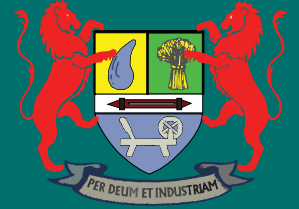


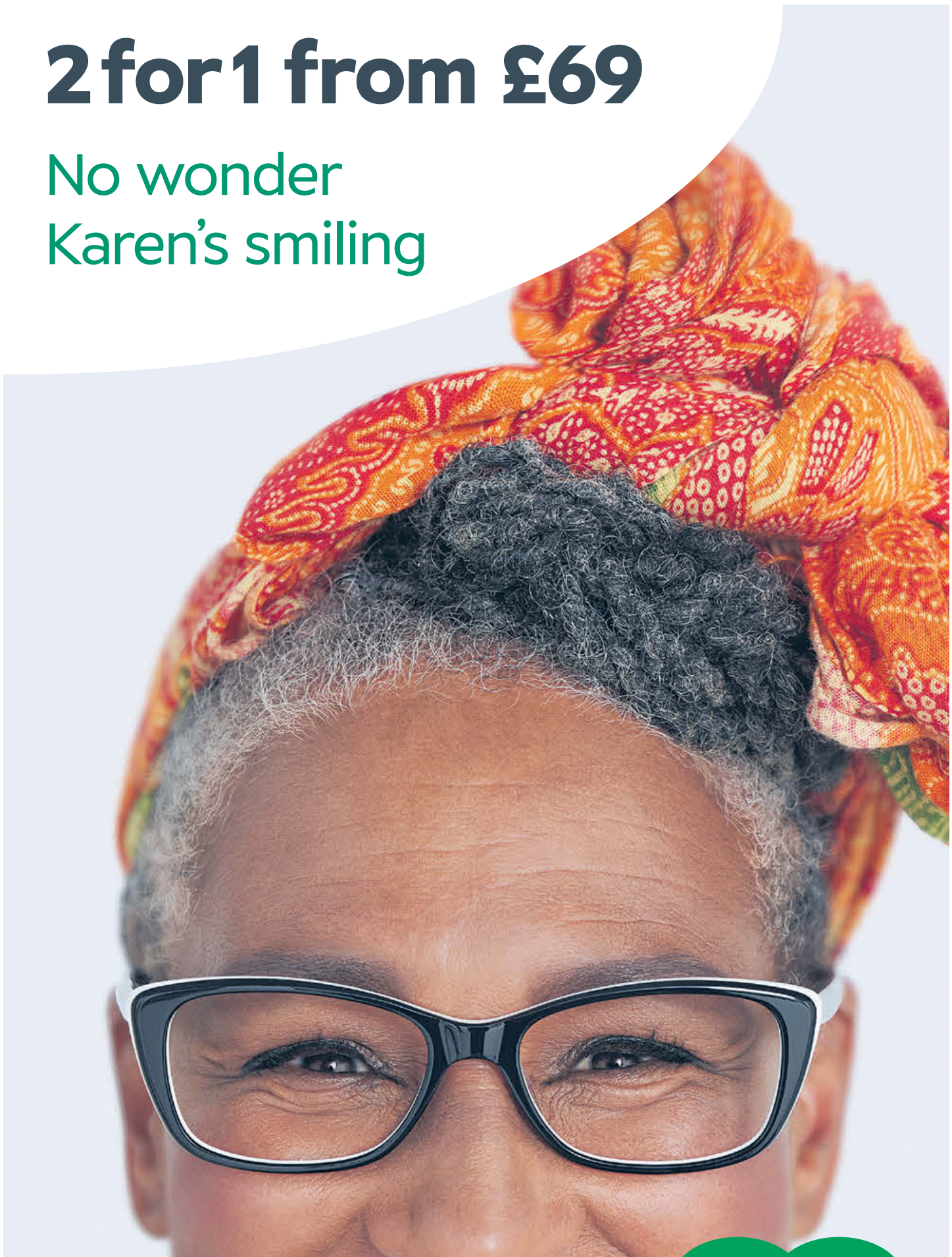
Review

Banbridge Academy 2019/20



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Editorial

Mrs G Gough

As I reflect on the 2019-2020 school year, it is only too apparent how it has been unlike any other experienced in my lifetime. Who would ever have imagined that external examinations would be cancelled; that pupils would not return to school from March 19th and that as a nation, we would endure months in total 'lock down'?

I can safely say that each of us, as teachers, parents or pupils, can now truly appreciate (perhaps more than ever before) the vital role that school and its entire community assumes within all of our lives. It is not only a place of teaching and learning, but a hub of activity and social interaction that 'google classroom' cannot fully replicate.

Let us therefore not dwell solely on everything that Covid-19 has snatched from us, but celebrate the successes, achievements and experiences of the 2019-2020 school year, albeit somewhat reduced due to the early closure and restrictions imposed. I hope that this School Review will reflect on these more positive times and shine a glimmer of light amidst the darkness of the more challenging ones.

I extend my thanks to the staff and pupils who have contributed and also to the many local businesses who continue to support our school through choosing to advertise with us. Without such involvement, the magazine could not exist.

To you the reader, as a pupil, parent, staff member or friend of the school, I hope you enjoy the 2019-2020 edition of the School Review.

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Science	Mr D Stewart, BSc, PGD, PGCE
Spanish	Miss K Poots, BA, PGCE
Technology	Mr G Winter, BEd

YEAR HEADS

Mr C Walker / Mrs S McCurdy	14
Mr J Clarke / Mr A Kennedy	13
Miss A McClelland / Mrs D Dreading	12
Mr M Cordner / Dr R Dobson	11
Miss J Cosgrove / Mrs J Neill	10
Mr J Erskine / Mrs J McCullagh	9
Mr M Miskelly / Miss L Carson	8

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Headmaster's Report 2019/20



The academic year 2019/20 was without doubt one of the most challenging years in our personal and professional lives. When our annual ski trip returned from Italy in February, we witnessed first-hand the threat of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. The announcement by the World Health Organisation that travel should be restricted to and from various countries in Northern European caused shock around the world, ultimately leading to a national lockdown and the unprecedented closure of all schools in March for the remainder of the academic year.

This is the first year of our new venture of producing a digital School Magazine and I thank Mrs Gough and her team for compiling such a wonderful record of the School Year.

The start of the academic year 2020/21 has 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 on a full-time basis. 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. As such, the Board of Governors had to take the decision to cancel Prize Day 2020, but it is very important, for future years, that we have a brief record for the School Year 2019/20. Before outlining the year, I note 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.

The central aim of the Academy remains for everyone to be happy at school, known personally and cared for individually. We maintained our focus on educating the whole person and to that end, in addition to our academic pursuits, a rich diversity of artistic, dramatic, musical and sporting activities remained on offer. We worked through the first lockdown in the history of the School and the challenges presented by the cancellation of the public examinations for the first time since they were introduced in the late 19th century – public examinations even took place during the two World Wars. The recruitment process was suspended by the

Education Authority, therefore all of the temporary posts in the school continued for the academic year 2020/21. However, earlier in the year, Mr Clarke and Mr Nash completed the Senior Leaders Pathway Programme, further developing the leadership capacity across the school.

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. I also thank our parents for their enduring support and encouragement – the pandemic has consistently displayed the strength and resolve of the Academy family.

I place on record my personal thanks to my teaching and non-teaching colleagues for all of their efforts during these extraordinary times. The dedication, care and concern of my colleagues for our pupils ensured that we remained open for the children of key workers and maintained remote learning throughout the lockdown period. 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.

The phenomenal public examination results in 2020 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



Headmaster's Report 2019/20

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.

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. BAA are the friendly face of the School at many events and I thank them for their fundraising efforts which provide essential funds for pupils across the school.

The outbreak of COVID-19 prevented most of our overseas trips from taking place, but our ethos and focus on care and concern once again resulted in incredibly generous charity collections. During the year we received special recognition for raising £7,604 over recent years for the Northern Ireland Children's Hospice and £1,000 for CONCERN Worldwide. The A Level Sports Science class organised a very successful Dodgeball tournament and raised £300 for a local charity, Charlene's Project. At the Action MS 40th anniversary ceremony the school was presented with the prestigious Action MS Bronze Boot, for the ninth time, acknowledging that we had raised the most funds of any school in Northern Ireland. The international dimension of the school has always been central to our ethos and this year was no exception. The pupils and staff embraced the European Day of Languages and there were many other visits, including the Geography field trips and Drama visits to the theatre.

The students in the Home Economics department continued to excel in a wide range of competitions. Olivia Miskimmons represented the Academy with distinction at the Springboard's Future Chef competition, featuring 600 schools nationwide. Olivia is an extremely accomplished and successful chef, having previously won the titles of Tesco Chef of the Year and Dairy

Council Young Chef of the Year. Lewis Gordon was a runner-up in the Moy Park Challenge competition to design a new and exciting chicken product.

As we continued to develop 21st century skills, the pupils thoroughly enjoyed the Digital Youth Programme, a digital masterclass. The young people were tasked with the challenge to come up with the next big idea, affording the opportunity to get hands-on with the latest digital technology - enabling them to widen their career thoughts beyond the traditional sectors.

Congratulations are due to a number of our Year 13 pupils who participated successfully in the Young Enterprise Company Examination, in partnership with the Ulster University. Our three Young Enterprise Companies had a very successful day at the Regional Trade Fair held at the Rushmere Centre. After being judged by four sets of judges at their trading stand and then attending an interview, which included a presentation, the results were announced. Stonks had very good sales - even managing to get local MLAs to part with their money! Sew Scented won the Digital Presence Award and Toasteez won the Customer Service Award. Toasteez was also Runner-Up in the Overall Company Award. The success of Toasteez's hand-warmers resulted in the company being selected for the NI Finals, which were unfortunately cancelled due to the pandemic. Over 40 budding young entrepreneurs worked in collaboration with Young Enterprise to start a business through the QuickStart programme, their sharp minds and friendly rivalries were demonstrated at the Dragons' Den competition.

Joseph Garvey was one of two Regional Rotary Winners and was selected to join a party of 24 from across Ireland for an all-expenses paid trip to meet young people from all over Europe in the European Parliament.

Three teams of Year 13 and 14 Psychology students participated in the Annual Conference held by the Northern Ireland Branch of the British Psychological Society (NIBPS) at Stranmillis University Belfast. They competed against numerous teams across Northern Ireland which resulted in first places for the A Level and one of the AS teams. It is also notable that Lauren Graham

and Emma Harrison (A Level team winners this year) also won the AS competition last year and went on to present their research to the professional body of Psychologists at the Annual NIBPS Conference in March 2019. Both of this year's winners have been invited to speak again at this prestigious event.

Jessica McCullough (Year 8) entered the Controlled Schools' Support Council (CSSC) Christmas Card competition and was awarded first place out of all the entries received across Northern Ireland. Her drawing of the scene in Bethlehem was printed and used as the official Christmas card for CSSC and the Academy.

The Art and Technology departments continued to inspire creativity and the pupils participated with distinction in a range of competitions across Northern Ireland. Year 10 Technology students participated in a highly successful Sentinus BBC Microbit Workshop. The Politics and Religious Studies departments continued to provide many opportunities for our young people to understand the importance of diversity and inclusion, which are integral to our society and our school ethos.

Eve Elliott had a wonderful year and was selected for the National Youth Choir of Great Britain, the National Youth Choir of Northern Ireland and the Ulster Youth Chamber Choir! We thoroughly enjoyed the atmosphere at our heart-warming annual Carol Service in Holy Trinity Parish Church. Unfortunately, the Spring Concert had to be cancelled due to lockdown, but thanks to the Music Department we were able to enjoy a number of performances online from our talented pupils.

The Junior and Senior Dance teams held a very enjoyable Dance Recital in school, showcasing their routines for the Northern Ireland Championships.

Scripture Union continues to support our young people in their faith. Alongside the usual lively meetings and events there was a hugely successful Junior SU trip to Millisle and a Senior SU weekend to Castlewellsan. The numerous clubs and societies across the school continue to thrive and I thank the House Staff for all their efforts in generating healthy competition through many House events throughout the year. All

Headmaster's Report 2019/20

of these events help the pupils to develop essential interpersonal skills and build new friendships; the hotly contested House Competition was won by Crozier.

Large numbers of pupils participated in the wide array of sporting activities offered by the school. Understandably, many sporting events were cancelled due to the pandemic. Please find below an overview of the incredible achievements.

Kathryn Morton was selected to represent Great Britain at the European Field Archery Championships in Slovenia. The competition was spread across a full week, composed of two days of qualification, followed by pool matches and a series of finals. Kathryn performed exceptionally well and won the Bronze medal – a truly amazing achievement against the best in Europe.

The Minor Girls' Netball Team reached the final of the NI Plate by defeating St Mary's, Newry in the semi-final.

Almost 40 Academy athletes competed in the County Down Schools' Cross Country Championships. Six Academy athletes qualified for the Ulster Championships at Mallusk: Lucy Bradshaw, Ellie Cousins, Simon Ferris, Luke McGerrigan, Kian Moran and Charlie Tumilty.

The 1st XI Girls' Hockey Team was crowned Topflight Champions having beaten a very impressive side from Mary Erskine, Edinburgh. The team reached the final of the Ulster Schools' Superleague tournament for the third time, but unfortunately they were narrowly beaten in a tense final by Rainey Endowed with a score of 1-0. In a sterling defence of their Ulster Schools' title, the team were narrowly defeated by Belfast Royal Academy, on run-ins, in the semi-final of the Belfast Telegraph Ulster Schools' Cup. The 2nd XI Girls' also reached the semi-final of the McDowell Cup.

Hannah Buchanan and Rebecca Spence were selected to represent Ulster U18 at the Interprovincial Tournament and Jodie Simmons was selected to represent Ulster U16.

The boys' hockey sides across the school continued to play with exceptional levels of skill and

determination. The 1st XI forced a replay in the QF of the Burney Cup, but eventually lost away from home to a strong Friends' side. Tommy Dobson, Matthew McKee, Charlie Rowe, Louis Rowe were selected to represent U16 at the Interprovincial Series, and Mark Cowan and Edward Rowe were selected to represent Ulster U18. Mark Cowan was also selected to represent U18 for Ireland.

The U14s continued their unbeaten run throughout their whole Academy career so far, and reached the final of the Ferris Cup and qualified for the John Waring All Ireland tournament, where they would have been strong favourites. Neither competition was completed.

The U15s were just about to play their Richardson Cup semi-final when lockdown came, but they were well positioned to be Ulster Champions for a second consecutive year.

The school's 1st XV Rugby Team started the season by winning the Gary Clarke Memorial Trophy, the Team Captain, Adam Hanna, was named player of the Tournament. As the season progressed, the team secured a place in the Schools' Bowl semi-final with impressive wins over Regent House from Newtownards and Rainey Endowed from Magherafelt. The Team travelled to Belfast High School and secured an outstanding victory to reach the final against Dromore High School. A wonderful spectacle of local rugby was played in front of a large crowd at Banbridge Rugby Club. Adam Hanna's outstanding season was rewarded with selection for Ulster U19 XV for the Inter-pro series and selection for the Senior Professional Ulster A team v Leinster. Marcus McNeill's excellent season was also rewarded with selection to represent Ulster U18 during the year.

The Medallion XV also reached the final of their Trophy Competition where a late score for Cambridge House, three minutes from time, was enough to give them a 10-8 win and snatch victory from our boys.

Our school swimming teams continue to perform at the highest level. At the Ulster Short Course Swimming Championships, the school was represented by Alana Burns Atkin, Katie MacFarlane, Adam Wilson, Finlay Wright & Julia Knox. Julia became Ulster Senior Champion in the 100m,

200m FC, & 200m Medley, won Silver in the 400m Medley and Bronze in the 100m Medley. Katie MacFarlane attended the 2020 McCullagh International Open, winning three medals - Gold 200m Butterfly, Silver 400IM and Silver 200IM. Many swimmers participated at the Irish National Championships and Katie was crowned Irish Champion in the 100m and 200m Fly, and won a Bronze in the 400IM.

The Banbridge Academy Waddell Team were runners up at the TRI Inter Schools' League Novice Competition at The Meadows. Molly Davidson was selected, for the second time, to represent Northern Ireland in the 2020 DAKS International Pony Club Mounted Games Championships.

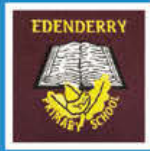
At the Ulster Schools' Table Tennis finals, Banbridge Academy's U15 Girls' Team, the current Ulster Schools' Champions, set out to retain their title, having previously held the U15 Ulster and Irish Titles, and the girls did not disappoint. They successfully defeated Strathearn School and Monaghan Collegiate to retain their Ulster title, unfortunately the cancellation of the Irish Championships prevented them from defending their Irish title. The U13 Girls' Team played extremely well and won Bronze at the Ulster Championships.

I feel very humble and proud to lead such a talented group of staff who are highly professional and genuinely caring. Their enthusiasm and devotion to our 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 colleagues for their enthusiasm, support, dedication and friendship.

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

In conclusion, this is a unique time in our history, but 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



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Education Minister's Visit



Mr McLoughlin welcomed the Minister, Mr Peter Weir MLA, to the Academy in September and thanked him for taking the time to speak to the Upper Sixth students. It is a very important year for Year 12 and Year 14 as they progress toward GCSE and A Level examinations next year. The Minister and Mr McLoughlin both wished the students every success in the year ahead as the Academy continues to provide the highest quality of education for the children in their care. Mr McLoughlin and the Minister both acknowledged the challenges ahead, however both are committed to ensure that pupils receive the high quality education they deserve in order to progress to their chosen careers.





Mrs Julie Robinson retired this year after 24 years of dedicated service to Banbridge Academy. Julie studied French and Spanish at the University of Ulster, Coleraine, before taking up her first post in Antrim Grammar School. She was appointed to Banbridge Academy in 1996.

Mrs Julie Robinson (Banbridge Academy: 1996 – 2020)

Julie was a committed teacher who very quickly established close working relationships with her students and colleagues alike. She devoted herself to helping countless students over the years engage with, enjoy and indeed excel in the study of languages. She had a great love for her chosen subject and was unwavering in her determination to ensure her lessons were exciting and as interactive as possible.

She participated in a number of French Exchange visits which were organised to help students gain a much greater understanding of language at first hand and provided them with the opportunity to gain confidence in their target language. Students also gained an insight into how valuable the art of speaking another language could be for their future careers.

As Head of House, Julie led from the front encouraging the students to participate in the extra and co-curricular life of the school. She understood the importance of this added dimension of school life and over the years assisted with Netball and Athletics.

As a Form Teacher, Julie was approachable, understanding, caring, practical and compassionate to the students under her care. As a mother she was discerning in getting to the heart of issues quickly and was able to offer sound advice and help.

As a colleague, Julie was greatly respected and well liked. She is pleasant, friendly and always ready to help where she can and she will be greatly missed.

We wish her a long, healthy, happy and fulfilled retirement.



Mr Raymond Kirkpatrick retired this year after 5 years as Head of Biology in Banbridge Academy.

Mr Raymond Kirkpatrick (Banbridge Academy: 2015 – 2020)

Raymond, a former pupil of Banbridge Academy, returned to the school having taught in Rainey Endowed School for 14 years in the Biology department. He quickly settled into the day to day routine of life in the Academy as Head of Biology and under his stewardship, Biology has been one of the most popular and successful subjects in the school.

He was an excellent communicator and one who delighted in developing good relationships with his students, encouraging them to engage fully in the study of Biology. His passion for his subject and his knowledge and understanding of the curriculum, was evident in his inventive teaching methods and he liked nothing better than to introduce new and exciting ways to support his students in their approach to learning. His lessons were extremely enjoyable resulting in high quality outcomes.

Raymond's warm, caring, gentle personality, coupled with a great sense of humour endeared him not only to his students, but also to his colleagues in school. He was able to lighten the mood and spread joy, even during difficult times. A colleague described Raymond as 'Someone who supports and enriches the lives of others.'

His decision to move from the world of education to gospel ministry was not taken lightly and while we understand that he must follow his calling into full-time ministry, he will be a massive loss to Banbridge Academy but a huge asset to the community he will support and serve.

We wish him every blessing for the future.

Portrait Gallery

Teaching Staff



Mrs Li

Lucy Poole, Leah Mallon and Leah Spiers

exactly the same!) I didn't really pick up any new hobbies, but I did do a lot more reading and cooking. I do love cooking so I was able to put a bit more effort into new recipes.

Did you learn anything new over lockdown?

Did I learn anything? Not so much... Although, I suppose I did actually learn that I probably don't take enough time to myself. I have four children, but I did find the time to be able to get a bit of pampering and take time to do the things I would like to do, instead of doing for everybody else.

What A-Levels did you study and at what school?

I studied all three sciences, so Biology, Chemistry and Physics, at Portadown College.

Have you always wanted to be a teacher?

I was told by my A-level Biology teacher that I would probably end up being a teacher because I wanted to study Genetics at university, and I said "No!" Yet, here I am!

What did you study at university and what was your favourite aspect?

I studied at Queen's University. I enjoyed genetics, virology and microbiology and therefore kept my degree focused to that area of study. I always found it fascinating that something so small at the subcellular level such as DNA can be responsible for all life on Earth and that simple changes in that molecule can cause so many issues, for example genetic diseases and cancer.

Favourite country you have been to or want to go to?

I actually was in Japan last summer. I've always wanted to go to Japan and my husband's from Malaysia, so we visit Malaysia quite often. Japan was somewhere I really wanted to go and I absolutely loved the culture, the fashion and the food. We did the regular sights, visiting places like Disneyland. The people there are so gracious and so polite. By the end of it, I came home and was constantly bowing to people! It's such a respectful culture. It was wonderful!

What is something on your bucket list?

I would like to visit Canada and Niagara Falls. That's another place I'd like to go to. I do like travelling. We did go to Australia a couple of years ago too.

Do you have any hidden talents?

Well I suppose I can speak a little Mandarin and my party piece when we have visitors over, would be to sing Chinese karaoke, which is quite a shocker to some people!

Quick-fire Questions

Cats or dogs? - Dogs.
Tea or coffee? - Tea-but decaf!
Chinese or chippy? - Chinese-obviously!
Morning or night person? - Morning.
Oranges or apples? - Apples.
Winter or summer? - Summer.

We would very much like to thank Mrs Li for her valuable time, and we wish her well in the future!

Socially distanced and sanitised, we headed to the Biology Department, eager to learn more about its newest member, Mrs Li.

How are you finding Banbridge Academy, after being in lockdown for so long, with all the new Covid-19 restrictions?

I'm very happy to be back in the classroom after lockdown because it's a much nicer experience being able to interact in person with the pupils. The workload is also very slightly reduced when you're actually in school as giving constructive feedback online can be quite time consuming and it does take much longer to mark tasks online. It's much nicer to have students back and I am very happy to be here. *(As shocking as it might seem, we're thrilled to back too!)*

Did you pick up any hobbies over lockdown?

No, not really; I probably should have put my time to more use. *(Although none of us would admit it, we felt*



Miss Stewart

Ellen Miller and Katie Stinton

and laughs) to give birth in front of everyone—even the principal! (We were still laughing at the thoughts of this for a good few minutes after the interview.)

If you weren't a teacher what career pathway do you think you would have travelled down instead?

I don't know... I either would have kept on with drama or perhaps something to do with performing arts, but that's really hard to get into. Translation is another possible pathway that I may have considered, as I did a bit of translating and interpreting at university and I really enjoyed that.

Do you have any tips for students studying languages?

Emm... I don't know... maybe just try *(love that advice)*, but what I did find really useful was listening to Spanish music and attempting to translate the lyrics. I also found listening tasks more difficult and this therefore really helped with my understanding. I really enjoy listening to music, so this wasn't really that much of a chore. Another useful activity was watching Spanish movies with subtitles and you don't even realise that you're picking up new vocabulary and phrases.

What is something that you have always wanted to try, but haven't?

I would love to go to America, because I have friends in America and I would love to visit and see exactly what life is like for them. Or I suppose even jumping out of a plane, but I would be way too nervous for that!

If you could take one famous person to dinner, dead or alive, who would it be?

It should probably be someone really motivational, but at the minute I really love the US version of 'The Office' and I've been binge watching it, so probably the whole cast. Someone funny like Steve Carell would be ideal.

If you could go back in time, is there anything you would change in your life and why?

(Hesitates)... I maybe would have stayed in Spain longer. I did have the chance to stay but I didn't and looking back I think that I should have. It was in Caceres, which was beside the border to Portugal, so on long weekends you could go into Portugal. No one there really spoke English, so it was good for language practice.

Quick Fire Questions:

Most used emoji? - Laughing crying face.

Go-to McDonald's order? - Quarter pounder with cheese meal.

Coke or Pepsi? - Coke.

Favourite movie? - Happy Gilmore.

Favourite actor? - Reese Witherspoon.

What food do you hate the most? - Octopus.

Biggest pet peeve? - Being interrupted.

We would like to thank Miss Stewart for taking time out of her busy schedule to answer some of our pressing questions.

We know you are new to working here at Banbridge Academy, so what has been the best element for you so far?

Emmm... *(laughs)*. Everyone's been so welcoming, which is great, especially in the Spanish Department as they really make you feel like you fit in immediately. All of my pupils have been lovely too, which is good.

What secondary school did you go to and what did you study for A-level?

I went to Hunter House and I studied four subjects for AS: Spanish, French, English Literature and Performing Arts. I then dropped French at A2 level.

What was your favourite subject to study, apart from Spanish of course?

Apart from Spanish... it probably would have been English Literature. But I also really loved Performing Arts. We would do shows in front of the school and sometimes parents as well, and one that really stands out is when I had to pretend *(stops*

Portrait Gallery

Teaching Staff



For those pupils in the senior school, Dr Myers is certainly not a 'new' addition to the teaching staff. After having spent four years teaching abroad however, we would like to welcome him back again to Banbridge Academy and to find out a little bit more about 'the man behind the white coat' and his recent teaching experiences.

What subjects did you study when you were at school?

I studied Physics, Biology, Chemistry and Maths at A Level.



What's your favourite school year to teach?

Favourite school year to teach? This year. (We weren't sure if Dr Myers had actually misinterpreted our question or if it was intentional, so we

Dr Myers

Evie McKinney, Leah Radcliffe, Katie Heenan and Jesse Millar

explained what we actually meant.
Oh! That's a tough one. Maybe the juniors because they're fascinated by the bunsen burners. You bring one out and they can't wait to light it! It's always entertaining to watch the excitement on their faces.

What's your favourite country?
America.

Do you prefer teaching here or abroad?
(Without any hesitation whatsoever)
Here.

Could you tell us a little bit about the school that you were teaching in?

The school that I taught in was called N.E.S (*The New English School*) and it is situated in the Middle East. It is renowned as being the top English school and this is reflected in the fees of £50,000 per pupil. It has a feeder school, which also supplies pupils to the grammar section when selected. The total pupil population is 2,500. The specification taught is Cambridge International and the school's reputation for academic excellence is known worldwide. N.E.S has been visited by the Queen of England on numerous occasions, as well as by other famous dignitaries.

I taught at N.E.S for a total of four years and was promoted to Year Head, Head of House, Examinations Officer and Football Coach. The school has its own amphitheatre and because I was Head of House, I had to go at night-time to lots of rehearsals, plays and drama groups. It really never stopped! Some of the pupils that I taught for A Level Biology now attend Harvard Medical School, Cambridge University, Royal College of Surgeons and Manchester University, England.

In what ways exactly does the school day differ when compared to ours?

In many ways the school day is quite similar to Banbridge Academy, however it was much busier with only

a 10-minute break in the morning followed by a 15-minute lunch break. Each pupil has a chrome book, so all lessons are therefore taught through the medium of ICT and Google Classroom. Registration is completed outside and the weather is always beautiful, with a constantly hot average temperature of 45°C. I never saw rain the entire time that I was there!

What was your main reason for going abroad?

(*Not thinking about the warm weather and incredible accommodation*) Educational enrichment. To learn new techniques and ways of teaching. It proved successful because you're benefitting from some of the things now, such as google classroom. It's working well.



Are you pleased to be back in Banbridge Academy?

Yes of course, it's one of the best schools in the country with great pupils, great facilities, (*and he almost forgets to mention*) great staff. There's no denying that living and teaching abroad was a great experience. As well as the educational experience, I had wonderful living accommodation and they offered me my own villa and pool in an attempt to get me to stay. I am however glad to be back home again with my wife and kids in Hillsborough, as well as back in Banbridge Academy.



What is your most embarrassing school moment?

(After a lot of laughter and deliberation) I bought a Nemo fish balloon on a website. I thought it would be a good practical method of teaching about gases. So, I filled it with helium. It was flying about the room when Mr Pollock walked in. He asked what I was doing and I replied,

"I'm flying nemo about the room!"
He said, "Okay" and walked out.

Quick-Fire Questions

Dogs or cats? - Dogs.
Tea or coffee? - Coffee.
Summer or winter? - Summer... all the time.
Favourite film? - *(long pause...)*
Dancing with Wolves.

Do, or did you play an instrument? - No.

We would like to thank Dr Myers for taking the time to answer our questions and hope that he doesn't miss those average temperatures of 45°C too much!



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Spanish Assistant



María Baztán Peiró

Emma Simms, Jemma Clydesdale and Katie Gregg

What has been your most memorable moment in Northern Ireland so far?

I went on a trip with some language assistants to the Mourne Mountains. But there was a rescue helicopter as someone had broken their leg or something. There was a lot of sand and when the helicopter landed the sand went everywhere!

What are the biggest differences between Northern Ireland and Spain?

Well, for example, the schools are really different because you wear uniforms and the school years are different as you finish a year later than in Spain. The weather as well can be very different than in Spain, depending on what city you're in. The language is different of course, and the buildings are really beautiful here.

What do you plan on doing after you finish working here?

I don't really know; I am probably going back to Spain because I'm only here for a year and then I will study for the exams to become a primary school teacher.

Do you miss Spain?

I miss my family and friends of course, also some food that we have there but that you can't buy here.

What Spanish food would you recommend?

I recommend 'tortilla de patatas'; here they call it Spanish omelette but I love it and I make it myself. I would also recommend 'croquetas', which you can eat with almost anything.

Do you have any advice for pupils who are learning another language?

That you have to be really determined to learn it and to want to know more about the language and the culture. There are many ways of learning it like listening to songs, watching movies and speaking with people who speak the language will also help you learn.

If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be?

One of my dreams would be to live in New York because I love it.

Is there anything you couldn't live without?

My mobile phone, my family and my friends.

Do you have any hobbies or interests?

In Spain I did ballet dancing. I love music in general- listening to it and dancing to it.

Quick-fire Round:

Favourite music genre: - I love many types of music but I think I prefer Spanish pop or rock.

Favourite TV show: - 'How I Met Your Mother' or 'Grey's Anatomy'.

Books or movies: - Books, but I have less time now to read them.

Cats or dogs: - Dogs, because they are with you more than cats.

Summer or winter: - Autumn (*we all laughed as this was not one of the options*).

Favourite holiday: - I love Christmas.

We would like to thank Maria for giving up her break to answer our questions and hope she enjoys the rest of her time here in Northern Ireland.

After receiving the exciting news of doing an interview, we attempted to make Maria feel as comfortable as possible by translating our questions into Spanish. Fortunately, her English is much better than our Spanish and she saved us from the embarrassment of mispronouncing her beautiful language.

What part of Spain are you from?

I'm from Zaragoza, in the North of Spain in Aragon.

What inspired you to come to Northern Ireland?

I was told that people in Northern Ireland are similar to Spanish people more than in other parts of the United Kingdom. Also, other Spanish people I know who have come here have had good experiences so that's why I chose it.

Are you enjoying your time here at Banbridge Academy?

Yes, I love this school! The teachers in the Spanish Department are so nice to me.



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Portrait Gallery

Senior Prefects



Head Girl

Phoebe Morgan

Anna Harris, Nadia Radcliffe and Ellen McLaren.

There are just so many...but one of the funnier ones is definitely painting the school set with Mrs Morrison. This in itself was entertaining, but what made it even funnier was that I broke my leg that afternoon. Obviously on the Monday morning when I didn't appear, she thought that the Chemistry class were joking when they said that I'd broken my leg. However, on the Tuesday morning when I arrived to class in a full leg case, the look on her face was quite entertaining.

Have you ever met a celebrity?

A celebrity? Fun fact, I have actually smacked Olly Murs' bum. I was at his concert when I was in P7 and he was walking past so I went for a high five and missed! I wouldn't say I really met him, but I didn't wash my hands for an entire day!

Any embarrassing stories of your time at Banbridge Academy?

I embarrass myself all the time, (without actually intending to) though I'm not really the type of person to blush when something happens. I do honestly think that I have survived all of these years in the Academy without embarrassing myself too badly.

Do you have any weird habits?

I actually do. When I'm focusing, I massage my face and sometimes if I go downstairs after working in my room, my forehead will be bright red from me rubbing it so much. I also do things the wrong way round, for example, if I were grating cheese I would move the grater rather than the cheese. I'm such an awkward person, so I do things the wrong way round all the time.

Who is your favourite teacher and what is your favourite subject?

I have a lot of favourite teachers and Art was definitely my favourite subject when I was younger. There are so many subjects that I really loved, such as French for example as I'm still in contact with my French

exchange partner. I obviously needed to select subjects that were relevant to the course that I wanted to study at university, which is why I couldn't pursue some of the others that I really enjoyed so much. Chemistry is definitely my favourite subject at the moment, just because I have Mrs Morrison. I have had her for five years now.

What is your favourite place you have visited and where is your dream destination?

Oh I like this question! My favourite place would probably be a place in France called Hourtin. I went there a few years ago for my holidays and we went in my motor home. There were a few 'sticky situations', such as when we almost went down a road so narrow that the van nearly got stuck. I'm just glad that I wasn't driving, as it was very stressful! The campsite was gorgeous though and I really like France and would like to go back. Last year, I went over to visit my French exchange student again but there isn't much in Dijon. She still sends me messages on Instagram but since I don't do French anymore, I have forgotten most of it! My dream destination would probably be a Greek Island, particularly that Island in Mamma Mia 2; I really want to go there.

What's the best thing about being Head Girl?

Honestly, I would say getting away with being really weird. It's also really nice when teachers you haven't had in a while speak to you in the corridors.

Do you enjoy it? Or is it stressful?

I feel like this year is very different, as a lot of my duties have been cut down quite a bit due to Covid restrictions.

We would like to thank Phoebe for a very interesting chat and we feel that we definitely know her a lot better now. We wish her all the best in her final year and in her dream Dentistry career.

After finding this year's Head Girl, we were welcomed with the 'beaming smile' that Phoebe is renowned for as she enthusiastically prepared to answer all of our questions.

What subjects are you studying for your A2 exams?

So this year I'm studying Chemistry, Biology and RS. However last year I also studied Art, which I thoroughly enjoyed.

What is something you have always wanted to do?

Oh my goodness! There are so many things that I have always wanted to do, but the one thing that springs to mind is parachuting. I do however think that if I got onto a plane, I would probably just fly up into the sky and come back down again. As much as I'd love to, I don't think I would even jump!

Do you have any hidden talents?

No, I literally don't think I do. I could probably tell a really bad joke, but I'm not even going to as it would be too embarrassing. So no, sorry, I have nothing to share.

Where do you see yourself in five years time?

I have it all planned out and so far I'm right on track. In five years' time, I would like to be finishing my Dentistry course and preparing to secure myself a good job!

What are the 'top highlights' of your time at Banbridge Academy?



Head Boy

Harry Patterson

Katie Baxter and Sarah Wilson

You may already recognise Harry Patterson as your Head boy, or as Captain of the 1st XV Rugby Team, but do you actually know the 'real' him? Have you ever found yourself wondering what his favourite canteen meal is, or even what the last song he listened to was? Well, wonder no more! We embarked on our quest to locate our Head boy, equipped with questions and determined to unearth some of his deepest, darkest secrets...so buckle up and get ready for an interesting read!

What subjects are you studying and which is your favourite?

I'm studying Chemistry, Biology and Maths and Chemistry is probably my favourite.

Were you surprised when you were appointed as Head Boy?

Yes! I'd say there are a lot of other people who definitely could have been given the role. (Very modest!)

Looking back, what advice would you give to your Year 8 self?

I would just say to enjoy school and not to get too stressed out.

What do you hope to do after leaving Banbridge Academy?

I'm hoping to study Medicine...I'd probably prefer to go somewhere across the water, Glasgow maybe.

What do you get up to outside of school?

(Laughter) Well... nothing really at the moment *(we feel your pain Harry; these really are such 'different times!')* but I usually enjoy playing rugby or meeting up with my friends.

What do you feel that you've missed out on most in school this year because of Covid-19?

Comfy study. It's obviously an extremely minor thing given the situation, but it's a Year 14 'perk' that I was looking forward to.

What is your funniest memory while being at Banbridge Academy?

(After much deliberation Harry admitted) There have been loads of funny moments over the years but definitely none that I could put in the school magazine! *(We'll let you make your own mind up about this!)*

What was the last song you listened to?

I'll need to just check here *(proceeds to hastily take out his phone and find the song)* 'Dancing Queen' by Abba. *(Although we'll have to point out how reluctantly Harry admitted this!)*

Best rugby moment?

Probably winning the Schools' Bowl Cup semi-final last year at Belfast High, that was really good.

If you could arrange a night out with any celebrity, who would it be and why?

Dead or alive? *(Either)* Probably Michelle Obama. *(Seems like a fair choice!)*

What would you put in Room 101?

(With zero hesitation) Covid-19.

If you could be trapped on a desert island with one of your friends, who would it be and why?

(After a lengthy pause of consideration) Probably my friend Edward because...he's just a funny guy. *(Doesn't seem to be the most practical of reasons Harry...)*

Favourite canteen meal?

Chicken curry and chips *(we're going to have to agree with you on this one!)*

Go-to McDonald's order?

I actually don't really like McDonald's *(What?!)* but if I had to choose something, I'd probably order a sweet chilli wrap...but no fries. *(More shock...no fries? Seriously?!)*

Quick-fire round:

Favourite teacher? - Dr Fox when he was here.

Coke or Pepsi? - Pepsi.

Favourite movie? - Back to the Future.

Chinese or pizza? - Pizza.

Cadbury's or Galaxy? - Galaxy.

We want to say a big thank you to Harry for giving up his time to be part of this interview and wish him all the best for the future. (We hope he gets to take Michelle on that date some day!)

Portrait Gallery

Senior Prefects



Deputy Head Girl

Hannah Buchanan

Rebecca Breen and Susie Black

definitely have to be winning the hockey Schools' Cup in 2018. This was an experience that I'll always remember.

What was your most embarrassing moment?

(Hannah pauses as she tries to reflect on her embarrassing moments) I fell down the stairs in front of the year above and just everything about the experience was dreadful!

What is your biggest pet peeve?

I hate it when people click their pen or blow their nose in class, especially in the exam hall. It is so annoying and I can't concentrate when it happens.

If you could travel anywhere in the world, what country would it be and why?

It would be France because it has a really nice atmosphere. It would be so relaxing just to go somewhere in the French countryside.

If you could have a superpower what would it be?

Oh goodness... probably flying because I could go anywhere in the world and visit lots of different countries.

What are 3 things you couldn't live without?

Friends, family and hockey.

What are your future plans after Banbridge Academy?

I hope to study Medicine across the

water, hopefully in Manchester. My dream is to become a doctor and when I qualify, I would like to join the navy.

What will you miss the most about school?

Probably seeing my friends everyday when we are all in the same area. Next year will obviously be very different when everyone goes off to different universities and we're all separated.

Quick-Fire Questions:

Favourite movie? - Wolf of Wall Street.

Chinese or pizza? - Chinese.

Celebrity crush? - Oh gosh...definitely Leonardo DiCaprio.

Summer or winter? - Summer.

Tea or coffee? - Tea.

Cats or dogs? - Dogs.

Thanks Hannah for taking time to answer our questions. We wish you the very best in your A-levels and every success in the future!

After frantically rushing from our previous class, we discovered Hannah patiently awaiting our arrival. Having reassured her that our questions wouldn't be too intrusive, we began our 'interrogation' against the backdrop of an almost deserted assembly hall.

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

I'm studying Maths, Chemistry and Biology. If I had to choose a favourite, it would probably be Chemistry just because I really like the teacher, Mrs Kernaghan.

Are you involved in any extracurricular activities?

I'm part of the 1st XI Girls' Hockey team; hockey is a big part of my life and I have currently just been selected as part of the U18 Ulster Hockey team.

What has been your highlight of school so far?

Again, linked to hockey...it would



Deputy Head Boy

Marc Matthews

Charlotte Stevenson and Amy Somerville

when we didn't have to worry about tracking tests!)

Do you have any favourite teachers in the school? Do you think there's a scariest teacher?

My favourites would probably be Mr Acheson or Mrs Morrison. *(We fully agreed of course and started chatting enthusiastically about the comedic geniuses that are our science teachers! Marc however was too nice to divulge the scariest teacher.)*

From your 7 years at BA, what has been your most embarrassing moment?

Probably calling the teacher mum. *(Let's face it - we've all been there before.)*

If you could be one teacher for the day who would you be?

Mrs Todd because she gets to spend most of the day outside rather than in the classroom, so it's perhaps less stressful. *(It took Marc a while to think of an answer to this but he clearly overlooked the fact that Mrs Todd has the daunting task of coaching 90 Year 8 girls for hockey!)*

If you could bring any celebrity on a date who would it be?

(Rather sheepishly) Probably Madison Beer.

If you were stuck on a desert island with three teachers who would you bring with you?

Mr Acheson, he might know something about being on a desert island *(probably read a book about it we mused)*, Mr Corder *(always a good bet)* and you would probably need a Chemistry teacher "just

in case", so I'd say Mr Beacom. *(Charlotte was quite surprised by this last addition as the thought of Mr Beacom without his filtered coffee was unimaginable!)*

Do you have a favourite song at the minute?

(Clearly Marc's favourite song was very meaningful to him as he struggled to remember its name!) I listen to them all on the way to school but I can't remember what it's called. I'll just go for Watermelon Sugar by Harry Styles *(Charlotte was very happy with this answer as she currently loves Mr Styles... But then again, who doesn't?!)*

Sum yourself up in ten words or less?

Granted it was a difficult question, so Marc came up with the smart line: Will do it if you ask nicely or for money. (Clearly this Deputy Head isn't one to say no to a challenge!)

Quick-Fire Questions:

Any phobias? - Heights
Pineapple on pizza? - Disgusting, absolutely not!
Favourite canteen meal? - Ham and cheese toasted baguette.
Black or blue pen? - Blue. Every time.
Dream job: - Pilot.
Top of your bucket list: - Sky diving.
Best joke: - Why did the frog not drive to work? His car got toad.

We would like to thank Marc for taking time out of his busy schedule to be interviewed and we wish him well with his future plans to join the navy.

Trying to find a slot in our busy timetables when we were all free for this interview was a surprisingly difficult task, but we finally managed to track down our elusive interviewee. Walking into the deserted assembly hall, we were greeted with a friendly smile and we began quizzing our Deputy Head Boy on all things 'Marc Matthews'.

What subjects are you studying this year and do you have any plans for the future?

This year I'm studying Physics, Technology and Biology. I'd like to join the navy hopefully, so I'm not looking to go to university. *(We were not surprised by this, as we have heard he is a key member of the cadets.)*

What are the perks of being Deputy Head Boy?

Oh definitely getting to hear about what's going on in the school before anyone else does. *(We tried to get Marc to disclose some 'behind the scenes' gossip, but unfortunately his lips were sealed.)*

What are some things you wish you knew in junior school?

How easy it was. *(Cue looking longingly into the distance, dreaming of times*

Portrait Gallery

Senior Prefects



Deputy Head Girl

Kathryn McGrath

Emily Johnstone & Ellen Whiteside

subject and their students. I'll just miss everything...

Do you have a favourite teacher?

That's such a hard question and naming one would be almost impossible! One of my favourite teachers would be Miss McClelland because last year she really made me believe in myself through Bar Mock Trial. Another is Miss McCormick, as she is absolutely hilarious; Mrs Morrison is a great teacher and she's really friendly; Miss Walker has to get a mention as she was here last year and was great and also Mr Brown, who always makes his classes enjoyable through lively discussions.

(The list was never-ending! Halfway through the interview Kathryn had to add Mr Nash to the list after reminiscing about another favourite memory.)

What advice would you give to Year 8 pupils?

Now this is good advice. Just be yourself, because you'll end up making friends that like you for who you are. If you change who you are to fit in, you'll never have fun in school. Make sure to enjoy Junior school too!

(Now for some less serious questions)

The question we all want to know the answer to... is it true that you get to have cups of tea with Mr McLoughlin?

Well I actually did think this was true but during the past few meetings we haven't had tea, but maybe that will evolve as the friendship grows with Mr McLoughlin. But as of yet, no.

Not that we have planned for this, but if you were stuck on a desert island what three things would you bring with you?

I'd probably bring my dog for emotional support- I just absolutely love my dog. I'd also probably bring Mr Brown, so I could debate theological things with him because that would keep me entertained for days on end. Another thing would be my swimming suit, so I could enjoy some exercise in the water.

What's a secret talent of yours?

(At first Kathryn told us she wasn't sure if she had one, but after some thought over lunch time she came back to us with a pretty impressive answer!) I learnt some Spanish over lockdown, which was quite fun!

Favourite TV show?

'Our Girl'- lockdown was depressing enough and then 'Fingers' died which ruined my life for about a solid week...I'm currently re-watching it now!

Favourite film?

It's a documentary-type film called "Unstoppable". It's about a girl who becomes injured in a surfing accident involving a shark and it's just really motivational and inspiring.

Favourite ice-cream flavour?

If it's Mauds then I like the salted-chocolate-honeycomb but I'm not too sure what it's called. I also like a good mint ice cream as a general favourite flavour.

Last song you listened to?

I can't remember exactly what song, but I was listening to Kodakidline on the bus to school this morning- I do like a bit of Kodakidline!

What's your fondest memory from the Academy?

Last year I went to Italy on the Geography trip, even though I didn't do Geography for GCSE or A-level I still managed to get a place on the Italy trip and it was really good!

Do you have any pet peeves?

People who walk slowly in the corridor and people who come into class late and don't give a reason why.

Chinese or a chippy?

Chippy.

And finally, we would like to say a thank you to Kathryn for taking the time to complete this interview so willingly and we wish her all the best for next year.

After finding a slot in the Deputy Head Girl's busy schedule, our interview got underway.

What subjects are you studying?

This year I'm studying Chemistry, Biology and RE and last year I also studied Maths.

What are your plans for when you leave school next year?

I would like to study Law at university and then become a Barrister.

What made you decide to want to do Law?

Last year I was torn between Medicine and Law. I was involved in the Bar Mock Trial, because Miss McClelland had talked about it in History, and I absolutely loved it! I then completed my work experience in Law and I really enjoyed that, so a combination of all of these factors helped me to decide the path that I would like to take.

In your opinion, what is the best part (so far) of being a Deputy Head Girl?

I've really enjoyed getting to know the people on the senior prefect team because it's quite a diverse range of people that probably wouldn't have been brought together otherwise.

What do you think you're going to miss most about the Academy once you leave next year?

Probably the people; I've made such good friends here and I absolutely love all of the teachers. I think they're great and they just put so much time into their



Deputy Head Boy

Jude Kennedy

Ethan Henry and Selena Chambers

meetings with Mr McLoughlin, which have been really interesting.

What would you say your biggest accomplishment in school has been?

I think my biggest accomplishment ever has been getting my Diploma in piano in Year 12. I also completed Grade 6 in French Horn.

What is one of your best moments in school?

I suppose GCSE results day was really great; opening the envelope and saying 'Wow', and then also seeing everyone else really happy because of their great achievements. *(We did find this quite amusing because only an A* student like Jude could enjoy results day.)*

What is your funniest time in school?

Well, I do recall a very funny moment when someone dropped a sandwich [accidentally] from the balcony and it hit one of the teachers on the head. *(We all discussed how embarrassing this must have been for both the teacher and pupil involved!)*

We see that you are rather active on Instagram and YouTube, how did your YouTube channel come about?

It started on Instagram with my revision page, where I could post notes if I wanted to, and so it progressed from there to YouTube. I now have 1900 subscribers, I hope to hit 2000 subscribers soon. *Since carrying out the interview, Jude has now surpassed his 2000 subscriber goal, reaching 2500 subscribers. Congratulations Jude!*

We know that you are a part of SU, what do you do there?

Last year I was the person behind the power-points, so I brought everything together. This year I am spark leader

but since we can't meet in person, I get people to send in messages and prayer points for meetings. Hopefully at some stage this year, we will get to return to Mr Clarke's room and resume tea and toast.

Who is your favourite teacher?

Miss Walker - she isn't here anymore but she was the best. Then it would have to be Mrs Morrison ... love Mrs Morrison! *(And we unanimously agreed.)*

How was your lockdown?

I usually don't do much anyway; I took a test that revealed that I am 99% introverted, so that explains it. *(We very much related to Jude.)*

How many hours a day do you spend studying?

It depends, but usually on a school day 2-3 hours, not including homework.

Would you eat kiwi with the skin on?

Yes, the entire kiwi. *(I began to talk about how I also eat it with the skin on, but only if it's not really hairy. Jude then suggested the brilliant idea of shaving the kiwis before eating them! We're not totally convinced by this suggestion!)*

Quick-Fire Questions

What is your star sign? - Aquarius.
Do you think it suits you well? - No clue.
Do you watch Tik tok? - No, I have it but don't watch it.
Fave food? - Pizza
Pineapple on pizza? - No, it depends.
Go to Nando's order? - The boneless platter.

We would like to thank Jude for making time to speak with us (especially since it took up his entire lunchtime!) It was a joy to finally see our YouTube screens come to life!

Since we both enjoy Jude's online presence, we couldn't wait to meet Banbridge Academy's online star in the flesh and see if he mirrors his online persona. We were delighted to find that Jude was very down to earth and chatty, seemingly fitting for his role as Deputy Head boy.

If you were to describe yourself in 3 words what would they be?

Motivated, musical and logical. *(Jude was stuck on the words he wanted to choose, citing that he isn't an English student so doesn't know... 'words.')*

What makes you pick those 3 words?

I am very musical and play many instruments; I'm driven and I have various goals.

Where would you like to see yourself in the next 5 years?

I would like to go to university and study Medicinal Chemistry. Then in four years time, I hope to complete a placement in Germany.

How has your role as Deputy Head Boy been so far?

It's been really fun actually! We had to record a video for the new Year 8 pupils and it was the first time that we all got to work as a team and have some fun with Mrs Morrison and Mrs Neill in charge. We have also had some

Portrait Gallery

Senior Prefects



Deputy Head Girl

Suzy Neill

Amber Brady, Erin Colgan & Tanya Watson

How are you finding your position of Deputy Head so far? What experiences have you had and have there been any challenges?

It's been really fun so far. We've been in a few times making induction videos for the Year 8s and meeting the Education Minister. I don't think there have been any challenges yet, but I suppose the worst is yet to come. *(We laugh, slightly nervous on her behalf for her upcoming duties.)*

What subjects are you studying and which is your favourite?

I'm studying Maths, Biology and Chemistry and Chemistry is definitely my favourite.

Do you have a favourite teacher?

(She laughs) Yes, it's probably Dr. Lorimer.

Are you part of any school clubs or teams?

I'm part of Team Blackout and then I do Brass Band and Swing Band as well, and then in the summer I do a bit of athletics too.

If you could go back to a certain point or memory of your time here, what would it be?

(She hesitates) That's difficult, there have been so many good ones *(wistfully)*. 'The Greatest Show' is definitely one of the biggest highlights so far.

Do you regret anything from your time at Banbridge Academy?

I maybe regret not getting involved a bit more in Year 8. There's so much to do in Year 8 and if you throw yourself into everything, you'll definitely find more friends.

What three things would you bring if you were stranded on a desert island?

(With confidence) Bug spray. Netflix, as I wouldn't want to be sitting there for a long time by myself. *(After a long pause)* Probably a spider catcher. I don't do spiders... *(with a disgusted look)* so that would help me deal with all the bugs! *(Suzy is really not a fan of bugs!)*

Have you any plans for when you leave school?

I'm hoping to go to Edinburgh to study Chemistry.

Good luck! And finally, do you have any advice for Year 8s or any words of wisdom to pass on to the Year 13s?

For Year 8s, as I mentioned earlier, I would really encourage you all to get involved in as many things as you can. Year 8 is such a good time to have fun. As for the Year 13s... I would probably say use your study periods wisely because that definitely helps so much. *(We all agreed that this is definitely good advice.)*

We thanked Suzy for her time and wished her good luck in her future aspirations.

With the limited time available in sixth form, we were lucky to have the opportunity of getting to know the enthusiastic, yet very busy, Suzy Neill, one of our current Deputy Heads. After being kicked out of our original interview room, we decided as it was a fresh autumn morning, to "interrogate" Suzy outside. Much to our delight, she eagerly agreed!

Quick-Fire Questions:

Describe yourself in three words. Oh, that's hard. I'd probably say hardworking, sporty and... I don't know *(after reminding her that these were quick-fire questions, she eventually decided on)* outgoing.
Morning or night? - Night.
Books or movies? - Probably a movie.
Favourite superhero? - Spiderman.
Blue or black pen? - Probably blue.
Biggest pet peeve? - People walking four abreast in the corridor, that's so annoying *(this was greeted by a chorus of 'Yeah!' from us.)*



Deputy Head Boy

Edward Rowe

Anna McInnes, Sasha Martin, Emily Shields

Mrs. Dreaning, because she makes Geography such a fun subject.

What would you say is your most embarrassing moment at school?

On my first day of Banbridge Academy, I was walking to get the bus and was desperate for the toilet also unaware that there was a customer toilet in Centra. I continued on my way to the bus stop uncertain if I could actually survive the challenging 20-minute journey home. Let's just say that it was the longest 20 minutes of my life!

Any phobias?

100% Spiders. I HATE THEM! *(We cannot emphasise enough how emphatically Edward stressed his hatred of our eight-legged friends!)*

Favourite canteen meal?

Without a doubt it has to be chips, chicken curry, two goujons and two chocolate milk. It hits the spot every time.

Name one thing on your 'bucket list'.

A sky dive! It has always been my childhood dream and I think the adrenaline rush would be unmatched.

What would you say is the best and worst part about being a prefect?

For sure the best part is being able to skip the dinner queue, which ensures you get the first pick for lunch. However, my least favourite part is being on canteen duty as it makes you realise how nobody cleans their table.

What would you say to your Year 8 self?

I know it's cheesy...but don't ever take school for granted as you never know what is going to happen. We know all too well what happened this year and before you know it, you'll be in Year 14 wishing you could go back to being in Year 8.

Quick-Fire Questions:

Celebrity crush? - Selena Gomez.
Favourite movie? - Madagascar 3.
Favourite Disney princess? - Snow white.
Cats or dogs? - Dogs.
Pizza or Chinese? - Pizza.
Coke or pepsi? - Coke.
Tea or coffee? - Neither.

We would like to thank Edward for answering our questions and we wish him well with his studies in Michigan and in his golfing career.

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

I am currently studying Maths, Business Studies and Geography. Next year I am moving to America to attend university in Michigan on a golf scholarship. It is my hope that I will then progress further and if all goes well, I will 'go pro'. I am really looking forward to new opportunities and meeting new people, however I'm not looking forward to all of the baggage and the 13-hour flight!

What is your fondest memory at Banbridge Academy?

(After much deliberation) I would have to say that my favourite memories at Banbridge Academy are mostly situated during break and lunchtimes on the grass banks with friends. Let's just say that we always managed to find entertaining ways to pass the time!

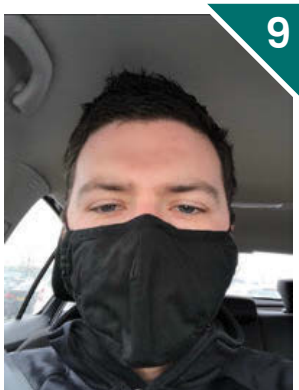
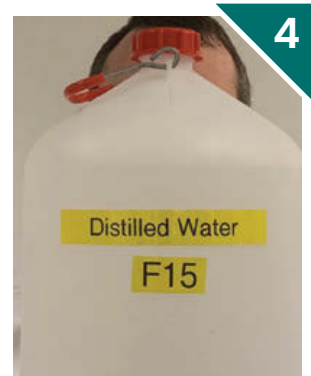
Who would you say is your favourite teacher and why?

(With no hesitation whatsoever)

Who's behind the mask?

By Leah Crawford and Nikola Konpa

Can you guess the teacher behind the mask?



- ANSWERS**
1. Miss McConkey
 2. Mrs Dreening
 3. Mr McAuley
 4. Mr Beacom
 5. Mr Brown
 6. Mrs Morrison
 7. Mrs Johnston
 8. Mrs Nell
 9. Mr Clarke
 10. Miss Poole
 11. Mr Dawson



Guess the Teacher

Can you guess the teacher from their baby photo?

By Hannah Spence and Alex Warren



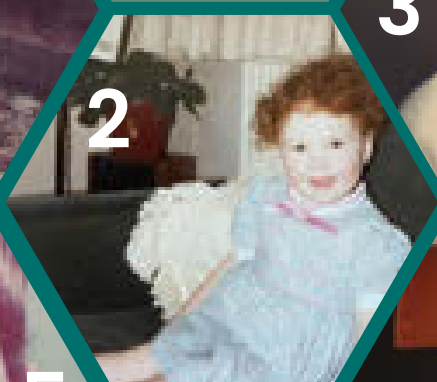
1



3



4



2



5



7



8



6



9

- Teacher 1 (Mrs Wilkinson)
- Teacher 2 (Mrs O'Shaughnessy)
- Teacher 3 (Mr O'Shaughnessy)
- Teacher 4 (Miss Greenlee)
- Teacher 5 (Mr Brown)
- Teacher 6 (Mrs Morrison)
- Teacher 7 (Miss Elliott)
- Teacher 8 (Mrs Gilpin)
- Teacher 9 (Mr Kennedy)

Two Truths and a Lie

Leah Mallon, Lucy Poole and Leah Spiers



Ever wanted to learn a little bit more about your teachers, or are you confident that you know them well enough already? Let's see if you can identify which one of the following three statements is a 'Lie'!

Mr McAuley

1. I have shaken Wayne Rooney's hand.
2. I have been in a plane struck by lightning.
3. I used to compete in Scottish dancing.

Mrs Morrison

1. I used to be a paid children's entertainer called Hokey Cokey the Clown.
2. Cats aren't my favourite animal.
3. I have received four marriage proposals, one of which was from a German man and one was from a current member of staff.

Mrs Wilkinson

1. I climbed Slieve Donard for the first time this year.
2. I enjoyed parasailing on holiday in Cyprus.
3. I held hands with Gary Barlow.

Mr Brown

1. I used to work in a garden centre.
2. I have had tea with the Dalai Lama.
3. I have experienced an earthquake.

Mr Nash

1. I was Head Boy at school.
2. I have been part of a group that auditioned for Britain's Got Talent.
3. I have fallen off a tightrope and broken my arm.

Miss Jess

1. I used to work in Asda.
2. I have represented my country internationally.
3. I drive everywhere at an exceptionally slow speed.

Mr Winter

1. I am allergic to shellfish.
2. I bumped into Northern Ireland internationals Steven Davis, Kyle Lafferty and Gareth McAuley when on a weekend break in Glasgow.
3. I have a brother who lives in Los Angeles.

Mrs Leslie

1. I got engaged at the Great Wall of China.
2. I play tennis every week with a former Vice Principal (of Banbridge Academy) who is in his eighties.
3. I drove monster trucks for a summer in the USA.

Mr Irwin

1. I was 5 minutes late for my GCSE maths exam.
2. I played football for Portadown in the Irish Cup Final in May 2000.
3. I auditioned for the first series of the X-Factor in 2004.

Miss Wright

1. I have met Prince Philip.
2. I skydived for charity.
3. I can touch my nose with my tongue.

Miss Poots

1. I've been to five out of the six continents.
2. I used to work as an air hostess.
3. When I turned 18, my shoe size went from a size 7 to a size 5 overnight!

Miss McCullough

1. I'm converting a van into a camper van.
2. I've hugged David Beckham.
3. Teaching is my third career path.

Mrs O'Shaughnessy

1. When I was in Paris there was a mix-up with the bill at The Ritz Hotel, so I got a free night.
2. I was born in Manchester.
3. I was a champion gymnast when I was a child.

Which one is false?
 Mr McAuley: 1 | Mrs Morrison: 3 | Mrs Wilkinson: 1 | Mr Brown:
 2 | Mr Nash: 2 | Miss Jess: 3 | Mr Winter: 1 | Mrs Leslie: 3 | Mr
 Irwin: 3 | Miss Wright: 2 | Miss Poots: 2 | Miss McCullough: 2 |
 Mrs O'Shaughnessy: 3



Banbridge Academy Quiz Time



Elinor Bradley and Oliwia Zembala

Question 1 ?

Starting with an easy one - How many pupils, to the nearest 100, currently go to Banbridge Academy?

- a. 1000
- b. 1400
- c. 1600

Question 4 ?

The Academy was established in 1786, but how long has our school been in its current building for?

- a. 70 years
- b. 75 years
- c. 80 years

Question 7 ?

Speaking of the houses, do you know which animals represent the houses in the following order: Dunbar, Crozier, McWilliam, Waddell?

- a. Dragon, Polar Bear, Lion, Duck
- b. Lion, Duck, Polar Bear, Dragon
- c. Dragon, Lion, Polar Bear, Duck

Question 2 ?

Excluding the Atrium, how many rooms are there in Banbridge Academy?

- a. 300
- b. 236
- c. 188

Question 5 ?

Our school motto is 'Per Deum et Industriam', but what does this translate to?

- a. From the Industrial Times
- b. Through God and Diligence
- c. To Inspire Through Hardship

Question 8 ?

What was the title of last year's annual school production?

- a. The Sound of Music
- b. Cats
- c. The Greatest Show

Question 3 ?

How many teachers currently teach here?

- a. 34
- b. 66
- c. 54

Question 6 ?

Which one of these has never been offered as a House Competition in Banbridge Academy?

- a. Christmas Cards
- b. Cookery
- c. Short Story Writing

Question 9 ?

And finally, what fitting nickname is given to the school's stage crew?

- a. Team AudioVis
- b. Team Blackout
- c. Team Lights-Camera-Action

Answers: b,b,c,a,b,c,a,c,b

Pupil Experiences

Leah Radcliffe



BBC Young Chorister Competition

'The BBC Young Chorister of The Year' is a national competition which takes place every year and selects five girls and five boys to compete to take on the title. This year Leah Radcliffe (currently in Year 13) was one of the ten chosen from the whole of the UK for the televised competition in the Gorton Monastery in Manchester.



How did you get involved in the competition?

I hadn't heard of the competition before, but my Granny saw it being advertised on BBC One's, 'Songs of Praise'. After seeing it she quickly phoned me and told me that I should enter, so my Mum and I eagerly looked into the details of the competition and read everything that it entailed. We instantly saw how great of an opportunity it would be, so I decided that I would give it a go and enter.

What was the process to get into the competition?

To enter the competition, I had to record myself singing two songs; one was a worship song and the other was a Christmas piece. I then had to send the songs into the BBC where they were sent to a judging panel who decided who would make it through to the semi-final. They initially selected ten boys and ten girls from across the UK, then reduced this to five boys and five girls who would take part in the mentoring session and perform in the semi-final.

What was it like having Katherine Jenkins mentoring you?

It was absolutely amazing to have Katherine Jenkins mentoring me and it felt so surreal! She was lovely and was very helpful in providing me with tips for my performance in the semi-final and the potential final. She advised me to tell the story of the song more with my face and to

work on gradually building up the dynamics of the songs as I went through it.

How did it feel to get to the semi-final? What song did you perform?

When I found out that I had gotten into the semi-final I was in shock! I did not believe my Mum and Dad when they told me about the phone call that they had received revealing the good news. I was so excited and I felt very accomplished to be chosen out of the hundreds that had applied. For the semi-final I got the choice of what style of song I was going to sing. I chose a modern worship piece that I love to sing in church called, "The Power of The Cross."

Did you get any further in the competition? If so, how did you feel?

When each girl had sung in the semi-final we were brought back into the monastery, where the competition was taking place, and Katherine Jenkins announced the names of the three girls who were going through to the final of the competition. This part was very stressful, but I was already proud of how far I had come regardless of what the outcome was. The time finally arrived for Katherine to announce the girls who had made it to the final and the first name she read out... was mine! I was in shock! I was delighted and so overwhelmed. It was such an amazing achievement getting to the semi-final but... the final! I was lost for words! There was a short turn around after that as the

three boys who were chosen from the five arrived and the final commenced soon after.

What did you perform for the final?

For the final I performed a well-known Christmas piece called, "Mary Did You Know?" This is one of my favourite Christmas pieces and Katherine Jenkins also told me that it is one of her favourites and she loves to sing it. The talent in the final was phenomenal! The three boys and the other two girls I was up against were amazing but so friendly.

Did you have to perform in front of a panel?

Yes, I had to perform in front of a panel of three judges, Katherine Jenkins and Aled Jones (and a bunch of TV cameras!). Performing in front of the panel was so amazing as they are all such talented people, but it was also very daunting. After each piece the judge gave me feedback on my performances and they were so complimentary.

Did you enjoy the competition experience?

The competition experience was incredible! It was so much fun being filmed for TV and having to do many TV interviews. I made amazing friendships with the other competitors and formed a lovely bond with the crew and organisers of the competition. It was a nerve-racking experience but one that I will never forget.

Aimee Dawson

Swimming



Aimee Dawson (an IIB pupil) reflects fondly on her swimming successes, from joining an Amateur Swimming Club, being selected onto the 'F-24 programme,' to breaking the female open water swimming record in the Omeara to Carlingford Swim in July...

At the early age of five my mum and dad enthusiastically encouraged me to take up swimming lessons at Brownlow Swimming Pool, and on reflection I am truly grateful that they did. Little did I know it then, but their decision at this young stage in my life, would set me on a path that would not only enable me to maintain high levels of fitness and present numerous opportunities, but most importantly it would lead to my love of swimming.

During the next six years after starting swimming, I progressed through all of the badges, finishing with the 'one mile' badge. It was at this point that my swimming instructor Matthew Leckey advised my parents that I should join a club, as he saw potential in me. As a result, in January 2015 I joined Lurgan Amateur Swimming Club.

In the five years since joining the club, I have held many positions such as the girls' P.T.L Captain, girls' Senior Captain and girls' Senior Vice Captain. In 2017 I was the club's 'Most Improved Girl Swimmer' and in 2018 and 2019 I received the 'Top Girl Award'.

The summer of 2018 saw me make it to the All Ireland Division Championships in Limerick, where I competed in four races. I successfully swam my way to the final of the 200 meters where I finished 8th and was consequently asked to join the Ulster Development Squad (which meets six

times a year in the Aurora Swimming Pool). During this year we competed in the Inter-provincial Trophy and won it for Ulster.

In 2019 I managed to progress even further and achieved ten qualifying times to make it to the 'All Ireland Division One Championships' in the Aquatic Centre, Dublin. I made it to the 400 free final and finished 7th. This was an amazing experience as I was competing against the very best in Ireland and other countries such as Canada, Holland and Germany.

As a result of my swimming successes, I was selected for the Ulster Regional Squad and selected onto the 'F-24 programme'. The programme was basically formed by the Swim Ireland Team, who are putting together a group of girls who they think have the potential to make up a relay team for the 2024 Paris Olympics. I know that this is a long way off and many things may happen between then and now, but I would count this as an amazing achievement if I were to make it.

During the summer of 2019, I became interested in open water swimming. Under the watchful eye of Jordan Leckey, I competed in nine races, winning eight and finishing second in the other. This was very new to me and I instantly realized how different it was to being in a pool; at first I really did feel quite removed from my 'comfort zone' as I was having



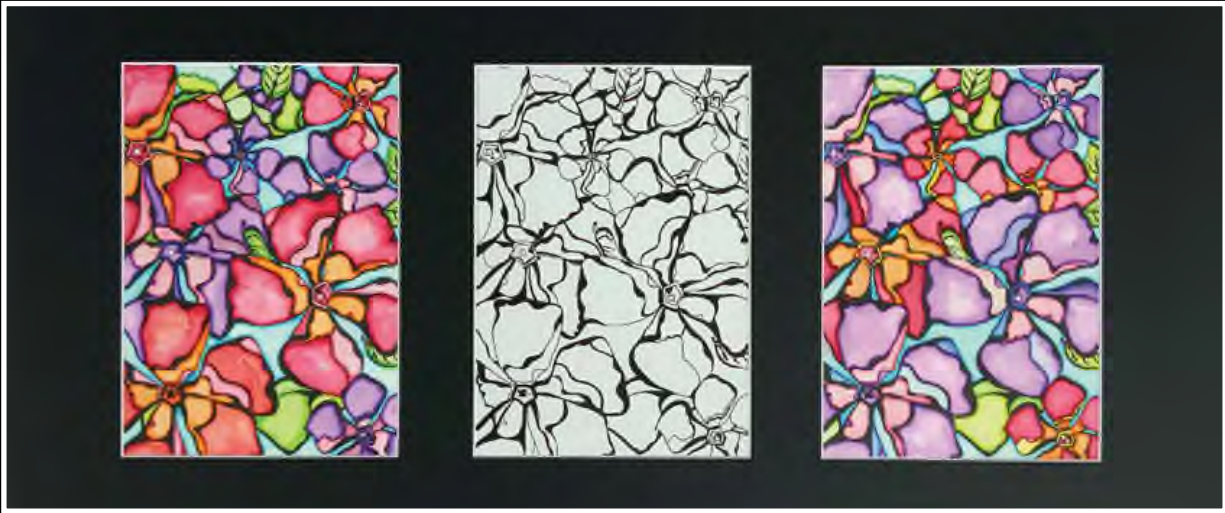
to deal with currents and jellyfish! In spite of the initial challenges however, I developed a totally new insight into swimming. To be honest, open water swimming in Lough Neagh became my sanctuary during lockdown and I really appreciated this as an important form of escapism. As all pools had to close and my chance to compete at the All Ireland Division One Championship finals in Dublin was consequently terminated, open water swimming was something that I really immersed myself in.

It was while I was swimming in Lough Neagh that I met Francie McAlinden, Open Water Series Swimmer 2018 and 2019, and I was delighted when he asked me to be his support swimmer in an initial Lough Neagh Challenge which consisted of a 33.5 km swim from Lough Neagh Discovery Centre to Antrim. I agreed and we completed this swim in August in 11 hours 48 minutes. I also competed in the Omeara to Carlingford Swim (7.5 km) back in July and finished 3rd out of 150 competitors, while breaking the female record and being the first female back home.

Swimming has been a big part of my life so far and I'm hopeful that it will continue to be so. Who knows what the future holds?

ART | GCSE

Susie Black, Jemma Clydesdale, Hannah Cromie,
Sasha Martin, Alex Warren

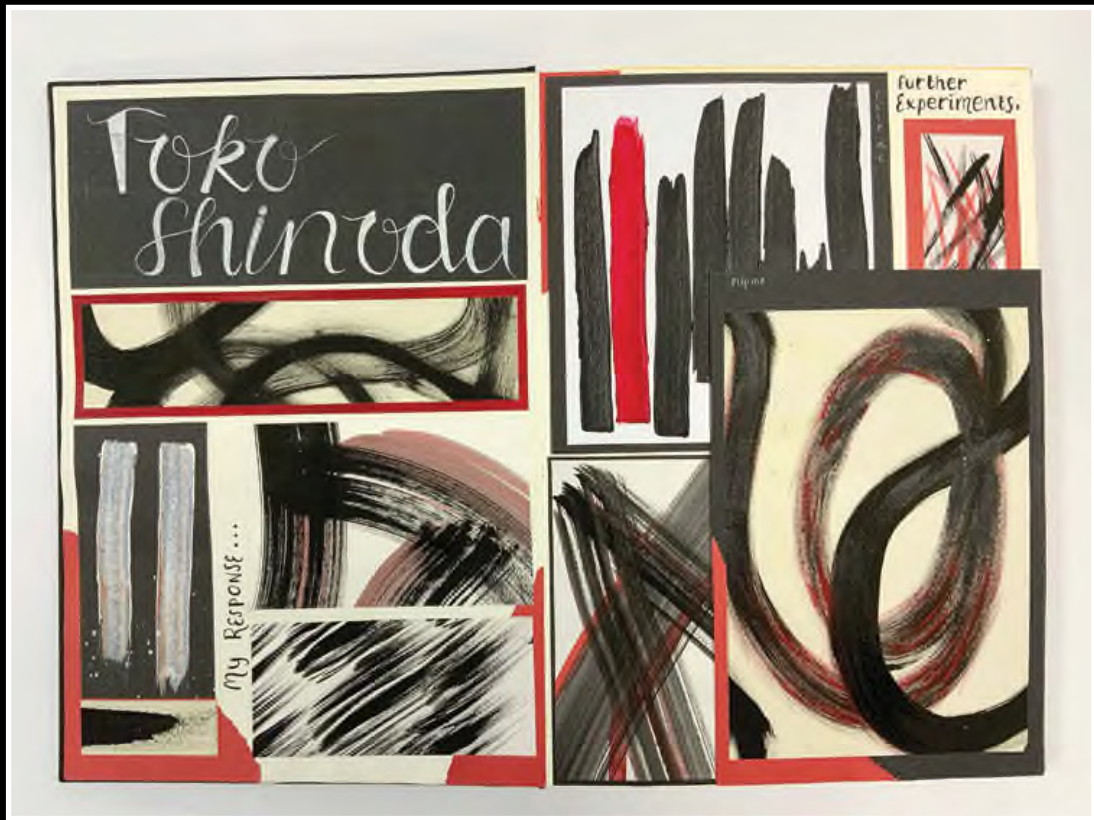


ART | GCSE



ART | AS

Ellie McElroy, Martha Rutledge, Phoebe Morgan,
Emily Williamson, Ellie Spiers



ART | AS





Right from the outset, it was clear to tell that within the National College of art and design, anything goes.



It appeared as though it offered a sense of freedom and individuality within each student, heavily expressed in their physical appearance and style.



It appeared to me also on the verge of dangerous interiors however I'm sure it's



said as edgy, as the interiors and most work spaces are seriously old and minimalistic however this approach probably offers the most creativity to flow within students, as they are only distracted by their own ideas that each student has surrounded themselves in.

For me, I thought that the glass blowing was a very exciting media to work in and I believe it offers a huge exciting range of outcomes.



Beside is a glass jelly fish of which I believe fits in with my chosen fragmented theme well. What I really like about it is the fact that the almost accidental areas of smirgy glass become part of its look.

I believe that the ceramics studio seemed to offer a greater sense of direction, refinement and experimental work, developed intimately.



For me, the area of fashion + the fashion studio was one that really stood out within NCAO. Unlike some courses offered, it appeared as though there really was no limits or rules when it came to being creative, understandably, as this is an important frame of mind particularly in the fashion industry as people are always wanting fresh, new ideas and a sense of originality seems to go far.



The weaving textiles and materials that were on view in the art studio, interested me in particular.

With the material samples above, the students had taken their inspiration from natural objects around them. Some samples inspired by the patterns such as honeycomb, others by such as water and its movement.

Within the area of fashion, I enjoyed the loose, sense of sketches, that are more focused on getting the ideas down than focussing on the quality of the sketch.



During the trip we were introduced to a range of courses such as jewellery, fashion, ceramics, media, fine art, painting, sculpture + print, design, graphics + product design.



This idea is throughout the college, that the idea is more important than what it looks like when roughly drawn on paper. This was particularly seen in sketchbooks such as the ones in the ceramics studio, where some sketches consisted of just a pencil outline.

Art Trip

28/11/19

I visited the National college of art & design open day. This was a very inspirational experience & it was very interesting to see so many areas of art & design working side by side & even collaborating. We had a guide showing us around & talking about the history of the buildings and showing us individual buildings e.g. fashion & textiles, fine art areas, graphic / moving image & illustration. We got to have a look around individual departments & different studio spaces. I also got very valuable portfolio guidance and got to see examples of people's work. Lots of information on applying to NCAD. I also got to see the students union & the range of activities that you can get involved in at NCAD. The map below shows where NCAD is in relation to Dublin & a range of art galleries in Dublin. The photographs on this page are of the campus itself & its interior exterior. Overall, I think it had a lovely atmosphere & was a place based on community & friendship. I really love the graphic nature of this map & I would really love to take inspiration from this & develop this style into my project. I love the colour scheme & coordination of this map & how it's clear. This simplistic & minimalist style is very informative & clear. Visiting NCAD was a very rewarding experience & there was a lot of work that stood out as unique & creative in many ways. It's always interesting & inspirational to see how different artists approach the same topic in such unique & individual ways.

NCAD



Galleries within 15 minutes walk from NCAD

- 1 JMWMA, 1
- 2 Cross Gallery, 2
- 3 Elbow Gallery, 3
- 4 Kevin Keating Gallery, 4
- 5 Greater Beaulieu Library, 5

- 6 Smock Alley, 6
- 7 Project Arts Centre, 7
- 8 Gallery of Photography, 8
- 9 Monster Truck, 9

- 10 Black Church Print Studio, 10
- 11 Temple Bar Gallery, 11

NCAD DUBLIN
National College of Art and Design

I found the main source of inspiration for me was 1st Year / common entry. As there was a range of collaboration between fine art disciplines & design. I really enjoyed seeing the different departments & seeing the range of equipment in each of them. In 1st Year you can see people develop & decide on their favourite discipline. The below pieces are very creative & free. The 1st in middle is a map with strings & photographs attached. I really loved the mix of photography and maps and would possibly like to develop their concepts & experiment with photography. There is a very clear thought process in this project & it has all been planned well to result in a final outcome that's successful. *Typography work*



→ 1st year / common entry

1st year consists of lectures & different studio modules. This is for people to find their unique discipline.

↳ Graphic design

The above graphic design / typography piece is all about British book design & the range of classical typefaces used. This was a display outside the screenprinting studio. It really stood out to me & inspired me to think about typography in relation to the subject of the brief. I really loved the hanging pieces of different images containing a range of different messages. I felt this piece was very interactive & engaging almost = transportation. I would like to look into this concept of layering in my work.

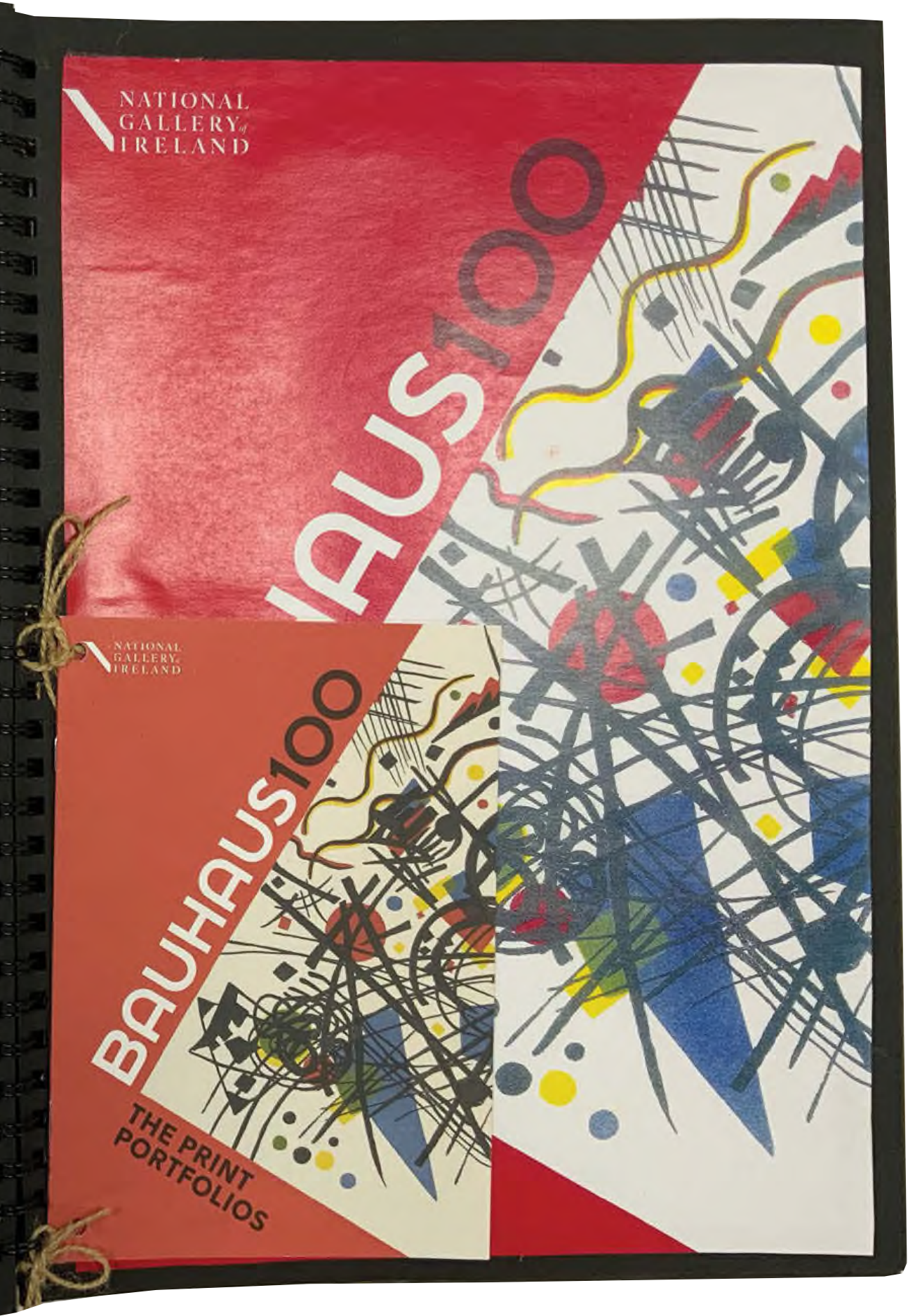
Art Trip

NATIONAL GALLERY of IRELAND

The National Gallery in Dublin has a range of different artists who have unique styles & influences. There was a photography exhibition, portraits, but mostly a range of different collections. This was a unique experience and gave me a lot to think about. There was a range of traditional paintings which were very impressive and on a massive scale. I found a range of different maps on display. These were old and very inky but they had a certain authenticity to them which I really loved. Additionally, there was a Bauhaus exhibition on but no photographs were allowed. Many of the pieces are displayed in the booklets. Kandinsky's work was amazing and I would love to use his style in my map and incorporate the shapes & patterns he uses. A lot of the Bauhaus pieces were line prints so I would like to experiment with this as well.



GALLERAI
NAISIUNTA
BEIRIANN
NATIONAL
GALLERY of
IRELAND



Art Trip

Phoebe Morgan and Beth Snelling

ENGLISH

Lockdown Diary

During lockdown pupils in junior school were asked to write a diary entry or letter to recount their experiences and thoughts. Here are a few extracts....

ARIANNE BELL

24th April 2020

Lockdown 2020 – like something straight out of a movie... a HORROR movie! This new disease, COVID-19, is spreading like wildfire, closing schools and businesses all around the world. It's wreaking havoc. Everyone's afraid.

Watching the news, it is clear that this virus can bring out both the best and the worst in people. The shelves in grocery stores are empty and the roads and streets are empty too! If you have to leave your home for essentials, you might not even see another soul and even if you do, unlike normal times when you would pass by on the street and say, "Hi, how's your day?", now you'll cross the street to get far enough away! I haven't had to worry about that, because since the 13th March 2020 the furthest I have been is my back garden.

I'm starting to forget what normal times without the virus were like and it's hard to get used to this new normal. I just want to leave my house and go remind myself what the world is like, but the closest I will get to that experience is peeping over the hedge in my back garden. As for not being able to go to school, I thought it would be great. I thought wrong! I swear, I will never, ever complain about having to go to school again.

Even in the midst of all the chaos, some good things have come out of this experience, like spending more time with family, having more time for my dog and more time to cook and bake. I've been baking lots during lockdown, from carrot cake to macaroons and everything in between. I have had water fights with my brother on the hot days and enjoyed a pretty dangerous waterslide. I've lost count of the times mum has panicked and yelled, "Careful, you don't want to end up in hospital!" I have also stayed up later than usual watching TV with my

mum, so I guess not everything about lockdown is that bad. We just need to remind ourselves that next time we feel claustrophobic about the whole thing.

CHARLIE BUTTERY

Dear Diary,

19th March – Freedom from my usual routine

So, as I write this, it looks like we might have to stay indoors for a while. I'm going to stay positive about this imminent governmental-enforced lockdown! How hard can it be staying inside for a few days? No more having to get up early, preparing my school books, putting on my school uniform, having a quick breakfast only to rush out of the house to catch the bus, enduring a school day, returning home, doing homework, going to an evening activity like BB and then only having a short amount of time for myself to relax afterwards! Whilst others are going to see this as imprisonment, I'm going to call this 'Charlie's time'.

27th March – Food! Glorious food!

So, lockdown was announced a few days ago! My family and I are now all at home. You might think that this would spell disaster, but for the moment things are going well, particularly mealtimes. My mum has bought lots of tinned food, baked beans, pasta, spaghetti hoops, soups. I'm not sure why? She then proceeds to say that this is a good opportunity for her to perfect her culinary skills. We have been eating all these new types of dishes and mum has also been downloading daily, a variety of Mary Berry recipes that she tries to replicate. I have to say they taste pretty good, although there are only so many scones and cupcakes that you can eat per day! I feel like I'm a Guinea pig having to sample everything, though quite a happy one I might add! Dad too has been working on his kitchen skills

with curries and casseroles – nothing bland about his cooking! The more herbs and spices the better!

29th March – Virtual Learning

During the day I'm following my school timetable and am pleased to say that it's going quite well. Completing schoolwork on my computer, while sitting in a comfortable chair instead of having to write endless notes at a school desk; this is the life!

2nd April – Strange times!

Another week of lockdown Did I say that I was going to look at this in as positive a manner as possible? What was I thinking? It's becoming quite boring now, not being able to see your friends or go outside and play team sports such as cricket that usually starts at this time of year. I had been so looking forward to being part of the Junior squad at Waringstown Cricket Club this year. The only person to leave the house is either my mum or dad to get some essential groceries. My mum puts on her gloves before leaving and when she returns everything must be disinfected with antibacterial spray. I find it strange to hear my parents talk about the shops being sold out of ordinary products that we would have taken for granted only a few weeks ago such as hand soaps, pasta and even toilet roll! I can understand my mum wanting to wear gloves in case she catches this virus that we are all shielding from, but wearing a mask just seems surreal. My parents don't wear one, but they talk about other customers charging along the aisles looking like surgeons.

9th April – Science-fiction

When I look outside and see no one wandering about, it reminds me of a scene from a science-fiction movie in which there has been a zombie invasion and there are only a few sole survivors left.

11th April – Frustrations!

Every day on the news, reporters are



constantly bombarding government representatives with questions about an exit strategy. Piers Morgan must be terrifying to have to face in an interview! People are beginning to get frustrated as now they begin to appreciate what only a few weeks ago we took for granted. For example, I haven't been able to visit my grandparents because of the restrictions that are currently in place, and I am sure that many elderly people are starting to feel very lonely and vulnerable, missing the contact from their family and friends.

20th April – In hindsight ...?

The luxury, as I thought, of doing my schoolwork at home is now not so much of a blessing. How could it be, when both of my parents are teachers? They are both up as usual and at their computers conducting their 'virtual' teaching while checking my work too! No escape! It is all becoming a little monotonous completing online learning because there is no opportunity to do practical work such as experiments or technology projects. So, dare I say that my initial happy thoughts are now perhaps turning to sadness as I now realise all the opportunities and experiences that I am missing out on. I know, however, that it's the same for everyone, and by staying at home we are all playing a part in saving lives. I think I'm going to appreciate everything a lot more when life gets back to normal! I might weigh considerably more too, if my mum's weekly baking regime continues

ELIANA BOWLES

A Quarantine Diary

Tuesday 25th February 2020: many people have had birthdays ruined before, but never quite like this; never before in my lifetime has a virus impacted the lives of the entire world with such devastating effects.

It all started on my birthday (which also just happened to be pancake day). I was in art class and had just been let out for break when we were stopped from entering the atrium by a caretaker. Some of us muttered 'Corona, corona!' and we looked at each other in a knowing way. The pupils who had been to northern Italy on a ski trip were isolated and sent home. This would be the beginning of the end of the world as we knew it for 8A.

Friday 28th February 2020: hand sanitiser was everywhere. Everyone had it. We didn't play hockey anymore on a Friday and dispensers were being attached to the walls all over school.

Wednesday 4th March 2020: toilet rolls are the new currency, it seems. The internet is filled with videos of people fighting over trollies full of toilet rolls and pasta. Hand sanitiser can no longer be found anywhere.

Monday 16th March 2020: today was our last day as 8A. We didn't know it at the time though. The first few cases of coronavirus in Northern Ireland were announced. If I had known that it was the end of our Year 8, I would have said goodbye to my friends and classmates.

Tuesday 17th March 2020: today is St. Patrick's day so we are off school but there was a notification on 'sims' that I was not expecting. I was practising for my H.E practical when my dad's phone beeped. The message said that Years 8 – 10 should work from home for the rest of the week. That was the best news ever, or so I thought.

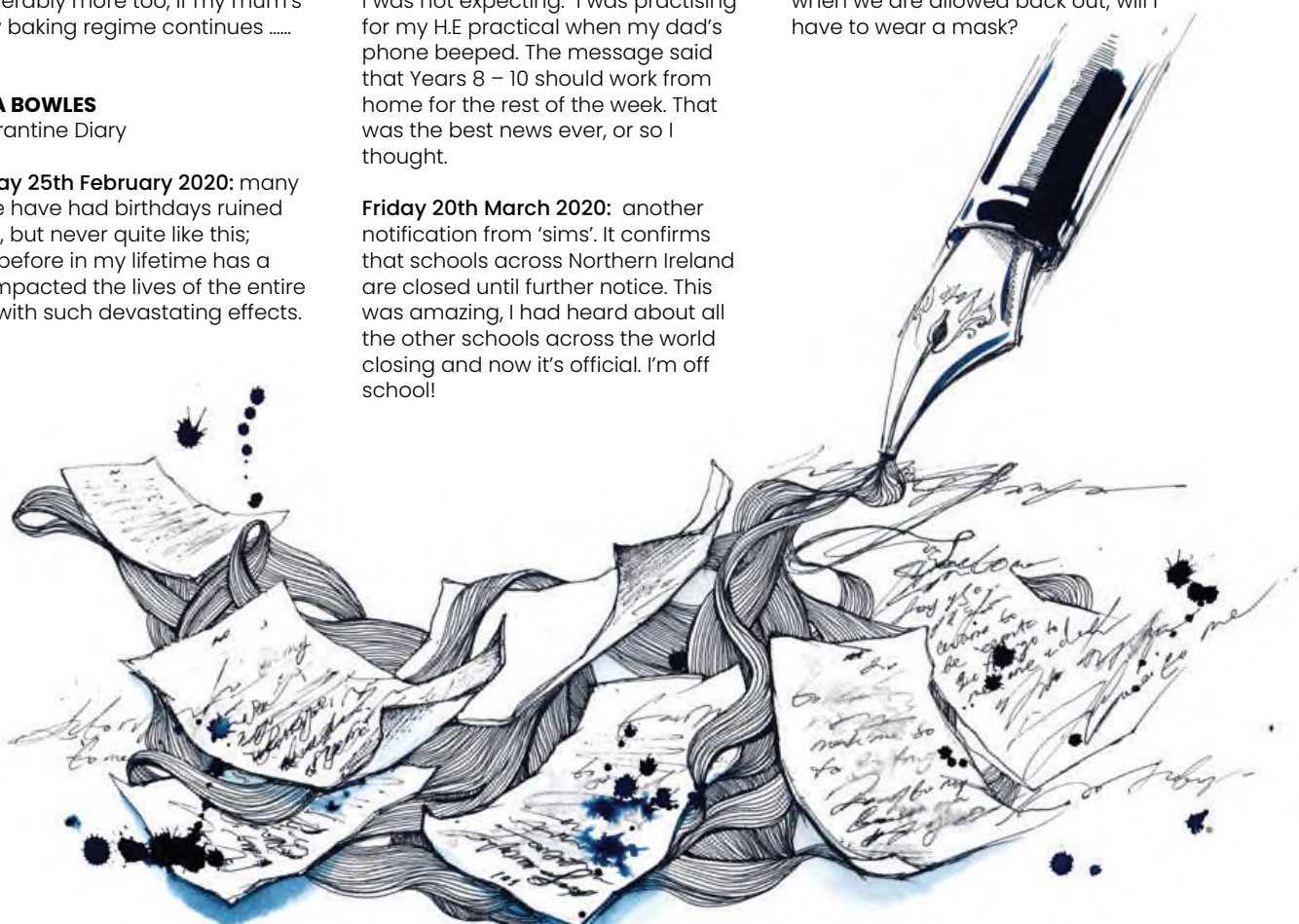
Friday 20th March 2020: another notification from 'sims'. It confirms that schools across Northern Ireland are closed until further notice. This was amazing, I had heard about all the other schools across the world closing and now it's official. I'm off school!

Monday 13th April 2020: it's a bit weird not having family members around for Easter, like we usually do, and not being able to see everyone is so strange. I can't see my friends either but at least I can talk to them through my Xbox. The Prime Minister, Mr Johnson, is still in hospital but is getting better.

Thursday 16th April 2020: the government have now brought in rules for 'social distancing'. Everyone must be at least 2 metres apart and queue to get into supermarkets. All the other shops are now closed, and people are losing their jobs. The news only seems to have stories about coronavirus or 'covid-19' as it is now called. It turns out that I am not 'off school' after all: I thought that I would have lots of time, but Google Classroom spoiled all my plans.

Sunday 26th April 2020: although there is nowhere to go, unless you want to get a fine, the weather is amazing. The sky is so clear and blue. There is a lot of talk about finding a cure for this horrible virus. The Prime Minister has returned to work now and everyone 'claps' for the NHS staff.

Thursday 30th April 2020: the government have not said anything yet about letting us begin to return to normality. We get updates every day about how many people have died: 800 one day, 600 the next. I am starting to wonder what life will be like when we are allowed back out; will I have to wear a mask?



ENGLISH

Lockdown Letters

Rachel Sands

20th April 2020

Dear My Future Family,
Whether you be my grandchildren or even just children, I think that you should learn about the worldwide disaster that I lived through as a girl, aged 14 to be precise. I will start off from the beginning; in December 2019, just around Christmas time, we heard lots of rumours on the news about this so-called virus that was going to strike the world and kill millions. Of course, we didn't believe it! We, like everyone else, thought that it was just fake news, as that was a big feature of 2019, so we just carried on with our normal lives. December turned into January and then January turned into February; by early February we still hadn't heard anything more so just assumed that it had been fake news.

But then, one normal day in late February, we got the dreaded news while we were sitting in English with Mrs Cartmill! The ski trip, which had just come back from Italy, were thought to have brought the virus with them and it was at this point that these real rumours of this 'World-Wide disaster' started hitting us. The teachers began firing Google Classroom codes at us so that we would be prepared for this so-called lockdown; we all of course did not actually think that we would need all these 'just in case things', but how very wrong we all were!

February suddenly turned into March and this so-called Lockdown started happening; the dreaded killing plague, now named Coronavirus, was spreading quickly and infecting and killing the vulnerable all across the world! Shortly after, all the old and vulnerable people were told to stay at home for 12 weeks until this killing machine had passed. Days rolled into weeks and the lockdown was gradually getting worse, killing the elderly, infecting the weak until we then received the dreaded (Aka. Brilliant) news that school was going to be off! We didn't know for how long, but of course we had to obey and got off school the week of St. Patrick's Day.

Around four weeks have now passed since then, so I will bring you up to speed with what is happening right now. I am currently sitting in my room typing up this letter to you all on our family laptop as I look out of the window at the luscious green grass of our farm. If I look far enough I can see our horses Alfie and Rio down in the far meadows munching grass; they stayed out last night as we are not able to ride them due to the risk of injuries which would result in us having to go to A+E. They do not want us at casualty as they are already full to capacity with Coronavirus patients.

As I sit here I think of my older relatives (my grandmothers in particular) who, usually busy with various activities, are sitting at home, still not allowed to go out so we have to bring them food and brave the outside world for them. If I think back to a few weeks ago, when lockdown wasn't so bad, I remember being able to sit in my granny's garden and chat to her (keeping our 2-metre distance of course!) through her kitchen door. Now, in this current day, we are not allowed to do this as the virus is at its highest point in weeks so we are not allowed to make direct contact with the vulnerable or elderly in case we give them the virus without knowing it, as it would surely kill them.

Our daily routines have changed dramatically over the past weeks; my mum and dad are working from home, I am completing online school assignments and my brother has very little to do as his GCSEs have been cancelled. As I sit here, I can hear the distant murmurs of my mum on her daily telecom with her workmates and my dad, typing away on his computer in our office. I am finding online school manageable, as yesterday I managed to complete all of my work before lunch and I was then able to go outside for my daily breath of fresh country air. When I go outside, I look up and see the blue crisp sky looking down at me with the sun glistening on my sun kissed brown face.

The weather has been glorious, which is a great bonus as if it was not we would not be able to go outside, and

my granny would not be able to sit out in her garden soaking up the sun and admiring the flowers. We do not know how long this is going to go on for, but we all hope that the weather will stay nice as it just makes living in isolation slightly easier. Personally, I think my family and I are having quite a nice lockdown as we are gaining many things from it. We are definitely going outside more, gaining nice sun tans and eating more fruit and veg.

Skills that I am developing from this lockdown include gardening, as we have numerous pots of different produce growing and germinating in our sunny porch at the front of our house, and I'm also developing my baking skills. I can already cook and bake but I am developing these skills further by trying to make a new recipe each week; this is pleasing my granny as when I bake cakes or buns we leave her up a slice (making sure to thoroughly sterilise it first!) and I get a phone call from her telling me how nice it was and asking for some more!

Another skill that I am developing is farming. I have tagged new-born calves, assisted in the calving of a cow and have helped move numerous herds of cows down our busy country road. I think that after this lockdown I will be much fitter, as I have also been doing some daily workouts with Joe Wicks (a key influencer to all ages in this time of lockdown!) and feeling rejuvenated and refreshed when I finish them. I am also walking and cycling much more, usually down to feed my horses in the mornings and evenings who, as I mentioned earlier in the letter, are staying out during the night as we are unable to ride them.

The person in my family who is benefitting most is our dog Henry, he, at this time of lockdown, is 8 months old on the dot. Usually, we would all be away to school and work during the day and he would be at home closed inside feeling sad and lonely as we would not be here to entertain him. Due to this lockdown, he is benefitting a lot as not only is he getting more attention and walks, but I would also say that he is getting more food as when we are cooking



he always crouches down on the floor and gives us his cute puppy eyes. Obviously, he is a bright dog as he has realised that if he does these actions then he will get some of whatever we are making!

Now that I have told you so much about what is happening in the world around us and about what my family and friends are doing, I think that I should tell you a bit more about my own experience and what I am doing to pass these long and laborious days at home. Well, as we are all off school it still means that we have to continue our educations from the comfort of our own homes or even, if I really felt like it, I might do my schoolwork lying on my bed! I'll tell you about how we are actually 'Learning from home', well when you are reading this the resources that we used to educate ourselves from home may not exist so bear with me and I will try to explain them to you!

For the majority of my schoolwork, my teachers set us work on Google Classroom which is basically a classroom online! Some of the work is completed and handed in online but most of it is work to do in booklets that we were given out as a 'just in case' before we got off. As I mentioned earlier, the teachers were really prepared for this so called 'school closure', so I am really glad that we were all reluctantly given these booklets and google classroom codes as we, the pupils, really did not in a million years ever think that we would be getting home schooled by our parents for weeks even months!

My experience with this 'online learning' is going quite well so far! I am finding that (on most days!) I can get all my work for the day done by lunch which is great because then I can go outside in the afternoon and enjoy the nice weather. There are some annoying things about this online school though, firstly on the busiest days there is so much work that I am not finished until like 4pm!! I definitely think that the teachers think that because we are off then this means that we will get about 10 times the work done, no, this is not true!

Another let down of online school is that dreaded feeling when you finish early and suddenly a notification pops up on your phone screen telling you that the teacher that you thought had forgotten to set you work actually did and you are going to have to spend the next hour trying to do it as, you just have that feeling in your bones, that you are going to wake up in the morning with ten Google Classroom notifications telling you that same teacher has posted you about 100 times the normal work than if we had been in school. OH NO!!

As I sit here, I realise that I am living through history and that hopefully no one in the future will ever have to experience the events that I am living through daily. Personally, I feel like this lockdown is bringing not just my family but the whole world closer together. This afternoon I am going to paint a rainbow, it will represent all the key workers who are working their socks off to keep us healthy and safe. At this time, the rainbow is a message of hope and strength as it represents how we as a nation are going to get through this virus together no matter how long it goes on for! At this time, we do not know when the lockdown will be lifted, and we will be let out to continue our own individual lives and to leave our marks on the world in our own ways.

This is the point when I am going to finish my letter of both hope and sorrow that I have written to inform you of the terrible time that I lived through growing up. I hope that there will be no more pandemics like this one and that this lockdown will not go on for very much longer, as I am missing all my friends and my wider family! I hope that you will take a message of hope out of my letter that we can do anything if we come together or in this case stay apart!

ADAM EWART

LETTER TO MY FUTURE SELF

Dear Adam

Hello Adam, this is Adam from 2020. It is currently Monday 20

April 2020. Unfortunately, the world is going through a pandemic called Coronavirus or Covid – 19 to give it the scientific name. This deadly virus has infected over 2 million people globally and the world is in "lockdown", we are only able to leave our homes for essential purposes, for example, to travel to and from work, to purchase food and for one period of daily exercise. It certainly is exceptional times and never in my lifetime or that of my parents', has anything like this been experienced.

Everyday, we receive schoolwork electronically so that we do not fall behind with our studies. We get the work through a website / app called Google Classroom. The work for completion gets uploaded daily by teaching staff and we then access this by using our own personal login and identify which work is to be completed and the timescale for when it is due. It is important to follow our current timetable for school to give structure to the day and help with continued learning.

During this Pandemic it is also very important to keep fit and healthy, both physically and emotionally. I try to do as much exercise as possible. Some days I will go outside for a run around my house or for a ride on my bike. I am very fortunate as I live in the country and have plenty of space for outdoor activities, such as, running, cycling and general fitness. The weather has been very pleasant with lots of sunshine and minimal rain. If the weather should change and I am no longer able to go outside I have a treadmill, which is a type of indoor running machine and a rowing machine for indoor use, both will help maintain my fitness.

It has been hard to balance keeping fit and healthy as well as keeping up to date with all my schoolwork. I usually do lots of extra-curricular activities and I am missing these a lot, especially the social interaction with my friends. I try to do my schoolwork in the morning time, take a break mid-morning and then again for lunch, then start back for a while after lunch until mid-afternoon. This helps me to keep the structure of the school

ENGLISH

Lockdown Poetry

day as much as possible and remain focused when I need to be.

This is the most time my family and I have spent all together for as long as I can remember. Mum and Dad continue to work from home as well, as does my younger sister. Occasionally Mum has to go into work, so for my parents I think it is difficult for them as they try to assist with education, continue to work, look after my sister and do all the normal household jobs and feed us all! There are benefits to being together and I am really glad that so far we have kept safe and generally well but it is hard not being able to see my Nannie and Granny who are both elderly and sick, therefore it is important we have no contact with them during the lockdown phase.

Currently the Government are working to try and get a vaccination to prevent people in the future from getting Covid-19 or if they do that the effects of the disease will be less serious and complicated, reducing the number of fatalities. I hope that this work is successful so you can now look back on the important work and developments that have taken place and your future is free from experiencing a reoccurrence of this pandemic.

Poems

ADAM MATTHEWS

Coronavirus Culprit

He mutates, a collection of particles screeching to life,
 Destroying his host, searching out another...
 Reaping rewards through another's misfortune.
 The trafficked Pangolins tossed aside like wrapping paper.
 A robber in Wuhan market, he breaks into the respiration system of anyone he touches.
 He moves like The Black Death— a silent serial killer.
 He is inhumane, insane and has an insatiable appetite.

He reels you in on his invisible fishing line;
 you can't apprehend him for his fiendish actions.
 He drifts on the night air, poaching his nearest prey.
 He strangles people from the inside; stretching their lungs out across the globe.
 Panic, fear, mass hysteria makes him hungrier.
 He feeds off emotions, a tormentor; news spreads of his arrival, a modern megastar, sensationalising his every move.
 Hide, isolate— he does not discriminate.
 Can he be suffocated?
 Will he escape?
 If only he could be contained, like the mammal that he initially maimed.

MADDY URWIN

Trapped inside a Bubble!

Twenty-twenty has really gone so wrong,
 Stuck inside our homes from March until May,
 Everyone tries their hardest to stay strong
 But watches Netflix all day every day.
 All of these issues, a virus to blame,
 Quarantine ended, but still no good luck.
 We can see our friends, but it's not the same,
 Six feet away, I feel completely stuck.
 Back at school we have even more trouble,
 Wearing a mask is required outside class,
 Also being trapped inside a bubble.
 I wish this year could be cancelled or pass!
 We can stop this under one condition,
 We must listen to the guidelines given.

RHEA TURKINGTON

Shall I compare thee to a Prison Chief?

Shall I compare thee to a prison chief?
 Keeping us locked up in our tiny cell.
 Can't believe it, we're still in disbelief,

Could this be heaven or a form of hell?

Not able to do anything all day,
 There are no fun activities to do.
 Lots of rules, unable to have a say.
 First, we were told it's nothing like the flu,
 Then we were told it wouldn't spread to here,
 Now wearing masks to cover our faces.
 We are all wishing it would disappear,
 So we can start going back to places.
 Please just let us out of this silly 'game',
 Even though the future can't be the same.

CAITLIN MCBRIDE

The Candle

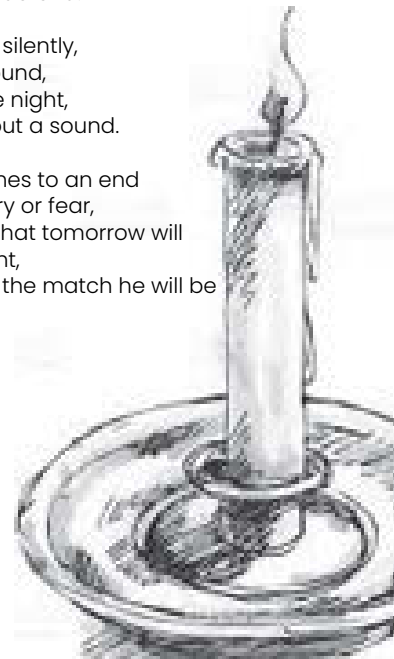
The candle flickers gracefully in the dark,
 Leading the way through the night.
 He imagines the people he has guided,
 Helping them as their light.

"Do they miss me now?
 Not there to save them,
 Not knowing if their destination is in sight.
 Or do they miss me as their own little gem
 Guiding them through the night?"

He looks all around him
 In hope of a friend
 To send on their way,
 To protect and defend.

He whispers so silently,
 To all those around,
 Like a spy in the night,
 He doesn't let out a sound.

As his time comes to an end
 He doesn't worry or fear,
 With the hope that tomorrow will bring a new light,
 With a swish of the match he will be near!



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GEOGRAPHY

Year 9: Murlough Bay Trip



Ina Merjava, Hana Merjava and Lilia McKinney (10E)

We were so excited when we heard the news from our Geography teacher that we were going to have an outdoor class at Murlough Beach near Newcastle. This is one of the most beautiful beaches in Northern Ireland; it is a part of the Mourne Mountains' Area of Outstanding Beauty and is protected by the National Trust.

In Geography class we learned about how waves are shaping and modifying the coastline in a natural way. Erosion, deposition and transportation are all a part of what we call 'coastal processes'.

After we arrived at the beach, we got assigned to one of three supervising teachers, who were there to guide and help us if necessary. Then we formed groups of four to work closely together as individual teams. Each group was given the same three tasks. Firstly, to compare the sizes of pebbles from the front and back of the beach. Secondly, using a floating object (wooden stick) to measure the strength and direction of longshore drift. Thirdly, we counted how many waves crashed up against the shore in three minutes.

Each group ran around the beach frantically trying to get the results first, so we could win the special prize. After careful measurements of the pebbles, we were able to confirm that the difference in their sizes depended on their location on the beach. We also realised that our floating objects travelled much further than we expected. Counting the waves was good fun as we jumped over every one of them as we counted, making the whole process more exciting. After collecting the results, we really enjoyed our sandwiches (despite getting a bit of sand in them!)

Overall, we think this was a great experience for all pupils and we would encourage everyone to take part.





GEOGRAPHY

Year 13 Trip to Magilligan

Alex Gardiner

Within a month of starting AS Geography both classes trekked to Magilligan, to complete the field work for our Unit 3 exam, accompanied by our amazing Geography teachers: Mrs Dreading, Mr Nash and Mrs Clarke.



The aim of our residential to Magilligan was to collect relevant data about sand dune succession, as this was the topic for our AS fieldwork. Upon arrival we discussed our agenda, collected our equipment, were presented with our orange and blue overalls and squeezed into the mini bus that transported us to our sand dune destination. At the trough and crest of every site, we measured the sand PH, the number of different plant species, the gradient of the dune and the light intensity. This was a thrilling experience, for Emily Bain in particular as she was often caught throwing herself down the sand dunes – but are we really surprised there at all?

We stayed at the Magilligan Field Centre in Limavady for one night and while it may have looked like a prison on the outside, looks really are deceiving as many great memories were made inside. We were assigned spacious rooms with bunk beds that slept around 6 and we quickly realised that there was also a communal bathroom, which was well.... not great... but we persevered nevertheless! There was a communal gathering room downstairs where we had meetings and met with those in charge of our field trip experience. It also contained a pool table and ping pong table for us to use during recreational time and tensions really did rise to an all-time high in this room during the fabulous quiz that Mr Nash kindly made for us. There was singing and dancing and of course Mrs Dreading took centre stage, proving to be the life of the party (not really surprising considering her fun approach to all things-learning included!)

The Magilligan field centre (while it may not have been 5 star luxury) really catered for all of our needs, supplying us with dinner and breakfast, a bed to sleep in, a bus to access the sand dunes and gorgeous overalls and wellies to wear during our field trip excursion. These garments really were to die for and I personally believe that I have never looked better!

There were mobiles on site at the centre, where we did actually have to do work in (I know it's ridiculous) but due to the fabulous teaching of Mrs Dreading and lots of sweets and energy drinks, we worked for 3 hours straight and time really did fly by. I think I can speak for us all when I say I never want to hear about Spearman's Rank ever again!

All in all, a massive thank you to the staff at Magilligan, but in particular Mrs Dreading, Mr Nash, Mrs Clarke and Mrs Curran for really helping us through not only our field trip, but AS Geography.

Overall the trip to Magilligan was very useful and insightful. It was interesting to see first-hand what we had been studying in class and it really improved our understanding of our field work, as well as allowing us to escape from the classroom!

Geography Trip to the Bay of Naples

“See Naples and Die”

Lucy Poole

On the morning of October 26th we, a group of almost 30 students, gathered together at the school gates. I suppose it might be more accurate to say that we were huddled in groups to combat the cold, biting breeze of the mid-autumn morning. There was a kind of anticipation in the air however, as it was not lost on us that by the evening, we would be basking in the generous warmth of the Mediterranean climate that embraces Southern Italy, abandoning (if only for a little while) the indifferent chill of Northern Irish weather. Had they not seen the suitcases and the backpacks, the uninformed passer-by would undoubtedly have been thrown into confusion over the combinations of shorts with fleece jackets and large hoodies.

Nevertheless, when the coach pulled up to the gates, the excitement that had been brewing in the air suddenly intensified. The high spirits of the coach passengers en route to Dublin Airport were maintained by their good-humoured guardians, Mr Nash and Mrs Dreading, who managed to expertly quell any apprehension that they must inevitably have felt upon seeing the unrestrained energy of the Year 12-14 pupils that had been entrusted to them for the next five days. They truly are to be commended for the ease with which they were able to keep a grip on their sanity, especially Mr Nash, who had only joined the Geography Department the previous year. The day's travelling flew by without the usual dread and stress of airport security and other such painful aspects of air travel. In fact, Dublin Airport seemed only to function as a portal to the Mediterranean paradise of Napoli.

By the time we landed in Italy, the black velvet typical of European evenings had already enveloped the Bay of Naples. The heat of the day still hung in the air, as if it had waited until this late hour just for us. The drive to Sorrento (where our home-away-from-home awaited) was incredibly scenic, despite the darkness of the night, as the streetlamps threw a warm glow across the marinas.

However, the serenity of this image was now and then interrupted by



the screech of brakes or the yell of car horns as the night-time traffic attempted to navigate the narrow roads of the suburbs. I would periodically glance out of the window of the coach and find myself looking over a small stone wall and into the obsidian abyss of the sea that seemed a mile below us.

The hotel itself, could not have been a more welcoming establishment. Family owned and managed, it was the clearest prefiguration of the hospitality and over all geniality of the Italian people. The sunrise that woke us the following morning was of the

kind that I fear I'll never see again in my lifetime. The fragrant air flowed into our room with the watery light of the sun, waking us for breakfast. Our first attraction that morning was to be the city of Pompeii that had been preserved by the ash that settled upon it after the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79AD. It was a surreal experience to see a city with streets not unlike our own and aspects of modern living that existed even then.

One of my favourites was a building that had furniture painted on the walls to make it look decadent; vases of flowers or writing desks and

bookshelves. The completeness of the city is unlike anything many of us had ever seen before, so it was fascinating to be immersed in an ancient culture to such an extent. This phenomenon also led to the preservation of the city's unfortunate residents, which was a poignant reminder of the tragedy that occurred. Even trivial everyday items were in excellent condition, such as a loaf of bread that had been encased in ash for several centuries.

The previous night, we had scoured the horizon for a silhouette that might have been Mount Vesuvius, the volcano we set out to climb that morning, after visiting the city of Pompeii. Much to my intense relief, the coach drove us up a significant portion of the volcano to a kind of base, where we would continue on foot to the top. I wasn't altogether keen on the idea after noticing the incline of the path, but the joviality of my travelling companions diluted my self-doubt. Already, the view of the civilisation below us was stunning. The heat from the sun was strong, but the high altitude made the air stiff and cold, making the conditions next to perfect for walking in. The sheer size of the volcano was made apparent, dwarfing the man-made world below us to the point that the haze of the sky blurred the buildings and made the sea resemble foil.

By the time evening came we were ready to eat, and what we were offered by the generous hotel staff, was more than simply sustenance. They dealt out plates of seconds (which were eagerly accepted) unhesitatingly, to the point that we were unable to move. We went into the centre of Sorrento, as we did every evening that we were there. Upon first inspection, the town was quiet and subdued, but when we were left to our own devices we ventured into its heart and found that reality was quite different. The restaurants, shops and cafes had plenty of customers and many of the fresco diners who waved, smiled or spoke to us, which we found strange at first, but we realised that they were just happy to see us enjoying their culture and the beautiful area that they call their home.

On the third day, we travelled further afield, following the coastline from Sorrento to the Amalfi Coast. We passed through many areas where the villages and towns appeared to have been created such that the buildings looked as though they were cascading from the tips of the green hills down to the bays and miniature harbours. Arriving in Amalfi, this



illusion was particularly noticeable. Many of us elected to buy pizza and other acclaimed Italian specialities such as gelato and sorbet, all of which surpassed expectations. The sky remained unblemished and the midday sun was difficult to avoid. After having eaten (more than) our fill once again, the coach journey to La Sorgente Farm was a much-appreciated rest. Located in the outskirts of Sorrento and family-owned, La Sorgente Farm makes cheese, primarily Mozzarella. Maria, the charming lady who specialises in making this iconic Italian cheese on the farm, demonstrated the process. We were also offered some of the other organic products of the farm, such as the oils (made from their own olives), honey, tomatoes and fresh bread. Though small, La Sorgente Farm is beautifully reminiscent of an era before mechanisation in agriculture and excessive fertilisers, where the inhabitants work alongside their surroundings, rather than against them.

Perhaps to counter the excessive consumption of the rich Italian cuisine we had encountered so far, the next day included an inordinate amount of walking or to be more specific: steps. Lots of steps. Approximately 600 of them. Before this feat of strength that could arguably have been the thirteenth Herculean Labour, we took a pleasant boat trip around the island of Capri, which is a spot frequented by the rich and famous, whose grandiose villas can be seen perched on the island and whose yachts are docked in Marina Grande. This tour included a visit to the Blue Grotto, a sea cave on the coast of Capri. We clambered into small rowing boats, captained by merry Italian guides, who randomly burst into song as they rowed through the frightfully small entrance of the cave. It was perhaps no more than one metre by one metre and was continually submerged by the waves, which meant timing was crucial and we would have to lie flat in the tiny boat. Having successfully passed through the entrance without

being decapitated, the sight of the illuminated cavern entranced us completely. Essentially, the sunlight passes through the underwater cavity and shines through the seawater, creating an iridescent, sapphire blue reflection.

As I said earlier, Capri has a lot of steps. I am just thankful that the organisers of this trip omitted the famous Phoenician Steps of which there are over 900 (the saying, "see Naples and die took on a more literal meaning for me). Despite this, the view from Anacapri was worth the trek. This area of the island has a great abundance of designer shops and expensive cafes which is no doubt a direct consequence of the island's wealthy holiday makers. Our last day in Italy arrived quickly, much to our collective dismay. We finished with some more modern tourist activities, such as the MAV Museum which featured an admittedly eerie reconstruction of the eruption of Vesuvius and its impact. The abundant sunshine certainly wasn't being taken for granted, as we were aware that by the close of the day we'd be back in Northern Ireland. However, we were given the opportunity to hunt for souvenirs at a massive shopping centre in Campania. The blend between modern, metropolitan living and the ancient ruins was strange at first, but it quickly became evident that the Italian people were proud to be able to see their history, rather than just read about it.

The saying "See Naples and Die" is of unknown origin and authorship, but it has been used for centuries to denote the panoramic beauty and charm of Napoli. Having seen it for myself, I can confirm that it is no exaggeration to say that it is paradise.

I'd really like to thank Mr Nash and Mrs Dreading for the time and effort they devoted to this trip that has awarded me incredible memories that I will always keep with me! (Not to mention some amazing photographs that were too good not to frame!)



GEOGRAPHY

Naples Trip

Kelly Gley and Sophie MacFarlane

It was October 2019, the good 'pre-corona times', when our budding geographers took off to sunny Naples, Italy. After a long day of travelling and a couple of iced lattes, we eventually arrived in Sorrento and settled in our hotel surrounded by the iconic lemon trees of the region.



The following day we travelled to the city that stood still, Pompeii, and explored its history, from prehistoric grains to local takeaways. After our guided tour we then embarked on our long journey up Mount Vesuvius, the great composite volcano that caused the disaster of Pompeii in 69 AD. It is now lying dormant but fairly soon it could awaken, as shown from the steam we witnessed after our gruelling climb, to wreak devastation once again.

Although nothing else was as exciting as walking up a colossal volcano and having our legs turned to jelly from sheer tiredness, we still managed to have an amazing experience during our four day stay. We visited the Amalfi Coast, where we swam on the beautiful coastline with the little fish and demolished 5 pizzas in 8 minutes (as you do when in Rome!) We sailed along the idyllic Island of Capri and witnessed one of nature's natural wonders, the astonishing Blue Grotto.

At night, we also really enjoyed time with friends exploring Sorrento and interacting with locals and of course we can't possibly forget their unrivalled gelato ice-cream. In our unbiased opinion, this has to be one of the best trips the school has to offer and is just another example of why picking Geography is the best choice that you could ever make!



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HISTORY

Open Night





HOME ECONOMICS

Creative Christmas Cake Competition

Such was the success of last year's entries that the Home Economics department ran another in-house competition. We were not really expecting this year's entries to match the amazing standard of last year's, but we were truly amazed once again by the exceptionally high level of skills on display.

I think we can all agree that there really are some extremely talented and accomplished cake makers in Banbridge Academy.

Congratulations to all of the wonderful bakers who produced spectacular Christmas cakes. The judges had a very difficult, but most enjoyable job!

Prizes were kindly donated by Blend and Batch and Banbridge Academy Association.

1st - Ellie Lindsay 12 | **2nd** - Daniel Thompson 9H | **3rd** - Amelie Knott 9D

Commended - Evie Ward 10H, Grace Willis 10F and Megan Williams 10H



HOME ECONOMICS

Northern Ireland Future Chef Finalist: Olivia Miskimmons

Springboard's Future Chef is a nationwide culinary initiative which is delivered in over 600 schools nationwide. The main goal of Future Chef is to assist young people aged 12-16 to learn the vital life skills of cooking and nutrition, as well as providing invaluable insight and inspiration into building a career within the hospitality industry. The Future Chef Competition challenges students to cook under pressure and develop practical skills through timed cook-offs in school heats, local and regional finals.

Olivia Miskimmons in Year 12 very competently represented Banbridge Academy at the local finals held in Newry Southern Regional Finals. She did an amazing job producing, 'Stuffed Chicken with Creamy Corn Puree and Seasonal Vegetables along with Baked Lime Cheesecake with Fresh Raspberry Couli and Chantilly Cream'. Olivia then went on to the Northern Ireland Finals held in Belfast MET, where she again coped admirably in a full-scale professional catering kitchen, with a viewing gallery just to add to the pressure.

Although Olivia did not win on the day, she is a winner in the eyes of Banbridge Academy as she has displayed great determination, hard work and huge dedication throughout her time at the Academy. This is evident in her wonderful accomplishments and great success having secured the titles of 'Tesco Chef of the Year' and 'Dairy Council Young Chef of the Year' in previous years.

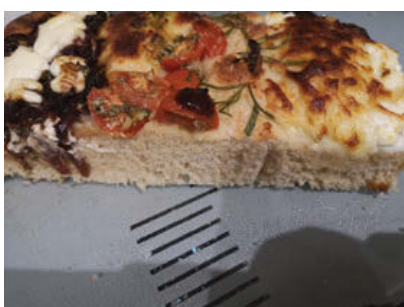




HOME ECONOMICS

Year 11 Skills Masterclass

Miss Jess ran a Cooking Skills Masterclass programme with Y11 GCSE Food and Nutrition students, where pupils were able to enhance their own skills and learn how to make pasta, bread, gnocchi, mousse, sauces and prepare a range of different ingredients including mango and pineapple. The pupils enjoyed learning about the process of making these dishes and explored various ways of adapting the recipes and how to present them most effectively.



LMC Demo



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.

ABP Youth Challenge



Three GCSE pupils, Alistair Sands, Samara Radcliffe and Melissa Neville took part in the ABP Youth Challenge and have got through to the semi-final, which is to be held later this year. Pupils are trying to win 5 Aberdeen Angus calves to rear and then sell back to ABP after 18 months. If successful, pupils will have the chance to gain industry knowledge and be guided through the process by professionals, learning valuable transferable skills through this opportunity.

HOME ECONOMICS

Lockdown Chefs

During the period of lockdown many of our Home Economics students were busy in the kitchen, producing dishes of a very high standard from their school recipe books. Some adapted recipes and managed to present their food to a professional standard. The teachers in the Home Economics department were extremely impressed and even a little hungry when the pictures were posted on Google Classroom.



Moy Park Challenge

Lewis Gordon, 8C, was runner-up in the Moy Park Challenge competition that ran during lockdown. Lewis had the innovative idea of chicken fries and designed an amazing poster to showcase the product. Lewis received a £15 prize for this novel idea!



MUSIC DEPARTMENT

An outstanding achievement for Eve Elliott, a Year 14 student who was selected for the National Youth Choir of Northern Ireland and the Ulster Youth Chamber Choir!



Carol Service 2019



PSYCHOLOGY

Major success for Psychology pupils as they win the two top prizes at the British Psychological Society's A Level Conference.

Three teams of eager pupils set off to present their research projects at the 6th Annual Psychology A Level Conference at Stranmillis University College on Wednesday 27th November 2019.

This event is supported by Queen's University, Ulster University and the Open University, who provide a panel of judges who preside over the presentations from teams from a range of schools across Northern Ireland. This year the competition was of the highest standard with fourteen teams competing from schools including Antrim Grammar, Breda Academy, Bloomfield Collegiate, Dromore High School, Aquinas Diocesan College and Omagh Academy.

It was also especially significant as David Murphy FBPSS, FRSA, the President of the British Psychological Society was in attendance as the key note speaker, addressing the value of a degree in Psychology and career pathways in professional psychology. His presentation was both humble and encouraging, as he shared with the pupils stories from embarrassing school reports to interesting details about his journey as a registered Clinical Psychologist, Health Psychologist and member of the Specialist Register of Clinical Neuropsychologists, working in the NHS for over 30 years, mainly helping patients and their families to cope with serious injury and chronic medical conditions.

He has also been Head of Psychology Services at Imperial College Healthcare in London for many years and concurrently Honorary Senior Lecturer and lead for psychology teaching at Imperial College Medical School. In 2001, he was seconded to the Commission for Health Improvement to help develop the national programme of governance

inspections. In 2013, David became Joint Director of the Oxford Institute of Clinical Psychology Training and fellow of Harris Manchester College, University of Oxford. Since leaving Oxford in mid-2018, David has been focusing primarily on leadership research based at the University of Edinburgh Centre for Strategic Leadership, where he is leading a large-scale longitudinal research study into leadership development in NHS clinicians. Consequently, it was very encouraging that he was so impressed with our pupils' work and tweeted after the prize giving.



Despite extremely tough competition from numerous teams across Northern Ireland, Lauren Graham, Emma Harrison and Alice Gordon won first place at A Level for their research entitled 'Are all extroverts risk takers' and Maeve Hackett, Amy Stevenson, Lauren Tucker, Natasha Kerr and Katie Purdy won first place at AS level for their research 'Do you see what I see: The effect of age and leading questions on eyewitness testimony'. Elise Smyth, Alana Stafford, Jessica Kidd, Lara Kirkwood and Olivia Napier also received certificates for their presentation on 'Gendered views on mental health'.

It is also notable that Lauren Graham and Emma Harrison also won the AS competition last year and went on to present their research to the professional body of Psychologists

at the Annual NIBPS Conference in March 2019. This year's AS and A level winners were being invited to speak at this prestigious event again in 2020, but it was cancelled due to the pandemic.



The pupils' research extracts

Are all Extroverts risk-takers?

Lauren Graham, Emma Harrison and Alice Gordon (A Level)

Our research is inspired by Eysenck's theory that suggests Extroverts, outgoing, sociable and energetic people, have an underactive nervous system and so are more likely to take risks. We aimed to investigate whether or not your scores on Eysenck's Personality Questionnaire in relation to extraversion, will be related to your likeliness to take risks as measured by a personality questionnaire assessing sensation-seeking behaviour (which assesses their willingness and likelihood to take risks). We hypothesised that there is a positive correlation between the extraversion score (EPQ) and sensation seeking scores.

A volunteer sample of 30 participants completed the questionnaires



PSYCHOLOGY CONTINUED

and a correlational analysis found a moderate, positive correlation between the participants' extroversion score and their sensation seeking scores. A Spearman's Rho test indicated a statistically significant result with a rho value of 0.48 exceeding the critical value of 0.36 at both the 0.05 and 0.01 level, permitting us to accept our hypothesis and reject our null. We also found that the extroversion score had the highest correlation with the sensation seeking scores than those for neuroticism and psychoticism with rho values of -0.20 for neuroticism (a weak negative correlation) and 0.29 for psychoticism (a weak positive correlation), neither of which were statistically significant. Therefore, we are able to accept our directional hypothesis that there is a statistically significant positive correlation between extroversion score and sensation-seeking score.

How Gender Stereotypes Influence Opinions About Ideal Mental Health

Jessica Kidd, Lara Kirkwood, Olivia Napier, Elise Smyth and Alanna Stafford (AS)

We chose to partially replicate a study by Broverman conducted in 1979 to see how sex-role stereotypes and self-concepts impacted clinicians and their diagnostic and treatment practices. Broverman hypothesized that clinical judgements about the characteristics of healthy individuals would differ due to the sex of the person judged, and that these differences would mirror stereotypical sex-role differences. Broverman's results indicated that participants believed that a healthy adult and a healthy male shared virtually all the same characteristics. A healthy female, however, was thought to possess different qualities. The adults and males were said to share a "competence cluster" of traits such as confidence and independence, while women had a "warmth-expressiveness cluster" that described kindness and concern for others. This put women in a situation where, if they demonstrated those traits considered healthy for a woman, they were simultaneously classified as an unhealthy, psychologically immature adult.

Our aim was to find out if gender stereotypes still influence people's views towards ideal mental health, and if so, have these stereotypes

changed since the original experiment in 1970.

Hypothesis: Ideal mental health in men will be described with the same words as ideal mental health in women and ideal mental health in a person of unspecified sex, indicating a change in gender stereotypes.

Method: We created a single-page closed questions questionnaire that listed just over 15 characteristics; each person was asked to tick the words listed on the page which they believed fit the description of ideal mental health for the specified gender at the top of the page. Participants were able to tick as many or as few words as they pleased and were to remain anonymous in our study.

From our questionnaire results, we concluded that ideal mental health in men is somewhat described with the same words as ideal mental health in women and ideal mental health in a person of unspecified sex. However, it would be incorrect to say that mentally healthy men are described in the exact way that mentally healthy women or people are. Whilst our results highlighted that general patterns in traits were common across all categories, more precise figures show that the traits in each category do differ quite a bit. Much like Broverman's results, women are still described with a "warmth-expressiveness cluster" of words more often than men, however the "competence cluster" of traits, that were once used more for mentally healthy men, is now used to describe both men and women in almost equal amounts. In conclusion, whilst ideal mental health may not be seen as identical between men, women and unspecified individuals, it is clear that stereotypes have certainly changed significantly since the original experiment almost 50 years ago.

The influence of age on leading questions and the accuracy of eyewitness testimony

Natasha Kerr, Katie Purdy, Lauren Tucker, Maeve Hackett and Amy Stevenson.

For our AS psychology research project, we decided to test the effect that age has on leading questions and the accuracy of eyewitness

testimony. Our study is based on Loftus and Palmer (1974) who found evidence supporting the idea that eyewitness testimony can be unreliable and influenced by leading questions. However, for our study, we wanted to determine whether age influences the effect of leading questions in eyewitness testimony. Goodman and Reed (1986) showed that recall of younger children was less detailed. Saywitz (1987) showed that younger children tended to embellish their recall. Our aim was to see whether age affects your response to leading questions while giving an eyewitness testimony. Hypothesis: Younger people (11-12) are more likely to be influenced by leading questions and recall less than slightly older people (15-17).

Method: We used opportunity sampling to select classes where the confederate would walk in and ask the class a question before leaving the room, we would then distribute the questionnaire on appearance of the confederate, that included a leading question. We gave them the right to withdraw and gave a full debrief. We then left the classroom and repeated the experiment with other year groups.

Findings and conclusion: After the questionnaires were collected, we analysed our results and looked at how many pupils conformed to the leading question in both year groups. We found that 43.5% of the younger pupils conformed to the first question, while only 33.3% of the older pupils did. In the second leading question, 54.3% of the younger pupils conformed and 27.3% of the older pupils did. The accuracy of their recall was also analysed and 6.5% of the younger pupil were accurate in their description and 57.6% of the older pupils were accurate.

In conclusion, we found that younger pupils are more likely to conform to leading questions than older pupils. A significant number of older pupils are more accurate in their description than the younger pupils as supported by Goodman and Reed. We also found that younger pupils tend to embellish their results, which supports Saywitz's experiment. Our findings of the younger children support what Loftus and Palmer found, that eyewitness testimony is unreliable and can be influenced by leading questions.



Trevor McBurney & Co.

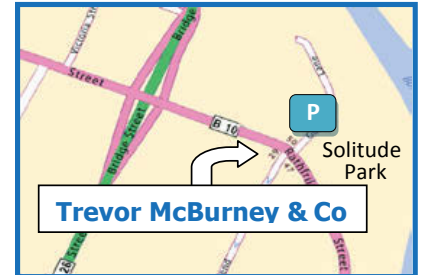
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P.E.

Dodging a Ball for Charity

This year's A2 P.E class organised a Dodge Ball competition in support of local charity, 'Charlene's Project'. As well as raising a substantial sum of money, the activity ignited team spirit and proved to be a source of great fun for all those who took part.



BIOLOGY

QUB School of Biological Sciences hosts Banbridge Academy A-level pupils



On Wednesday 13th November, Dr Colin McClure, a lecturer in Biological Sciences in QUB, hosted a practical outreach lab for 80 pupils from Banbridge Academy.

Once upon a time, many, many years ago most of the Biology teaching staff studied Biology at QUB. Back in the day, Chlorine Gardens was known to us as the gloomy Science Library. It hosted a few computers, a couple of photocopiers and miles and miles of Scientific Journals. In those days you could spend hours searching for one elusive article amongst the thousands of journals. Happily, for the Gen Zs and Alphas, that experience is merely an anecdote to be irritatingly inflicted upon you by your parents and teachers. The Science Library in Chlorine Gardens has recently undergone a makeover being refurbished, extended and rebranded into the state-of-the-art teaching and learning facility 'School of Biological Sciences'.



Dr McClure invited the A-level pupils of Banbridge Academy for a tour of the new facilities and arranged a practical in DNA extraction and gel electrophoresis. We spent the afternoon with the friendly teaching staff and post-graduate demonstrators who took our pupils through the theory and practice of cutting up viral bacteriophage DNA using restriction endonuclease enzymes and then separating the DNA fragments using the technique of gel electrophoresis to produce a genetic fingerprint. The bright and airy lab comfortably accommodated all 80 pupils in the same space and the combination of practical resources, display screens placed throughout, and helpful teaching assistants and technical staff meant our pupils had a thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding experience. At the end of the session we were provided with free water bottles, badges and refreshments. This is definitely a trip we will repeat if the invitation still stands!

BIOLOGY



British Biology Olympiad



The Biology Challenge and British Biology Olympiad are annual competitions for secondary and post-16 students. The Biology Challenge is an online competition for secondary pupils that aims to encourage an interest in biology beyond the school curriculum and stimulate curiosity in the natural world. The British Biology Olympiad tries to challenge and stimulate gifted students with an interest in biology to expand and extend their talents.

In February 2020, pupils in the Biology department under the guidance of Mrs Li competed in both the Biology challenge and the Biology Olympiad with the following results:

Biology Olympiad Year 13 and 14

Silver Award

Amy Hampton
Emma Telford

Highly Commended

Elisabeth Moore
Julia Knox
Ellen Nicholl
Leah Donnelly
Jamie McArdle

Commended

Bethany Nixon

Participation

Pearl Sibanda
Kathryn McGrath

Biology Challenge Year 11

Gold

Pushti Patel

Silver

Pippa Wilson

Bronze

Simon Fang	Tom Hamilton
Tom King	Ashton Crossley
Jenson Li	Erin Martin
Katie Wright	Rebekah McFarland

Highly Commended

Olivia Wright	James Dixon
Conor McKee	Sarah Williamson

Commended

Adam Trimble	Jake Beattie
Isaac Tugwell	

PHYSICS

Physics Trip to “Centre for Sustainable Energies”

Our prospective STEM students attended a renewable energy workshop at University of Ulster, Jordanstown on Wednesday 4th December 2019. The purpose of the visit was to understand how renewable energy resources are being developed, and to help combat the issues of climate change today and in the future. Both our Year 12 and 13 students went to familiarise themselves with the renewable energy technologies and how they can be used in our world.



We started off the day with an introduction to renewable energy by Dr Angela Rolfe, who explained to us the approaches they have taken in the production and storage of renewable energy. We then were given the opportunity by the PhD students to view and examine some of their research in various methods of renewable energy. Three experiments were demonstrated to us to highlight the challenges and advances in their research, with equipment such as batteries for storing energy from solar cells, turbines and heat sensitive or thermal heat imaging cameras. Each of the workshops had plenty of demonstrations and plenty of opportunities to see and use equipment.



The first experiment related to the challenges of energy loss, more specifically heat loss; to show the amount of heat energy lost in our common heating systems. The acknowledgement of this aids them in ways to reduce the amount of energy lost and therefore in reducing energy consumption. The experiment was to measure how much heat was lost from radiators around the building. The data is then used to reduce energy loss and consumption.

The second experiment was to measure the efficiency of a wind turbine. We used a miniature wind turbine and measured the power input and the output with power being calculated by measuring the voltage and current from either a 3 bladed or 5 bladed turbines. The results would be used to make sure that a maximum energy output was achieved, therefore providing the nation with reliable, clean and renewable energy.



The third experiment used a heat exchanger. This is used to release energy which could be stored in a battery and store electrical energy. The scientists used lights acting as an artificial sun to test out their theories and explore new ideas in the production and storage of electrical energy.

We still have a long way to go if we are to rely completely on wind or solar energy in the future. However, with further research we can achieve this goal ensuring a sustainable future for our world and hopefully our students will have the opportunity to be on the front line of this pioneering groundwork.



National Science Week

Do we still live in caves?

Do we light fires with flint?

Do pigeons still carry messages?

Certainly not.....science has advanced society through research and understanding, and to celebrate the influence of science, National Science Week took place at the Palace Stables and the Navan Centre, Armagh where science was explained and demonstrated by **Scientific Sue**.

So on Thursday 20th March forty nine eager Year 8 and Year 9 pupils, along with Mr. Stewart and Miss Walker, ventured to the Navan Centre to learn how Paleontologists, the intrepid explorers of uncharted territories, discover fossils of prehistoric proportions and then use them to unravel the puzzles surrounding the lives of dinosaurs.

The main feature of the exhibition was the magnificent sauropod **Dippy the Diplodocus** and areas of investigation were digestions, enzymes, neutralization, centre of mass and stability, carbon dioxide production, testing for oxygen.....

Things that were learnt were:

- How fossils are formed and change over time;
- How plants act as natural acid/base indicators;
- What is neutralization?
- How digestion is a process by which the body breaks down food in order to extract nutrients;
- How enzymes help break down molecules;
- How yeast can be used to break down hydrogen peroxide to make water and oxygen;
- Why a diplodocus's tail was so much longer than that of other sauropod;
- Some gases produced during the digestive process are flammable.

A really enjoyable day was had by all; this was a fun and informative show filled with interactive and tangible demonstrations.



TECHNOLOGY

Design Showcase



Tablet Dispenser - Emma Telford



UV Light Sensor and Display - Katie Little



Basket Ball Game - Luke Watt



Bedside storage unit - Suzy Neill



Carbon monoxide Sensor - Adam Hanna



Gas lighter - Scott Graham



Greenhouse Temp Sensor - Alistair Sands



Hole punch - Ross Graham



Lap timer - Scott Russell



Toy for visually impaired - Isabel Andersson



Random circuit generator - Zoe Hylands



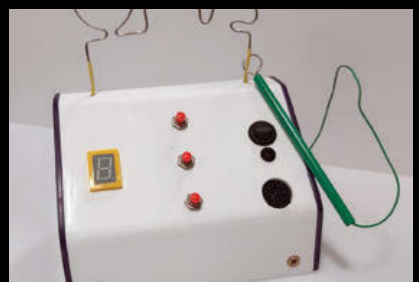
Soldering Iron and Stand - Harry Bingham



Sports Timer - Reuben Toal



Sprint Timer - Mikey Woods

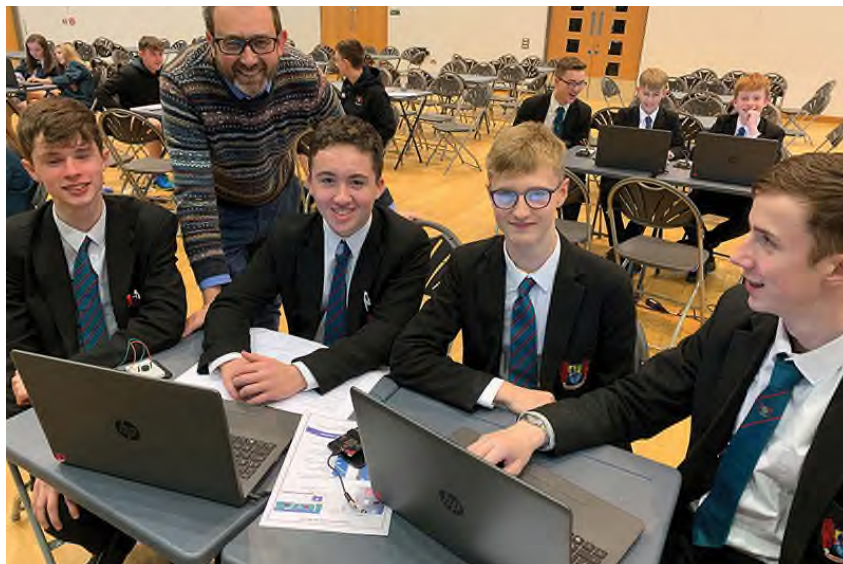


Steady hand Game - Sasha Martin



TECHNOLOGY

Sentinus Workshop



The Microbit is half the size of a credit card and has a wide range of both inputs and outputs incorporated into its design. It includes an accelerometer and magnetometer sensors, Bluetooth and USB connectivity, a display consisting of 25 LEDs, two programmable buttons, and can be powered by either USB or an external battery pack. Pupils were given a range of tasks to complete which helped support subject learning and promote the development of a range of skills and capabilities including problem solving, creativity, working with others and managing information. The pupils really enjoyed the experience and we hope that it has given them a real insight into the value of STEM subjects.

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ACADEMY DANCE

Dance Team

Larissa Harte



Dance Team commenced, for its second year in October, with auditions. Due to the large amount of people auditioning for such few spaces, our teacher Ruth Reid held auditions for a Junior Team and a Senior Team, consisting of learning a dance and then performing it in smaller groups. This gave newcomers a taste of the hard work that was to come.

We began rehearsals the following week and Ruth had decided on a Tribal theme for the Seniors and Aladdin for the Juniors. We immediately began learning the new choreography that Ruth had given us, and those who were on the team could definitely see a great difference in the level of difficulty compared to last year. There were around 20 members in each team, which was a big contrast from last year's one team consisting of only 10 members! Ruth taught the Juniors for the first 30 minutes and the Seniors for the last 30 minutes of the Friday afternoon. The free time given was to practise the new sections of the routine, with Dance Co-Captains Larissa Harte, Gemma Uprichard and Mia Downey.

As the weeks passed, our teams were getting to know each other a lot more. Mrs Neill's idea to have a team bonding trip was a huge success, with

the Seniors bowling in Lisburn, and the Junior team visiting Jumpbox in Banbridge. Along with a few Easter themed competitions, both teams become a very tight knit unit and we learnt (if we didn't know already), that Ruth is fiercely competitive.



With only a week to go before our first competition, both teams took part in our first ever Dance Showcase. This included our two group dances, solo performances in Contemporary and Ballet dance and Musical Theatre performances, all presented by dancers from both teams. We also had a surprise guest who performed an Irish dance for us all. This helped us tremendously as we were able to perform our dances in front of an audience that wasn't Ruth or Mrs Neill for the first time, and therefore we knew what we needed to focus on before our first competition, NICMAC in Lagan Valley Leisureplex.



Thankfully this year we knew what to expect, and came prepared with not only Mrs Neill to support us, but also a full team to cheer us on. We waited nervously for our section to be called



as we practised in the changing room and first up was the Juniors, then finally the Seniors. After a long day, we found ourselves waiting once more for our results to be announced. With a lack of knowledge on what number or section we were on in the rewards, we heard "Banbridge Academy Aladdin second place," and not so long after we heard "Banbridge Academy Tribe third place." Knowing the standard of our competition, we knew it was a great achievement to have placed. Our faces lit up as we definitely felt a great difference between how we nervously boarded the bus that morning, and how excited we were that afternoon.



Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 we were not able to attend Ulster's in Belfast, which was extremely disappointing for all team members due to the amount of hard work we had put in to compete. As a team we would like to say a huge thankyou to Ruth, our choreographer and coach who compelled us to reach our goal, and also to Mrs Neill as without her help Dance Team would never have happened. Dance has played a big part of our lives in school during the past two years and for many of us it offered a chance to escape from the pressures of significant exams and develop stronger friendships across a wide range of year groups.



ACADEMY DANCE

Junior Dance

Keisha Moulton 10F

Following on from last year's events, the dance team returned for more practices and competitions. After the publicity we received last year, there were more students interested in the dance team and what it had to offer, meaning we had to split into a Senior and Junior team.



This year our dance teacher Ruth Reid decided to go for an "Aladdin" theme for the juniors, using the famous 'Friend Like Me' song from the movie. We started rehearsing in October and as dance captain I can confirm that it was not easy. It took us weeks just to sort out the first steps of choreography, but after many falls, trips, accidents and much frustration, we all pulled through and it looked amazing.

In March we had a practice run for the parents and as nervous as we were, it went splendidly. Then we were thinking, if it's this nerve-racking performing in school, how will we cope at NICMAC? We'd just have to wait and see. Soon enough, it was time to head to the competition.

We scrambled onto the bus eager to get going, as this was going to be a memorable day. After having a bit of a sing-along and cracking jokes on the bus, we finally arrived at the

competition and it was intimidating to say the least! Waiting was the worst part and we were tingling with anticipation to dance, but as we got lined up to go next, we suddenly felt as if we didn't have enough practices.

However, with the support of Ruth, Mrs. Neill and all the parents in the audience, we felt less nervous. As our name was called out and we ran into our positions, all you could hear was the heavy breathing of dancers waiting for the music to start, and when it did, the choreography came to us instantly. Dancing is an indescribable feeling, you feel free and like you can do anything, and you never want to stop. When the music faded out, we all finished with smiles on our faces; we did it!

After watching the rest of the dances, it was time for awards. When it got to our category we all held our breaths, praying. Some of us were doubtful and some of us were hopeful, but

when they called out, "Second place goes to Banbridge Academy Junior Dance Team!" that's when we knew we made it. We all leaped up to collect our well-deserved award, feeling proud of ourselves. After getting suffocated with hugs and praise, we realized that this was only the beginning, as there was another competition on the way.





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Bar Mock Trial 2019

Kathryn McGrath, Susanna Elliott, Claire Dickson and Kelly Gley



In early September last year, a group of Sixth Form students interested in the Bar Mock Trial Competition took part in a round of auditions in which we each prepared a discursive speech. The strength of our arguments and the quality of how we delivered them were then used to decide who would fulfil the roles of barrister, witness, court clerk, usher and jury.

Each role came with its own challenges, as the barristers and witnesses soon discovered! The barristers were tasked with performing both examinations in chief and cross examinations on witnesses from both cases and with preparing opening and closing speeches within a rigorous time limit. The prosecution barristers were Lucy Hughes and Kathryn McGrath and the defence barristers were Hannah Hubert and Anna Carson.

Witnesses had to memorise answers, specific to their character, for the examination in chief but also had to have a thorough knowledge of the case as a whole to be able to give convincing responses and improvise accordingly when faced with unknown questions put to them by barristers from another school.

The witnesses for the defence were: Lauren Graham, Kelly Gley, Beth Snelling and Claire Dixon. The witnesses for the prosecution were: Alex Gardiner, Hannah McKeaveney, Susanna Elliott and Sarah Magennis. The team also involved a Court Usher – Andreas Eliopoulos, a Court Clerk – Pearl Sibanda, a Courtroom Artist – Rose Gibson, a Court Reporter – Karis Humphries and a Jury – Ellie Macauley, Karis Kelly and Zoe O’Hara.

Our first case to learn for the competition was a drug possession case and the second concerned an alleged assault at a nightclub. Both cases proved to be challenging for the witnesses and barristers, as we had to learn every detail of every case and be ready for any question we could possibly get asked. If that wasn’t bad enough, we had to

meticulously time every word spoken to ensure we weren’t marked down for going over the time limits. We met weekly on Wednesday afternoons to rehearse and we grew closer as a team, with the help of plenty of cake! As we got closer to the competition date, our weekly practices turned into daily lunch and break time sessions as we desperately got our speeches and questions memorised and perfected. Finally, on our last Wednesday before the big day, we had our last practice. Gowns were on and tension was high, but we knew we were ready for anything the competition could throw at us.

With an early start to the day our team arrived at the Royal Courts of Justice with mixed feelings of excitement and nerves, but we were determined to win. We began our first case: R v Acosta against Strathearn. Despite our uncertainty of the other schools, we proved that hard work pays off as the jury ruled in our favour towards the prosecution thanks to our amazing prosecution barristers and our great, professional witnesses. With this win under our belts we went on to continue this trend, winning our case for the prosecution against Belfast High School due to another great performance from our witnesses and barristers. Lastly, our final case involved defending against Dalriada, a school with an outstanding reputation within the history of this competition. Nevertheless, the jury again ruled in our favour as our witnesses and barristers proved yet again to be on fine form, with our star witness Lauren Graham emotionally moving the whole courtroom with her convincing performance.

After our string of exemplary wins, we nervously waited to find out if we were to perform in the final of the Belfast heat only to find out, much to our surprise and disappointment, that the final had been cancelled and instead the judges had decided to put Dalriada and Glenlola through to the National Final in London. Throughout the years that we have been involved in the competition, this was the first year that a final was



not held and many schools were disappointed at how the day ended. We were very disappointed as we had hoped that our stellar performances throughout the day would have been enough to secure us a victory. However, this was not meant to be. Although we were extremely disheartened with the result, our team- with its competitive attitude- planned to come back better and stronger, taking what we learned and using it to motivate us.

Bar Mock Trial 2019 ultimately may not have gone our way in terms of reclaiming our title, however, we speak on behalf of the rest of the team when we say that the rewards gained and the lessons learnt most definitely outweighed the end result. Bar Mock Trial has enabled us to make life-long friends, many have discovered their desire to pursue a career within the legal industry and it has allowed team members to gain confidence in their public speaking skills, improve their

organisational skills and develop their ability to work in a team. Although Bar Mock is undoubtedly hard work and at times very pressured, the team would all agree that it has been one of the most worthwhile experiences of their time at Banbridge Academy.

A special note of thanks must go to our two barrister mentors, Severina Kelly and Vicky Singer. Without their tireless work and dedication towards preparing us for the competition, we think it's fair to say that we would have been lost! From helping the 'barristers' write our opening speeches, to advising the 'witnesses' about how to respond to the challenging questions posed to them within the cross examinations, to providing last minute tips on the day, their work was fully appreciated by every member of the team. We are incredibly grateful for the time they sacrificed to help us with the extensive preparations. We must also thank Mr McLoughlin for his continued support and for his encouraging

words on the day. Finally, the underlying star of our team, Miss McClelland deserves a great deal of thanks for all of her commitment, enthusiasm, organisation and tenacity as she guided the whole team through the process and taught us valuable skills and lessons along the way.

To conclude, we would urge anyone who has a passion for advocacy and a determination to succeed to jump right in and give the Bar Mock Trial a go. Our team members came from many different subject backgrounds including Science, Drama, Maths and Politics, therefore this experience truly is open to anyone! Our Year 13 members would like to wish the Year 14s all the best within their career paths as they move on from Banbridge Academy. Those in Year 13 however, look forward to competing in a virtual Bar Mock Trial competition this year as we learn how the Judicial System has adapted to online trials throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.



CHARITY

Charity Report Sept 2019 – March 2020

J. Leslie



With the academic year cut short due to COVID 19, the charity donations this year are well below normal standards. However the school community showed its generosity in the first half of the year, by collecting an impressive £5874.68.

The year started with a collection for the charity Jeans for Genes, followed by a staff coffee morning for the Northern Ireland Hospice raising £414.00.

In October the school supported the local charity Action Mental Health, as well as Action Cancer.

Poppies were sold in November to raise £220.91 for The Royal British Legion. Children in Need also benefitted from various school organised events, with a donation of £336.00. The highlight of the appeal was watching the staff being soaked with sponges by the pupils. Over 100 beautifully filled shoeboxes were also collected for Operation Christmas Child.

This year a small group of Year 13 and Year 14 pupils became Concern Worldwide Ambassadors. Concern Worldwide is an international humanitarian organisation that strives for a world free from poverty, fear and oppression. As ambassadors the students organised multiple fundraising events, the main one being the Concern "Fast". Pupils in Years 8-12 were given the opportunity to take part in a digital fast and Years 13 and 14 were invited to give up all food and drink (excluding water) for a 24-hour period. Alongside this, a Christmas Candy Cane delivery service helped Banbridge Academy raise an impressive £1000 for this very worthwhile cause.

Collections also took place before Christmas for Leukaemia and

Lymphoma and the staff once again wore their Christmas jumpers for Save the Children. A non-uniform day and donations from the carol service saw the Lesedi project benefitting by over £1980.00



After Christmas, Children in Crossfire received a cheque for £300 and £229 was donated to Barnardos. In January a special awards luncheon was organised by Action MS to say thank you to those pupils who raised £100 or more in the sponsored walk the previous June – Aimee Clarke, Belle Fitzsimmons, Hannah Kerr, Grace Moore, Orla Morris, Jake Redmond, Kaitlyn Herron, Sam Martin, Moore McLoughlin (£200), Rory Moore, Robert McCullough and Ellie Perkins were all invited. The school had collected a total of £8925 and was delighted to be awarded the Bronze Boot for the top fundraising school.

A special well done to the pupils in 13E who collected the most money in the weekly collections (an impressive £212.38). As usual far too many charities and individuals were helped throughout the year to give them all a mention here and we want to say a massive thank you to all pupils and staff who donated so generously throughout the year and enabled so many worthwhile causes to be helped.



DEBATING

Senior Debating Report

H Cartmill

Venue:

Drama Studio

Day/Time:

Alternate Tuesdays from 1.10pm on.

Club:

Senior Debating Society

Mission Statement:

To provide pupils in Years 11- 14 with a forum to debate topical issues with their peers in a respectful and tolerant atmosphere.

Topics we debated this year which were proposed to the committee by fellow pupils included the following:

- Greta Thunberg and her impact on public opinion
- Is an Assembly Election in Northern Ireland overdue?
- Change to the Abortion Laws in Northern Ireland in 2020
- The Place of Guns in Modern American Society
- Miracles- myth or reality?
- Brexit- Where Are We Now?
- Substance Abuse- A medical or Criminal Issue?
- Trump's Legacy
- The Threat of Terrorism in Today's World

Our debates ranged from the more formal with speakers proposing and opposing the motion to open floor,

walking and paper debates with most if not all of those present taking part. Some of the topics we discussed have become truly perennial; this year, for example, we returned to America to debate the issues of gun laws and Trump's presidency and to take a fresh look at progress or the lack of it on the thorny issue of Brexit. Abortion is another favourite topic which had added interest this year with the proposed changes to Northern Irish legislation due to come into effect in March.

Our programme came to an abrupt end with the beginning of lockdown but we hope to return with greater enthusiasm and a wide range of new topics reflecting this exceptional time in our lives as soon as restrictions permit.

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School Record

Births

To Anna and Simon Jess, a girl, Francesca (Frankie).

Quick Start



Over 40 budding young entrepreneurs from Banbridge Academy worked with local charity Young Enterprise to start a business through the QuickStart programme.

Year 9 students started seven companies with the charity, developing skills for life and work through this hand-on enterprise experience with the support of Business Advisor, Mr Seamus Ryan, from RGA Accountants LTD.

The exciting enterprise programme, finished with a Dragons' Den style event where each of the companies pitched their ideas to a panel of local business experts and experts in the education field. 'Young Enterprise NI thank Mrs Aileen Gilpin, Careers & Senior Teacher, for her support and for giving her pupils the opportunity to gain valuable employability skills whilst completing the QuickStart programme,' commented Cathy

Morrison, Senior Development Manager, Young Enterprise NI. "It has been running successfully for several years within the school and was also kindly supported by Miss Kirsty Jess this year for the first time."

Sharp minds and friendly rivalry characterised the Quick Start Dragons' Den competition. Budding entrepreneurs put their business acumen to work as they sought to impress the Dragons with their business plans and teamwork skills. Pupils were highly praised for their ingenious products and their success in securing impressive profit margins which some have generously donated to local charitable causes. Well done to all involved!





YOUNG ENTERPRISE

Sew Scented

Katie Lockhart



Our Young Enterprise Company was made up of 11 members: Katie Lockhart, Lucy Bradshaw, Myah McDonald, Kelly Gley, Jessica Lewis, Zara Kidd, Lara Kirkwood, Naomi English, Emily Vong, Ellie McElroy and Kaylee Doherty.

To come up with an innovative idea for a product, we went through many stages and processes. We were also keen to use our digital platforms to gain feedback from our customers. We did this by utilizing Instagram's features to host polls. We eventually decided to make scented key chains and patches, hence the name 'Sew Scented'.

We first hosted a 'Guess the Number of Sweets in a Jar' competition to raise funds to buy materials for our products. Then since our product is handmade, everyone in the team contributed to the production of the keychains during our own free time. We sold our products in many places including St George's market, Banbridge Academy Christmas Craft Fair, Rushmere and inside the school. I especially enjoyed the markets

as you got to sell alongside other companies from different schools and received a chance to interact with the public.

Since we are a young company, we decided that the best way for us to contact our target audience would be to use social media, such as Instagram and Facebook, to promote our products and provide information. Some examples of the information shared are the list of different scents that were available for our keyrings, prices for our individual products, promotional details and the events we were attending and selling at.

Working as a team and starting a business isn't as straight forward as we initially thought. Starting a YE business has given every group member a great insight into being



an entrepreneur. For future company programme students, something important to take into account is that it isn't about your profit or making money, it's about gaining the skills that will take you further in life. We all gained and developed a variety of new skills and qualities, which would benefit us all in our own ways. These included decision making and problem-solving skills, organisation and time management skills as well as conflict resolution skills.

YOUNG ENTERPRISE

Stonks Incorporated

JB McElroy



We're Stonks Incorporated and we've been buying and selling our infamous holograms in Banbridge Academy since 2019. We believed in only sourcing locally produced products, from picturesque Lurgan, produced by Corona Plastics, and selling them to our customers at a profitable markup. We started this business because we were tired of people making money from shoddy, overpriced plastic projectors, so we decided to do this for ourselves.

Whilst running our company we had a chance to sell our product at St George's Market Belfast, during the build up to Christmas. We were a huge success here, winning a "Special Recognition" award, and owing to our impressive display, we were the centre of attention, culminating in our interview with Cool FM's Pete Snodden.

After the success of the market in Belfast and our subsequent impressive school sales, things took a turn for the worse at Rushmere Shopping Centre, where despite expecting high sales volumes, we sold

a single unit and received 2 donations. Shortly after this the school shut down due to Covid 19, which left us with a high number of unsold holograms. As a result, we still have a high number of holograms in stock and have reduced the price to only £5 each in

an attempt to make as many sales as possible. There is also a £1 discount for Year 8 pupils.

Follow us on Instagram @stonks.incye and place your order, before it's too late!





YOUNG ENTERPRISE

Toasteez

Jake Davidson



The Young Enterprise experience was hugely beneficial for our entire company and it allowed us all to take part in a great competition, which enabled us to develop our knowledge of the world of work.

Throughout our time in the company named 'Toasteez', we attended a range of markets and fairs to help sell our useful hand warmers to members of the public. We went to St George's market in Belfast to attend the 'YE Big Market'; here we were able to view many other schools' products and see who our competition would be if we reached the Southern Area Finals. Shortly after this event we headed to the School Christmas Craft Fair, where all parents and supporters of the school were able to view and purchase our products. This allowed us to get our name out among the school, which helped us when securing pre-orders and sales at break and lunch times in the school atrium.

Then came the biggest and most

important trade show in our time as a company: 'The Southern Trade Fair' in Rushmere Shopping centre. It is here that our company performed exceptionally well, securing the 'Customer Service Award' and the 'Runner Up Best Company.' It was from here that we found out that we were among 1 of 8 companies who made it to the **Northern Ireland Finals**.

Then lockdown happened... we had to present our company and pitch to an array of judges including Cool FM's Radio host Pete Snodden. We did this via zoom and demonstrated our products. We described the rationale for our product and touched on a number of aspects of our company. As a team we worked well together. We each had strengths that complemented each other. We also

supported each other during this experience. We described the many challenges we had to overcome – problem solving was a big element of our company. We highlighted the vast range of skills we gained such as time management, resilience, delegation, team work and diplomacy.

There were many lessons learnt and if we were to provide any advice to future companies it would be to know your customers well and give them what they want, or what they think they want!

Finally after submitting our report and presenting our company the announcement came, live via Instagram. A long-awaited day for the Toasteez company who were looking to become Northern Ireland winners. But we were pipped at the post by incredibly strong opposition. Despite not winning it was a valuable experience and one which will be beneficial for all of us in later life.

SCRIPTURE UNION

Senior Scripture Union

Peter Coughlin and Joy Spiers



Scripture Union in Banbridge Academy is one of the largest extra-curricular activities that takes place in school with around 150 Year 8 to Year 14 pupils in attendance weekly. Senior SU is run by an elected committee of senior pupils who all have a shared love for Jesus Christ and a desire to see the Gospel spread throughout our school. It is overseen by Mrs Paolucci who works alongside the Student Leader and the rest of the committee in order to organise various speakers, weekends and events throughout the year. This year the Student Leader was Peter Coughlin helped out by Deputy Student Leader, Joy Spiers.

Each Monday- Thursday morning, we met in Mr Clarke's room for 'Spark'. After a devotional led by our Prayer Secretary, Joel Cromie, or another member of SU, we spent time praying for each other, praying for school and focusing our minds on God. On Friday morning we had 'Tea and Toast,' where the fellowship and free food was definitely enjoyed. Small groups, organised by Grace Hamilton and Amy Hampton, also took place throughout the year, with the help of a team of small group leaders, and we studied a variety of topics from the 'I am' sayings of Jesus found in the book of James.

Our main SU meetings took place in the Lecture Theatre on Thursday lunch times. We opened with praise, organised by our Praise and Worship coordinators Joel Middleton and Jessica Lewis, with different people leading the worship each week. Each week a speaker, or teacher, would then share a message. This year we followed a number of series on 'Old Testament Bible Characters', 'The Life of Jesus', 'Why do we trust?', 'What do we believe?' and 'Why should we follow?' as well holding a carol service, a 'Grill a Christian' panel and a testimony week where guest speaker

John Weir shared his testimony with us. Jude Kennedy organised ICT for our meetings, making sure everything ran smoothly, alongside Elizabeth Little who ran our social media and made sure everyone was kept up to date with what was happening in SU. Kayla Orr also worked alongside Junior SU, organising prayer meetings and bible studies for the junior pupils each week.

Other than our weekly meetings, we also organised a number of events outside of school. The aim of this was to try and bring as many people as possible to hear the Gospel and ultimately fulfil our aim this year of being "salt and light in Banbridge Academy." In October we were fortunate to be able to hold our annual weekend in Castlewellan Castle. This year our speaker was Philip Annett who challenged us with lessons from Colossians over the course of the weekend. As well as this we held a prayer meeting and a small group each morning led by various senior pupils. Intertwined with our learning at the castle, we also



organised a games night, quizzes, a praise and testimonies session and a trip into Newcastle. We would like to personally thank both the teachers involved with SU and Philip Annett, for all their help and encouragement over the course of the weekend.

Our next big event in the year was Outreach Week. This was a very busy week in which we, as an SU, organized a range of activities throughout the week led by our Outreach Coordinator, David Bailey. Taking assemblies all week was a great opportunity to tell the school about SU. This year we explored the topic of confusion and how in a world of uncertainty we can still rely on Christ. This was also a great way to inform our classmates about what was going on during Outreach Week including toast in the atrium, a movie at lunchtimes, desserts for the teachers, and a free breakfast on Friday morning. As Christians in our school we do everything with the hope that we can bring people to the knowledge of salvation.

Aside from our normal events that we run throughout the year, we also organised two Inter-SU praise nights whereby we brought pupils from a number of schools in our local community together for a night of praise as well as a talk on unity and 'taking up our cross'. The year finished rather abruptly in March due to the pandemic, but we are thankful that we were still able to organise our formal, a night of socialising, singing and dancing which we all enjoyed and were very grateful to have.

With school finished for the year, exams cancelled, churches and youth groups moved online, we felt it was more important than ever to come together as an SU. Each morning at 10:30am we continued to have 'virtual spark' via our WhatsApp group. Somebody from SU would share a short thought for the day and prayer points, and 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 being physically apart. We also continued to have small groups via zoom each week. We studied Philippians and the Book of the Psalms, and it was really encouraging to be able to share with each other, learn from and encourage each other.

We also continued to hold our main SU meetings each Thursday via zoom for a number of weeks. With our final series on the life of Jesus being cut

short, we continued it virtually with a number of committee members sharing the message each week. We also had an Upper Sixth panel and finished with a three-week testimony and 'How to study the Bible' series.

We were really blessed by SU during lockdown, from the sense of fellowship and community when we were all isolated, being able to encourage each other, praying together and taking time to focus on God together and keep him at the centre of our lives despite everything going on around us. During this time of confusion and uncertainty we would like to echo the message we gave during outreach week back in November 2019. When everything around us is failing "the word of our God shall stand forever," (Isaiah 40:8) and "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8).



SCRIPTURE UNION

J.S.U. Weekend

Kezia Hylands, Amelia Kennedy, Amelie Knott and Rebekah Jackson (9D)



Junior SU takes place every Tuesday lunchtime in the Lecture theatre and is a mix of speakers, games, food and fun. For most juniors however, the highlight of the year is the Junior SU Weekend:

Back in November 2019, the Junior S.U. weekend was held. We had to wake up early in the morning to get the bus to Ganaway Activity Centre, which was very loud and most of the noise came from the back...where we were! Once we arrived it was a stampede to get in and to the comfy chairs. We split up into our year groups and went and did rock climbing, caving, archery, floor is lava with crates and four in a row. The caving was our personal favourite, but some people got lost or stuck(temporarily)!

Our speaker for the weekend, David McConkey, spoke on the Bible as a whole. We thought about why we should read it; it's a letter from our own creator and a huge exciting message from someone whom we love and who loves us but most importantly, a story of sin and forgiveness that leads to Jesus. We also learnt how to read the Bible

efficiently by thinking about the type of book, the background, how to understand better and questions we should ask ourselves.

That night we played Signs, which included whacking people on the head with an empty bottle, and of course the legendary J.S.U. game, 'Dirty Bin Toucher'.

After a long, long day and several trips to the vending machines, we finally went to sleep...or not. We spent most of the night snacking, talking and TikToking, obviously.

On the bus ride home, we were half asleep but still somehow very hyper and we just dreaded the early start to school the next day!



Ski Trip Report

Rose Widdis and Anna Sharpe



At 1pm on the 15th February 2020, 88 excited Banbridge Academy students packed onto a bus and headed for Dublin airport. When we arrived, after being fed and watered, we flew 2 and a half hours to Milan Bergamo (where we got checked for corona virus), before we hauled ourselves onto a bus for another long stretch of the journey to arrive at our hotel at around 1am.

After having 4 hours of sleep, we woke bright and early to a view of the snowy mountains for our first day of skiing. We were mostly all enthusiastic as we squeezed into our boots and carried our skis up the hill and onto the nursery slopes, where we met our instructors who began to teach us the basic skills we would need for the week ahead. The people who had skied before were taken straight to the higher slopes but it's safe to say that not everyone else mastered their balance on the first day, as it was clear when an unnamed person went flying into the safety net, taking the stop sign with her. It also took us a few days to be able to take the ski lift onto the bigger slopes, but it was worth the wait as the views from the top were spectacular, not to mention the laugh we got when we saw Miss McCormick fall off the ski lift!

Lucky for us, we had fun both on and off the slopes as there was a range of entertainment at night time, including bingo, a disco, a swimming pool and a trip to a classic Italian pizzeria. The food was tasty but if you don't like pasta, then we recommend you pick another hotel because there wasn't much else on the menu. In Anna's words, 'SanVal will always have a pizza my heart'.

Before the end of the week we had races to determine the fastest in each group, which was followed by an awards presentation when we were given medals. Also, on the last night of skiing we were treated to a breath-taking display of flames coming down the slope towards us, followed by a surprising meal of pasta and a fun quiz night which got us all feeling competitive.

The week flew by and we all woke up heavy-hearted on the last day of skiing because we didn't want our time in San Valentino to end, but our spirits were lifted by a quality cup of Italian hot chocolate at the top of the snowy mountain. I think we can all agree that we've never seen a view quite like the one we had from the warm and cosy café, and to remember it, plenty of photos were taken! Also, in an attempt to show off his unreal skiing skills, Mr Beacom put on a show for everyone who has access to Google Drive by accidentally videoing himself faceplant the snow!

By the end of the week, in spite of a few damaged egos, no one came home with broken bones and we all made memories that will last our whole lives. We would definitely recommend the trip to younger pupils as it was an experience we could never forget, as friendships were made, a new skill was learnt and most importantly, we all had a laugh. However, make sure to enjoy every second, don't rush through the week, and take it slow. As Walter would say, 'Snowplough!'

Banbridge Academy Association

Banbridge Academy Association or BAA for short 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 organises events throughout the school year and are always looking for ideas to help with our fundraising efforts. To give everyone a flavour of our events last year, here is a brief summary of them...

Annual Christmas Craft Fayre

This was a hugely successful day with many diverse crafts on display from home baked goods to homemade candles and wooden ornaments. The raffle was a great success with hampers and other seasonal gifts supplied by Association members and donated by various businesses. Music from the Scripture Union Band and Association members in seasonal costume added to the atmosphere and were appreciated by all in attendance, as was the tea, coffee, mince pies and shortbread on offer.

A new Christmas cake competition added to the fun. A multitude of designs were on display from Christmas puddings to the Nativity. Prizes were sponsored by the Association and judged by a representative from the Rosehip Bakery.

Christmas Cards

Thanks must be extended to 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.

Catering

This proved extremely successful this year and it was also a great way to give something back to the school. Open night was also a night where the face of the Association was to the fore by providing refreshments to visitors. It was also a way to network and call for support for next year.

Links with the sporting department had been strengthened by our attendance at various sporting events. It was a privilege to provide refreshments and greatly appreciated by the staff and supporters in attendance. With the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic however, the events

programme was cut short. The annual Spring Concert, Golf Day and other planned events were not able to take place.

Everyone is warmly invited to attend our meetings and will be made most welcome. Even if you can volunteer at any of the events, we would love to see you there. A little help goes a long way!





HOUSE REPORTS

Crozier



Even throughout the very strange unprecedented circumstances that were brought to the 2019/2020 school year, Crozier saw yet another overall victory (in the reduced number of house competitions that actually took place before school came to a very abrupt end in March.)

The year began with the Cross-Country Competition, which many members across all year groups enthusiastically participated in. Overall, the girls came third and the boys came second to leave Crozier in a strong joint second place.

Next up was the Football Competition, and even on quite a cold and blustery lunch time, the girls especially brought great aggression to the blue side. The girls finished joint second and not far behind, were the boys with third place.

The House Handball was another successful lunch time competition which saw the boys and girls play alongside each other, in what could be described as an exhilarating and anything but peaceful

tournament. Again, huge amounts of competitiveness were brought to each game by the participants and fun was had by all. Overall Crozier was placed a well-deserved joint first.

Finally, after a full term of hard work, came everyone's favourite day of the school year... House Quiz day. Yet again, Crozier was out in full force, taking a clean sweep across the year groups with a joint first place in the Junior Quiz and first place in the Senior Quiz. As per every year, the quiz was enjoyed by all pupils and was an entertaining end to the term.

Even though the year ended rather abruptly as a result of Covid-19 and the usual numerous competitions could not be contended, the results shown are an accurate

representation of the enthusiasm and hard work brought to each competition by the Crozier participants, as well as how the year would have proceeded under different circumstances. So even though the year was cut short, Crozier still managed to take a very deserving win.

Thank you to everyone who took part, whether it was on the pitch, at the quiz table or on the side lines cheering on the blues, the support is always very much appreciated. As always, a big thanks must go to Mr Irwin and Mrs Curran (also Mrs Todd who stepped up to help and now has a 100% success rate...) who led the Crozier House to yet another victory and another place on the trophy.

HOUSE REPORTS

Crozier

B.Leslie & J. Leslie

It was a year shortened by the Covid outbreak, but we still managed to get in a number of house competitions that were enjoyed hugely by all who took part.

Football was the first competition; here we finished 2nd in the boys' competition and joint second in the girls' competition, showing some silky skills along the way. We did not fare so well in the handball however, finishing in last place but it did not ruin our enjoyment of the event. Our cross country was also not our strongest event with the boys' team finishing in last place, but our girls redeemed things by finishing 2nd. The Christmas quizzes were once again a huge hit, with our juniors finishing in joint first place and our seniors claiming second.

Unfortunately, the second term was cut short and we did not get to do any further events, meaning that Crozier was justifiably named as House Champions for 2019-20.





HOUSE REPORTS

McWilliam

J Glover & M Miskelly

After a successful change to the House System last year, we looked forward to starting off this year's competition – would it live up to the excitement that we all felt?

Once again it was football that commenced the competitions and the fierce rivalry between the houses was clear for all to see on the front rugby pitches. Unfortunately, this competition was not for us this year as we finished 4th overall in both the girls' and boys' event.

November brought mixed handball and again the weather remained dry for us to hold this competition on the front rugby pitches for both the Junior and Intermediate matches, while we had to move indoors for the Seniors. This was a very tight competition and once all the scores were logged, it turned out that we had been placed 1st (along with Waddell and Crozier!!) Our Junior team performed most magnificently and they came through this unbeaten.

Colder weather always signals

the House Cross-Country. A huge congratulations and thanks must go to all who volunteered to climb the hill of Mount Misery 3 times in the spirit of fun and exercise. As it turns out, we claimed 1st in the girls' competition and 3rd in the boys'. Special mention must go to Matthew Stevenson, Andrew Jackson, Ellie Cousins, Anna McKernan and Nadia Radcliffe, who all won their individual year group.

Just before the end of term, we all made our way to the assembly hall for the yearly House Quiz. This was a super way to end the Christmas Term, with questions to challenge our general knowledge, observational skills, musicality and much more. Both the Juniors and the Seniors came 3rd.

Following the January exams, it was time to head indoors for boys'

basketball and girls' netball. The Junior and Intermediate girls did not lose a single match and so both won their year group. The senior girls also played 'out of their skins' to earn a well-deserved second place. I reckon that this was our best competition of the year.

Unfortunately that's where school life ended last year as we were halted by the COVID 19 virus. So as far as the House Competition goes, we were left in limbo at the bottom of the rankings... Maybe it was for the best as we can start with a clean slate next year.

Thanks again for all who turned out, whether it was as a keen volunteer or under duress. You have all made the House Competition a success for another year.



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HOUSE REPORTS

Waddell

Mr Acheson

The House Competition started off with great enthusiasm and participation from the pupils with House Football. The weather was kind to us as we took on our rivals from other Houses, enjoying great support from our members cheering on Waddell. This spurred on our players to take their silky skills to the next level, with both boys and girls coming 1st in their respective competitions, a great start for Waddell!

This was followed up by a terrific effort in House Handball with Waddell coming up joint winners, again being encouraged on by our vocal supporters.

A special mention has to go to the boys who participated in the Cross Country event in December. They took to the challenging and competitive course superbly, giving it their all. It was with great pride that we watched as they won that competition back in December.

A highlight of the House Calendar is the House Quiz, an event that traditionally involves every pupil in the school and takes advantage of the Christmas spirit felt by both pupils and staff alike. A special thanks to Mr Farrell, in particular, who puts in so much effort into making the quiz as interactive as possible. With one eye on the Christmas holidays, Waddell left their thinking caps at home, propping up the table in both the

Junior and Senior Quizzes.

In the new year, things were starting to look good, with the boys triumphing in the intermediate basketball and the girls coming a respectable 2nd place in the intermediate netball. Unfortunately, our school closure due to the pandemic meant we had to suspend our remaining activities in the House Calendar, much to the regret of all of the House Staff and the pupils. The year 2019-2020 saw

Mrs Dreaning being appointed to the role of House Staff for Waddell and I very much look forward to working with her in the years ahead. This appointment was brought about by our friend and colleague Mrs. Julie Robinson stepping down from the role, someone who had so faithfully and enthusiastically supported the pupils of Waddell House over many years and we would like to thank her for all her efforts and send her every good wish for the future.





Girls' Hockey

1st XI

The 1st XI Girls' Hockey Team started the 2019/20 season in defence of their Schools' Cup title.

The season started with a replay of last season's Schools' Cup final against Ballyclare with goals from Katie McDonald and Ellen Reid, to secure a 2-0 win. The girls continued with another friendly against Belfast Royal Academy before their Super League started, which finished with a 2-2 draw with goals from Gemma Hassan and Molly Mathers.

The Super League started on 14th September against Friends'. Jodie Simmons and Alex Gardiner scored a goal each to start with a draw, where the girls were unlucky to not come away with a win. The next 3 games of the Super League saw the 1st XI team pick up 3 wins. With goals from Ellen Reid, Jodie Simmons and Katie McDonald, the girls beat Sullivan Upper 3-1. A 2-1 win against Royal School Armagh was helped with goals from Jodie Simmons and Ellen Reid. The game which put the girls into the quarter finals of the Super League and left the team top of the group was against Royal School, Dungannon, with goals from Gemma Hassan, Jodie Simmons, Alex Gardiner and Hannah Buchanan to finish the group stages with a 4-0 win.

The quarter final of the Super League was a home draw versus Ballymena

Academy. The girls were slow to start but 4 second half goals from Ellen Reid, Katie Dougan, Jodie Simmons and Katie McDonald sealed a place in the Super League semi-final. Before the semi-final the team enjoyed the Topflight Hockey Tour to Glasgow. Three comfortable wins on the first day, against Royal Grammar School (3-0), Kelso (5-0) and Glasgow Academy (1-0) set the team up well for the following day and allowed them to progress out of the group and into the Cup tournament. The second day saw wins over Salerno (3-0), and Teresians (1-0), which ensured the team a place in the Cup final. The girls faced Scottish Champions Mary Erskine in the final. After a 1-1 draw at full time, the game went to strokes. Strokes from Jodie Simmons, Katie McDonald and Ellen Reid, along with 4 brilliant saves by Rebecca Spence, saw the girls lift the Topflight Cup.

The semi-final day was against Belfast Royal Academy at Stormont pitches. BRA went 1-0 ahead in the first quarter as the Banbridge team were slow to get going, however the team were quick to react with a goal from Amy Sommerville. With no second half goals, the game was forced to penalty run ins. Run ins were scored by Gemma Hassan, Ellen Reid

and Alex Gardiner, while Rebecca Spence was outstanding in the goals to save 4 of BRA runs. The girls had secured their place in the Super League Final.

The Super League final was played at Stormont once again, where the girls took on Rainey. Both sides worked hard and neither team could find the back of the net. Most of the chances were from Banbridge with the midfield of Gemma Hassan, Alex Gardiner, and Ellen Reid driving forward and the forward line of Jodie Simmons, Molly Mathers and Ruby Wilson getting shots away, but despite a number of short corners the team couldn't get a goal. The defensive line of Sarah-Jane Corry, Maisy Corry, Katie McDonald and Hannah Buchanan, which was controlled by goalkeeper Rebecca Spence, worked hard to limit the Rainey shots and keep the ball on our sticks. Rainey however scored a late second half goal and despite the Bann girls fighting hard until the end, they could not find an equaliser which resulted in a 1-0 loss.

The girls picked themselves up and began training hard again in preparation for the Schools' Cup campaign starting. The Schools' Cup



Girls' Hockey

began with a 3rd round home game against Cookstown. A comfortable 7-0 win was secured due to goals from Gemma Hassan (2), Katie McDonald, Molly Mathers, Jodie Simmons (2) and Alex Gardiner. The girls had now progressed to the quarter final of the Schools' Cup. The semi-final game was against Royal School Armagh at Banbridge. Now entering the 'all or nothing' end of the season, the Bann girls knew they had to win to defend their title. The girls started well, pushing hard on the Armagh defence with chances from Jodie Simmons and Molly Mathers, but the girls won the first short corner in the second quarter (which Gemma Hassan made no mistake in putting in the back of the net). On celebrating this goal, the girls lost concentration, resulting in an equaliser from Armagh. The girls worked hard against a tough Armagh side. Chances came from both teams and Armagh won a stroke, but Rebecca Spence held her nerve once again and pulled off a brilliant save that sent the game to run ins after the game finished 1-1 at full time. Once again the girls were composed and run ins were scored by Gemma Hassan, Katie McDonald and Alex Gardiner, whilst Rebecca Spence again pulled off a brilliant save that sent the girls to the Schools' Cup semi-final.

The semi-final was against Belfast Royal Academy. Both teams started well, with Banbridge getting the first chance through a penalty corner however the Belfast defence stood strong. Both sides pushed hard and challenged the defensive opposition, but neither team gave up the fight and so the game finished 0-0. Just like the previous round this one also went to run ins. Jodie Simmons, Ellen Reid and Alex Gardiner all scored in the first round and BRA also scored 3, which took them to sudden death. BRA scored whilst Banbridge had their run saved, meaning that the team bowed out of the Belfast Telegraph Schools' Cup in the semi-final stages after a well fought and tough campaign.

During the half term break and following the loss of the Schools' Cup, the girls played two friendlies against touring teams Crescent College and Salerno. Crescent, as current holders of Kate Russell All Ireland's, took a 5-4 win. The girls finished their season with a 4-3 win against Salerno.

The team would like to thank Mr McLoughlin, Mrs Todd, Sheree Totton and Neil Madeley for all their hard work throughout the season. The team would also like to thank 'Yoga with Sayon' for their sponsorship this season.





Girls' Hockey

2nd XI

The season started well with a strong 2nd XI line up, led by our captain Jennifer Hanna. The squad included Zoe Hylands, Katie McCullough, Lauren Hanna, Jennifer Hanna, Emily Mathers, Ellen Jack, Pippa Wilson, Katie Dougan, Lynsey Orr, Charlotte Tompson, Emma McPolin, Nadia Radcliffe, Leah Radcliffe, Hannah Spence, Amy Somerville, Tara McCambley, Lucy Copes and Megan Creighton.

The Girls' 2XI Hockey Team kicked the season off by winning two friendly matches against Royal School Dungannon (1-0) and Killeel High School (8-0). These opening matches, along with our hard work put in during training, provided a foundation for our following success. Overall, our season was very successful with the team winning most of our friendly games and proving we were a strong side going into the Cup.

Our first Cup match against Wallace was a close game as both sides were evenly matched, however Banbridge Academy managed to come out on top with the final score 3-2, with Ellen Jack scoring 2 goals and Megan Creighton scoring 1. We progressed to the next round of the Cup against Royal School Dungannon. Having already beat them in a friendly match previously in the year, we knew that we were capable of another win as long as we stayed focused. Strong play from defence, well connected

passes in midfield and the forwards dominating in the circle, ensured that we won the match 3-0, with goals from Charlotte Thompson, Pippa Wilson and Emily Mathers.

We then played Larne Grammar School in the quarter final of the Cup. We entered the match with confidence following our previous wins, but also with awareness of the strength of the opposition. The match proved tough with both teams struggling to score. In the last few minutes of the game a goal from Ellen Jack secured us another victory, progressing the team into the semi finals.

The match against Rainey was our toughest match yet with both team unable to score, leading to run ins. Lauren Hanna and Ellen Jack managed to score their goals, but the score was still tied at 2-2. The game went on to sudden death and both teams were feeling a lot

of pressure. Despite our goalkeeper, Katie McCullough, making a lot of good saves Rainey were able to score, making the final score 3-2. Although we were all disappointed about our narrow loss, we were very proud of our efforts throughout the whole season and our achievement of reaching the semi-final of the McDowell Cup.

On behalf of the team I would like to thank Mrs Todd and Miss Irwin for all the time and hard work they put in over the season. Also, a big thank you to all the girls whose dedication and effort was evident through the success of the season.



Girls' Hockey

3rd XI, 4th XI and U15

The 3rd and 4th XI had a successful season of hockey including the U15 players winning the Mid Ulster Shield.

We kicked off the season with a friendly against Friends' and narrowly missed out with a 3-2 defeat. Goal scorers were Natalie Hale and Isabel Anderson. Despite the short time that the players had to train together, everyone pulled together and gave their best efforts to start the season steadily.

The following Saturday both teams travelled to Down High School, with the 3rd XI narrowly losing by 1-0 and the 4th XI winning 2-0. Goal scorers on the day were Sasha Martin and Emma Breen. Again, this was another challenging day with two full teams out and playing together for the first time.

Next up was another friendly, this time against Wallace High School. Two full teams travelled away resulting with a 1-0 and a 2-0 defeat. The girls did not let this dampen their spirits and used it as a learning curve for their future training sessions.

The 4th XI made Banbridge Academy Girls' Hockey history by competing in the very first year of the 4th XI Schools' Cup. Despite battling hard, they lost in the 1st round to a strong Strathearn team.

The season picked up with a match at home against Dromore High School when the girls put what they had focused on in training into practice, resulting in a fantastic 4-0 win. Goal scorers were Anna Little (2), Tara McCambley and Isabel Anderson. We had a very mixed bag with our U15 Gibson Cup matches resulting in two losses, one drawn match and one great 3-0 win against Grosvenor. The girls used these experiences as they progressed through their league matches.

The girls focused throughout the season and progressed in both their fitness and skills. They were dedicated and determined to develop across the board to improve their game play. As a reward we held a Christmas Fun Day training session and focused on games that used their skill whilst spreading some festive cheer and prizes. This was a great experience and allowed the girls to bond as a team and demonstrate their skills.

After Christmas our biggest goal was to come back from the defeats in the U15 Cup and win the league. The girls showed focus and willpower to put the practice in to win. The highlight of our season was the U15 team meeting this goal by winning the Mid Ulster Shield. This was a true reflection of their teamwork and dedication to training.





Girls' Hockey

U14A

The girls' hockey season started off with a great win against BRA, (1-0) scored by Mya Gray.

The girls put in 100% effort from start to finish to achieve this win. As we progressed through the season we put in a lot of hard work in both training and in our matches, resulting in us coming second in the MUSH A League, losing narrowly to Kilicomaine. After many hard training sessions and friendly matches, we prepared for the Junior Cup.

In the first round of the Cup we travelled away to Ballymena. There were a lot of nerves on the way down, as we wanted to progress through the Cup. In the first half we scored 3 goals by Rebekah Baker and in the second half we scored another 2 goals by Mya Campbell. This was a great win for the team and really lifted our spirits for the second round.

In the second round we played Cambridge House and achieved another great win for the team, with Lara Jameson, Abbi Harrison and Abbie McCormick scoring. The girls

were very excited for the upcoming games.

In the quarter final of the Cup we played Strathearn at Havelock. We went out feeling prepared and in the perfect mind-set, but unfortunately they scored in the first half; our heads dropped and we then conceded another goal to make the score 2-0. We were then awarded a penalty stroke scored by Mya Gray; the end result was 4-1 to Strathearn but overall it was a very even match. The girls deserved to win.

We had a good season, placing in both tournaments. Everyone played amazingly throughout the whole year and everyone deserved to be on the team as they all gave maximum effort.

I would like to thank the coaches and especially Mrs Todd for helping us get to where we are and also to the players who showed up to training every week.



U18 Ulster Representative

Hannah Buchanan, Deputy Head Girl, Banbridge Academy has been selected for the Ulster U18 Interprovincial Series. The school is delighted to congratulate Hannah on this wonderful achievement.



Girls' Hockey

U14B

This year's hockey season for the U14B Girls' Hockey team has shown how skilled, talented and committed every player has been to their team and each other.



Throughout the year, I have seen every team member growing in their co-operation with one another on the pitch and learning to be quicker and better players. We have had some super results this year, which showed how well we have all progressed as a group.

One of our very first matches against Dromore High proved how focused and competitive we were as a team. We were down 2-0 at half time but with the determination of the whole team, (with a special mention for Vice Captain Jemima Turkington scoring one well-struck goal and Hollie Hubert claiming two left post goals) we defeated Dromore 3-2. We also had tough matches against Down High School, Royal School Armagh, BRA, Friends', Strathearn, Wellington, Lurgan Junior High School

and Sullivan, with a good share of wins, draws and some losses.

Emma O'Neill, Lauren White and Hollie Hubert have worked hard throughout the year and have progressed to be strong and vital members of our team.

Zara Brown and Erin Hillis have also become crucial members with their capability to easily intercept and swiftly move the ball away from the opponents. Jemima Turkington has been a superb Vice Captain this year, always helping to improve our strategies while keeping her key role in the team as a powerful forward player. Leah Rodgers as Goal Keeper has also played extremely well this year, saving many goals and helping to guide all the defenders during the matches. Beth Cordner has been a

dedicated Captain and an influential sweeper in defence.

Thanks also to the following squad players who were committed to training and matches; Zoe Stinson, Molly Thompson, Katie Sloan, Olivia Williamson, Rachel McClelland, Victoria McConnell, Megan McPolin, Maggie Lewis, Emily Reid, Lucy Speers and Kayla Mullan.

Dr Dobson has made a huge impact on the way we played, providing in-depth coaching and helping to keep our fitness up (even though some may not have enjoyed it!). Thank you so much Dr Dobson!



Girls' Hockey

U13A

During a season of ups and downs, the U13A team developed into an energetic team with lots of passion and teamwork. We worked extremely hard in both training and matches and it was really starting to show before the abrupt end of the season.

One of our most memorable performances was on 21st September. It was an excellent day for defence, midfield and attack as we beat Down High an astounding 7-0 with goals from Abbi Harrison and Maia Crawford. From the beginning we were solid at the back, with our defence sending balls up the line, many of which led to goals. Maia scored a wonderful solo goal by going around 2 players before taking a shot that left the keeper with no chance.

Another memorable match was against Strathearn High. Although the result didn't go our way, the scoreline of 2-0 did not reflect how we played. We conceded early from a brief lapse in concentration but after that we were close to scoring many times. However Strathearn scored again, against the run of play. We were very unfortunate, nonetheless we took that loss on the chin and revised our tactics, coming back to meet them again with an even stronger side. We fought hard and this time we came out victorious!

It has been a privilege to captain this team and watch them develop with every game. On behalf of everyone,



I would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Todd and Miss Irwin for coaching us this season. I cannot wait to get back on the field with the girls.

Matches played: 15
Wins: 7
Losses: 6
Draws: 1

Sarah Hylands
Lilia McKinney
Christina Mcginnis

Edie Mccusker
Esther Campbell
Violet Cohen
Grace Mooney
Abbi Harrison (cpt.)
Maia Crawford
Cara Purdy (VC)
Grace Hamilton
Amy Jordan
Lucy Friar
Darcey Milligan
Taylor Barlow

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Girls' Hockey

U13B

The U13Bs played very well throughout the season this year, including many wins and draws and some losses. We played a total of 13 matches including the MUSA tournament.

The season was tough, but every player put in maximum effort for every match and came to after-school training every Tuesday. The captain, Ellie Robinson and the vice-captain, Kate Ferris played a big role in encouraging the girls during the match and at half-time.

We played competitive matches against teams like Killicomaine Junior High School, Dromore High School, Wellington College Belfast, Lurgan Junior High School and Strathearn School, winning many of our matches. We had some great results against Wellington College Belfast, winning 4-0 (hat-trick by Kate Ferris and goal by Thalia Reid). Also, against Killicomaine Junior High School winning 2-0 (both scored by Maddy Urwin). We had some great goals from our forwards and mid-fielders, Freya Whitten, Kara Topping, Lois Walker, Kate Ferris, Thalia Reid and Maddy Urwin. We also had some

great attacking from our forwards and mid-fielders. Well done to Kate Ferris who was our top goal scorer with 8 goals this season. Well done also to Lucy Grossmann who produced some excellent hockey in mid-field.

We also had the chance to play in the Mid-Ulster League, coming joint 3rd with Markethill High School and winning bronze medals. We had an unbeatable defence with Poppy Henderson as sweeper and Lois Clydesdale, Eve Corbett and Ellie Bleakes as left and right backs. Captain Ellie Robinson was extremely solid and reliable in defence and provided strong balls to our mid-field and forwards.

Thank you to both our goal keepers Imogen Hunter and Sarah Hylands for their dedication and skill in saving shots at goal. Also, thanks to the extended squad members;

Alex Rowan, Eimear Simpson, Kate McWilliam, Zoe Knox, Holly McTurk and Megan Williamson who were committed players.

It was a privilege to captain the team this year and we would all like to thank Dr Dobson, Mrs Todd and the rest of the staff for taking the time to organise all the matches and training. We cannot wait to see what this next season will hold for us.





Girls' Hockey

U12

Over 50 girls started their Banbridge Academy Girls' Hockey life by attending training every Wednesday.

Within this group there was a lot of talent and potential, but most importantly there was a lot of hockey fun every week. The "Beastly Beacom" Halloween Tournament was won by "The Green Team" and Best Dressed was awarded to "The Wacky Bunch". U12B had a very consistent set of results with draws against Dromore "A", KJHS "B" and Sullivan "B" U12 sides. The only loses were to TJHS "A" and MHS "A". With a captain of Cady McFarlane leading the squad, they always gave their very best and showed so much progress throughout the year.

U12B

1. Kezia Hylands
2. Beth Jordan
3. Grace Monroe
4. Rachel Moore
5. Cady McFarlane (captain)
6. Amy Porter
7. Emily Stronach
8. Rachel Williamson
9. Ellie Carson
10. Zoe Acheson
11. Rebekah Jackson
12. Kayla McAfee
13. Emily Martin
14. Caitlyn McBride



U12A recorded wins against CJHS and RSD, but lost against RSA and KJHS. Zara McCormick and Amelie Knot co-captained the team and it is clear that this team is one to watch as they progress through the school.

- 12A
1. Bronte Jones GK
 2. Ellie Cousins
 3. Tilly Diamond

4. Amelie Knott
5. Zara McCormick
6. Jessica McCullough
7. April McFarlane
8. Ciara Patton
9. Cara Sinnamon
10. Lucy Thompson
11. Madison McVeigh
12. Sophia Brown
13. Carly Fong
14. Eimear Wilson



Boys' Hockey

1st XI Burney Cup

Saturday 1st February, Havelock Park
Banbridge Academy 3-0 Campbell College

Before the game Dean McDowell from Prentice Cars wished coach Simon Jess, captain Edward Rowe and Teacher in Charge of Boys' Hockey Colin Walker good luck for their Burney Cup campaign.

With the young Academy squad sadly coming short in both All Irelands' and the McCullough Cup, head coach Simon Jess sent out the team with one main goal, redemption. On a cold Saturday morning, captain Edward Rowe gave the forward line some much needed energy as he continuously created chance after chance with help from dynamic midfielder Tommy Dobson. Eventually with some tight passing by Edward and his younger brother Louis, Bann got the first goal on the scoreboard as Louis tapped in at the back post. The Bann team dominated the first quarter aside from a few stray breakaways from the Belfast side. The second quarter held mainly the same tone as the first with Bann applying most of the pressure. Some quick counter attacks produced by newly appointed defender Seb Best, saw him linking up well with Vice Captain Luke McConnell. Despite the dominance, Campbell held on to go into the half-time break only 1-0 down and giving them some hope for the second half.

With the starting whistle of the second half Campbell, invigorated with their half time talk, laid on forceful attack after attack but thanks to Bann's very own Irish representative Mark Cowan, who was competently leading the defence, goalkeeper Elliot Haw had very little to do. The Academy's Luke Watt pressed up the right hand side finally linked with the young Matthew McKee to win the Banbridge side a short corner. Edward Rowe scored



directly from the top of the circle when he put the ball snugly in the bottom left corner of the goal, leaving the keeper in a daze. Both teams began to fade in the last quarter and the pitch began to open up giving Campbell false hope but thankfully Elliot saved shots left right and centre to keep a clean sheet. With beautiful counter attacking play, Louis Rowe perfectly placed a weighted ball back post for Ben Ingram to tap in and put the game to bed. The Academy secured the win and a ticket to the next round.

Squad: Elliot Haw, Luke Watt, Matthew McClimonds, Seb Best, Mark Cowan, Edward Rowe, Tommy Dobson, Lewis Groves, Charlie Rowe, Matthew McKee, Louis Rowe, Cody Large, Luke McConnell, Ben Ingram, Alex Jordan





Boys' Hockey

1st XI Burney Cup QF

John Minnis Estate Agents Burney Cup 2020 | Quarter-Final replay
Friends' School 7-0 Banbridge Academy

After holding favourites Friends' School to a creditable 3-3 draw at Havelock Park, Banbridge Academy crashed out of this season's Burney Cup in front of a large crowd at Friends'. Coach Simon Jess had been hoping for another heroic performance from his troops, but with Lewis Groves missing from midfield the depth of his squad was found wanting as the Lisburn powerhouse turned the screw in the second half. The first quarter saw both teams start strongly and Friends' took the lead with a ball crashed in from the right flank to an unmarked forward at the back post. Banbridge then dominated for the rest of the quarter as Friends' were content to defend deep and fend off the visitor's attacks from the edge of their circle. Academy centre back, Mark Cowan, found himself often on the ball but with very few passing options as the home side got all 11 players behind the ball.

The second quarter followed a similar vein but Friends' carried more of a threat on the counterattack. As Bann committed people forward they were caught out by a swift forward raid as Friends' doubled their lead with half-time approaching. Forwards Louis Rowe and Matthew McKee pulled the home defence from side to side but goal-scoring opportunities were hard to come by.

Halftime words from Jess rallied the boys for the second half but little could prepare them for the Friends' onslaught about to come their way. From the push-back it was obvious the Lisburn team had moved up several gears as they showed their class and experience in punishing every Academy mistake. Three quick goals left the Banbridge defence in tatters and had the game killed off with still a quarter to go. Elliot Haw had been the Academy hero in the first game with his heroics in goal, but

he could do little to stop the ball flying past him as Friends' tore through the Academy lines with ease.

With the Banbridge heads hanging low, it seemed cruel to play another quarter as both teams knew the game was over. Two further Friends' goals put a nasty gloss on the scoreline, but this game is one which the young Academy boys need to learn from in future seasons. All but two of the squad are back next season so hope still remains high for silverware in the near future.

Squad: Elliot Haw, Mark Cowan, Matthew McClimonds, Luke Watt, Seb Best, Jamie McArdle, Edward Rowe(c), Charlie Rowe, Ben Farson, Tommy Dobson, Louis Rowe, Matthew McKee, Cody Large, Luke McConnell, Alex Jordan, Ben Ingram



Boys' Hockey

All-Ireland Schoolboys

Banbridge Academy couldn't repeat their feat from last season of reaching the final of the All-Ireland Schools', when the competition took place in Dublin.



The campaign got off to the best possible start. A goal from Ben Ingram and two from Edward Rowe saw the Academy defeat fellow Ulster school Methodist College 3-0. Day 2 saw the Banbridge team face last year's champions, Newtown School from Waterford. In a tough match on a cold morning at King's Hospital School, a goal in each half, from Matthew McKee and Luke McConnell, was enough to set up a group decider against The High School Dublin.

With the whole school supporting the Dublin hosts on their home ground, it was The High School who went into a two nil lead. Edward Rowe converted a penalty stroke after a deliberate infringement to pull one goal back for Banbridge, but the southern school secured the victory by three goals to one with another in the dying minutes. This was a close encounter

and tighter defending from the young Bann outfit could have seen a different outcome. The High School would go on and win the tournament to become All-Ireland Champions for the first time, coming back from two goals down in the final to defeat St Andrew's College in a shootout.

Banbridge then found themselves in the inaugural Herbie Sharman Trophy for the teams finishing second in their groups. A disappointing first half on Day 3 saw the Bann side four nil down to Ashton School from Cork at half-time. Some strong words rejuvenated the team and they came out fighting after the break. Alas, three attempts hit the post to sum up the lack of luck going the Bann way, but Edward Rowe did pull one back when he scored the best goal of the match by gliding past three defenders before rocketing a drive high past the diving keeper. A

late Ashton penalty corner goal left the final score 5-1.

This was a disappointing end to a competition which had started so well, but the majority of the squad will hope to be back again next year with a further year's experience under their belts.

The full squad for the tournament: Elliott Haw, James Finlay, Matthew McClimonds, Jamie McArdle, Luke Watt, Charlie Rowe, Mark Cowan, Lewis Groves, Edward Rowe, Harry Lockhart, Luke McConnell, Alex Jordan, Louis Rowe, Matthew McKee, Tommy Dobson, Cody Large, Seb Best, Ben Ingram

Coach: Simon Jess
Assistant Coach: John Clarke
Manager: Colin Walker



Boys' Hockey

2nd XI

In a season blighted by COVID -19 and lockdown during our Dowdall up run, I have wondered if we could have lifted a cup this year.

The lads deserved more out of their season than what they got due to lockdown restrictions. The commitment from the players to training sessions and matches was great, unfortunately, the same could not be said for their attitude to fitness. On a couple of occasions, I did manage to get them to accompany me on a 5K run. Most coped well although we had a few guys that couldn't stick the pace, you know who you are!

Our season started with a home match against Regent, tough opposition to start with as they had beaten us last year in the cup. The result was a 1-1 draw, although to be honest we were fortunate to come away with a draw with a goal from Oren, which was as a result of a mistake by the keeper. We had a lot to improve on from our first performance and when we went away to Grosvenor we struggled to get into the game. It wasn't until we went 2-0 down and there were 15 minutes left that we started to play to our potential. We had almost left things too late but with a great goal from 'super sub' Jonny Cartmill to make it 2-1, the boys were fired up. We created more chances and put Grosvenor under more pressure and eventually Christian Fee scored a well worked goal from a short corner.

Prior Shield

Following two draws in which we hadn't played particularly well, we played our first round of the Prior Shield at home to RBAI. We ended up winning 5- 0, which was a great result in a match we dominated with goals from, Nathan Reid, Josh McAdam, Christian Fee, Matthew Anderson and Oren Shimmons. It was pleasing to see that the boys had started to play better as a team and the team spirit was good.

Next up in the Prior shield we played Ballycastle High school at home

beating them 5-0, goals scored by Mathew Anderson, Nathan Reid, Andrew Jackson and Christian Fee. They proved to be a very physical team and Charlie Keery had a few running battles in midfield.

We travelled to play Antrim in the next round of Prior Shield fixtures coached by Paul Marshall, ex Ulster rugby scrum half. They proved to be a physical team and again there were some good battles on the pitch, but the lads remained calm and played some nice Hockey on a newly laid surface scoring six goals, two each for Matthew Anderson and Josh McAdam, Kian Bingham and Oren Shimmons with the other two. Oren's celebration was a little over the top but I think he was pleased to score a goal where the opposing keeper didn't provide the assist.

Our next Cup game was away to RBAI at the Dub. We arrived to find the pitch was frozen, which meant a delayed start as we waited for the pitch to thaw out. After beating RBAI convincingly earlier in the season we struggled to get a foothold in the game, like the pitch it took the boys a while to get warmed up. We had a few short corners but the Inst. keeper proved hard to beat, eventually Josh McAdam broke the deadlock from a short corner rebound at close range. It was a tight game and we spurned too many chances early on, making a win look difficult until Thomas Urwin scored late in the second half. The result remained at 2- 0 and we had progressed through the group as winners.

In preparation for our Quarter final in the Prior shield we travelled to Regent to face a well drilled team. We didn't have the best of starts as some of our team arrived late after taking a tour around the Ards Peninsula. The worrying thing for me was that Josh McAdam had completed his Duke of Edinburgh Gold expedition the previous year but clearly his

navigation still needs some work!! We drew the game 1-1 with Cameron McCombe on the score sheet, again we were guilty of not converting our short corners.

Our opponents in the Quarter final of the Prior Shield were Sullivan Upper, thankfully we had a home tie and the home support was welcomed. It was an exciting game in which Sullivan dominated early on. We had to come from behind to level the scores at 2-2 Josh McAdam and Matthew Anderson scoring with only a few minutes left of normal time. We were anticipating extra time but the guys worked and pressed hard exerting a lot of pressure on Sullivan's defence. An opportunity fell to Oren Shimmons in the circle and his miss hit shot was misjudged by the keeper, who let it roll in thinking that the shot was from outside the circle. This mishap handed us the victory with minutes to spare and Oren's luck with goalkeeping errors continued. The Semi-final opponents were a strong Wallace side and again we had the advantage of a home draw. Like the previous match against Sullivan it was a very tight match with not much between the sides. Unfortunately, we went down a goal early in the first half by way of a soft goal scored from a short corner, which we should have dealt with more effectively. We did come back through a well worked goal from Oren Shimmons bringing the score to 1-1. In the third quarter we conceded a goal and then it became a battle for us as we pushed to get an equaliser. The guys pushed hard in the fourth quarter and dominated a lot of the play, but ultimately we suffered a loss as we didn't create enough chances in the circle. The final result was 2-1 and that was the end of our Prior shield run.

Dowdall Cup

The beginning of March brought an opportunity for some silverware in the

Boys' Hockey

2nd XI

shape of the Dowdall Cup. Following a bye in the first round we drew Sullivan at home and this proved to be another very tight game. Both teams produced a great spectacle for the home support with nothing between the teams after normal time the score was 3-3. Cody Large scoring two and one from Jamie McArdle following a super solo effort. The game was to be decided on run ins which we had practised at training the week previous. After five

run ins from each team the score was tied at 2-2, this meant sudden death. Ben Ingram stepped up and slotted his attempt calmly past the keeper putting the pressure on Sullivan. James Finlay was the hero of the day saving Sullivan's attempt and putting us through to the next round. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 and lockdown we never got to play any more matches in the Dowdall Cup, bringing an abrupt end to a successful season. Like me a lot of

the guys couldn't help but wonder what could have been had we been allowed to finish the Dowdall Cup.

I would like to thank Evan Calvert and Christian Fee for their leadership throughout the season. It has been great working with the guys and I look forward to next season where we can hopefully build on the successes from this season and our fitness.

Boys' Hockey

U15

The season got off to a great start as the team was just freshly back from a tour in Holland and Germany.

A huge 12-0 defeat at Regent House was followed by a 3-0 win against Bangor Grammar and a 2-0 win at Wallace High School. Spencer Collie showed how potent he was in front of goal by scoring seven goals in these three matches.

The team had a new coach for the season - Mr Magee. He helped develop many aspects of our game, which showed as we continued our winning ways by defeating Campbell College 8-2 and Friends' School 5-0. Matthew McKee was now starting to catch Collie in the goal scoring charts! Throughout the season the team had many deserved victories and no defeats. The only game the team did not win was when they drew 3-3 at RBA, but they were quickly back on track with a 5-0 win against Sullivan Upper and another win against Friends'.

and performed well. Connor Part had a superb season in goal with Joshua Moles and Morgan Murphy easily marshalling the defence. Tommy Dobson controlled most games from midfield, with Ben Pollock providing the link between the middle of the park and the forwards. On our Richardson Cup run, we won the first two games against Friends' 6-0 and Campbell 8-1 but unfortunately in the week that we were to play our semi-final against RBA, Covid-19 forced us into lockdown meaning we couldn't finish our season. This was very disappointing as we looked like we were well positioned to win the Richardson Cup and claim the team's third Cup win. Overall it was a good season for the team, showing their potential going forward.

Everyone on the team played well and consistently put in brilliant efforts



Boys' Hockey

U14

Three years, still NO defeats!

We started the season off strong and ended even stronger. The first game of the season was an emphatic 14-0 victory away to Regent House with forward Josh Brownlee scoring five goals and centre-back Ben Walker getting a hat-trick. This was followed by consecutive 5-0 wins against Bangor Grammar and Grosvenor Grammar. A disappointing 1-1 draw with Wallace, where Matthew Spence rescued a point, was followed with a great 5-1 win against an older Kilkeel side. By now, Brownlee and young Adam McKee were away ahead in the goal scoring charts.

Although we were still in the early stages of the season, we hit our first obstacle, with a nasty injury to skipper Matthew Stevenson. However, the squad managed to overcome this set back as we continued to reel in comfortable wins; 5-1 at Campbell College, 3-0 against Friends' and a

superb 9-0 demolishing of Grosvenor 2nd XI.

As Cup season approached, we stepped up our game taking no prisoners. Sullivan were dispatched 3-0 as we prepared for our first game in the Ferris Cup against the toughest opposition we played last year, Wallace. We went into the game nervous and that showed in our play, but as the game went on we started to take control and came away with a 3-0 win. The next stage was away to Bangor who started the game strong, but a dominant second half saw us run out 3-1 victors. Now into the semi-finals and we were playing RBAI; the only school team we had never played before so we didn't know what to expect. We started the game quickly, creating plenty of chances and once we started to convert them, we couldn't stop scoring and by the end

of the game our fitness was shining through. A wonderful scoreline of 10-1 demonstrated the dominance of this team against everyone at this level and only a worldwide pandemic robbed us of the chance to play in the John Waring trophy and become All Ireland Champions. The Ferris Cup final against Campbell College never took place but with the confidence and ability within this squad, we are sure we would have maintained our indestructible unbeaten record and brought home more silverware for the school.

U14 squad:

Denver Golbey, Callum Clement, Matthew Stevenson, Matthew Spence, Aaron Baxter, Josh Brownlee, Ben Walker, Lukas Moles, Caleb Briggs, Joshua Cash, Daniel Reid, Jonathan McCrum, Noah Lutton, Elijah Carr, Jonah Lutton, Adam McKee, Mark Hanna, Jack Poole



Boys' Hockey

U13

We live in strange and uncertain times. 2020 has been a strange year and while it is important to pause and reflect, it is difficult to assess a hockey season which ended abruptly within the context of COVID-19.

The U13 Boys' Hockey Team at the Academy had a season however that reflected the circumstances we find ourselves in:

Unpredictable: developing a style of play that managed to encourage creativity and development that fooled many opposition teams that we played.

Strange: swapping our centre back and forward early in the season, which managed to create more goals and excitement in our attacking play.

Hope: in the midst of a challenging season, we know that with focused training, hard work and pitch time, we can have more success moving forward.

We started the season knowing that challenge was on the horizon. Despite this, we had a promising start to the season with two big wins against Bangor Grammar (2-1) and Grosvenor Grammar (3-1). This early season run of form was brought to a halt at the hands of an accomplished

and Ulster leading Wallace side, who defeated the boys 5-2. Despite the defeat it showed progression from Year 8 and an appetite to improve. A mixture of results followed through October to December, but fight, determination and team spirit were evident throughout the early season. After Christmas, the focus turned to the Bannister Bowl. With some impressive team training sessions and focused skill work, the team were prepared for the game against Bangor. Unfortunately, a mixture of injuries and sickness impacted the side, leading to a loss away from home to a hard-working and skilled Bangor team. The gloominess of mid-winter and the loss in the Cup was closely followed by an abrupt end to the season due to government regulations in light of the coronavirus pandemic.

Despite a season of challenge, I believe strongly that there is a strong bunch of lads within the U13 side who have the ability to progress and develop to become a real force in Ulster Hockey. Adam McKee, captain of the side, led with

distinction and displayed maturity beyond his years both on and off the pitch. His willingness to go forward spearheaded many of our attacks. His potential and skills have been recognised by Ulster Hockey already at his young age. Other big team players throughout the season included Zach Black, Alfie Norris, Ellis Morgan, Jack Poole, Mark Hanna, Ollie Small, Tom Mawhinney and Cameron McClure. Credit must go to all players who played this season too and made an impact in whichever positions they played.

In closing, despite the challenge there is a lot of potential that the boys need to unlock to achieve real success. As Jurgen Klopp puts it: "It was important ... we lost, so that feels not too good. You always have to strike back. We can say all of these things, but you know you can fall down and then you have to stand up." I encourage the lads as we progress forward in these strange and uncertain times; may the hope and goal of future success drive them on to train harder, play harder but most importantly, win harder.

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Boys' Hockey

Hockey Representation

Banbridge Academy are delighted to announce the inclusion of 14 pupils who have been selected to the Ulster U18 and U16 Interprovincial Squads this year.

The U18 squad includes 3 brothers - Edward Rowe (Year 14), Charlie Rowe (Year 13) and Louis Rowe (Year 13).

achievement all round for the boys and the school. Those included in the U16 squad are:

Walker
Year 12: Tommy Dobson, Matthew McKee, Ben Pollock

The Ulster U16 Interprovincial Squad of 20 players has also been confirmed and includes 11 Banbridge Academy players (including another set of brothers - the McKees) - an amazing

Year 10: Adam McKee
Year 11: Aaron Baxter, Josh Brownlee, James Evans, Denver Golbey, Matthew Spence, Matthew Stevenson, Ben

We wish the boys every success at the Interprovincials at Halloween as the U16s defend their title and the U18s attempt to win back the Interprovincial Trophy.





Rugby

1st XV

Banbridge Academy 1st XV had a mixed season starting with a fantastic victory in the Gary Clarke Memorial Tournament. The team struggled in the early stages of the Schools' Cup, but finally finished with a strong run to the final of the Schools' Bowl Competition.

The season began at the Grosvenor Tournament, where early defeats by Wesley College and Belfast Royal Academy were avenged with a win against Grosvenor grammar. This was followed by the Gary Clark Memorial Tournament held annually at Lurgan Rugby Club. A fine win in the first game, 12-7 against Portadown College, was followed up with a 0-0 draw against Friends' School and a 5-0 win against Lurgan College. This secured the trophy for Banbridge Academy for the first time in a number of years. A week later another three-way tournament saw a fine win over Dromore High School, followed up with a disappointing loss against Portadown College. This concluded the preseason phase and led to the first set of full fixtures. The first game was a narrow 5 - 10 loss to Omagh Academy and this was followed up by disappointing losses to Enniskillen Royal Grammar School and Lurgan College.

In the newly revamped Schools' Cup Banbridge Academy were grouped alongside Coleraine Grammar School,

Belfast High School and Belfast Royal Academy. Our first Cup game prior to Halloween was against a very strong Coleraine Grammar School who ran out big winners, a disappointing start to the new competition. Over the half term break a friendly fixture was played against Regent House, where unfortunately the Academy lost but it was a competitive fixture pitched at the right level to restore some confidence going into Cup game two.

Next up was that second Schools' Cup Match. This time it was a much more closely contested affair against Belfast High School and in a nip and tuck game, Belfast High School eventually came away 17-29 winners. Two friendly fixtures followed; one, a heavy loss at the hands of a very strong Friends' School and a much more closely contested loss to Grosvenor Grammar. This was followed by our final Schools' Cup group game against Belfast Royal Academy where the Belfast team proved too strong, but the Academy fought hard and left with their heads held high in a 12-46 defeat. This

loss saw us enter the Schools' Bowl Competition to be played post-Christmas. Over the holiday period we had three more friendlies; the first was an excellent away win 27-5 against Foyle College and this was followed by a narrow loss 26-35 to Portadown College and tight 5-19 defeat by Down High School.

The Bowl Campaign

This led us to our first round Bowl game against Regent House and a chance to avenge that earlier loss. Despite an early setback, it was all Banbridge and despite playing into the wind we had built up a good lead by halftime and saw the game out comfortably in the second half. Tries from Jonny Martin, Ben Bradshaw, Marc Murphy, Scott Graham and Harry Patterson, along with 4 conversions from Patterson, saw us run out 33-7 winners.

The quarter final, which was against a very strong Rainey Endowed, took place on a very windy morning and began with the Academy in the ascendency but the substantial



Rugby

1st XV

early pressure from the Academy was repelled by obdurate Rainey defence. After 20 minutes, with their first real attack of the game, it was the Magherafelt team that took the lead after some weak tackling in the Banbridge midfield. The visiting out half was wide with the conversion attempt. This seemed to spark the Academy into life however and just four minutes after the Rainey score, the Academy took the lead when some excellent tight play from the pack resulted in Flanker Marcus McNeill driving in for a try and Wing Jonny Martin adding the extras. On the stroke of half time some pressure from the Academy was further rewarded when Centre Jake Houston picked up a loose ball and powered over the line under the posts. Martin was successful once again with the conversion.

A 14-5 lead playing into the stiffening wind in the second half looked to be a precarious advantage and when, after just five minutes had been played, Rainey worked some close range play and powered a maul over the Academy line to close the gap the writing looked to be on the wall for the Banbridge boys. But just as in the first half this seemed to galvanise the Academy and they proceeded to play their best rugby of the entire match. After numerous surging



forward drives, Flanker Ben Bradshaw hit a short line and powered over the whitewash to increase the lead to 19-12 with just 17 minutes left. While there were a few worrying moments in the final third, the Academy continued to dominate the tight exchanges and controlled play right up until the full-time whistle sounded to the delight of the Banbridge players and the large home support. The win earned the team an away semi-final against Belfast High School.

The semi-final saw an excellent 27-20 win for the Academy. The Academy won the toss and elected to play with the strong diagonal wind at their backs. This decision was vindicated when Captain Adam Hanna surged onto a short pass on 13 minutes and dotted down for the try. Scrum Half Harry Patterson added the conversion. While the Academy had some opportunities to score over the next 20 minutes, it was Belfast High who scored next. On 28 minutes, after some strong driving play, their flanker surged in for a score. The conversion was missed. This seemed to rattle the Academy and just 3 minutes later, after some uncharacteristically weak tackling, Belfast High scored again after a good individual run from their centre. This time the extras were added to leave the Academy in a precarious position 7-12 down with minutes to halftime. They responded magnificently and 2nd Row Dovydas Liutvinas pounced on a looped pass to intercept and go 40 metres under the posts. Patterson slotted the vital conversion. So, a fragile 2 point lead was the Academy's only reward for the stiff wind and turning round into the 2nd half it seemed this may not be enough. But the Banbridge boys had saved their best rugby for last. After just three minutes of the 2nd half, Harry Patterson kicked a penalty but this was quickly cancelled out by a Belfast High penalty. On 45 minutes Patterson kicked another penalty to stretch the lead to 5 points again and this signalled the Academy's best period of the game. After some strong forward drives, Patterson sniped though a gap at the edge



of a ruck and jinked his way under the posts. He added the extras and seemed to give the Academy a strong lead, however on 60 minutes, Belfast High rallied and drove over for a further unconverted score to leave them just 7 points behind. The final 10 minutes, plus 7 minutes of injury time, saw some resolute defence from Banbridge. Surge after surge was repelled and the game finished as the Academy held Belfast High up over the line under their own posts. It was a fantastic performance and all the players should be congratulated on an outstanding display of character and skill. This set up a mouth-watering final against local rivals Dromore High, who overcame a strong Limavady Grammar in their semi-final.

Unfortunately, the final was a step too far and we lost out 33-17 but it was an epic match, fitting of a final. Dromore started the game dynamically and were on the scoreboard within 5 minutes with a converted try. They doubled this lead after 13 minutes after a series of forward drives ended with a close range try, which was also converted. This could have spelled the end for the Academy, but the team galvanised themselves and clawed their way back into the game. Just prior to halftime a Bann free kick on the halfway line was quickly



Rugby

1st XV

tapped by Scrum Half Harry Patterson, who set Captain Adam Hanna away and his deft offload to Ben Bradshaw, saw the flanker break the line and

an excellent spectacle of Schoolboy rugby and congratulations to Dromore on a well-deserved Schools' Bowl victory.



year due to injury. Both second rows were really back row players, but both readily stepped in for the good of the team.

Peter Coughlin was the team vice-captain but unfortunately had another injury ravaged season but was able to battle through to compete in virtually all of the Cup games. Peter is an excellent scavenging forward and loves to compete at the breakdown. Dovydas Liutvinas is another back or forward but equally at home in the second row. He is an excellent lineout forward and picks great lines in attack. Louis O'Neill also played numerous times in the second row and he also is a very strong ballcarrier, who is improving all the time.

Year 14 players, Adam Brown and Eoin Doyle, also played many games for the 1st XV. Both were very good players throughout the season and always added to the team when they were brought in. Eoin's contribution on and off the pitch was validated when he was awarded Clubman of the Year. The back row consisted of number eight Adam Hanna and flankers Ben Bradshaw and Marcus McNeill. Adam, the team captain, has also represented Ulster U19 this season in the interpros. Adam is a remarkably talented player who is extremely physical in the Carry but also extremely intelligent about the pitch. Adam had such a good season that he was rewarded with a place on the full Ulster 'A' bench against Leinster 'A', a remarkable achievement for a young man still at school. Adam also won the Player of the Year Award for 2020. The back row was completed with flankers Ben Bradshaw and Marcus McNeill. Both players are only Year 12, but both were essential cogs in the successful Cup run at the end of the season. Marcus is a remarkable physical athlete whose work rate is 2nd to none and is a constant pain at the breakdown. Marcus has represented Ulster Under 17 during the season. Ben is an excellent reader of the game and a first-class carrier of the ball

step two covering defenders to score a spectacular individual try. Patterson added the extras to leave the halftime score 14-7. Just 5 minutes into the second half, 2nd Row Peter Coughlin was on the end of some great forward play and powered over to score and the conversion was missed leaving the gap just 2 points. This started a crazy period of the game where both teams applied pressure and alternated scoring. Dromore was first to respond on 50 minutes with a converted try, but this was answered immediately by a try from Bann Hooker Marc Murphy. Dromore struck back again with an unconverted try of their own on 60 minutes. Bann then had further chances to reduce the lead to a single score but defiant defence from Dromore kept them out and then with time running out, Dromore broke clear to score again and bring the lead out to a comfortable 15 points. It was a disappointing end to a fantastic Bowl run for the Academy boys, but they will take solace from the manner of their performance and the character they showed in coming back from the early deficit. Well done to both teams on producing

The Forwards.

The front row consisted of props John McAllister, Scott Graham and Alex Porter. John has excellent mobility and is ever improving as a scrummager and being only Year 12, he has time to improve this area. Scott Graham improved throughout the season and by the time of the Schools' Bowl, he was the starting tight head prop. Scott's mobility improved throughout the year and his carrying has been a strong part of his game. Alex is also a very strong ballcarrier and was an integral part of tying down the scrum.

Hooker was Marc Murphy. Marc has excellent foot work and was one of our main ballcarriers throughout the year. Marc worked hard on his lineout throwing and was rewarded when he was voted Most Improved Player of the year. Ollie Norris also played numerous games when Marc was required in the back row. Ollie is a very talented young player who reads the game well and enjoys getting ball in hand; he is sure to progress well over the coming years. The second row and back rows chopped and changed considerably throughout

Rugby

1st XV

and his energy is infectious to the whole team. Ben was deservedly voted the Year 12 Player of the Year by his peers. Both young men have big futures ahead. Jack Baird also played numerous times and Jack was a wholly committed player, who tackled his heart out on every occasion.

The Backs

Scrum-half was Harry Patterson. Harry had an excellent season all-around. His pass is improving all the time, he reads the game brilliantly and he has an excellent eye for a break and the pace to back it up. Harry was voted L6 Player of the Year. Outhalf was Year 12 Will Russell. Will improved dramatically throughout the season from some nervous early performances to imposing his own game plan on the pitch by season end. Philip Hayes was also often selected at outhalf. Philip is an excellent organiser of the back line and enjoyed playing attacking rugby. Unfortunately, injury meant Philip was unable to take part in the latter half of the season. Inside centre was Jake Houston. Jake very unselfishly made the move from the back row into the centre and excelled throughout the season. He quickly learnt the attacking patterns and his natural ball playing ability meant he slotted in perfectly to the backline. Outside centre was Year 12 Matthew Daly. Matthew is another very talented young player who runs great lines and is improving all the time defensively. The wings also changed

around throughout the season. The ever present was Jonny Martin. Jonny has an infectious enthusiasm and he improved remarkably over the year. Ross Graham, twin brother of prop Scott, began the year in the seconds but by the season end had made himself a regular choice on the 1st XV. Ross, equally at home in the centre, has an eye for a gap and is a great reader of opposition attacks. Ethan Somerville also played most of the season at either wing or outside centre. Ethan is another talented player who always gives his best for the team in whatever position he selected. Korey Knox also played many games on the wing and he was a hard tackler and strong runner with ball in hand. Angus Campbell is another young player with a bright future who featured throughout the season on the wing. Angus has pace and a devastating sidestep. Full-back was Alex Ferguson who was safe under a high ball and enjoyed counter-attacking whenever possible and was a rock in defence.

In addition to those detailed earlier, the following players also represented the 1st XV during the season: Joel Good, Ben Russell, Conor Hodgett, J.B McElroy, Alex Parker, Nicholas Brown and Andreas Eliopolous.

The 1st XV playing record was: Played 24, Won 8, Lost 15, Drew 1. Points for 301, Points against 535

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 and Mr Robbie Ervine for all their coaching and help with the 1st XV throughout the season; their expertise and enthusiasm are greatly appreciated. Thanks to Mr Brian O'Shaughnessy and Mr Jonny Erskine for all their hard work with the 2nd XV on Wednesday afternoons and Mr Mark Magowan for looking after the 2nd on Saturdays. Thanks to Daniel Duffin for the gym sessions twice a week, which have really helped the senior rugby boys' conditioning. Thanks also to Mr Stevie McCusker of Knowledge Gym for all his hard work with the fitness and conditioning of the senior squad. Finally, thanks to the caretakers, and John Kernaghan in particular, for their hard work on Saturday mornings looking after the changing areas and providing teas and coffee. Without the help of these people we could not have had such a successful and enjoyable season.

Top points scorers:

	Tries	Penalties	Conversions	Drop Goal	Total Points
Harry Patterson	5	3	15	-	64
Adam Hanna	6	-	-	-	30
Jake Houston	6	-	-	-	30
Ben Bradshaw	5	-	-	-	25
Matthew Daly	4	-	1	-	22



Rugby

2nd XV

The 2nd XV had a very enjoyable season, but it was significantly curtailed due to losing fixtures through injury, Cup commitments and player unavailability for both us and the opposition. The 2nd XV worked hard however, and the majority of players featured at some stage during the season for the 1st XV, so there was no shortage of match involvement for most players.



The season opened with a narrow loss 7-12 to Armagh Royal. This was followed by another loss, 7-36, to Omagh Academy. Next the team had a great 29-0 win over local rivals Lurgan College. Carrick Grammar sent their 1st XV to face our team and we fought hard all the way to keep the score line tight at 7-17 in their favour. November saw the 1st round of the Cup and here we played Larne Grammar in a very competitive game but lost out to a slick side 0-15. A loss to Friends' School, 12-32, was followed by a ding-dong 12-12 draw with BRA on Schools' Cup Saturday.

In the Schools' Trophy game, we had another tight encounter but we lost out once again 10-17 to Portadown College. The season ended with 2 defeats to strong Down High and Dromore High teams. Both games were competitive, but we were unable to sneak a win in either.

At the End of Season Awards Ceremony Phillip Hayes received the Captain's Award, Eoin Doyle received the Player of the Year Award and Alex Parker received the Most Improved

Player Award.

The team would like to thank all the staff who coached us this year: Mr Leslie, Mr Stevenson and Mr Ervine and also the various staff who looked after, or refereed us on a Saturday, and in particular Mr Magowan who took charge on most occasions.



Rugby

Medallion XV

The 2019/2020 season was a very difficult, yet positive season for the Medallion Team who battled through all season with a very small squad.

The Year 11 boys deserve credit for maintaining a positive attitude to training and matches all year, a positive attitude that brought them through a competitive Cup run.

The season started by picking up wins against Lurgan College and Friends' School, good preparation for the Cup matches later in the season. Our small squad numbers meant our fixtures against other schools were limited, but with the help of some of the very talented Year 10 players the boys kept training, and so as December approached we were ready for the Medallion Shield.

We drew Omagh away in the first round of the Shield, but in a tight game in horrendous conditions we lost to a very committed Omagh team 24-7, (try: Luke Charman). This meant we entered the Bowl Competition, where we faced Antrim Grammar away in the first round. A comfortable win 50-5 (tries: Ryan Matthews (2), Scott Allen, Noah Myles,

Ronan Quinn, Jacques McCauley, Daniel Hutchinson and Darragh Knox). This was a fit reward for the squad who continued to train on individual and unit skills, as well as in weekly S & C sessions.

The quarter final was against Friends' School, when some strong individual performances carried us to a 19-5 win (tries: Adam Lytle, Daniel Hutchinson, Tom King), and a semi-final place against Limavady Grammar School. The semi-final was a tense affair, but a strong place kicking performance by Ryan Matthews and a try from Jacques McCauley was enough to separate the 2 teams (14-10) and give the boys a chance in the final to finish off the season.

In the final we produced a dominant performance against a strong Cambridge House team, but were unable to exert sustained pressure into points and unfortunately suffered a heart-breaking last minute defeat (10-8) despite a well-worked try from

Joshua Noble, brilliantly assisted by Noah Myles.

At the End of Season Awards, Ryan Matthews was awarded the Player of the Year Trophy and Henry Knox won the Most Improved award. The team like to thank coaches Mr Baxter, Mr Daly, Mr Duffin (S & C) and Troy Pinion for all their time, effort and support throughout the season.





Rugby

U14

The U14 XV had a very successful 2019/20 season with a playing record that read: played 20, won 14 and only lost 6.

In all, 23 players made up the squad and each and every one of them contributed enormously to the success. The step up from U13 XV rugby can be a challenge, but once this talented group of players found their feet they just continued to improve week in, week out.

The season did however start slowly with 2 of our 6 defeats coming in our first 2 games. We started with a trip to Lisburn to play a strong Wallace side, who edged a close fought contest 15-5. Talented centres Daniel Hutchinson and Jacques McCauley both picked up injuries that would rule them out of our first home game of the season against neighbours Dromore HS. Another tight game saw the visitors prevail 10-26. The squad then went on a 4-game winning streak away from home, beating RS Armagh (0-43), Antrim GS (0-29), RBAI 'C' (0-38) and Omagh Academy (22-29). Fullback Luke Charman and winger Darragh Knox raced out ahead with the number of tries scored as both had a natural talent for finding the tryline. Forwards Connor Magee and Thomas Williamson lead the way up front with both players very capable in attack and defence.

Our 2nd and 3rd home games of the season saw us lose 2 more games. Firstly, Enniskillen GS side edged a tight battle 15-30, followed by Down HS who outscored us 3 tries to 1 winning 5-21. A moral boosting 7-38 victory followed away to Clounagh JHS before the side fell to their 5th defeat of the season and final one of 2019 against a well drilled Coleraine GS side, 20-17. The squad would play a further 10 games in the season losing only once, which was testament to the attitude and commitment of the players. 2019 finished with 4 excellent victories against Belfast HS (12-22), Friends' SL (22-14), BRA (36-5) and Foyle College (40-5). The victory against BRA was particularly pleasing as it was as good a team/squad performance as you will see.



The forwards were outstanding and laid the foundations for the backline to completely dominate their counterparts.

In all, 11 members of the squad made the step up to represent the Medallion XV during their magnificent Cup run. Forwards Thomas Williamson and Connor Magee were ever present along with backs, Fergus Alway, Daniel Hutchinson and Jacques McCauley. Darragh Knox and Luke Charman found themselves in and out of the starting team while Adam Logan, Ethan Vince, Ollie Kelly and Harry Wan made up the extended squad. The Medallion XV agonisingly lost their final against Cambridge House but the U14 players can hold their heads high. They will be all the better for their experiences next season. The highlight of that Cup run surely has to be Jacques McCauley's solo score in the semi-final against Limavady GS. The New Year started with our final defeat of the season once again against Down HS (29-5). The Christmas break did the squad no favours but once they got back into the swing of things, they ended the season with a run of 5 consecutive victories against Regent House (0-40), Clounagh JHS (0-10), Friends' SL (12-31), Killicomaine JHS (29-10) and

RS Armagh (45-22).

The squad scored a total of 85 tries across the 20 games with the accolade of top try scorer going right down to the wire. Darragh Knox's double against RS Armagh wasn't quite enough as he was pipped at the post by Luke Charman. Both players scored an incredible 35 tries between them. Darragh did however finish top points scorer as he added 18 successful conversions to bring his overall points total to a very impressive 121.

Special mention must go to the 'B' team as well. Throughout the season they managed a couple of fixtures. Although both games ended in defeat players like Corey Hamilton, Jack Dougan and Joshua Thompson were rewarded for their effort and commitment during the season. The annual end of season awards ceremony was cancelled due to the Coronavirus outbreak, but the following players picked up awards: Captain – Fergus Alway
An outstanding leader both on and off the pitch. A player who wears his heart on his sleeve and deserves every success in the future. A pleasure to work with.

Rugby

U14



Player of the Year – Connor Magee
This award could have easily gone to 7 or 8 players such was the talent in this group. However, Connor thoroughly deserved his award as he was just magnificent in the 19 games he played for us. His understanding and reading of the game are second to none. Definitely one to watch in the future.

Most Improved Player – Freddie Elliott
Freddie only started playing rugby in Year 9 getting a few games for the U13 'B' team. He finished the 2019/20 season as an automatic pick in the U14 'A' team. He was always willing to learn and deserved his place on the team.

The squad also shared the 'Team of the Year' award with the U13 XV, which is due recognition for all the effort and commitment.

Top Try Scorers

TRIES – 85

Luke Charman – 18

Darragh Knox – 17

Jacques McCauley – 15

Daniel Hutchinson – 12

Thomas Williamson – 8

Connor Magee – 6

Ryan Hanna (Year 9) – 4

Fergus Alway – 2

Thomas Humphries – 2

James Seifert – 1

The players would like to thank assistant coach Jemma Jackson for all her hard work and support throughout the season. A special thanks must also go to Mr Leslie and all the other school coaches who assisted us throughout the year. This was a special group of players to work with and I am excited to see what the future holds for them.

Rugby Awards Ceremony

Banbridge Academy's Annual Awards Ceremony was a little bit different this year. With school and rugby suspended due to the Covid 19 lockdown, the rugby staff decided that rather than let it drift into next season they'd do a virtual presentation. Using the platforms of Google Classroom and Twitter, the awards were announced for each of the seven teams within school. Ulster Rugby stars Jordi Murphy and James Hume both sent video messages to the players congratulating them on their seasons and wishing them luck for the future.

The performance of all the teams should be commended, with five teams playing each Saturday and two Under 12 teams playing each Friday, the numbers playing the game are certainly on the rise. The U12, U13 & U14 teams (in particular) had very strong seasons and the Medallion reached the final of the Medallion Trophy, while the 1st XV reached the final of the Schools' Bowl. A full breakdown of the individual award winners is below.

Thanks also went to the coaching staff, namely the school staff of Brian Leslie, Brian O'Shaughnessy, Tim Baxter, Jonny Erskine, Chris Beacom and Chris Nash alongside the outside coaches Roy Stevenson, Robbie Ervine, Michael Daly, Jemma Jackson, Chris Patterson, Troy Pinion, Daniel Duffin, Mark Magowan and Stevie McCusker of Knowledge Fitness. Tribute was paid to their hard work in coaching, refereeing and organising the teams.

U12 'A' XV

Player of Year: Noah Haughey, Miles Mawson, Daniel Murray, Jonathan Neill

U12 'B' XV

Player of Year: Finlay Long, Joel McKnight

U13 'A' XV

Captain: Andrew Jackson
Player of Year: Ryan Hanna
Most Improved: Benjamin Quigley

U14 'A' XV

Captain: Fergus Alway
Player of Year: Connor Magee
Most Improved: Freddie Elliott

Medallion XV

Captain: Scott Allen

Player of Year: Ryan Matthews

Most Improved: Henry Knox

2nd XV

Captain: Phillip Hayes

Player of Year: Eoin Doyle

Most Improved: Alex Parker

1st XV

Captain: Adam Hanna

Top Try Scorer: Adam Hanna/Jake Houston

Overall P.O.Y.: Adam Hanna

U6 P.O.Y.: Adam Hanna

L6 P.O.Y.: Harry Patterson

Yr 12 P.O.Y.: Ben Bradshaw

Most Improved: Marc Murphy

Clubman: Eoin Doyle

Ulster Rep: Adam Hanna (Ulster 'A' &19) Marcus McNeill (Ulster U17)

Team of the year (Joint)

U13 XV & U14 XV



Rugby

U13

The 2019-20 season proved to be a hugely successful season for the Banbridge Academy U13 squad, culminating with another invitation to the now annual Grosvenor U13 tournament.

Our first fixture of the season was a tough game against a well-drilled and strong Wallace High School team and we suffered a heavy loss. Not to be deterred, after some positive training sessions, in which nearly 25 players turned out twice a week, we bounced back with a large win against local rivals Dromore High School. Both centres and full back Michael Porter got a brace of tries each, with the other tries scored by prolific hooker Callum Little and speedy winger Thomas Evans and conversions struck home by out-half Andrew Jackson. Unfortunately, the squad couldn't build on that performance and on our next outing we were defeated by Royal School Armagh 22-7, a result and a performance that left Mr Nash perplexed at the side of the pitch.

However, there were more positives to come and we strung together a hugely impressive run of results until Christmas, with only one loss coming in a closely fought contest against Friends' School Lisburn, with impressive performances from Ryan Hanna at 12. Highlights of these matches also included a fantastic solo try from Eoighan Comiskey against Enniskillen Royal Grammar School, as well as a fantastic defensive team performance against Belfast Royal Academy. After Christmas more wins followed including a fantastic away win against Omagh Academy, with many players showing excellent footwork and finishing skills, including Nazie Mulligan, and occasional rugby player Alfie Geoghagan, as well as impressive work from second rows Gordon Porter and Benjamin Porter. There were a number of other victories throughout January and February including an away win v Coleraine Grammar School and resounding victories over Belfast High School and Foyle College, which featured a return to rugby after a long



injury for Jonathan Reid who marked his return to play with a well taken score a winger would have been proud of.

A return to Lisburn late in the season allowed the much improved Banbridge Academy U13s to enact revenge on Friends' School for the earlier defeat, however the victory came at a cost as outstanding centre Elijah Dempsey fractured his hand while making a trademark kick-chase tackle, ruling him out for what would be the rest of the season, and leaving Ryan Hanna leading contender for top try scorer.

The contender for match of the season was the rematch against Wallace High School, which occurred at Banbridge Academy just days later. Banbridge full of confidence, but knowing they were up against tough and equally confident opponents, took the game right to Wallace in the first half and at half time were 10-5 in the lead due to fantastic work shackling the Wallace half-backs from Noah Bell and Jonathan Howard. However, in the second half the tireless Wallace team kept up the intensity and Banbridge Academy started to fall off tackles. Still in it right to the end, Wallace just managed to hold on for a 24-19 victory, this game showing all the hallmarks of a quality rugby match which no doubt will be tightly contested again next year. The Grosvenor Tournament proved to be the final outing of the season, and tournament rugby was a slightly different obstacle for this team,

winning two group games put us top of the group and only another win needed to secure a semi-final in what was the easier side of the draw. In the last game we played, we managed to cough up two easy scores to a strong Antrim centre, a team we had defeated earlier in the season and lost 12-10. Qualification was still possible, but we had to watch as Limavady Grammar managed to defeat their last opponents with a bonus point, eliminating us from the competition.

This was a tough lesson learned, and with the outbreak of COVID-19 and our end of year tour cancelled, it proved to be the final match we played. This was a disappointing end to a promising season, but one which reinforced the continual need to strive to improve.

Much of the hard work this year was put in by members of the pack, with Adam Jones and Benjamin Quigley providing excellent scrum stability for Sam Dorman to get possession to the back line. One of the key building blocks for the U13 squad this year was the team aspect of rugby, and all players were encouraged to develop their teamwork skills as well as their essential rugby skills.

At the end of the season Andrew Jackson received the Captain's Award, Ryan Hanna was awarded Player of the Year and Benjamin Quigley was the Most Improved Player.

Rugby

U12

The U12 players had a brilliant first season as Academy rugby players. As in every year the first few weeks were spent getting all the players, new and experienced, up to speed and safe to play rugby. We then embarked on a series of blitzes and friendlies from the end of October onwards.

The first Blitz of the year was held at RS Dungannon. Our A team won 3 out of 4 matches beating RS Dungannon, RS Armagh, Omagh Academy and losing to Enniskillen RGS. Our B team won all 4 games beating RS Armagh B & C, Omagh and Dungannon. The second blitz was held at Banbridge Academy. The A team lost narrowly to RS Armagh and RS Dungannon but pulled out an excellent win over Enniskillen RGS. While our B team had a tougher day, drawing one game and losing the other two. A few weeks later our U12 combined team then played a series of games against Rathfriland High, winning all matches, and it was a really good run out for both schools.

With our first few matches over it was time to step things up. Ulster Rugby Development officer Daryl Gibson came into school and took a training session with the players, putting them through a tough workout and

skills session. This seemed to have worked as on our next outing, at the Omagh blitz, the A team beat Omagh and drew with RS Armagh while the B team beat both Omagh and RS Armagh.

A very competitive friendly followed against Lurgan JHS, where our A team drew 9-9 (Tries) but unfortunately our B team lost 4-10 (Tries). This was followed by fixtures against Clounagh JHS, where both A and B teams won by comfortable score lines. Shortly after we travelled to Lisburn, where our A team beat Friends' School 4-3 and our B team drew 8-8. 'Lisburn' got its revenge soon after however, as our A and B teams both lost to Wallace High.

The last games of our shortened season were away to RS Armagh. Our A team drew 8-8 while the B team lost 12-14. Unfortunately, the season ended after this due to the COVID 19

pandemic and we did not get to play in the end of season tournaments that the U12 would normally compete in. Nevertheless, we had a brilliant first season as Academy rugby players and are looking forward to next year when we get to play every Saturday and move up to 15-a-side rugby. Thanks to Coaches Mr Erskine, Mr Patterson and all the others who helped coach this year; without you the team would not have progressed to the extent that they did.

At the end of the season, the following were awarded Players of the Year:

A team: Noah Haughey, Miles Mawson, Daniel Murray and Jonathan Neill.

B Team: Finlay Long and Joel McKnight.





Netball

Netball in a Nutshell

We entered this season riding on the wave of the Netball World Cup – some of you may recall the televised coverage of the exciting Netball World Cup in Liverpool during July 2019.

I believe that this helped to put netball back on the “sports map” as a serious contender and encouraged a new generation of “Netball Warriors”, keen to learn the fast-paced skills required to play this exciting game.

I am pleased to say that we now have more and more schools involved in competitive netball, so much so that schools were finding it a great strain and challenge to complete fixtures within the deadlines set, and to also maintain the fine balance of sport and class work education. The ‘NI Netball Schools’ Committee’ listened to these concerns and re-structured the completion framework accordingly!

New Season, New Structure – exciting new changes to the NI Netball Schools’ Cup Competitions came into full effect for the 2019/20 Netball season as follows:

- Instead of four strands to the competition (Cup, Shield, Bowl and Plate), it became two – the Cup and Shield competition, and the Bowl and Plate competition.
- The first round of the Cup/Shield and Bowl/Plate competitions would be drawn anew, thereafter the competition would run to its conclusion as per the draw sheet.
- A knock-out arrangement to the competition occurred – all teams were assured of at least two matches. School teams were entered into the Shield/Plate and if the first match was lost they would then play Round 1 or 2 in the Cup/Bowl (thereafter if a team lost their match they would be out of the competition).

Alongside this, the NI League continued to facilitate two Premier Leagues and six District Leagues

(including A and B competitions).

All of these changes strived to provide positive experiences for the pupils (and also a manageable competition for staff to enter teams and compete) with the ultimate end-goal of providing a larger playing platform for all to compete in NI Schools’ Netball matches.

I am very pleased to say that we have had consistently large numbers of girls attending our Academy Netball Clubs throughout 2019/20, and from a coaching point of view this has been very rewarding and motivating!

Without the help of our Netball Coach, Mrs Beggs, many of our pupils at Banbridge Academy would not have had this opportunity to participate and compete in netball to the extent that they have! Sincere thanks indeed to Mrs Beggs for her continued commitment to Banbridge Academy and for her awesome coaching!

As games staff we endeavor every year to do the best we can for our pupils, yet as more and more demands are placed on our curricular time and our budget restrictions, this inevitably affects, and sadly impacts, our extra-curricular involvement.

However even with these constraints, we are very fortunate that with Mr McLoughlin’s continued support and love for sport (allied with the support from the Board of Governors for netball) we continue to see great provision for Academy Netball.

Our Competition Successes and Squad Selections – in 2019/20 we celebrated many successes:

Seniors – Quarter-finals of the Shield against Friends’ A,
Captain: Gemma Hassan,
Vice Captain: Katie Cartmill.

Senior B – Quarter-finals of the Bowl against Wallace B,
Captain: Katie Baxter
Vice Captain: Zara Ginniff.

(Finalist in NI League Finals against Regent House, however this did not take place due to Covid -19).

Intermediate – Semi-finals of the Plate against Regent House A,
Captain: Brooke Gilliland
Vice Captain: Oliveen O’Rourke.

Junior – Semi-finals of the Plate against Shimna Integrated,
Captains: Georgia Frazer
Vice Captain: Paris Travers.

Minors – Finals of the Plate,
Captain: Grace Wills
Vice Captain: Megan Williams

(Unfortunately this did not take place due to Covid – 19).

Fantastic results Ladies and very well done!

In 2019/20 we also celebrated selection success for the following girls to various squads and academies:

U13 Regional Development Squad
Grace Wills

U15 Futures International Academy
Katie Baxter
Brooke Gilliland
Catherine Black
Sasha Herron
Selena Cunningham

Netball

Netball in a Nutshell

NI U17 Squad (Development)

Katie Baxter

NI U19/U21 Squad (Development)

Gemma Hassan U21 Squad

Katie Cartmill

Lynsey Orr

Nadia Radcliffe

End Of Season

Unfortunately, our season ended abruptly and we were unable to

complete our competitive fixtures due to the on-going Covid-19 pandemic. Whilst this was very disappointing for us, we are all now more than ever fully aware of the importance that to remain safe and healthy is our ultimate goal.

So I end this report on a happy note; to celebrate the successes that our pupils have achieved; to say sincere thanks to Mrs Beggs for her support

and her brilliant coaching; to exclaim my gratitude that the "Netball Family" have remained well during this Netball season and to pray that God willing this will continue to remain the case.

Netball

Senior

This year the Senior Netball team had a number of different ages in their team, ranging from Year 12 to Year 14. There were also a number of players lucky to be part of NI training squads, giving the team even more playing experience.

The season began with the senior team travelling to Sacred Heart, Newry in September to play the first round of the Cup. The match started well with the first quarter ending 7-7. In the second quarter Sacred Heart were able to steal some of Banbridge Academy's centre passes, resulting in their 16-13 lead.

The third quarter demonstrated Academy's apparent tiredness, which led to a few misplaced passes that Sacred Heart were able to pick up and convert into goals. This quarter ended 25-18 to Sacred Heart. Going into the final quarter, both teams fought hard to win every ball and convert their passing into goals. After an intense four quarters both teams contested well for every ball, but unfortunately Banbridge lost

29-24. Players of the match were awarded to Lynsey Orr and Zara Ginniff.

After being knocked out of the Cup, Academy were fortunate to be placed in the Shield (which was also a knockout competition). Entering the competition at the Quarter Final stages, Academy were drawn against Friends' School, Lisburn.

Both teams fought very hard - trying to defend every ball and attack at pace when they had the opportunity. The first quarter was very tight with Friends' School only leading by 6-5, while at the end of the second quarter they had a bigger lead of 15-7.

The Academy were able to maintain

this goal difference with the third quarter ending 19-11.

Fortunately, Academy were able to score more in the final quarter but by the final whistle the result was 21-16 to Friends' School. This meant that they progressed through to the semi-final with the senior Academy team ending their Cup run at this stage.

All of the girls would like to thank Mrs Lawther and Mrs Beggs for their coaching throughout the year and for giving up their time to arrange and come to matches.



Netball

Senior B

This year the Academy Senior B Netball team consisted of Year 12 girls. All girls worked hard throughout the season (although it was cut short!) and they were rewarded with a position in the NI League Final playoffs.

The season began with the NI Bowl Competition, with the Academy girls taking on Cookstown High School. It was a very tough match for the girls who had not had much practice as a team yet and because of this they lost 16-27 and so were placed in the NI Senior Netball Plate. Although this may have sounded tough on the girls, it eased them back into their usual standard of playing and allowed them to continue to improve and develop their teamwork and match play.

The Academy girls then made it to the quarter-finals of the NI Plate against Wallace High School. Starting off strong they managed to attain a narrow lead during the first two quarters of the game. Unfortunately, the injury of a key Academy player in the third quarter threw the girls off slightly and allowed Wallace to take a notable lead. The girls tried their best against this strong Lisburn team, but were regrettably unable to close the gap that Wallace had attained.

Nevertheless, the Academy Senior B girls were still optimistic that despite their chances of winning the Plate being dashed, they still had high hopes of winning the NI Senior B league.

And so it was that the Academy girls advanced to the semi final League playoffs against St Genevieve's, Belfast, which by far was the highlight of their season!

This nail-biting match was played against the strongest team yet for Academy to meet this season. The Senior Bs worked tirelessly throughout the entire match and managed to overturn a strong lead established by St Genevieve's during the first half of the game. The determination and hard work of the Academy girls throughout the year was brought to the forefront as they won this difficult



game and earned a place in the Senior B League final.

The girls were prepared to play Regent House, Newtownards in this League final however due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Regent House decided to forfeit the match. This was thoroughly disappointing for all of the Senior B Academy girls who were then unable to play and (possibly) earn the title of League winners, yet this was understandable in light of the bigger picture of staying safe and healthy!

Overall, the Academy girls had a tough but successful season together and have very high hopes for the coming seasons ahead. Everyone would agree that it would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our coaches Mrs Lawther and Mrs Beggs. Thank you!

Netball

Intermediate

This year the Intermediate team had a very successful season, getting through to the final of the Plate Competition.

Fortunately for the girls we were able to work with Mrs Nicole Beggs as our coach this season, which improved our skills and communication as a team.

This year the girls did extremely well and made it through to the finals of the Intermediate Plate, though unfortunately due to school closures (Covid-19) this fixture could not take place. The last match that the team were fortunate to play was the semi-finals against Forthill College, Lisburn. The girls were motivated and determined to take home another win and progress to the final.

The team started off very strong and dominant, using the court wide and playing the quarter at their own pace which resulted in a 3-1 score to the Academy girls at the end of the first quarter.

Confidently, the girls came back for the second quarter ready to keep this lead. They communicated very well and stayed calm and collected, although Forthill came out stronger than ever before. Thankfully, this did not affect the girls and they worked even harder by marking tight to their players. This resulted in a 7-6 lead for the Academy girls.

After half time and with guidance from Mrs Lawther and Mrs Beggs, the girls were energised and determined to do as well as they had previously. With new feet on the court the girls kept a very good defence, allowing the ball to predominately stay up in their attacking third of the court and allowing their shooters many chances. At the end of this third quarter the score was now 11-8 to the Academy girls.

With only one quarter left to play, the girls pushed themselves to keep up their good play and bring home a win. They played brilliantly in this last quarter with the result a 13-10 win.

Thanks to Mrs Lawther and Mrs Beggs for encouraging the team and providing lots of amazing opportunities in school netball. Also, a big thanks to all of the Academy girls for coming to training each week and working well as a team throughout the year!

We have all greatly missed netball and are extremely keen to get back to training whenever it is safe to do so.





Netball

Junior

The Junior Netball team had a very eventful season, reaching the semi-finals of the NI Junior Plate with some very challenging matches.

The first match of the season was in the Bowl Competition against St. Dominic's, Belfast. The first quarter was very quick and intense, but the defence remained on their toes, with the wings quick to find space, and make some good passes. This play allowed the ball to be passed to the two Academy shooters of Paris Travers (GA) and Katie Mulligan (GS), who gained the chance to make some very good shots. This first quarter ended 3-2 to St. Dominic's. As the match progressed, game play got faster and the Academy shooters were making the majority of their baskets but St. Dominic's defence were quick and the pace increased even more so! This match finally ended 10-17 to St. Dominic's, with Academy player of the match being Paris Travers (GA).

Entering the Plate Competition, Academy made it to the quarter-finals against Priory, Hollywood, with the girls all playing extremely well and working together to get the ball at every opportunity.

The first quarter was well paced with the Academy defence of Eve Fitzsimmons (GK) and Georgia Frazer (GD) staying tight to their

attackers. This allowed the ball to be passed quickly down the court to the shooters, ensuring that at the end of the first quarter Academy led 6-1. Throughout the remaining quarters the Academy team made safe passes, with the wings of Aimee Dawson (WD) and Zara Colvin (WD) gaining space to receive their passes and ensure their players were free. The match ended 18-7 to Academy, with Player of the Match awarded to Eve Fitzsimmons (GK).

Proceeding to the semi finals, Academy were drawn against Shimna Integrated College, Newcastle. This proved a very tough match against a very strong team, but regardless, all Academy players tried their best in staying calm at all times.

In the first quarter, Shimna were very strong and physical but the Academy girls tried everything within their power to win the ball back at every opportunity. It was pleasing to see that the Academy attackers remained fast with the defence good at their job too! Allied to this, communication was strong between all Academy players, so much so that the first quarter ended a very

close 4-5 right up until the end of the second quarter.

Sadly though Shimna became more determined throughout the third and fourth quarter, finishing the game on 25-8. Player of the Match was Georgia Frazer (GD).

Although it was a hard season, all the Junior girls are determined to be back next year ready to resume training and start the new season.



Netball

Minor

This year the Academy Senior B Netball team consisted of Year 12 girls. All girls worked hard throughout the season (although it was cut short!) and they were rewarded with a position in the NI League Final playoffs.



Despite the fact that the season has come to an abrupt end, overall, the whole year has been a success for our Minor girls. Our Captain has seen consistent growth within every player (both Defence and Attack) including their work ethic, which has certainly paid off this season. Throughout the year the team has come together and bonded well and this has been shown regularly in the match play. Although the first Minor NI Cup match against Wallace didn't go as planned (with Academy losing 3-18), the girls were able to pull together in their next match against Lumen Christi, and come out with a great win 12-3. From then on throughout the season, Academy worked hard making it to the semi finals of the NI Plate Competition.

These semi-finals against St Mary's were tough with many mistakes being made initially, but Academy

ended up coming out with a huge win! Unfortunately, the NI Plate final was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but the girls very much hope to play the final in September! The Academy Minor team agree that they could not have achieved this season's success without the help of their netball coach, Mrs Beggs. She has dedicated all of her time to coach the Minor team, for which they are all very appreciative. The Captain would also like to thank Mrs Lawther for bringing the team to

these events and organizing all of the matches. Every girl has worked extremely hard all year round, with everyone contributing equally in every match. It is the Captain's wish that the Academy Minor team can continue this hard work and reach the finals again next year!

Stay safe and keep well.



Netball

U15 Future Internationals

The selections for the U15 Future Internationals' Netball Academy consisted of three trials, the first being held in early December.

This began with a range of drills in which the girls were split into groups, rotating around the hall. These drills demonstrated movement, shooting, ball-handling skills and endurance, which were the main focus of the trial. After the drills, matches then took place, during which teamwork and passing skills were assessed.

Of the girls attending, twenty-four were then shortlisted upon which fortnightly training sessions began during the following month. These sessions were either held in Gilford or Craigavon Leisure Centres, and consisted of eight two hour sessions coached by Joanne Heasley and Lisa Trainor.

In these sessions girls were grouped into attacking, mid-field and

defending positions, and were asked to complete appropriate drills to improve specific netball skills. This format would last for most of the length of the sessions, leaving around forty-five minutes for matches. These matches would last around seven minutes each and would show the developed skills from the training beforehand.

Such matches were often very competitive and the coaches would stop the game frequently to give advice to the players.

To finish the netball season in May, a tournament was held in Lisburn Racquets Club, which lasted for six hours and involved other development squads from across Northern Ireland.

The standard of these matches was very high and showcased all of the new skills acquired throughout the season. At the end of the tournament, an award ceremony was held in which each club presented players with awards for 'Future International Most Improved Player' and 'Future International Most Promising Player,' which our own Brooke Gilliland won!

Congratulations to Banbridge Academy students:

Selena Cunningham, Sasha Herron, Brooke Gilliland, Katie Baxter and Catherine Black, for making it into the U15 Future Internationals Academy!



Football

U12

The U12 Football season saw a change in the format of matches played, with four 'blitz' tournaments throughout the year leading to a final 'blitz' day where the top seeded teams would play and the winners would progress to the final.

The first two games of the season were both played against Dromore with the boys winning 2-0 in each game. Captain Luke McGerrigan was instrumental in each match and seemed to set the tone for the season with a goal and assist in both matches.

Going into the second and third blitz the boys were confident after their previous wins and took the game to both Newry and Kilkeel. Early goals in each match by Alex Moran settled the games quickly and helped the defence of Logan Sands, Matthew Little, and James Hamilton produce very tidy performances to secure another two clean sheets.

As the Christmas holidays approached, we made our way to Cheney Park to play the final blitz. The first game against Banbridge High proved to be a tight game. It took the introduction of Alexander Booth and Charlie Tumilty to turn the game in our favour, winning 1-0. Games against Ballynahinch High and New-Bridge Integrated were dominated by fast-paced attackers in Harry Anderson and Teddy Turkington, helping the team to a 3-0 and 4-0 win respectively.

After competing brilliantly as a team in each blitz, notably with goalkeepers Joel and Luke not conceding a goal in the run to the final blitz, Banbridge Academy were seeded number 1 and considered the favourites.

The first match of the Final Blitz was against a much-improved and determined Dromore side. The boys maintained their clean sheet record, however squeezed out a nervy 0-0 draw. New-Bridge dominated the first half of our second match with brilliant pressing and movement. A change at



half-time saw the arrival of Luke and Daniel Murray onto the pitch, which provided a boost in moral and helped to earn a 2-2 draw.

The semi-final was a much-improved performance with Robbie Nicholl particularly helping the team to a comfortable 4-1 win over Banbridge High. The boys finished the tournament in style with a well fought win over Shimna, who had deservedly earned their spot in the final. A headed finish from Alexander followed by a late free kick from Daniel Murray, saw the boys win 2-1 and lift the shield!

A brilliant win to cap off a fantastic first season for the U12 boys. Hopefully a sign of what is to come in the following years!

Squad:
 Luke McRobb
 Joel McKnight
 Matthew Little
 James Hamilton
 Logan Sands
 Charlie Tumilty

Alexander Booth
 Luke McGerrigan
 Robbie Nicholl
 Isaac Fitzpatrick
 Alex Moran
 Daniel Murray
 Harry Anderson
 Teddy Turkington



Cross Country

District Championship – Dellamont Park

Banbridge Academy was well represented once again with nearly 40 athletes competing in the County Down Schools' Cross Country Championships held at a cold but dry Dellamont Country Park in Killyleagh. The first races of the day saw strong teams from our mini girls and mini boys (Year 8) competing against 150 runners from across the district. In the girls' race Ellie Cousins was first home for the Academy in 8th place overall, a result which will qualify her for the Ulster Championships as a top 15 finisher at District level. She was closely followed by Ciara Patton (19th), April McFarlane (38th) and Zara McCormick (39th). Alexandra King and Beth Sinton also ran well to finish in the top half.

In the mini boys' race Luke McGerrigan led the way in 10th place, with Charlie Tumilty finishing 14th and both boys will now go on to represent the Academy at the Ulster Championships. Daniel Murray, Robbie Nicholl and Alex Moran also all ran strongly for the team and gave them a top five team finish in the competition.

In the minor races (Year 9) our two girls, Kate Ferris and Ciara Daly, ran superbly well to finish 16th and 17th

respectively and miss out on Ulster qualification by the narrowest of

margins. While in the boys' race Andrew Jackson finished 36th, while Elijah Dempsey and Ryan Hanna ran strongly to finish in the middle of the large field.

The Junior races (Year 10) were also closely contested for both the boys and the girls. Anna McKernan ran strongly to 19th place in the girls' event and was ably supported by good runs from Emma O'Neill (33rd) and Beth Corder (40th). The boys' race saw a remarkable performance from Kian Moran who ran brilliantly into 7th spot to claim his place in the Ulsters. Kristian Brown and Daniel Reid also had strong races to finish well up the field.

In the Intermediate races, twin sisters Pippa and Ruby Wilson had good performances and finished 18th and 33rd respectively, while the boys saw Simon Ferris run brilliantly to finish 11th and qualify for the Ulster Championships. He was backed up by good runs from Matthew McKee, Morgan Murphy and Ronan Quinn who performed very well and all finished in the top half.

Our senior girls had a very strong outing with Lucy Bradshaw running a

storming race to finish 9th and qualify for the Ulsters, while Emily Cantley was also very strong to finish 16th and miss out by the narrowest of margins.

Ulster Championships – Mallusk
Six Banbridge Academy runners qualified through from the Co Down District Championships to run in the Ulster Championships, held once again at the City of Belfast playing fields in Mallusk.

Ellie Cousins in Year 8 had a great first championships for the Academy, running strongly on a sticky course to finish in a very commendable 16th place in the Mini Girls' race. In the Mini Boys' race we had two runners, with Charlie Tumilty finishing 34th and Luke McGerrigan finishing 37th in a very competitive field of nearly 150 runners. Kian Moran also performed well in the tough conditions in the Junior Boys' race to claim 23rd spot and in our final race of the day, Lucy Bradshaw battled the conditions to claim 25th place in the Senior Girls' race. Unfortunately, Simon Ferris was unable to run in the Inter Boys' race due to other sporting commitments. While there may not have been many athletes, it was still a really strong showing from the Academy athletes on a cold and difficult day and all should be commended for their excellent performances.



Equestrian

With competitors attending the Tri Equestrian Interschools Show Jumping League from all over the Province, last year saw the BA Novice Team of Amber Bradley, Molly Davidson, Emma Irwin and Lara Jameson finish 4th in a very competitive 85cm league.

Our metre team of Eve Fitzsimmons, Emma Irwin, Melissa McKinstry and Alistair Sands came 3rd in the St Patrick's Day Schools' Jumping held at the Meadows Equestrian Centre. Julia Herron, Emma Irwin and Ellie McElroy also represented Banbridge Academy at the inaugural Schools' Dressage Competition at Gransha Equestrian Centre.

Despite all the uncertainty with regards to many schools' sporting fixtures this year, at time of writing, plans are going ahead and dates are confirmed for a socially distanced, Tri Interschools' Show Jumping League which commences on 26th September 2020 and will run at the Meadows until 5th December 2020.

After a successful year last year, numbers in BA Equestrian Club continue to grow and this year, for the first time, BA hopes to field 4 teams in this competitive league, 2 in the Novice League (85cm) and 2 in the Open League (1 m).

If anyone wants to find out more about joining the BA Equestrian Club speak to Mrs Todd or Club Captain, Ellie McElroy.





Swimming

Katie MacFarlane, a Year 9 pupil, attended The 2020 McCullagh International Open Meet held in Bangor.

This event was also attended by British and Irish Olympic swimmers and streamed live on 'You Tube'. Katie competed in the Junior heats (12-13 years old) and got through to the finals winning three medals along the way:

Gold 200m Butterfly
Silver 400IM
Silver 200IM
Congratulations and well done Katie!



Ulster Short Course Championships

Pupils from Banbridge represented Banbridge Swimming Club at the Ulster Short Course Championships.

This three day competition had heats in the morning and finals at night with the top 8 swimmers going through to the finals. Five pupils from Banbridge Academy made it to the finals with the following results:

Alana Burns Atkin 200 Fly

7th Katie MacFarlane 200 Back Crawl
7th, 100 Fly 7th, 200 Fly 5th, 400 IM 8th

Adam Wilson 400 IM 4th

Finlay Wright 400 FC 4th, 800 FC 5th

Julia Knox 100 FC Gold Medal, Ulster Senior Champion 200 Gold Medal, Ulster Senior Champion 200 Medley, Gold Medal, Ulster Senior Champion 100 Medley, Bronze Medal 400 Medley, Silver Medal



Table Tennis

U15 Girls

The Ulster Schools' Table Tennis finals took place on Wednesday 5 February 2020 in Lisburn Racquets Centre.

Banbridge Academy's U15 Girls' Team, the current Ulster Schools' Champions, set out to retain their title, having previously held the U15 Ulster and Irish Titles and the girls did not disappoint. They successfully defeated Strathearn School (2nd) and Monaghan Collegiate (3rd) to become Gold Medal winners on the day.

U15 GIRLS' TEAM MEMBERS Ruby Bushby, Melissa Neville, Aleyah Peniero, Mr Arnold Morgan (Chairman, Table Tennis Ulster), Jodie Simmons, Lara Crothers, Abbie Wylie.



U13 Girls

The U13 Girls' team faced a tough fight with current champions Royal School Dungannon in the group.

The girls started well by defeating Grosvenor Grammar School 5/0 and Strathearn 5/3, but lost out against Sullivan Upper 3/5 and eventual winners Royal School Dungannon 5/4 after a hard fought contest. Royal School Dungannon retained the Ulster Title with Banbridge Academy

finishing in 3rd place with a Bronze Medal.

U13 GIRLS TEAM MEMBERS Back Row: Kerry Crothers, Lilia McKinney, Molly Davidson, Kristen Ginniff, Front Row: Joanna Kane, Anna Russell, Katherine McConnell .



U13 Boys

The U13 Boys' team competed in the largest group with 13 schools taking part. The boys were a player down, but played exceptionally well, winning all matches in their group 5/0 against Grosvenor C and Friends' topping their group. However, having

qualified for the Semi-finals, the team suffered by having just 5 players, forfeiting 2 matches and losing 5/3 to Belfast High A Team. The team faced Friends' Lisburn in the 3rd/4th play-off and lost 5/3, just missing out on a medal, finishing in 4th. Nevertheless,

a great fighting spirit was on display by everyone and there are certainly some players to watch out for in the forthcoming individual competitions.



Archery

European Field Archery Championships

Kathryn Morton was selected by Archery GB to represent Great Britain at the European Field Archery Championships in Slovenia, early October 2019. The competition was spread across a full week, composed of two days of qualification followed by pool matches and a series of finals. This left four archers fighting for the three possible medal positions. Having finished fourth in qualification, Kathryn got a bye into the quarter-final which she won against her Romanian opponent, 65-59. Unfortunately, in her semi-final, Kathryn was drawn against the top seeded archer from Sweden and lost the match by just 6 points. Her final match (to decide 3rd and 4th places in the category) was against a competitor from Iceland which Kathryn won 46-41 to bring home the Bronze medal.



TH TOTAL HOCKEY

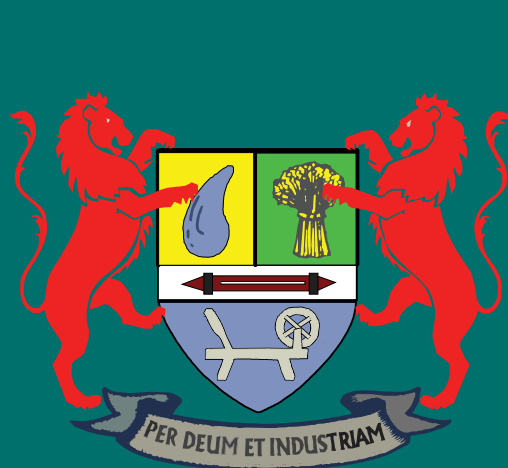
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