

The Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School



Annual Report to Parents

For School Year 2013 / 2014

Prayer of Edmund Rice

O God, we thank you for the life of
Edmund Rice.

He opened his heart to Christ present in
those oppressed by poverty and injustice.

May we follow his example of faith and
generosity.

Grant us the courage and compassion of
Edmund as we seek to live lives of love
and service.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

STAFF LIST 2014-2015

	NAME	Code	RESPONSIBILITY
001	McGovern, Mr Dermot	DMG	Headmaster
002	O'Shea, Mr Paul	POS	V.P./Psychology/SDP/T.Table/MIS/ROTA/Child Protection/Transfer/Yrs 13/14
003	Ruddy, Mr Ronan	RR	V.P./Spanish/French/Pastoral Team/Ceremonies & Publications/Transfer/Yrs 8-12
004	Rath, Mr John	JR	S. Teacher./Technology/P.R./BTEC Quality Nominee/Staff Induction/Ass. SENCO
005	McCavitt, Dr John	JCT	S. Teacher/Curriculum & Assessment/Staff Days/APTA/UCAS/ALC Co-Ordinator
006	Wadsworth, Mr Dominic	DW	S. Teacher/Music/Senco/Newcomers
007	McCartan, Mr Jim	JMC	P.E./Junior Gaelic Football
008	Patterson, Mr Gervase	GP	Management Team/Head of Physics
009	McKeever, Mr Padraig	PMK	Head of Spanish/Year Tutor
010	McCann, Mr Dwyer	DMC	Head of Computing/I.T. Coordinator
011	McMahon, Mr Mel	MMM	Head of English
012	Burns, Mrs Sinead	SB	Head of Mathematics
013	McAreevey, Mrs Fiona	FMC	Head of Art
014	Lane, Mrs Margaret	ML	Head of Biology
015	Mooney, Mr Tony	TM	Management Team/Head of Technology & Design
016	Simpson, Mrs Denise	DS	Head of Geography
017	Tohill, Mrs Bernarde	BTO	Maths/Year Tutor/Numeracy/Using Number
018	Hamill, Mr Brian	BH	Physics
019	McKeever, Mrs Lisa	LMK	Head of RE
020	McGrath, Mrs Catriona	CMG	Business Studies/Head of Careers/Year Tutor
021	Elmore, Mrs Annette	AE	Geography/Year Tutor
022	Grogan, Mr Mark	MG	Computers/Web-site, E-Communications/Year Tutor
023	McGinley, Mrs Orla	OMG	Biology
024	Smyth, Mr Joseph	JS	Head of Drama
025	Morgan, Mr Gerald	GMO	English/Head of LLW
026	Quinn, Miss Mairead	MQ	Head of French
027	Savage, Mr Gerard	GS	Head of Construction/Buses
028	Tennyson, Mr Desmond	DT	Head of Irish
029	Gamble, Mr Colin	CGA	Head of Chemistry/Quizzes
030	Rodgers, Mr Mark	MRO	Technology & Design/Year Tutor/Literacy & Communication Coordinator
031	McCorry, Mrs Deirdre	DC	KS3 Science Coordinator/Biology
032	McGivern, Mrs Joan	JM	Spanish
033	Gallagher, Mr Sean	SGA	Irish/History/Year Tutor/School Newsletter
034	Boyd, Mrs Gail	GB	Mathematics
035	Reynolds, Ms Annelise	ARE	English/Debates
036	McMahon, Mr Rory	RMM	Geography
037	McClellan, Mrs Pauline	PMC	Irish
038	Gormley, Mr Jody	JG	Head of PE
039	Evans, Mr David	DE	Head of History
040	McParland, Mr Paul	PMP	Drama/Religion
041	Fearon, Mrs Theresa	TF	Head of Accounts/Business Studies
042	Hughes, Ms Orla	OH	Art
043	Doherty, Mrs Karen	KD	Maths
044	McGivern, Mr Eddie	EM	Religion
045	Murphy, Mrs Mary	MM	Maths
046	Gordon, Mr Dan	DG	PE
047	Toner, Ms Ursula	UT	Careers/LLW/Business Studies
048	Cranston, Mrs Kim	KC	Technology/Construction/LLW
049	McGinley, Mrs Seaneen	SD(RK)	English
050	Downing, Mr James	JD2	ICT
051	Carey, Mrs Maeve	MC2	Chemistry/DAS
052	Gilloway, Miss Karen	KG	English
053	O'Donovan, Mrs Martina	MO	Home Economics
054	Keenan, Mrs Caroline (Niall O'Flattery)	CK	Head of Music
055	Rooney, Mr Connor	CR	History
056	Houston, Ms Sharon	SHO	Science/Physics
057	McCartney, Miss Amy	AMC	Religion
058	Cosgrove, Mr John	JC	Music (Part time)

SUPPORT STAFF

Colleen McAvoy	Bursar, Support Staff Manager, Building, Health and Safety
Mary Rafferty	Headmaster's Secretary, Assistant Bursar, Accounts, Intake
Tess McKernan	Administration, MIS Support, Exam Entries
Patricia McKinley	General Office
Fiona Flynn	General Office
Natasha Stokes	Science Technician
Roger Clifford	Science Technician
Carmel Hetherington	Reprographics
Pat McGovern	Librarian
Colm Clerkin	Music/Art Technician
Robbie Hannon	PE Technician
Sean Higgins	Technology Technician, Electrical Maintenance
Neil Clarke	Information Technology Technician
Willie McCullough	Caretaker, Minibuses, Cleaning Staff Supervisor
Malachy Small	Caretaker, Minibuses, Cleaning Staff Supervisor
Annette BreenMallon	Classroom Assistant
Anne McCoy	Classroom Assistant
Rita McGinn	Classroom Assistant
Joan Jackson	Classroom Assistant
Anne Collins	Classroom Assistant
John Manley	Canteen Supervisor
Claire McGahan	Assistant Cook
Sheila Goodwill	Assistant Cook
John Sinton	Assistant Cook
Bernie Mallon	Canteen Staff/Cleaning Staff
Margarita McGivern	Canteen Staff
Linda Kennedy	Canteen Staff
Aislin Callaghan	Canteen Staff
Elizabieta Wrobel	Cleaning Staff
Agata Obresbska	Cleaning Staff
Mary McKevitt	Cleaning Staff
Rosin McDonald	Cleaning Staff
Wioletta Sienkiewics	Cleaning Staff
Maureen McKevitt	Cleaning Staff/Canteen Staff
Marzana Miller	Cleaning Staff/Canteen Staff
Kasia Chudoba	Cleaning Staff/Canteen Staff
Malgorzata Pszczolkowska	Cleaning Staff
Magdalena Garncarz	Cleaning Staff
Kevin Brady	Chaplain
Mrs Jane McGinn	Nurse
Ms Fiona Hughes	Counsellor

SMT Responsibilities

Mr D McGovern

- Full/Total responsibility for the Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School
- Care of SMT
- Contact with all outside agencies (SELB, DENI etc.)
- Transfer procedure
- Retention/Consolidation of Christian Brothers' /Edmund Rice links and ethos
- School Fundraising
- School Development Plan
- PRSD
- Student Voice – SRC
- PTMs
- SDP – Gathering/Monitoring Information
- School Trips Information
- Mentor: Junior Science, Physics, Chemistry, Biology

Mr P O'Shea

- School Development Plan (including CPD)
- Time-Table, Options (Subject Choices)
- Managed Information System, Rota,
- Transfer Procedure
- Designated Teacher for Child Protection
- Staff Inservice Courses/ Development
- Curriculum link with SHS
- Student Years 13/14; Pastoral, Behaviour , Academic, EMA, Reporting, Tracking
- Mentor: Religious Studies, LLW, English, Psychology

Mr R Ruddy

- School Development Plan
- Pastoral Team Coordinator
- Leaving Ceremony
- Prize giving – GCSE, Graduate
- Open Night – Primary School Links – Induction Mass
- Transfer Procedure
- Students Years 8,9,10,11,12: Pastoral, Behaviour, Academic, Reporting and Tracking
- School Publications: Statistics, (DENI, Trustees, BOG), BOG Reports, Parents AGM Booklet
- Mentor: French, Irish, Spanish

Mr J Rath

- SENCO (backup to D Wadsworth)
- P.R.
- Quality Nominee for B'Tec
- Staff Induction including BTs, EPDs, New Staff, Student Placements
- Mentor: Technology, ICT, Construction, Maths

Dr J McCavitt

- Curriculum & Assessment
- Staff Days
- APTA Link
- UCAS
- ALC. Coordinator
- Mentor: History, Geography, Business Studies/Accounts, Careers

Mr D Wadsworth

- SENCO
- New comers (foreign)
- Mentor: Art, Drama, PE, Music, Home Economics

Upper Middle Management Responsibilities

Mr T Mooney

- Staff Handbook, Parents Handbook, School Calendar
- Internal Examinations
- P.S. Visit

Mr G Patterson

- Public Examinations
- Rota back up
- P.S. Visit

School Enrolment YEAR 2014/15**1ST YEAR**

BR 8	26
DON 8	25
IV 8	27
OR 8	27
SL 8	26

TOTAL 131

5TH YEAR

12BH	25
12DMC	25
12GMO	24
12JG	26
12OH	26

TOTAL 126

2ND YEAR

BR 9	26
DON 9	28
IV 9	27
OR 9	26
SL 9	27

TOTAL 134

6TH YEAR

13AR	29
13CG	30
13MC	27
13RMM	26
13TF	26

TOTAL 138

3RD YEAR

BR 10	26
DON 10	27
IV 10	28
OR 10	26
SL 10	26

TOTAL 133

YEAR 14

14DE	23
14DG	22
14MEMG	26
14LMK	24
14PMC	23

TOTAL 118

4TH YEAR

11DS	26
11GS	27
11JMCG	26
11MQ	26
11SB	27

TOTAL 132

TOTAL 912

STATEMENTED 19

**GCE A2-LEVEL SUMMARY ANALYSIS BY DEPARTMENT - SUMMER
2014**

SUBJECT	En t	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	% A* - C	% A* - E	NI % A*- C
ACCOUNTS	6	1	1		1	2		1	50	83	77
ART AND DESIGN	2		2						100	100	92
BIOLOGY	17	1	5	6	4	1			94	100	83
BUSINESS ST.	10	1	1	3	3	1	1		80	100	83
CHEMISTRY	11		4	4	1	2			82	100	83
CONSTRUCTION	22	5	17						100	100	
DES & TECH NI	11		6	1	4				100	100	86
DES & TECH RM	6		2	3	1				100	100	68
DRAMA	7		2	1	3	1			86	100	89
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	10		1	5	4				100	100	82
FRENCH	4		2	2							84
FURTHER MATHS (A/S)	3		1			2			33	100	94
GEOGRAPHY	19	1	1	3	13	1			95	100	84
HISTORY	20	3	3	9	3	2			90	100	88
ICT	55	2	11	16	8	14	3	1	67	98	80
IRISH	6	1	5						100	100	91
MATHEMATICS	30	1	10	4	5	7	2	1	67	97	88
MUSIC											90
PHYSICAL ED. STUDIES	6	1		4			1		83	100	71
PHYSICS	22	1	2	6	8	3	1	1	77	95	79
POLITICS	4		2	2					100	100	89
PSYCHOLOGY	9	1	1	1	3	3			67	100	55
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	38	1	9	16	9	3			92	100	87
SOCIOLOGY	9	1	2		1	4	1		44	100	74
SPANISH	9		4	2	1		2		78	100	84

GCE AS-LEVEL SUMMARY ANALYSIS BY SUBJECT - SUMMER 2014

SUBJECT	Ent	A	B	C	D	E	U	% A - C	% A-E
ACCOUNTS	17	8	6	2		1		94	100
ART AND DESIGN	2		2					100	100
BIOLOGY	35	6	3	7	8	6	5	46	86
BUSINESS ST.	16	3	4	3	4	1	1	63	94
CHEMISTRY	20	5	6	3	4	2		70	100
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY - NI	13	3	5	4	1			92	100
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY RM	4	3	1					100	100
DRAMA	14	2	6	4	2			86	100
ECONOMICS	9	3	3		3			67	100
ENGLISH LITERATURE	18	8	5	2	3			83	100
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	14	6	2	4	2			86	100
FRENCH	3	1	2					100	100
FURTHER MATHS	1	1						100	100
GEOGRAPHY	33	8	6	8	8	2	1	67	97
HISTORY	22	14	4	3			1	95	95
IRISH	9	2	3	1	2	1		67	100
ICT	45	15	6	8	7	5	4	64	91
MATHEMATICS	42	16	11	6	5	3	1	79	98
MOVING IMAGE ARTS	3		1	2				100	100
MUSIC	5		1	3		1		80	100
PHYSICAL ED. STUDIES	10	4	1	4		1		90	100
PHYSICS	28	10	6	5	3	2	2	75	93
POLITICS	3	1				1	1	33	67
PSYCHOLOGY	23	1	2	5	7	3	5	35	78
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	35	20	6	3	1	2	3	83	91
SOCIOLOGY	12	2		1	4	1	4	25	67
SPANISH	16	4	5	2	4	1		69	100

GCSE Results by Department 2014

Subject	En t	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	2014 A* B	2014 A*-C
Art and Design	9	1	8							100	100
Biology	35	5	8	14	5	3				77	91
Bus Studies	32	3	14	9	4	2				81	94
Chemistry	28	4	9	10	3	1	1			82	93
Construction	24	1	10	11	1	1				92	96
Drama	16		5	9	2					88	100
English	137	6	41	57	29	4				76	97
Language											
English Literature	135	13	40	55	23	4				80	97
French	28	4	7	7	9	1				64	96
Geography	71	5	28	23	12	3				79	96
History	61	14	20	15	10	2				80	97
Irish	49	11	12	19	7					86	100
Gaeilge	3		2	1						100	100
ICT	87	25	32	24	5	1				93	99
Maths	137	17	55	42	22		1			83	99
GCSE Maths in one Year	60	16	18	19	5	2				88	97
Add Maths	66	10	17	18	15	6				68	91
Music	13	2	2	6	3					77	100
PE Studies	42	15	14	8	5					88	100
Physics	34	4	10	12	6	2				76	94
Religious Education	136	12	43	44	20	12	2	2	1	73	88
Science (Double Award)	86	9	22	39	14	2				81	98
Spanish	80	24	20	21	14	1				81	99
Technology	33	2	6	9	11	4	1			53	85

F.S.M. (5 - 9.99%) Grammar Schools

	Lower Q	Median	Upper Q	95 th Percentile
% 3+ A*/C at A Level	63.5	75.2	83.3	93.6
% 7+ A*/C at GCSE	90.1	93.7	97.1	100
% 7+ A*/C at GCSE (English & Maths)	87.2	91.3	95.6	98.3
% 5+ A*/C at GCSE	95.7	97.9	99.4	100
% 5+ A*/C at GCSE (English & Maths)	92.2	94.6	97.7	99.0

Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
% 3+ A*/C at A Level	85.5	86.1	83.1	60
% 7+ A*/C at GCSE	96.1	89.8	94.9	97
% 7+ A*/C at GCSE (English & Maths)	94.5	89.0	92.7	96
% 5+ A*/C at GCSE	100	94.5	98.5	99
% 5+ A*/C at GCSE (English & Maths)	96.9	91.3	92.7	97

ACCOUNTING AND BUSINESS STUDIES

Accounting and Business Studies

Collaboration with the Sacred Heart

September 2013 saw the second cohort of Sacred Heart students complete their A2 in Accounting. The overall results for the six students were pleasing with 83% achieving at least a grade C and 100% A-E. There are currently 8 girls continuing from AS to A2 and 3 new students have joined the AS classes.

Competitions

Stock Market Challenge

Friday 7th March saw the arrival at the Abbey of 10 Lane Learning headed by Martin Barnes. This company had set up an impressive mock stock exchange trading floor for the launch of the interschool 'Stock Market Challenge' competition. One team from the Abbey, made up of five year 11 students, had qualified to take part in this first ever challenge. They were not only competing against each other but also another 18 teams from the area and the aim was to see which team could make the most capital gain in a day from their portfolio of shares. Students experienced the excitement of buying and selling shares on a real trading floor. All the boys involved had a really enjoyable experience.

Careers

QUB

A continued focus was made this year for careers within business and accounting and during the year. A new link was made with the Queen's Management School at Riddell Hall through Catherine O'Hare. It is hoped that this link can be utilised in the coming academic year to enhance career paths for our sixth form students.

UU

Year 12 students attended a University of Ulster Financial Services workshop which gave an insight into the diversity of the careers offered in the financial services industry.

Mrs T Fearon (Head of Accounting and Business studies)

DEPARTMENT OF ART, DESIGN & MOVING IMAGES

The A level and GCSE Art & Design and Moving Image exam results were again extremely pleasing and they continued to be above the NI Grammar School averages at all levels and in both subjects.

A level Art and Design 100% A*-A.

AS Level Art and Design 100% A-C.

AS Moving Image 100% A-C.

GCSE Moving Image, unit 1, 100% A-C

GCSE Art and Design 100% A*-A

The Department wishes also to congratulate Jack Maguire, (A level) and Caolan Magee (GCSE) whose respective works were selected by CCEA to represent the best of Northern Ireland students' work at the True Colours Exhibition at the Ulster Museum. This is a significant accolade for both pupil and teacher (Ms. Hughes). In addition we are very proud of Declan McCabe, who was invited to display his AS project entitled "Submersion" at the prestigious Turner Prize Exhibition, which was held in Derry to coincide with the UK City of Culture. The exhibition entitled "Celebrating Young Artists" showcased work by students who have taken a more contemporary approach to their Art work. Declan's work was a superb example of the breadth and the high quality of output that is being produced within the Abbey Art department.

Collaboration with the Sacred Heart

AS Moving Image

For the first time in the Department students from the Sacred Heart joined us in the Moving Image Arts A level.

2013/14 was also the first year of this relatively new subject at AS level. All students however were successful in their exams and the Department was commended for the interesting variety of film work submitted. Indeed, the work of Molly McAvoy, a year 14 student was particularly complemented and Molly has subsequently embarked on a degree in film studies in Dublin. The department would like to take the opportunity to wish Molly all the best for her future career and the Sacred Heart students who have made a very positive contribution to the Department.

GCSE Moving Image, Year 11

Once more students in year 11 received a 100% pass rate A-C. The principle moderator, Mr. David Bradley, in his report commended the students for "their sound acquisition of creative and technical skills". He also went on to highlight a number of students who he believed had produced a very high quality of work, complimenting them for their editing and use of film techniques.

Careers

To supplement students' experience of "STEMS" (Science Technology, Engineering Mathematics & Science) within our school, the Department invited a large number of students to a project organised through the Belfast Metropolitan College called "Creative Choices". This one day work shop introduced students to a variety of creative areas, including product and graphic design and marketing. It also explored the many associated career opportunities. It included a large number of professional designers from across the design spectrum, who explained their own personal career choices and what their successes to date were. Students were then involved in short workshops. The department believes this was hugely beneficial to the students and reinforced the positive influence of studying Art and Design.

The Department was also delighted to organise a visit by local film director, Cathy Brady who was in Newry for the premier of her new film, "Wasted". Cathy spoke to all "MIA – Moving Images Art" students about her experiences of film school and of becoming a director. She gave advice on how to "break" into the industry and an insight into her forthcoming projects. Cathy made a significant impression on all students and staff and we were delighted when she subsequently agreed to return and also advise the GCSE and AS students on how to approach their film work.

The Department are very grateful to the Amma Centre in Armagh for their assistance in helping to explain new software to our AS students. Ms. Grainne Cullinane visited the school on two occasions, providing training on the "Final Cut" film software during the autumn term.

Rathore School

Following on from work completed by Mrs. Grant in the previous year, the Abbey Art department was delighted to be asked to work with senior students from Rathore School. In consultation with Mr. Murphy from Rathore, the Abbey team created projects in textiles, collage and ceramics over three terms. Teaching staff were ably assisted by four Abbey senior students who found it an invaluable learning experience.

Professional Development

The Department is delighted that Ms Hughes has been selected as the new Assistant Principle Moderator for Art and Design at AS Level. This is a significant honour for Ms Hughes and recognises her outstanding abilities as a teacher and subject matter expert.

Given that "Moving Images" is still a relatively new subject in the Department we continue to train and increase our knowledge base. Mrs McAreavey (HoD) attended an A level course in "The Nerve Centre" in Belfast and Mr Clerkin (MIA technician) completed several courses in advanced film making techniques. Ms Hughes has worked diligently in her new role as Ass. Principle Moderator and has also completed courses in water colour and ceramics.

This Department believes continued training is vital to enhance teachers' specialist knowledge and skills, so that the highest quality learning experience and success can

be imparted to our students. It is the aim of this Department to ensure that we deliver to every student, a rich and meaningful experience in Art, Design and Moving Image.

The Department of Art, Design and Moving Image continues to promote the profile of The Abbey Grammar through its exhibitions (of GCSE, AS and A2 work), and via primary school visits and open days. This avails the Department the opportunity to celebrate our students' numerous and varied achievements with parents, friends and the wider community.

In conclusion, the Department of Art, Design and Moving Image continues to be a vibrant and strong department that has made a significant contribution to the ongoing successes of The Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School. The Department is now even more relevant with regards to enhancing our students' breadth of learning and career opportunities, particularly given the emerging art, design and film production opportunities across NI and wider afield.

Mrs F McAreavey (Head of Art and Design)

BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

The Department is delighted with the continued improvement in grades at examination level and with the increased number choosing the subject at all levels. .

Our top students in the CCEA examinations last year were:

A2: Peter Reel;

AS: James McKevitt;

GCSE: John Kearney.

The Abbey Young Scientists January 2014.

BT broke all previous records with 2,000 entries from all over Ireland for the 2014 exhibition on its 50th anniversary in January. Competing against 550 projects, year ten students, Eoin Lane and Oisín McKinley, were major prize winners taking the first prize and the display awards in the Biological and Ecological Junior section. The boys carried out their extensive research on the exposed and sheltered rocky shores of the Northern foreshore of Carlingford Lough. Their project was a study of the Resource Holding Potential of the Red Beadlet anemones for space in the most protected sites of the exposed rocky shore.

The students had four intense interviews with the judges about their research and findings. They were commended on their very high standard of engagement and knowledge. Contenders for the overall best group project in the competition the judges described the Abbey boys work as ‘most impressive’ and encouraged them to continue their research and publish their findings.

This year as part of the 50th anniversary all the past overall winners of the competition were guests of honour. The Biology Department has a long and successful affiliation with the Young Scientist competition. Past pupils Donal Keane and Rodger Toner were the first overall winners from Northern Ireland in 1993 and their success was followed by Brian Fitzpatrick and Shane Markey in 1995. In 1997 Brendan Fitzpatrick was runner up for the Best Individual award with Kevin O'Reilly

taking the same honour in 2005. In 2014, Eoin and Oisin have shown they too have holding potential amongst the best young scientists in Ireland.

Following their success in Dublin Eoin and Oisin were invited to the Big Bang Fair in Belfast in June and picked up more prizes including The Society of Biology Award for the best biological project. They also won the Northern Ireland Young Scientist award and will represent Northern Ireland at the Big Bang 2015 competition in Birmingham NEC next year.

Nuffield Science Bursaries:

This is the fourteen year the Biology Department has been affiliated with this prestigious Bursary scheme. Bombardier Belfast, Norbrook Laboratories, Queens University Belfast Centre for Cancer Research and Cell Biology and the McClay Research centre, Daisy Hill Hospital, BT Northern Ireland and the Armagh Observatory have allocated placements to our AS students in the past.

The bursaries are designed to give students the opportunity to work in leading scientific industries, research institutes and universities. The experience has been fundamental in assisting participants in making decisions regarding career paths. An arduous selection process takes place with high demand for placements. Each successful student gives a minimum of four weeks to the scheme in the summer holidays..

This year Fearghal Comaskey and Niall Grant were successful in obtaining placements in Norbrook laboratories. Fearghal studied the viscosity of Amoxicillin and Niall carried out an investigation into the effect of temperature, concentration and solvent used on the results achieved by a polarimeter when testing the specific optical rotation of a sample. Both students were awarded gold crest awards in recognition of the high standard of work and commitment given to the research.

Field studies:

Year 11 GCSE students participated in woodland studies in SMA College at Dromantine. The woodland's canopy, shrub, herb and ground layers were investigated as a means of understanding the biodiversity of this ecosystem Once again thanks to Fr Denver for allowing the school to avail of the facility.

AS students participated in a field studies programmes at SELB Killowen Outdoor Education Centre which included rocky shore studies, hedgerow management and agri-environment management schemes.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

The government has identified STEM as a national priority, to increase students' STEM skills and the Biology department has contributed to this important initiative.

This year the biology department organized and hosted the mobile STEM unit. All year 9 students participated in the Forensics module offered by the mobile STEM unit. STEM Module is a mobile laboratory and workshop designed to bring high quality learning experiences in STEM subjects. This year our AS and A2 students had the opportunity to investigate the world of cell life using modern light microscopes with high resolution cameras and a scanning Electron microscope.

Speakers were invited to the school and we were particularly pleased to have our past pupils, Ben Sutherland undergraduate studying biological sciences at University of London and Stephen Begley a post graduate of Cambridge and Imperial College London and are presently doing a Ph.D. in quantum optics. They returned to their

alma mater in September to give talks to AS students regarding their experiences. Dr Adrian Boyd [UUJ] from the Nanotechnology and integrated Bioengineering Centre. Our Year 10 students visited the STEM road show in the Canal Court Hotel in December. They had the opportunity to meet local employers who were promoting STEM related careers in their work place.

Mrs. Margaret Lane (Head of Biology)

CAREERS DEPARTMENT

SEPTEMBER:-

- Successful visits to QUB and UUJ Open Days by all Upper Sixth students. Students were offered the opportunity to discuss admission requirements and future plans for student fees with Higher Education faculties.
- Nine Year 14 students attended St Mary's University College, Belfast Open morning.
- Year 12 students completed 'Getting Connected' Careers work – in partnership with the Department for Employment & Learning (Newry Careers Service)
- Yr 14 students received Careers Guidance Interviews via Careers Adviser DEL;
- HoD interviewed 3 new Sixth Form Transfer students to the school.

OCTOBER:-

- UCAS application system continued.
- Year 13 students completed a three / five day Work Related Learning Programme / Work Experience.
- Term 1 – CEIAG Department Newsletter published on the school website.

NOVEMBER:-

- Finalising of UCAS system – 104 applications processed via the school system.
- Careers Department prepared 5 students for interview for St. Mary's University College, Belfast.
- 12 Year 14 students completed a 'Success Skills / Mock Interview programme – delivered by Young Enterprise Northern Ireland in preparation for Higher Education selection process.
- Term 1 – **Employability Week** (Week commencing Monday 11th Nov – Friday 15th Nov inclusive)
 - Year 11: 'Learning for Life' half day seminar (Sentinus)
 - Year 13: 'Learning for Life' half day seminar (Sentinus)
 - Year 12 'Learn to Earn' Programme (Young Enterprise N I)
 - Year 14 – Success Skills Programme – Mock Interviews

- 1 Year 13 student was successfully selected and completed a 5 day programme with Sentinus, NI : ‘Insight Into Engineering’ as part of their Work Related Learning Experience.
- A Select number of Year 12 students received a Talk from the SRC Admission Team on Post-16 Progression Routes.

DECEMBER:-

- CAO application process completed – 15 students completed applications online.
- A small number of students completed FE applications to Dundalk Institute of Technology
- Some Yr 14 students completed FE applications to the local SRC and BMC Belfast.

JANUARY:-

- All Year 10 students received a one-to-one Careers Guidance Interview prior to February KS4 Subject Choice.
- Year 10 Employability Programme was delivered by Young Enterprise NI ‘Project Business’
- Lecturer invited and attended from St Mary’s University College offering Interview Advice/technique to 6(2) students for St. Mary’s University College. – Interviews planned for February.
- Successful Year 10 & Year 12 Options Day with input from the local Careers Officer (DEL).
- Past pupil - Mr Gareth Turley was in attendance to offer guidance advice to Year 13 students considering application to Oxford and Cambridge for 2015.
- Past pupil – Mr Declan Fitzpatrick (currently employed in Canada) delivered an informative presentation on the opportunities in Construction and the sustainable Environment in Canada following an Honours degree at third level.
- Year 12 & 13 Art & Design students attended a Careers information Morning in St Colman’s College regarding entry conditions to Planning, Architecture and Civil Engineering (Queens Belfast).
- Thirty Year 12 students availed of an admissions presentation from the Southern Regional College, Newry with respect to Post-16 progression routes after GCSE examinations.
- Mrs C Mc Grath on behalf of the Business Studies department accompanied 11 Year 12 Business students to an Insight morning in the Sacred Heart Grammar School themed: “Careers in Finance” – Financial Services Partnership UK.
- 10 Year 13 students attended an Insight day at Queens University Belfast ‘Queens management School A/s Level Day’ on progression routes in Business, Finance, Accounting, Management.

FEBRUARY:-

- Year 14 students received a presentation and information session on Student Finance NI and applying for financial support on progressing to FE and HE.
- Year 12 student’s application forms for SRC processed and submitted.
- Head of CEIAG involved in the observation of SEN Transition Meetings.
- 6 year 13 students attended an informative conference in Methodist College – ‘Engineering Our Future’.

- 4 year 13 students engaged in an Inter School Medical Symposium in association with Queens University Medical School hosted at Methodist College, Belfast. The same students also attended our local Medical Symposium event in Daisy Hill Hospital during the first week of March.
- 8 Year 13 students attended a Psychology Insight Day hosted by the Belfast Trust in conjunction with Charter NI.
- Year 13 One-to-one Careers Guidance Interviewing commenced and continued throughout the month of March and April.
- 25 year 14 students received a presentation from the admissions and marketing team of Belfast Metropolitan College on entry routes to HNDs and Foundation Degrees post A Level study.

MARCH:

- 1 Year 13 student secured a Dentistry Placement with Queens Dentistry School.
- The Head of CEIAG attended the annual Careers Advisers Morning held by Queens University Belfast.
- 3 Yr 13 students attended St Louis' Kilkeel for a presentation by Oxford University Admissions Team. The same three students travelled to Lisburn on Friday 21st March for the annual Oxford Northern Ireland Conference event.
- Head of CEIAG and two year 14 students represented the Abbey Grammar School at the much anticipated re-launch of the Newry Careers Website: COIN: www.newrycareers.com ; launched by Mr M Storey MLA.

APRIL:

- **Term 2 – Employability Week 2:**
 - Year 8 students – Young Enterprise NI : ‘Your School Your Business’
 - Year 9 Students – YE 9 – Employability Programme – Young Enterprise NI
 - Year 11 Students – One Day Placement : ‘Take Your Son To Work Day’ (Thursday 17th April, 2014)
- Term 2 CEIAG Department Newsletter published on the school website.
- Year 13 worked on developing their sample/Draft 1 personal statements alongside their Careers Guidance Interview.
- 1 Year 13 student availed of a work placement through Charter with Belfast City Hospital – Radiotherapy/Cancer Care Unit.
- 3 Year 13 students attended a three day Work Experience opportunity in BE Aerospace Kilkeel.

MAY/JUNE:-

- Term 3 CEIAG Department Newsletter completed and published on the website.
- Head of Newry Careers Service and the Careers Officer (DEL) completed end of year evaluation of the School/DEL Partnership agreement with the Headmaster and Head of CEIAG.

AUGUST:- Results of Yr 14, Year 13 and Yr 12 students.

LEAVERS DESTINATIONS – CLASS OF 2014

YR 14 DESTINATIONS 2014	
HIGHER EDUCATION	
N IRELAND	64%
R OF IRELAND	4%
ENGLAND	11%
SCOTLAND	1%
FURTHER EDUCATION	
BELFAST MET (FD Degrees)	3%
SRC - NVQ	1%
OTHER :	
REPEAT A LEVELS	13%
FULL TIME WORK	2%
UNKNOWN	1%

CHEMISTRY

The Department was very pleased with the overall GCE & GCSE results; the GCSE's continued to be above the NI Grammar School Average. The AS results were also very good, and 75% of the students chose to continue studying Chemistry to A2 level.

Events

In January five Year 14 pupils sat the Chemistry Olympiad Competition the five pupils all performed well, unfortunately no-one qualified for the International Chemistry Olympiad Team.

In February QUB hosted The Schools' Chemistry Outreach Quiz Competition, Brian Smyth, Jack Halpin, Dan Foster and Sam Barfield came 3rd out of 13 School Teams, with Dan Foster winning an individual Junior Prize.

The Chemistry Department continues to be popular in Open Day. Parents and prospective pupils alike commented on their enjoyment of the demonstrations and the enthusiasm of the pupils in the department.

Developments:

The Year 10 Scheme of Work had been revised with an emphasis on learning through practicals. The pupils seemed to enjoy the new course, and the significant numbers who chose to study GCSE Chemistry reflected this fact.

Careers.

The Chemistry Department continues to promote Careers in Chemistry (as part of The STEM initiative) through classroom displays and normal classroom teaching. It was pleasing to note that a number of Yr14 students chose degree courses in Chemistry and Chemical Engineering this year.

The Department continues to subscribe to *Education in Chemistry* and *The Mole* magazines, pupils in the upper school make good use of this resource.

Training.**C Gamble:**

QUB School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering annual conference for Secondary Teachers

M Carey:

Learning How To Learn: Powerful mental tools to help you master tough subjects. Delivered by University of California San Diego via Coursera. Awarded a Certificate with Distinction. (August 2014)
ASE Workshop in Raising Attainment in GCSE Science (March 2014)
Physics for Non-Specialists (11-16), delivered at the National Science Learning Centre in York (November 2013)

Mr C Gamble (Head of Chemistry)

CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT

The Department is delighted with the continued improvement in grades at examination level and with the increased number choosing the subject at all levels. There has been a 100% increase in numbers choosing GCSE Construction this year with 39 students opting for it. At A' level there is an increase of approximately 30% with thirty students coming into lower sixth. The growth in the subject continues to exceed all our expectations.

Quality Assurance visit by Edexcel

In January of this year we received our now annual visits from Edexcel's Quality Assurance team. The purpose of their visit was to quality check our course, its delivery and our administrative procedures. We received an excellent report.

GCSE Construction

It is particularly satisfying to witness the success of the GCSE Construction course. The course which initially had been offered solely to young men who were experiencing difficulty with Modern Languages has now been extended to allow anyone who wishes to study the subject at GCSE to do so. The grades this year for this group were excellent with the group of 24 students 11 of which attained A*/to B grades, 11 B Grades and 2 C grades.

‘A’ Level Construction.

Students through study of the carefully chosen core and the specialist units will continue to be provided with a greater awareness of the skills, qualities and knowledge that particular occupational areas require and empowered to make informed choices for third level study. The grades this year for this group were excellent with the group of 22 students collectively attaining 100% A*/ A grades.

Impending changes to course

We have listened to and taken on board the views of past students of the course who have come back to talk to the boys about their university experiences and the benefits of the Subsidiary diploma. They commented on the excellent preparation our course provides as a platform for the diverse range of occupational areas studied at University. On further discussions with the Faculty of Construction and the Built Environment at the University of Ulster it was highlighted that the area of surveying if delivered here in the Abbey would be of major benefit for our students as they progressed to third level. With this in mind we have decided to restructure the course in the incoming year and deliver a unit in surveying. This will have financial and professional development implications for the department but the staff involved are fully embracing of the changes and Mr McGovern and his management team are fully supportive.

The ‘Subsidiary Diploma course’ delivered to our ‘A’ Level students this year will consist of the following units.

Core Units

Health Safety and Welfare Delivered by Mr G. Savage & Mrs K. Cranston

Surveying Delivered by Construction Department members
Mr G. Savage & Mr J Rath

Construction Science and Materials Delivered by The Physics Department members
Mr G Patterson & Miss S Houston.

Construction and the Environment Delivered by Geography Department members
Mrs A. Elmore & Mrs D Simpson.

Specialist Units

Delivered by Construction Department members
Mrs K. Cranston

Careers in Construction

Mr Savage as part of the Construction Department's School Development Plan focus has collated all the University course offers made to our students last year and is presenting the findings to the incoming 7th year Construction group. This information will help the 7th year cohort analyse the individual unit grade requirements set by each University and help the students make informed and realistic course choices.

Construction Ambassadors

We have initiated a programme in which we invite Industry professionals to work closely with students. These specialists not only discuss their professional roles but work closely with the students in 'real life' work related tasks. The benefits of this initiative are that it creates an awareness for, and exposes students to the everyday tasks performed within the different job roles.

In the last academic we had past pupils addressing the students discussing how they have progressed professionally since leaving the Abbey and helping the students make informed decisions in relation to their future careers. We have at present a Land surveyor working closely with us in the development of the new Surveying unit and this expertise will undoubtedly enhance the quality experience of our students.

In summary, the subject to date continues to exceed all my expectations and I look forward to another exciting year.

Mr. G. Savage (Head of Construction)

DRAMA DEPARTMENT

September:

The rehearsals for Miss Saigon recommenced, with pupils from other local schools taking part in the West End hit. Drama Club reconvenes with Mr. McParland working with the juniors on an array of drama workshops and small production activities. Some of the pupils were entered for the Warrenpoint and Newry Feis in May.

October:

The AS Theatre Studies group visited the Abbey Theatre, Dublin for a dynamic performance of 'The Risen People'. It was a great night in terms of allowing the students to witness a production of one of the most important Irish plays of the twentieth century, but also an opportunity to see the magnificent newly renovated home of Irish theatre. The trip was vital in opening up issues of theatrical devices and imaginative use of space for the students. This was a rare opportunity for the students to experience physical theatre at such a high level of professionalism.

School Show: Miss Saigon

Miss Saigon opened to packed houses, with rave reviews from all who were present. This was the first time that the show had been performed by an amateur group in Ireland and the whole company performed magnificently. Many put it on a par with our production of West Side Story. The fact that the show opened the day after the School Inspection began simply added to the great sense of expectation and pride for all.

School Inspection:

The inspection began on the same week as Miss Saigon. As HOD I had a great sense of pride that our department was able to rise to the enormous challenges presented to us. The inspectors visited the hall on a number of occasions to observe and chat to the pupils and they were impressed with everything they witnessed.

November:

A2 students performed their Unit 3 Devised production of 'The Alchemist'. The performances were excellent with each student attaining their maximum mark.

December:

Drama Club reconvenes after school in preparation for The Open Day in January.

January:

The Open Day was a great success with 1st. – 3rd year groups performing with tremendous confidence and energy for the prospective pupils and their parents. It was great to see the main drama room being used so effectively. The pupils presented monologues, duologues and group scenes, and again, this was a great opportunity for them to display their work in a public environment.

March:

The GCSE classes presented their practical work for moderation in the main drama room. The performances of 'Clevinger's Trial', 'Spittoon' and 'Dogg's Hamlet' resulted in each pupil attaining their highest mark possible. All three groups excelled and the department was given very high praise for the quality of teaching and assessing.

April:

The AS students presented their interpretation of 'Observe the Sons of Ulster,' 'Assassins', and 'One flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest' for Unit 2 examination in the assembly hall. As part of the new specification the students also had to present a polished monologue for the examiner. The productions were warmly received by family and friends in the auditorium.

June:

The Department had a series of detailed meetings to finalise our School Development Plan, complete new units of work. It was also a time to reflect on the effort and achievements for the department. The department concluded the programme taken by Cinemagic Ireland.

August:

Results for GCSE, AS and A2 students were received and the high standard over the past 10 years was maintained. We had 100% A-C at A Level and 93% A-C at AS Level. At GCSE we achieved 100% A-C and all results meant that our targets for the examinations were met. The additional Schemes of Work to support the Revised Curriculum for Year 10 were implemented and the Drama Department continued to search for and incorporate new texts and material into the new schemes and units of work. We continued to adapt our teaching practice to the new facilities and spaces provided by the new school to ensure the Department is ready to meet the challenges ahead.

Mr. J. Smyth (Head of Drama)

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Abbey Press

Although the Abbey Press did not publish any new titles last year, its work continues to be promoted on its Internet site. Its books were also promoted last year during the *Home Ground Festival* in Co. Derry.

Writing Competitions

Students were entered for local and national writing competitions last year. Internal writing competitions are a feature of the English classroom with prizes being awarded for the best and most improved work. Students from KS3 were involved in writing poetry which was published in an anthology entitled *A Twist in the Tale*.

School Magazine

The English Department contributes regularly to the many articles, stories, poems and book reviews that appear in *The Abbey Way*.

Library

The English Department continues to promote the use of the library by taking pupils in Years 8-10 there once every two weeks to choose fiction and non-fiction texts. Senior pupils at GCSE and A Level also have access to the library to research information for their exams and coursework. Each first year also undertakes an induction programme to help with the use of the library in term one.

Debating

Years 9 and 11 have internal class debating competitions each year. This is organised by all English teachers. *(See Ms A. Reynolds' information for further details on debating).*

Scholastic Book Club

Each month pupils in Junior School are given copies of the Scholastic Book Club magazine. Many pupils purchase books from these newsletters and discounted books are often ordered to build up libraries in English teachers' classrooms. Ms. Reynolds co-ordinates this.

Extra Literacy Assistance

Mr. Rodgers provided extra literacy assistance to those pupils who have weaknesses with their written English. He regularly emails parents of KS3 pupils with useful literacy information/resources. Ms. Sara Millar also comes in to assist pupils who have problems with literacy. Mr. McMahon takes those boys in Year 13 who have not achieved a pass grade in GCSE English Language for extra classes. English teachers regularly give up many free periods to assist pupils and take support classes after school throughout the year but especially coming up to exams.

Mr. Mc Mahon also invited Dr. Aidan Lennon, principal examiner with CEA, into the school to speak to GCSE pupils about exam preparation.

World Book Day and National Poetry Day

Competitions were run last year on this day with boys being encouraged to bring in favourite books to read and discuss. A past member of Abbey staff, Michael Quinn (R.I.P.), also came to speak to A Level pupils about his recent memoir, *An Armagh Childhood*.

Writing Club

The English Department continues to help those pupils in the school who show an interest and a flair in writing. This is often done during non-teaching periods or after school. Ms Gilloway takes a weekly writing club looking at the craft of writing and Mrs McGinley helps to prepare work with boys interested in entering writing competitions.

Games Club

Last year Ms. R. Kelly took boys at lunchtime for literacy based games, such as Scrabble, during lunch-time.

Spelling

Last year the school continued its promotion of spelling with the English teachers running internal class competitions with the best spellers at Key Stage Three competing against each other in the school assembly hall. This event involves all of Junior School and was co-ordinated by Mr. Rodgers, Teacher in Charge of Literacy.

Careers Focus

In each year group a strong focus was placed on jobs and employment arising out of the study of English. Year 10 pupils undertook a careers programme at the end of term three whilst A Level pupils carried out research on preferred occupations and gave presentations on this to their peers.

Staff Training/Development

Mr Francis Gauchette visited the Abbey last September to speak to English teachers and Mr Rodgers (Teacher in charge of Literacy) about how to work with pupils with dyslexia.

Mr McMahon also had a university student (Niamh McMillan) in his class for a week on classroom observation.

Mr McMahon was also involved in some collaborative work with the HoD for English in St. Columb's, Derry, after the school's inspection report. He was also asked by Mrs Liz Armour to speak to a panel from ETI on the role of the English teacher in today's classroom.

Theatre Visit

Members of the English and Drama departments took a group of A Level Drama pupils to Dublin on a theatre visit.

Mr. M McMahon (Head of English)

FRENCH DEPARTMENT

- 1) September 2013 – the French Department welcomed the new intake of Yr 8 pupils.
- 2) January 2014– the French Department welcomed primary school pupils from local primary schools and their parents as part of Open Day.
- 3) January – June 2014 –the French Department continued to create games and activities for use in the French Department.
- 4) June 2014 – As with previous years, this was a very busy time for the French Department. As part of our continued monitoring and evaluating within the department we revised and created new GCSE revision booklets to the expand the variety of resources available within the Department.
- 5) August 2014 – the academic year 2013 – 2014 was an excellent year for the French Department. The pass rate at both GCSE and A Level was well above the NI average.
- 6) August 2014 – Michael Jordan achieved the maximum 400 points in his GCSE French exam, losing only 4 raw marks across 4 papers.

7) August 2014 - Eoin Monaghan achieved the maximum 200 points in his AS French exam.

8) August 2014 - Yr 11 student Conor Poucher completed his GCSE French exam and scored an A grade. This was an excellent achievement from a student in Yr 11.

Miss M. Quinn (Head of French)

GEOGRAPHY

All Year 11 Geography students took part in a river study of the White water river in January 2014 as part of their GCSE Controlled Assessment.

At key Stage 3 the revised curriculum is being actively followed, pupils have become more active learners by participating in group work and presenting their work to the class through power point presentations. A variety of active learning strategies were implemented to help pupils improve on their thinking skills and problem solving. Pupils are also assessing their own work along with the work of others and evaluating what they have learnt throughout the unit taught.

At AS and A2 level the new specification was implemented, pupils are encouraged to partake in independent learning by researching a variety of case studies.

Conlaodh Quinn a 7th year student won a place on a geography related event – Dawn ‘til Dusk hosted by QUB. This event provide a stimulating insight into the geographic challenges faced by the city of Belfast and Conlaodh was able to meet some of Northern Ireland’s leading experts in urban and social issues.

Mrs D Simpson (Head of Geography)

HOME ECONOMICS

Year 8

The Year 8s enjoyed their first year of Home Economics in the Abbey, covering various topics including food safety and hygiene, nutrition and diet, food miles, food and faith and much more. The boys in their class groups took part in **The Great Abbey Bake Off** in December to raise funds for our school Zambia project. In total they raised £550 with the winning class 8 Donard raising a fantastic class total of £146! The winning class were rewarded with bonus merits towards the Year 8 competition and class treats!

Year 9

Year 9 students continued their studies in Home Economics, focusing this year on topical issues such as fast food made healthy, sports nutrition, obesity and diabetes and more. The Year 9s who achieved the highest marks during practical lessons over the course of year 9 took part in **The Abbey Masterchef** competition in June. The 12 participants had 3 hours to cook their chosen menu, which was presented to Mr Grogan (Year Tutor) and Mr Ruddy (Vice Principal) to judge. The standard of culinary skills on display was superb and left the judges choosing 3 winners overall.

Congratulations to **Oran McNally** (Best Dessert – Iced Lemon Curd Cake), **Eoin Finnerty** (Best Main Course – Sea Bass with freshly made Pasta Tagliatelle) and **Shea Murphy** (Best Overall Menu – Baked Breaded Goats Cheese Wedges, Seafood Linguine and Cherry Almond Frangipanes). The winners received vouchers for The Quays shopping centre.

Thanks and congratulations to everyone who took part!

Sainsburys Active Kids

This was the first year the Abbey Home Economics Dept participated in the Sainsbury's Active Kids scheme. Sainsbury's recently added cooking equipment to their offering so parents and pupils were asked to bring in any vouchers they received whilst shopping in Sainsbury's. In total we received 1950 vouchers, which have allowed us to select new cooking equipment for the department including saucepans, measuring equipment, cutters and more. Many thanks to everyone who donated vouchers to the scheme, it was much appreciated!

Extra-Curricular

Cookery Club

This was the first year the department ran a year 8 and 9 after school cookery club! The club had 10 spaces and ran on a Monday after school and has been a huge success with a waiting list for each session. The boys were given the opportunity to cook quick, easy recipes, further developing the skills learned in Home Economics. The club will continue during the new academic year 2014-15, and we hope to boost last year's enthusiasm even further!

Mrs Martina O'Donovan (Home Economics)

HISTORY

The academic year 2013-2014 was a very good one for the History Department. The results at GCSE level were excellent and were very good at A Level. Open night was very successful and it drew large crowds to the History Department. Parents and prospective pupils alike commented on the various projects on display and the enthusiasm of the pupils in the department. Work started on the new revised GCSE specification and was on going throughout the year. Conor Rooney and John Keatings joined the department, with John leaving at the end of the year to take up a post in Qatar. We wish him well. As the year ended plans were being made for a third year trip in the next academic year to the Somme Heritage Centre.

Mr D Evans (Head of History)

ICT DEPARTMENT

Information to Parents :

The department's ICT blog and School VLE have been used to outline useful websites addressing the dangers of the Internet. Parents and Year 8 students have completed an updated student Internet policy and Internet Permission form agreeing to comply with the school rules on Internet use.

Careers

Bring IT On arrive at Abbey Grammar School Newry

This year as part of our whole school development plan we took as our focus Careers education within the department. This involved once again bringing the Bring IT On road show to the Abbey Grammar School Newry on **20th January 2014**. This careers event targets pupils aged 14 to 16 years and is focused exclusively on providing information and advice on Northern Ireland's dynamic IT industry. The event was delivered by Enda Mc Kenna from the E-skills UK- National skills academy for IT.



Extra Curricular :

Tech Know Club The school participated in a Tech Know Club programme run in partnership with Ashfield Girls High School and funded by All state. Two STEM ambassadors (Past pupils Cormac Markey and Michael Murphy) were allocated to

our school, to help guide interested Year 9 students through the programming skills required to enable them to participate in the programme and take part in a final challenge which took place in Ashfield Girls High school on 20th June 2014. Four afternoon sessions were planned, however due to our transformation not all of these sessions were able to take place. On competition day the Abbey faced stiff competition from Aquinas Grammar, Ashfield Girls, Ballyclare High, Campbell College, Portora College, St Colm's High School, St Patrick's Academy and Wallace High School. Our students performed exceptionally well on the day and the Abbey students should be congratulated on winning this prestigious competition achieving the title "Young Software Engineers Team Award 2014". All students and Mr McCann, the competition coordinator were presented with a Samsung tablet and a range trophies.



Computer coding club

Computer coding club managed by James Downing and Brian Clelland (an ex Abbey pupil) ran for the second year at the Bath House in Canal Street.

Each year 6th year student engages in an application and selection process. Ten students are subsequently selected to participate. These students learn valuable programming skills and use the Ruby on Rails software to solve complex problem. One of the highlights of the club was to participate in a special Drone academy in collaboration with other schools in the area.

In house Staff training :

18th March 2014 - Staff were split into a number of groups and on a round robin basis all staff were introduced to the following ICT areas. Fronter, Marking of pupil work, Planning on the ipad, Collaboration with Google, Twitter.

26th May 2014 - As part of sharing good practice all staff were given a 35 minute presentation on the features, advantages and disadvantages of using Fronter VLE in comparison to Google drive. Departments now have to select which forum they should use within their department.

Professional development

2nd June 2014 – James Downing attended an OCR Gcse Computer Science training course on the new specification. The Abbey will be introducing this subject to our Y11 students September 2014.

Further coding events were attended throughout the year that included the Momentum summit at Stormont attended by a group of industry leaders and politicians looking at boosting the IT sector in NI. The Abbey was the only school in NI that was invited to speak at this event.

Dwyer McCann

Head of ICT

IRISH

The most fluent speakers of Irish in the Annual Abbey Irish Oral Awards share £1050 Gaeltacht Scholarship.



Mr Jim Finnegan, past pupil of the Abbey and CEO of JMC Mobile warmly congratulated each award winner. Equally proud of his ‘Silver Fáinne’ Mr Finnegan encouraged the boys to continue to go to the Gaeltacht. To assist with this each award winner has been gifted a £150 Gael-Linn scholarship to Machaire Rabhartaigh. Also in the photograph is the Principal, Mr Dermot McGovern.

The trophies are dedicated to former members of staff who either taught Irish, or contributed to the promotion of the language in some capacity or in one case to a former student who excelled in the subject.

The first year trophy (Bás Chuchulainn) dedicated to the late Brother Beausang was awarded to Eoin Carr.

The second year trophy (Méabh agus an Donn Chuailgne) dedicated to the late Mr. Patrick Arthur Crinion, a former teacher of Irish and the Classics, was awarded to Dan Foster and Eoin Lane.

The third year trophy (Corn Durkin) dedicated to the late Matt Durkin was jointly awarded to Aodhán McEvoy and Daniel Kehoe. Following the sudden and unexpected death of this former Abbey student, his classmates decided to present an award to the school in his memory. Ever since, it has been presented annually to the best Gaeilgeoirí in third year and indeed it lead to the decision to present similar awards to each of the other year groups.

The fourth year trophy (Clann Lir) dedicated to Brother Aidan Quinlan, who during his time in the Abbey was a founder member of Féile Scoil drámaíochta an Iúir, was jointly awarded to Michael Jordan and Ronan Lavery.

The fifth year trophy (Bás Chúchulainn) dedicated to the late Brother W. O. Murphy, former Head of Irish and Vice-Principal of the Abbey, was awarded to Andrew McAteer.

The sixth year trophy (An Lóchrann) dedicated to Mr. Hugh Murphy, Lislea poet and former Head of Irish, was jointly awarded to James McKevitt and Aodhán Gregory.

The award for the best 'Gaelscoláire'(An Lóchrann Beag), was jointly awarded to Tom Magill and Ruairí Kernan.

Abair Public Speaking Success



The Irish Department have a history of producing excellent public speakers for Gael-Linn's ABAIR Public Speaking Competition, and 2014 was certainly no different.

Three Abbey pupils made it through to this year's final that took place in the new Education Campus in Monaghan town. Each pupil was tasked with speaking for 3-4 minutes on a topic of their choice. All three Abbey students; Oisín Murphy, Ronan Lavery and Andrew McAteer did remarkably well but it was Ronan Lavery, a Year 12 student, that took the award. Ronan was also awarded a £275 scholarship to the Gaeltacht. Ronan's speech focussed on the appointment of Roy Keane as the Republic of Ireland's soccer manager and was published in the June edition of 'An tUltach'.

The competition was tough with competitors from every Ulster County and Co Louth. Gael-Linn's Abair competition has gone from strength to strength and pupils for English Speaking and Irish Speaking Post Primary schools from both the Gaeltacht and the Galltacht taking part.

Ronan will now take part in the Irish / Scottish Public Speaking Finals which will be held in Glasgow on 22nd/23rd September.

Lá na Gaeilge

This year the Irish Department opted to organise 'Lá na Gaeilge' which proved to be huge success.

Rith 2014



The Irish Department rounded off the best 'Lá na Gaeilge' for many years by taking part in the National Rith Relay. Starting in Cork City, the relay of Gaeilgeoirí ran to Belfast, raising awareness of the Irish Language along the way. The pupils of 8 Iveagh, AS and A2 Irish students with their teacher, Mr Gallagher, took the baton at the Armagh- Down border and carried it into County Down on the final day of the relay.

Year 8 – All year 8 pupils took part in an Irish Language Quiz in the hall.

Year 9 – Lynette Fay, BBC Radio Ulster, presented 'Cúpla Focal' badges to most of the year group.

Gaeltacht Students and Scholarships 2014

Approximately 100 Abbey students attended a Summer Course in Machaire Rabhartaigh, and Dún Lúiche Donegal. As a department we advise the students which courses are most suitable, based on this pupils make their choice and bring in their applications and money. We are extremely grateful for the level of support provided by both Gael- Linn, Feis an Dúin, Armagh GAA, Down GAA and Coláiste an Phiarsaigh who regularly provide scholarships to Abbey students every year. Thanks to the generosity of the afore mentioned we were able to redistribute approx £7000 of scholarships to those registered students.

Mr. D. Tennyson

Head of Irish

LEARNING FOR LIFE AND WORK DEPARTMENT

Year 8 – students in Year 8 were involved in a Love for Life presentation on October 22nd. The seminar, entitled ‘Who’s Choosing’ focused on issues and decisions facing our young students, including: the real me; healthy living; influences; smoking/alcohol/drugs; relationships.

Years 8, 9 and 10 students were also involved in a competition organised by the Youth Justice Agency in connection with their Citizenship class. Students were asked to demonstrate their involvement in active citizenship within their local community through a range of media including photography, poetry, short stories, songs and raps and short films. Eleven students in total received prizes at a ceremony in Parliament Buildings.

Year 10 students were involved in a Love for Life presentation on October 22nd. The workshop, entitled Icebergs and Babies, looked at a range of issues facing young people, including: sources of pressure, self-image, media and sex and virginity as a healthy life choice.

Year 12 students were involved in a Connections conference, hosted by Life NI. The conference looked at the value of human life, abortion, unplanned pregnancy and relationships. The conference allowed students to think about how these things are related, to discover new perspectives and to look at how choices affect us.

Revised Curriculum, Non-Exam KS4 LLW

The department had a very busy year reviewing and updating the schemes of work and assessment tasks for the forthcoming academic year. The revised KS3 schemes of work and assessment tasks have been updated onto the LLW departmental folder.

New resources and schemes of work were also produced for Non-exam KS4 LLW.

Learning for Work programme: students in Years 8-12 participated in a series of workshops as part of an ongoing Learning for Work programme organised in conjunction with the CEIAG department.

Mr. Gerald Morgan
(Head of LLW)

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

Once again the students were entered into CCEA's Two Tier Modular GCSE Mathematics without coursework exam. 11KD and 11SB completed their full GCSE in one year as in previous years with excellent results. All remaining 4th year students sat 45% of their GCSE with reasonable outcomes. 12SB, 12BT & 12GB sat their completion paper in June, with some students also opting to repeat their module from 4th year, in January to try to improve their grade.

High levels of entry at AS Level were repeated again this year with a majority of students having completed Additional Maths at GCSE with pleasing results.

Additional Mathematics entries were increased and results here were very pleasing.

At KS3 the New Revised Curriculum was actively followed while still preparing Year 10 pupils for their KS3 Mathematics exam. The interactive whiteboards have provided the department with the facility to use a variety of resources.

Mathematic Challenges

Students are invited to enter Mathematic Contests organised by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust. These are as follows:

- The U.K. Junior Mathematical Challenge
- The U.K. Intermediate Mathematical Challenge
- The U.K. Senior Mathematical Challenge

Students for these competitions are selected according to performance in house examinations and ability at Mathematics.

Gold, Silver and Bronze Certificates are awarded, depending on results. Last year's results were as follows:

Senior Challenge:

GOLD

Lorcan Moley

SILVER

Luke Bradley

James M^cNulty

James McKevitt

Matthew Freeman

Eoin Monaghan

BRONZE

Leo Gorman

Patrick Tiernan

Peter Reel

Hugh Tiernan

Callum Murchan

Darragh M^cClean

James Haughey

Sam O'Neill

Joseph Kirk

Best in School:

Lorcan Moley

Intermediate Challenge:

GOLD

Brian Smyth

SILVER

Tirnan Forde

John Kearney

Ronan Lavery

Ronan Reel

BRONZE

Daniel Darragh

Aodhan Donnelly

Conor McCusker

Daire Rooney

Finbar Burns

Best in School:

Brian Smyth

Junior Challenge

Unfortunately due to this occurring on the day after the KS3 Mathematics exam, the Junior Maths Challenge did not take place in the Abbey this year.

Mrs S. Burns
Head of Mathematics

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

The music has had another successful if not somewhat busy year. Results and numbers continue to thrive as well as more instrumental groups being created.

School Show: Miss Saigon (Music and Drama departments)

In October 2013 the music and drama departments held a successful 4 night run of Miss Saigon in its first school performance in Ireland. Great commitment was shown by all the Abbey boys and adopted “Abbey Girls” who came for extra rehearsals over weekends and evenings, helping us to produce a number of outstanding performances.

Abbey Choir (D. Wadsworth) performed at the following events:

- Ulster Youth Choir Workshop (December): from this 13 boys were invited to join the UYTC during their annual workshop and choir performances in July and August.
- Carol Singing in the Buttercrane (December)
- Christmas Concert (December)
- Warrenpoint Feis (February)
- Thoughts for Easter (April)
- Spring Concert (April)
- Newry Feis (April) – 2nd in hymn singing
- Concert for Rome held in Newry Cathedral (April)
- Rome Trip and concerts (April)
- 1st Year Induction Mass (June)

Orchestra (C. Keenan)

- Christmas Concert (December)
- Spring Concert (April)

Jazz Band (D. Wadsworth)

- Newry Business Christmas Charity Dinner (December)
- Buttercrane (December)
- Graduate Prize giving (December)
- Christmas Concert (December)
- Warrenpoint Feis (March)
- Jazz with the Ulster Youth Jazz Band (March)

Junior Jazz Band (J. Cosgrove)

- Christmas Concert (December)
- Spring Concert (April)
- Various performances at local nursing homes and St Malachy’s PS.

Senior Brass Ensemble (Naomh Mathers and D. Wadsworth)

- Newry Feis (April) 2nd
- Spring Concert (April)
- Concert for Rome in Newry Cathedral (April)
- Rome Trip (May)

Traditional Group (C. Keenan) performed at the following events:

- School Mass (September)
- Year Masses (Ongoing throughout the year)
- Prize Night (November)
- Open Day (January)
- Lá na Gaeilge (March)

Main Events of the Academic Year 2013-14

- Miss Saigon held in October 2013.
- Christmas Concert in December 2013.
- Spring Concert in April 2014.
- Rome trip in May 2014

Staffing

- **Conor McCormick and Colm Clerkin (Music & Moving Images Technician)** have shown themselves to be an invaluable source to the department. They have provided technical support and advice given to GCSE & A level musicians for their recordings as well as the technology options of Multi-Track Recording and Sequencing. Mr McCormick is now studying for his PGCE in Liverpool. We wish him all the best for the future.

SELB Tuition

SELB instrumental tuition on offer includes **upper & lower strings, brass, woodwind, percussion & recorders**. This continues to be very successful with many excellent and committed tutors from the board who give over and above of their time and professionalism – assisting with Feis entries, exam recitals, etc. The numbers taking lessons was around 55 pupils. Senior (grade 5+) attend the Music Centre and receive (and pay) for their lessons directly. The costs of the lessons were met by the parents at £195 per annum.

Private Instrumental Tuition

This service is offered in order to allow all pupils the opportunity to receive instrumental tuition who cannot obtain it through the SELB Music Service. The system operates alongside the excellent SELB service but the pupils pay the tutors directly, the quality of service is monitored by the HOD.

Mr Murphy	Guitar (classical & rock)	30 pupils
Mr Kinney	is proving very successful	10 pupils

Fergal Hughes also facilitates the Rock School Grade Exams using the school as a public exam centre for internal and external candidates, this has proved a very successful process.

Best Pupil at AS

Eoin Hannaway

Best Pupil at GCSE

Jonathan Reynolds

Caroline Keenan
Head of Music

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

In the past academic year the Abbey Grammar School was represented in a wide range of sporting activities including Gaelic football, hurling, basketball, rugby, athletics, golf ,cross country and Ju -Jitsu.

The Abbey Weightlifting club has continued to develop with International Weightlifting coach present as a guest coach. Lifters competed at the Northern Ireland weightlifting youth competition at University of Ulster.

The Ju- Jitsu club has gone from strength to strength and now has 25 graded members.

Grades range from white to blue. Students who give full commitment and apply themselves to training have a realistic chance of achieving a black belt in Ju- Jitsu in their seventh year.

Over 200 pupils represented the school at various levels in Gaelic football.

Mac Rory squad won the Martin O Farrell memorial tournament in September and beat St Pauls Bessbrook in the Mac Rory before losing out to Dungannon Academy in a quarter final replay.

All teams fought hard for the Abbey in a disciplined manner.

Donagh Mc Aleenan and Conor Doyle were awarded Ulster Colleges All-star awards at wing half back and wing half forward respectively.

This past season has seen our athletes competing and winning at the very highest level. The 3rd year cross country team took a clean sweep of all titles in Ulster, only to fall short in the All Ireland.

The first year team took the Down cross country championships, with Cathal Brennan and Sean Campbell being particularly impressive. Cathal won the Newry and Mourne Race, the Down cross country championship and was runner up in the Ulster cross country championship race. Sean Campbell was second in the Newry and Mourne race, 3rd in the Down Championship race and an excellent 11th in the Ulster cross country championship race. The second year team finished 5th overall at the Down championships.

At the Down track and field championships Cathal Brennan won the 800 metre title, with Sean Campbell 3rd. Billy Campbell took an excellent 3rd in a top class junior 1500 metre race. Oisín O'Callaghan won the Down 800 and 1500 metres titles, narrowly missing the Ulster Schools' record in both.

At the Ulster Athletics finals on 18th May. Oisín O'Callaghan was crowned 800 and 1500 metre champion. The 1500 gold was particularly impressive. Oisín came from 5th place in the last 300 metres to power home for the win. He now progresses to the All Ireland.

Cathal Brennan took gold in the 1st year 800 metre race, with Sean Campbell a very impressive 6th.

In the junior 1500 metre final Billy Campbell was piped on the line for the bronze medal. He recorded another personal best, taking 8 seconds of his previous time.

Well done to all runners who trained and participated in the events this year

metres, taking a bronze medal. This is a fantastic achievement given the fact that he was also racing with 5th year athletes.

Sport and Extracurricular activities continue to play an important role in Abbey life; with the dedication and commitment of staff we can teach our pupils the value of teamwork, discipline and industry in the pursuit of excellence on and off the field of play.

Mr. Jody Gormley (Head of PE)

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

Our links with the Armagh planetarium have been maintained and we are made aware of upcoming events which may be of use to our students. We have continued to contribute to the world famous SETI project (Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence) a topic that generates huge interest in the classroom.

Last year we re-joined the Planetary Society which is the largest non-governmental research and exploration organisation in the world. They supply us with regular updates of modern research projects.

The department continues to maintain our affiliation with the Institute of Physics which supplies us with regular educational periodicals and cutting edge reports on the fast changing world of professional research, including the recent discovery of the Higgs boson at the LHC. These are all made available for the use of students.

For many years now our A Level students are encouraged to subscribe to the excellent Physics Review magazine which is specifically written for A Level students.

Led by Mr Hamill we have incorporated the use of our ipads into our classroom delivery. There is an excellent set of notes on learning resources for the use of our AS and A2 pupils. These notes will continue to be adapted by the three Physics teachers this year to make them even more useful for students. These resources are now available to our students via Google drive and we are exploring the possibility of transferring them to Fronter.

The department continues with an excellent record of academic success. We also continue to buck the national trend of a continuing decline in the numbers of students taking Physics at GCSE and A Level. We have 33 students in the present lower sixth year which compares very favourably with any of our competing subjects. We also have two large discrete Physics classes in Year 11. This year four of our year 14 pupils chose to do degrees in physics at various universities across the UK and Ireland. Leo Gorman narrowly failed to gain admission to Oxford to read physics but we have high hopes for Sam O'Neill, a current year 14 pupil, who has applied to read physics at Cambridge this year.

Ms Sharon Houston has been reappointed to the department for a further one year's contract teaching physics to KS4.

Mr. G. Patterson (Head of Physics)

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

This is the fifth year of collaboration with Sacred Heart and the number of girls participating in the course has grown significantly. This year there are 34 girls doing AS psychology in the Abbey. The Psychology Department now has three teachers, Mr. Eddie McGivern, Miss Carmel Muckian and Mr. Paul O'Shea. The mix of girls and boys in the class proved to be beneficial for both. Girls exemplified the overall trend in A level results by out performing the boys at both AS and A2.

Part of the focus of the Psychology Department this year is to continue the focus more on how students learn and to provide a greater range of activities in the classroom to facilitate greater engagement. The use of I Pad by the teachers in the classroom will help to facilitate this.

Mr. P. O'Shea (Head of Psychology)

RELIGION DEPARTMENT

Our Vision as a Department:

Our aim as a Religious Studies Department is to nurture the faith and spirituality of each of the pupils in our care. We as a department strive to do this by promoting Gospel based values - encouraging our pupils to care for and support one another, respect themselves, each other, their teachers and the environment. For some of our pupils, the only faith development they receive, is what we, their Religion teachers teach them. Therefore it is essential through our leadership, that we lead by example and make a lasting impression on them.

How Do We Put Our Vision Into Practice?

- Particularly in Junior school, spontaneous prayer is an important aspect of our lessons. We teach pupils how to pray. The availability of the new school Oratory allows us the opportunity to take pupils at least once per month to this beautiful room which creates the perfect ambiance for prayer.
- Over the past number of years our pupils have been involved in the 'Samaritan Christmas Child Project', whereby the Religion teacher of a year group distributes information to each pupil. Each pupil then has to wrap up a shoe box with Christmas paper and fill it with items for children of a variety of ages. The boxes are then sent off to disadvantaged children throughout the world. The pupils take great pride in filling their boxes. This year, we intend to continue with this project with Year 8 pupils as we believe it is important that our pupils are aware of the needs of those less fortunate than themselves.
- 1st, 2nd and 3rd year pupils also present displays in the school foyer at important liturgical dates in the school year. We feel that it is our responsibility as a department to take the lead in celebrating important feast days and bringing them to the attention of others e.g. all pupils in Junior school make St. Brigid's Crosses in class to celebrate St. Brigid's Day. Pupils really enjoy this activity. A large number of pupils also take part in the 'Give it up for Trocaire Day' which traditionally is held in March. During the month of May, the RE department create a display outside the Oratory in honour of Our Lady.

- Each year, all Junior pupils take part in the celebration of ‘Catholic Education Week’ which takes place at the end of January. A range of activities are organised in Religion class and a display board is put up along the Religious Studies corridor.
- In senior school in particular, we strive to develop careers awareness by bringing in a number of guest speakers throughout the year e.g. Fr Gerry Magee, a member of the Cistercian Monastic Way visits a number of our classrooms to speak with pupils’ about the Contemplative way of life, Brother Philip Mulryne (an ex Man United player who is currently studying to become a priest), Father Brian Fitzpatrick (Ex Abbey pupil who was a trained doctor but left and was ordained in June 2014). Our pupils enjoy listening to these different experiences. These speakers encourage them to think about the different paths that there are in life.

Academic Achievements:

This year we were delighted with the GCSE, AS Level and A2 Level results. The Religion Department has grown over the last few years in popularity with 4 A’Level groups, 2 AS classes and 2 A2 classes. 100% of our 7th year pupils achieved Grade A-C in their A’Level exam in June 2014.

Mrs. L. McKeever (Head of RE)

SPANISH DEPARTMENT

This year the Department of Spanish welcomed Sr Javier Bautista Martín as our Language Assistant. We continued our policy of making the assistant available not only in Senior School but across all year groups. We believe that contact with the Spanish Assistant makes the language much more real for all of our students.

We also continued to complete our internally produced GCSE Controlled Assessment tasks, following the guidance issued by CCEA and we modified the content of some of these tasks following members of the department’s attendance at CCEA information briefings.

At GCSE we continued internally to mark and moderate our oral examinations. Again this year we received confirmation from the CCEA moderation team that they were happy with our moderation practices and thus our marks were not adjusted.

This year we continued to develop our partnership arrangement with the Department of Spanish from the Sacred Heart Grammar School Newry. Carolina Murphy completed her A2 Spanish in the Abbey and she secured an A* grade. Grace McMahon completed her AS in the Abbey and she secured an A grade at AS level. Next year 2014-2015 we have seven Sacred Heart students in Lower Sixth. They are joined by 28 of our own Lower Sixth students bringing our Lower Sixth total to 35 students. We now have two large classes in Lower Sixth Spanish and we hope to maintain this healthy uptake into the future.

Mr P McKeever
(Head of Spanish)

TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

The Arkwright Scholarship

The Arkwright Scholarships Trust administers one of the most prestigious scholarship schemes in the UK. 2014 marked the second year it was available in N.Ireland its purpose is to inspire future leaders in engineering and related areas of design by awarding Arkwright Engineering Scholarships, through a rigorous selection process. Jason McCabe and Glenn Mooney Joined Shea Quinn, Rafael Ali, Zain Shahid, Christopher Downey, John Catterson and James Vint as Abbey Arkwright Scholars. Each scholar receives £600 towards their A Level studies and collectively secured £3,200 for the Technology Department over two years. Our scholars have also been linked to a major industry sponsor and will receive individual tailored support and training towards their chosen career path and may obtain sponsorship through university.

Their Mentor was Mr. T Mooney.

Young Engineers Club/Young Innovators

The Technology Club is open to all pupils throughout the school from years one to seven. The Young Engineers is an annual competition that enables young people aged 11-25 years to demonstrate their ingenuity and inventiveness. It is the biggest event of its kind in UK and offers a showcase to education and industry of the wealth of innovation and creativity amongst young people in UK schools and colleges offering a platform for pupils to put ideas into practice. The club meets several times a year as events demand.

The Young Innovators has now become a regular annual event at the Abbey, enjoyed by teachers and pupils alike. It is organised regionally by SENTINUS. It was held in the Odyssey and is the biggest of its kind in the UK.

Group Project specially prepared for the Young Innovators Competition -Killian Higgins, Jack Murphy, Cian Brady and Brendan O'Shea Winners of the KS3 Technology Category & Winners of a Special Award for the Best Use of Software in Education. Akhil Seeram brought his Systems & Control A Level.

The pupils were assisted by Mr T Mooney and Mr S Higgins

Sentinus R&D Gold Crest Award

Six of our AS pupils successfully completed the R&D Challenge. The principal phase of the Scheme involves an actual research and development project, set by 'Re-Gen' a local company, for our team of A-level students. With assistance from a company engineer, the students developed a solution to the problem through on-site visits, work in school and a five day workshop at QUB. The programme culminated with an Exhibition and Presentation Day, where teams exhibited their projects and presented their work to panels of experts. All pupils were highly commended by the judges and received Gold Crest Awards. Mr Mooney and Mr Higgins assisted the students

Sentinus Robotics Roadshow

All our Year 8 Pupils were involved in a one day robotics programme which gives pupils the opportunity to engage in programming and control of autonomous vehicles within the context of space exploration. Supported by Technology Year 11 mentors the pupils learn to write their own programmes and download these to the robots to

perform tasks at the end of the day. The programme aims to enhance the understanding of robotics and give pupils a hands on opportunity to develop their programming skills and enhance ICT skills. Pupils were assisted by Mr T Mooney and Mr S Higgins

Mr T Mooney (Head of Technology)

BASKETBALL

The 2013/14 school year was another successful one for the Abbey basketball players, with both our 3rd year and U19 squads reaching the ulster finals, with our U19 squad progressing to the All-Ireland quarter final playoffs. We had competitive games for all year groups last season apart from 1st years and the pupils enjoyed each of these competitions. We travelled to Belfast, Derry and Castleblaney with the various squads. This coming academic year I intend to have teams available to all age groups again. There will be five teams available to pupils this year – 1st, 2nd, 3rd year teams and both U19 and U16 teams. Last year the school were fortunate enough to have a student in from UU for PE (Marcus McKeown), Marcus was a great help especially with coaching the older teams in terms of fitness. He also coached some of our younger players while he was here. A special thanks also goes to Paul Crawley and Helen Cranney from Newry Basketball club for their help with coaching this year.

Mrs. Pauline McClean

COUNSELLING

Evaluation Report Counselling Service

June 2014

‘Her thoughts were slow, her words were few and never made to glisten.
But she was a joy wherever she went, you should have heard her listen !’

The demand for counselling has increased consistently throughout the School year. I was seeing on average 18/19 boys weekly before the summer break.

Presenting issues;

Bullying

Relationship/ family/ Friendship problems

Anxiety/ Panic attacks

Sadness//depression

Anger management

Self-confidence, low self-esteem

Transition/ change, adapting to Grammar School from primary School

Thoughts of self-harm and suicide

Sexuality

Bereavement/ loss of friendships / Isolation

Coping with illness of a parent

Alcohol abuse / Drug awareness

I feel the counselling service is an invaluable service. The fact that the Abbey Grammar School have their own counsellor on site is a great asset.

The open door policy enables the boys to have someone available to listen and offer support immediately. In a crisis situation this is crucial. I feel that this is very important, throughout the year I have dealt with numerous young people whom I had concerns about, child protection issues which I have discussed with Mr Brady.

It also means that the boys can tap into the service to meet their needs as and when they feel they need an extra bit of support.

When pupils avail of the counselling service I have noted that after a break they have no hesitation in availing of the service again if any issues arise. I have worked with a number of boys who have complex issues and require ongoing support!

I am essentially trained in the Person-Centred School of counselling, I believe that each person is essentially good and given the right conditions each person will move toward self-actualisation and reach their full potential.

Although Person-Centred is my foundation theory I work from an eclectic approach, bringing in Cognitive Behaviour theory and Solution Focused theory to meet individual needs.

Throughout the year I have continued to increase my knowledge and personal development!

2013 (October) Child Protection Training.

2014 (May) Self-harm training.

2014 STAMPP awareness workshop.

2014 (August) Suicide Bereavement Care.

2014 (August) Autism Awareness

2014 (Sept) Indian Head Massage.

I have trained as a Colour Breathing Practitioner. This is a deep relaxation technique which is used to treat stress, anxiety and depression. Colour breathing has also physical benefits as breathing correctly increases blood circulation, reduces high blood pressure and increases alertness and concentration.

Doctors in England currently recommend 6 sessions of colour breathing as an alternative to prescribing anti-depressants.

The demand for Colour breathing is still evident and numerous boy's have requested this for stress management before their exams. However pupil's are having problems availing of this relaxation technique, as understandably teachers are reluctant to let the boy's out of class. The number of boys requesting colour breathing has increased

coming up to exam times, it is also easier to be released from class as the bulk of the School work is done.

The pupil's I have worked with have loved it and found this technique really helpful and boys have requested it combined with counselling, as they found it really beneficial. This technique is effective with both individual and group work.

This time with the boys has also proved invaluable as it gives me a chance to get to know them individually. I have insight into their family lives and issues that may be causing them concern.

The B+ Mental Health Programme is a great tool in helping promote the counselling service, the boys have the opportunity to get to know me as well and I feel the stigma from counselling is minimised as they realise I am approachable, understanding and supportive.

I feel the role of counsellor within the School has huge potential for both pupils and staff! Continual development and promotion of the counselling is the key to the way forward. My objective is to promote positive mental health to pupils through the B positive mental health programme next year. I have a range of presentations and information which I can facilitate on request .

Bereavement Care
Self-harm awareness
Bullying awareness / coping strategies
Self-awareness / Self-value
Friendship skills
Anger management

I also feel in my role I am privileged that the boys respect and trust me to share their worries and experiences. Counselling provides a safe place whereby pupils can talk about their feelings and problems.

I continue to work within the ethical framework of the BACP, I have individual clinical supervision monthly and group supervision monthly with PIPs . I also continue to do volunteer counselling with PIPS. I am currently working two afternoons in Womens aid . I continue to avail of any training to further increase my knowledge and personal development .

Several staff have availed of counselling. Others have accessed information. Some have participated in colour breathing. I feel counselling / colour breathing should be promoted to teachers and used as part of staff care. Several support staff have expressed an interest in relaxation and breathing techniques, this may be something to consider implementing into a staff day.

Mr Kevin Brady, Jane Mc Ginn and I continue to correspond on any concerns / progress of pupils. I continue to attend pastoral care meetings on Fridays.

I have drawn up Policies and guidelines on the counselling service which is easily accessible from main office.

The need for the counselling service is evident this year by the large number of boys who have availed of the service. I feel there are a lot of problems and issues out there in the classroom and more pupil's will benefit from counselling.

The importance of promoting the counselling service as positive and beneficial is a key element in reducing stigma and allowing counselling to be integrated as part of normal School life.

This year I am delivering the B Positive Mental Health programme to the year 8 groups, to facilitate this Religion and life work teachers have allowed me to use five of their periods over five consecutive weeks.

Week one;Counselling Awareness Presentation; Evaluation sheet.

Weeks 2, 3,&4; Mental Health Programme; Presentation and workbook.

Week 5; Relaxation, Meditation and Colour Breathing.

I propose that next year I have a slot in the timetable to deliver this programme and other workshops, as this is quite difficult to organise and I am depending on the goodwill of the teaching staff..

I have facilitated group work on bullying and Bereavement care on teacher's request. This is also an area I would like to develop, again organising group work can be problematic, as the classes are too big, I have divided the pupils and delivered a programme over two consecutive weeks with the co-operation of the teachers.

In 2010 approximately 40 pupils accessed the counselling service, a noted increase in 2011 60+ pupils accessed the counselling service. In 2012 approximately 60 + young people have accessed the counselling service.

Approximately 60% new referrals this School year, this is an increase from last years statistics. Students self-referral has increased, last years self referral rate was approximately 25% . To date over 200 pupils have availed of the counselling service.

It would appear that the junior boys avail of the counselling service more freely than the older boys ! This is an area which I feel could be targeted next year.

The school inspection report was outstanding. We will continue to work together to ensure we provide a high quality counselling service to our young people.

Communication is a key focus , improved contact with Year heads and pastoral care team, working together to promote positive mental health in a holistic approach .

Ms Fiona Hughes (School Counsellor)

ABBEY LINKS WITH RATHORE SPECIAL SCHOOL

The Abbey continued its partnership with Rathore Special School, Newry in the 2013-2014 school year.

This year we made a significant change to our programme in that we hosted the Rathore students here in the Abbey, instead of our students going over to Rathore. We made this change following consultation with Mr Gavin Murphy, liason teacher from Rathore. It was felt that the Rathore students would benefit in terms of positive affirmation by visiting the Abbey on a regular basis and engaging in joint activities with Abbey students.

The Rathore students were hosted by Upper Sixth Abbey students from Departments of P.E. and Art, led by Mr Jim McCartan, P.E. Department and Mrs Fiona McAreavey, Art Department. Each week the students from both schools engaged in sporting and artistic activities, suitable to the ability of the visiting Rathore students. The two groups then came together for a joint snack and some social time.

Both schools view the social aspect of our joint activities as a central part of our partnership. Students from the Abbey hosted our annual Christmas Party for the Rathore students on Thursday 5th December 2013. Pupils from all year groups were involved in providing the entertainment for the party.

In April 2014 our Upper Sixth students who had taken part in the Rathore link went to Omagh CBS where they received their Edmund Rice Awards in recognition of their participation in the project.

All of the Abbey and Rathore students who participated in the partnership really enjoyed the experience and we look forward to continuing to develop our relationship with Rathore in the next school year.

Padraig McKeever.

ABBEY GOLF 2013/14

The Abbey Golf Team participated in this year's Darren Clarke Schools' Golf League with some success. The competition involved over 40 teams from all over the North and was played over several different golf courses including Warrenpoint, Mayobridge and Cullyhanna. The boys won their games against St. Colman's, Newry, St. Heart, Newry and St. Louis, Kilkeel. In the quarter-finals they were defeated by St. Patrick's, Armagh. The squad this year was: Michael McGurk, Conor McManus, Adam Loughran, Kenny Mooney, Ruairi McCormack, Kieran McCormack, Lewis Cowan, Ruairi Kernan, Christopher Dunne and John Dunne.

Aside from the competitions, there is a weekly after - school outing to Burren driving range. Because of the high level of interest, it is necessary to alternate the year groups, with year eight attending one week and years 9 and 10 the following week. The students availed of some coaching from Mr. Morgan and the resident GUI coach, Mr. Dougie Bell. There were approximately 40 year 8 students who registered interest in golf last year and 35, year 9, 10 and 11 students.

Mr G Morgan

DEBATING

Br McFarland Senior Debating Trophy

- High attendance figures at the senior debating final are being maintained with year on year figures averaging 150 guests including parents, friends and pupils (especially those in Years 9 & 11 attend to collect awards).
- High numbers of debaters signed up to participate again this year, so semi-final rounds were maintained for a fourth year which makes for a very competitive final.
- Noted guest speaker: Dr Malachi O'Doherty (writer-in-residence at QUB; author; columnist) attended debating final as guest adjudicator.
- Continued sponsorship: Mr Rory McShane (McShane & Company Solicitors)
- Chairman for open session: Peter Delahunt (Br. McFarland trophy winner x2; best individual speaker at Debating Matters; EU Mock Council member who was in promotional video shot at Stormont and at school for the British Council.) given the success of Ryan Morgan's (Br. McFarland trophy winner; EU Mock Council member who was in promotional video shot at Stormont and at school for the British Council) return last year to chair the open session, we continued the trend of inviting our former accomplished debaters back to open and chair questions from the House, thus maintaining strong relationships with past pupils.

Debating Matters

- The Institute of Ideas run this debate which is judged by a panel of three and we have been involved in the event for three years, acting as hosts last year. The level of research and logical reasoning required is high and the adjudicators subject the speakers to a gruelling series of questions before they take questions from the members of the House. Four senior students were involved.

EU Mock Council

- Sixth time to participate in this debate with three senior students. One student acts as researcher while the other two are designated ministerial roles and take their turn at the table for discussions on a range of issues, e.g. immigration, EU expansion, banking. Agreements are reached through qualified majority voting.

NI Schools Debating

- Second year of entry in this competition and a very successful one. Two teams of senior students were entered; while both teams campaigned well, one team was represented at the NI Schools final in Stormont on 2nd May by Gareth Deane who was runner-up in the Northern Ireland Best Individual Speaker final – a great achievement.

Queen's University Belfast – *Literific* (Literary & Debating Society)

- This is a new event launched in February 2014 by a growing literary and debating society at Queen's. Two senior students represented the Abbey and Zain Shahid was awarded the runner-up prize in the selection for Best Individual Speaker.
- It is also significant to note that our past pupil and Br. McFarland finalist, Connor Hogan, was winner of the Literific's prestigious Godkin award for first year students at Queen's in 2014. Connor also lent his support to the Br. McFarland final this year.

In-house Debates

- Year 9 & Year 11 debates run in English classes. These debates form the base from which senior debaters develop. They have been successful in developing interest and talent in students. They receive their awards at the senior debating final to mark their accomplishments.

Scholastic Book Club

Each month pupils in Junior School are given copies of the Scholastic Book Club magazine. Many pupils purchase books from these newsletters and discounted books are often ordered to build up libraries in English teachers' classrooms, coordinated by Ms Reynolds.

Ms A. Reynolds (Debating)

HURLING

This year there were 4 hurling teams in the Abbey, in years 8, 11, 12 and 13. It was a very successful year for the sport; the Year 11s got to the semi-final of the Noone Cup. The Year 12s got to the semi-final of the Maguire Cup and the Year 13s got to their final day blitz, but unfortunately were unable to participate as it clashed with their work experience. A small Year 8 side attended non-competitive afterschool training.

M Rodgers (Hurling coach)

QUIZZES



The Credit Union Quiz Team of Ronan Lynch, Daniel McEvoy, Caleb Quigley & Tom Comer.

The Abbey Quiz Teams had another successful year competing in schools quiz competitions.

The Senior Challenge Quiz Team of Eoin Monaghan, James McKevitt, Karl Gray and Dan Foster won the Northern Ireland Senior Schools Competition, this was the School's eight consecutive win, everyone in the team performed well, but Eoin Monaghan in particular stood out in each round of the competition. The team then qualified for the UK National Finals at Pearse School Cambridge in April, however in the quarter-finals they were beaten by a very strong School, Stockport Grammar.

In the NI Regional Junior Quiz Challenge, Eoin Finnerty, Jack Grant, Aidan McGovern and Eoin Carr reached the Final but unfortunately were beaten in a very tight and tense match.

The school also competed in the Newry & Mourne Council Schools Quiz in May, where Dan Foster was part of the winning team.

In the Credit Union Quiz for 1st years the Abbey Team of Cian Toal, Tom Comer, Caleb Quigley, Sean Rock, Daniel McEvoy and Ronan Lynch won the Newry Area Competition and then qualified from the Armagh/Down Regional Finals to the All-Ireland Finals which took place in April at the RDS. Only 50 teams out of approximately 2500 who start this competition make it to the Finals, the 4 boys were the top placed team from Ulster coming 10th overall.

Quizzing continued through the year during lunchtime for both Seniors and Juniors it attracted a consistent number of keen participants.

Mr C. Gamble

STEM activities and Millennium Volunteers

1. Y8 STEM Club

Maeve Carey and Sharon Houston ran this activity on a Wednesday afternoon from the middle of September until after Easter. Y8 pupils came for an hour to carry out various experiments and activities such as constructing paper helicopters and investigating the properties of non-Newtonian fluids. At one point in the first term our numbers exceeded 40. In the second term we ran a project on designing and launching a rocket. 28 boys received Bronze CREST Awards in recognition of their projects.

We had a group of Y12 and Y13 boys who came along to help the Y8s at STEM Club. The assistance of these boys was invaluable. The fourteen boys received CREST Awards and Sentinus Club Mentor Awards.



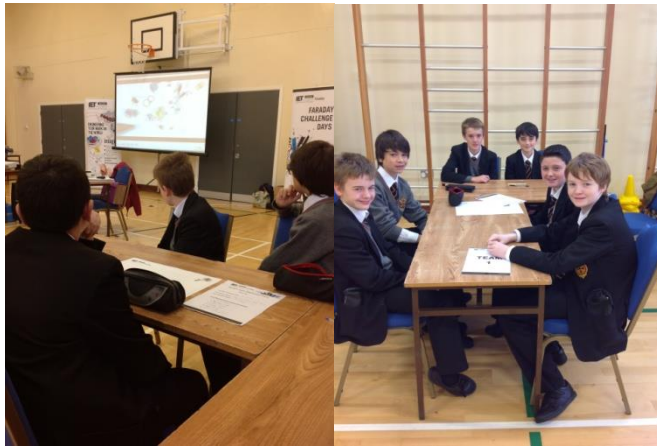
2. Y10 Go4SET Project

With support from Sentinus, Maeve Carey oversaw the Go4SET project on a Friday after school for approximately 6 weeks. There were 18 Y10 boys and 2 Y13 assistants. The boys worked on a project to design a sustainable building. Structural Engineer Micheál Finnegan came to talk to the boys about their projects. They took their completed projects along to the 'Big Bang' event in Ballymena where they participated in a workshop and saw projects by other school students.



3. Y9 IET Faraday Challenge Day at St. Colman's College

Maeve Carey took a group of six Y9 boys along to this event where they designed and built a rocket and rocket launcher. The boys really enjoyed the experience and said that they would like to work on projects like that again in the future.



4. Millennium Volunteers

Mr McGovern agreed for the Abbey to become a Millennium Volunteer Partner School. Maeve Carey co-ordinated Millennium Volunteers awards for Sixth Years. The MV awards aim to recognise voluntary work carried out by students in and out of school. It was surprisingly popular given that it was a pilot scheme last year. Approximately 20 awards were earned by students ranging from Schools Awards for 30 hours of time, Silver Awards for 100 hours and Gold Awards for 200 hours or more.

Dr Maeve Carey,

ABBEY RUGBY

Jonny Graham has now been appointed as a Youth Development Coach funded by Ulster RFC. He trained various age groups over the course of the year culminating in blitz competitions against local schools. He also coached the seniors (u17s) for a block of sessions. One of the aims of the funding is to support local rugby clubs with new members joining having gained experience and enjoyment from the sessions in the Abbey. They would be a large representation at Newry RFC of youth members being Abbey pupils. Next year (2014-2015) the funding and support is still in place so we can continue to build upon the skills, participation and success of Abbey rugby.

Mr. D. Wadsworth

CHAPLAINCY

The spiritual experience of pupils and staff continued to expand and deepen this academic year with the steady development of chaplaincy activities.

Liturgies

There was one whole school Mass at the end of September to mark the start of the school year. This was a rich celebration of all aspects of Abbey life and saw the involvement of every staff and pupil grouping in the liturgy.

Ash Wednesday was marked by a series of short services of distribution of ashes. Throughout the year Fr John Byrne celebrated Mass once with each year group, their form teachers and their year tutor. The final mass of the year was in June and was the central feature of induction of the new group of first years who would begin in September 2013.

Retreats

Lower Sixth Form students attended the now annual Kairos retreat in Drumalis, Larne, during which they enjoyed an experience, very new to these young men, in which they shared in a very personal way how their Christian faith impacts on their lives. The work was facilitated by 6 Upper Sixth students who were trained in retreat leadership, three members of staff each of whom made a personal contribution and Fr J Byrne.

All year 8 pupils experienced a one day retreat, held in Newry Parish Centre, and facilitated by the Diocesan Youth Adviser and her team. Eight of our Year 13 students were trained to assist with activities and provided a rich contribution to the process.

Lenten Prayer

Lenten prayer was attended by staff and pupils each morning throughout Lent. Pupils and staff contributed to these short, but very meaningful daily oases of peace. On two days each week, prayer was led by a student, one of a small group trained for this work.

Pope John Paul II Awards

There is a growing interest in our students in these awards. This year, 5 Year 14 students were presented with Bronze awards, and 11 of our Year 13 students signed

up for awards to be completed in 2015. Already they have contributed to retreat work and Newry Parish activities.

Marking of the Liturgical Season

At various times of the year the liturgical season is marked through special liturgies (eg, November: Remembering our dead; December: Christmas), May Altar and displays of pupils work.

Prayer during the Exam Period

Prayer in the oratory was made available each morning and lunchtime during the summer exam period.

Ongoing Development of the Oratory

Work is progressing towards a broader use of the Oratory, for example to facilitate Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the celebration of occasional Masses for small groups.

Mr K Brady

ZAMBIA IMMERSION PROJECT

The Zambia Immersion Project continues to strive to support our friends in Livingstone and to improve the educational provision for the children there. The project raised a phenomenal £32,000 between July 2012 and March 2013 when the students and staff travelled to Zambia. This visit involved the volunteer Abbey staff taking a comprehensive look at the schools and assessing how the educational provision for the children in Linda and Libuyu Community Schools could be improved. Recommendations were made to the Abbey Coordinator Mr Mwiya. In June 2014 Mr McGovern, Mr Brady and Ms Hughes returned to Livingstone to monitor where the money raised is being spent and to evaluate the teaching and learning provision. The team were delighted to see vast improvement in teachers' planning and a more consistent approach to learning. This resulted in a raise in teacher allowances. Effective workshops have been organised by Mr Mwiya during which teachers from both community schools have the opportunity to share good practice. Teachers' feedback has been extremely positive and improvement is evidenced in the classroom. In addition the team visited Ngwenya and Libuyu plots where the communities are becoming more self-sufficient. We also attended St Francis day care clinics and saw the superb medical support Sr Mary Courtney and her team give to the communities in the communes. In March 2015 Ms Hughes will lead the team on the next visit to Zambia.

Ms O Hughes

Financial Report for the year ended 31st March 2014							
						<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<u>Income</u>							
Budget Share						4,281,167	
Other Income						<u>452,361</u>	
Total Income							4,733,528
<u>Expenditure</u>							
Teaching Staff Costs						3,081,141	
Support Staff Costs						578,995	
Premises Running Costs						212,834	
Teaching Resources						55,458	
Other Operating Costs						<u>595,270</u>	
Total Expenditure							4,523,698
Surplus/(Deficit)							<u>209,830</u>
<u>Represented by:</u>							
Surplus School Revenue Account							100,182
Surplus General Revenue Account							54,689
Surplus School Meals Account							54,959
							<u>209,830</u>

ABBEY CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL							
SUMMARY OF CHARITABLE DONATIONS YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2014							
					£		
TROCAIRE					1,000		
TOTAL DONATIONS					<u>1,000</u>		
ZAMBIA PROJECT					£		
TOTAL AMOUNTS RAISED					38,998		
TOTAL EXPENDITURE INCURRED					-19,905		
					<u>19,093</u>		