



THE ABBEY *Way*

BUDDY HOLLY ROCKS THE ABBEY...



...WHILE THE
D'ALTON DROUGHT
ENDS AFTER
22 YEARS



A Review of 2015 - 2016

ABBAY GRAMMAR PUPILS EXCEL IN A LEVEL EXAMINATIONS



Mr Dermot McGovern, Headmaster, congratulates three outstanding pupils on achieving four 'A*' grades: Eoin Monaghan, Sam O'Neill and Cathair McKinney

August means only one thing for our students - the dreaded exam results. This year the Abbey's A-level cohort produced an excellent set of grades that maintained the excellent standards set by previous year groups.

A total of twenty-three pupils achieved three or more 'A' grades, seven of which gained 4 'A' or 'A*' grades and three achieved an incredible four 'A*' grades.

Mr Dermot McGovern, Headmaster congratulated all the leavers on their results. He indicated that virtually every boy achieved his first

choice university place. He was also delighted with the Lower Sixth performance in their AS examinations. He paid tribute to his hard-working staff, both teaching and support staff, and thanked them for all their efforts and dedication to the welfare of their students. He also acknowledged the strong school-parental links that helped the boys to achieve their best.

Irish Medium Success for Roinn Na Gaeilge

The Abbey has 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 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 Tomás Hughes, Cormac Donnelly and Ger Feehan, having successfully completed GCSE Gaeilge they are now studying A-Level Irish. Year 10 students Dara O'Callaghan, Jordan Smith, Caolán McCartan and Paul Kelly excelled in



GCSE Irish at the end of Year 9 and here are congratulated by Mr Dessie Tennyson (Head of Irish), Mr Dermot McGovern (Principal), members of Craobh an Iúir, Séamas MacDháibhéid, Seoirse Ó Dufaigh, Celine Bn. Uí Fhiacháin.



Past Pupils Return to Inspire the Next Generation of Art Students

Ms. Hughes was delighted to welcome past pupils Conor Savage, Shane Finnegan and Declan McCabe to the Art & Design Department. They spoke with junior and senior students about their chosen university courses and placements in Civil Engineering, Graphic Design & Illustration and Architecture respectively and how their careers opportunities have developed as a result of studying Art & Design at GCSE and A Level. Our current students benefitted greatly from our guest speakers' knowledge and experience.

Ms. Hughes would like to thank Conor, Shane and Declan for taking the time to revisit the Art & Design Department before returning to their university courses.

Past pupils, Conor, Shane and Declan pictured with current A Level students and Ms. Hughes (Acting Head of Department).

"Positive E-Safety" the Message from Wayne Denner

In September, online safety expert, Wayne Denner, came to the Abbey to meet with staff, parents and pupils to share his expertise in the area of E-Safety. As the profile of digital technology, specifically I-Pads, has risen since the school's management team took the decision to roll the devices out to all year thirteen, E - Safety has become an area of great concern to all members of the Abbey community.

In three excellent workshops, Wayne brought staff up-to-date with the very latest information on protecting themselves online and the importance of knowing your own online profile. He demonstrated some of the apps that young people were using and how some of this use was putting these young people in danger. The following day he spoke to each pupil through a series of assemblies, to highlight the dangers that exist with the various social media that are such an important part of our pupils' lives. Wayne's message to the pupils was one of empowerment and the need to take

ownership and responsibility for their own online profile. He gave examples from the national press of where teenagers' online errors of judgement had had major consequences for those young people. Finally, Wayne met with the parents of our pupils. He highlighted to them the need to be aware of the changing world that we live in, the need to stay up-to-date with the apps and sites that their children were using, in order to protect their children from the dangers that lie ahead in the ever-changing world of teenage social media habits.



The feedback received from all participants was very positive with parents, staff and indeed pupils, all recognising the need to be aware of the dangers and the need to protect themselves online, while still being able to avail of the many benefits that exist with Social Media and the internet.

Buddy Holly Story



From time-to-time in the life of the Abbey, one is privileged to witness events and moments of real significance that you know will leave a mark on the entire Abbey Community for generations. Events where staff, students, parents and indeed past pupils unite in admiration (and perhaps shock) at what is achieved in the name of The Abbey. The Hogan Cup victory of 2006 was one such event, as was the momentous move to this site from the storied Courtenay Hill. The impact of those events, the joy at seeing our best effort producing spectacular results, conversations with strangers, who only know you as having a connection to the Abbey, wanting to share with you their joy, their experience of what they have witnessed, is great. The Hogan win was ten years ago, the move to Castleowen five so, perhaps, we were due another one. Into the life of the Abbey came the 'Buddy Holly Story'.

In October of 2015 the Abbey Community experienced another of these special occasions. The jaw-dropping talent of the lead characters, the energy jumping from the stage as the cast delivered 'Rock & Roll' hit after hit, right down to the six imposing on-stage spotlights flashing out over the audience- you just knew that you were witnessing something very special.

Following the opening performance on the Monday night, Mr Ruddy, Vice-Principal, addressed staff at the morning briefing. He said: "If you weren't there last night, try to get to the show tonight, because if you leave it until later in the week, you will be sorry that you only saw it once." I followed that advice and took my six year old son that night and I must admit, my colleague was spot on.

From the opening number the audience was dragged into a world which most, myself included, had only ever seen on TV. For others this was a trip down Memory Lane like no other. The illusion that we were seated in a 1950s music hall listening to the 'Crickets' was rarely broken, and when it was, it was simply to marvel at the fact

that the audience was watching school children, as young as fourteen years old.

Each hit sucked the audience in more and more; inhibitions that saw polite foot-tapping in the early scenes, were replaced by hand clapping, and finally replaced by dancing in the aisles. It was a joy to witness. Young students from the Abbey on their feet beside the grandparents of other students dancing to Buddy Holly- who could have imagined it? That for me was the thing that set this Abbey show out from all its predecessors. Not only did they audience enjoy it, they felt that they were a part of it: 'Ohhing and Ahhing' at the commands of Finbar Burns, the MC for the concert scene, 'Wolf-whistling' as Jonathan Reynolds swung his snake hips as Rickie Valance. Ronan Lavery showed two years ago, with his performance in Miss Saigon, that he was hugely talented, but his unbroken American accent and brilliant characterisation contributed hugely to creating the 1950s world. And then there were 'the Crickets'. Three modest, unassuming students, lads who it is possible to go through your day to day in the school and never notice: Ross Garvey, Cormac



Daly and the infectious Jack O Hanlon, displayed the type of talent that it is difficult to comprehend in one so young.

I began this review by drawing a parallel with my own greatest day in the Abbey, the 2006 Hogan Cup victory. One-off events like that don't happen without a team, or a company having a once-in-a-lifetime talent, a person who can do things that others simply can't, no matter how hard they work or how many sacrifices they make. In 2006 we had the two Kevins, McKernan and Dyas: The Buddy Holly Story had Brendan O Farrell. People with far more musical and theatrical knowledge than I have, would probably be able to analyse just what makes Brendan so talented, but to a novice I would simply say that no matter who is on the stage, Brendan draws your attention. To learn so many songs and perform them perfectly for four successive nights, and make it all look effortless, is a privilege to behold.

No matter how talented these pupils are, they need to be given the vehicle to display that talent. That job fell for the first time to Mr. McParland as Producer and Mrs Keenan, Musical Director. Having been given the task of selecting and producing the Abbey School Show for the first time, one would have expected Mr. McParland to select a safe option for his first production, an 'Oliver' or a 'Fiddler on the Roof'. Instead he chose a show rarely done by amateur companies, never by schools, because of the complexity of the production and the requirement for all the music to be played and sung live on stage. I suppose that is where Mr McParland and Mrs Keenan's knowledge of the available talent informed their decision-maybe we won't have that once in a life-time talent in two or four years' time to pull off this spectacular production; maybe there will never be a better time to take this risk. Whatever the reason, I am glad that they took the decision. I, like the rest of the staff, watched on with great pride as our pupils, assisted by the hugely

talented girls from Sacred Heart Grammar School, produced a show that the audience on each night believed was as good as any they may have witnessed in London or New York.

On the night that I volunteered to help out, (the final night of the show), I was asked to stay at the back door of the hall. I had a panoramic view of the audience. I watched as the audience were drawn in to the 1950s, just as I had been on Tuesday night. The standing ovation was slightly different to the previous ones on the other three nights. This one began a full five minutes before the end of the show, such was the audience's enthusiasm to show their appreciation. As the lights went up and the full-house began to file out, I found myself again in the position of listening to strangers telling me how much they enjoyed the performance, how in awe they were at the talent, their disbelief at how talented these young people were and even, much to my embarrassment, thanking me for such a great show. Why was I receiving these thanks? Because I happened to be the first person from the Abbey that they saw, just like the other momentous occasions that we rarely get to see in the history of our school, people just wanted to share their joy and excitement with someone.

In the weeks since the show, Buddy Holly hasn't disappeared. He is still the CD of choice for my six year old son at breakfast, the opening line of 'Oh Boy' is still being sung with the annoying regularity that only a six year can sing, but I will suffer it a little longer simply because it reminds me of the latest great chapter in the history of the Abbey. On behalf of those who watched the show, thanks to anyone who played any part. The only question now is-what's next?

Mr.S. Gallagher.



Digital Leaders Offer a Helping Hand

In November, the Abbey Digital Leaders were set up, with the intention of providing technical support and learning advice to pupils in classes where the iPads are being integrated into the classroom. Led by Mr Tennyson, students from every year group were given the chance to apply for the role of Digital Leader. Interviews were then held with the shortlisted candidates and ten pupils from Year 10 to Year 14 selected, based on their attitude towards improving

education in the Abbey through the use of technology, their ability to work in a team and their willingness to spend time helping others.

Each candidate was then given professional training which allowed them to fulfil their role of solving any problems that pupils may have with their iPads and finding new and more efficient ways of learning through the use of the iPad. A 'Genius Bar' has also

been set up in the school for pupils to go to during break time if they have any queries or problems about the use of iPads in school. To date, this has been a very rewarding experience and we all look forward to carrying on with our duties next year and continuing to improve the learning experience of all pupils in the Abbey.

Sean Coghlan, Slemish 3.



The First Year Induction Programme Ends with a Trip to Croke Park

As in previous years, our current group of first year pupils took time out of lessons to visit the home of the GAA in Ireland: Croke Park. The trip marks the traditional end of the first year induction programme in the Abbey and gave an opportunity to the new class mates to have a fun filled day at one of Europe's most famous stadia. The Induction Programme began back in August when our newest students spent two days in school, before the return of the rest of the student population. These settling-in days, allowed the pupils to navigate the school building and get familiar with their new environment. Staff and senior prefects were on hand to make sure that the pupils were well settled. By the time that the pupils were joined by their parents and the teaching staff for a barbeque, at the end of the registration days, many pupils felt very much at home. Throughout September and October the Year Eight Form Teacher team worked tirelessly to ensure that all teething problems were sorted out and the visit to Croke Park, was a highlight of the first term for many of the Year Eight pupils.





Abbey Eco-Club Re-launched

December saw the relaunch of the Abbey Eco Club. A number of students from across various year groups signed up to help run the club, who met once a week in Mrs Mc Keever's room. The Club established a motto to inform their work throughout the year:

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

The committee set themselves three key targets for the year:

- **1. Whole school recycling Initiative** – this has already started and will continue throughout the school – blue bins, batteries, printer cartridges and clothes have all been collected by committee members.
- **2. Outreach campaigns** – working with the local community to help others – raising funds for local charities (such as, Trócaire, Zambia). This campaign also involved the collection of clothes to send abroad to help with the migrant crisis that gripped Europe in December.
- **3. Development of an Eco-Garden** – it is hoped that this will be up and running early in the next academic year and it is intended that it will be maintained by the members of the Eco Club.

Christmas Jumper Day 2015



Well done to all the boys and staff who proudly wore their seasonal jumpers last term for the non-uniform day. Over £830 was raised and was be donated to Newry Hospice. Thanks also to Mrs McKeever (Head of RE) for coordinating the fundraiser and encouraging boys to create their own Christmas jumpers with additions of lights and decorations!



I am because we are... far too often people think of themselves as just individuals, separated from one another, whereas you are connected and what you do affects the whole world.

A.D Tutu

Edmund Rice Education makes a difference in the lives of hundreds of thousands of young people. The Abbey is a lead school in a global coalition of almost three Hundred schools educating over two hundred thousand young people. Our work has been enriched by the cultures in which the Brothers and others have laboured for generations. Globally each culture brings a particular insight into the power of this vision.

Edmund Rice was motivated by a clear vision of what he wanted to achieve. As a lead school we are fully committed to promoting personal and social development in a caring Christian community of learning and teaching. This year, as a lead school we have strengthened our focus on promoting partnerships in our school community. Aside from our on-going international partnership in Livingstone, Zambia we have inspired senior pupils to lead an 'Abbey Nelson Mandela/Faith in Action' day in February 2016. We came together as a school community to solidify our one voice for justice and raised over two thousand pounds through a series of student led activities supported by Mr Harvey, Ms Mc Quillan and Mrs McGrath for local causes including: St. Concillio's, The Kevin Bell Repatriation Trust, The West Court Centre Belfast (Homelessness support), our local Retirement Homes (through the provision of Easter gifts) and Head Injury NI.

We have been extending our vision in transformational education by twinning with Francis Street CBS in inner-city Dublin, offering our sixth year pupils work placement during the month of April and the sixth form class from Francis Street experienced life in a secondary school during their return visit here in early June. The Year thirteen pupils prepared diligently and professionally under the guidance of their Year Tutor, Mr Mc Keever, and Mrs McGrath to deliver age and ability-based lessons within the school's taught curriculum. Well done to all !

Mrs Mc Grath (Senior Teacher) and the Headmaster, Mr McGovern, have been working throughout the year with other lead schools across the European network in supporting each other in developing

an identity that reflects our shared ethos, whilst still recognising our diversity. Through our gatherings, we focus on our common call to grow the charism of Edmund Rice; to share the extraordinary riches that our differing cultures have brought to this charism over many generations and to take part in the formation of a new expression of the work of Edmund Rice education based on global partnership and solidarity.

Central to the vision of Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders is our common vocation to proclaim education as liberation for all in our world, particularly those who are marginalised and disenfranchised; liberation and possibility for those who crave full participation in a world of 'haves and have nots'.

EREBB... the way forward...

Mrs Elmore and Mr Rath will join the EREBB network by travelling to India early in the new school year for the next EREBB International gathering.

During 2016/2017 a number of our senior pupils will be trained and coached to become Edmund Rice Camp Leaders and mentors in preparation for our inaugural Edmund Rice Camp here in the Abbey in the summer 2017.

A number of year 13 pupils will lead our school's Advocacy work - One Voice for Justice during 2016/2017 under the guidance of Mrs Mc Grath, Mrs Mc Keever, Ms Mc Quillan and Ms Gilloway.

Snapshots from the day

January



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

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

The first year trophy (Bás Chuchulainn), dedicated to the late Brother Beausang, was awarded to Rory Foster.

The second year trophy (Méabh agus an Donn Chuailgne), dedicated to the late Mr. Patrick Arthur Crinoin, a former teacher of Irish and the Classics, was awarded to Ronan Lynch.

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

The fourth year trophy (Clann Lir), dedicated to Brother Aidan Quinlan, who during his time in the Abbey was a founder member of Féile Scoil dramaíochta an Iúir, was jointly awarded to Eoin Lane and Ferdia O'Malley.

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

The sixth year trophy (An Lóchrann), dedicated to Mr. Hugh Murphy, Lislea poet and former Head of Irish, was jointly awarded to Ronan Lavery and Michael Jordan.

The award for the best 'Gaelscoláire' (An Lóchrann Beag), was awarded to Míchéal Hoey (absent from the photograph).

Included in the photograph are Mr. Dessie Tennyson (Head of Irish), Mrs. Pauline McClean, Mr. Sean Gallagher and Mr Ronan Ruddy (Vice-Principal).

"Out of Breath" book launch in the Abbey

"Out of Breath" is a book of poems composed by our Head of English, Mr Mel McMahon. Mel has had success with previous publications and of this compilation of poems Mark Roper writes: '... these are quiet, generous, graceful, memorable poems, never raising their voice, never needing to.'

Mel McMahon was born in Lurgan in 1968. With Adrian Rice, he co-founded the Abbey Press in 1997. His work has appeared widely in journals and anthologies and has been broadcast on BBC Radio Ulster. He has been short-listed for the Beehive International Poetry Prize and was a prize-winner in the FSNI International Poetry Competition (2015).



Careers with English

Past Pupils Return to Show the Way

During January, our Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 pupils were treated to enlightening and inspiring visits from past pupils of the school who all studied English at A Level. They shared their experiences of applying their skills in a range of ways, with a diverse selection of careers spanning choices, such as: business management, law, media and journalism. Pupils were provided the opportunity to ask questions and learn from our visitors throughout the week. A big thank you to all of our guests!

Conall Keenan

(Now Studying at QUB- studied A Level English Literature in the Abbey)

Conall Keenan is a past pupil of the school. He left the Abbey at the end of last year having attained an A grade in his A Level English Literature. He is a keen participant on Twitter, having thousands of followers. He works part-time as a 'brand ambassador' for First Derivatives, here in Newry.



Conan Fegan

Conan Fegan is a past pupil of the Abbey. Having studied Law at University he went on to pursue a career as a barrister. He currently practises both north and south of the border. Here's what one of our pupil's had to say about his visit:

On the 20th of January, the Year 12 pupils were treated to an informative visit from a local barrister and past pupil who explained fully the duties and responsibilities attached to his role of "Barrister of Law" and the path which he took to achieve this illustrious position.

His views on the subject choice were both interesting and thought-provoking as he did not rigidly direct the pupils down a narrow pathway of subject choice.

The examples of his own work were riveting and inspiring and it was obvious from his enthusiasm that he derived tremendous satisfaction from his career and this was highly infectious. It made many in the audience seriously consider the possibility of a career in the legal profession.

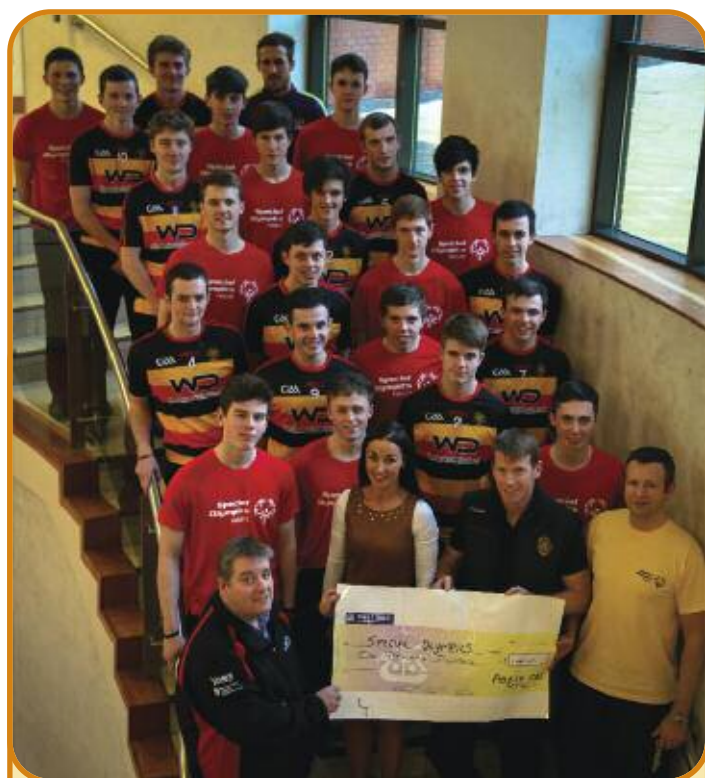
By Odhrán McCormack 12GS

Donal McMahon

Donal McMahon attended the Abbey from 1990-1997 before attending QUB to study History and Politics. In 2005 he entered an All-Ireland competition to find ten people who would complete a post graduate course in Journalism. During that time he attended weekly tutorials and participated in shorthand writing classes via video-link. As part of his course he had two six month placements: one with the Down Democrat and one with the Roscommon Herald. Donal currently works for the Newry Reporter where he writes articles on a range of topics including: murder investigations, court trials, council issues and breaking news.

Gareth Chambers

Gareth Chambers attended the Abbey from 1996-2003 before completing his BA degree in Television at Bournemouth. He has worked as a script writer, producer and director on a number of films. He completed a one year placement at Channel Four after graduating. His work has appeared at many film festivals and he has also secured funding for a film called 'Loft.' This short film has been screened at the Galway Film Festival. He currently works for his family's sandwich company, Scribbles, and travels frequently as part of his work. Last year he was given the title of Newry and Mourne's Young Entrepreneur of the Year.



The MacRory Panel and their mentors raised £1,000 for the worthy charity 'Special Olympics Ireland through a whole school Jersey Day and cake/bake sale.

In addition, the panel will be involved in a street collection in Newry in early March and will volunteer over a two day period in Templepatrick in March for a Special Olympics competitive event.



Abbey Mental Health Awareness Week is Now a Whole School Event

Abbey Mental Health Awareness Week #AMHAW took place between Monday 8th February and Friday 12th February.

Building on last year's extremely successful #AMHAW with Year thirteen, the decision was taken to make the campaign a whole school event with a range of activities delivered through taught lessons, physical activity, counselling awareness, liturgies and assemblies throughout the week. The week-long campaign was the brain-child of Head of Year fourteen, Mr Mark Rodgers, and his role was to organise and co-ordinate the week long series of events. Speaking at the

launch of #AMHAW, Mr Rodgers said: "It is important that we remove the stigma from mental health in young men in Northern Ireland. The positive mental health of our students is something that is extremely important for us all: the boys, parents and teachers."

Following the success of the campaign it is anticipated that this campaign will become a permanent fixture in the school calendar.

▲ Pictured in the photo is Dermot McGovern (Principal), Mark Rodgers (Year Tutor & Coordinator of Mental Health Week), Conor McCusker (Head Boy) & Finbar Burns (Deputy Head Boy)

Brit Award Abbey Past Pupil

What an achievement for our past pupil, Gerry Morgan, the drummer behind James Bay (Brit Award Best Male Solo Artist) of "Hold Back the River" fame! Gerry has had chart success before with an 80's retro sounding band "Royworld" but his recent world touring success, chat show appearances (most recently "The Graham Norton Show") and now the Brits Awards, show how his incredible skill, commitment and determination have led to such acclaimed heights.

Gerry was a model 'A' grade A-level music student: original, creative, highly skilled as a percussionist, drummer, pianist, singer, violinist and lots more. His genius along with his sense of humour and enthusiasm always made the lessons fun and inspiring! Mr Wadsworth, his 'A' level teacher, founded the "Abbey Jazz Band" in 2002 and Gerry was the original drummer and really helped inspire the other boys around him. Since then the Music Department has keenly followed his rising career.

"Well done Gerry and good luck with the future!"





Busy Year for the Music Department

2015-16 was another busy but exciting year for the Music Department. After the excitement of Buddy it was straight into preparation for the Christmas season. Our musicians performed in a range of shows. They were Carol singing in the Buttercrane and the Jazz Band welcomed Santa to town back in December. The Junior Jazz Band performed in the City Hall for UN day, and also at the Newry Business Christmas Dinner in the Canal Court.

The Spring and Summer term involved preparation for both Warrenpoint and Newry Feiseanna. In Warrenpoint both the Jazz Band and Chamber Choir were placed 1st, whilst the Abbey Choir was placed 1st in Hymn singing. In Newry the Jazz Band was also placed first, whilst the Abbey Choir earned 1st and two 3rds. The Chamber Choir was placed 3rd in a tightly fought contest. The Brass Group was placed 2nd whilst a large number of individuals competed, many being awarded 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Highly Commended.

During this term the Ulster Youth Choir visited the school to hold a workshop and auditions. A number of students were successfully offered places in both the main choir and training choirs. The Jazz Band was also invited back to the annual Ulster Youth Jazz Showcase

where a number of school jazz bands were invited to perform in the Black Box in Belfast.

After Easter our focus was on the biannual Choir and brass Rome trip. In preparation for it the choir performed in Newry Cathedral with a range of music such as "This is the Day" and "Zadok the Priest." The following week the group departed for the Villa Palazzola in Rome for 5 days of culture, music and camaraderie. Thirty seven pupils travelled from Newry in the early hours of the 28th April where we went on to tour Castel San Angelo, the Vatican, the Roman Forum, the Colosseum as well as perform in the weekly Sunday mass at the Irish College and then a concert in one of the oldest places of worship in Rome, San Clemente. Family and friends attended as



well as a host of tourists. A tour of the crypts, a visit to the Pantheon and the Trevi Fountain (with pizza, pasta and ice cream) finished off the trip as well as another fascinating trip to Rome. Already the comments of #Rome2018 have begun.

While most music departments would then begin to wind down at the end of the year we were still preparing for two performances; Blues in the Bay invited the jazz band to perform in Warrenpoint Park on Sunday 29th May while we completed the year with the Cabaret on June 28th when we celebrated all of our achievements of what has been an incredibly busy, but enjoyable year.

May



Patrick Murdock becomes the Abbey's 47th Colleges All-Star

Congratulations to MacRory Captain, Patrick Murdock, who collected his Ulster Colleges All Star for full back, on Friday 4th April, at a ceremony in the Europa Hotel, Belfast.

This is Patrick's third season with the Abbey MacRory Cup squad and he has played for Down minors during the past two seasons. His club is Cumann Peadar Naofa, Warrenpoint.

With Cumann Peadar Naofa he is the proud holder of a Down minor championship medal from 2012 and an under 21 championship medal in 2014.

This is the 28th year of the Ulster Colleges' All-star scheme. The scheme rewards excellence in skill and in sportsmanship.



MasterChef 2016

Congratulations to twelve Year nine pupils, selected to take part in this year's Abbey Master Chef competition!

The boys produced some outstanding work and made it a very difficult decision for the judges.

The winners were as follows:

Overall winner – Orin McKeown,

2nd Place – Keelan Mallon.

3rd Place – Ethan Patterson.

Best Starter – Kyle Byrne, 9 Donard.

Best Main Course – Conor Boyle.

Best Dessert – Tiernan Kearns.

Congratulations to all involved!

Abbey CBS end 22-year D'Alton Cup drought against St Pat's



**Danske Bank D'Alton Cup Final:
Abbey CBS 4-8 St Patrick's, Maghera 3-7 (after extra-time)**

ABBEY won a first D'Alton Cup since 1994 thanks to a dramatic extra time win over reigning champions St Patrick's, Maghera.

The star of the show for the winning team was Ballyholland's John McGovern, who finished with a personal tally of 3-3, with all but a point of that haul coming from play.

The Newry side started brightly and within a minute a Joe McAloon shot whizzed across the line and away to safety.

The action ebbed and flowed without much scoring being done for the majority of the first period before, with the last attack of the half, Matthew Downey latched onto a Jamie Duggan pass and sidestepped goalkeeper Eoin Hughes to fire Maghera into a 1-2 to 0-1 lead.

Maghera were mainly in control before the break but were guilty of eight wides. At the other end, the Derry school's defence was resolute, with Shea Cassidy and Ronan McFaul standing out in their central roles.

On the one occasion McGovern got through on goal before half-time, only to see goalkeeper, Conor McMullan, make a brilliant save.

If the first half was a defensive show, the second half sparked into

life early, with a Downey point putting Maghera further ahead.

Abbey replied with a Niall Toner point after a neat dummy before a Ryan Magill free cut the gap to three points.

Shortly later Jody McDermott's shot came back off the post and Shea Cassidy made no mistake with a close-range finish to the net. When Michael Mulholland tagged on another point, the cup looked like it was heading back to Maghera.

If that wasn't enough action, Ryan Magill hit the bar with a rasping shot before Abbey keeper, Eoin Hughes, made a brilliant save from Jamie Duggan's penalty.

With three minutes of normal-time remaining and with his side trailing by eight points, Abbey captain, McGovern, cut along the endline and blasted to the net. Ryan Magill quickly added a second goal as Abbey slashed Maghera's lead to two points, 2-5 to 2-3.

The drama didn't end there as Abbey were awarded a stoppage-time penalty. McGovern stepped up but his kick was acrobatically tipped over for a point by McMullan.



Ryan McCarron clears his line.



Excellent defending from the Abbey.



First Year, Adam Garvey, closely marking his Maghera counterpart.



Seán Conlon attempts to block a Maghera shot.



Goal scorer, Ryan Magill, delivers a pin-point pass.

Magill then stepped up to the plate by firing over a point that forced extra-time.

Jody McDermott got Maghera off the mark in extra-time but Eoin Reel levelled before McGovern put Abbey 2-7 to 2-6 ahead, the first time they had led in the entire game.



Joe McAloon, makes a text-book block.

McGovern grabbed his second goal before Charlie Diamond replied to get Maghera back within a point.

It was fitting however, that McGovern had the last say in the game when he palmed home his third goal to kill Maghera's comeback hopes and end Abbey's D'Alton drought.

Alton Towers Proves to be the Highlight of the First Year Trip to Manchester



I woke at 3 o'clock in the morning of 26th May to head to the Abbey for our trip to Manchester. The majority of us were full of excitement, but others were just tired. We travelled to Dublin, and arrived at the docks. After what seemed like hours (about 30 minutes of waiting) we boarded the ferry.

It was a very smooth boat journey with lots to do on board. We then had to drive from Wales to Manchester. However, the journey was completely worth it for the weekend ahead. Our first proper stop was at the National Football Museum. This was a real blast for everyone. It had something that everyone could enjoy, whether it was learning about the history of football, holding the Champions League trophy, using the fun machines or playing retro football games on the top floor.

After the Museum we headed to our accommodation, the Manchester Youth Hostel to get all our stuff into our rooms. We didn't have time to rest, as we were straight back onto the bus to head for a game of bowling. At the bowling alley we played ten pin bowling and when that was finished we played on the arcade machines or played pool. At around half ten we headed back to the Hostel to sleep after a long day.

On Saturday we had an early start to go to Alton Towers. Whenever we arrived, we set up a meeting place and were given the freedom of the whole park. After 3 or 4 hours of wandering the park, laughing at images of our faces on different rides, it came time to head back to the meeting point. Spending a couple of extra minutes rounding up the stragglers who obviously didn't know when to meet up, we got onto the bus to head for the Trafford Centre for dinner and to do some shopping. Alton Towers was just brilliant with something to suit everyone and the icing on the cake was the fantastic weather we were having.

Finally, on the last day of our trip, we got everything on the bus and headed on our homeward journey. We made a quick stop outside the Old Trafford stadium to see what it was like. Our boat home was faster



than expected, and we arrived at the Abbey an hour earlier than expected, in time for most people to watch the football match on TV.

It was an all-around amazing trip. Not only was it amazing to have a bit of fun with my friends outside of school, it also encouraged us to talk to other people in our year group. I myself only knew a handful of people from classes other than my own, but now I feel like I know pretty much everyone in first year. On top of that, we learned how to manage our money, how to balance our daily budget but most importantly to have lots of fun.

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