the top of your class but that does not matter. If you put in the hard work and you always keep trying, you will get a good outcome. Also try not to worry too much; as long as you know you've tried your best, you will

reap the rewards!

What are the top things on your bucket list?

I really want to go to the Blue Lagoon in Iceland and stay in a bubble dome to watch the Northern Lights. I would also love to explore more of Europe and travel to some of the Asian countries like China and Japan to authentically try their cuisine.

Quickfire Questions:

City life or country life?

Country life.

Travel back in time or into the future?

Travel back in time.

Favourite year group?

Year 9 *(we deeply contested this!)*

Biggest fear?

Deep, deep water.

Describe yourself in three words.

Bubbly, Christian and excitable.

We would like to say a big thank you to Miss Warnock for answering our questions and we hope that she continues to enjoy her time here at Banbridge Academy, as well as crossing off some of those countries on her bucket list.

Portrait Gallery

SPANISH ASSISTANT

Alvaro Aguilera Moreno

Tanya Haslem, Adam Kelly and Emma Kirkwood

We took a dander down to the language rooms to switch interviewer roles with our favourite Spanish assistant, Alvaro.

Which part of Spain are you from?

I am from Madrid, the capital of Spain, but I live in the south of Spain in a big town that is called Alcorcón.

What is the weather like there?

In winter it is very cold, but normally it doesn't rain like it does here! So it is generally not too bad.

How has your time in Northern Ireland been?

I like Belfast, I'm living there currently. It's a great city with a great environment full of many people and restaurants! The other day I did a tour around every historical place in the city and I liked it a lot!

Is there anywhere you've been here that you especially liked?

I haven't really had much time to travel yet, but I would like to visit as many different places as I can. For example so many different people have recommended the North Coast for a visit and I would also like to go to Londonderry. A few days ago I went to Newcastle and it was great!

In Madrid what do you like to do in your free time?

It depends if it's the weekend, or during the week. I usually enjoy meeting with my friends and visiting family. I like to spend time in the mountains and also enjoy going to the cinema and reading. I do many things, depending on the weather and the time that I have.

What books do you like?

I love Spanish History books, but I also enjoy novels and books about Europe in the 20th Century.

What is the food like in Spain?

In Spain we have a wide range of food, depending on the area and even the season. But the typical traditional food is for example tortilla de patata, which is an omelette, but with potatoes and it's a great dish! We have paella and we also have cocido, which is chick-peas with chicken, potato and carrots.

What A levels did you study and what was your favourite?

In Spain, A levels are called 'Bachillerato' but they are basically the same as yours. I studied History, Geography, Spanish (language and literature), Drama, English, Philosophy, Maths and also Economics and Art. Here you do three or four subjects but in Spain we study seven! My favourites were History and Geography.

How have you found Banbridge Academy so far?

I think that it is a great school! I feel very comfortable with the environment and also the students and teachers. As soon as I arrived, they tried to really involve me in different activities, so I am feeling well here.

What are the biggest differences between school here and in Spain?

The duration of lessons is a big difference, as here your lessons are



thirty minutes long but in Spain the lessons are fifty to fifty five minutes per subject. In Spain the teacher comes to the classroom as the students don't move but they stay in the same classroom for every lesson. In Spain also, only the private schools have uniforms whereas I think that here most of the students have to wear uniforms. Also the time that you eat is different. Here it is at 1:10, but in Spain it is at 2:30.

What inspired you to take this job?

Ah, I selected to come here for various different reasons. I want to experience teaching Spanish as a foreign language, so it is a great opportunity for me to come here to teach students my language. Also I would like to improve my own English and this is a great place to do it. I would also like to know about the British education system compared to the Spanish education system so that's another reason. I know it's going to be a great experience working here with you all!

Do you have any pets back in Spain?

Right now, no I don't. In the past I had turtles and when I was a child I had fish and also a parrot.

Ok and finally if we were to go to Madrid, what places would you recommend us to visit?

In Madrid... let me show you (*At this*



point Alvaro showed us pictures of each place to visit.) I would recommend you go to La Puerta del Sol, one of the most typical places in Madrid to go and it is in the city centre. Also this one- La Plaza Mayor, another square with much history, it's great. Mercado de San Miguel, a market, here you have St George's Market, it is very similar to that. La Catedral de al almudena, a cathedral. It is a great building with lots of history; the Royal Palace, Palacio Royal, where the previous kings of Spain lived. Templo de debod, the Egyptian people gave to the Spanish people many years ago. La Gran Via that is one of

the most famous streets in Madrid. la Puerta de Alcalá, Gratidao park which is very big and so beautiful, many people go there to practise sports or to relax. The most important museum is the Museo del Prado, with many paintings.

Quickfire Questions

Fruit or veg? Fruit

Morning or Night? - It depends- for sports and work, the morning. For meeting with friends then the night

Chocolate or sweets? - Chocolate

Newspaper or magazines? - Newspaper

Cats or dogs? -Dogs

Tea or coffee? - Coffee

Football or rugby? - Football

Pineapple on pizza? - No (we agree, of course!)

Favourite football team? - Real Madrid

Favourite movie genre? - Comedy

Favourite season? - Summer

Favourite music? - Spanish pop

Favourite food? - Pizza.

We would like to thank Alvaro for taking time to answer our questions. We think that it went 'muy bien' and hope that he would agree!

shooter

property services

OVER 150 YEARS OF LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

Bringing Property and People Together

www.shooter.co.uk

LISBURN

028 9266 6556

BANBRIDGE

028 4066 2206

NEWRY

028 3026 0565

Portrait Gallery

FRENCH ASSISTANT

Roxane Bourhis

Lucy Miskelly and Katlo Matlhodi

We are 'très excité' to say 'bonjour' to our new French assistant Roxane and get to know a little bit more about her.



So, our first question, are you enjoying your time in Northern Ireland so far?

So far, yes. As I am staying for a long time, I have to deal with a lot of administration and with settling. It is quite different from going on holidays and it takes time to settle in, but I am enjoying it.

Where in France are you from?

Well, my parents now live only an hour away from Paris, but I was born, raised, and did all my studies in the North of France, in Lille.

Would you recommend visiting Lille?

Definitely; Lille is gorgeous and the weather is quite like here. It does rain a lot in Lille, but it is incredibly beautiful and the people are lovely.

What was the biggest culture shock for you when you came here?

I don't think there were many because I have studied your culture for a long time, so I was expecting many of the

things, but I guess the main difference would be the way you eat. I have noticed people here eat ready-made foods, whereas in France we love to cook our food. Also, people here don't eat at set times, but in France the times we eat are very specific. I would have to say that is the biggest culture shock for me.

On the topic of food, what would be your favourite French food?

There are so many of them! It is hard to decide though as I don't eat a lot of typical French dishes because they take a lot of time to cook. I do love anything that is related to cheese. In France we have so many recipes with cheese in it, such as Gratin Dauphinois, which would be my favourite. It is delicious!

Where else in France would you recommend visiting?

Everyone goes to Paris, as there are so many famous monuments. It is an important and beautiful city in France, but there are so many other places

in France worth visiting such as the South of France. It really depends on what you want to see. There are so many things there like landscapes, mountains, the sea, famous museums. It is just a beautiful country!

Where has been your favourite place to which you have travelled?

Oh, it has to be Ireland. I have been to Ireland twice now. I want to live there and work there in the future. Although I haven't been in Dublin yet, so I am hoping to visit there sometime soon.

Quick fire questions

Night or day? Night

Favourite season? Winter

Favourite book? Angel by Colleen McCullough

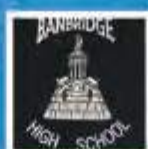
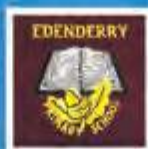
Favourite music genre? Rock

Favourite subject at school? English.

We would like to thank Roxane for answering our questions and we wish her well in the future.

School Record

To Rachel and Jonny Clarke, a son, Alfred (Freddie) William.
To Naomi and Mario Paolucci, a son, Matteo Mario.
To Diane and Phil Wilkinson, a daughter, Aliana.



Robin
Fields

Official
Schoolwear
Supplier

Schoolwear
Club
Available

16 Newry Street
Banbridge
T: 028 4062 6658

Senior Prefects

HEAD GIRL

Zara Ginniff

Bethany Wallace & Emilie Williamson

What's the scariest thing about being Head Girl?

There's quite a lot of pressure, especially with formal planning. I don't really want to do anything wrong. I do enjoy it though, it's fun. I'm with a really good group of people, the senior prefects, and I would never have crossed paths with them normally.

What are your responsibilities as Head Girl?

Fun Day last year was my first big responsibility, which was so fun. I thought it was going to be quite daunting but it was really good. I've also been involved in a few other things such as showing an executive of the Education Authority around the school and I am involved in school council business. So yeah, there's been quite a lot so far but I'm excited to be as involved as I can.

What advice would you give to Year 8s?

Do. Not. Lift. A. Tray. In. The. Canteen. You just don't need one! Also, please please wipe your tables. I'm on canteen duty, so just please wipe them.

What is your favourite sport?

I play netball for the school; I'm Vice Captain. I love netball. I did hockey in First Year but no, I love netball and get on well with the girls on the team. We're actually quite good, if I do say so myself. It's such a good way to make friends and some of my closest friends are friends I made at netball.

What is your favourite subject and why?

My favourite subject is Chemistry because I love my teacher, Mrs Morrison. I've had her for five years and she's such fun in the classroom, she really makes me enjoy it.

Where can you see yourself in five years?

Hopefully on a beach somewhere warm. I'm not 100% sure just yet, but hopefully I'm enjoying life and being successful.

What's your favourite memory from your time at Banbridge Academy?

Let me think... Oh! My favourite memory is from junior school. We were in science and I'm not going to name and shame but the teacher hadn't arrived yet so we were sitting in the classroom waiting. Someone in the class knocked off the skeleton's arm! So we were all panicking trying to get it back on. Someone tried to sellotape it on but that obviously didn't work. Just as we got the arm back on, someone knocked off its jaw! I think the jaw is still wonky to this day.

What are you hoping to do once you leave school this year?

I'm actually submitting my UCAS forms today! Which is scary. At the moment I'm hoping to do dentistry. Well I can't really change my mind now! So yes, I'm applying for dentistry so hopefully that works out for me.

Have you always known that's what you want to do or when did you decide?

No, it definitely took me a while to decide. When I was younger, for some



reason I really wanted to be a barrister. I did Bar Mock Trial and I did enjoy it but I don't see myself doing it as a career. I loved arguing and did a bit of speech and drama so that's probably why that was an option.

What do you feel like you've missed out on most because of COVID this past year or so?

Well we've just got comfy study back on a smaller scale, which we didn't have last year. But also just bits and pieces of normality, like having tea and cake with your teachers and little things like that.

What is your favourite hobby outside of school?

We recently just got thirty calves, which is such hard work. After school I look after the calves and do homework, so at the moment I don't have much time for anything else.

What 3 things would you like to bring on a deserted island?

Tanning oil, a Taylor Swift CD... (embarrassing but who doesn't love a bit of Taylor Swift) and one of those flare things.

What is your favourite place you've been to and your dream place to visit?

The best place I've been to is definitely the Blue Lagoon in Iceland. It's so beautiful. I would love to visit the Bahamas to swim with the pigs!



Senior Prefects

HEAD BOY

Ben Bradshaw

Ruby Wilson, Rose Widdis, Issie McKenzie

What are you studying for A2 and what are your plans for next year?

I'm studying Biology, Chemistry and Maths for A2, and I'm planning on applying for Biochemistry at Queen's, and possibly looking at a higher level apprenticeship as well.

How did you feel when you were appointed Head Boy, and what is the best thing about it?

I was really surprised. I really wasn't expecting it, so it was a big shock! The best thing about it is probably the added responsibility you get, and certain privileges that come with that, like getting my own parking space.

Best school memory?

Best school memory...oh, that has to be getting to the final of the Schools' Bowl with the 1st XV and hopefully getting a bit further this year! (*Fingers crossed Ben!*)

Is there anything you'd change about the school?

That's a hard question. The canteen queues maybe, or allowing sixth form to leave school at break and lunch. (*We very much agree with Ben's suggestions!*)

If you could have dinner with anyone, dead or alive, who would it be?

Oooh! That's a big question... (*after some serious deliberation*)... Mike Tyson. I'd just like to hear him talk.

Favourite teacher and why?

Probably Mr Cordner. (*Mr Cordner scares the living daylights out of us!*) I've always just got on with him and he

helped me out quite a bit, especially throughout my GCSE years, so I'll have to go with him.

Which year at BA would you most like to relive?

That is a good one. I quite enjoyed Year 10. Actually no- Year 12. It was my first year of going into senior rugby, which would make it by far the best.

What advice would you give to new Year 8 pupils?

Get involved in as much as you possibly can. (*Answered without any hesitation.*) You know, it's the easiest way to develop a rapport in the school with both staff and other pupils. Just get involved! (*We can agree that this is very good advice from our Head Boy!*)

What's your go-to in the canteen?

I don't even think they serve them anymore- you know the chicken goujons in a bap? I think they were called chicken dogs...yeah, I think that's it!

What is your biggest pet peeve?

When people don't say please and thank you, which is basic good manners. Bad manners are so annoying!

Here's a bit of an emotional one- what will you miss most about the Academy next year?

Probably the people in it. You know, as much as you get to meet new people later at university, I'll really miss all of the friends that I've made here, especially in the rugby team. I'll miss that togetherness and team spirit.



What's one thing you'd like to do before you're old and grey?

I'd like to travel a lot. I'd like to see as many places as possible, particularly New Zealand.

QUICK FIRE: Celebrity crush?

Mimi Keene

Describe yourself in 3 words.

Probably confident, outgoing and motivated.

Sweet or salted popcorn?

Sweet, all day long (*This answer caused some debate!*)

Favourite takeaway?

Pizza, Chinese, Kebab (*Ben clearly struggled to identify just one!*)

Favourite colour?

Blue

Coffee or tea?

Coffee

Summer or winter?

Summer

Morning bird or night owl?

Night owl

Chosen superpower?

Invisibility Because you could really wind people up!

It was great chatting to Ben, who was very cooperative when arranging the interview. We'd like to wish him the best for his future at Queen's and eventually New Zealand.

Senior Prefects

DEPUTY HEAD GIRL

Susie Black

Ellie Lindsay and Charis Walker

After promising that this would be more of a friendly chat than an interrogation, Deputy Head Girl Susie Black eagerly fitted us into her very hectic schedule without any issues, which we were very thankful for! So, in the comfort of sixth form study, we excitedly met her to find out the answers to some of our burning questions!

What subjects are you studying at A Level?

Biology, Psychology, English and Art. *(We can all agree that Susie is either very intelligent or crazy to be keeping on all four!)*

What do you hope to do after you leave Banbridge Academy?

After I leave school, I hope to go to university to study Psychology. Then later down the road after lots of studying, I want to go into Clinical Psychology, and maybe work with children and adolescents.

Do you have a 'stand out' memory from your time at school?

The ski trip; it was very good. Also, the school show, I enjoyed all the rehearsals and it was good craic.

What advice would you give to your Year 8 self?

To fix my hair from a terrible side parting! Also, not to be afraid of getting involved with lots of things. There are so many good opportunities to take part in new sports and activities.

What have been your favourite and least favourite parts of being Deputy Head girl?

My favourite part was the day I found out that I had been appointed to the role, because it was really shocking! It was also exciting to get the badge

and to have the opportunity to sit in Mr McLoughlin's office, as I'd never been in there before! There hasn't been anything too difficult so far, probably just planning the formal. There's a lot to think about, but I think that we all work well together as a team, so it hasn't been too stressful.

Who is your favourite teacher?

I don't have a favourite in particular as all of my teachers for both A-Level and GCSE have been amazing. They are very supportive and make the subjects interesting, that's why I couldn't pick one to drop for A-Level!

What extracurricular activities have you taken part in?

I have been a part of the choir throughout my whole time at school and I played hockey from first to fifth year. I was also involved in Young Enterprise and magazine committee. *(Something which we can have a particular appreciation for!)*

If you could be an animal what would you be and why?

I feel like I would want to be a giraffe, it would be cool because they can see everything from a different perspective and can see a long distance over walls and things. *(We then discussed whether a giraffe would have to wear a tie at the bottom or top of its neck - we came to the undisputed conclusion that it had to be the bottom!)*



To quote Susie, 'It would be ridiculous any other way!')

Describe your favourite holiday destination and why?

It would probably be the Bahamas, because my parents used to live there, so I would like to go and see what they saw. Plus, the beaches have white sand and crystal blue waters. I prefer somewhere hot and sunny! *(We definitely want to join Susie on that amazing holiday!)*

What is your favourite inspirational quote?

I sometimes say, 'You only live once' ironically, but seriously I think that you should definitely make the most of each day and always try your best.

This or That?

Chinese or Pizza? Chinese.

Cats or dogs? Dogs.

Tea or coffee? Coffee.

School tights or socks? Probably tights, they're better when you're freezing.

Home or away for university?

Probably away, maybe Edinburgh. But I'm still open to Queen's.

We want to thank Susie for making the time to speak with us and wish her the best as she continues through her final year at Banbridge Academy. We hope that she enjoys the rest of her time here.



Senior Prefects

DEPUTY HEAD BOY

Matthew Colvin

Kiera McQuaid

Thanks to the wonders of modern technology, I was able to arrange my interview with Matthew over WhatsApp instead of having to track him down in the corridors - much easier for both of us! After finding a free table in study, our interview got underway.



Quick fire round:

Tea or coffee? Tea

Blue or Black pens? Black pens

Morning person or night owl? Night owl

Cats or dogs? Dogs

Books or Movies? Books

Biscuits or crisps? Biscuits - Chocolate Digestives (*Me too!*)

Favourite TV Show? Friends

Favourite teacher? Mr Cromie

Who would play you in the movie of your life? Ryan Reynolds

Biggest fear? Snakes

If you could be any animal, what would you be? A lion, because they're pretty cool.

Describe yourself in three words?

Friendly, confident and good craic. (*This is technically four words but Matthew is very modest and was struggling to come up with a third, so I let him away with it...*)

What are your big plans for life after Banbridge Academy?

I would like to study Medicine at Queen's, if that doesn't go to plan then I'll study Paramedic Science. I'll probably join the Army at some point.

What are you studying for A2 and why did you pick those subjects?

This year, I'm studying Biology, Chemistry and Geography. I'm studying Biology because I find it really interesting, Chemistry because I

like it and Geography because it's like a hobby of mine.

How are you finding your role as Deputy Head Boy?

It's going well - it's a lot of responsibility, organising the Formal and doing Prefect duty but it's enjoyable.

What extracurricular activities are you involved in?

I am involved in orchestra, jazz band and cadets and I play rugby with the school.

If you could snap your fingers and be granted three wishes, what would they be?

I would like to have a happy life. I would like to have a nice family and drive a Formula 1 car.

Is there anything big on your bucket list that you'd love to do?

I'd like to travel the world.

What do you never leave home without?

My phone, my wallet and a mask because of Covid. (*I had hoped this question would reveal some unique insight into our Deputy Head Boy, but alas...*)

If you could have any superpower what would it be and why?

Teleportation - I'd save a lot of time and money on fuel. (*Very practical - I wish I had thought of it!*)

If you could have dinner with any six people (dead or alive), who would you pick and why?

Ahh... Lewis Hamilton, Brian O'Driscoll, the Blues Brothers, Michael Schumacher and Tom Hanks. (*Matthew never revealed to me why he selected these six people, but from his other answers I suspect he might be a fan of F1 and music...*)

What advice would you give younger pupils?

Work hard but don't forget to enjoy yourself! (*I can confirm that this is pretty good advice!*)

If you were in charge of school for a day, what would you do?

I would have an extended lunchtime with a free buffet for all the year groups.

What has been your best memory from Banbridge Academy?

Having craic with my mates that I've met here.

I'd like to thank Matthew for meeting with me and answering all my questions. I'd also like to wish him all the best for his A Levels and his future adventures!

Senior Prefects

DEPUTY HEAD GIRL

Emily Johnstone

Katie Gregg, Anna Harris and Kerri Henry

We finally managed to arrange a suitable time for an interview with Emily and her initial look of dread quickly disappeared as the questioning commenced...



What subjects are you studying and what are your plans after leaving Banbridge Academy?

This year I am studying Biology, Chemistry and Maths, but I also studied Physics last year for AS. My hope is to study Medicine in the future.

What is it like being a senior prefect?

It is good but also quite stressful, as we have been planning the formal. It is really nice being 'in the loop' with things that are happening in the school and before everyone else knows.

What clubs are you part of in school?

I have been involved in netball since first year and I was also part of the bar mock trial last year, which was really interesting. I was involved in the school magazine committee, SU and recently I've become the Vice President of the Banbridge Academy Medical Society, which is new this year.

Who is your favourite teacher?

(After taking a few moments to seriously reflect on the wonderful staff of Banbridge Academy, Emily mentioned quite a few teachers who have evidently made quite an impression!) It is hard to pick just one but I would say that my top teachers would have to be

Mr Cromie, Mr Irwin and Mr Beacom. I also have to mention Mrs Tully and Mrs Morrison, as they are both amazing and incredible teachers and lastly, I cannot possibly forget my form teacher Mr Stewart, who is great craic!

What has been your most embarrassing moment in school?

On the first day of Year 8 I walked into one of the poles in the atrium, but I don't think too many people saw! *(hopefully not!)* There was another time when I was walking up to school and it was really windy and my umbrella broke and the top of it flew away and nearly hit Mr McLoughlin's car... that was embarrassing! *(We are all cringing for you!)*

What is your proudest moment in school?

My proudest moment would be when I found out that I had been selected as Deputy Head Girl. I was really surprised and was not expecting it at all. It is such a big honour. *(We are very proud and happy to have you as a deputy.)*

What has been your favourite school year?

I would say sixth form because I can study the subjects that I am most interested in, plus I have more free time in study and many more privileges.

What advice do you have for your first year self?

Maybe watch out for the poles in the Atrium! *(Good advice for an 11-year-old Emily in our opinion!)* Also make the most of your time, as it goes so fast.

What is on your bucket list?

Definitely travelling to America or Canada would be nice... maybe New York at Christmas time. *(Bring us with you!)*

If you were stranded on a desert island, which teacher would you most like to be there with you?

Probably Mr Cromie because I would never get bored listening to his puns and stories. I also think that he would definitely know a thing or two about survival.

We would like to thank Emily for taking time to answer our questions and we wish her well in the future.

Senior Prefects

DEPUTY HEAD BOY

Marcus McNeill

Ruby Mulligan and Lucy Gilmore

We were excited to track down Marcus and get an insight into the life of this Deputy Head Boy. He met us in the interview room with a slightly nervous appearance (swinging on his chair and flicking his hair), as it was his first interview, however any anxiety was swiftly dispelled as we began asking our questions.

What A Levels do you currently study?

This year I am studying Maths, Physics and Geography, as I hope to go on to university next year to study Mechanical or Civil Engineering.

Are you involved in any extra curricular activities?

I am the vice captain of the 1st XV Rugby team and play flanker. Then on Tuesday afternoons I help coach the Year 10 rugby. I was also in the last school play...where I juggled as a clown.

What have been some of your duties as Deputy Head Boy so far?

Definitely formal planning; I collect everyone's money and attend a meeting once a week to help organise it. Sometimes, I will also do canteen duty, however to my surprise I haven't found this role too daunting...*(quickly followed up by the fear of jinxing himself)* Yet! Not yet!

What will you miss most when you leave Banbridge Academy?

Of course the rugby team, especially the craic *(Marcus let us in on his nick name of 'Goose Goose')* Then I will miss all of my close friends and favourite teachers, specifically Mr.Irwin and Mr.Farrell who always have the best jokes to help me get through Maths better. I guess it's also quite nice being

the oldest in the school now.

What is your most embarrassing memory from school?

Oh, it would have to be when I dropped my plate in the canteen. I was 5th year maybe, so it was really embarrassing! I can just remember the sound of the plate silencing the whole canteen, while I got very red.

Quick fire Questions:

Sweet or salty? Sweet

Blue or black pen? Blue

Cats or Dogs? Dogs

Celebrity crush? Mark Wahlberg

Where would you want to go on holiday right now? Australia, because they have great beaches.

Favourite ice cream flavour? Ben & Jerry's phish food *(although he did say 'cat food' originally, so we can't confirm how reliable this answer is!)*

Biggest fear? Spiders

Sunrise or sunset? *(After much consideration)* Sunrise.

Lastly, do you have any advice for the lower sixth preparing for A



levels/ uni?

I think you should definitely make sure you have your UCAS sorted and pay attention in careers class. It's also good to ensure you have a balance between school and your social life. Also, get involved within school if you aren't already!

We would like to thank Marcus for answering our questions and taking time out of his hectic schedule to meet with us. We wish him all the best for the rest of his time at Banbridge Academy and hope he doesn't drop any more plates!

Senior Prefects

DEPUTY HEAD GIRL

Annie Robinson

Selena Chambers and Angela Baker

After searching long and hard for Annie around the school, we found her in comfy study waiting for us with an 'audience', ready for her big interview. Despite the nerves and occasional inputs and comments from our 'audience', we were able to successfully interview one of this year's deputy head girls, 'A-Rob'.

Tell us a bit about yourself and what you plan on doing after you leave Banbridge Academy.

I'm Annie, I'm 18 and I'm studying French, English and Health and Social Care at A Level. After my time at the Academy I hope to study French with Business at university, with a placement year in France.

What would you say was your best memory in school?

(This made Annie "aw" as she thought of all possible answers.)
Junior school Geography and Maths lessons.

What has been your most embarrassing moment in school?

(Annie instantly said this interview was up there with her embarrassing moments, but her actual answer is definitely far worse...)
When I was in Year 8, I asked an upper sixth prefect to direct me to a class. They told me where to go, but it turned out they sent me into the boys' toilets instead of the class that I was searching for. I was so embarrassed!

Who is your favourite teacher and why?

Oh definitely Mrs O'Shaughnessy as we have a special bond. We just look forward to seeing each other every day in class!

What would you say is your biggest pet peeve?

Loud eaters (Annie looked to Thomas Urwin who was sitting next to her eating a meal deal) and slow walkers.

Tell us your favorite joke.

Why did the chicken cross the road?...
To get to the other side.
(Very original Annie!)

What is your best pickup line?

(After lots of input and suggestions from our 'audience', Annie decided to go with one she claimed to use often.)
Are you from Tennessee? Because you're the only ten I see.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

I will have finished my degree and hopefully will be in a stable job with 5 dogs.

Finally Annie, what three words would your friends use to describe you?

(Our 'audience' loved this question and had lots of colourful words to say.)
Outgoing, friendly and probably awkward.
(The 'audience' agreed with her answer.)

Quick fire questions:

Tea or Coffee?

Coffee

Favourite Movie?

(Annie first answered with "Cars" however changed her answer)
Mamma Mia

Who's your woman crush?

Megan Fox

Pizza or chinese?

Pizza

Celebrity crush?

Ian Somerhalder

Morning Person or Night owl?

Night owl

Favourite dog breed?

Rottweiler.

We would like to say a massive thank you to Annie for taking part in the interview and we wish her all the best in the future!





Senior Prefects

DEPUTY HEAD BOY

Charlie Rowe

Sasha Martin, Anna McInnes, Emily Shields

What subjects are you studying and do you have any plans for next year?

I am currently studying Maths, Business Studies and Biology. Next year I hope to attend the University of Nottingham to study Accounting and Finance with Management. I am really looking forward to all of the new opportunities in a new area and getting into the way of university life!

Who is your favourite teacher and why?

Mrs. Campbell. There's no denying how scary she can be, but she's an amazing teacher!

Favourite canteen meal?

Without a doubt, chicken curry and rice washed down with a pint of milk. It hits the spot every time!

What is one thing on your bucket list?

A skydive. I've always wanted to do one of these as the rush of adrenaline would be surreal, although I'm not so sure if I'd be so keen when I'm 10,000 feet in the air!

What would you say to a First Year you?

I know it's cheesy but don't ever take school for granted. Appreciate every single moment of it because before you know, you will be leaving school.

What has been your best school hockey moment?

(After much deliberation) There are so many good times to pick from, but a feeling that was unmatched

has to be getting to the All-Ireland hockey finals with the boys. Although we didn't manage to win, it was an unforgettable school trip getting to go and stay in Belfast with the team.

If you could have any superhero power, what would it be and why?

Teleportation: there couldn't be anything more convenient than getting out of bed in the morning, snapping your fingers and arriving at school!

What advice would you give to the next Deputy Head Boy?

Make sure to set a good example for the younger students to follow, but remember to also enjoy your last year at school because it will fly by.

If you could be any animal, what would you be and why?

A monkey because they are close to being a human but can do way cooler things like swinging on trees and jumping really high.

If you could be any member of staff in the school for a day, who would it be?

Mr Jess, because he literally gets paid to coach and play hockey all day. I couldn't think of anything better!

Any phobias?

Planes. I don't know about you, but there's something about putting my life in the hands of a stranger that creeps me out a bit.

What will you miss most about Banbridge Academy?



There are so many things I'm going to miss, like sitting in form class in the mornings to just having a nice daily routine, but I would have to say that I'll miss seeing my friends every break and lunch the most.

Quick-fire Questions Man crush?

Michael B. Jordan

Favourite movie?

Star Wars: Revenge of the Sith

Morning or night?

Night

Cats or dogs?

Dogs

'Go-to' Starbucks order?

Venti Caramel Frappuccino

Pizza or Chinese?

Pizza

Coke or Pepsi?

Coke

Go to binge-watch?

Suits

Describe yourself in three words.

Sporty, awkward and kind

Any pet peeves?

People not pushing their chair in at the end of class (*accompanied with a shake of the head*).

We would like to thank Charlie for taking time to answer our questions and we wish him well for the future.



The Rosehip Cafe | Bakery
30 Bridge Street,
Banbridge,
Down, BT32 3JS

Tel: 028 4062 5177
Email: rosehipbanbridge@gmail.com
www.therosehip.co.uk



FLOORING & TILES BANBRIDGE

Stocking an extensive range of:
WOODEN | PARQUET | LAMINATE | WATERPROOF FLOORING
TILES | INTERNAL DOORS
ARTIFICIAL GRASS | COMPOSITE DECKING

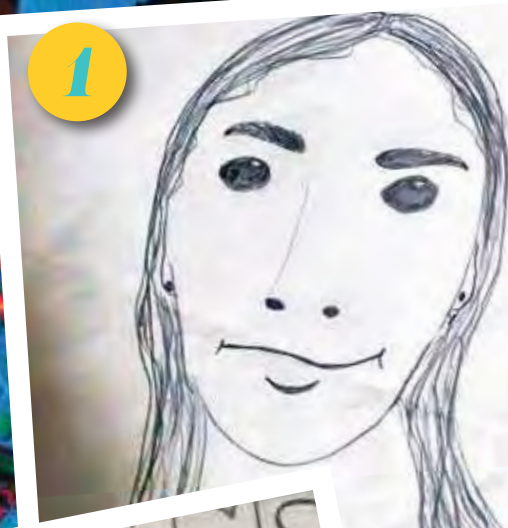
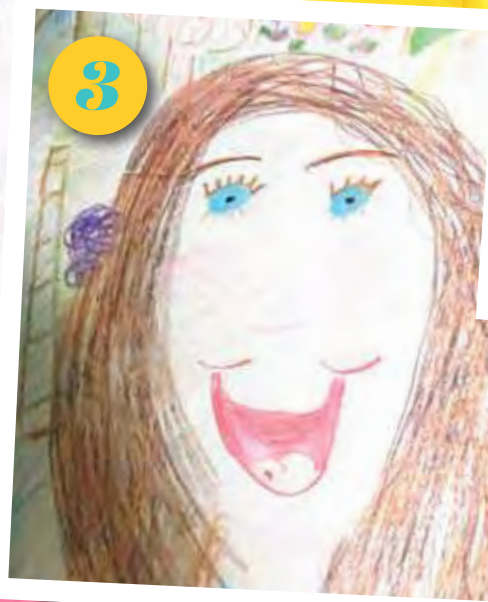
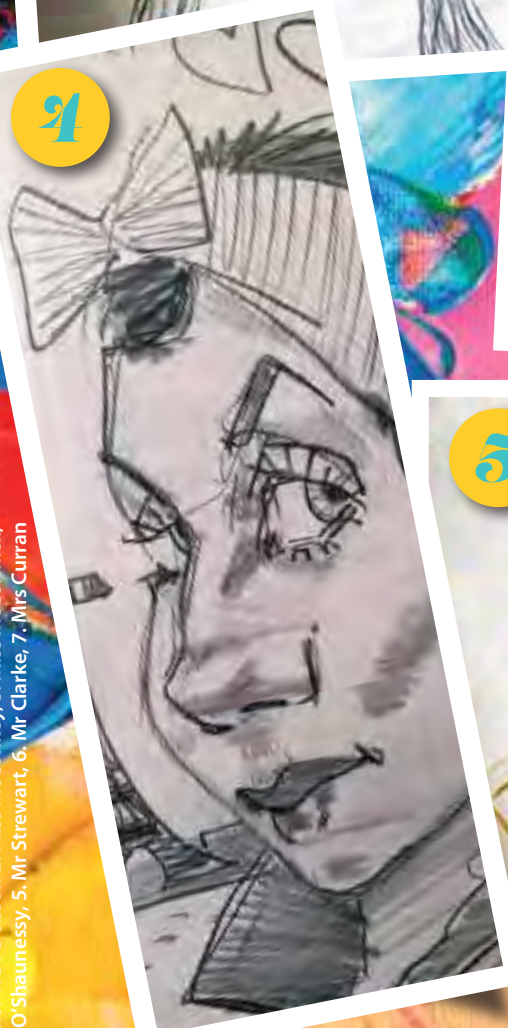
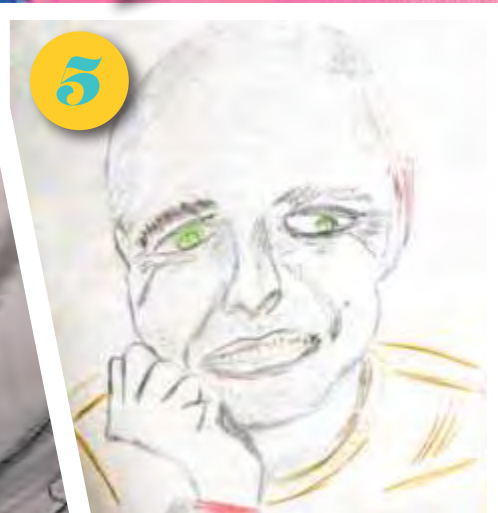
18 Church Street, Banbridge, Co.Down, BT32 4AA
T: +44(0)28 4062 9633 www.wfsni.com



Teacher Self Portraits

Rachel Kirkpatrick, Julia Englefield
and Lara Kinkaid

We asked a selection of teachers to sketch their self portrait. Can you guess the teacher?

1**2****3****4****6****5****7**

Teachers: 1. Dr Dobson 2. Miss McConkey 3. Miss McCormick,
4. Mrs O'Shaunessy 5. Mr Stewart 6. Mr Clarke 7. Mrs Curran

Most Memorable Excuses!

Rachel Gray and Catherine Black

We asked a selection of teachers to recollect on excuses presented by pupils. Unsurprisingly, the vast majority of these concerned homework...

"I brought my homework to America and accidentally left it there."

Mr Smyth

"The back of my jumper is wet because I was lying on the grass trying to catch a seagull!" (A loaf of bread was then apparently produced in an attempt to prove it!)

Miss McConkey

"My homework is currently being redirected back to Boston in my suitcase."

Mrs Neill

"My pet poodle piddled on my paper." (At least they used alliteration!)

Mr Cromie

"I dropped it in a puddle."

Miss Stewart

"I left it on top of the hob and it caught fire when my mum began to cook dinner."

Mrs Gough

"Sorry, there are no scissors in my house."

Mrs Dreaning

"I left it at the taxidermist!"

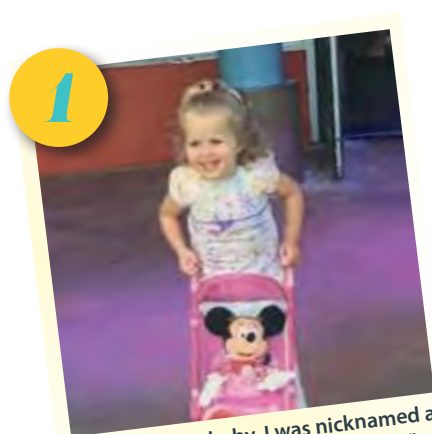
Mr Dawson

Guess Who...

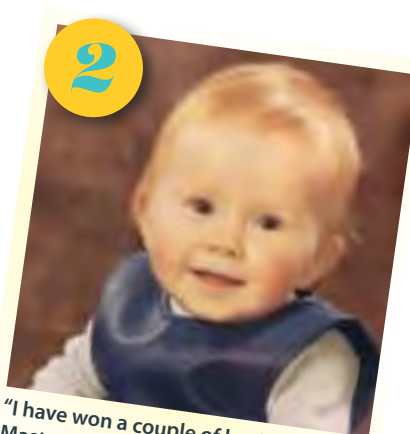
Teacher and Senior Prefect edition

Can you use the quotation to help guess who's in the photo?

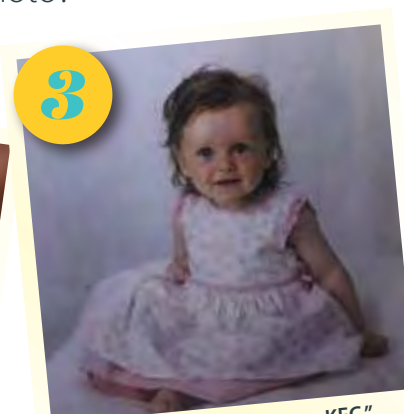
By Anna Harris, Kerri Henry and Katie Gregg



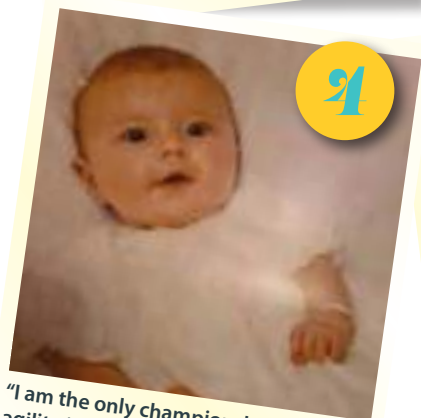
"When I was a baby, I was nicknamed a Simpson because I was born yellow."



"I have won a couple of hockey Masters Interprovincial series with the Ulster over 40s Team."



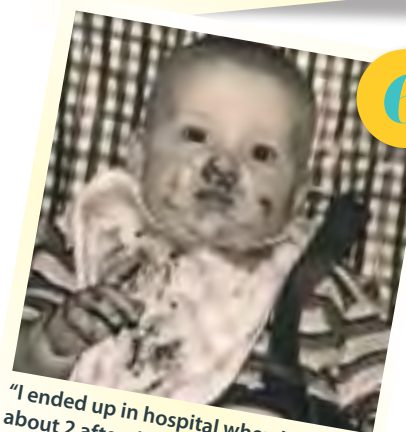
"I have eaten in the first ever KFC."



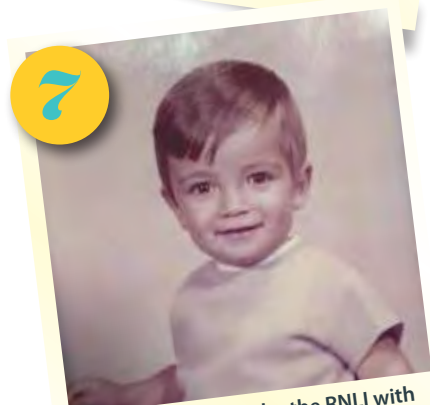
"I am the only championship dog agility judge in Northern Ireland."



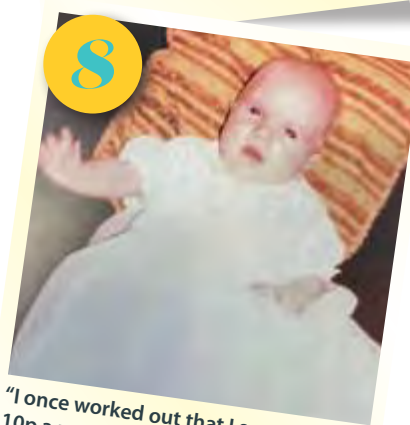
"I have canoed in snow and abseiled down a quarry."



"I ended up in hospital when I was about 2 after diving over the back of the sofa pretending to be Superman."



"I had to be rescued by the RNLI with my son in Portstewart."



"I once worked out that I spend about 10p a month on haircare."



"I got bit on the back by a Shetland pony."

Ans: 1. Emily Johnstone, 2. Mrs Leslie, 3. Susie Black, 4. Miss Jess, 5. Mrs Glover, 6. Ben Bradshaw, 7. Mr Stewart, 8. Mr Acheson, 9. Zara Ginniff

Year 8: Hopes for the Future

I'm sure we all remember being in Year 8: the massive schoolbags, school maps in our pockets and the constant fear of being 30 seconds late to class. We decided to venture into Mrs Topley-Willis' form room and meet the future class of 2029, 8B. Our aim was to discover their visions of the future or their own personal goals for their time in Banbridge Academy.

"There's going to be iPads instead of books."

Casey

"COVID will be gone forever."

Erin, Aaron, Daisy



"We hope to be a part of the BA Hockey teams."

Beth, Hannah Carswell, Abi, Ella, Katie

"Hopefully I will have been scouted to play football for Manchester City."

Clinton

"Hopefully we don't have to wear face masks."

Amy

"I am going to play for Ireland's U18 hockey team."

Owen

"I will be Captain of the BA rugby team (hopefully)."

Charlie

"I am wishing for world peace in the future."

Isabella

"I hope to be starting training 'en pointe' in ballet."

Tara

"It would be amazing to be a prefect and then I would also like to publish a book."

Molly Conlon

"I will have created a successful app or game."

James

"No one is going to be in poverty."

Luke

"I want to start the first BA kayaking club."

Isabel

"I will be part of the BA art club."

Hannah Cuthbert

"The streets will be filled with electric cars."

Henry

"I would love to be a form prefect and help look after a year 8 class."

Molly Crimmins

& Trevor McBurney Co. Solicitors

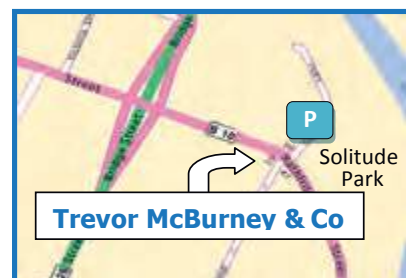


**37-39 Rathfriland Street
Banbridge, BT32 3LA.**

T: 028 4062 6666

F: 028 4062 6888

W: trevormcburney.com



For Experienced, Professional Legal Advice and Action.

- ▣ Claims
- ▣ Wills
- ▣ Estates
- ▣ Conveyancing
- ▣ Disputes
- ▣ Criminal
- ▣ Family
- ▣ Commercial

*Still building long-lasting relationships
with clients in Banbridge, Newcastle,
Kilkeel and further afield.*



E: trevormcburneyandco@sky.com

Match the film to the teacher..

Alfred Davidson and Katie Gregg



Overboard (1987) – Luckily the title font isn't comic sans.



Local Hero (1983) – A red dragon is the national emblem for this country.



The Lion King (1994) – El rey León.



The Shawshank Redemption (1994) – You know who chose this film.



Stand By Me (1986) – This teacher will stand by you.



The Goonies (1985) – This teacher can explain why we become attached to films we see as children.



The Dark Knight (2008) – 1+1 = Two-Face.



Stardust (2007) – Theatre kid vibes.



Big (1988) – This teacher asks the BIG questions.



Happy Gilmore (1996) – This golf swing made history.



Se7en – Halogen Group



Donnie Darko (2001) – The rabbit should have worn suspenders.

Miss Jess, Mr Robinson, Dr Lorimer, Miss McConkey, Mrs Duke, Mr McLoughlin, Mr Farrell, Mr McAuley, Mrs Duke, Mr Patterson, Mrs Neill, Mrs Evans, Mrs Hassard, Mr Irwin, Mr Harvey, Mr Cromie, Mrs Topping, Mrs McKenzie, Mrs Cartmill



Footloose (1984) – “When people ask me what I do for a living, I tell them I teach French, Art and Music because that’s more interesting than saying I teach physics.”



Apocalypse Now (1979) – Our political landscape is pretty apocalyptic now.



Far From The Madding Crowd (1967) – Based on a book.



Legally Blonde (2001) – This teacher will make you a Gemini vegetarian meal.



So I Married An Axe Murderer (1993) – Are you sure it’s not a band saw murderer?



Blade Runner (1982) – This teacher will hunt you down like a replicant if you skip class.



Casablanca (1942) – What a picture.



One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest (1975) – Inside look at this teacher’s classroom.

So I Married An Axe Murderer – Mr Robinson
Happy Gilmore – Mr Clarke
Big – Mrs Hassard
Blade Runner – Mr Harvey
Casablanca – Mrs McKenzie
One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest – Mr Farrell
Legally Blonde – Miss Jess
Donnie Darko – Mr Patterson
Far From The Madding Crowd – Mrs Cartmill
Se7en – Dr Lorimer

Overboard – Miss McConkey
The Lion King – Mr McAuley
The Shawshank Redemption – Mr McLoughlin
Footloose – Mrs Topping
The Goonies – Mrs Duke
The Dark Knight – Mr Irwin
Stardust – Mrs Neill
Stand By Me – Mr Cromie
Apocalypse Now – Mr Graham

Pupil Experiences

By Lara Kinkaid, Julia Englefield, Rachel Kirkpatrick

Kathryn Morton: Outdoor Archery

The European Field Championships is an outdoor archery competition, which this year Kathryn Morton (Year 14) was selected to shoot at. Kathryn successfully won a silver medal for Team GB in the Barebow Junior Women Category.

Who or what was your inspiration for taking up archery?

My inspiration actually came from my primary 7 school leavers' play in Abercorn Primary School. We performed a musical theatre piece called Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies- which I somehow still know quite a few of the lyrics to! (*She laughs.*) I really liked the idea of being Robin Hood and shooting arrows, so I asked my parents if I could join a club and that's how it all began!

How long have you been doing archery? How much of that time was spent training for the Europeans?

I've been shooting since September 2015, so 6 years now. I joined Ballyvally Archers at the same time I started my first year here in BA.

What was training like? How many times/how many hours a week did you spend practising?

I spent quite a lot of time training for the European Championships. I shoot Field Archery, which is different to target archery. Field Archery is shot from 5-50m if your bow doesn't have a sight, eg if you shoot barebow like me, and 10m-60m if your bow does have a sight eg. Compound, or recurve - the bow you see in the Olympics. You shoot at 4 different sized target faces: 20cm, 40cm, 60cm and 80cm, depending on the distance.

To be selected for the Great British Field Archery Team you have to submit scores from Selection Shoots held across the UK. These shoots are

usually held monthly, so I train all year round.

Once I was selected, and especially as it was summer, it meant I had more free time to train. I went to the gym after work 3 times per week, and shot 5-7 days each week, with competitions most weekends. I also did numerous other activities throughout summer to increase my overall bow fitness in preparation for the Championships.

How did you control your nerves whenever you were out on the field?

The week is split up into different events: the first two days are the qualification rounds (unmarked and marked), then it moves on to head to head matches for individual, mixed and team rounds, with the medal matches for each event held on the last two days. Because I shot Silver in Junior (U21) Ladies Barebow, Silver in Junior Mixed team, and Bronze in Junior Ladies team, it meant I shot all week. Keeping my arrow volume up over the week and shooting so many targets increased my confidence, especially after an equipment failure at Official Practice the day before the first qualification round and having to shoot the entire week with my spare bow. Also having the experience of shooting Bronze at the 2019 Europeans in Slovenia gave me an idea of what to expect. I knew exactly what I needed to do in order to shoot well, so it was just a matter of executing the best shots possible and taking each arrow as it came, without letting my nerves get in the way.



What was it like being at such a large event? Were you intimidated by the other people there or did you feel encouraged by how hard they were working to try even harder than them?

It was great to finally be back at international events. After the World Championships were cancelled in 2020, I was excited to finally get back onto the field. Luckily the Covid regulations meant we were okay to travel to Croatia, but strict rules were still in place to keep everyone safe. It was really nice to meet up with friends who I had first met at the Europeans in 2019, and hear of their experiences of the last 2 years. To be honest I didn't feel intimidated, I felt like it was a level playing field, everyone had just come back from 2 years of Covid disruption and while some people had been



more fortunate than others regarding lockdowns, everyone was feeling a bit rusty after not competing on the international stage for so long.

Were you one of the younger people there? Was it scary being away from people you knew?

As World Archery classifies Junior as U21, and the vast majority of archers being Seniors, at the age of 18, I was definitely one of the younger archers on the field. However, at the 2019 event I was only 16, I competed in the U21 division, and won individual Bronze against a 19 year old, so I knew it was possible.

Fortunately, Ballyvalley is mainly a Field focused club, meaning 4 other archers were selected to represent either Team GB or Team Ireland. This meant that although I was away from home I still had people who I'd shot with locally for years on the team, which made competing a lot easier. In addition there were a lot of familiar faces as I knew most of Team GB and quite a few of the other international archers from the 2019 Europeans.

While you were away in Croatia did you get an opportunity to

go sightseeing? What was your favourite thing other than the competition that you got to do?

We were in a coastal holiday town so the scenery was beautiful. With our usual schedule we'd be shooting from 8:30am-5:30pm, then we'd have a team meeting and dinner, and afterwards we'd be free to explore the town and its surroundings. Because we were staying in Porec our hotel was right beside the beach, so we got to go swimming in the sea and at the hotel, as well as exploring the holiday town and local walks. My favourite part was probably watching the sun set across the sea every night: it was beautiful, especially as it was so warm.

What advice would you give other aspiring athletes?

My one piece of advice would be to try new things until you find a sport you enjoy, whatever it might be, and you'll be surprised how far you get if you simply enjoy the process. If you told 12 year old me that in 6 years I'd be doing an interview for the school magazine after winning European medals, and that I'd have National titles and UK/Europeans/World

Records, I wouldn't have believed you. It's made me realise anything is possible if you work on it. It can be difficult to balance school with training at times, so ensuring you surround yourself with supportive people is paramount, for example my parents, friends, family, club members and teachers have all helped make this journey possible, and I'd like to thank them.

Finally, what are your future plans/goals for archery? Are there certain competitions you're excited to compete in?

I'm currently attending selection shoots for the World Field Championships in Yankton, SD, USA next summer. In the future I'd like to travel to Lancaster or Vegas for their indoor shoots. My biggest goal is to be selected to represent GBR at the World Games in the future. The World Games only happen every four years and are the equivalent of the Olympics for lesser known sports. In field archery only the top 12 Senior barebow archers in the world are invited to compete, so it would be an honour to be selected.



Pupil Experiences

Dance World Cup

Violet Coen

I first auditioned for Dance World Cup in October 2019; then after months of anticipation and years of wait (thanks covid) I finally got to perform this summer in Telford, England, representing Team Northern Ireland and competing against 63 countries.

It was one of the best opportunities and experiences. I was lucky enough to have been given the chance to perform 4 solos, 5 duets and 9 group dances and in each of these dances, I placed in the top 20 in the world! I was able to showcase a variety of different styles of dance including contemporary, lyrical, jazz, show dance and song and dance. My favourite dance was probably my song and dance solo, "I enjoy being a girl". The reason that I loved this solo so much was because I got to play a completely different character and I had the opportunity to showcase not only my dancing, but my singing as well. I was so proud when I placed 9th in the world.

Although it's hard to choose a favourite group dance, my most memorable was "We Are Six" from the musical "Six", which is based on Henry VIII's six wives. In this dance we were lucky enough to have placed 6th in the world. This was also a song and dance number and we had to use teamwork and not just rely on our individual skills.

I take many special memories away from DWC and very important lessons. Many people think that dancing is all about attention and being centre stage, but it's not! Dancing is about commitment and building resilience. DWC has taught me that hard work and perseverance pays off. It has also shown me how

high the standards are outside the small bubble in Northern Ireland and how much I still need to learn to fulfil my dreams.





Pupil Experiences

West End Kids

For as long as I can remember, I have always had a love and passion for musical theatre and my dream is to appear on the West End someday. So, whenever I was given the opportunity to audition for West End Kids (WEK), a training camp run by performers from the West End, I jumped at the chance.

After my successful audition, I flew over to Kent in July to begin the most intense week of my life. Every day we woke up at 7am, got dressed and ready for the busy day ahead and then headed for breakfast. Afterwards, we went over to the theatre to begin rehearsals, which started off with a rave to get us 'pumped', then a 'warm up' and stretching. Singing was next and we had to learn about 4 new songs every day including different harmonies, which was a challenge. After this it was time for dance to start; this was the biggest challenge of all, as we had to remember 15 dances in total, all 10 minutes long. A lot of people struggled to keep up and remember everything. Lunch was next and this was the well-needed

break we all deserved. As soon as we had eaten, it was back to singing and dancing for another 4 hours.

Once rehearsal was over, we all had dinner and then we had fun activities in the evening. Once back in our rooms we were expected to practise to make sure we knew all of our material for the next day, which meant that bedtime was about 1am! WEK

was fierce as every day people were ruthlessly cut from the routines, many were in tears and some even went home because they couldn't hack it! I was however determined to make the most of this experience, tears and all. At the end of the week parents were invited to a performance showcasing our week's work. Performing on stage with my new friends was electric and everything we had endured during the week was well worth it. The thrill of being on stage was unforgettable; WEK has prepared me for what I hope will be my future!



Pupil Experiences

The Young Actors' Academy

Owen Evans

In Theatre there is something for everyone: whether you're involved as a performer, or watching as an audience member. In the summer of 2021, during mid July, I got the experience of a lifetime during the Young Actors' Academy held by the Lir in Dublin. Unfortunately through various lockdowns and with social distancing and restrictions, the theatre industry has suffered greatly but this experience confirmed to me just how special theatre is and the necessity of it returning to the position that it held 'pre-lockdown'.



Having the opportunity to learn what a day to day lifestyle of a student attending the Lir drama school entails, is something I will never forget and hopefully something that I will be able to experience full time after my A level studies. From day one of arriving in Dublin, I was eager to experience as much as I could from the course. The course itself was split into two weeks. Week one consisted of six-hour days, focused on teaching physical movement, voice and tone, as well as acting technique.

This was an amazing learning experience as a young actor, as I had the opportunity to focus in professional depth on three of the key tools that would be used to create compelling and competent performance. The second week honed in on audition technique, whereby we had to take part in a mock audition for a Shakespearean and contemporary monologue. This offered fantastic insight into the requirements and process of being accepted into a

drama school, with teachers at the drama school providing feedback and a realistic idea about what a future in the industry would entail for those accepted onto the course. From day one, the course was amazing! The creative freedom the teachers would give us was like nothing I had ever experienced! We really were being trained as professionals. The drama facilities in the Lir building were like no other. There were entire rooms dedicated to physical movement and projection of voice and the two-hour long lessons flew by.

Before I knew it, the days were gone, but I felt that I knew so much more about how to project as a performer and as an actor. I also had the opportunity of developing my independence as I was required to stay alone in Dublin during the two weeks and experience both 'city and student life'! By far however, the best part of the two weeks was the people I met along the way. My group consisted of 13 other young actors

and actresses and I had never met a more talented group of eager and determined people in my life.

After the first hour of the first lesson, everyone was getting along like we had known each other for years. There were people from all over the country, from Donegal to Cork, Navan to Galway; everyone was initially a complete stranger but in no time at all, we were getting along like friends from birth. The instructors themselves were unbelievably professional, not only in teaching, but also in the understanding and respect with which they treated the young actors. All of these things combined, made the Young Actors' Academy Experience one that I will never forget!

In Theatre there is something for everyone, and I would absolutely recommend anyone thinking about applying for any drama school after their current educational course to absolutely go for it. It is an experience like no other!

Pupil Experiences

Charlotte Betts

Northern Ireland Pony Club Show Jumping Finals

In June 2021 I competed in the Northern Ireland Pony Club Show Jumping finals, along with a team from my local pony club, Iveagh. This took place at the Meadows Equestrian Centre and as a team we finished third and qualified for the UK Pony Club Championships.

We travelled to Offchurch, England in August and camped for the week there along with hundreds of other competitors from all over the UK. The show jumping competition took place at the beginning of the week and was a very competitive class, with over 200 riders competing. We jumped two rounds of 13 fences in two different arenas. My pony Hacker and I jumped one of only 20 double clears on the day, which earned us a beautiful rosette. We finished in 3rd place in the UK and were delighted to be on the podium at the prize giving. Later in the week, I competed in the UK Eventing Championships which consisted of dressage, show jumping and cross-country. Hacker and I rode clear cross country and clear show jumping and with a fair dressage score, I finished 17th in the UK. Riding the technical, tough cross country course was my favourite part of the week.



I was very proud to represent my pony club and Northern Ireland for the week and I hope I can go back next year.



Pupil Experiences

The Royal Windsor Horse Show



Molly Davidson, Year 11, was selected as part of the Northern Ireland Pony Club Mounted Games Team to compete at the Royal Windsor Horse Show 2021. She travelled to Windsor at the start of July with five teammates from various pony clubs in Northern Ireland to compete in The Daks International Pony Club Mounted Games Championships against other national teams from England, Wales, Scotland and The Three Nations (composite team). Following four days of stiff competition in the Castle Arena, the Final was played in front of Her Majesty The Queen, with rosettes and medals presented afterwards by the Earl and Countess of Wessex; first place was awarded this year to the Welsh team. Four thousand people attended the event each day and the atmosphere was electric; an amazing experience and wonderful memories

and friendships were made.

Molly, who is a member of Iveagh Pony Club, has played Mounted Games for 11 years and attending the RWHS represents the pinnacle of her PC Games career. She was delighted to have been selected again this year with her pony, Sonja, as part of the NI Team as the event was cancelled in 2020 due to COVID. Molly previously represented Northern Ireland at the European Mounted Games Association Championships in 2019 in Millstreet, Cork.

The Pony Club Mounted Games were created by Prince Phillip and the first Championships were held in 1956. Pony Club Games require courage, determination and all-round riding ability on the part of the rider and careful systematic training of the pony. Its object is to encourage a

higher standard of riding throughout The Pony Club and to stimulate, among the future generation, a greater interest in riding as a sport and recreation.

The school community is extremely proud of Molly and look forward to watching her progress in the years ahead.



**AJ PLUMBING
SUPPLIES LTD.**

EST. 1979
— — — — —

**YOUR LOCAL PLUMBERS MERCHANT
& BATHROOM SPECIALISTS**



NEWRY

Greenbank Industrial Estate
Tel: (028) 3026 3348

AJ ELITE NEWRY

Carneyhaugh House 47a Rathfriland Rd
Tel: (028) 3025 2333

BANBRIDGE

Unit 7 Brookfield Ind. Est. Scarva Rd
Tel: (028) 4062 2717

BALLYNAHINCH

45 Lisburn Road
Tel: (028) 9756 4636

Year 8 Adventure Day

The Year 8 Adventure Day took place in school as part of the school's Induction experience for Year 8 pupils. The focus of the day was - building relationships, both between class mates and also developing the student/Form Teacher relationship.

Students were asked to complete a range of mental and physical tasks designed to develop the 4 C's of teamwork –

- Commitment – to complete the task within the framework and time scales
- Contribution – to make sure all students were involved
- Communication – recognising that some students have great ideas and will go ahead without communicating with others how they might complete the task, while others may have some great ideas but are perhaps more timid and can't be heard
- Cooperation – each task could only be completed by working together as a team

The students and indeed the staff thoroughly enjoyed the day and had fun together forging strong relationships.





Banbridge Academy Association

Audrey Wilson-Reid, Chairman BAA

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

Our main aim is to fundraise and provide some extra financial support to the school, however the biggest aim is to foster the network between school, community and home. It is an enjoyable and rewarding experience for those involved.

BAA organise events throughout the school year and we are always looking for ideas to help with our fundraising efforts. This year, as a result of these unprecedented times, we have been unable to hold any events. We were however able to raise some funds as detailed below.

Christmas Cards

Thanks must be extended to Mrs Evans and the Art Department for their help and support with this initiative. The Year 8 pupils relish the challenge to take part in this activity, with one being chosen as the school Christmas Card each year.

Uniform Swap and Sale

This year we organised a successful uniform swap and sale within school. The association is indebted to all who supplied uniforms for this successful event. Parents were able to swap or purchase uniforms from those donated. This was greatly appreciated by those in attendance. Plans are already in place for next year, following suggestions by parents to include sports items such as hockey sticks and bags. We hope to make this an annual event.

Community Outreach

As an Association we are proud of the links forged within the wider community. This year, as a result of austere times, some families have found themselves in need. Donations of food and toiletries were provided by parents and staff to support the work of the J29 project. As a school and association, we feel it is important

to give to those less fortunate and in so doing, to serve those in the community who are in need. The J29 project undertakes tremendous work with families in need and also provides a safe haven for young people in various clubs and groups. Every donation was greatly received by both J29 and the families who have been helped.

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

The Association puts a lot of time and effort into organising events and I would like to call on everyone 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!



ALL TYPES OF PICTURE FRAMING

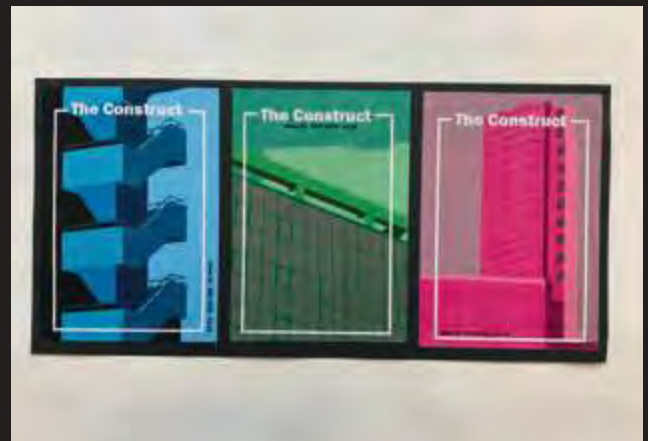
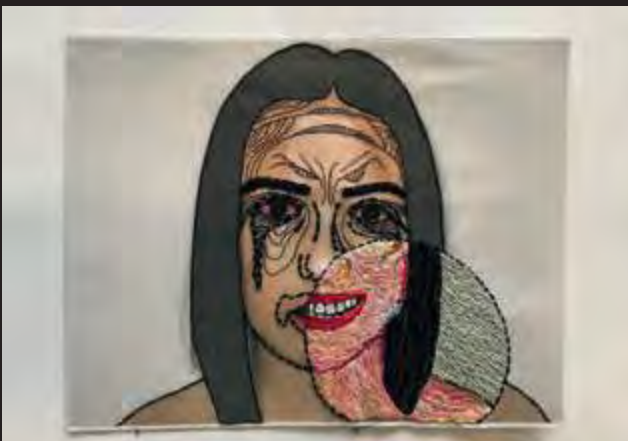
MOUNT CUTTING SINGLE AND BULK



8 Old Kenlis Street, Banbridge, BT32 3BD
T: 028 4066 2202 | E:framed@email.com

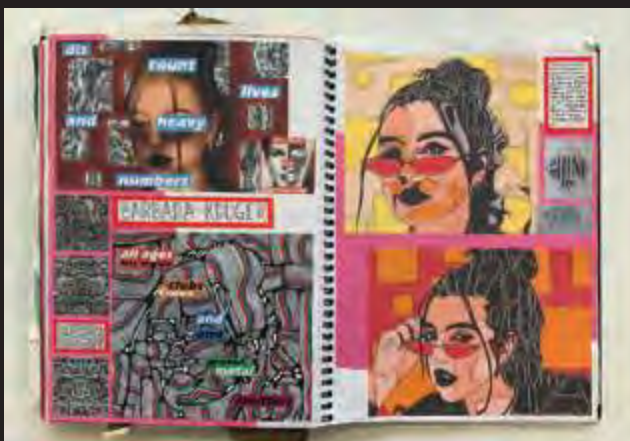
We are open from
Wednesday to Saturday 10.00am to 4.00pm

A Level Art





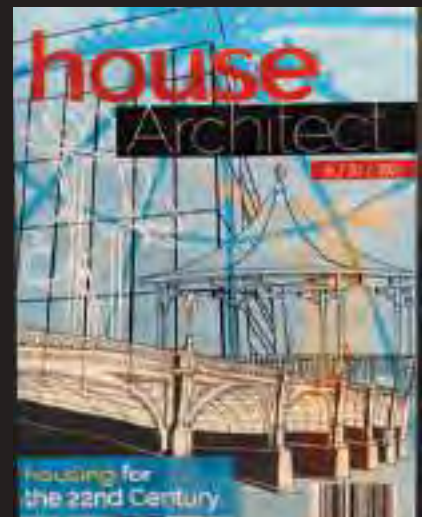
AS Level Art



AS Level Art



GCE Art



Heroes Stamp Design Competition

During the summer term last year, the Art Department took part in a nationwide competition run by the Royal Mail. They opened a design competition to schools and pupils across the UK to create a series of stamps dedicated to "Covid Heroes" and as a school, we entered over 350 designs into the competition.

From across the UK a total of 120 finalists were chosen, including one of the Academy's Year 11 pupils, Cadey-Lee Jess, who was selected as a Regional Finalist and one of the top ten in Northern Ireland. Cadey-Lee is now guaranteed a prize as is the school.

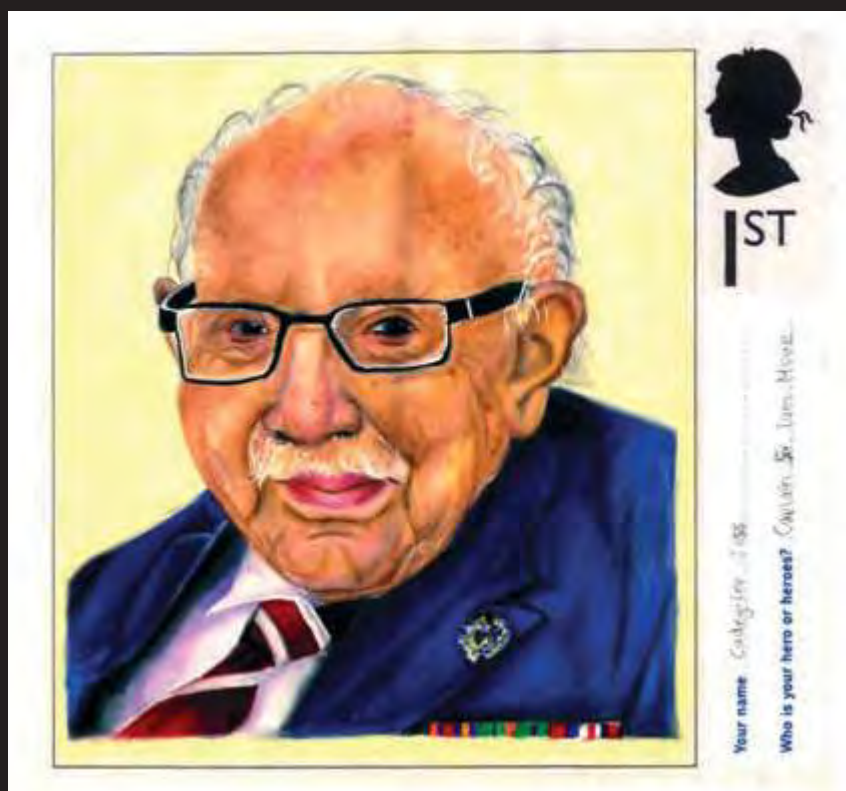
this amazing achievement and looks forward to the final result in November with great anticipation.



An incredible 606,049 entries were received from children across the UK, with an astounding 7,479 schools taking part. The Academy students' designs also contributed towards a GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS™ title for the largest postage stamp design competition.

From the 120 Regional Finalists, a special panel of judges will now determine the winning 24 regional designs and these will be announced in November. From these 24 entries, the ultimate 8 winning images will be chosen as official Royal Mail stamps and will be signed off by Her Majesty The Queen. They will then appear on millions of items of mail across the UK when they are issued in the Spring of 2022.

Everyone in the Academy congratulated Cadey-Lee on



THE FOOD HOUSE

82 Newry Street, Banbridge, BT32 3HA
Monday - Saturday 8.00am - 6.00pm



**Proudly
Serving**

**JUST
GOOD**
Grub

Careers

Mr Bond

In the midst of all the changes brought by the pandemic in 2020-21, the Careers Department faced another significant change. Mrs Gilpin retired as Head of Department in December and was replaced by Mr Bond, who joined Banbridge Academy from Belfast High School in January. Here's a rundown of some of the main things pupils got up to during the remote learning period and the return to school in the spring term.

10X Challenge

Year 10 pupils embraced the invitation from Young Enterprise to start their own mini-business. With just £10 initial investment and a four-week window, teams had to devise and launch a business, sourcing and buying products, developing a marketing and sales strategy, all with the aim of making as much money as possible. The best news was – they got to keep what they made! It was great to see such ingenuity among pupils, especially given the constraints of trading within Covid restrictions. Among the 40ish teams who took part, Eternity Rings deserve special mention for their significant profit margin, efficient organisation and creative branding and logo design (pictured).



Year 13 Careers Week

In May, Year 13 pupils were given an extra helping of Careers with a dedicated programme of online events. Including interviews with past pupils and local employers, UCAS personal statement workshops, and advice on apprenticeships, the week sought to kickstart pupils into thinking about their post-18 careers

beyond the walls of Banbridge Academy.

Work Experience

Necessity is the mother of invention, and while we were unable to send our pupils out en masse on work shadowing placements, the online world saved the day once again.

During 2020 and 2021 a huge number of online work experience providers stepped up to the mark in trying to plug the hole created by the pandemic. Our pupils were exceptional in taking advantage of these opportunities, and have arrived in Year 14 with some great experiences to their credit.



GEORGE ARMSTRONG - JEWELLER -

Tel: 028 406 23456
33 Bridge Street • Banbridge
BT32 3JL

Watch Brands

Rotary - Citizen - Sekonda - Seksy -
Royal - Pulsar

Clocks - Wall & Mantel

Seiko, Cross Pens, Diamond Rings, Wedding Bands, Top Quality 9ct, Gold/Silver Jewellery

Jewellery & Watch Repair Service
Battery & Strap

Evacuee

Creative Writing

Pupils in 9B read R.S Thomas' poem, 'The Evacuee' and extracts from 'Goodnight Mister Tom' before examining old war photographs of evacuees and empathizing with the characters presented.

They combined all of the ideas gleaned from these stimuli to then produce their own creative writing, from the perspective of an evacuee.

Diary of an Evacuee

Sarah Cairns (9B)

Thursday 31st August 1939:

Well Diary, big, big news today! Turns out all the weird whisperings I have been trying to figure out between the maids now make sense, as it has been announced that children in the city are off to the countryside! Father is away on important business, but Mother has still organised for little Eve and I to be on the first train tomorrow. It is exciting, but nerve-racking at the same time. I am still overwhelmed by it all. I have so many questions running through my head. What will the people be like? Do country folk act differently? What about my new house? Will it have a slippery, spiral bannister just like home? What about school? Will I still see all my friends? I will dearly miss the enjoyable, entertaining times I have with devoted Grandma Susie and Grandfather Mark, though I am sure Mother will appreciate some family staying close to her.

A strange thing happened earlier. I went downstairs to Mother, as she wanted to speak to me. It turned out she wanted to tell me to behave myself (as if I would not!), and that I must take care of my sister and protect her (and of course I said yes!).

As I was speaking to Mother it struck me that something seemed off about her voice. It was quavering, unsteady and stuttering. What could be wrong? After that, she told me to set my dress out for tomorrow so that I would be ready on time. I set out my beautiful blue velvet dress with my matching silver stockings and my blue buckle shoes. After all, I wanted to look my best and to be presentable! Afterward, I grabbed my woolly coat and soon there was a knock on my door. It was one of the maids. They handed me my brown leather suitcase filled with my life belongings. Then mother came in to inspect the packing. She noddingly approved and then pulled me in for a massive hug. As we pulled out of the hug she kissed me on the forehead and told me to go to bed. So, I will have to go now, but I hope all goes well tomorrow!

Friday 1st September 1939:

I woke up this morning and felt different. I suddenly felt quite emotional; it is not normally like me to get emotional. But I had to get up and ready, so I sprang out of bed, yet as I did, I thought about how that could be my last sleep in my bed for a while. I quickly got dressed and then tried

to tame my wild hair myself. That was a mistake, it just looked like my long brown curly hair had been struck by lightning. Mother came to my rescue, but who can I ask when she is not with me?

As we approached the train station, I noticed the labels attached to all the children. We were parcels getting ready to be shipped. The platform was packed like sardines, and the noise was overwhelming. Everyone was talking over each other, and only random cries rang out above it as children bade tearful farewells to their loved ones. As we waited to board, Mother looked at both Eve and I; she pulled us in for a hug that we did not want to let go of.

Her eyes looked puffy and swollen; I hope she will be ok without us...

As the train departed into the unknown, the piercing whistle from the officer signalled a change to the continuous clickety-clack of the train wheels going along the railings. As we moved further away, I saw green fields with animals dotted on them looking like paintings. So different from home! Finally, after what felt like forever, we had arrived! We were then led out



Evacuee creative writing continued

by a stern-looking man and were taken to the village hall. As we walked along the cobbled streets, the sounds around me seemed so much more peaceful than the hustle and bustle of London. The cows seemed to moo and the sheep baa, as if they are talking to each other.

On entering, we were all lined up beside each other, myself and Eve stood together as close as possible as I could see the fear in her eyes. A bunch of people then swarmed like bees into the hall, trying to pick the best child. As I looked around I noticed how most people seemed to pick the boys first, but then one couple stopped and stared at us in our stunning dresses and decided they wanted us. They introduced themselves to us. Their names were Mr Thomas Hopkins, Mrs Grace Hopkins and Lucy Hopkins. They seemed lovely!

They took us to their quaint home and showed us around. We were really grateful for the warm meal they provided for our famished stomachs and the comfort of our own bed. Turns out, Mrs Hopkins is a great dressmaker, and we have been told we can help her with her work! I have always loved clothes, so hope I will learn lots! Lucy however doesn't seem to like us that much, as any time we go to talk to her she just ignores us. Hopefully, she will warm to us. I hope I can sleep tonight, the moon is like a giant lightbulb in the night sky here.

Friday 29th September 1939:

Life has been so busy! I have been living in my new home with the Hopkins for 4 weeks now. It has been an adventure! Both myself and Eve have settled in well and have started school in the village (Cranfield School). It is brilliant as I have made

some new friends! We get to walk to school every day, past smelly pigs bathing in mud!

I have even been helping Mrs Hopkins with making dresses. She in turn has helped me with my sewing and knitting! I have learnt how Mr Hopkins loves gardening and even has taught Eve and I how to garden. Lucy, however, still does not enjoy having us around. But she has shown some improvement since we first came. For example, the other day she agreed to play on the skipping rope with us.

I am of course missing Mother, Father, Grandma, Grandfather and even the maids but I am trying not to worry about them and thinking positively. Oh, I must go now as Mrs Hopkins has made our favourite meal for tea!

A Refuge in the Time of War

Caleb Cromie 9B

My whole world has been reduced to this small leather suitcase. The menacing hiss of the Belfast to Enniskillen steam train bounced around the packed platform. Ashen-faced mothers fought back stinging tears, as unsuspecting children innocently boarded the train. Fathers stood with heads bowed, desperately trying to conceal any kind of emotion- time for a 'stiff upper lip' and 'keep calm and carry on!'

The strident, needle sharp whistle insisted that time was up. The wooden doors slammed shut like dominoes, rippling along the platform. I missed a window seat but I caught a last glimpse of my mother as her face began to crumple with emotion. I waved weakly and forlornly as I fought back the salty tears, tasting them on my dry and cracked lips. My mother

disappeared into the darkness, swallowed up by the tunnel.

I felt the cold sweat envelop my hands; my heart began to pound in rhythm with the thundering train as the chunk,click of the rails lulled me and I surrendered to the motion of the train - I had little choice! The scratchy twine of my nametag rubbed mercilessly against my neck and I felt like Joseph being sold by his brothers to the Midianites- my most recent Sunday school lesson. The blackness of Belfast disappeared and the countryside blossomed unexpectedly. I had never been beyond Finaghy before. The open fields seemed to roll endlessly, hedgerows flashed by and the sky seemed bigger than ever.

I was ripped from my thoughts by the tall ticket-master who glared and

demanded 'Ticket please!' I knew instinctively where it was as my mother had rehearsed this moment with me. I reached inside my woollen jacket pocket and handed the shaking ticket over. The ticket was punched violently and briskly returned. I drifted in and out of sleep- lingering in limbo between my old life and my new life. The swaying and swinging motion hypnotized me and I was ambushed by sleep.

The piercing whistle punctured my drowsy warmth and I jolted awake, focusing on the green and yellow sign that read, 'ENNISKILLEN'. Beyond the confines of the station I could see horses and carts mingling with cars and tractors. The platform was jammed with anxious relatives. I scanned the weather-beaten faces anxiously, searching desperately for a

Evacuee creative writing continued

glimpse of aunty Pearl.

After what seemed like an eternity I saw her unmistakable silhouette, that kind and lithe frame, slightly stooped, but radiating warmth and compassion. My face filled with joy and I longed to be enveloped in her lavender scented embrace. I drank in that soft Fermanagh accent as she welcomed me in that familiar phrase, 'Well James, you're welcome there!'

There was no need for an alarm

clock as the rooster took care of that every morning and I had grown accustomed to the rhythms of rural life. The bleak smog of Belfast had been replaced by the rejuvenating freshness and freedom of Fermanagh. My favourite part of the morning routine was gathering the precious gift of nature, the hens' eggs. I enjoyed the still warm egg nestling in my hand and holding it to the light.

At night the heat and glow of the paraffin heating lamps became

my refuge and companions as we checked on the piglets. Their pink translucence was a joy to behold, glistening like newly washed plums, their tiny hairs standing to attention like tiny lead toy soldiers, silhouetted in the twilight of the barn their corkscrew tails moving with delight as they jostled to feed. The farm, Auntie Pearl and the animals stood as symbols of hope that life would return to normal after the spectre of war had disintegrated.

Houstons



Handbags - Fashions - Footwear
Bedlinen - Furniture - Giftware - Cookshop - Lingerie



2-8 Newry Street, Banbridge (028) 4066 2447
www.shophoustons.com



TH TOTAL HOCKEY

Web: total-hockey.com
Tel: 028 4066 2684
Email: sales@total-hockey.com

NEW GOALKEEPING DPT
NEW BRANDS
NEW LOOK

Total Hockey 19 Bridge Street Banbridge BT32 3JL

KATRIONA is a fashion store specialising in top designer brands, including Marella, Luella, Marc Cain and many more!

**LOCATION | 6-8 Scarva St, Banbridge BT32 3DA
028 4062 9768**

We are delighted to be accepting the £100 voucher!

#katrionafashion

Katriona

Brother in the Land

Creative Writing

Pupils from 10H read the opening chapters to their novel, 'Brother In the Land'. Their task was to provide an alternate opening, from the perspective of a 'new' character of their own creation.

Their aim was to produce an engaging and descriptive piece of writing that employed a range of devices to fully ignite the reader's interest...

The Green Chair

Freya Whitten

"Pain was taking over me like fire, the unfurling petals of a vermillion-coloured flower, the flames of pain rose up and engulfed my cold, empty heart. Sadness crushed like an overwhelming tidal wave and I drowned in its embrace." ...

Saturday...

The smell of bacon and her new perfume flooded the air. This was comfort. The low giggle from my granddaughter as I could hear her fiddling with her toys, sitting in the green velvet armchair. It all filled me with so much contentment; this was the life!

Sunday...

All I could hear, playing over and over in my head almost as if I was reliving the 15 torturous minutes, was her screams. The ground trembled; the sound of the pan clinking on the glass of the hob; the soft giggle completely fading away; the fear of the unknown overtaking my body.

I blame myself for the tragedies that follow after the shaking of the earth. Our little cottage off the end of the town came in over us at a surprisingly fast pace. The dust was filling my throat and eyes. I couldn't see anyone. I didn't try to find anyone. I was selfish! I ran as fast as my arthritis infested

legs could take me out onto the streets of rubble and despair, hoping that at the end of the wasteland the embrace of my grand-daughter would be waiting for me.

I stood clutching my chest, my body was almost begging my lungs to keep going, in hope that these were not the last few minutes of my fulfilled 64 years.

I regret begging, I wish they had just stopped! The cottage started to fall. The walls crumbled into dust. Everything was ruined, except one thing...

Through the dust I caught a glimpse of bright green; it may be the only source of colour in this bleak grey, depressing world. It was her chair and on sight of it, my heart thudded in my hollow chest. The memories came flooding back...

I could picture her sitting there, her tiny little hands making me a bracelet for the one hundredth time. I chuckled to myself as I stumbled over the remains of the house and perched myself onto her chair. I slept. I don't remember falling asleep, all I remember was being awakened by coldness falling onto my dry, cracked face. It was like a miracle sent from heaven as the rain finally fell

quenching the thirst of the desiccated barren wasteland. Just like everyone and everything else however, the rain wasn't here to help us. Nothing could help us now!

I finally decided to face the darkness and bury her properly. I walked slowly, preparing myself for what I was about to see. The rubble crunched under my feet and the dust surrounded me with every step. I stalled. There she was. Her face was so pale, transparent almost. I crouched down and slowly started to move the bricks and debris off her. My vision began to go blurry as tears welled from deep inside and coursed down my cheeks. I carefully lifted her petite body into my arms and walked her to her favourite park.



Brother in the Land continued

The Sea and the Grass

Katie Vaughan

There are two definitions of the word 'pain'. The first is the obvious, and the definition lay in the dictionary placed in the far corner of the bookshelf behind me, coated in dust. 'Highly unpleasant physical sensation caused by illness or injury.' The second, however, is much more dangerous, and much more torturous.

I was at Eddie's new house, a beautiful cottage filled to the brim with books about psychology, and paintings that were too expensive to hang on the walls of a house in Skipley. I waited for Eddie to bring my tea, absentmindedly flicking through a book with words too large and complex for me to understand. The definition of mental pain is very different from its physical form. 'How much you hurt as a human being. It is mental suffering; mental torment.' It's the kind of pain that crushes you like a bookshelf. The kind of pain that distracts you from the broken glass cutting your cheek, and the cold rubble beneath you. The sort of pain you feel as you scream for your brother to come and help you, but you know that in the next room, he is staring at the wall in front of him, his eyes glossed over and unblinking. In the next room, Eddie feels nothing.

Only moments before the bomb, I felt the beginning. I often wish to go back. Before the beginning, I mean. Before the ground started shaking and before the music on the record player slowly came to a stop. Before the books began to tremble and the bookshelf fell too quickly for me to avoid. If I could go back a few moments, perhaps I could grab my brother and rush to the shelter. Maybe then we both would have made it. But I can't, so instead I think of the what-

ifs. Instead I am alone.

It all happened very suddenly, I suppose, and despite it being so long ago it felt like just yesterday. Each time I think of it, the dull pain in my leg returns, and my limp worsens. Survivors' guilt was what Eddie called it when he talked about the men who made it back from the first war. It was dark there, under the rubble and the bookshelf, and at the time I found myself alternating between praying I'd live, and praying I'd slip away. Eddie had told me to always have hope, if you prayed surely everything would be alright. But he was wrong, for once. I had never felt such pain in my life. My leg was trapped under the bookshelf, and each time I moved it ached more and more, and managed to wedge itself further in. I gave up trying after five minutes.

Thinking back, it's ironic that the most lovely day in Skipley would turn into the worst. After surviving, people would tell me I had incredible luck, but I would trade Eddie's place for mine in a heartbeat. To be honest, I am glad he did not survive, however awful it may seem. Surviving was a curse. He had the gift of blissful ignorance, he didn't have to face what came after.

In the beginning I tried to scream, but my voice tired quickly and I wished I'd saved it until someone was nearer. My ribs hurt with each breath I managed to steal. It wasn't necessarily true, what the books said about your life flashing before your eyes, but in that moment I thought back on all the times I told my younger sister that the bombs wouldn't hit a place as insignificant as Skipley. I tried not to think about her, I did not want to lose both of my siblings in one day. They were all

I had. I tried to move again, and by some sort of miracle, my leg budged. I screamed in relief, taking my time to move the bookcase slightly, drag my leg along the rubble, then repeat. Move, drag, move, drag, move, drag.

It took ten minutes to escape, and the whole time I was reminding myself that one wrong move would ruin the entire thing. Every time I thought of the heat, I grew warmer. Every time I thought of my hunger, I grew hungrier. Every time I thought of the pain, it worsened. The stench was heavy and vulgar, the taste of blood and tears was overwhelming. Judging by the quickly drying blood on my hands, I had been there for an hour or two, although it felt like days on end.

I sat in the wreck of the house for a moment, scared to move in case the rubble would fall on me once more. I was too shocked to cry. I felt helpless, and for a moment I contemplated going to see Eddie, to see if by some miracle he had managed to survive, just as I had. As I moved closer to the kitchen, I relied completely on muscle memory to find it. This was not the house I knew, the house that Eddie was trying to make a home. Again, I took my time. I carefully checked my footing before I moved, and held my hands out to try and balance myself. I feared if I fell, I would not be given another chance.

Finally, I found my way to the kitchen. I looked around with tears in my eyes, and begged the sky that my brother was alright. I caught sight of Eddie propped up against the wall, and for a blissful moment I thought, maybe, he was still okay. I rushed to his side, a smile plastered on my face, blood sweat and tears coating my cheeks, and dropped to the ground beside

Brother in the Land continued

him.

"Eddie," I called joyfully, forgetting the rubble around me for a second or two. "Eddie!"

He did not respond.

I slapped him gently, trying to wake him up. His head lolled to the side, turning to face me. Our eyes met- my blue eyes on his green eyes. The sea

and the grass. His eyes stared through me as if I wasn't there. I did not give up. I tried to wake him up, I tried as hard as I could. He didn't move. I held his head to my chest, but dropped it in panic as I noticed the blood on the back of his head. It made a mark on the wall, like a deadly halo over his head. I stumbled back, knowing the

sight of my older brother, always so kind and gentle, lying in the dust and blood would haunt my nightmares.

As I ran backwards, I felt a hole in the wall- big enough for me to squeeze through. I lost my footing, tumbling through the hole. And I ran.

Survivors

Corin Widdis

I rested my tired head against the grimy bus window, gazing out at the glistening sun, who was slowly climbing over the hills and stretching its golden fingers out from behind. The shining roads and looming forests seemed different today, still in their solemnity. It was a balmy, blistering day and I was alone on the bus, except for the spiritless bus driver. I was on the way home from boarding school and going home to Skipley for the summer. I remember looking forward to having freedom at last, but looking back I would soon realise there are worse things than tight uniforms and strict nuns.

The small town of Skipley was up on a hill, so I was dropped at the bottom to walk. As the bus doors closed and I turned to face the towering, forested hill I stopped. I couldn't tell you why I did it but a niggling voice in my head told me something was wrong. Silencing the voice, I started to haul myself up the steep hill, staring dully down at my muddy converse all the way. I soon began to notice a strange, metallic taste to the air, but thought nothing of it and walked on. My mind was wandering, and before I knew it I was nearing the top of the hill. I realised and looked up suddenly, snapping out of my daze and immediately fell to my knees at the sight before me- my suitcase tumbling to the ground. In front of me

were hundreds of burnt out houses, streets and streets of them, like dead ravens, lying poisoned and dark. The sky was an inky black and all the places I once knew were now charred and ravaged. The stench was horrible: an ugly, dirty smell that makes you feel sick. But worst of all were the bodies. The streets were strewn, with body after body, scattered all around as emptied seashells scatter the sand.

Ghosts of people wandered around, none of them paid any notice to me, their sunken eyes empty. No tears, no sobs, only that calm, frozen look to which tears and sobs would have been a relief. My first thought was my family, my mother and father, and my sweet little sister. Where were they? Were they okay? What had even happened? A bomb, I supposed, as tears fled to my eyes. I dropped my things and started running. I didn't know where I was going, I didn't even recognise my surroundings anymore but I kept going, passing the broken bodies lying in pools of scarlet on the road. Every so often I would see someone I recognised, Angela Campbell, who went to my school, and always smelled of peppermint. Philip Hamilton who played fetch with his dog on the green. Noah Erickson who liked to read space novels. John Stuart, an old man who spent all his time in his garden. Most were now unrecognisable. Some were missing

limbs, heads, even some still slightly alive, wailing weakly. I swallowed my guilt and kept running, knowing they were too far gone.

I looked around for any sign of my family, a green dress like my Mum would wear or tiny pink sandals for Penny. There was nothing, and as I wandered aimlessly around I passed a similar lamppost, one I had seen before. I remembered suddenly, this was the way to my home. I sprinted, cursing myself for not going sooner, and before long I reached it. It was completely ravaged, like the others. I let out a gasping noise and ran into the ruins and up the blackened stairs, not caring about looking around, choking their names, my voice full of pain. I flew around, lucid, my vision completely blurred, feeling as though I was in some twisted nightmare. And then I saw her. Lying in the middle of a chaos-stricken room. I stopped making noise, too shocked to even cry. I stepped closer to her mangled body. My sister, my little Penny, lying bloodsoaked on the ground, her last cry still etched on her face. I screamed to the sky, as though begging the gods to bring her back. I spent the rest of the day there in utter shock. Although my mourning ceased after a while, and a cold, numb feeling took over, enrapturing my body and mind in a thick black veil. I almost fell asleep, cradling her tiny body, which was



Brother in the Land continued

now cold, but I was awoken harshly by a chilling shriek, the kind of scream that makes your bones go cold.

I left Penny, feeling guilty but reminding myself she was gone and I had to be tough. I ran towards the sound, down a bank into a burnt out housing estate. A small boy lay on the tarmac, trembling like a shot pigeon, but seemingly not injured. I went up to him and asked if he was okay, keeping my distance, but he didn't reply. He stumbled backwards and stared around, as though looking for something. I asked again, louder this time, but still there was no reaction. I was about to shout but I caught my breath as I realized there was something wrong in his eyes. They weren't like eyes I had seen before,

but clouded, as though a thick grey mist had settled over them. He was blind.

I touched his arm and he jumped, shuffling away quickly. I turned up the collar of his school polo shirt and found a label that said "ADU" in black marker. I patted him and reassured him gently to let him know that it was okay and hoisted him up to his feet, walking him with me. I think he sensed he was safe, glad that someone had found him at last, so he didn't struggle. As we emerged from the buildings, we reached a forest. I let out a sigh as I realised I knew this place. I remember feeling safe for the first time in what felt like years, letting nature take over my senses once more. This was Forest Carmen, a

green canopy of wildlife, and for the first time in what felt like years I finally felt a bit better. I lay on the ground for a while, watching the sunbeams spill through the dapples of leaves above. As I looked around the forest that day, at the trickling crystal streams, the old, wise trees, little did I know this would become my home.

We buried Penny under the oak tree, which would become the place we put all of our lost ones. We've been here seven years now, Adu and I, and our small coven of survivors. I don't know anything anymore... where my parents are... or if they escaped... but I know that we are survivors, and we have each other.



Eden Health Clinic

02840662841

6 Bridge Street Banbridge

Follow us on Facebook

Neil Shaw

Owner

norseman_uk@hotmail.com

Limericks

Pupils were given the same opening line to begin their limerick...

There was a performer called Sam
He performed to many a man
He tapped tapped to the beat
with his very big feet
while preforming in Amsterdam.

- William White, Year 9

There was a performer called Sam,
Who would amaze the crowd with
tricks and handstands.
The crowd would roar,
They'd beg for more,
And so once again his performance
began.

There would be elephants, horses and
acrobats,
Trapeze artists, monkeys and clowns
with funny hats,
But best of all,
Standing proud and tall,
Was Sam the performer and there's no
contest about that!

- Danny Scott, Year 8

There was a performer called Sam
He was fond of a stage exam
He liked to revise,
To win the main prize.
Who is the best? He said, "I am!"

- Caitlyn Topping, Year 8

There was a performer called Sam
And his fake explosives went Bam!
His friends got a fright
And started to fight
So he ran away in a scam

- Madilyn Wallace, Year 8

There was a performer called Sam
He did his shows with a small lamb
He loved to win
He slipped on his chin
And that was the end of great Sam

- Jamie Watson, Year 8

There was a performer called Sam
Who liked toast with butter and jam.
He went out and took
His favourite book
And read it with his friend, the ram.

- Dylan Thompson, Year 9

There was a performer called Sam
His face was as pink as a ham
He loved to eat meat

He also loved wheat
And never used cherry lip balm.

- Micah Anderson, Year 8

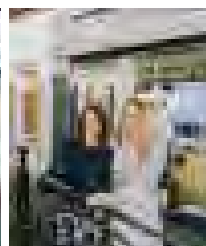
There was a performer called Sam,
On stage he was really quite calm.
His acts were bad
Poor little lad
So he started to wear lip balm!

- Anna Chambers, Year 8

NEWLY OPEN HEALTH STORE IN BANBRIDGE



KEEP CLEAN EAT WHOLE FOODS



- Organic foods
- Health supplements
- Wheatgrass and alkaline water
- Organic to go coffee
- Homemade healthy treats
- Natural beauty products
- Eco-friendly household products
- Organic, homemade sugar free, gluten free treats, breads
- Organic and healthy "fake aways"
- Private health consultations
- Emotional counselling
- Staff with pharmaceutical back ground
- Regular competitions and give aways

Opening hours:

Mon-Fri 9.30am-6pm
Saturday 10am- 6pm

Tel: 028 402 38181
info@healthydepot.co.uk
www.healthydepot.co.uk

6 Jingers Court  
Banbridge BT32 3YJ



Poetry

IT

Year 9 Pupil

Apprehension, angst, agitation,
Confusion, concern, consternation.
Why do I feel so worried?
Why is this life so hurried?
This overwhelming pace,
I just need headspace.

Loneliness, tiredness, irritation,
Non-attendance at school leads to
frustration.
Life can be tough,
This feeling is rough.
I long for it to go away,
It's not welcome to stay.

Every day I do my utmost to try,
Yet, it always wins and makes me cry.
I feel so alone
Even though I have friends on the
phone.
It's hard for them to understand,
I hope they NEVER find this land.

The pain cuts like a knife,
Why do I have to endure such strife?
"No pain, no gain!" they say
Please just make it go away!
I need to get this problem solved,
Before it makes my soul dissolve.

The Ballad of Covid-19

Rebekah Matthews 8H

One bright and carefree Tuesday
An evil monster came,
To wreck our lives
But no one knew who to blame.

It never asked permission to come,
But did it care?
Oh no, it was happy to be a murderer,
It didn't even warn us to prepare!

We were forced to isolate

But some people thought they knew
best
They wrecked the government's plans
The police had to carry out an arrest.

Covid brought another danger
One inside our heads
It made us feel depressed and trapped
And wrecked our faultless minds.

This evil monster came
Like an unstoppable tsunami,
It wrecked everything it laid its hands
on
You don't want it to touch you, trust
me.

Everyone's hope now is that it will
stop,
It's already sent thousands six feet
below,
So we beg you covid to please leave
us alone
We beg you please just go .

Hachikō

Tilly Meade

As the sun rises,
The golden light engulfs me
Surrounded by fields of rice
Farther than I can see.

I was brought to a 'car'
And drove away with my new master
I was dubbed Hachikō,
As the car went even faster.

I truly love my master,
He is the light of my life
To me he is like a savior
I love him more than if I ever had a
wife.

After establishing a way home,
We walked to the subway
Master boarded as it drove on
Through the city's shades of grey.

For many years I did this,
Until one fateful day...
My master didn't return
And my world turned a gloomy, grim
grey.

But still I kept on going
And oh how much I prayed,
As I sat down on a blanket
The townspeople had laid.

And still I kept on going
It was the townspeople who fed me,
Until the day my master returns
So I can wag my tail in true glee.

Still I kept on going,
I leave with the rising sun,
And I'll keep doing it
Until my job is done.

It's been 9 years,
I feel dreary
But I must go
No matter how weary.

I walk and walk
No matter the effort I'll make the cut,
But soon I lie down
As my eyes begin to shut.

I see the sun set
As I finished my final walk
I so wished to see master again,
Just for one last talk.

Master?
Is that you I see?
You're surrounded by such a warm
light
But it's seeing you that gives me such
glee!

Please never go again,
Never ever go!
Don't leave me again,
I missed you, Ueno!

World Book Day

Lockdown didn't stop our Year 8 pupils from celebrating World Book Day. They eagerly grabbed their favourite books and submitted images of themselves reading.





Geography

During lockdown Geography pupils replaced the classroom for the great outdoors. They shared images of the sights they observed...





Government and Politics

Miss McClelland

Despite the pandemic and the disrupted year at school, the Government and Politics Department managed to become involved in a number of events where we engaged with local politicians in a variety of ways, both while we were at school and even while we were learning from home.

In February we had an excellent session provided by the Stormont Education Service who gave the Year 13 classes detailed information relevant to their study of the Government and Politics of Northern Ireland. We received an insight into how Stormont was trying to operate during the pandemic, the legislation that they were working on and the work of various other bodies within the Assembly and Executive.

This was followed up with meetings with 2 local MLAs, namely Doug Beattie of the UUP (prior to him becoming UUP leader) and Dolores Kelly of the SDLP. Both MLAs were happy to engage with us via Microsoft Teams and they gave us information on their own roles and the position and work of their respective parties.

They were also happy to take questions from the Year 13 classes, answering honestly and fully. This afternoon was both informative and enjoyable and we were delighted when the technology cooperated to allow it to work effectively when we were all working from home, including the MLAs!

Further work with the Stormont Education Service followed when the 2 Year 13 classes engaged with different Stormont committees. Our students made submissions on a proposed Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland and they responded to the consultation on the Programme for Government. They also worked with one of the Stormont Education Service team to make a contribution

to the Environment Committee with regards to the Climate Change Bill. We are really grateful to Marina and Anne Marie from the Education Service for facilitating our online visits and arranging the interaction with the committees and MLAs as it provided a much needed break from the rigours of online learning and proved that politics was still alive even during the depths of a global pandemic.

The main event of the year for the Politics Department occurred in May, after we returned to school. We were informed that the First Minister of Northern Ireland was planning to visit the school and Politics students would be meeting with her. She arrived on Friday 28th May to an enthusiastic welcome from those students who were waiting during their break-time to see her. This was the first visit from a notable figure since before the pandemic and the first 'different' thing to happen in school for quite some time which explained the interest in the visit. She was accompanied by her security detail and by journalists from a range of news outlets. This was no ordinary visit from the First Minister as it came the day after she had been awarded substantial damages after proving she had been libelled by a TV doctor and the visit also occurred on her final day as leader of the DUP after a vote of no confidence in her leadership. Arlene Foster had previously visited Banbridge Academy in her early days as First Minister and she decided that she wanted to return in her final days, a gesture that was noted and appreciated. This visit proved to be very different to her first





however as due to the circumstances surrounding her departure from office the media entourage following her were hanging on her every word to see if she would say anything controversial or critical.

Mrs Foster spent time with the Year 13 Government and Politics students and after giving a brief summary of her political career to date, the students had the opportunity to ask her a range of questions covering everything from her experience as First Minister, her regrets, the most interesting person she had met and we even found out what her favourite film was. Despite the pressure she was under and the difficult circumstances of previous days, the First Minister was generous with her time and both pupils and staff were left with a better understanding of her as a person and as a politician.

We enjoyed being able to watch her deliver her final statement as DUP leader in the grounds of the school and to watch the various political journalists reporting on the visit and broadcasting live from below our Politics classroom. A number of our students and their questions found

their way onto both UTV and BBC later that day. This was a really welcome visit after a year when so many of our other planned activities had been restricted and it allowed us to finish the year with a little bit of hope that things will get back to normal and we might entertain other politicians in the future.

As we start the 2021 - 2022 year that is definitely our hope for the future. So many things had been planned

- Youth Parliament elections, Youth Assembly in Stormont and the Model United Nations Assembly to name a few and we hope that this year many of these events and activities will return even if they are facilitated remotely. Thanks to Miss Carson and Mr Erskine for their help in organising these events and thanks also to the Year 13 and 14 Government and Politics students who engaged so well with us during a difficult year.



Home Economics

Food and Drink Masterclass

Year 9 enjoyed a Food and Drink Masterclass provided by Young Enterprise. During the workshop, students worked in groups to develop a new product for the food industry. They had to create an advertisement to promote the product and complete a detailed business pack which included a mock-up of the packaging. This gave the students a helpful and enjoyable insight into the food industry.



British Nutrition Foundation Healthy Eating Week

BNF Healthy Eating Week is a dedicated week in the year to encourage workplaces, universities, and schools to focus on healthy eating and drinking, physical activity, and celebrate healthy living.

The Home Economics department chose to focus on fresh fruit and provided samples of fruit kebabs for the pupils, with carrot cake for staff who really needed a treat.

The local Tesco store very generously supported school by supplying the fruit.





LMC Demonstrations

The Livestock and Meat Commission NI visited Banbridge Academy to do a cookery demonstration for the GCSE Food and Nutrition class. They demonstrated a variety of beef and lamb dishes and explained the nutritional value of Northern Ireland Farm Quality Assured beef and lamb in a balanced diet. They provided pupils with recipe books and the opportunity to sample the delicious dishes.



Teachers' Favourite Recipes

Chicken & Chorizo Bake Peppers, Sweet Potatoes & Spuds

Equipment needed:

Large roasting tray (30cm x 40cm)
Blender

Ingredients:

75g quality chorizo
2 cloves of garlic
1 chicken stock cube
1 sprig of fresh rosemary
2 tbsp Sherry vinegar
4 chicken thighs, skin on, bone in
2 small sweet potatoes (200g each)
2 jacket potatoes (500g)
2 red onions
2 mixed-colour peppers
1 bunch of fresh flat leaf parsley (30g)
4 tbsp natural yogurt
Cayenne pepper
1 fresh red chilli
2 tbsp whole almonds
1 lemon



Method:

1. Preheat the oven to 200°C/400°F/gas 6. Chop the chorizo, peel the garlic and place both in a blender. Crumble in the stock cube, strip in the rosemary leaves, add the vinegar, then cover with 300ml of boiling water. Put the lid on securely, cover with a tea towel and, holding it in place, blitz until smooth.
2. Pull the skin off the chicken and discard, then place the thighs in a large roasting tray (30cm x 40cm). Wash all the potatoes (leaving the skins on for extra nutritional benefit) and chop into 3cm chunks. Peel the onions, deseed the peppers, chop them into 3cm chunks too, and add all the veg to the tray. Pick over half the parsley leaves, then pour over the chorizo broth and mix it all together. Cover tightly with tin foil, place over the hob on a high heat for 2 minutes, then pop into the oven. Bake for 30 minutes, then remove the foil, pull the chicken up to the top to get golden, and cook for another 30 minutes, or until bubbling and the chicken and veg are cooked through.
3. Meanwhile, pick the rest of the parsley leaves onto a plate. Spoon the yoghurt alongside and add a few pinches of cayenne next to it. Finely slice the chilli and almonds and add to the plate, then finely grate over the lemon zest.
4. When the traybake is ready, serve with the plate of garnishes alongside, letting everyone help themselves to yoghurt and sprinkles.

Tarte flambée/Flammekueche

Miss Burgess

This is a typical dish from Alsace, the Germanic region of France. Over the centuries Alsace has switched between German and French control and so reflects a mixture of both those languages, culture and food.

For the base:

250g all-purpose flour
½ tsp salt
150ml tepid water
2tbsp vegetable oil

For the topping:

130g bacon lardons
250g crème fraîche
1 medium onion, thinly sliced
Gruyère, grated
½ tbsp of butter
A pinch of nutmeg
A pinch of salt and freshly ground black pepper



Method:

1. To make the dough, mix together the flour and salt in a bowl, then add the water and oil and bring together to make a dough. Transfer to a floured work surface and knead well.
2. Roll the dough out on a lightly floured surface into a circle as thin as you can (approx. 3mm).
3. Preheat the oven to 230C/210C Fan/Gas and line a large baking tray with baking paper.
4. For the topping, dry fry the bacon lardons in a frying pan until golden-brown. Then drain on kitchen paper and set aside.
5. Add the onions to the pan, along with the butter, and cook for a few minutes until the onions have softened but are only just browning.
6. Add the nutmeg, salt and pepper to the crème fraîche and mix well.
7. Transfer the dough onto the baking trays and spread the crème fraîche over the top, leaving a small border around the edges.
8. Spread over the sautéed onions and lardons, spreading them as evenly as you can. Top with the gruyère and bake for 10-12 minutes until the edges are lightly brown and crisp and the toppings are just starting to colour.

Teachers' Favourite Recipes

Amatriciana Chicken Traybake

Miss Elliott

Ingredients:

1 long red chilli
3 tbsp tomato purée
3 tbsp olive oil
3 garlic cloves
8 skinless chicken thighs
500g new potato
4 thyme sprigs
140g cubetti di pancetta
(or smoked bacon lardons) or diced chorizo
50g black olives
400g tomato, half cherry or baby plum
The rest is up to you - any larger ones halved
green salad and bread, to serve (optional)



Method:

1. Heat oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Find a large roasting tin that will hold the chicken thighs and potatoes in a single layer. Halve the chilli, scrape out and discard the seeds if you don't like it too hot, and remove the stalk. Put in a small food processor or mini chopper with the tomato purée, olive oil and garlic. Whizz to a paste, then spread over the chicken. The chilli and garlic can also be chopped and added without the use of a processor or chopper.
2. Add the chicken and potatoes to the tin with a good grinding of black pepper and some salt, then mix everything together well with your hands. Add the thyme and roast for 30 mins.
3. Stir in the pancetta and roast for 15 mins more, then add the tomatoes and olives and roast for another 15 mins until the tomatoes have softened and the chicken is cooked. Serve straight from the pan and eat with a green salad and some bread, if you like, for mopping up the juices.

No Churn Crunchie Ice-Cream

Mr Beacom

Ingredients:

600 ml Double Cream
1 x 397g tin of Carnation Caramel
100g of Clear Honey
200g of chopped Crunchie bars

Method:

1. In a stand mixer with the whisk attachment (or a large bowl with a hand-held whisk) whisk together the Double Cream, tin of Caramel and Honey on a medium-high speed until smooth – can take 5-10 minutes but it's worth it!!

2. Continue to whisk the mixture until it's very thick and holds itself – fold through the chopped up Crunchie Bars. Pour into a freezer proof container.

3. Add any extra Crunchie pieces you have to the top, cover with a lid or cling film and freeze for at least 5 – 6 hours, or overnight!



Chocolate & Raspberry Brownies

Mrs Hamilton

Ingredients:

150g dark chocolate, broken into chunks
150g milk chocolate, broken into chunks
250g pack salted butter
300g soft light brown sugar
100g soft dark brown sugar or muscavado
4 large eggs
140g plain flour or almond flour/
ground almonds OR a mix
50g cocoa powder
200g raspberries



Method:

1. Melt the chocolate and butter and sugar together.
2. Whisk the eggs.
3. Combine.
4. Add flour and cocoa.
5. Add half of the raspberries.

6. Pour into a brownie tin.
7. Fit the other half of the raspberries into the batter.
8. Cook for 35mins for super gooey (longer if you're boring!)

Eat and eat another!

Teachers' Favourite Recipes

Sticky Toffee Pudding

Mrs Shaw

Ingredients:

4oz chopped dates
7 fl oz hot water
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
3 oz margarine
5oz caster sugar
2 eggs
6 oz self raising flour

For the sauce:

3 oz butter
6 oz soft brown sugar
4 fl oz double cream



Method:

1. Chop all the dates and add to the water and bicarbonate of soda. Leave to soak until the water has nearly all been absorbed (several hours).
2. Cream the butter and sugar and then slowly add the eggs, one at a time. Then add the date mixture.
3. Add the flour and mix for a few minutes. The mixture will be quite sloppy, so don't panic!
4. Pour the mixture into a greased tin and bake at 180 degrees for 35 - 40 minutes. (If you want to cook it ahead just reheat later for 15 mins having covered it with foil)
5. For the sauce: melt the butter. Add the sugar and stir for a couple of minutes to mix. Add the cream. Bring to the boil and then remove immediately. If you want to reheat the sauce later, just microwave it!

Walsh Newsagents

10 Scarva Street,
Banbridge, County Down, BT32 3DA
Tel: 028 4066 2336
Opening hours: Mon-Sat 6.30am-9pm
Sunday 7.00am - 9pm



20th Anniversary of European Day of Languages



Pupils and teachers have always enjoyed celebrating European Day of Languages, but as this year marks its 20th anniversary they decided to mark it with a week of special events.

The week kicked off with a Design a T-Shirt activity for Year 9 pupils, who will submit their design to NICILT to enter its Design a T-Shirt Competition. Year 10 pupils were also encouraged to think creatively and bake a European cake or bread, which they can also enter in NICILT's Bake Off Competition.

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.



BBC Soloist of the Year

Beth Cordner

The BBC Soloist of the Year Competition was an experience that gave me more confidence in my ability as a singer. I discovered this competition in winter 2020 after chatting to my music teacher, Mrs McCurdy. We were finishing recording a song for the online carol service, when she mentioned it and enquired if I would like to be entered in it. In the past, I have suffered stage fright and I was consequently somewhat reluctant about publicly 'sharing my voice' with others. My apprehension was diminished slightly due to the fact that I was able to record my audition and so I thought that I would 'give it a go'.

I was in the junior section of the competition and was up against at least 100 other talented singers from across Northern Ireland. For my audition, I sang my own rendition of 'Silent Night' alongside a contrasting German piece called 'Sonntag' by Johannes Brahms. We recorded these in December and sent them off to the BBC. Two months later, in the middle of the second lockdown, I received an email from Mrs McCurdy informing me that I had made the top 15 singers in the junior category! I was completely shocked; I hadn't believed that I would make it past the audition stage, but there I was!

The heat stage was scheduled for April/May time and I was told to select another song alongside one of the pieces I sang for my audition. I decided to keep 'Sonntag' and to sing 'The Sky above the Roof' by Vaughan Williams as these two songs contrasted well together



and showcased different aspects of my voice. Unfortunately, due to Covid 19, the competition was cancelled a couple of weeks before the next stage. Singers such as Jenny Bourke did however send us virtual workshops and notes on how to mature as a singer, and many of the tips she provided really helped calm my stage fright and control my voice properly.

This experience during lockdown helped me to focus on my voice and I've found over the last year that the tone of my voice has matured and the control that I have over it has strengthened; I feel much more confident singing in front of others. I am so grateful to my music teachers, Mrs McCurdy and Mrs Robinson, for guiding and encouraging me in this experience. My singing teacher Nicola Knight was also my rock throughout, always giving me

amazing tips and going out of her way to send me recordings and give me extra zoom lessons to practise the songs for the competition (even though the connection frequently failed!)

I am so excited for the new school year of music and hope to get back to live singing once again.





Girls' Choir

Charlotte Stevenson

Choir may have been away for nineteen months, but we are glad to see it make its much anticipated return this year under the new leadership of music teacher, Mrs Hamilton. We meet on a Tuesday afternoon, after school, as a full choir and at Thursday lunch times for some fine tuning in sectionals. Currently, we are rehearsing for the Christmas carol service, and whilst you may think it is a tad early to be singing "Deck the Halls", we are hard at work making sure we will hit all the right notes on the night. Each week we have been going from strength to strength and are looking forward to the Choral Workshop with Andrew Nunn after Half Term. As a choir we sing at key events in the school calendar, such as the spring concert, prize day and the school show (a personal highlight of my time in choir). In the school show we sang a Mamma Mia medley and made lasting memories and friendships during our practices. I encourage anyone who is considering joining the school choir to get 'stuck in'; you won't regret it!



Junior Choir

I'm Mollie and I'm in 8C. I joined the junior choir in September this year. There are approximately 60 of us in choir and we're split into Sopranos and Altos. We're currently practising two fun Christmas pieces, which we hope to perform at Christmas. I'm really looking forward to it. We rehearse every Monday from 3.30-4.30pm.

If you'd like to join us please speak to anyone in the choir or Mrs Hamilton, Head of Music.



Music in Yr 8

Lily Kearns 8D

I expected that music at the Academy would be enjoyable. Although I didn't have a real idea of what we were going to do, I thought I would enjoy it! Some learning experiences that we have encountered use a lot of teamwork, such as a rhythm symbols game. One week, we also learned about the drums and discussed what music really is. What I'm hoping to learn in music is to understand the process of how to make a song. When I come to music, I see equipment to use to make music, especially, pianos! When I come to music, I can hear the teacher greeting us and teaching us about music. When I come to music, I can notice a nice learning area. So far, music has been enjoyable, fun and a new learning experience, and I hope to learn more!

Music in Banbridge Academy

Abi Cherry

In music for Year8 in Banbridge Academy we have been looking at the Tempo of music. We are looking at the Italian terms, the English terms and the beats per minute. Our class worked on a task where we listened to five pieces of music and had to decide whether the tempo was fast, slow or changing. We were learning about time signatures and metre and the stronger and weaker beats in a piece of music or a bar of music.

We have spent quite a bit of time on duration, learning the symbols in relation to a beat, the name of each and practising drawing the symbols. We have even invented our own games to play as a class.

In music class we have been doing body percussion. We made up eight beats with a group of four people and spent time practising the beats then performing it to the class. We then got feedback from the class on how well we performed them, worked as

a group and managed the difficulty so everyone was able to perform together in time.

In one of our lessons in music, we have had a drum demonstration from Elinor Bradley, a year 14 percussionist in the Academy. She played a piece of music and was showing us the different parts of the drum kit. We did a quiz where she played a part of the drum kit and we had to say which part of the drum we thought it was from.

Percussion Classes

Elinor Bradley Year 14

This year I was lucky enough to be asked to demonstrate percussion to the new Year 8 classes at school. I have been playing since I was in P4, when I took the random notion to start drum kit lessons. By the time I was in P7 I was in love with all things percussion and so I knew I wanted to continue playing when I came to the Academy.

Through my lessons here I was able to join the Southern Ulster Youth Band and the school Orchestra, and I would really encourage anyone who is learning an instrument through school to do the same - it is totally different playing your instrument in an ensemble context and it does wonders for your sight reading! Plus, it feels great to be surrounded by others who play and enjoy the same instrument as you.

It was lovely to demonstrate for the Year 8s, and they reminded me of how I felt about the drum kit when I first started playing - excited to make some noise! Being some of the students' first introduction to the drum kit felt like a big responsibility, but in the end, every class I went to was so enthusiastic that any small mistakes I made didn't seem to matter. Plus, having students list the skills you need to play percussion right back to you really does wonders for your ego.

Thanks also to the Year 8 folks who will still stop me in the corridor and tell me I'm, '...really good at the drums' - it's so lovely to hear that you even remembered anything that I did in your class! Percussion lessons are run every year in school, so if any of you, no matter what year you are in, are interested in starting you should

definitely talk to your nearest music teacher. Percussionists are always in demand...



Psychology

Pupils' Psychology Experience

Ellen Whiteside and Susie Black

We began our journey into Psychology, the study of the mind and behaviour in 2020. The first element of this fascinating subject that we learnt about was how psychologists design and conduct research. This was followed by the topic we all looked forward to: psychopathology, which gave insight into psychological disorders: from the characteristic traits and explanations of OCD to the experiences of people who have a phobia of beans!

However, before we knew it, we were plunged into yet another dreaded lockdown. Classrooms were once again swapped for bedrooms and uniforms for cozy sweats. Nevertheless, one thing remained steadfast- our psychology lessons. Mrs Duke ensured we didn't fall behind in our learning and was dedicated in continuing to teach us online. Each day, we tuned into zoom, where we were greeted by the smiling faces of our fellow classmates, Mrs Duke and occasionally one of her adorable pets!

Throughout lockdown we learnt about and discussed numerous concepts, such as the effects of social influence on behaviour, models of memory and the factors that affect the accuracy of eyewitness testimony.



This gave our days meaning by providing us with new and intriguing ideas to consider; as well as quite a few homeworks to keep our brains stimulated.

That said, we were thankful to return to a state of somewhat normality in May and be back in the school building. Just when we thought things couldn't get any more interesting, we had our first glimpse of parenthood. Using sharpies we brought eggs to life by drawing cute little faces on them and giving them names. We then faithfully

brought them to school every day, and photographed them out and about. Over time, these became more than just shells; they became like our children! This experience undoubtedly taught us a lot about Attachment Theory.

Despite a turbulent year, we have thoroughly enjoyed delving into the extensive subject that is Psychology. We look forward to what our A Level year has in store, and to many more tea and coffee sessions on Friday afternoons with the lovely Mrs Duke.



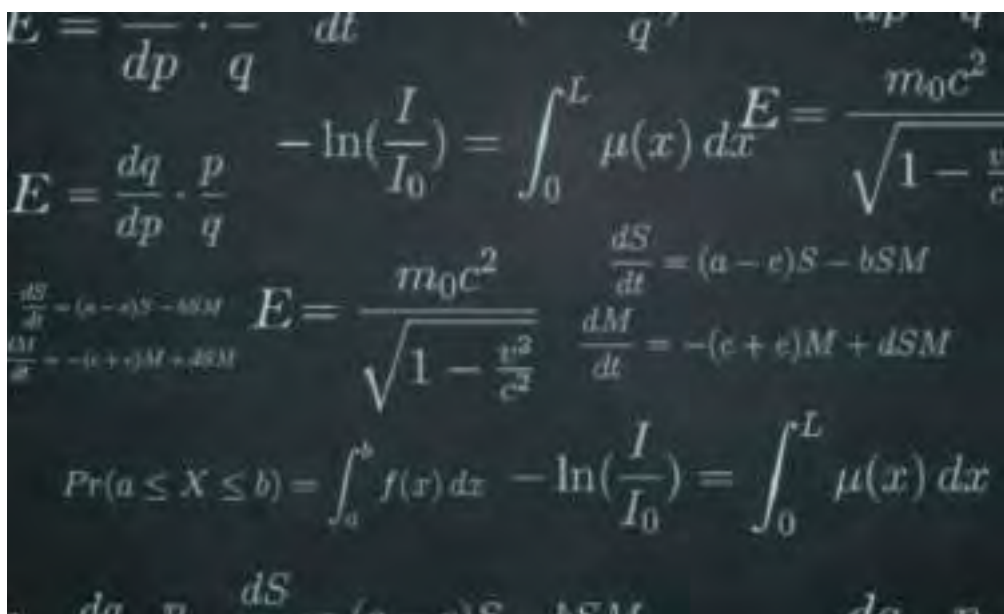
Physics

Isaac Newton's 'Year of Wonder' in comparison to our experience with the Covid-19 pandemic

Alfred Davidson 14D

In 1665, the Great Plague ran rampant across England and killed roughly 100,000 people in a mere 18 months. A national lockdown, similar to those we have experienced during the Covid-19 pandemic, was put into effect. One of those experiencing isolation was a 24-year-old Cambridge student called Isaac Newton.

Newton's experience away from university inspired a streak of scientific experiments, unbridled by the rigidity of the school curriculum. His passion prompted him to build himself a small office complete with self-made bookshelves where he kept a journal full of his calculations. Away from the distractions of the normal world, he turned his isolation period into a time of productivity where his creativity flourished. Some of Newton's most famous works were developed during this time; he discovered differential and integral calculus, explored optics with prism and light experiments and most notably formulated his theory of universal gravitation.

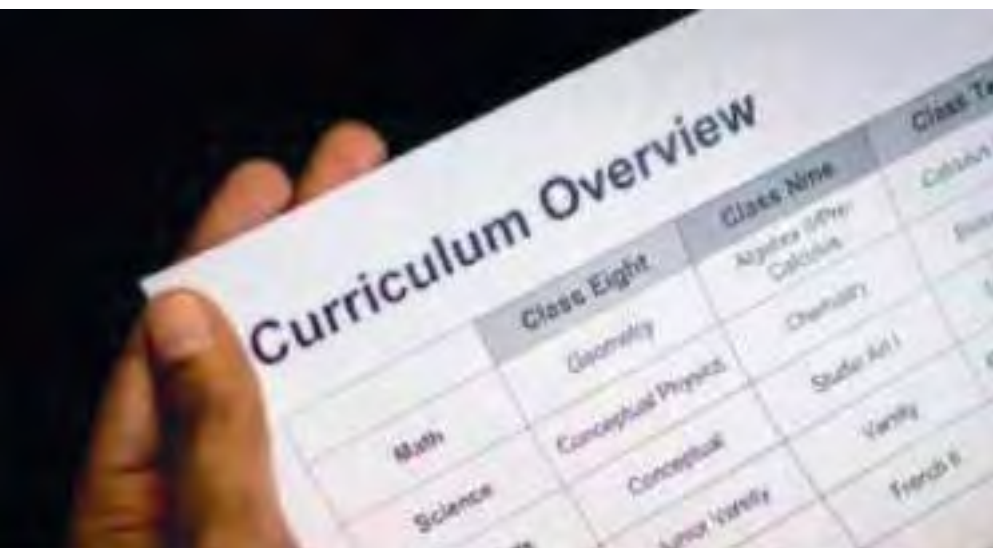


In these uncertain times it is easy to fall into despair. But the Great Plague ended just as this pandemic will. Newton returned to his typical life just as we will. Newton's 'year of wonders' is obviously very different from how most of us (including myself) spent

their quarantine, however his ordeal is something we can all relate to and is a shining example of the tenacity of humanity. Upon reflection, Newton had this to say about his isolation,

“For in those days I was in the prime of my age for invention and minded Mathematics and Philosophy more than at any time since.”

You are in your prime, do not allow these dire circumstances to stand in your way.



Physics

Physics During Lockdown

RACHEL KIRKPATRICK:

My Physics experience in lockdown was definitely one of the easier ones, with practical videos that could be rewatched as many times as needed. This quickly merged into regular Google Meets during class time, with Mr Stewart happily appearing on camera whilst I (and my classmates) kept our cameras off. The only exception to this was the one occasion where my brother thought it would be super funny to turn mine on (without consulting me first, obviously) while my dog was sitting directly in front of the camera. Overall, I gained a lot of new knowledge, most of it regarding magnetism and electricity during the many weeks spent at home.

SIMON FERRIS:

My favourite part of Physics in lockdown, was the inventive videos Mr Stewart made for our class, in particular when he had his son run up the stairs for our prescribed practical, 'The power of a pupil'. On the other hand, the worst part of Physics in lockdown was missing out on being with all of our classmates.

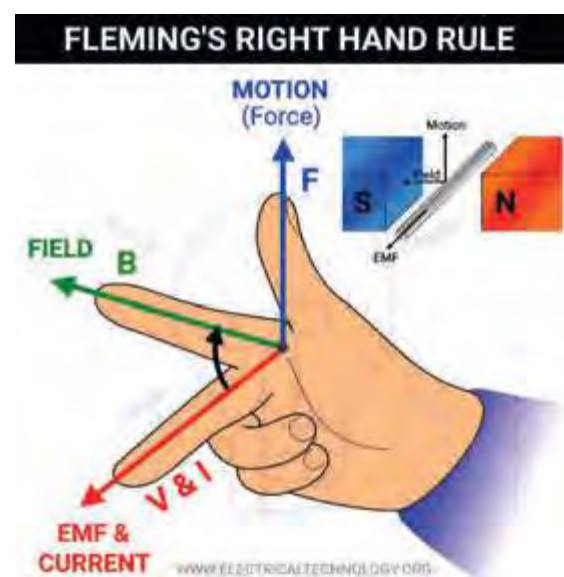
KIERA MCQUAID:

Given that Physics is a subject which requires lots of demonstrations, (any eureka moments I ever had in Physics usually came during experiments) I was wondering how Mr Stewart was going to deliver these experiences. But never fear! Mr Stewart was able to quickly adapt to this brave new online world. Over Google Meet, Mr Stewart showed us the inside of electrical plugs, demonstrated how magnets affect compasses and showed us electromagnets. My favourite Google Meet though, has to be Physics Aerobics! For the uninitiated, Fleming's

Right Hand rule gives the direction in which the current flows. The right hand is held with the thumb, index finger and middle finger mutually perpendicular to each other (at right angles), as shown in the diagram. The thumb is pointed in the direction of the motion of the conductor relative to the magnetic field. As you can imagine, demonstrating Fleming's Right Hand rule whilst trying to angle the camera so we could all see was extremely challenging. After a few attempts (and jokes that he needed three hands!) Mr Stewart was able to angle everything correctly. Even though I have no intention of ever studying Physics again, I will never forget Fleming's Right Hand Rule!

JULIA ENGLEFIELD:

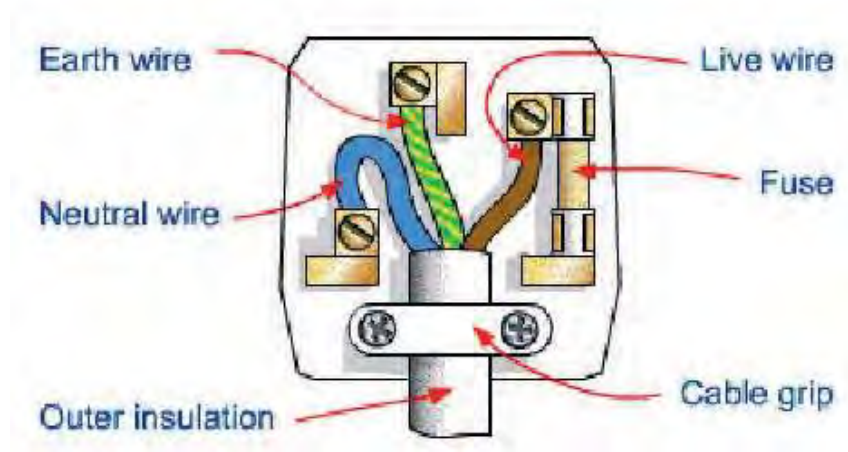
My experience of Physics in lockdown was centred around the comfort of my kitchen table where I participated in regular google meets which I found very helpful, especially when looking at prescribed practicals. Despite some technical difficulties with my printer and avoiding accidentally turning my camera on, with the help of some very useful practical videos, I feel like I have gained a lot of new knowledge on different areas of electricity such as



electrical power and resistors.

DANIEL MACKLE:

Physics is my most interesting and favourite subject and over lockdown it did not get any less intriguing. While other subjects grew stale during the period of learning from home, I found that physics stayed the same. To me, the topic of domestic electricity was the most fun to learn about as it was so prevalent in day-to-day life.



Bar Mock Trial

Catherine Lonsdale Year 14

In September 2020, sixth form students interested in the Bar Mock Trial Competition took part in auditions, where we each prepared a two-minute speech on a contentious issue. The quality and performance of this speech provided a basis for who would fulfil the roles of Barrister, Witness, Court Clerk, Court Usher and Jury.

Barristers and Witnesses quickly discovered the challenges of their roles. Barristers had to be prepared to question witnesses from both cases and they also had to prepare opening and closing speeches, which were to be kept to a strict time limit. The prosecution barristers were Ben Greer, Kathryn McGrath, Daniel Moore and Susanna Elliott. The defence barristers were Alex Gardiner, Claire Dickson, Kelly Gley and Zara Ginniff.

Witnesses were faced with the challenge of memorising answers, which were specific to their role for the examination in chief, but required an in-depth knowledge of the entire case to be able to give convincing responses and improvise when faced with questions put to them by barristers from another school in the cross-examination. The witnesses for the defence team were Emily Johnstone, Aoife Magowan, Katie Stinton and Karis Humphries. The witnesses for the prosecution team were Catherine Lonsdale, Sarah Magennis, Annabelle Kelly and Simone Kucina. The Court Usher and Court Clerk, keeping proceedings organised and ticking over, was Evie



McKinney.

Due to Covid restrictions we were only given one case to prepare this year, which was a giant relief to the entire team but it did mean that we had to know it perfectly. The case involved the defendant Sunny Peters who was charged with smashing a car window with a placard at a climate change protest, which the defendant had organised. The case was challenging as we had to know every detail to prepare for any question possible. We met every Wednesday afternoon to rehearse and we grew a lot closer as a team.

This year, again due to Covid, we were unable to go to the High Court in Belfast to perform the case in a court room and instead the competition was online. We started our preparation in September 2020 and worked throughout the first term

working around the December exams. We also continued our preparations during the lockdown from January to March and we linked up via Zoom on Wednesday afternoons from home rather than in real life. These sessions did provide a welcome distraction however, and allowed us to focus on something other than online learning in our Google classes.

Instead of competing against schools from NI, this year we were drawn against two English schools. Our first round was at the end of May against Invicta Grammar School from Maidstone, Kent. We felt mixed emotions as the feed went live and we met our competition for the first time. Through intense jury deliberations and hard work, the jury ruled in our favour thanks to our amazing Defence barristers and outstanding witnesses. However, our second round against Gilberd





School in Colchester did not go in the same way. After some initial technical difficulties and trying to get used to each other's accents, we got started one afternoon after school in late May. We felt slightly more confident after our success in the first heat, but surprisingly, the jury did not rule in our favour. Instead, the jury ruled in Gilbert's favour, the defence. This was due to the Jury believing that there was enough reasonable doubt created to suggest that Sunny Peters was not guilty of the crime.

We may not have been able to compete in a real-life courtroom, but the lessons the team learned outweighed the disadvantage of not being in the courtroom. We have all developed valuable skills such as public speaking, team-working, confidence and improvisation. Although Bar Mock Trial is a lot of hard work and at times can be a lot

of pressure, the team would agree that this has been a worthwhile experience and is something to get involved in for those looking at a variety of careers, including law, as well as those who want to develop their public speaking skills as well as their ability to think on their feet.

A special note of thanks goes to our two barrister mentors, Vikki Singer and Severina Kelly, who we could not have prepared for the competition without. Their dedication shone through from helping the barristers write opening speeches to advising the witnesses on how to respond to unknown questions in cross-examinations. The entire team is incredibly grateful for the time that they sacrificed to help us. Miss McClelland kept us organised in school and ensured that we all knew what we had to do and when.

To conclude, after a long year of

rehearsals we said a happy goodbye to R vs Peters. We would encourage anyone who has a passion for advocacy, justice and the law or anyone who wants to develop their team working skills to jump right in and give Bar Mock Trial a go. Our team members come from many different subject backgrounds, which include science, maths, English and history therefore highlighting how this competition is for everyone. The virtual competition was incredibly insightful as to how the judicial system has adapted throughout the pandemic but we look forward to a return to a real courtroom next year rather than a virtual one.

Scripture Union

Scripture Union is normally one of the busiest organisations in school with events happening daily across school, such as Spark, tea and toast, small groups, SU band and weekly meetings. Highlights throughout the year include the SU weekend, Formal, Outreach Week, socials, the Christmas Party and Inter-SU Praise nights. However, like most things in school, SU has looked very different this year but thanks to a lot of WhatsApp group chats, IGTV videos and zoom calls, we were still able to hold SU.

We continued to hold 'virtual spark' via WhatsApp. Each morning, someone from SU would send a message into our Spark group chat sharing a bible verse or thought for the day with some prayer points. It was really encouraging to hear from different people each morning, and to have a sense of praying together for each other and our world, despite not being able to meet in person. Spark was organised by Jude Kennedy, but many people have contributed throughout the year; thank you to everyone who shared with us throughout the year.

Small groups continued to meet every week, which allowed us to continue to build friendships between different year groups. Small groups were

organised by Leah Radcliffe, Hannah Bingham and Leah Spiers and were led by 14 different small group leaders. Small groups met weekly throughout the year, via zoom, to discuss the importance of prayer and the 'Fruits of the Spirit.' Both when we were in school and learning virtually, small groups were a great way to connect to others and build relationships within SU, whilst discussing and growing in our faith.

In place of our weekly SU meetings every Thursday, we were grateful that speakers took time to pre-record and send us recordings of talks, which were then uploaded to our instagram page where they can still be watched. We enjoyed series on 'Unsung Heroes of the Bible,' 'Lessons for Lockdown,' 'The 'I Am' Sayings of Jesus' and the book of James, as well as a 'Past Pupil Panel.' Thank you to all our students who took the time to record intros and announcements and to edit and upload the videos. A big thankyou to our speakers and past pupils and we are praying you will be able to be in school, face to face, again.

We were also able to hold a number of meetings via zoom. In December we held a carol service. We were able to meet and catch up with each other,

play virtual games, pray together and then pupils shared favourite bible verses, and we were able to virtually record SU band, choir and orchestra pieces, which were shared at the carol service. In other zoom meetings, we heard about the work of open doors from Chris Phillips and a testimony week with Falemaka el Vave. We finished the year with a teacher panel, where 6 different teachers recorded videos answering questions on their faith and shared advice to pupils.

We want to thank those who were involved in recording and editing videos, sending in spark each morning and leading small groups, but thank you to everyone who got involved throughout the year.

Our aim for SU last year was that SU was, "A place where you can come to find community amidst isolation, a place where you can ask the questions you've never had answered, where you can explore and grow in your faith. That each person would encounter the love of Jesus and find hope and certainty, and that we can have an impact in our school." As an Upper 6th, we hope you have been able to feel some sense of this and we are praying SU can return even better in the year to come.

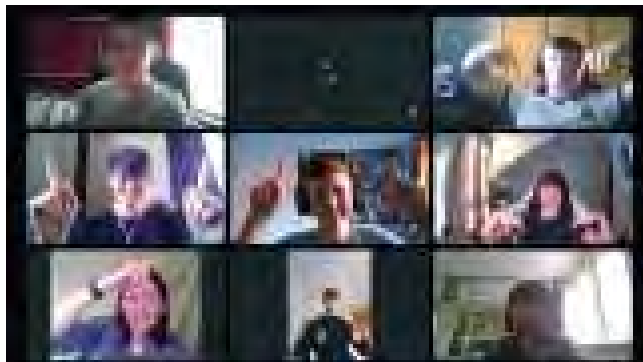


**CAPTAIN
COOKS**

The students of Banbridge Academy
can receive **15%** discount on all
direct orders on the
Captain Cooks Website.

DISCOUNT: BA15
www.captain-cooks.co.uk.

Young Enterprise Success



Our budding young entrepreneurs from Year 13 represented Banbridge Academy, along with schools from across Northern Ireland, in the Young Enterprise Company Programme. They set up their businesses online this year to sell to the general public for the first time! During the academic year the student teams promoted and sold their products on Trading Station which has been developed by Young Enterprise as a user-friendly, digital selling marketplace, allowing our student companies to experience

how to market and sell their products online.

Congratulations to 'Monkey Business Sweets' who had fantastic success achieving the 'Digital Marketing Award' as well as 'Overall Runner Up' in the Young Enterprise Big Market Competition. Tyler, Managing Director of 'Monkey Business Sweets' commented: "Our company started with a group of friends wishing to learn more about entrepreneurship. We are a local business that strives to

bring the people of Northern Ireland all-new candies and confectioneries from foreign lands straight to their doors. We feel we have gained many interpersonal and employability skills from participating in the programme."

Monke were shortlisted for the Marketing and Social Media Awards

Knotted were shortlisted for the Social Media Award

Customer Service Award for Monke Candles

Exam Success

The Young Enterprise Company students had the opportunity to participate in the Young Enterprise Examination which is supported by the School of Business, Ulster University.

The students enjoyed outstanding success being awarded 6 of the top 10 results across Northern Ireland. There were only 7 Distinctions presented in NI and Banbridge Academy students received 4 of them – what a wonderful achievement:

Lucy Poole, Hannah Spence, Tyler Morrison and Katie Stinton - Distinctions
Caolan O'Rourke and Sam McKnight - Commendable Credits
Outstanding Performance in Ulster University examination for Lucy Poole (1 of the Top 3 in NI)

Many thanks to Cathy Morrison (Regional YE Officer) and Young Enterprise NI for allowing the students experience a wonderful and rewarding programme.



Young Enterprise 'Step Up' Challenge

Year 8 pupils were encouraged to 'Step Up' to the challenges and opportunities of post-primary education during a visit from Young Enterprise.

The Young Enterprise 'Step Up' programme encourages young people to develop skills and positive attitudes as they make the leap from primary to post-primary school.

Completing a range of interactive challenges, pupils learned to evaluate

their own potential for development as they progress through education and prepare for the world of work.

They also had a chance to learn a bit about what goes on behind the scenes to keep schools running when a couple of the non-teaching staff dropped in to explain their roles.

Banbridge Academy highly values working with partners like Young Enterprise in delivering high quality careers education.



LADIES' AND MEN'S FASHION

**OFFICIAL SUPPLIER OF
BANBRIDGE ACADEMY UNIFORMS**

S.D. KELS, 9-11 NEWRY STREET, BANBRIDGE

T: 028 4066 2429

or email: admin@ohares.net



DONAGHYS

EST. 1960

FOOTWEAR | CLOTHING | SPORTSWEAR

www.donaghys.co.uk

Tel: 028 4066 27250

25-31 Newry Street
Banbridge
BT32 3EA





On Friday 25th June, pupils in Years 8 to 11 enjoyed a 'Fun Day' packed with activities ranging from 'The Masked Singer and Dancer'; treasure hunt; team challenges and sporting activities. The aim of the day was ultimately to have fun, while gaining House points in the process. As is evident from the photos, it was great success!



Lockdown PE

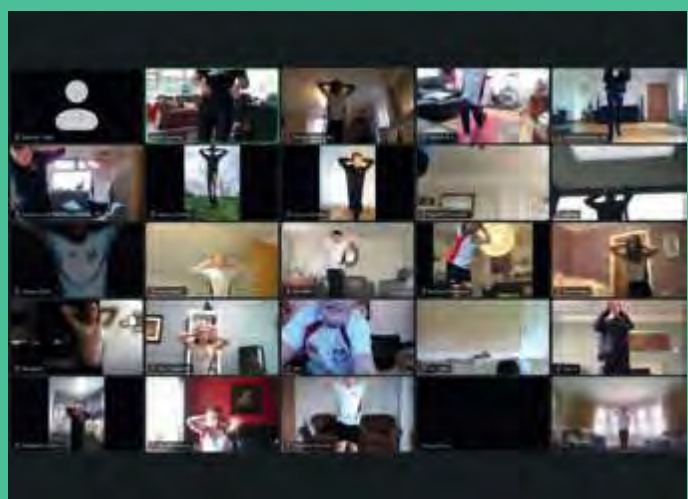
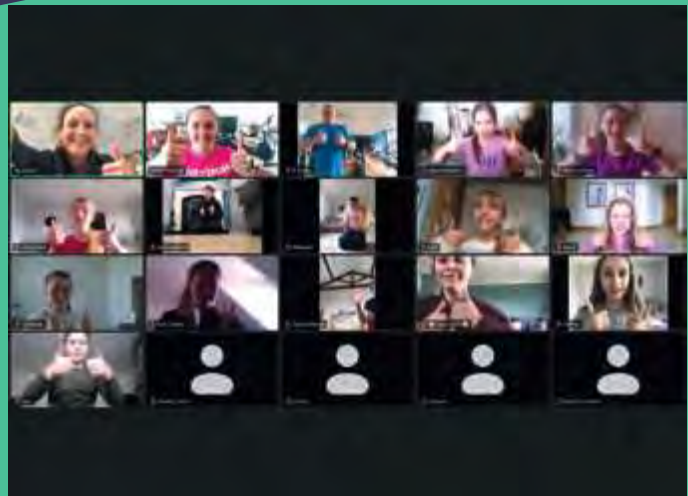
G. Todd

During lockdown, Years 8 -10 enjoyed both PE tasks and online zoom fitness sessions.

PE tasks were set each week such as fitness monopoly, shamrock challenge, VE Day themed exercise and Stravinsky picture drawing ! During the month of March we concentrated on "Feel Good", with a focus on 'Why does exercise make us feel good?' Each year group also sent in videos of them showing what makes them feel good about exercise. These were then shared on Banbridge Academy Sport Twitter pages to help encourage everyone to feel good about exercise.

For games each afternoon, Jemma Jackson from Arise fitness (and also past pupil/rugby coach/girls' games coach!) led us in a fitness zoom session. Ninety pupils took part in our first session! Each week Jemma put everyone through their paces and it was great to see so many pupils take part every week!

Well done to all who took part and had a go in all tasks and fitness sessions!



Rugby

Senior Rugby

B. Leslie



The 2020-21 season was a series of false starts for senior 1st and 2nd XV rugby as the squads trained and trained but Government guidance, in the midst of the Covid pandemic, meant that we were unable to play any matches. Pre-season looked good with 30+ players attending training and the boys worked hard and were looking sharp. Unfortunately, in mid-October, just as we were set to play our first matches v Lurgan College, the season closed down again as a precaution against coronavirus. We continued to train right up until Christmas but when the new lockdown arrived in late December, we knew this was probably the death knell for senior rugby this season.

It would be wrong to end the season without paying tribute to our Year 14 players. Unfortunately, they did not get their final season here in school, but we would like to thank them for all the hard work they put in over the previous 6 years and even the 4 months of training in the season that was not to be. School rugby is not the be-all and end-all, but it is a period of

a player's life that will stick with them forever and no matter if they go on to play for Ireland, or never play rugby again, we can assure them that their time playing school rugby will always be something that they remember. They have all been a credit to their school and we are proud of their efforts.

A special thanks must go to Captain Harry Patterson and vice-captain Jake Houston, who had all the administrative chores of being captains but none of the joys of actually leading the players on the pitch. That should not however in any way diminish the great honour of being selected to lead their school as captain. Congratulations should also go to Marcus McNeill who trained with the Ulster U18 squad throughout the season and to Ryan Matthews who was involved with the U17 Regional Development Squad.

The senior 1st and 2nd XV squads consisted of the following people:

Forwards: Scott Allen, Ben Bradshaw,

Nicholas Brown, Rory Ferguson, Bradley Filipe, Joel Good, Scott Graham, Ethan Hamilton, Tom King, Dovydas Liutvinas, Adam Lytle, Alex Mayrs, John McAlister, James McFadden, Caelan McKinney, Marcus McNeill, Marc Murphy, Oliver Norris, Louis O'Neill, Alex Parker, Issac Waddington.

Backs: Angus Campbell, Matthew Colvin, Matthew Daly, Ross Graham, Jake Houston, Henry Knox, Daniel Lappin, Ryan Matthews, J.B. McElroy, Noah Myles, Josh Noble, Harry Patterson, Ronan Quinn, Ben Russell, Will Russell, Ethan Somerville.

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 Calum Russell, Mr Brian O'Shaughnessy and Mr John Percy for all their coaching and help with the 1st XV throughout the season; their expertise and enthusiasm are greatly appreciated.

Rugby

Medallion XV

B. O'Shaughnessy



With the 2019-20 season having been cut short, hopes were high that the 2020-21 season would allow for a successful return to rugby. 26 players signed up to play for the Medallion XV, including a few who were giving rugby a go for the first time. Numbers were excellent at training given the fact that it was non-contact to start with. The players benefitted enormously, with training sessions focusing on individual skills and fitness with modified games at the fore. Fixtures were due to commence at Halloween but unfortunately the guidance at that time did not allow for the return of full contact rugby.

With the school having to close in early 2021, the players were back at home and working on their individual fitness. Numerous challenges/games were posted on Google Classroom and the players were able to showcase their hard work virtually. With school reopening again in March 2021, the early signs were positive regarding some sort of return to

competitive training/fixtures.

The green light to resume contact training and fixtures against other schools finally came in April 2021. Having been training since September 2020, the Medallion XV eventually got their season underway at the beginning of June with 'A' and 'B' fixtures against Royal School Armagh. Both fixtures were 12 aside with uncontested scrums and lineouts. The 'A' squad played out a very competitive 7-6 (tries) victory, while the 'B' squad lost narrowly. In the final training session before these games, winger Jack Dougan unfortunately broke his collarbone. We all wish Jack a speedy recovery.

A week later the Medallion XV played their 2nd and final match of the season against a very impressive Enniskillen GS side. This game was 15 aside with uncontested scrums and lineouts. Having trailed for the entire game, a score in the final play ensured the spoils were shared in a very



entertaining 5-5 (tries) draw.

A special thanks to Mr Nash for refereeing and to Jemma Jackson and Mr Leslie for all their help and assistance throughout the year.

Several of the Medallion XV gained representative honours with the underage Ulster training squads. Both Daniel Hutchinson (U17) and Connor Magee (U16) were called into the Provincial Training Squads while Harry Wan, Darragh Knox, Thomas Williamson, Luke Charman, Jacques McCauley and captain Fergus Alway trained with the Regional Development Squads. This was a fantastic achievement, with 8 players gaining representation!

With the introduction of a new Ulster Branch U16 Cup in September 2021, hopes are high that this talented group of players will get an opportunity to play plenty more competitive rugby in the future.

Rugby

U14 Rugby

Mr C Beacom



The U14 had a limited season due to Covid restrictions, but they did manage to train and play internally for over 6 months. The team have developed well under the guidance of Coaches Mr Beacom and Jemma Jackson and have shown that they will be a force to reckon with in the Medallion Shield next season.

When restrictions finally lifted, we were able to finish the season with two very competitive fixtures. The first was an A & B 12-a-side fixture at RS Armagh. The A team lost narrowly after a good tussle and the B team won by a score. The final match was a full 15-a-side fixture at home to Enniskillen RGS. This was a wonderful performance of pace, power and skill and the team ran out 5 tries to 0 winners.

Ryan Hanna was rewarded for his good season with selection to the

Ulster U16 training squad for the summer and Elijah Dempsey trained with the Regional Development U16 Squad throughout the year.

The following players played for the U14 throughout the year: Noah Bell, Elijah Dempsey, Eoighan Comiskey, Ryan Gallagher, Sam Dorman, Thomas Evans, Alfie Geoghegan,

Jonathan Howard, Ryan Hanna, Andrew Jackson, Adam Jones, Will Kennedy, Callum Little, Jamie McGaw, Jenson McVitty, Cameron Pham McCormack, Gordon Porter, Jack Poole, Michael Porter, Benjamin Quigley, Nazie James Mulligan, Rio Pinion, Tom Napier and Jonathan Reid.



Rugby

U13 Rugby



The U13 should have had their first full season as Banbridge Academy players, but Covid saw to it that the season was curtailed considerably. The players trained hard with Coach Mr Nash and assistant Adam Hanna and it was evident that they were improving all the time.

When eventually Covid restrictions were lifted, the U13 managed two end-of-season games. The first matches were two 12-a-side games against Royal School Armagh. The A team fought hard but eventually lost out by a couple of scores, while the B team also found the going tough but really enjoyed their run out. The final match was a 15-a-side against Enniskillen RGS. This was the team's first attempt at 15-a-side rugby and both sides played some great stuff

with the Academy eventually winning by five tries to two.

The following players represented the U13 this year:

Alex Andersson, Alexander Booth, Adam Byrne, Caleb Cromie, Peter Duff, Drew Frazer, Matthew Grimes, James Hamilton, Daniel Hampton, Noah Haughey, Warren Hooke, Aaron Horwood-Barrett, Max Ireland, Arturs Jonuss, Matthew Little, Adrian Logins, Finlay Long, Miles Mawson, Luke McGerrigan, Luke McRobb, Joel McKnight, Adam Molek, Matthew Morrison, Daniel Murray, Alex Moran, Robbie Nicholl, Fynn Niblock, Jonathan Neill, Andrew Robertson, Seth Woolsey, Nathan Young and Raz Zacks.



Rugby

U12 Rugby



It was a strange first season for the U12 with all the changes that Covid brought. The season was obviously severely restricted as the country closed down. The U12s however were undaunted and trained hard at every opportunity under the watchful eye of coaches Mr Erskine and Mr Baxter. Training took place twice a week on a Wednesday and a Friday and the young players improved week on week as they learnt a game that was new to most of them. The boys should be complemented on their application and hard work in such difficult circumstances.

As so much was missed of the season, the year was extended into May and June and the U12 finally got to play some 12-a-side matches. First up were two very competitive games against RS Armagh, our first away trip. Both teams played their socks off and our boys thoroughly enjoyed their first competitive outing in a Banbridge Academy shirt. Our 2nd set of matches were home to Enniskillen RGS and again these were close fought games with both sides playing

open, attractive rugby.

While this season was dreadfully short the U12 showed huge promise and we look forward with great optimism to next year's challenges as a full side at U13 level.

The following boys represented Banbridge Academy this season:
Adam Boggs, Conor Comiskey, Samuel English, Adam Freeburn, Tom Hackett, Alexander Hampton, James Henning, Robert Henry, Reuben Hill, Ethan Houston, Ellis Humphries, Eoin Jeffers, Harry Johnston, Allen Kenna, Joshua Kirkwood, Joshua Lavery, Sam Leslie, Robert Lewinski, Jack Lewis, Jacob Liggett, Cian Magowan, Thom McCann, Brian McCartan, Jack McClure, Harrison McDowell, Patrick McElroy, Liam McGarry, Isaac McIlwaine, Calum McMurray, Ben Millington, Syd Moore, Oliver Neill, Leo O'Neill, Rory O'Neill, Conor Patton, Josiah Rogers, Harry Steenson, Charlie Thom, Dylan Thompson, Callum Todd, Reuben Walsh, Theo Wan, William White, Darwin Widdis, Sam Williamson and Luke Wills.



Boys' Hockey

1st XI Boys' Hockey

Mr Simon Jess - First Eleven Academy Hockey Coach



The Banbridge Academy Boys' Hockey 1st XI have continued to be a credit to the school throughout these difficult times. When permitted to play and train, their level of determination and effort has been exemplary. Their dedication to the sport and school is commendable. The talent on show was evident from the very first

matches that the team were able to play. Unfortunately, the season has been curtailed and no competitive matches have been able to be played. This has been disappointing for all involved as the Team was unable to achieve the goals they had set out for the season. On behalf of the 1st XI I would like to thank Master

in Charge of Boys' Hockey Mr Mark Cordner, Assistant Coach Mr John Clarke and Mr Matthew Bell for their continued efforts to drive the team forward. Finally, I thank all the leavers for their dedication to boys' hockey at Banbridge Academy and wish them well for the future.



www.quailsfinefoods.co.uk

Boys' Hockey

2nd XI Boys' Hockey

Mr M Miskelly - Second Eleven Academy Boys' Hockey Coach

Following the disappointment from last season when our Cup run was ended due to COVID 19, we were looking forward to a new season. Fortunately, we didn't lose too many players from last season and we bolstered our squad considerably with an influx of talented Year 12s. Hopes were high for silverware this season and we made a good start given difficult circumstances. Our training was hampered with restrictions in place, but it was good to get the lads out playing some hockey on the pitch. This was a much-needed boost to everyone's physical and mental health.

We did manage to play a training game against our 1st XI, losing out 3-1 with Thomas Acton scoring on his return to hockey after 2 years. Thomas Acton (a previous Richardson Cup winner at U15 level) and Ben McMillan both returned to play in their final year, adding some experience to the side. We only managed one more fixture against Wallace 2nd XI, who we had good battles with last year. With our team consisting of a mixture of young and experienced players, we defeated Wallace relatively easily, compared to last season, winning 5-1. The goal scorers were Spencer Collie (3) and Simon Ferris (2). Both boys from a strong Year 12 group, made an emphatic start to their senior hockey career in school. Spencer took his goals well and always looked a threat upfront. Simon scored probably the best individual goal I have seen in a long time, picking the ball up in midfield on the half way line, then with raw speed and skill beating several players before bravely flicking the ball over an on-rushing goal keeper.



Unfortunately, these were the only games we managed to play this season and practice was cancelled due to COVID restrictions. These games showed me the potential of this group of players and I have no doubt that we would have had a very successful season had we been able to continue. Sometimes we don't appreciate the opportunities we have until they are gone and I am sure that this is certainly how many of us felt.

I want to pay particular credit to the Year 14 leavers and their contribution to school hockey through the years; I wish them the very best for the future.

- Evan Calvert - for his commitment and dedication to all aspects of training and Captaincy. Evan certainly leads by example.
- Christian Fee - for his support for Evan as Vice- Captain and also for his work and energy on the pitch, which is legendary

(not to mention his reverse stick shooting).

- Thomas Acton – who after a 2 year break from hockey came back so strong, without having lost that eye for a goal.
- Ben McMillan – who after a break from hockey also returned with enthusiasm, which helped build team spirit within the squad.

We all hope next year will be different and that we will be able to play more hockey. There is no doubt of the benefit that being involved in team sport brings to both our physical and mental health. I encourage the guys to continue playing as long as they can and look forward to a better season next year.

Boys' Hockey

U15 Boys' Hockey Squad

Mr Jonny Clarke - U14 Academy Boys' Hockey Coach



As for everyone else, the 2020-21 season proved to be very frustrating despite starting with much optimism.

During the early season, the boys demonstrated that they were eager to continue their hockey development and pick up from the cruel end to the previous campaign where the Ferris Cup final was cancelled and the John Waring All-Ireland Championships did not take place. As a team who were still unbeaten in schoolboy hockey, they had high hopes of adding more silverware to the Bannister Bowl but it was not to be this year, as no matches were played against other schools.

For a number of the squad, their only competitive hockey came from club competition and representing Ulster. Seven of our U15s were selected in the interprovincial squad along

with Adam McKee from the U14s. Predictably the Inter-Pros tournament was cancelled in October due to the pandemic, but the boys did get to play in series against Scotland and Wales in June. It was an honour for the school to have so many boys selected at the same time. These seven boys also made their debuts together for Banbridge Hockey Club 1st XI in the hastily arranged Ulster Hockey Summer League – another achievement which is unlikely to happen again in the near future.

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to coach this talented group of boys for the past three years and as they move into senior school hockey, I wish them all the best as I'm sure there is much more success to come their way.

U15 Squad:

Denver Golbey – GK (Ulster U16), Callum Clement – GK, Matthew Stevenson – Captain (Ulster U16), Matthew Spence – Vice Captain (Ulster U16), Joshua Cash, Aaron Baxter (Ulster U16), Caleb Briggs, Ben Walker (Ulster U16), Lukas Moles, James Evans (Ulster U16), Josh Brownlee (Ulster U16), Daniel Reid, Jonathan McCrum, Noah Lutton, Elijah Carr, Adam Ireland, Tom Brown.

Boys' Hockey

U14 Boys' Hockey

Mr Jonny Clarke - U14 Academy Boys' Hockey Coach

If there is one thing we have learnt over the past year, it is the value of sport. Sometimes we don't know what we've got until it is gone. We always knew sport was vital for our physical health, but its importance for our mental health has become more pertinent too. It has been encouraging to hear how the U14 boys have been involved in personal training during lockdowns; willing to improve physical fitness and stick work in their back gardens or wherever would allow.

As Google Meets become a thing of the past, and collective and competitive hockey becomes the norm again, I would really encourage the boys to get involved once again. Hockey is a welcome break from the stresses of academic study, so use it



once again to pursue peak physical and mental health. In Banbridge Academy Hockey, our ethos is ***excellence through tradition***. Let's

make sure that we get back to what we do best – playing excellent hockey!

U13 Boys' Hockey

This was to be a strange old season for the young crew under the Captain's influence of Adam Ewart and coach Mr Cordner. The intensity required to play competitive and cup winning hockey was clearly explained, and with that we lost a few players who couldn't reach the performance bar and migrated to pastures for social sport. Our gains were many with a lesson well learnt at Killicomaine in early September when their best player, now with us at Banbridge Academy, destroyed a tired second half defence scoring 6 with no return from us. There was some good build up play from Charlie Tumilty, Harry Anderson and James Macauley, with our GK in particularly fine form. The defence of Michael McHugh and the Grattan duo found it difficult to pass

Osborne's reach and his pace and strength of shot just too good at this level to neutralise.

The important factor here, and for next year will be capitalising on the talent and turning the screw in our formation and set up. There was clearly a fine step up when we continued to train every week until Christmas and then again catch up during the summer term with wins against our 12s 2-0 and 2-1 – internal and golden opportunities to meet and square up with future senior squads further down life's path. I enjoyed the year, seeing the basics slowly improve and look forward to seeing the confidence grow in our play when we add Osbourne to the hockey fold here at the Academy for



season 21-22. My prediction here is that there will be several step ups from Year 8 to add spice to selection and give us the edge we need to keep the trophy cabinet busy over the years ahead. My thanks to you the players and past pupils Sam Farson and Matthew Bell for their assistance afterschool.



**Dalys
Pharmacy**

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

- Prescription Collection Service
- Weight Loss & Weight Management Service
- Smoking Cessation Service
- Minor Ailments Service
- Community Equipment Supplier
- Flu Vaccine Administration (no prescription required)

Gift Ideas

We can help you find the perfect gift for that someone special or if you just want to treat yourself !

We stock an extensive range of Handbags, Jewellery & Fragrances all at **VERY** competitive prices

**1-3 Dromore Street, Banbridge,
Tel : 028 4062 2669**



@DalysPharmacy

bw

bowman windows
make a house a home

Mon - Fri 9am - 4.30pm

Present this advert and get 20% discount off any new quote

Beautifully crafted 'A' rated windows and doors - Composite Doors - Garage Electric & Manual Doors - Sliding Sash Windows -
Expertly fitted

Bowman Windows Ltd 50a Newry Street Banbridge BT32 3HA

Telephone: 028 4066 2000 | Fax: 028 4062 2661

info@bowman-windows.co.uk • www.bowmanwindowsni.co.uk




Hallmark
CARD CAVE

67 Newry Street,
Banbridge
T: 028 4066 2246

Boys' Hockey

U12 Boys' Hockey

Mr Cordner - U12

The Under 12 lads had a tremendous season of development, fun and skill stacking regardless of Covid procedures and lack of opposition. The team, which was eventually shaped in the summer term, boasts a number of first time players to the game who show real provincial potential in years to come – players like Shaun Ward, Patrick Murray, Ross McCombe, Matthew Patterson, Andrew McQuiston and Harry Gough all catching the eye of Coach Cordner.

This squad will continue to grow and have displayed a depth of character and attitude that bodes for a successful run in next year's Ulster Schools' Bannister Bowl Competition. For the record the juniors faced up to the Academy U13s being edged out 2-1 and 2-0 on the double June fixture.but watch out for the rematch in early September!



The Academy U12s who trained tremendously all season and have a bright future with Captain Ross McCombe.

Academy Represent the LIONS in England!

The Ulster Lions made the trip to BEESTON in late June a very worthwhile one returning 5th from a group of the top 12 National sides at U13 level. The Squad Coached by ex-Academy Head Boy Mr Lee Tumilty and Portadown HC stalwarts Paul Bennett, Scott Watson and Mr Jonny Harper found some real form with wins over Staffs Marauders 2-0, South Saxons 6-5 on run downs. The locals, made up of players from Banbridge, Cookstown, Lisnagarvey and

Portadown lost out to West Panthers 3-1 and eventual winners Tensworth 5-3.

A tremendous experience for Academy players James Macauley and Owen Dobson who had the chance to play against the best and forge lifelong hockey friendships. Our thanks to all the travelling parents and the images below include shots of ex Head Boy Lee Tumilty with the two Academy Players.



Academy players with Left Mr Jonny Harper, James Macauley, Owen Dobson and ex Head Boy & Past Irish International Hockey Player Mr Lee Tumilty.

Boys' Hockey

Academy Hockey Success ends a challenging Season on a high.



Banbridge Academy Senior Boys' Hockey – who in season 2021 broke yet more new ground by having no less than 14 players represent Ulster U16 and Ulster U18. #excellencethroughtradition.

Ulster 16 boys journeyed to Scotland for a much awaited 3 match series against the U17 Scotland squad. The locals won the first game 4-1 playing extremely well despite the travel and early start with goals from Ollie Berry, Josh Brownlee and Ben Pollock under Captain Tommy Dobson.

On match day 2 the Scots were frustrated with their loss on the previous day and brought in some new players to strengthen their squad. Ulster started conceding early but quickly switched on and scored an equaliser through a Ben Pollock goal and quickly after a goal from Matthew McKee to put the boys in front before the half time break. The second half started and Ulster started well getting an early goal scored through Joshua Brownlee Ulster were 3-1 up and still pushing forward scoring a fourth goal by Ben Pollock doubling his

tally, just before the end of the third quarter. The fourth quarter started and Scotland pushed to try and get back into the game scoring one goal early into the final quarter but found the Ulster defence stern and the game ended 4-2, a convincing victory for the Ulster boys and a great performance from all.

The final game Captained by Academy forward Matthew McKee, found the group fatigued from previous games, whereas the Scottish sensed victory was possible. Despite this, Ulster got off to an excellent start scoring a wonderful goal inside the first few minutes of the match through Ollie Berry. Then Ulster switched off after this as the fatigue kicked in and they started to give away silly fouls getting penalised and sent off. The Scottish cleverly acted on this equalising before the end of

the first half. Unfortunately, after half time Ulster never got back into the game, conceding two goals in the last quarter losing 3-1 to a strong Scottish side.

Ulster 16 boys won the series convincingly with 2 wins and 1 loss against an older Scottish Team and Captained by both Academy Players Tommy Dobson and Matthew McKee.

Coaches: Scott McCandless, Colin Walker

Banbridge Academy representatives:

Aaron Baxter, Joshua Brownlee, James Evans, Denver Golbey, Ben Pollock, Matthew McKee, Tommy Dobson, Adam McKee, Matthew Spence, Matthew Stevenson and Ben Walker.

Boys' Hockey

Mental Health Awareness Day for Hockey Teams

The raising of awareness for male mental health was underlined by an event lead by Master IC Mr Mark Cordner. Ably supported by Lord Mayor of ABC Council, the event was enveloped around an afternoon Hockey Blitz with teams across the school from U12 – Seniors enjoying some coaching from newly appointed Coach Mr Mark Tumilty and some wise words on mentality from Irish Hockey International Mr Matthew Bell.

The underlying message was that chatting things over and even the simple things like sport and teamwork can be the difference for so many males, regardless of age or background. Mr McLoughlin welcomed Mark and paid tribute to his achievement of being named Irish Senior Mens' Coach by presenting him with an Academy Coat of Arms.



The accolade of being the top man in this coaching role was ably explained by former Irish Coach Mr John Clarke who is pictured below alongside Mark Tumilty and Adam McKee (Ulster U16).

Academy Duo Take Gold At UK School Games.

The Academy Twins Charlie and Louis Rowe who represented Northern Ireland Hockey, winning Gold at the UK School Games event. The Academy forward Louis finished as Tournament top goal scorer with 4 international goals.

Game 1, 7-1 vs Wales
Game 2, 6-0 vs England white. Louis Rowe 2 goals
Final, 3-2 vs Scotland. Louis Rowe 2 goals



Girls' Hockey

Pupil Reflection on playing girls' hockey

Hannah Buchanan



1st XI Girls' Hockey Team

Despite the pandemic limiting my last season of school hockey in 2020/21, there are many fond memories that stick out throughout my hockey career within school.

Winning The Schools' Cup against Ballyclare High School in 2019 is the best highlight throughout my 7 years, defeating them 2-1 in an intense, narrow victory. This led the XI squad to progress to The Kate Russell All Ireland's Tournament Down South, where we participated in the event over 3 days. Despite us drawing the first game against Kilkenny, we battled hard over the next few days to win the rest. The chant from parents and loved ones, "Red Army" will always be a vivid memory in my head. Unfortunately, due to goal difference we were only able to get our hands on the silver medal. Nonetheless, although we didn't win the memories that the girls

and I made will stay with me forever.

Growing up in school, playing hockey alongside friends will always be a major factor of school hockey that made it so much more enjoyable. The early morning starts, afterschool trainings, and pre match nerves are always made slightly better knowing that your pals are doing it with you. And I mustn't forget the coaches who have made such a difference, big shout out to Neil and Mrs Todd, who dedicate so much time to helping us improve and somehow still manage to make us smile at 7 o'clock on a Saturday morning.

Banbridge Academy has had such an amazing part in my hockey journey, and I cannot stress enough how much I will miss playing in the school shirt. #UTBA



MII CLOTHING

EXCLUSIVE MEN'S FASHIONS

HACKETT
LONDON

GANT

R. M. WILLIAMS
EST 1932 AUSTRALIA

for all **7** mankind

BARBOUR
INTERNATIONAL

Eden  Park
RUGBY LEGEND

Oliver Sweeney

TED BAKER
LONDON

POLO  RALPH LAUREN



Martin Close Proprietor
47 Newry Street, Banbridge BT32 3EA

Tel: 028 4066 0555

www.m2clothing.co.uk

Girls' Hockey: Team Photographs



2nd XI Girls' Hockey Team



3rd XI Girls' Hockey Team

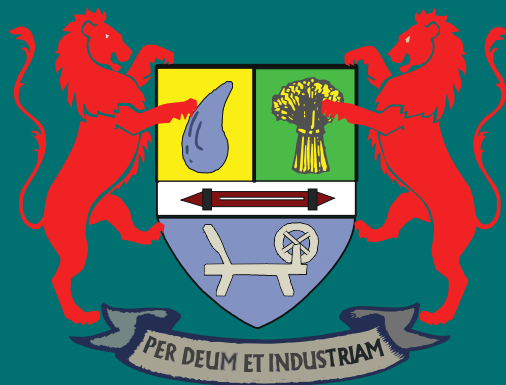
Girls' Netball: Team Photographs



Girls' Senior A Netball Team



Girls' Senior B Netball Team



Lurgan Road, Banbridge BT32 4AQ
Phone: 028 4062 3220

www.banbridgeacademy.org.uk

Head teacher: Mr. Robin McLoughlin