The Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School

Annual Report to Board of Governors

For School Year 2016 / 2017

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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 2017-2018

	NAME	Code	RESPONSIBILITY
001	McGovern, Mr Dermot	DMG	Headmaster
002	O'Shea, Mr Paul	POS	V.P. Psychology/ Senior School/DT Child Protection//Timetable/Learning Group/New Staff
003	Ruddy, Mr Ronan	RR	V.P./Spanish/Pastoral Team/ Open Day/Transfer/Year 8/eLearning
004	Rath, Mr John	JR	S. Teacher./Technology/ SENCO/BTec Quality Nominee/Extra Curricular
005	Wadsworth, Mr Dominic	DW	S. Teacher/Music/ P.R. Overview/UCAS/APTA/Community Links/ Year 9 + 10
006	McGrath, Mrs Catriona	CMG	S. Teacher/Careers/Middle School/Curriculum Options/Timetable(Shared)/EF/ALC
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 ICT/I.T. Coordinator
011	McMahon, Mr Mel	MMM	Head of English
012	Burns, Mrs Sinead	SB	Head of Mathematics
013	Doey Ms Laura (McAreavey, Mrs Fiona)	LG	Head of Moving Images/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	Elmore, Mrs Annette	AE	Geography/Year Tutor
021	Grogan, Mr Mark	MG	Computers/Web-site, E-Communications/Year Tutor
022	McGinley , Mrs Orla	OMG	Biology
023	Morgan, Mr Gerald	GMO	English/Head of LLW
024	Quinn, Miss Mairead	MQ	Head of French
025	Savage, Mr Gerard	GS	Head of Construction/Buses
026	Gamble, Mr Colin	CGA	Head of Chemistry/Quizzes
027	Rodgers, Mr Mark	MRO	Technology & Design/Year Tutor/Literacy & Communication Coordinator/Positive Mental Health
028	McCorry, Mrs Deirdre	DC	KS3 Science Coordinator/Biology
029	McGivern, Mrs Joan	JM	Spanish
030	Gallagher, Mr Sean	SGA	Irish/History/Year Tutor/School Newsletter
031	Boyd, Mrs Gail	GB	Mathematics
032	Reynolds, Ms Annelise	ARE	Careers/English/Head of Careers/Debates
033	McMahon, Mr Rory	RMM	Geography/Year Tutor
034	McClean, Mrs Pauline	PMC	Head of Irish
035	Gormley, Mr Jody	JG	Head of PE
036	Evans, Mr David	DE	Head of History
037	McParland, Mr Paul	PMP	Head of Drama
038	Fearon, Mrs Theresa	TF	Head of Accounts/Business Studies
039	Hughes, Ms Orla	OH	Head of Art
040	Doherty, Mrs Karen	KD	Maths
041	McGivern, Mr Eddie	EM	Head of Psycnology/Religion
042	Murphy, Mrs Mary	MM	Maths
043	Gordon, Mr Dan	DG	PE
044	Cranston, Mrs Kim	KC	Technology/Construction/LLW
045	McGinley, Mrs Seaneen (O'Hanlon Emma)	SD(EO)	English
046	Downing, Mr James	JD2	Head of Computer Science/ICT
047	Carey, Mrs Maeve	MC2	Head of Environmental Technology/Chemistry
048	Farrell, Mrs Karen	KG	English
049	O'Donovan, Mrs Martina	MO	Head of Home Economics
050	Keenan, Mrs Caroline	CK	Head of Music
051	Rooney, Mr Connor	CR	History
052	Kelly, Ms Roisin	RK	English/French
053	Harvey, Mr John	JH	Religion
054	McQuillan, Ms Phyllis	PMQ	Business Studies
055	Patton, Mr David	DP	Physics/Mathematics/Environmental Technology
056	Cullen Ms Claire	CC	Irish
057	Brankin Mr Diarmuid	DB3	History/Drama

Support Staff

Colleen McAvoy	Bursar, Support Staff Manager, Building, Health and Safety Officer.
Mary Rafferty	Headmaster's Secretary, Assistant Bursar, Accounts, Intake Admin
Tess McKernan	Administration, MIS Support, Exam Entries
Patricia McKinley	General Office
Fiona Flynn (Leona Lynch)	General Office
Catherine Brownlee	Science Technician
Carmel Hetherington	Reprographics/Library
Gary Treanor	Music/Art Technician
Robbie Hannon	PE Technician
Sean Higgins	Technology Technician, Electrical Maintenance
Neil Clarke	Information Technology Technician
Fintan Doyle	Technology
Willie McCullough	Caretaker, Minibuses, Cleaning Staff Supervisor
Malachy Small	Caretaker, Minibuses, Cleaning Staff Supervisor
Annette Breen-Mallon	Classroom/General Assistant
Joan Jackson	Classroom/General Assistant
Anne Collins	General Assistant
Annemarie Moire	General Assistant
Ciara Casey	General Assistant
Aoife Bradley	Irish Language Assistant
Noleen Byrne	Home Economics
John Manley	Canteen Supervisor
Claire McGahan	Assistant Cook
John Sinton	Assistant Cook
Celine Gonzalez	Assistant Cook
Bernie Mallon	Canteen Staff/Cleaning Staff
Margarita McGivern	Canteen Staff
Aislin Callaghan	Canteen Staff
Agata Lewczuk (D Sarwa)	Cleaning Staff
Mary McKevitt	Cleaning Staff
Rosin McDonald	Cleaning Staff
Wioletta Sienkiewics	Cleaning Staff
Maureen McKevitt	Cleaning Staff/Canteen Staff
Marzana Miller (T Sosin)	Cleaning Staff/Canteen Staff
Kasia Chudoba	Cleaning Staff/Canteen Staff
Malgorzata Pszczolkowska	Cleaning Staff
Magdalena Oprzedek	Cleaning Staff
Bernard Magee	Cleaning Staff

Nurse/Counsellor
Mrs Jane McGinn (Mrs Geraldine Gallagher/Mrs Mina Hanratty)
Counsellor
Ms Fiona Hughes (9.00 – 1.00 daily)

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
PTMs
SDP
Gathering/Monitoring Information School Trips Information

Mr P O'Shea

Head of Senior School
Child Protection
Leaving Ceremony
EMA
Student Council
HODs Teaching and Learning
Timetable
DENI Return
Staff in Service
New Staff/Student Teachers

Mentor: Religious Studies, English, History, Psychology, Computer Science, Chemistry

Mr R Ruddy

Pastoral Overview (Medical/Counselling)
Year 8 Pastoral Care and Liaison with Primary Schools
Anti-Bullying
Open Day
Transfer Statistics
E-learning/ E Safety
BOG Report
Prize Giving Junior School

Mentor: French, Irish, Spanish, Technology, Maths, Physics

Mr J Rath

SENCO
Quality Nominee for B'Tec
Extra Curricular

Mentor: ICT, Construction, Drama, Junior Science, DAS, Biology

Mr D Wadsworth

Pastoral Care Year 9 and Year 10
PR overview (social media/website)
UCAS
APTA
Community Links
ER Day

Mentor: Careers, Music, Home Economics, MIA, Art

Mrs C McGrath

Head of Middle School
Rota
Options
Timetable (shared)
EF Audit/Leavers Return
Curriculum
SHS/ALC Link
GCSE Prize Giving

Mentor: Physical Education, LLW, Business Studies, Accounting, Geography, Environmental Technology

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 2017/18

1ST YEAR	
BR 8	26
DON 8	26
IV 8	26
OR 8	25
SL 8	25
TOTAL	**128**

2ND YEAR	
BR 9	26
DON 9	26
IV 9	26
OR 9	26
SL 9	26
TOTAL	**130**

3RD YEAR	
BR 10	25
DON 10	27
IV 10	25
OR 10	26
SL 10	26
TOTAL	**129**

4TH YEAR	
11CR	27
11DE	26
11DMC	26
11PMQ	27
11TF	26
TOTAL	**132**

5TH YEAR	
12DC	28
12DG	27
12JMC	25
12MMM	28
12OMG	28
TOTAL	**136**

6TH YEAR	
13KG	24
13PMP	21
13EM	25
13GB	25
13JH	23
TOTAL	**118**

YEAR 14	
14DS	20
14GS	24
14JM	22
14MQ	22
14SB	23
14POS	4
TOTAL	**115**

TOTAL	**888**

STATEMENTED	
1ST YEAR	2
2ND YEAR	
3RD YEAR	1
4TH YEAR	5
5TH YEAR	3
6TH YEAR	3
7TH YEAR	1
TOTAL	**15**

873

School Year 2017/2018		
	App	Adm
Grade A	94	94
Grade B1	14	14 (4 upgraded to A)
Grade B2	15	14 (4 upgraded to B1)
Grade C1	6	1 (upgraded to B1) 2 (upgraded to B2)
Grade C2	7	1 (upgraded to C1)
Grade D	5	
Other	5	2
TOTAL	146	128

1 C2 upgraded to C1 admitted on appeal

GCE A2-LEVEL SUMMARY ANALYSIS BY DEPARTMENT - SUMMER 2017

SUBJECT	Ent	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	% A* - C 2017	% A* - E 2017	NI% A*-C
ACCOUNTING	9	1	3	3	2				100	100	71
ART AND DESIGN	4	2		2					100	100	86
BIOLOGY	11		6	2	2	1			91	100	82
BUSINESS ST.	9	1	1	5	2				100	100	84
CHEMISTRY	10		2	4	3	1			90	100	86
CONSTRUCTION	10	9	1								
DES & TECH NI	6			3	3				100	100	69
DES & TECH RM	5			1	2	2			60	100	69
DRAMA	7			2	3	2			71	100	86
ECONOMICS	5		1	3		1			80	100	87
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	7		2	2	1	1	1		71	100	94
ENGLISH LITERATURE	11	5		4	2				100	100	81
FRENCH	1		1						100	100	85
GEOGRAPHY	19		6	1	9	2	1		84	100	81
HEALTH &SOCIAL CARE	1				1				100	100	
HISTORY	17	1	8	5	2	1			94	100	83
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	40	2	12	13	10	2	1		93	100	78
IRISH	7	1	6						100	100	92
MATHEMATICS	22		9	8	3	1	1		91	100	86
MOVING IMAGE ART	3		2	1					100	100	
MUSIC	3			2	1				100	100	89
PHYSICAL ED. STUDIES	12		3	2	1	1	5		50	100	65
PHYSICS	13	1	2	7	3				100	100	79
POLITICS	5		2	2	1				100	100	90
PSYCHOLOGY	4		1	1	2				100	100	67
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	22	2	5	9	6				100	100	85
SOCIOLOGY	1				1				100	100	72
SPANISH	4		2	1	1				100	100	91

% of Students getting 3 Grades A*-C at A level is 79 %
% of Students getting 3 Grades A*-C at A level for Northern Ireland is 76%

GCE AS-LEVEL SUMMARY ANALYSIS BY SUBJECT - SUMMER 2017

SUBJECT	Ent	A	B	C	D	E	U	% A – C 2017	% A – E 2017
ACCOUNTING	16	5	1	2	4	4		50	100
ART AND DESIGN	3	3						100	100
BIOLOGY	22	7	3	7	4	1		77	100
BUSINESS ST.	27	9	13	4	1			96	100
CONSTRUCTION	30	21	4	5				100	100
COMPUTER SCIENCE	10	3	2	5				100	100
CHEMISTRY	20	6	2	5	2	3	2	65	90
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY - NI	9	1	3	4	1			89	100
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY RM	8	1		4	3			63	100
ECONOMICS	8	2	3	1	1		1	75	88
ENGLISH LITERATURE	10	2	4	3	1			90	100
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	Linear								
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE	18	8	7	1	2			89	100
FRENCH	2			2				100	100
FURTHER MATHS	4			2	1		1	50	75
GEOGRAPHY	18	6	7	3	2			89	100
HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE	1		1					100	100
HISTORY	24	4	8	5	4	2	1	71	96
IRISH	10	5	3	1		1		90	100
DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY	28	2	5	7	8	3	3	50	89
MATHEMATICS	50	11	8	9	6	3	13	56	74
MOVING IMAGE ARTS	3		1	1	1			67	100
MUSIC	5		1	3	1			80	100
PHYSICAL ED. STUDIES	10	1	3	3	2	1		70	100
PHYSICS	27	3	7	8	1	4	4	67	85
POLITICS	7	4	1	1	1			86	100
PSYCHOLOGY	Linear								
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	19	9	3	5	2			89	100
SOCIOLOGY	Linear								
SPANISH	10	2	4	2	1	1		80	100

GCSE Results by Department 2017

Subject	Ent	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	2017 A* - B	2017 A* - C	NI% A*-B Boys Grammar	NI% A*-C Boys Grammar
Art and Design	12	5	5	2							100	100	73	92
Biology	39	6	10	9	13	1					64	97	74	95
Business Studies	34	4	12	13	5						85	100	64	88
Chemistry	30	4	13	8	3	2					83	93	80	93
Computer Science	20	2	11	3	2	1	1				80	90		
Construction	16	1	5	7	2	1					81	94	85	94
Drama	23	2	8	9	4						83	100	78	95
English Language	129	5	28	50	45	1					64	99	73	96
English Literature	129	8	36	41	35	9					66	93	73	95
French	19	3	3	9	3	1					79	95	59	84
Geography	52	1	16	20	9	6					71	88	71	90
History	62	10	15	18	16	3					69	95	75	93
Home Economics	16		5	3	5	2	1				50	81		
Irish	57	9	14	20	11	3					75	95	75	96
Gaeilge	4		2		1	1					50	75		
Information Technology	45	14	14	11	4		2				87	96	85	96
Maths	70		11	35	19	5					66	93	75	95
GCSE Maths in one Year	60	28	20	10	2						97	100		
Further Maths	60	12	18	16	8	1	3	2			77	92	79	93
Moving Image Arts	5	1	3	1							100	100		
Music	19	9	5	1	2	2					79	89	84	97
PE Studies	50	3	15	13	14	4	1				62	90	79	94
Physics	38	4	11	11	10	2					68	95	78	95
Religious Education	127	24	40	31	15	10	6	1			75	87	67	87
DA Science	50	11	30	32	24	3					73	97	70	95
Spanish	64	21	16	17	6	4					84	94	66	90
Technology	49	4	12	8	15	9	1				49	80	74	93

	Abbey	**NI Grammar School Average**
% of students obtaining 5+GCSE	98.5	97
% of students obtaining 7+ GCSE	88.3	92

ACCOUNTING AND BUSINESS STUDIES

Collaboration with the Sacred Heart

September 2016 saw the seventh cohort of Sacred Hear students complete their A2 in Accounting. The overall results for the 9 students were pleasing with 80% achieving at least a grade B. There are currently 3 girls continuing from AS to A2 in Accounting and 2 girls in Business Studies. 3 new students have joined the AS Accounting class.

Year 13 Mini Enterprise

Following the success of the Mini Enterprise offered in 2015-2016 to Year 12 it was decided to continue to offer Mini Enterprise to those students going into Year 13. Nine Year 13 students took part in the Mini Enterprise in 2016-2017. Following the success of the half zips from the previous year it was decided to again offer these to students. The team also came up with designs for training tops and kit bags feeling that from market research the school community was very keen to order these. It was decided that half zips would be the best product to offer again with the possibility in the future of training tops and kit bags. The main target market was Year 8 and that was the main bulk of the orders as many students had already ordered a half zip the previous year. with 152 orders in total. Some orders came from past pupils as far away as America which was very positive and showed the effectiveness of the team's social media methods used in marketing. There were 152 orders in total with a total sales figure of £4795 and a final profit of £470 was made. Alongside this, the team organised a quiz in the Canal Court in March 2017 and raised £240. This brings their profit figure to £710 for the year. They have decided to donate this money to various charities including; Fr Peter McVerry Trust, Project Zambia and PIPS. In the team, there was a student who did not study Business or Accounting but was interested in marketing and design and he worked on the promotional element for the half zips. This continues to open Business Studies up to the wider school for the department.

Year 11 Stock Market Challenge

The Year 11 Stock Market Challenge club was set up in January 2017 as part of preparation for the Global Investor Stock Market Challenge in March 2017. All Year 11 students were encouraged to take part and practice trading sessions were held over two periods in early January. Subsequently 4 students from across all of Year 11 volunteered to come to the one-hour session each Thursday in January after school to prepare for the final. They really enjoyed the insight into how the Stock Market worked and this provided an additional learning platform for theory for their Unit 1 module last year as well as the competition each week between fellow students. Although the students performed very well with their portfolio decisions, we were not selected to take part in the final – maybe next year!

Coca Cola Hellenic

On Wednesday 10th May 2017 thirty-seven year 11 Abbey students, accompanied by their teachers, Miss P Mc Quillan and Mrs T Fearon, were welcomed by Hanna to the Coca-Cola Visitors Experience. The visit gave the boys an insight into the remarkable 125-year history of Coca-Cola from when it was invented by John Pemberton back in 1886, its growth to becoming 'the world's favourite soft drink' to how the pioneering vision of Northern Ireland businessman Tom Robinson, first brought Coca-Cola to the island of Ireland. The boys also enjoyed a tour of the production facility where they had a 'bird's eye view' of how the products were made, bottled, packaged and stored - supporting many aspects of their GCSE unit 1 theory.

Careers

This year saw a continuation of establishing links with local businesses and during the year two presentations were delivered.

In conjunction with the Stock Market Challenge, Adrienne Cockram from Danske Bank gave a presentation to year 11 business studies students highlighting careers in banking and the financial markets. It was very useful as she explained the various routes into careers in banking including direct access after A levels. Olivia Black from First Derivatives came in to identify career opportunities at this company, including the new 'Futures' programme exclusive to Newry graduates, what qualifications they expected and the personal skills and experiences that they expect their candidates to have. She also gave us information for controlled assessment in year 12 covering recruitment, selection and growth. This was a very worthwhile exercise particularly as it enthused our fifth year students and gave them real life insights into big company opportunities in their own town!

Mrs T Fearon
Head of Accounting and Business Studies

DEPARTMENT OF ART & DESIGN

Art & Design Results:
Another excellent year for the Department with 100% A*-B achieved at GCSE & A2 Level and 100% A*-A at AS Level. At moderation the Department was complimented on "the creative and exciting work produced" with "all assessment criteria conscientiously and thoroughly addressed". The Department was also complimented on the high level of organization. At AS the moderator emphasized the value in the excellent work created during the Department visit to Seacourt Print Workshop. In addition, it was noted that candidates work was "highly individual and creative in the techniques used." At GCSE the moderator congratulated the Department on the "impressive progress made by all candidates which was a credit to the industrious nature and commitment of the teaching provided in the centre." The high standard of work produced by students in the Department was endorsed by the moderators at each level. They recommended that the work of Caolan Clarke - A2, Enda Farrell & Arthur Cespon - AS and Owen Tuohy - GCSE should be submitted for possible inclusion in the "True Colours Exhibition". This prestigious annual exhibition at the Ulster Museum Belfast, showcases the best student artwork in Northern Ireland. Selection for this is a fantastic achievement and a real incentive for our current students. The Department was delighted to learn that Caolan Clarke's work was commended further and awarded the Les Jones Award for the creativity and originality shown.

Moving Image Arts Results:
Again this year the Department is delighted with the A2 results with students achieving 100% A* – B. The moderator positively commented that the centre was "to be commended for their creative approach to the teaching of this subject as high visual and creative standards were achieved." The delivery of the New Specification at AS Level proved successful as grades were predominately very good. From the 12 students who were entered for the subject, 11 students received grades A – C. The moderator positively commented that the centre was to be "commended for the interesting variety of work it submitted this year." The Department is also extremely proud of the achievements of its GCSE students who attained 100% A*-B. We were delighted that the moderator commended the Department as noting that students had demonstrated "sound acquisition of creative and technical skill in their personal ideas…having been exposed to a wide range of film texts."

Creative Awards:
Moving Image Arts student Caolan Clarke and past pupil Rhea Casey received awards in the Newry Film Club 2016 Short Film Competition. Caolan was awarded Best Film at GCSE/AS Level and Rhea received 1st Place in the Audience Award at AS/A2 Level. Niamh Casey, Kamile Bagdonaite, Alan Chambers and Darius Dwyer's films were also shortlisted for the event.

In addition, Moving Image Arts student Caolan Clarke was awarded 1st Place and Best Film at AS Level for CCEA's Annual Showcase Event. The event was held on the 24th November 2016 in the prestigious Queen's Film Theatre.

Congratulations to three Year 8 pupils who were awarded prizes for their designs for the Credit Union Poster Competition. The theme for 2016/17 was "Dreams are made of this" and all three students produced creative solutions. Luke McKeveney was

awarded 1st Prize, Cathal McEvoy won 2nd Prize while Eamonn Donnelly was awarded 3rd Prize in the 11-13yrs category despite competition from all other local schools. Well done boys!!

The Department continues to recognise the importance of working with the local community and in promoting environmental issues. To this end Year 9 students were set a task by the Department to present designs for the Newry & Mourne School's Environmental Calendar. Filippo Ondei was awarded 1st Prize having produced a colourful poster design with a strong environmental message "Save The Earth." His design featured the earth with animals and trees surrounding the spherical shape resulting in a vibrant and eye catching solution. Filippo's winning design took pride of place on the front cover of the 2017 calendar and in addition to this he was presented with a digital tablet.

This year saw collaboration with the Religion Department and the Faith in Action team when students were set the task of designing an Easter card. This task was initiated as part of a program bringing Abbey students together with the elderly in our community. The winning design by Mark Lennon Year 9 was reproduced and sent to the inhabitants of the residential homes in the local area. This project helped to reinforce cross curricular links.

Extra Curricular Enrichment:
In 2016 the Art & Design Department launched their Year 10 Craft Club. Students met Mrs Doey and Ms Hughes after school each Wednesday in Term 1, to create a range of colourful Christmas decorations and cards using ceramic details. Students thoroughly enjoyed both the social, entrepreneurial and creative aspect of the Craft Club. They worked extremely hard and at the Christmas Fare members of the Craft Club sold their creative produce making a fantastic profit of £700. The boys generously chose to donate this money directly to the Zambia Immersion Project.

Museum Visit:
On 8th February all senior Art & Design students had the opportunity to visit the "True Colours" Exhibition at the Ulster Museum, Belfast. This annual trip is an invaluable resource which allows students the opportunity to see the best of GCSE, AS & A2 work in Northern Ireland. This visit is hugely beneficial in demonstrating the standard students should aspire to. At this exhibition we were delighted to view the work of three Abbey Grammar students. Conor Keenan exhibited his A2 Coursework Portfolio. This is the third consecutive year that Conor's work has been selected for this prestigious exhibition. In addition, the work of Caolan Clarke at AS Level and Arthur Cespon at GCSE were on display, a fantastic achievement and phenomenal representation from the Abbey.

Careers:
In addition to visiting this exhibition, students met with practicing artist Jayne Cherry. The students benefitted from a talk with Jayne who spoke about her career path and individual approach to her artwork. She encouraged the boys to be creative through expressive sketching and first hand recording. This was a superb experience for the students, allowing them to speak with an artist who has successfully made a career in Art & Design. Students also had the opportunity to avail of a guided tour of selected highlights on display in the museum. The museum visit proved hugely beneficial to all students' progress and to their Art & Design education.

To ensure students have access to a breadth of educational experience, the Department arranged two further opportunities for AS & A Level students to work with practicing artists. On the 4th October artist Seamas O'Labhradha was invited to the school to carry out an expressive drawing workshop. Pupils were engaged in a series of figure and gestural drawing exercises, the learning from which they were later able to apply to their own specific themes. A second workshop was arranged for 24th October. AS & A Level students, along with Ms Hughes, travelled to Seacourt Print Workshop, Bangor to work with print maker Robert Peters. The day's experience allowed the students freedom to create a wide range of outcomes using dry point printing under Robert's expert direction. This workshop helped students gain confidence, learn new printing techniques and assisted greatly in enhancing their portfolios.

Professional Development:
As an important part of continued professional development within the Department both teachers attended relevant Agreement Trials. We thank the headmaster for permitting us to avail of these opportunities which have proven invaluable. In addition, Ms Hughes attended several drawing, ceramic and sculptural courses in her own time to develop new skills and broaden the range of media and techniques available to our students. By taking advantage of training opportunities we hope to continue to strengthen the Department to ensure that our students receive the richest Art & Design education.

Ms Hughes continues her work on the CCEA Senior Team as an Assistant Principal Moderator at AS Level Art & Design. This is the fourth year she has held this position which is of huge benefit to her teaching in The Abbey. She is at the fore of changes occurring in the curriculum and through visiting schools has a greater breadth of understanding of standards expected at AS Level. Ms Hughes thanks the principal for continuing to support this important role.

The Art & Design Department continues to promote the Abbey through the creative work presented at primary school visits, parent evenings, GCSE & A Level exhibitions and Open Day. This affords us the opportunity to celebrate our students' significant accomplishments and to encourage potential students to join the Abbey and strive to contribute to its success.

Ms O Hughes (Acting Head of Art and Design)

BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

The Department is delighted with the performance in the GCSE/AS and A2 examinations and with the increased number choosing to study biology at all levels.

Our stop students in the CCEA examinations last year were:

A2: Liam Rock;

AS: Oisin McKinley;

GCSE: -Year 12: Tiernan Caulfield;

-Year 11: Sean Coghlan.

Stem Module

The Biology Department continues to liaise with the Education Authority Northern Ireland with the Stem Module bus making a welcomed return to the Abbey in September. Our students have had 'hands on experience' in areas such as biotechnology, microscopy and forensics.

Field studies:

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

Nuffield Science Bursaries:

This is the sixteenth year the Biology Department has been affiliated with the Nuffield Bursary scheme. In the past 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 accepted our AS students for placements.
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. Eoin Lane was successful in being awarded a placement in Norbrook Laboratories.

Mrs. M Lane (Head of Biology)

CHEMISTRY

The Chemistry Department 2017 GCE & GCSE results were:
GCE A Level A*- C 90%
GCSE Chemistry A*- B 81%

Our top performing students in the CCEA examinations 2017 were:

A2: Conor McAvoy

AS: Oisin McKinley

GCSE: Tyler Keenan

Events:
In October Yr12 pupils attended the Chemistry at Work at Event, at Newry SRC. This RSC-sponsored event comprised of a series of short, interactive talks from local companies and Universities who use chemistry in their business activities. W5, Coca Cola, Norbrook, Randox, Queens University of Belfast School of Pharmacy, NI Polymer Association, PSNI (Forensics) and Sentinus held exciting interactive presentations for students. The main aim of the Chemistry at Work event was to show the many and varied ways in which chemistry is used in the real everyday world.

In January 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.

In February four Yr11 pupils attended and enjoyed the QUB Schools' Chemistry Outreach Event.

Developments:
The Year 10 Scheme of Work has been revised to provide a better basis for GCSE and Double Award Chemistry.
New Resources have also developed by all members of the department for the new specifications at GCSE Chemistry, Double Award Chemistry, and A Level Chemistry Courses.

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.

Mr C Gamble (Head of Chemistry)

CAREERS DEPARTMENT

AUGUST:

- Meetings with upper sixth students and parents following A Level results ran from results day until the first teaching day after which scheduled appointments continued;
- Meetings with sixth year students and parents ran throughout their registration day and the following day on subject choices and career pathways.

SEPTEMBER:

- Successful visits to QUB and UUJ Open Days by all upper sixth students;
- 10 Year 14 students attended St Mary's University College, Belfast open morning.
- Year 12 students met the external careers advisor, Mrs Shona Dunne, from Careers Service NI and completed Department of Employment and Learning documentation to facilitate their career guidance interviews;
- Year 14 students availed of 'drop-in' appointments re career options, university choices and subject drops;
- Year 14 students registered with UCAS and began university applications;
- Year 13 students availed of 'drop-in' appointments re career pathways and subject choices;
- A. Reynolds, met and interviewed in August/September new sixth form transfer students;
- A. Reynolds enrolled onto Year 2 of the PG Diploma in Career Guidance and Counselling (run via Saturday schools in Coventry University beginning in October). The CPD events and practical assessments listed below also form part of a professional portfolio for the QCG qualification in Career Guidance from the professional body that registers career guidance practitioners in the UK, the Career Development Institute.

OCTOBER:

- UCAS application process continued with one student submitting an application before the October 15th deadline for medicine, and one for Oxford;
- Year 13 students completed a three or five-day work-related learning programme/work experience;
- Year 14 students attended a talk by Dublin City University (we hosted Sacred Heart).

NOVEMBER:

- 31 Year 14 students completed a 'Success Skills / Mock Interview programme delivered by Young Enterprise Northern Ireland in preparation for higher education selection process as highlighted below.
- Work-related Learning: Week 1 (Years 12 & 14)
    - Monday 9th: Year 14: Mock Interview Skills (Young Enterprise NI) – groups session
    - Tuesday 10th: Year 14: Mock Interview Skills (Young Enterprise NI) – One-to-one interviews (30 minutes each)

    - Wednesday 11th: Year 12: 'Learn to Earn' Programme (Young Enterprise NI)
- A. Reynolds attended NISCA conference for careers advisers.
- 16 Year 14 students attended a presentation by Trinity College Dublin (Sacred Heart hosted us).

DECEMBER:

- A. Reynolds completed mock interviews with Year 14 candidates called for interview by universities.
- A. Reynolds completed continuing professional development (CPD) workshops at UCAS competitive entries adviser conference in Birmingham;
- Year 10 career guidance interviews commenced (to allow every student the opportunity to discuss subject choices and career pathways).
- University applications were completed for St. Mary's University College, Belfast.

JANUARY:

- UCAS applications closed on 15th January with 94 applicants on the system and several references completed for repeating students from last year's cohort;
- University applications were completed for Irish universities via CAO – approximately 25 students completed applications online.
- A small number of students completed FE applications to Dundalk Institute of Technology;
- All Year 10 students received a one-to-one career guidance interview with A. Reynolds or C. McGrath prior to end of January KS4 subject choice;
- Year 10 Employability Programme was delivered by Young Enterprise NI 'Project Business';
- All Year 12 students received a one-to-one career guidance interview with S. Dunne (Careers Service NI) prior to A Level subject choice with the exception of two or three who were frequently absent from school;
- C. McGrath dealt with subject options for Year 10 and 12 students, arranging subject blocks in accordance with their choices, feeding that information into timetable for the following academic year;
- A. Reynolds set up a series of additional small-group sessions for teaching applicants to prepare them for the B.Ed. interviews and written task;
- A. Reynolds completed individual mock interviews with teaching applicants.
- External examiner from Coventry University visited for the day. Examiner sat in on all timetabled sessions and assessed A. Reynolds in one-to-one career guidance interviewing and group session delivery of careers education and advice as part of practical assessment for PG Dip. => competent in all assessments.

FEBRUARY:

- Year 12 students' application forms for SRC were processed and submitted;
- Year 13 one-to-one careers guidance interviewing by A. Reynolds and C. McGrath commenced and continued throughout March, April and May;

- A. Reynolds was a panel interviewer for the B.Ed. primary and B. Ed. post-primary at St. Mary's University College Belfast.

MARCH:

- A. Reynolds was unable to attend the annual careers advisers' morning held by Ulster University because of a Saturday school at Coventry University on the same day;
- Eight Year 13 students attended the Medical Symposium event in Daisy Hill Hospital;
- Final decisions (firm and insurance choices) were made on university choices via UCAS;
- Queen's University and Ulster University delivered presentations to Year 13 students;
- Two senior students attended Oxford and Cambridge Student Conference (Lisburn);
- Year 14 students attended a talk by Belfast Met;
- Year 14 students attended a talk by Southern Regional College;
- Several Year 14 students who had been identified on academic progress lists completed FE applications to the Southern Regional College and Belfast Metropolitan College;
- Year 14 students received a presentation and information session on Student Finance NI and applying for financial support on progressing to further education and higher education;
- Student Finance applications began for submission in April;

APRIL:

- <u>Work-related Learning: Week 2</u>**:**
    - Tuesday 11th: Year 9 students – Young Enterprise NI: Employability Programme;
    - Thursday 13th: Year 11 students – one-day placement: '*Take Your Son to Work Day*'

MAY:

- A. Reynolds attended NISCA conference for careers advisers.
- A. Reynolds attended Queen's University evening regional event for heads of careers re employability focus – featured employer EY;
- A. Reynolds began communicating with First Derivatives re a higher-level apprenticeship and/or school-leaver entry route into the company.

JUNE:

- A. Reynolds met First Derivatives IT management consultant, John Cahill, to discuss entry routes into the company and FD's employment target for summer 2017.
- A. Reynolds attended event at Queen's School of Dentistry for careers advisers;
- A Reynolds attended event for heads of careers at University of Edinburgh;
- A. Reynolds attended evening event with Dundee University in Belfast;

- A. Reynolds met Young Enterprise manager to review the delivery of programmes for Years 8-14 and to agree service delivery for 2016-2017 academic year;
- A. Reynolds met the new Careers Service NI advisor, M. Knight, to complete end of year evaluation of the School/DEconomy Partnership Agreement and to agree service delivery for 2017-2018 academic year.

AUGUST:

- Results: Years 14, 13, 12. Careers Dept. dealt with meetings, emails and phone calls throughout the exam results period.

LEAVERS' DESTINATIONS – Class of 2017

Year 14 – Destinations 2017	
Higher Education:	76.1% of total pop.
Northern Ireland	56
Republic of Ireland	5
England	6
Scotland	0
Wales	0
Further Education:	6.8% of total pop.
Belfast Metropolitan College	3
Southern Regional College	2
Cafre	1
Other:	17% of total pop.
Continuing A Levels (started new A Level)	1
Repeating A Levels	1
Higher level apprenticeship	1
Gap Year	8
Fulltime work	2
Unknown	2

Ms A Reynolds (Head of Careers)

COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

One of the most important subjects for job prospects in industry today is Computer Science. Computer Science is one of the newest subjects to be offered in the Abbey again. We are now teaching Computer Science to both GCSE and A-level in this new academic year.

GCSE level

The current 5th year students are studying the OCR course which comprises 20% coursework and two 40% theory exams at the end of 5th year. The coursework topics change every year and is a pure coding solution in Python with some documentary evidence submitted in the form of a written project.

Some of the standard of coursework produced at GCSE level was highly praised by the OCR examiner.

Studying this subject at GCSE will prepare students well to take this subject to A-level.

A-level

Our current 6th year students are studying the WJEC A-level which is a preferred A-level for both QUB and University of Ulster Computer Science undergraduate course. This means for example that QUB applicants applying for Computer Science need BBB instead of ABB if they have studied A-level Computer Science.

This course comprises 1 exam (25%) and 1 on screen programming exam (15%) in AS, and 2 exams in A2 (20% each) and one piece of coursework. (20%)

Work experience

Students studying Computer Science at both GCSE and A-level are both encouraged to network with businesses to obtain work experience and/or internships. Some companies such as Liberty IT have ended up offering full time jobs to undergraduates that completed successful placements.

Scholarships/Earn as you learn

Another exciting development is higher level apprenticeships or several earn as you learn employment opportunities that allow students after A-level to work in IT companies and earn a salary whilst gaining experience. Some companies also offer subsidised degree tuition that allows students working to obtain qualification or even degrees part time while still working.

Life skills and personal development

A key theme throughout this subject is applying knowledge into real world situations and developing important life-skills such as discipline, goal setting and creative thinking. There is no point being an excellent programmer for example if you cannot communicate your ideas to less technical employees when you work as a programmer in industry. I blend my own industry experience in the recruitment, finance and entrepreneurial sectors as much as possible to add real world context to this subject.

Mr J Downing (Computer Science Department)

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. GCSE Construction in the last academic year had a total of 58 students at KS4. At A' level there were 47 students in lower and upper sixth. The growth in the subject continues to exceed all our expectations.

Quality Assurance visit by Edexcel

In February of last year we received our now annual visit 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.

Professional development

Mr Savage was last year successful in being accredited Lead Internal Verifier for the Abbey by BTEC Quality Assurance. This enables the centre produce their own Assignment briefs, assess students' work and sign off students' grades over the next four years.

GCSE Construction

It is particularly satisfying to witness the success of the GCSE Construction course. The numbers choosing the subject are increasing year on year with 33 students having chosen the subject for the incoming academic year. Last year was a very good year at GCSE. The grades for the group were excellent with the group of 15 students attaining the following results: 6 students attained an A*/A grades, 7 students a B Grade and 2 students' 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.

A' level students have all been placed in their first or second choice courses at third level.

The grades this year for this group were excellent with the group of 11 students collectively attaining 100% A*- E grades and this included a group of ten students who attained the A* grade.

The introduction of new Surveying unit.

We keep in close contact with our students who have moved on to third level or have now graduated and are in the world if work. We ascertain their views on our course provision and the benefits of it in their professional studies. From such discussions we found that the area of surveying and its theoretical and practical benefits could help us prepare our students better for their studies at third level. With this in mind we made a decision to offer this unit in this academic year. This entailed a major financial investment in equipment, professional help with external surveying specialists and collaboration with our academic partners in our consortium. It is proving very popular with staff and students and will enhance the student experience and help greatly in their third level studies.

School Consortium

We have over the past year continued to strengthen our collaborative links with St Pauls' Bessbrook and St Patricks' Grammar in Armagh this net has been widened further to include St Malachy's High School Castlewellan and St Patricks' High School Keady. We have been in communication by phone and email and have met up on a number of occasions to share good practice. St Patricks' Keady have just introduced the BTEC course in the present academic year and they are getting support and guidance from the consortium. We have been working closely with St Malachy's Castlewellan and St Pat's Armagh in the introduction of our new surveying unit.

The 'Subsidiary Diploma course' delivered to our 'A' Level students last year consisted of the following units.

Core Units

Health Safety and Welfare	Delivered by Construction Department members Delivered by Mrs K. Cranston & Mr G. Savage
Surveying	Delivered by Construction Department members Mr G. Savage & Mr J Rath
Construction Science and Materials	Delivered by The Physics Department member Mr Hamill & Mr D Patton
Construction and the Environment	Delivered by Geography Department members Mrs A. Elmore

Specialist Units

Building Technology	Delivered by Construction Department members Mrs K. Cranston
Mathematics in Construction	Delivered by Mathematics Department member Mrs M. Murphy & Mrs G Boyd

Careers in Construction

Mr Savage as part of the Construction Department's focus continued to collate all the University course offers made to our students last year and presented the findings to the incoming 7th year Construction group. This information helped the 7th year cohort to analyse the individual unit grade requirements set by each University and helped them 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 is 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 been working with a number of organisations to develop stronger more tangible links with Industry through presentations and workshops. These take the form of 'hands on' with professionals sharing their role through our new scenarios. With our new surveying unit we have availed of the services of a qualified land surveyor who has previously worked on our new school build and has on a regular

basis come in to support the staff and work with our students in demonstrating equipment and their use. We have set up a network of companies who have been used to help us keep our students up to date with all the technological advances in the area of sustainability and this will be further developed in the next academic year.

Construction The way forward

At present we are implementing and producing materials for delivery of the new GCSE Construction specification starting Sept 2017 and the new cohort will be examined for the first time in May 2019. We are also preparing for the introduction of the new A'level specification which we will move to Sept 2018 and are examining the possibility of expanding the subject by offering a mix of one, one and a half or even two A' levels for those who want to concentrate more in the area of Construction and the Built Environment in their future careers.

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

Mr. G. Savage (Head of Construction)

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

At GCSE, AS and A2 level teachers mark and moderate the coursework element of the specification. CCEA once again confirmed that they were satisfied with our moderation process, and marking was within the agreed standard and demonstrated consistent application of the mark scheme at GCSE and A2 levels.
As part of our improvement and evaluation within the department we have continued to revise and introduce new ICT content in Y8 and Y9. In preparation for the new A' Level specification in Digital Technology work has been on going in developing notes and resources for A2 level. We look forward to delivering these units in the next academic year.
The ICT Department continues to promote Careers in ICT through normal classroom teaching. It is extremely rewarding that a number of our Yr14 students have chosen ICT/Computing courses this year.

Information to Parents
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.

In House training courses
26th August 2016: Mr Mc Cann delivered in house training to the whole staff outlining his ICT plans for the academic year and asking departments to nominate a ICT Subject leader to promote elearning within their department.
30th September 2016: Nominated departments shared good practice with the entire staff on how they have used technology to enhance their teaching and learning. Both

Mr Grogan and Mr McCann outlined how the ICT department is using Google classroom. Highlighting how we use it to distribute resources, collect assignments, use google docs as a form of collaboration, and links to various types of on line resources.
During the following sessions staff during free periods availed of the following in house training taken by Mr McCann.
19th October 2016 Google Classroom - Why Google classroom? – The Basics
28th October 2016 Why Google Docs? How to set up a Google Docs for classroom use.

Dwyer McCann
Head of Digital Technology

DRAMA DEPARTMENT

September:
Drama Club reconvenes with Mr. McParland and Mr. Smyth working with the juniors on an array of drama workshops and small production activities. The activities will be used as preparation for the School Open Day.

October:
A Level students attended The Lyric Theatre, Belfast for a superb modern interpretation of Chekhov's classic play, Three Sisters. The play reinterpreted the 19th Century realist play, setting it in the, 'Troubles', and they all agreed that it was engaging and rewarding from the perspective of entertainment and value to their Unit 4 written paper.

November:
A number of past pupils returned to the school to take a series of Drama workshops to support the A' Level students with their practical work. Paul and I also took the AS and A Level groups over to the Sacred Heart for a full day, intense workshop with a practitioner from The London Frantic Theatre Company, which again proved invaluable in opening up the possibilities of theatre to our students.

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. Mr. Smyth wrote to the parents of

the pupils involved to thank them and congratulate them on their maturity, competence and the high performance standards on show.

February:
Mr. Smyth, in cooperation with Miss McQuillan, organised a presentation with, BBC School Report, on the issue of homelessness. This was part of the Advocasy Group who had done a Cage Sleep-Out some months earlier. They interviewed Father Peter McVerry and the whole project was highly polished and ended up being posted onto the BBC website. It also presented the students with a great opportunity to enhance their presentation and technical skills.

March:
The GCSE classes presented their practical work for moderation in the main drama room. The performances of 'Cuckoo's Nest,' and 'A Little Box of Oblivion', were performed with great skill, resulting in each pupil attaining their highest mark possible. The department was given very high praise for the quality of teaching and assessing. The examiner's report was highly complementary to both Paul and the Department.

April:
The AS Level students performed their AS unit 1 and Unit 2 modules at The Sacred Heart. This was the first year of the new specification and the standard of the boys' performances was very high. Students also had to present a polished monologue for the examiner. The productions were warmly received by family and friends in the auditorium.

May:
Casting for actors, chorus and dancers took place throughout the month of May and both Paul and Caroline were delighted at the quality of enthusiastic students who auditioned for the show.

June:
The Department had a series of detailed meetings to finalise our School Development Plan and complete new units of work. It was also a time to reflect on the effort and achievements for the department. All plans for September and October were discussed and initiated.

August:
Results for GCSE and AS students were received and the high standard over the past 10 years was maintained.

Mr. P Mc Parland (Head of Drama)

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Exam Success: We were particularly delighted to see Ronan Burke and Liam Rock score full marks in their A2 English Literature exam. Dan Foster also scored full marks in his AS English Literature exam. It was pleasing to see pupils studying English Language and English Literature achieving A Level results which are significantly higher than the number of A*-C grades achieved in comparable boys' grammar schools.

Abbey Press: Although the Abbey Press did not publish any new titles last year, its work continues to be promoted. Mr McMahon sold Abbey Press books from a stall at the school's Christmas Crafts Fair;

School Magazine: The English Department contributes regularly to the many articles, stories, poems and book reviews that appear in ***The Abbey Way***. It is a valuable forum for publishing some of our pupils' best work.

Library: The English Department continues to promote the use of the library by taking pupils in Years 8-10 there once a week 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. £560 was raised for the school library through our book fair last year.

Debating: Years 9 and 11 have internal class debating competitions each year. This is organised by all English teachers**.** English teachers chaired debates to assist Ms Reynolds with the Brother McFarland competition. ***(See Ms A. Reynolds' information for further details on debating).***

Extra Literacy Assistance: Mr. Rodgers provided extra literacy assistance last year 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 to take support classes after school throughout the year but especially coming up to exams.

Revision Classes: Teachers took booster/revision classes after school for A Level Literature and GCSE classes.

World Book Day and National Poetry Day: Competitions were run last year on these days with boys being encouraged to bring in favourite books to read and discuss.

Writing Club/ Competitions: 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. Mrs McGinley and Miss Kelly help to prepare work with boys interested in entering writing competitions. Mrs McGinley held her

Creative Writing Club (Wednesday lunch time) and organised work for competitions: work was published in two anthologies last year.
Last year Miss Kelly entered her Slemish 9 class for the Poetry in Motion Programme. This initiative, run by Community Arts Partnership, assigns a local writer to a school to help develop writing talent. Last year this venture resulted in Miss Kelly's class (assisted by Marion Clarke) winning the Seamus Heaney Award for pupils' writing in N. Ireland secondary schools.
Students were also entered for local and national writing competitions last year with Miss Kelly's pupils having work published in the mini-saga competition organised by youngwriters.com. Mr McMahon helped to organise a writing competition (writing a verse for a school Easter card to be distributed in local care homes). This was co-organised with the Faith in Action Group.
Internal writing competitions are a feature of the English classroom with prizes being awarded for the best and most improved work.

A Level Outing: Mr McMahon took his A Level English Literature class to South Derry where they were given a tour of 'Heaney country' by Eugene Kielt and met up with some of the Heaney family.

Scrabble Club/ Reading Group: Miss Kelly held a weekly Scrabble Club open to all Year 8 and 9 pupils over lunch times. She also organised The CBI Book of the Year Shadowing Panel which met after school and gave pupils the opportunity to read and rate a collection of books for children and young people written by Irish authors.

Abbey Read-On: Mrs McGinley and Miss Kelly co-organised our 'Read On' Challenge and were assisted by the rest of the department. Miss Kelly set up tasks on Showbie to enhance the pupils' participation. The project raised £1,454 for the Cancer Fund for Children. Miss Kelly also led an assembly and gave prizes to the best readers in Year 8;

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. A careers week was also organised at the end of January. Four past pupils visited the school to discuss careers in website building/film reviewing/ blogging, communication and law.
Cormac Rea spoke to Year 13 pupils about his chosen course at UEA in March.
Miss Kelly also organised a visit from author, Padraig O'Guilin, to discuss his novel, *The Call*.

Book Fair: Mrs Farrell organised a school book fair which was run during term time and during the school's Christmas Crafts Fair. This raised £560 to spend on books for our school library;

Staff Training/Development:

- Mrs McGinley was involved in the school's Spirituality Group for the JP2 Awards;
- Mr. McMahon and Mrs Farrell were involved in a group focused on teaching and learning within the school;
- Mr McMahon and Mrs Farrell took part in the school's e-learning group;
- Mrs Farrell helped to organise this year's Kairos retreat and was involved in running the Advocacy group in the school;
- Mrs Farrell also attended GCSE subject raining for our new specifications;
- Miss Kelly and Mrs McGinley attended CCEA training for GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature;
- Miss Kelly also helped to add information to the school's website to celebrate events and achievements within the department;
- Many of our English teachers are markers for a range of exam boards;
- HoD/Mrs Farrell are involved in a CPD project with Dr Aidan Lennon. We are currently involved in a literacy initiative with Ballyholland Primary School;
- Teachers also posted articles on the school website and twitter;
- All full-time English teachers are now teaching classes at GCSE and A Level.

Mr M McMahon (Head of English)

ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY

2016-17 saw the first year of the GCE in Environmental Technology. Eighteen Y13 students ended up completing the year. The AS results were very good with 88% of the students getting A-C grades and 83% getting an A or B grade. 21 students are doing the AS and 17 students are entered for A2 in 2017-18 demonstrating that the qualification is sustainable and appropriate for the school. As the department develops we will look to create links with local environmental technology industries to arrange visits and placements.

Dr M Carey (Head of Environmental Technology)

FRENCH DEPARTMENT

1) September 2016 – The French Department welcomed the new intake of Yr 8 pupils.

2) October 2016 – E Learning. Mr Ruddy's Year 8 classes took part in an oral conversation activity using the iPad to Skype France. Pupils also had the opportunity to explore the French language used in a sporting context through various Twitter accounts.

3) January 2017– the French Department welcomed primary school pupils from local primary schools and their parents as part of Open Day.

4) March - June 2017 –This was a very busy time for the French Department with preparations for the introduction of the Revised GCSE specification for first teaching in September 2017. M Quinn attended a CCEA run course in February launching the revised specification following which new resources were drawn up and a new booklet was produced ready for the new cohort of Yr 11 students in September.

5) August 2017 – the academic year 2016 – 2017 was an excellent year for the French Department. The pass rates at both GCSE and A Level were above the NI average.

Miss M. Quinn (Head of French)

GEOGRAPHY

All Year 11 Geography students took part in a river study of the White Water river in March 2017 as part of their GCSE Controlled Assessment. Students were able to study the changes in a river from source to mouth and measure river characteristics. This was facilitated by Killowen Outdoor Pursuit Centre under the instruction of Mr V McAlinden.

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 level the new specification was implemented, pupils were encouraged to partake in independent learning by researching a variety of case studies.

Mrs Elmore lead the school's Eco Committee and has collaborated with the Religion and Biology Department. The eco committee have been actively promoting recycling throughout the school and all classrooms have a recycle bin which is monitored by the eco committee. They have also purchased picnic tables for the school yard.

Mr McMahon organised a class based Archaeology Workshop in June with a Year 8 class. A documentary developer from Dundalk FM recorded this workshop for a radio series to be aired in the autumn. This workshop involved an interactive presentation about the archaeology of south Down. Pupils were given the chance to participate by talking about their local archaeological monuments such as Bagenal's Castle, Killeavy Churches and Narrow Water Castle. The workshop also encompassed an overview of Newry's ancient and medieval history.

Both Mr McMahon and Mrs Elmore were actively involved in helping organise part of our annual ER day. Mr McMahon created a very informative powerpoint presentation on the geology of the Mourne mountains and the Cloghmore stone. Mrs Elmore who is part of the ERBB team contributed to the spiritual aspect of the day with a presentation about her ER trip to India.

Mrs D Simpson

(Head of Geography)

HISTORY

The 2016 / 17 academic year was another successful one for the History Department. The results at GCSE level were very good and the A Level results were excellent. Special mention should go to Ronan Burke who achieved maximum UMS marks 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. There was a very successful trip, organised by Mr Rooney, to Berlin and Krakow. Pupils got the chance to visit Auschwitz and a range of other places of historical significance in both cities.

Mr D Evans (Head of History)

IRISH

All Ireland Drama Success for the Irish Department.

All Ireland Final Success for the cast of An Scrúdú Béil.

The Irish Department in the Abbey Grammar School are celebrating the success of their Irish Language play, An Scrúdú Béil. The play, written by former Head of Irish, Seán Mac Labhraí, won Best Post Primary School Play and the top overall prize of 'Scóthléiriú Na Féile', at the Ulster Festival held in the Marketplace Theatre in Armagh in March. That victory saw the Abbey travel to Mullingar for the All – Ireland Drama festival for the first time since 2006. And the plaudits kept on coming in the Westmeath town. The Abbey won their competition for Best 'Post 16' Play and were also presented with a trophy for the Best play from outside the Gaeltacht areas. Their All-Ireland adjudication score an impressive ninety-seven and a half out of a total available marks of one hundred The play was performed by the members of the AS level Irish class under the direction of their teacher, and Head of Irish, Mr Seán Gallagher, and the renowned drama teacher, Mr Paul Mc Parland.

GCSE Success for Irish Medium Students in the Abbey

The Abbey have a recent but proud tradition of providing for those children that transfer from our two local Irish Medium schools; Bunscoil an Iúir and Gaelscoil Phádraig Naofa in Crossmaglen.

Irish-Medium students or 'Gaelscoláirí' as they are referred to in the Abbey follow a distinct Irish programme. Year 8 and Year 9 Gaelscoláirí follow the GCSE Irish programme. These students complete four controlled assessments over this two year period and will formally enter for GCSE Irish in the summer of Year 9. Alongside their GCSE Irish work pupils are encouraged to read Irish language novels and articles and to attend the Gaeltacht during the summer.

GCSE Gaeilge, tailored exclusively for Irish Medium pupils, is then offered as a separate subject in Year 11 and Year 12 and pupils then transfer to AS and A2 Irish in Year 13 and Year 14.

Congratulations to Tom Magill, Ultan Ó Coighligh agus Jacob Regan on successfully completing GCSE Gaeilge.

Abair-

Irish Public Speaking Success for Abbey duo.

The Irish department are once again celebrating a double success at the Ulster Final of the prestigious Abair public speaking competition. Newcomer, Tom Magill, won first place in the Junior Category with his sceptical look at the forever changing school curriculum. Conor Lavery, a former junior winner now competing in the senior competition, was placed second in Ulster for his insightful commentary on the rise in Mental Health issues in modern life.

Gaeltacht Students and Scholarships 2017

Over 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. The first and second year pupils attend Dún Lúiche, where Irish department members, Mr S Gallagher and Mrs P Mc Clean carry out the roles of Head Teacher and Deputy Head respectively. 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.

S

Seachtain na Gaeilge 2017

Nationwide 'Seachtain Na Gaeilge 2017' Celebrated in the Abbey.

In March the Abbey joined hundreds of schools and organisations, North and South, in a week-long celebration of the Irish Language. The Abbey's programme kicked off with the first ever **'Tionóil na nGaeilgeoirí',** an assembly of all Irish speakers in the school from first to seventh year, including those pupils who no longer study Irish at the school but who were educated in the Irish medium sector. The assembly was address by Dr. Niall Comer, past pupil and son of former senior teacher, Tom Comer. Dr. Comer had recently been elected president of Conradh na Gaeilge, the National Gaelic League and this return to his alma mater, was his first official engagement as president. He spoke to the four hundred or so pupils assembled about his journey towards fluency in his native language and also about the possibilities and opportunities that now exist in the Irish Language sector. Following the assembly each year group took part in a series of events to celebrate Irish language and culture. The year eight pupils took part in an Irish language Quiz, organised by Miss Cullen ad Miss Griffen. The year nine pupils got a flavour of Irish dancing and what life at a Gaeltacht course was like, be by taking part in a Céilí. In year ten, we had an indoor football tournament, where the players were only allowed to use Irish. At the end of the week, the winning teams for each class played off for the title of 'Gael ball' Champions. Years elven and twelve, were given the opportunity to watch the sixth year pupil perform their Scoildrámaíocht entry, 'an Scrúdú Béil'. The A level classes linked up with the Sacred Heart to attend a workshop hosted by former BBC producer, Louise Smith, now of NMDC, that gave a fantastic insight into the world of Irish medium media. Seachtain na Gaeilge 2017 was action packed and full of prize winners and was enjoyed by staff and pupils alike. Seachtain na Gaeilge 2018 has a tough act to follow! The Irish Department would like to place on record its thanks to the Headmaster for facilitating the expanded Seachtain na Gaeilge and to the staff of the school for embracing it.

Mrs P McClean (Head of Irish)

LEARNING FOR LIFE AND WORK DEPARTMENT

Year 8 students in Year 8 were involved in a Love for Life presentation in October. 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.

Year 10 students were involved in a Love for Life presentation in October. 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 11 completed their first GCSE Unit Module exam with a 100% A* – C pass rate.

Make Your Mark 2016 - 10 issues that were proposed were discussed in LLW classes. The tally of results across all our KS3 and KS4 classes were submitted online to the British Youth Parliament at the beginning of October. The debate in the Houses of Parliament took place on Armistice Day, 11th November 2016. The 5 top issues were discussed and debated and the final two issues for the year's campaign was decided upon. Our school had contributed to the almost 1 million votes cast throughout the UK.

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.

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

Inset training

Mrs. Cranston attended a course on Communication in LLW presented by CEA.
Mr. Morgan attended a GCSE controlled assessment agreement trial in November 2016.

Mr. G Morgan
(Head of LLW)

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

Once again the students were entered into CCEA's Two Tier Modular GCSE Mathematics without coursework exam. 11BT and 11SB completed their full GCSE in one year as in previous years with outstanding results. All remaining 4th year students sat 45% of their GCSE with reasonable outcomes. 12MM, 12BT & 12SB 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 and results here were as expected.

GCSE Further Maths (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.

A concerted effort went into to supporting our A level students and the results obtained were pleasing.

Mathematics Challenges

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

- 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
Dan Foster

SILVER
Oisin McKinley
Peter Smyth
Arthur Cespon

BRONZE
Venkatesh Kamath
Tiarnan Burns
Ciaran Gernon
Matthew Ruddy
Alex Moore

Best in School: Dan Foster

Due to his outstanding scores in the Senior Challenge, Dan was invited to partake in a follow-up round called the Senior Kangaroo, which is also taken by over 25 countries throughout Europe. This is to be commended!

Intermediate Challenge:

SILVER

Patrick O'Connor	John Cosgrove
Maciej Natzke	Cian Carragher

BRONZE

Isaac Farrugia	Joseph Grimley
Pearse McPolin	Adam Piwowarczyk
Conor Cleverly	Neil McCreesh

Best in School: Patrick O'Connor

Mrs S. Burns
Head of Mathematics

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Our second cohort from Sacred Heart Grammar School joined the Abbey Music Department. 7 A2 students continued the course whilst 6 AS girls joined with 5 boys. Our GCSE class achieved some outstanding grades with an unprecedented 9 A*'s and 5 A's out of 19 pupils.

Results and numbers continue to thrive as well as more instrumental tutors, groups and staff continuing to join the department.

September	School Mass	Traditional Group
November	Santa's Welcome to Buttercrane	Jazz Band
December	Advent Mass at Newry Cathedral	Choir
	Newry Business Christmas Charity	Jazz Band
	Abbey Christmas Fayre	Choir/ Junior Jazz Band
	Christmas Concert	Choir/ Jazz Band/ Orchestra/

January	Open Day	Jazz Band/ Traditional Group/ Junior Jazz Band/Soloists
February	UYC Workshop and Auditions	Abbey Choir
March	Warrenpoint Feis	Choir/ Chamber Choir/ Jazz Band
	Jazz with the Ulster Youth Jazz Band	Jazz Band
	Guitar and Drum Night	Guitar groups/ soloists/ Junior Jazz Band/ Staff Band
April	Spring Concert	All groups and soloists
	Newry Feis	Choir/ Chamber Choir / Jazz Band/ Brass Group/ Tradtional Group/ Soloists
May	Blues on the Bay	Jazz Band
June	Induction Mass	Choir

Staffing

Due to an increase in junior class sizes, **Mr John Cosgrove** was not required to return to the Abbey for the current academic year. We thank him for his loyal service to the department as well as his continuing efforts with the Junior Jazz Band.

Last year **Colm Clerkin (Music & Moving Images Technician)** departed as he entered a PGCE year in Brighton. **Gary Treanor** has now joined the department, proving himself to be an invaluable source of knowledge and skill. He has provided technical support and advice to GCSE & in particular, AS and A2 musicians for their recordings as well as the technology options of Multi-Track Recording.

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 a range from £110 – 320 per year.

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 while the quality of service is monitored by the HOD.

Mr Murphy	Guitar (classical & rock)	30 pupils
Mr Kinney	Drums	10 pupils
Miss F Flynn	Voice	14 pupils

Miss N Burns (Newry Academy of Music) has joined us as our piano tutor with 6 pupils. Mr Kinney has now departed, which has resulted in past pupil John Poland joining as our new Drum tutor.

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 A2	**Tiarnan Smyth**	**Sarah Sands**
Best Pupil at AS	**Peter O'Hanlon**	**Rihannon Mulligan**
Best Pupil at GCSE	**Patrick O'Connor**	

Mrs C Keenan (Head of Music)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

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

Over 300 pupils represented the school in both hurling and football. The MacRory squad also took part in fundraising events for Special Olympics Ireland, PIPS and the Zambian Emersion project.

1st years were beaten in the semi-final of the Ulster Colleges Blitz and final of the Ben Dearg.

D'alton Cup squad reached the semi-final to be beaten by eventual champions Maghera.

Corn na nOg squad were beaten in the final by Maghera.

MacRory squad were beaten by St Paul's in the quarter finals.

All teachers coaching teams achieved their level 2 GAA Coaching award over a three-week period.

Three students were offered places in UUJ's elite athlete programme.

Jamie Martin was selected on the inaugural future stars Ulster team at Queens.

A further six pupils have been selected for a GAA elite development 1-day programme at UUJ.

Lorcan Forde represented Northern Ireland in U19 home nations competition where Northern Ireland were joint winners with England.

We have also set out an orienteering course on the school grounds.

Oisin McKinley placed 3rd in Down, 7th in Ulster and a top 30 finish at the All Irelands in cross country.

Mr. J Gormley (Head of PE)

PHYSICS

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.

We have maintained our membership of the Planetary Society which is the largest non-governmental research and exploration organisation in the world. They supply us with regular updates relating to many modern research projects including the push for space tourism and the possible human exploration of Mars.

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. This year we have 28 pupils at AS level and 18 at A2 level. We also have 42 pupils who have chosen DP at GCSE level.

Mr David Patton has been appointed permanently to the department teaching physics to KS4 and BTEC construction and the new Environmental Technology.

Mr G. Patterson (Head of Physics)

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

This year saw the first completion of the two-year linear cycle at A Level. The results achieved at A2 were excellent. The department has found the new online 'Kerboodle' learning environment to be a great resource for pupils working independently. From this year on students will not be expected to have ipads in class but 'Kerboodle' will still be made available to them outside the classroom through school computers and their own devices at home. There are now two classes running in lower sixth showing the growing popularity of Psychology with both Sacred Heart and Abbey pupils. Each year a number of our graduates pursue a degree in Psychology at University.

Mr. E McGivern
(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 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. All class groups part take in a class Mass throughout the school year in the Oratory.

- Over the past number of years our Year 8 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. In addition to this, the HOD organises an annual event 'Christmas Jumper Day' whereby all pupils wear a Christmas jumper into school, bring in £1.00 and all money collected goes to a local charity. This sense of 'giving' and 'helping others' reflects the ethos of the RE department.
- 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. Tommy Coyle from UCD will visit school and speak with A'Level Religious Studies pupils about the Theology course on offer in UCD. Father Brian Fitzpatrick (Ex Abbey pupil who was a trained doctor but left and was ordained in June 2014) will also visit and speak with pupils. In addition, past pupils will be invited in to speak with pupils about how their Religious Studies A'Level has helped them with their degree course. 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. 100% of our 7th year pupils achieved Grade A-C in their A Level exam in June 2017.

Mrs. L. McKeever (Head of RE)

SPANISH DEPARTMENT

This year the Department of Spanish welcomed Sra Inma Romero Martinez from Albacete, Spain as our Spanish 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 continued to complete our internally produced GCSE Controlled Assessment Tasks for the Legacy GCSE. Members of the Department also attended Briefing Sessions and Information Days given by CCEA in preparation for the new format GCSE Spanish, (first teaching September 2017). Following the advice and guidance given at these sessions we then produced our own Teaching and Learning materials for our Year 11's. These materials build upon the work already covered in the Junior School and thus help with the transition to GCSE.

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 Sacred Heart Grammar School, Newry.

In 2016/2017 we welcomed 3 students from The Sacred Heart into our 6(1) Spanish group and we also catered for 2 Sacred Heart students in 6(2). The presence of The Sacred Heart students in our A Level Spanish classes has brought a new dimension to The Learning of Spanish at Advanced level in the Abbey and it has sharpened the sense of competition with their male counterparts.

We continue to maintain a healthy uptake of Spanish into both GCSE and A level. Next year 2017/18 we will have four GCSE classes of Spanish in Year 11 comprising a total of 90 students and four classes in Year 12 comprising a total of 74 students. We consider these very healthy figures for an optional subject at GCSE and we believe that this is a testament to the quality of Teaching and Learning which pertains across the Spanish Department.

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. 2016 marked the fourth 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. Connall Diamond joined Garrett Canavan, Venkatesh Kamath, Conor McAvoy, Jason McCabe, Glenn Mooney, Shea Quinn, Rafael Ali, Zain Shahid, Christopher Downey, John Catterson and James Vint as Abbey Arkwright Scholars, Jack Murphy joins Brendan O'Shea and Turlough Brady achieving Arkwright Associate status having passed passed both the aptitude test and interview but unfortunately due to a short fall

in industry sponsors could not be placed with a industry sponsor. Each scholar receive a £1,000 bursary towards their A Level studies and to support the Technology department. 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.

National Secondary School Award for Road Safety

A drop in focus group of Year 12 & 14 was created by Mr Rodgers to discuss how we could improve and develop road safety in our local community; designs of technological devices were drawn and ideas were put forward as to how this could be done in our school and perhaps replicated in other schools. Guest speakers from Driver NI were invited to speak to the boys and after submitting our application we won the national prize and bespoke trophy at a prestigious awards ceremony in Belfast.

Wednesday RMT Graphics course

Wednesday RMT Graphics course; Mrs Cranston met up to twice weekly with our A Level Pupils from 3.30 -5.00 to offer invaluable help to our A Level technology pupils.

GCSE and A Level extra-curricular support

All technology staff worked with pupils outside timetabled classes to help them complete their coursework which is worth between 50 & 60 percent of their respective courses.

Mr T Mooney (Head of Technology)

ABBEY PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (APTA)

Committee meetings
Four meetings were held over the year to discuss school initiatives such as 1st year Induction Programme and new ideas of fundraising such as the Christmas Fair and Sponsored Walk.

Induction Fun Quiz for First Years.
The quiz was well supported by parents, pupils and staff and raised over £350.

Remembrance Mass for Deceased Past Pupils, Parents, Staff & BoG
Fr Colm Murphy celebrated the second annual Mass in November to remember deceased friends. A book for formally writing names in was donated and presented to the school. Fr Colm led a moving service and the Abbey choir supported with singing. Around 40 people attended in the oratory.

Christmas Fair
APTA held a Christmas Fair early in December raising over £2,000. The whole event was well supported and enjoyable. Festive food was for sale by the Abbey canteen department as well as professional companies from their stalls, music was provided by Abbey music department as well outside local groups Newry Community Choir

and Sheridan Gospel Choir. Staff also ran their own stalls; Art dept., Zambia, English dept., along with new Abbey gifts and memorabilia by APTA and over 15 other professional companies.

Edmund Rice Fun Day – Sponsored Walk
APTA helped run this event in which all the KS3 pupils walked up to the top of Slieve Martin and back down to Kilbroney Park for a BBQ. Great fun was had by all and over £3,000 was raised.

Funds raised for this year are going back into school initiatives; £500 to match the £500 already raised by the Eco Club to enhance the playground environment and a few thousand also to help subsidise the cost of the 'Link Bus' which carries Abbey boys from school extra-curricular activities into Newry bus depot. APTA aim to increase their fundraising efforts even further next year.

Mr D Wadsworth (APTA)

ABBEY CBS ECO-CLUB

WHO ARE WE?

- A mixture of students from all year groups and teachers
- We are always looking for new volunteers
- We meet once a week in Mrs Mc Keever's room

OUR MOTTO:

- **Always be active, do something!**
- **Be aware of the impact you have on the environment.**
- **Believe in the power of action and change.**
- **Environmental awareness**
- **You can get involved**
- **Care for the environment**
- **Best to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle**
- **Sustainable action is needed**

WHAT DO WE DO?

We have 3 key targets:

- **1. Whole school recycling** – this has already started and will continue throughout the school – blue bins, batteries, printer cartridges and clothes.
- **2. Outreach campaigns** – working with the local community to help others – raising funds for local charities (Trocaire, Zambia), Migrant Crisis
- **3. Eco-garden** – this will be up and running very soon and will be maintained by the Eco-club with a little help from our friends!

2016-2017:
Our achievements to date:

- We have successfully achieved the bronze and silver award for our school. We have successfully fundraised by selling Timoney's ice cream in school. With the money raised we have purchased enough blue bins so every class room now has one. We have also used this money to purchase 4 picnic benches. These are located in the yard for the boys to use during break and lunch time.
- We had the NI Recycling bus attend school to give a workshop to our Eco-club warriors

- We have encouraged the boys to bring in clothes etc for Cash for Clobber
- We have increased our membership of the club
- We have organised litter picks in the school grounds and in the local community
- We have secured an additional £500 from the APTA committee to help towards the cost of the eco-garden, purchase additional benches and other equipment for the yard such as basketball nets, etc

Our targets for 2017-2018:

- To continue to increase our membership and in particular to target out new Year 8 students
- To apply for the Green Flag which will be proudly displayed at the front of the school
- To continue to fundraise, to improve our recycling efforts especially with plastic bottles
- To present an assembly to all our student body to inform them of the work we have done and our targets for this year
- To encourage recycling of school uniforms. This will allow parents/students to purchase second hand blazers, jumpers, trousers, PE uniforms for a very small charge
- To continue to be more visible in the local community with our very successful litter picks, etc
- To continue to push for recycling with batteries, ink cartridges and clothesh
- To recycle pens, highlighters, markers and correction fluid.
- To highlight and raise awareness of our Outreach Campaigns to help others suffering in the world at this time

CHESS

The Abbey Chess Club is now in its 17th year and is still extremely popular with the students. Run at lunch time by Mr Rory McMahon, numbers frequently exceeded not only the chess sets available but also seats in the room! This year the successful in-house competition will run again. Each player will play all other members of the club with the eventual winner receiving the chess trophy! In 2017-18 the club will run over both Junior lunch and Senior lunch to accommodate demand from both areas of our school.

Mr R McMahon

FIRST YR 5 A SIDE

The annual First Year 5-a-side indoor football competition took place after school in January and February 2017. The competition was organised, and all games were refereed, by Mr Rory McMahon. Each team involved a squad of seven players and in all, 12 teams represented the Five First Year classes. Over 14 games a total of 34 goals were scored (not including 3 penalty shoot outs!)This came close to my aim of having all students in the year group involved. The eventual winners, Breffni 1, were awarded the First Year 5-a-side trophy which adorned their Form Class for the remainder of the academic year. All the games were played in good spirits and the skills on display were, at times, breath-taking! Well done to all who participated!

Mr R McMahon

COUNSELLING

Evaluation Report Counselling Service June 2017

This school year approximately sixty pupils have used the counselling service.

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
Bereavement
Coping with illness of a parent
Sexuality
Substance abuse

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 any concerns raised or Child protection issues have been dealt with. 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!

TEFL (150 hrs) Dec 2016
Child Protection Training 2016
Supporting Bereaved Children and young People 2016
Mindfulness Meditation Diploma 2016
Eating Disorder awareness 2016
Suicide and Self-harm awareness training.
BTEC level 3 Award in Teaching in Education and Training.
GIMME Mental Health Awareness for Young people.

I have been a Sessional Counsellor with PIPS Newry and Mourne for 8 years. I work in Suicide intervention and prevention counselling and also with clients who have been bereaved through suicide. I am trained in Cruse Bereavement care and was a voluntary Counsellor with Cruse for four years.

I am a Registered member of the BACP, my membership number is 610817. I have my own insurance. I have approximately 5000 + clinically supervised Counselling hours to date .
I have clinical supervision monthly. My supervisor is Dr David Keenan. I am Accredited with the National Counselling Society.

I am trained in Mindfulness Meditation, which is effective in helping relieve stress, anxiety and depression. Meditation has also physical benefits as breathing correctly increases blood circulation, reduces high blood pressure and increases alertness and concentration.

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. Feedback from year 8 is very positive, rating B+ Mental Health programme and meditation on average 8/10. This technique is effective with both individual and group work.

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.

I have drawn up a presentation on the Counselling service highlighting what Counselling is, presenting issues and how to access the service. The evaluation sheet from the pupils is very positive with 90% of the young people stating they would use the Counselling service.

I continue to promote positive mental health to pupils through the B positive mental health programme delivered to year 8 over a four week period. Year Tutors and form teachers have been very supportive allowing me to facilitate the programme during class periods.

I feel the B+ programme is invaluable as it explains what mental health is and teaches ways for the boys to look after their mental health . Through exercises and group work it also flags up individual boys who may be having problems who I can follow up with counselling. I have a range of presentations and information which I also bring into the class rooms.

I have researched the effects of cannabis and street drugs on adolescence mental health and put together a Drug awareness presentation which I delivered to yr12. I also drew up a presentation on mental health which I delivered during mental health awareness week.

Other Presentations which I have developed;
Bereavement Care
Self-harm awareness
Bullying awareness / coping strategies
Self-awareness / Self-value
Friendship skills
Drugs and alcohol awareness
Anger management
Mindfulness Presentation and Practical Meditation.

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 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 / Meditation and relaxation should be promoted to teachers and used as part of staff care.

Throughout the year Ronan , Jane , and myself are scheduled to meet up for weekly consultation on any concerns / progress of pupils. I continue to attend pastoral care meetings on Fridays.

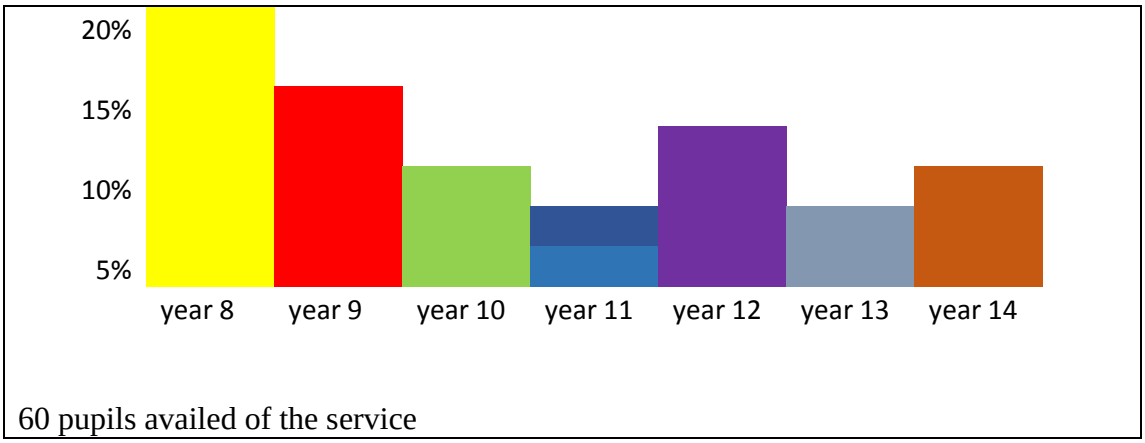
I have liaised with Paul on child protection issues and attended meetings to determine as a team the best way forward for the young person. I have facilitated meetings between parents and a young person enabling both parties to express their concerns and feelings and together work toward a solution. As always the young person is involved in the process and encouraged to speak up for their rights. I have also mediated with young people in helping sort out issues between them.

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.

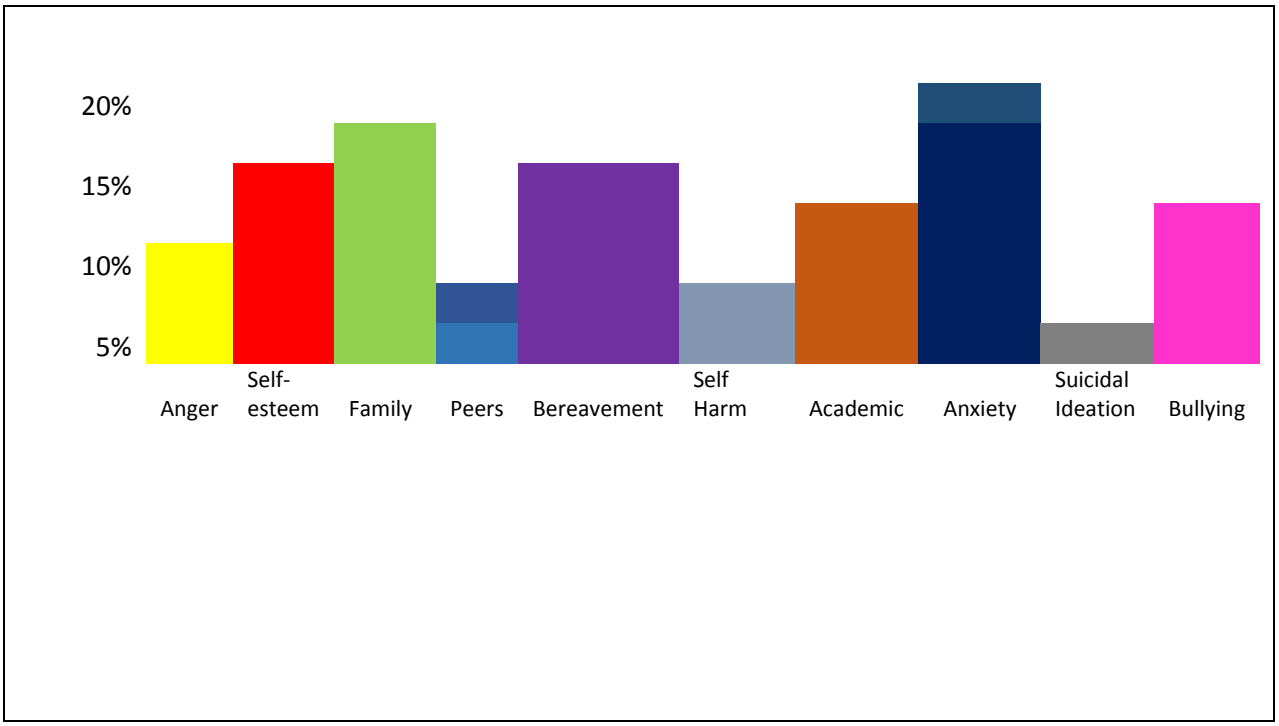
The importance of promoting the counselling service as positive and beneficial is a key element in reducing stigma and allowing counselling to be integrated as part of normal School life.

I feel communication within the pastoral care team has improved this year and relationships with the team have strengthened.

I have proposed setting up a Bereavement support group, which has been discussed by SMT and Paul has been assigned to look at this for next year.



60 pupils availed of the service



Ms Fiona Hughes (School Counsellor)

ABBEY LINKS WITH RATHORE SPECIAL SCHOOL

The Abbey continued its partnership with Rathore Special School, Newry in the 2016-2017 school year.

This is the fourth year of the Abbey hosting 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, liaison 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 Music, led by Mr Jim McCartan, P.E. Department and Mrs Caroline Keenan, Music Department. Each week the students from both schools engaged in sporting and musical 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 Monday 28th November 2016. On the day of the party, Abbey students served lunch for the visiting Rathore Pupils and this was followed by a concert and "sing a long" which involved students from all year groups at the Abbey as well as the visiting Rathore students.

In May 2016 our Upper Sixth students who had taken part in the Rathore link went to Edmund Rice College, Glengormley 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.

Mr P McKeever.

Abbey Golf

Darren Clarke Schools' Golf League

The golf team participated in the Darren Clarke League this year and won 2 out of their 3 games. The squad this year was: John Dunne, Eoin Reel, Eoin Fegan, Ethan Patterson, Callum Small, Harry Price, Sean Fitzgerald, Joe Connolly and Ryan Patterson.

M Cunningham Memorial Shield

On Friday May 26th Cloghogue Pitch and Putt club hosted a schools' golf competition to celebrate their 50th anniversary. Several local schools took part in this inaugural competition and the Abbey were the eventual overall winners.

Each student was sent out with students from 2 other schools and the best 5 scores from each school combined to produce the overall winner. The Abbey took the title with St. Joseph's Crossmaglen finishing runner-up.

The boys also produced the top 3 individual scores which was particularly impressive on a challenging and testing course. For many of them it was their first outing on the Cloghogue greens.

Pictured is Ethan Patterson receiving the trophy from Colin Bell from the KBRT. Ethan was the top individual scorer with Eoin Fegan second and Eoin Reel third. The other members of the team were Joe Connolly, Harry Price, Callum Small and Michael Colhoun.

The school wishes to thank Cloghogue Pitch and Putt club for hosting the event and making everyone feel very welcome.

Mr G Morgan (Golf)

DEBATING

EU Mock Council

- Ninth 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

- Fifth year of entry in this competition for us. Two teams of senior students were entered; one team was our new set of Year 13s in their first external competition. We were delighted when they made it to the second round and secured their place in the team for next year. Our other Year 13 team, Dan Foster and Joseph Lawrence, both made the best individual speaker held at Queen's and are determined to have another shot at the team final next year. They, and others like them, have done an incredible job in highlighting that this school is a debating school.

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

- This event was launched in February 2014 by a growing literary and debating society at Queen's. Only two senior students represented the Abbey this year (February 2016) because this competition was on the same day as our NI Schools quarter final so we were stretched across two locations in Belfast with different start times. This is the fourth year our students have done brilliantly; Conor Lavery and Alex Moore won both their debates.
- Past pupils and debaters have supported us in this event and others, notably Connor Hogan, Graeme Rice, Kilian Thornton and Conn O'Neill all of whom are or were members of Queen's Literary & Debating Society. This year, Sean Fearon, president of Queen's Students' Union, gave us a room for our two quarter-finalists to prepare while our *Literific* team debated. Abbey community and support exemplified.

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; they should receive their awards at the beginning of the new school year.

Br. McFarland Senior Debating Trophy

- This prestigious event was scheduled later in the year to avoid clashing with our Queen's debates and the success of our NI Schools debaters who were

scheduled for quarter-finals and more. Unfortunately, Ms Reynolds contracted pneumonia and the competition did not run as planned. It is hoped to afford those who had signed up for preliminaries the opportunity to debate early in the new academic year.

In short, debating in The Abbey is flourishing, from its grassroots beginnings in well-researched and well-led classroom debates to external competitions.

Ms A. Reynolds (Debating)

Mental Health Awareness Week

Abbey Mental Health Awareness Week tom place from 6th – 10th February 2017 with the theme of resilience. The resources used included:

Media:
Daily tweets/FB notifications;
Daily emails from me to pupils and staff;
Information on screens, notice boards etc

LLW
LLW resource pack (all hyperlinked for you to access) to be used in all KS3&4 LLW classes throughout the week – the theme of 'Resilience' is strong throughout. (GMO has already checked these and distributed them to the department).
Year 8: Resilience; Moving On
Year 9: Resilience; Next Steps
Year 10: Resilience; Coping
KS4: Resilience

Exercise:
I have liaised with Jody and have asked him to highlight the importance of exercise and physical activity to maintain a positive mind – this will be further reinforced through the week's other activities;

Spirituality:
I have liaised with Lisa and asked her to raise the issue of spiritually and positive mental health with her department – many take great solace from prayer in tough times.

Liturgies – 2 'drop-in' liturgies on Tuesday and Thursday, during break time.

Student Help:
A Lust For Life – A Student's Handbook
The hyperlink below may let you access this book, it will be distributed to all KS4&5 pupils (Hopefully unblocked by C2K at the minute…)
alustforlife.com/mental-health/…

The outline of the week was as follows:

Monday 6th February
9.00am – 9.50am
Year 12 MHAW Presentation
This video by Bressie:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1qWaOrr_7Ss
Led by Mark Rodgers

9.00 – 9.15am
Counsellor visits form class – Oriel 8 – Dr Maeve Carey.

12.25 – 1.00pm
Drop-in counselling session - Ms Hughes' office.

11.15 – 11.50am
Resilience for Year 11 – 11DG
Each class got one period with me on the theme of "resilience"
Led by Mark Rodgers
The carrot, the egg and the coffee bean – more details to follow.

11.50-12.25pm
Resilience for Year 11 – 11JMC
Each class got one period with me on the theme of "resilience"
Led by Mark Rodgers
The carrot, the egg and the coffee bean – more details to follow.

Tuesday 7th February
9.00 – 9.15am
Counsellor visits form class – Slemish 8 – Mrs Karen Doherty.

10.25 – 10.40am
Drop-in liturgy in the oratory
John Harvey

12.25 – 1.00pm
Drop-in counselling session - Ms Hughes' office.

1.35-2.10pm
Resilience for Year 11 – 11OMG
Each class got one period with me on the theme of "resilience"
Led by Mark Rodgers
The carrot, the egg and the coffee bean – more details to follow.

2.10-2.45pm
Resilience for Year 11 – 11MMM
Each class got one period with me on the theme of "resilience"

Led by Mark Rodgers
The carrot, the egg and the coffee bean – more details to follow.

2.45 – 3.20pm – 11DMC
Resilience for Year 11
Each class will get one period with me on the theme of "resilience"
Led by Mark Rodgers
The carrot, the egg and the coffee bean – more details to follow.

Wednesday 8th February
9.00 – 9.15am
Counsellor visits form class – Slemish 9 – Mrs Lisa McKeever

1025 – 10.40am
Health check
Drop-in health session with Jane - to test blood pressure etc.

12.25 – 1.00pm
Drop-in counselling session - Ms Hughes' office.

1.35 – 2.10pm
Year 13 MHAW Presentation
Theme – Resilience
To be confirmed
Led by Mark Rodgers

2.45 – 3.20pm
Health check
Drop-in session with Jane, to test blood pressure etc.

Thursday 9th February

9.00 – 9.15am
Junior school assembly
Independent Counselling In Schools Service
Led by Bridie Wroe

10.25 – 10.40am
Drop-in liturgy in the oratory
Led by Jake Magill

9.15 – 1.00pm
Drop-in counselling session with Bridie Wroe, in the Oratory.

1.35 – 2.10pm
Year 14 awareness session
Independent Counselling In Schools Service
Led by Bridie Wroe/Mark Rodgers

Friday 10th February

9.00 – 9.15am
Counsellor visits form class – Breffni 9 – Mrs Caroline Keenan

12.25 – 1.00pm
Drop-in counselling session - Ms Hughes' office.

1.00-1.35pm
Health check
Drop-in session with Jane, to test blood pressure etc
Further information and facts on why this is important in Northern Ireland:

Mental Health Facts

One in four people will have mental health problems in their lifetime.

Suicide is the biggest killer of young men in Northern Ireland;

Of the suicide deaths registered in 2015 in NI 77% (245) were male, 132 of these were aged between 15 and 34;

Last year, suicide in Northern Ireland soared by 19%, with six people taking their own lives every week;

ALMOST as many people have died from suicide in Northern Ireland since the signing of the Good Friday Agreement as were killed during the entire Troubles.

Mr M Rodgers (Year Tutor)

HURLING

Hurling in the Abbey last year was very successful in terms of pupil participation and the introduction of indoor hurls to help develop the basic skills of those pupils who have never played before. This meant that there were more recreational sessions as we could play indoor games. All the students showed great commitment and below is the progress of each group.

1st Year Hurling:
Recreational hurling
Sept- Nov and April - May

2nd Year Hurling:
Beaten in Division 4 Final

3rd Year Hurling:
Got through to the Division 4 semi-final

4th & 5th Year:
Recreational hurling Oct-Feb. Due to clash with external modules no competition was attended.

6th & 7th Year
Got through to the quarter final of the Casement Shield.

Mr M Rodgers & Mr J Harvey
(Hurling coaches)

KAIROS

Thirty Lower Sixth Form students attended the Kairos retreat in Drumalis, Larne. They shared personally about how their Christian faith impacts on their lives. The 3 day event was facilitated by six Upper Sixth students, who were trained in retreat leadership. Dermot McGovern, Gerry Savage and Karen Gilloway also attended, each of whom made their own personal contribution, along with Fr Conor McCarthy, the curate of Larne parish.

Mrs K Farrell

QUIZZES

The Abbey Quiz Teams had another successful year in Schools Quiz Competitions.

The Senior Quiz Team (above) of Dan Foster, Christopher Dunne, Tom Comer and Euan Toner retained the NI Regional Schools Quiz Trophy, this was the 7th year in succession that the school has won this competition. They performed especially well in the final beating our near neighbours SHS, 570 to 140. As a result of this they travelled to London in April for the National Finals but were beaten in the 1st round by Lancaster Grammar School, however they then went on to reach the semi-finals of the plate competition, and in a very exciting match narrowly lost 440 v 420 to Manchester Grammar School.

In the NI Regional Junior Quiz Challenge for Yr 9 pupils, The Abbey Team of Dermot Hamill 9Or, Aodhan McNulty 9Do, Dara McCartan 9Iv and Christopher Cook 9Br reached the semi-final stage of the competition.

In the Credit Union Quiz for 1st year pupils the Abbey Team of Aodh MacMurchaidh, Oisin O'Hanlon, Ciaran Tiernan & Sean Taheny were runners to a very strong team from Our Lady's Grammar School.

Quizzing continued throughout the year during lunchtime for both senior and junior pupils this attracted a consistent number of keen participants. Team Competitions were arranged for year groups with the winners duly receiving a small prize.

Mr C. Gamble

STEM CLUB

The STEM Club on a Wednesday afternoon from the middle of September until Easter. A range of students from Y8-10 attended to conduct experiments and complete some project work. For some of the boys it was their third or fourth year in attendance. A group of Y13 students also came to support the boys which was valuable experience for all involved and helped the Y13 students with their interpersonal skills.
STEM Club had a quiet year relative to other years but we have plans for more project work for the older children in 2017-18 with a view to entering them for competitions. STEM Club provides a place where the boys can develop their creativity, their interest in STEM and where they can make friends.

Dr M Carey and Mrs C. Brownlee

BADMINTON

Badminton has been up and running now for six school years. It is open to all students and takes place on a Tuesday afternoon. Each week we have 16 – 20 students who thoroughly enjoy the sport and the social contact with pupils from other year groups. They maintain their fitness levels and also improve agility and reactions.

The club has always attracted students who may not otherwise become involved in extracurricular sport and we culminate each year with an internal badminton competition open to all students and staff. It is particularly important for Year 8 students to help them settle in to the extra-curricular life of the school.

Mr R Ruddy

ABBEY RUGBY

Mr Jonathon Brown continued as a Youth Development Coach funded by Ulster RFC. He trained the KS3 age groups over the course of two terms year culminating in two blitz competitions against local schools. Mr Wadsworth also took a group of KS3 rugby players to Ravenhill for a cross-community project culminating in a training session at a link school (Banbridge Academy) and a competition at Banbridge RFC. 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. There would be a large representation at Newry RFC of youth members being Abbey pupils.

Mr. D. Wadsworth (TiC Rugby)

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 2017.

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.

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

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), 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.

Senior Management

Medical

In 2016-2017 school year approximately 1,945 pupils/staff availed of the medical room service.
Presenting issues:
Allergies, anxiety/panic attacks, asthma/inhalers, back complaints, blood glucose monitoring, blood pressure check, bullying, cardiac, concussion/head injury, constipation/bowel problems, coughs & cold/flu, diarrhoea/vomiting, Hayfever, eye problems, fractures/sprains/soft tissue injuries, headaches/migraines, health promotion information, infection/antibiotics, medication, teeth/braces, wound dressing/management.
Listed below is a summary of pupils with Medical conditions.:
Pupils with an Allergy – 76.
Pupils with Asthma inhalers - 113
Pupils with a prescribed epipen – 16.
Asthma pupils with prescribed inhalers – 101.
Cardiac condition - 3
Cardiomyopathy – 1 pupil.
Family history of cardiomyopathy – 13 pupils.
Cerebral Palsy - 1
Diabetic pupils – 8 insulin dependent, Diabetic staff – 1 insulin dependent
Epilepsy pupils – 4 pupils
Each pupil with a medical condition has an ICP(careplan) containing all up to date information & contact numbers. ICP `s are reviewed 6-12 monthly with the school health team in John Mitchel place, GP`s, parents/pupils and the school nurse.
Breakdown of visits to the medical room.

	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11	YEAR 12	YEAR 13	YEAR 14	SHS	STAFF	A&E	HOME	TOTAL
SEPT	41	47	23	46	43	19	16	2	8	2	50	245
OCT	39	51	27	57	37	16	8	3	9	5	56	247
NOV	43	30	24	39	41	13	6		9	4	46	205
DEC	30	28	11	9	4	2	1	2	6	2	23	93
JAN	35	49	29	51	34	24	11	1	11	4	51	254
FEB	39	31	14	28	29	16	10	2	5		38	174
MAR	61	70	23	65	40	24	11		6	1	67	300
APRIL	28	26	6	24	23	8	6		2	1	22	123
MAY	54	78	15	39		7			4	2	35	197
JUNE	35	38	5	20	1	1	1		6	3	23	107

Year 8 Health checks, heights & weights programme completed.
Year 11, Year 12 and Year 14 completed the Immunisation programme.
Professional Development on going. Courses attended.
Administration of medicines 09/06/2015.
Anaphylaxis 01/05/2015
Basic life support child & infant 17/12/2015
Centralised health awareness - Allergies, Asthma, Diabetes, Epilepsy, food intolerance, 31/08/2016
First aid at work 08/09/2015 – 11/09/2018
Epilepsy training 30/08/2017
Brain injury training arranged for 29/09/17

Abbey Social Justice

Faith in Action Leadership Team

Under the guidance of Mr Harvey, a group of Year 14 volunteers worked closely with him and were provided with the opportunity to put their faith into action and develop themselves as individuals as well as part of a team whilst building their leadership skills by leading many initiatives to help many in society.
School life in the Abbey CBGS aims to educate students to live justly in their own lives and to strive for peace and justice for others. Within the Social Enrichment programme the students are encouraged to think and to act compassionately within the school, the local community and society. The students were provided with opportunities to showcase their God-given potential and to promote leadership skills through a variety of projects to enable them grow and develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally. This year they were involved in many events including;

- Mary's Meals and collecting back packs with stationary for Malawi.
- Fair Trade Event – Selling fair trade chocolate in school.
- Christmas Party at Ashgrove Nursing Home and visiting with Easter Cards and daffodils in the lead up to Easter.
- The Abbey Sleepout – Raised over £500 for local charity.
- The BBC Schools Project – Linked with the Advocacy Leadership Team to create a video report on the work of the social justice teams in school which was published on the BBC news website.

Advocacy Leadership Team

In its first year, the Advocacy Leadership Team was made up of a group of Year 13 students under the guidance of Mrs McGrath, Miss Gilloway and Miss McQuillan. They worked to build awareness of social justice as well as link with Mr Harvey's Faith in Action Leadership Team to carry out fundraising initiatives throughout the year. The chosen focus by the students in the 2016-2017 was homelessness and this will continue into 2017-2018. They took part in many activities to raise awareness of homelessness including;

- Linked with the Westcourt Centre in Belfast and attending an event for Homelessness Awareness Week in November 2016.
- Visited Rosemount House in Belfast in January 2017 with Cormac McArt from the Westcourt Centre.
- Penpal links with St. Kilda CBS in Melbourne who have an Advocacy programme well established.
- Organised Fr Peter McVerry to come and speak to Year 12 students.
- The BBC Schools Project - Linked with the Faith in Action Leadership Team to create a video report on the work of the social justice teams in school which was published on the BBC news website.
- Presented an assembling to Key Stage 3 classes on the homelessness crisis and the work of the Advocacy Leadership Team.
- Visited the Peter McVerry Trust in Dublin in June 2017

Zambia Immersion Project

Our school's Zambia Immersion Project is now in its 14th year. From its inauguration in 2003 our International Social Justice project has been a core principle underlying our school work as a faith based community. Our links with the community of Livingstone has enabled both our pupils and staff to live out their Christian values by engaging in a journey of compassion and justice whilst both preparing for and spending time in Livingstone.
The Zambia Immersion Project has in a crucial way improved the living conditions and education for local communities in Livingstone.

Some of the targets realised include:

- 2 bore holes have been installed to allow access to fresh running water.
- Teachers' allowances in Linda and Libuyu community schools have been paid to ensure young people have a decent start in life through education.
- The educational fees, books, uniforms and all educational requirements have been provided for the children in Lubasi and Lushomo children's homes.
- The local hospice has been fitted with state of the art equipment, along with a small chapel built.
- Ngwenya and Libuyu plots have had irrigation installed and money provided for livestock to help create self-sufficiency in the communities.

The preparatory work during 2016 before the actual project commenced had a number of strands; all interested parties over the summer went out into their local communities to create an awareness of the project and its aims - to help those less fortunate than themselves and to generate funds which would go a long way to providing financial support to the schools, Lubasi Orphanage and Lushomo home for abused girls.
In preparation for the trip to Zambia in 2017, the selected students carried out a number of fundraising projects. They learnt how to be creative in their fundraising approach through the marketing and preparation of various fundraising events both individually and collectively - spinathons, jersey designing and selling. They planned, produced, managed and participated in a very successful 'Lyp sync' fundraising event. Fundraisers in the academic year 2016-2017 included The 'Giro de Zambia' a sponsored Spinathon which was a tremendous success, a Christmas Jumper Day, two Bag packs, The Great Abbey Bake Off and our major fundraiser 'The Abbey Lip Sync' battle which took place in the Canal Court on Thursday 16th March, 2017. These events and fundraising initiatives have helped raise valuable funds for those marginalised and in need in Livingstone. These teams of students have shown real character in their tireless efforts to raise money and awareness of the difficulties and hardships communities in Livingstone face every day. They lead by example and truly role model our Christian Brothers' and ER ethos as a community steeped in faith, by reaching out, connecting and sharing in the lives of the marginalised in Livingstone, Zambia.
During the Immersion project in Zambia the pupils and staff immersed themselves in the Zambian culture. They taught in three schools; they visit and play with the children in two orphanages many of whom have been orphaned as a result of AIDS. They visited the local hospital and hospice and spend time with the patients. As part of the immersion, the group also visited local communities with Sr Mary Courtney

from St Francis Day Care as she and her staff administer medication to the sick and in addition work with families trying to make a living in the local quarry or the Ngwena and Libuyu plots. It is our aim to support and encourage independence and self-sufficiency in the communes of Livingstone by assisting communities to look after their future by saving money through establishing a Credit Union system.

Edmund Rice Camps 2017

We hosted the inaugural Edmund Rice Camp from Monday 3rd July to Friday 7th July 2017 and these were led by Mrs Annette Elmore and Mr John Rath. The Edmund Rice Camps are a completely volunteer run organisation run by young adults between the ages of 17 and 18. It is a week-long camp to give young primary school children a chance to make new friends in a fun-filled, supportive environment. During the day, there were many activities for all the leaders and children to participate in:

- Enough songs and games to last an age
- Arts and Crafts including bandana making, t-shirt design etc
- Sports including dodgeball, mini Olympics, rounders, bench ball etc
- A Talent Show

There was also day trips and smaller trips outside the school during the week of camp including:

- A visit to our local area of natural beauty in Kilbroney Park
- A day trip to Lisburn Swimming Pool

The Camps are driven by the vision and inspiration of young committed volunteers from our school and in collaboration with our local Sacred Heart School students. We had over 50 ER leaders from Abbey CBS and Scared Heart GS with 30 children from St Clare's Abbey, Newry. The young adults were enthusiastic, motivated young people that were willing to engage with the young children in a warm friendly and compassionate manner. They underwent child protection and other leadership training prior to camp.

Following on from this camp, our four co-ordinators were able to travel to the Dublin camp to spend two days helping out and gathering ideas for our camp next year.

Mrs C McGrath (EREBB)

HEADMASTER'S DIARY OF EVENTS 2016-2017

August 2016

Examination Results
University Entrance
Staff Day
SMT Meetings

Public Relations – examination results
Meetings with Parents and new students into Year 13
Induction of all year groups – parents present for Years 8,11,12,14
Year Tutor and Form Teacher Meetings
Heads of Department and Departmental Meetings.

September 2016

Staff Day
Area Learning Community Meeting
Open Days QUB, UUJ
Careers Year 12
St Mary's Open Day
PPTC Meeting

Meetings with teachers who hold responsibility points
Catholic Heads Meeting
Interviews / meetings with individual SMT members
Begin PRSD with SMT

Interviews/Meetings with new staff
School Mass
Year 8 PIE/PIM Assessment
Formal
Interviews for iPad Bursary
CCEA meeting
APTA
Parents meeting – iPad
E-Safety meeting
C2KNI meeting

October 2016

Headmaster, SMT Mentor, Head of Department Meetings
UCAS begins
First Year Trip
PPTC Meeting
Art Trip
History Trip
CHA Conference
Work Experience for 6(1)

Class Masses begin
Headmaster – Classroom Observations begin
Finance Committee & Board of Governors Meetings
GL Assessment meeting

November 2016

Key Stage 3 Reports
Year 9 PTM

6(2) Mock Careers Interview
GL Familiarization and Assessment Tests
Year 14 PTM
(Year 12,14)
ETI Inspection
Achievement Prizegiving for KS3
DA Science Module Exams
AGM for parents
Kairos Retreat
Staff Day
Work Related Week
Year 12 PTM

December 2016

Charity Function – Canal Court
Rathore Christmas Party

6 (1) and 6 (2) Christmas Reports
Spinathon for Zambia
Christmas Exams
Finance Committee and Board of Governors meetings

Staff Day
Class Mass

Newry Principals Meeting
Staff Meeting
Christmas Concert

January 2017

Primary School Visits

Christmas Reports (4th,5th,6(1),6(2))

Pupil Progress follow-up to Reports
PTM
Catholic Schools Week
Results
Area Learning Community meeting
Bishop's meeting and Mass

Meet SMT individually

GBA meeting

Open Day

Year 10,11,12

GL Assessment

Year 13,14 PTM
PPTC Meeting

February 2017

Year 8 PTM
Community Meeting
Catholic Schools Week
and Meetings
Ash Wednesday Service
Catholic Heads Meeting

3rd Year and 5th Year subject choices

Area Learning

Transfer Results

Year 8 PTM
ERST meeting

March 2017

Transfer – Preference Forms
Finance Committee and Board of Governors Meetings
Community
ERST meeting
Project
Stock Market Challenge

Ash Wednesday

Staff Day
Geography Field Trip

Irish Day
Area Learning

Zambia Immersion

Internal Audit

Biology Field Trip

PPTC Meeting

April 2017

Catholic Heads Meeting
PPTC Meeting
ERST Mass and Lecture
Area Learning Community
GL Assessment – Special Provision
Year 8,9 Careers
Take Your Son to Work Day

May 2017

Edmund Rice Feast Day
Release of 5th, 6 (1) and 6 (2)
SMT Conference
Staff Day
Induction Mass
Area Learning Community
Headmaster, SMT Mentor and Heads of Department Meetings
Catholic Heads Meeting
Teacher Interviews
Head Boy Interviews
PPTC Meeting
Spring Concert

June 2017

Meetings with Parents of new 1st Year Students
Staff Function
Summer Examinations and Reports
PPTC Meeting
Catholic Heads Meeting
School Development Plan
Finance Committee & Board of Governors Meetings
Appeals regarding Transfers
Information to Parents regarding new school year
Primary Schools Visit the Abbey
Staff Day
Interviews – Appointments and Promotions

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2017

	£	£
FIXED ASSETS		1,661,716
CURRENT ASSETS		
STOCKS	4,972	
MILK AND MEALS ACCOUNT	121,490	
DEBTORS	100,698	
CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND	77,264	304,414
CREDITORS : AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		-688,087
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABIITIES		1,278,043
CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR		-109,210
NET ASSETS		1,168,833
CAPITAL AND RESERVES		
SCHOOL REVENUE RESERVES	-476,459	
GENERAL REVENUE RESERVES	1,352,568	
SCHOOL MEALS REVENUE RESERVES	292,724	1,168,833

ABBEY CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL

SUMMARY OF CHARITABLE DONATIONS YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2017

	£
CUIN MHUIRE TRUST	300
HEAD INJURY SUPPORT	300
THE SEANIN SMITH FIGHT ON TRUST	100
PIPS	300
HOSPICE	495
WESTCOURT CENTRE - HOMELESS	150
TROCAIRE	850
TOTAL DONATIONS	**2,495**

ZAMBIA PROJECT	**£**
TOTAL AMOUNTS RAISED	79,353
TOTAL EXPENDITURE INCURRED	-46,374
	32,979