



# THE ABBEY Way

THE ABBEY CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL



## The 'Little Linker' takes the Abbey Boys to the 'Big Apple'

### INSIDE THIS EDITION

- All the latest pictures and news from the New School
- Rannafast Team reach the Semi Final
- Reading Week in The Abbey
- Slemish 2 are crowned class of the Year 2008



**Academic Success:**

# G.C.S.E. Results Continue to Improve



**Last Year's fifth Year students at the Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Newry, learned that they have created their own little piece of history on Thursday last when they got their GCSE results. This group has achieved a new record for the greatest number of students, obtaining the top grades in GCSE examinations. In 2006 eighteen students achieved at least 8 'A' grades or above; this increased to twenty four last year and has increased to a magnificent thirty one students this year!**

The top performers with 11 A\*/A grades were Niall Burke ( 9 A\* and 2 A's ), Niall Duffy ( 9 A\* and 2 A's ), Oliver Hearty ( 9 A\* and 2 A's ), Sean Cunningham ( 7 A\* and 4 A's ), Niall McCartan ( 7 A\* and 4 A's ), David Heatley ( 4 A\* and 7 A's ) and Tony Fearon ( 3 A\* and 8 A's ).

Following the 'magnificent seven' above, eight students achieved 10 A\*/A grades, including: John-Benedict Farrell, Michael McGovern, Ethan Toner, Patrick Gallogly, Killian Feehan, Vikash Kanjee, Ronan Kearney and Darren Marshall. Seven students achieved 9 A\*/A grades, including

*Mr Dermot McGovern, Headmaster Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Newry, congratulates the top achievers in this year's GCSE examinations. Seven students achieved an outstanding 11 A\*/A grades or above. Included are: Niall Burke, Niall Duffy, Oliver Hearty, Sean Cunningham, Niall McCartan, David Heatley and Tony Fearon. Also included are Vice Principals Mr Paul O'Shea and Mr Ronan Ruddy.*

Jamie Campbell, James Hasson, Andrew Fitzsimons, Patrick McCoy, Eoin Colgan, Niall Murchan and Jonathan Price. Nine students achieved 8 A\*/A grades, including Ryan Faloon, Niall O'Neill, Ryan Lonergan, David Stanyer, Jarlath McAteer, Ryan Oozeerally, Keian Roohipour, John McCaul and John McCullough.

A delighted Headmaster, Mr Dermot McGovern, thanked staff and parents and congratulated all the

students who received GCSE results – not only the boys who had done exceptionally well but also the boys who had done as well as they possibly could. He believes that a number of factors have combined to help with this year's success, including a very dedicated, committed and highly professional staff who got the best out of this year group. The most valuable gift any teacher can give a pupil in the Abbey is their own time and this was given in abundance.



*31 students from the Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Newry, got at least 8 or more A grades in their GCSE examinations. Included are: Niall Burke, Niall Duffy, Oliver Hearty, Sean Cunningham, Niall McCartan, David Heatley, Tony Fearon, Michael McGovern, Ethan Toner, Patrick Gallogly, Vikash Kanjee, Ronan Kearney, Darren Marshall, James Hasson, Andrew Fitzsimons, Patrick McCoy, Eoin Colgan, Niall Murchan, Jonathan Price, Ryan Faloon, David Stanyer, Jarlath McAteer, Ryan Oozeerally, John McCaul and John McCullough. Missing from photograph are: John-Benedict Farrell, Killian Feehan, Jamie Campbell, Niall O'Neill, Ryan Lonergan and Keian Roohipour.*

# A-Level Pupils Celebrate Their Results

**The Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Newry, is celebrating yet another exceptional set of A-Level results.**

The most significant statistic from the Class of 2008's results is that more pupils at the Abbey are obtaining the top grades. An unbelievable 51% of all results were grade A and 76% grades A or B.

Following the national media coverage during the summer regarding A-Level performance for last year, the Abbey is listed in the Irish News in the top 10 of all Grammar Schools. A total of 21 boys achieved 3 or more grade A's.

Two Newry pupils share the 'Top of the Class' spot with Damian McParland and Homesh Sayal having achieved 5 'A' grades each. Damian McParland attended Abbey Primary School. His 'A' grades were in English Language, History, English Literature, French and Spanish. He shall be studying Law at Oxford University. Homesh Sayal attended Cloughogue Primary School. His 'A' grades were in Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. He also achieved a merit in Mathematics Advanced Extension Award (AEA). He shall be studying Actuarial Studies at The London School of Economics.

Eight pupils achieved 4 'A' grades each. Michael Boyle from Rostrevor attended Killyowen Primary School. His 'A' grades were in Psychology, English Language, Mathematics and History. He shall be studying Law at Queen's University, Belfast. Martin Davidson from Warrenpoint (St. Dallan's Primary School) got A's in History, English Literature, French and Spanish. He shall be studying Law with Spanish at Queen's University, Belfast. Dermot Markey from Warrenpoint (St. Dallan's Primary School) got A's in Psychology, English Language, Drama and History. He shall be studying Law at Trinity College, Dublin. Fergal McAlinden from Rostrevor (Killyowen Primary School) got A's in History, English Literature, French and Spanish. He shall be studying History and Politics at Oxford University. Ronan McDonald from Dromintee (Dromintee Primary School) got A's in

Mathematics, Politics, English Literature and Spanish. He shall be studying Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Oxford University. John-Paul O'Hare from Newry (Abbey Primary School) got A's in Business Studies, Mathematics, ICT and Geography. He shall be studying Actuarial Studies at Queen's University, Belfast. Conor Sweeney from Newry (Abbey Primary School) got A's in Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry and Spanish. He shall be studying Actuarial Studies at Queen's University, Belfast. Adrian McNamee from Newry (St. Gregory's Primary School, Ealing, London) got A's in Mathematics, Physical Education, Biology and History. He shall be studying Psychology at Queen's University, Belfast.

11 pupils achieved at least 3 'A' grades each. Stephen Campbell from Newry (Cloughogue Primary School) got A's in Mathematics, History and Politics. He also achieved an 'A' in AS Technology and Design. He shall be studying Law with Politics at Queen's University, Belfast. Darragh Dobbin From Newry (Abbey Primary School) got A's in Biology, ICT and History. He also got an 'A' in AS Geography. He shall be studying Quantity Surveying at University of Ulster, Belfast. Kevin Holsgrove from Newry (Killeen Primary School) got A's in Mathematics, Physics and ICT. He also got a 'B' in Music. He shall be studying Physics at Queen's University, Belfast. Christopher Kerrin from Newry (Abbey Primary School) got A's in Chemistry, Geography and Technology and Design. He also got a 'B' in Biology. He shall be studying Radiography at University of Ulster, Belfast. John McBride from Killeavey (St. Joseph's Primary School) got A's in Mathematics, Chemistry and Physics. He also achieved 'B' grades in Spanish and Music. He shall be studying Chemical Engineering at Manchester University. Philip McClory from Poyntzpass (St. Joseph's Primary School) got A's in History, English Literature and Irish. He shall be studying Ancient and Modern History at Oxford University. Conor McGuigan from Newry (Cloughogue Primary School) got A's in Psychology, Biology and English Literature. He also got a 'B' in Chemistry. He shall be studying Medicine at Trinity College, Dublin. Aiden Murphy from Newry (Abbey Primary School) got A's in Mathematics, Physics and ICT. He also got an 'A' in AS Geography. He shall be studying Actuarial Studies at Queen's University, Belfast. Sean O'Hagan from Newry got A's in Accounting, Business Studies



*Pupils that achieved at least 4 'A' Grades in their A-Level examinations at the Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Newry, are congratulated by Headmaster Mr. Dermot McGovern. Included are: Damian McParland, Homesh Sayal, Martin Davidson, Dermot Markey, Fergal McAlinden, Ronan McDonald, John-Paul O'Hare, Conor Sweeney, Philip Mc Clory and Adrian McNamee. Also included are Vice Principals, Mr Ronan Ruddy and Mr. Paul O'Shea. Missing from photograph is Michael Boyle.*



*Pupils that achieved at least 3 'A' Grades in their A-Level examinations at the Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Newry, are congratulated by Headmaster, Mr. Dermot McGovern. Included are: Damian McParland, Homesh Sayal, Martin Davidson, Dermot Markey, Fergal McAlinden, Ronan McDonald, John-Paul O'Hare, Conor Sweeney, Adrian McNamee, Darragh Dobbin, Kevin Holsgrove, Christopher Kerrin, John McBride, Philip McClory, Conor McGuigan, Aidan Murphy, Sean O'Hagan, Vincent O'Rourke and Liam Turley. Also included are, Vice Principals Mr Ronan Ruddy and Mr. Paul O'Shea. Missing from photograph are Michael Boyle and Stephen Campbell.*

and Mathematics. He also got a 'B' in Spanish. He shall be studying Finance at Queen's University, Belfast. Vincent O'Rourke from Newry (St. Ronan's Primary School) got A's in Psychology, ICT and History. He also achieved a 'B' in Irish. He shall be studying Law at Queen's University, Belfast. Liam Turley from Saval (St. Colman's Primary School, Saval) got A's in ICT, History and Construction. He shall be studying Quantity Surveying at University of Ulster, Belfast.

Mr Dermot McGovern, Headmaster, congratulated this exceptional group of pupils on their results. He indicated that virtually every boy achieved his first choice university place. He paid tribute to his hard working staff and thanked them for all their efforts and dedication to the welfare of their students. He acknowledged the strong school-parental links that also helped the boys to achieve their best.

Lower Sixth students also received their AS results and all at the Abbey are confident that the exceptional standard of 'A' Level results shall be repeated next year.



*Mr. Dermot McGovern, Headmaster congratulates the top achievers in this year's A-Level examinations. Damian McParland and Homesh Sayal achieved at least 5 'A' Grades each. Also included are Vice Principals Mr Ronan Ruddy and Mr. Paul O'Shea.*

Technology:

# Abbey Pupils Enjoy Christmas Buzz in the 'Big Apple'

The Big Idea, supported by Invest Northern Ireland, is a national competition to find and fund innovative young people. The programme challenges young people from all over Northern Ireland to come up with creative business solutions to improve their place of learning, business or local community in some way.

The Big Idea for secondary schools and colleges aims to find and fund young students who have creative and innovative ideas that will impact on their school, college or community in a positive way. Mark Millar, Ryan Walsh, Scott Gray and James Dickson, led by their teacher, Mr Mark Rodgers, investigated how they could positively influence their local community; they have come up with the 'Little Linker'. They have designed and made this device that not only encourages a healthier lifestyle but also helps keep young children safe on the roads by allowing them to walk in groups holding onto the 'The Little Linker'. This product is bright and illuminated and plays music. However, if one of the children lets go the Littler linker the music stops, therefore alerting the accompanying parent or teacher.

The pupils from the Abbey have won the regional final and £1000 for their school, plus prizes of £100 each. The four boys were given their award on the 18th November in a celebrity event in the Culloden Hotel in Antrim. The boys went on to win the national final, a prize of a further £5000 for the school and a 'once-in-a-life-time' trip to New York. The group headed to the Big Apple on Monday 8th December and spent four action packed days enjoying VIP treatment and visiting some of New York City's most interesting sites. As well as visits to Wall Street and Fifth Avenue, Mr Rodgers and the four pupils also took in a 'Knicks game' and spent some time in the world famous China town. Sli na Manistreach is delighted to feature some pictures taken by the boys on their well-earned trip.



Below: Mr. Rodgers and the boys visit some of New York's most famous landmarks.

Below centre: TV presenter, Mylene Klass, congratulates the boys on their outstanding success, at a ceremony in the Culloden Hotel, Antrim.



## News Round-Up:

### Karios Retreat: ANNUAL RETREAT GETS A THUMBS UP FROM LOWER SIXTH PUPILS

Three days off school to have some craic with your friends. What could be more appealing? On the Wednesday morning we were scheduled to depart, there was a great feeling of anticipation rippling over us. Despite the fact that it was supposed to be a three day religious retreat it was still a three day religious retreat with mates.

When we finally arrived after a bus journey of an hour and a half to Larne, we were greeted with open arms by Bishop John McAreavey. Of course this was greeted with typical grunts and moans from your typical teenage lads "Aw no- the Bishop- three days of mass for us!" But we couldn't have been more wrong in that prediction. Bishop John was a warm and welcoming man who was always up for a laugh. As soon as we entered the building we were told to come for tea and biscuits. Tea and biscuits? This place can't be so bad! After our light refreshments we began our retreat. The details of it are confidential. But all I can say is that by Friday there was a cloud of disappointment as we knew we were leaving the place and returning to our normal lives. I learnt that a retreat isn't all to do with praying, singing hymns, or being "Holy Joes". This retreat was about establishing a bond with our friends through the presence of God. I know I feel that God brought us all together as friends. Kairos was an amazing experience - which no words can describe fully. You need to experience it for yourself.

A Student in Lower Sixth.



### Poster Competition: DYLAN'S WORK INCLUDED IN COUNCIL'S CALENDAR



Dylan Trainor (Donard 2) has had his work selected to feature in the Schools' Environmental Calendar, 2009. The competition is run by Newry and Mourne District Council to raise awareness of environmental issues. Dylan's creative design promoted natural energy with its theme of wind turbines generating energy for our everyday lives. Dylan was presented with his certificate and £50 voucher at a special prize giving event held in the Sean Hollywood Arts Centre on Monday 17th November. Congratulations to Dylan and well done to all other students who took part in the competition.

### Damian is bound for Oxford

While Damian McParland was packing his bags to go to Oxford University and study Law having received five A grades in his August results, he also recently received more good news when CCEA contacted the Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar and indicated that he had been ranked as a top achiever in Northern Ireland in two of his A level subjects. Damian came Joint 2nd in A Level English Literature and 2nd in A Level History. Damian's History teacher, Dr Arthur McDonnell described him 'as a pleasure to teach'.



Included in the photograph congratulating Damian with Mr Dermot McGovern, Headmaster, are his English teachers during his two years; Mr Mel McMahon (Head of English), Mr Gerald Morgan, Ms Annelise Reynolds and Mrs Patricia Hanlon. Martin Davidson was also ranked 3rd place in Northern Ireland in A Level Spanish and has started his Law and Spanish Degree course in Queen's University, Belfast.

### I AM A COUNCILLOR, GET ME OUTTA HERE!

Some of you may have heard of "I am a celebrity get me out of here". But have you heard of "I am a councillor get me out of here"? If not, this is sort of what happens.

Every year in October, an event is run which lets people under the age of eighteen ask different questions, of their local councillors, which affect their daily life, such as the provision of a skate park or a swimming pool in their area. The idea is to get them involved in politics. The different councillors write back to you and hopefully you get the response you hoped for. Then you vote for the person you want to win. Almost every council in the UK is in it.

This year in LLW, we got involved in "I am a councillor get me out of here." When I found out what you could do, I was on cloud 9 because I love politics and I think that councillors don't listen to young people. So when he was given the passwords to get on the site, I was thinking what I could ask with my partner, Colin. But then we got a password each, which I thought was better, because I could ask what I wanted and did not have to ask Colin. So I went on to the site and saw the Lord Mayor of Newry and Mourne, Colman Burns, and a DUP, SDLP and Sinn Féin councillor plus an international section with people from America, Taiwan, Zimbabwe and Finland. I started to ask different questions about such topics as: the possibility of getting lights on my road; the fights in Zimbabwe; the Credit Crunch; what education is like in different countries and what other countries are like. Then I had to vote every day and in the end the Mayor and the councillor from Taiwan won. I was happy the Mayor won but I was looking for the American councillor to win because I love America, too.

Then a few weeks later, I was told I had won and I got a £20 book voucher for WH Smith. I could not believe it. I was then told I had to go up to the council offices and have a photo with the Mayor. When the day came Mr Morgan took me up to council offices. I thought the place was very big and I was told to go into the Mayor's office to wait for him. I didn't mind because there was coke and biscuits there. A few minutes later he came in and we had a chat and then we went downstairs and got a photo taken and he gave me a portable DVD player. I didn't know I was getting it. We then went back to the room and had tea and biscuits. He was very good craic. We talked about the US election and about the Halloween concert, X-factor and more stuff. Then it was time to leave and I was mad because I was enjoying myself and he said he would try to get me up to the offices for a day after Christmas and gave me more things such as pens. I truly enjoyed my time and thought it really was worth my time and I understand my local council better.

By Conor Hayes, Breffni 3

## New School Project:

# 'NEW ABBEY' BEGINS TO TAKE SHAPE

*Niall Burns, Donard 3, gets a Bird's Eye View of the New School*

Third year pupil, Niall Burns, got the opportunity to fly over the site of the New School earlier this year and took some amazing pictures of the work being done. Slí na Mainistreach is proud to display some of the best images, which illustrate the layout of the new site and the location of the new playing fields. Well done, Niall, and thank you.



*Present Staff visit the new site*



## Seeing is Believing

**During the Halloween break the entire staff of the Abbey CBS spent an afternoon visiting the Castlewen site of the new Abbey CBS, Grammar School. The staff was divided into groups and given a tour of the existing project, approximately one year since its commencement.**

During the last ten years the staff has been immersed in the belief and concept of the new school. As the years slipped past even the most zealous supporters began to doubt if the project would even get off the ground. Indeed, even the appearance of a steelwork structure on the horizon last Christmas, failed to convince many of the staff that at last progress was being made.

However, the Halloween visit completely altered their views and a new atmosphere was breathed into their thinking - an atmosphere of 'seeing is believing'.

The immediate impression for the staff was the size of the school structure and the size of the site. Viewing the project on site, rather than viewing it on an architect's drawing on the staff room notice-board, was a major shock. Far away on the horizon they saw the floodlight pylons which surround the 3G synthetic pitch, while all around the school acres of fresh green grass marked the remaining grass playing areas already set out.

On approaching the school the staff was able to appreciate the major design features at the front of the new building. Two independent pillars support an angled extension over the three levels of the school. On the ground floor is the stained-glass finish to the Oratory while on the floors above rest the total glass walls of the teachers' staff room and, above that, the school library. As the visitors stood in these rooms they were able to appreciate the size

and wonderful views allowed over the eastern side of the town.

Next they visited the open courtyard feature in the centre of the school. This open space, completely surrounded by the inside walls of the building, will create a restful and contemplative area for pupils and staff alike. The Abbey Staff walked along the corridors where their classrooms and resource areas are housed and marvelled at the extent of the project. They returned to their existing school and began to plan with fresh enthusiasm the workings of their departments in September 2009. No one doubted. They came, they saw, they believed.

Since that day at the end of October progress at the school has continued at a fast pace. All the remaining steelwork for the completed building has been erected. Major construction tasks such as site works, brickwork, roofing and electrical installation continues daily. At the same time the school management and staff are planning the detailed fitting-out for the new building.

The selection and placement of inter-active white-boards and data projectors have been settled; the quality and colours of floorings and walls throughout the whole building has been decided; the groupings and locations of extra computer areas has been settled; the types and quality of the fitness machines for the large fitness suite have been selected and the quality and extent of the communication and sound systems throughout the school are almost complete.

As we enter a new year of 2009 the major considerations to complete this huge project are in hand. All the groups involved: headmaster, management, staff, pupils, parents and sponsors, are now looking forward with great expectation to September when the new Abbey CBS Grammar School will be officially opened.



# Zambian Immersion Project 2009: WORK BEGINS ON THE LATEST PROJECT

The **Zambian Immersion Project 2009 will take place from the 25th March to the 12th April. For the first time seventh years will be allowed to go to Zambia as a trial. This means that for future projects, every student in the Abbey may have a chance of experiencing life out in Zambia.**

The group that will head out to Livingstone will consist of four teachers and ten students. The teachers that will be going are: Mr. Grogan, Mr. Evans, Mr. McGivern and Mrs. McKernan. The ten students that have been chosen to travel out to Zambia with the teachers are: Andrew Fitzsimons, Keith Sloan, Jack Gilsenan, David Heatley, Niall McCartan, James Morgan, Oliver Hearty, Jarlath McAteer, David Digney and Feargal Murphy.

The group of fourteen officially met for the first time on the 1st October. Since then, there have been meetings every week and sometimes more. In these meetings the group discuss the practical issues of travelling to a developing country like Zambia and talk about possible fundraising events and about how money should be spent over in Zambia. There were many fundraising events that took place involving over twenty boys in sixth year and on behalf of The Zambian Immersion Project, we would like to say thanks. Such fundraising events involved a bed push from Rostrevor to Warrenpoint and back again. This was organised by Feilim O'Connor and there was well over £1000 raised. Special thanks should also go to Killian Feehan who was able to donate malaria tablets to the Zambian Immersion Project.

Over the summer Andrew Fitzsimons and Niall McCartan did a charity run and raised around £1000. Jarlath McAteer went around doors and also did a charity carwash and raised a large sum of money. David Heatley did a 24 hour fast over the summer while Oliver Hearty was able to raise over £4000. Jack Gilsenan held a tennis competition in Warrenpoint. Keith Sloan held a very successful table quiz in Bellinis as did David Digney and Feargal Murphy in the Canal Court.

The inception of the project in 2002, a total of twenty five students and eight teachers have been to Livingstone. The difference this has made to lives, both to the privileged and the needy, cannot be fully comprehended by anyone without first-hand experience of the project's effects - in fact, the importance of first-hand experience is a fundamental feature of the project. The hope that the experience of life for the world's most disadvantaged people will change the outlook of everyone fortunate enough to be involved is the cornerstone of the project. Abbey boys return from Zambia with a renewed energy to work for change, with a deeper understanding of what must be done to bring justice to developing nations, and, in the furthest-reaching effect of the experience, the boys brought their enthusiasm and knowledge back into the school and local community.

Two ex-student Zambian participants along with Mr Grogan, returned to Zambia during the summer of 2007 as a follow up to the Immersion project. The summer programme involved workshops which gave a chance to reflect on the reasons behind the poverty and marginalisation encounter and explored questions in relation to their faith.



During that time they had the privilege of opening the refurbishment of a local school, Libuyu Community School, where Abbey boys all taught. This school was practically in ruins with huge holes in the roof and poor teaching conditions. The cost to refurbish this school was £15,000 and the money was raised by the Abbey Community here in Newry. It was an honour for them to cut the ribbon and officially open the school which is now twinned with the Abbey. We have a plaque up on the wall to mark the occasion. The children who attend this school, now have a school to be proud of and, more importantly, one in which they can become educated. Education was identified by the United Nations as one of the millennium goals and the Abbey surely now stand proud to have fulfilled this goal.

This was only possible because of previous fundraising efforts. In order to continue this work it is very important that this latest Zambian Immersion

## EU Mock Council 2008

Well done to Daniel Sutherland, Niall O'Donnell and Christopher Cunningham (Year 14 students) for their horse-trading in the EU Mock Council debates. The British Council Northern Ireland in partnership with the Northern Ireland European Commission Office organised the debates in October in Stormont's Long Gallery with Jane Morrice (NI representative on the European Economic and Social Committee) as chair. It was an impressive line up with 28 schools from Northern Ireland, England and Ireland participating. The Abbey represented Malta on topical issues such as climate change, GMOs and food safety, immigration and the integration of migrants. As in a real Council of the European Union debate students used qualified majority voting (QMV) and worked towards achieving a consensus on key issues. One topic however was rejected, the motion that nuclear energy was the answer to the EU's energy problems. An edited video of the day's proceedings can be viewed at: [www.britishcouncil.org/nireland](http://www.britishcouncil.org/nireland)



Jane Morrice (Chair), Niall, Christopher, Daniel and Maurice Maxwell (European Commission NI)

Project gets as much help as possible with its fundraising events. Up and coming events include bag packing in Super Value, Dunnes Stores and Sainsbury's. Also, the Immersion team is heading to George Best International Airport to fundraise. The Zambian Immersion team has also introduced the Bro. Byrne's tradition of going round form classes every Friday morning. Thanks to the entire school population, over £500 has been raised so far. Also, The Zambian Immersion Project presented the new James Bond movie, 'Quantum of Solace' on 1st November and this fundraising event raised around £700.

On behalf of The Zambian Immersion Project we would appreciate as much help as possible with fundraising events. Every small bit in Zambia will go a very long way!

The Zambian Immersion Team 2009.



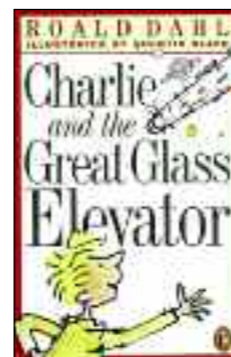
## Art News: Lorcan shows his 'True Colours'

In 2007 Lorcan Daly's work was selected at GCSE level for the CCEA "True Colours" Exhibition which was showcased in February 2008. His work was chosen along with a select number of other students as an example of some of the best student art work throughout the North of Ireland. This, in itself, is a tremendous achievement.

Representatives from the Arts Society of Ulster attend the exhibition each year and choose a winner and runner up from the work exhibited at GCSE, AS & A2 Level. As a result Lorcan's work was selected as Runner-up at GCSE Level. His work has since been displayed at the 12th Annual Exhibition of the Arts Society of Ireland which was previewed on Friday 29th August. Lorcan was presented with a certificate and a cheque. It was a very prestigious event with established contemporary artists such as Neil Shawcross and Bill Gatt in attendance. Congratulations Lorcan on this fantastic achievement.



# Reading Week: Lots of Variety as Pupils Focus on Reading



**Book:** Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator.  
**Author:** Roald Dahl  
**Publisher:** Puffin  
**Date of Publication:** September 1972  
**Other Books:** Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, George's Marvellous Medicine and The Witches.  
**Plot:** This book is a sequel to another one of Roald Dahl's famous books Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. It starts immediately after the end of the last book where Charlie and his grandfather Joe are in a completely see-through glass elevator which has just blasted through the roof of Willie Wonka's chocolate factory. He has just picked up his family and instead of flying around the world they end up orbiting the Earth from space.

While they are floating in space they come across a huge spacecraft. This spacecraft is actually a space hotel. When they board the hotel with a crew from another space vehicle they come across some aliens, who are called 'knids' by Willie Wonka. These aliens are vicious creatures because they devour some of the unsuspecting crew members. They all decide to run away from the hotel so they jump into the glass elevator and escape at a high speed.

The 'knids' follow but when they return back to Earth they burn up in the atmosphere. They safely escape and land back in the chocolate factory garden.

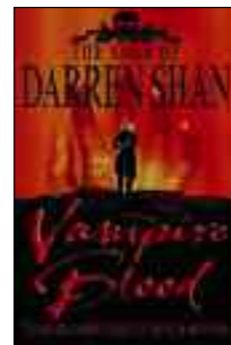
Main characters: Charlie, Grandpa Joe, Willie Wonka, Mum, Dad and Grandma Georgina.

Most interesting incident: The most interesting incident in the book was when they were trying to escape from the 'knids'. The intelligent use of the glass elevator enabled them to trap many aliens which then caused them to burn up in the Earth's atmosphere as they re-entered the planet. This is my favourite bit in the book because it is a mix between humour, excitement and tension themes.

Who I'd recommend this book to: I would recommend this book to young teenagers because it is humorous and has a lot of amusing characters.

**Rating:** 10/10.

By Brendan Keenan.



**Book:** The Saga of Darren Shan: Vampire Blood  
**Author:** Darren Shan  
**Date of Publication:** 2003  
**Plot:** Darren Shan, a young teenage boy, leads a very normal life, but not for long. One day, during school, his best friend, Steve Leonard (most commonly referred to as Steve Leopard); discovers two tickets to a circus. Darren agrees to go with him. Whilst at the circus they realise it is not a normal one. It is a Cirque Du Freak. (A circus where people with abnormal talents perform.)

The show goes quite well until Von Horston and his spider enter on stage to perform their act. Steve immediately recognises him as a vampire, called Mr. Crepsley. At the end of the show Steve pleads with Mr. Crepsley to blood him as a vampire. Mr. Crepsley refuses, saying that Steve is evil. Darren hears everything. He bravely walks home scared for his life. He really likes spiders, so he conducts a plan to steal Madam Octa (Mr. Crepsley's spider.)

He executes the plan perfectly and hides the spider in his cupboard. Steve visits Darren's house and joins him in his room, to discover the spider. Things go terribly wrong as Madam Octa bites Steve, giving him only days to live (as they were told at the show.) With desperate measures, Darren negotiates with Mr. Crepsley to save Steve, but Darren must become Mr. Crepsley's assistant as a half-vampire. He accepts; Steve is saved and Darren fakes his death. Mr. Crepsley digs him out of the grave and they wander into the darkness.

They wander aimlessly across England from city to city helping Mr. Crepsley drink blood. Eventually they end up at the Cirque Du Freak performing. All is peaceful, with Darren making two friends, Evra Von, a snake boy, and Sam Grest.

Late, one night, a year after joining the Cirque M r. Crepsley is informed of a mad vampeneze murdering in Mr. Crepsley's home town. (Vampeneze are blood cousins to the vampires. They broke away from the vampire clan many centuries ago. There has been peace between the two communities; vampires ignoring the fact that vampeneze kill when they drink.)

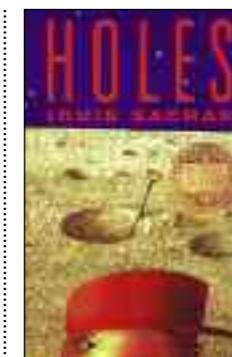
Mr. Crepsley, Darren and Evra immediately set off to find Murlough the mad vampeneze. Evra gets kidnapped, but in the end Mr. Crepsley kills Murlough.

**Main Characters:** Darren Shan features in a major part in the book. During the first few chapters he hates Mr. Crepsley for stealing away his life. He acts childishly and feels sorry for himself. As the book progresses he becomes more responsible for his actions and looks out for his friends.

Mr. Crepsley experiences the same emotions during the book. He gets irritated very easily and admits to Darren that he only blooded him to make him suffer. Murlough, the mad vampeneze, stars an important role in the book. Without him there would be no dramatic finish. He is a ruthless killer showing no remorse for the people he kills. He is cunning and clever even if he is mad and exploits weaknesses in his enemies.

**Rating:** I'd rate this book 9 out of 10.

By Niall McCann



**Book:** Holes  
**Author:** Louis Sachar  
**Publisher:** Collins Readers

**Storyline:** Stanley Yelnuts is a normal boy, until he is accused of stealing a baseball legend's shoes, Clyde Livingston's. Stanley comes from a poor family and is offered time in jail or 18 months in Camp Green Lake. Stanley has never had the money to go to a camp, so he goes there thinking it will be all fun and games, but it is far from it as he has to dig holes 5ft in depth and width. On the way there he meets some new friends including Zig-Zag, X-ray, Armpit, Squid, Magnet and Zero. The fact that all the boys have nicknames means that they give Stanley one -

Caveman.

Stanley goes on exciting adventures and gets into mischief and blames everything on his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather.

**Rating:** 9/10

**Favourite part:** When Stanley gets his justice

**Least Favourite Part:** When the Warden Threatens Zero

**Other Books By this author:** Small Steps and A Guide to Camp Green Lake By Stanley Yelnuts.

**The Enforcers:** The Warden, Mr. Sir and Mr. Pendanski.

**About Camp Green Lake:** It is a nine hour drive from civilization

And it is very hot. There is a room for the boys to just 'chill out' it is called 'The rec-room'. 'rec' means recreation but you would think it means wreck as the room is trashed. They also have a 'library'; this is where they keep their shovels. The boys get fed warm food all the time, even the milk is warm; and to the far side of Camp Green Lake there is a little log cabin. Beside this cabin there are two oak trees which are the only shade in the whole lake. The Warden lives here. The boys stay in tents with seven beds per tent which are all one foot apart.

Stanley's tent is Group D.

By Michael McClorey, Breffini 2.



## The Spirit of the Bog

This is a short book about two cousins visiting their Grandma's house. Arty is the main character in this book; Susy and Grandma Kate are alongside Arty for the rest of the book.

Arty gets a bus to the bottom of the road which leads to Grandma Kate's house. He then begins to walk up the long windy road looking deep into the forest alongside it; as he does this a shiver runs down his spine but what he does not know is that this shiver will not leave him for a very long time.

Finally he reaches the end of the road and peers up and sees Grandma Kate's house. Susy, Arty's cousin, butts in ignorantly and says: "I never knew you were coming too". His Grandma comes down and gives them a hug and is delighted to see both her grandchildren. To settle them both down Grandma Kate takes them both down to the bog which is all around her house to show them a rather strange tree. Grandma Kate is a wildlife artist and lives in a small cottage.

When Arty sees a tree the same shiver runs down his spine. He explores the bog while Grandma Kate and Susy sketch the tree. He jumps on a wonky piece of earth beside a river and hears a hissing sound. He looks down to see that there are a lot of bubbles around him.

Susy then comes over with her wrinkled piece off paper and throws it into the bog; she sees and hears what Arty experienced too.

They both run to Grandma Kate. She suggests they are imagining things and takes them both to the cottage for dinner.

They eat their dinner, look at a photo album and switch on the telly. They flick through the channels and come across superman!

Just as they settle down a huge storm breaks out and the electricity goes to a halt.

They go to the kitchen, look for some candles, and then a huge bolt of lightning ploughs down and Arty thinks he sees darting, flickering shapes outside. Grandma Kate and Susy ignore him and disagree. They find the candles and go to the phone; there is no hope as the phone is dead too.

Arty and Susy are scared so Grandma Kate takes them both into bed with her.

They fall asleep but later that night Arty awakens. When he hears the sound of breaking glass, he wakes up Grandma Kate and Susy. They hear it too so Grandma Kate says: "You two, wait here: Whoever is down there wouldn't like an ex-camogie's whack of a hurling stick now would they?".

Arty and Susy wait for a very long time then they think it might be the shapes that Arty saw outside earlier. They both put on their clothes and just as they are doing this they hear that same hissing noise in the hallway. They open the door and run down the hallway and to a shocking surprise come to a wide-open back door. They run out and find another surprise, Grandma Kate's hurling bat is lying on the grass!

By Steven Rodgers, Slemish 2.

News from around the School:



**FLUENT IRISH SPEAKERS PRESENTED WITH AWARDS**

Pictured here are the members of the Irish department in the Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School: Mr. Maurice Mc Kevitt; Mr. Sean Gallagher; Mrs Pauline McClean and Mr. Desmond Tennyson with the winners of the annual Abbey Oral Awards for the most fluent speakers of Irish in each year group. Also in the photograph is the Vice-Principal, Mr Paul O'Shea.

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 Connaoadh Quinn.

The second year trophy (Méabh agus an Donn Chuaighe) dedicated to the late Mr. Patrick Arthur Crinion, a former teacher of Irish and the Classics, was awarded to Paul Hearty.

The third year trophy (Corn Durkin) dedicated to the late Matt Durkin, was awarded to Michael McKay. 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 Gaeilgeoiri 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 Scoilrámaíochta an Iúir, was jointly awarded to Stephen Doherty and Conor P O'Neill.

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 jointly awarded to John-Benedict Farrell and Turlough Tinnelly.

The sixth year trophy (An Lóchrann) dedicated to Mr. Hugh Murphy, Lislea poet and former Head of Irish, was awarded to Cathal MacDhaibhéid.

The award for the best 'Gaelscoláire'(An Lóchrann Beag), was awarded to Tiarnán Jackson.

High Flyers Congratulated:



Mr Dermot McGovern, Headmaster, congratulates three pupils that have been ranked in the top three places at GCSE in Northern Ireland. Included are: Sean Rooney (Joint 3rd GCSE German), Patrick Gallogly (1st GCSE History), with his teacher Mrs Mildred Rooney, Daniel McCullagh (3rd GCSE Modular Mathematics), with his teacher Miss Karen Murphy and Head of Mathematics, Mrs Sinead Burns.

**SLEMISH TWO HAVE BEEN CROWNED SECOND YEAR CLASS OF THE YEAR 2008**

They managed to hold off a very strong Challenge from both Oriel and Iveagh. The competition was run over eight weeks with pupils gaining points and losing points for various academic and non- academic achievements. Iveagh Two's Michael Rogers explains how the competition was organised.

This year Mr Gallagher set up a competition for all the second year classes. Every second year Abbey pupil had to perform to the best of their ability. Iveagh, Oriel, Donard, Slemish and Breffni had to work to their best, as a class.

It is run on a points basis. You can gain points by having a good class referral to your Year Head. You have to be quiet at all times and everyone in the class has to show that they have worked hard to get a good class referral. Another way to gain points is by getting the highest class averages in tests. E.g. Irish. The people who think they aren't good at orals or writing tests just have to revise and try harder so the usual class average can be raised so that you have a chance of getting the highest average of all the second year classes.

Another way to gain points when an individual or a few people from a class win an award or take part in the choir which sing in mass. You can lose points as well as gain them. You can lose them by getting a form teacher detention which is on a Tuesday detention or a Thursday detention or by getting a Year Head detention which is on a Friday detention. You can also lose points by being suspended by the Headmaster or the Vice Principal. You can lose more points if some one in your class is put on a white card, yellow card a red card .Another way to lose points is by getting a bad class referral. If some one in a particular class- or maybe the whole class- is not behaving, or not showing there best ability because of laziness, they will be reported to their year head and points will be deducted from that class.

At the end of it all the class with the most points gets the hall for the whole afternoon and they get to do what they desire. In my opinion this is a great idea for pupils to improve because their class mates will be encouraging them and pupils see this as, "you work hard, you get rewarded well."

Science:



Mr Dermot McGovern (Headmaster) and Dr Sean Fee (Head of Science) congratulate three Abbey Grammar pupils on their recent achievements. In August Ryan Walsh attended the Space Science Gifted & Talented Summer School held at Imperial College London. Throughout the one week course he entered into the Chemistry strand which allowed him to work in a team with other people from all over the world, including China. The course included practical work at University level. Ryan was also successful last year at the European Kickboxing Championships where he achieved both second and third place. This year he attended the World Kickboxing Championships in Italy where he managed to reach the quarter finals. At both competitions he fought with fighters across the globe.

Also in the photograph are Gerard Grimes and Sean Cunningham who were highly Commended in the Royal Society of Chemistry Five-decade Exam Challenge (June) 2008. Gerard and Sean sat a three hour Chemistry examination. The purpose of the competition was to compare the standard of Chemistry at GCSE/"O-Level" over the last five decades.

Young Enterprize:

**SIXTH YEARS ENCOURAGE PUPILS TO 'STUFF IT!'**



This year the Abbey is entering another excellent team into the Young Enterprise Company project. The project is a competition with an aim to give young people a true experience of business, by allowing them to run a business themselves. The business is real and will have real success or real losses.

This year the business idea is based on an old fashioned second hand shop. But there's a twist; instead of buying your old stuff we sell it for you and we take a small commission.

The company, this year, is run by nine directors:

- Managing Director - Jamie Campbell
- Company Secretary - Niall Burke
- Sales director - Eoin Colgan

- IT Director - Ronan Kearney
- Co Marketing Directors - Ryan Lonergan - Mark Poland
- Finance Director - Peter Rice
- Operations Director - Eoghan O'Brian
- Human Resources Director- Conor Heaney

We started selling in M7 at break time on Monday 8th of December. The company provided pupils with a real opportunity to get rid of any unwanted stuff! We remain happy to try and sell anything that we think is of good quality.

Many pupils have already bought the majority of their Christmas presents from our collection of items and it's still rolling in.

We guarantee that our second-hand games are cheaper than buying them new and they're all tested so you are sure of quality!

Basketball:

**REGIONAL FINAL A BRIDGE TOO FAR**

Last year saw the return of competitive basketball to the school. Despite much hard work by pupils and coaches the first year team was the only team to have real success. Since September both the under 19 and 16 teams have been battling for places in two competitions the cup and the league.

**Cup Competitions:**  
Unfortunately, the Under 19 team was beaten early on in the competition and exited in the 2nd round. The Under 16 team fought well and made it to the All-Ireland quarter final, they where were to meet their rivals from last year St Columb's, Derry. They were beaten by the better team on the day and while Derry moved on to the semi-final the Abbey turned their attentions to the league.

**League Competition:**  
The under 19 team won only one of their games in the league this year with two others finishing on very close scores. All the players worked and trained hard, winning praise from coaches from other schools. The under 16 team was much more successful this year; being beaten only once gave them a place in the regional (Ulster) final. On Wednesday the 3rd of December the team, along with Mrs McClean, travelled to St Malachy's College in Belfast to play in the Ulster Final. The boys were to play a team who had already beaten them once: St Columb's, Derry. There was a



great atmosphere at the match, with both teams determined to win.

The first quarter of the game finished on an even score, but the Abbey was in a bit of trouble with the number of fouls committed. By the end of the second quarter the Abbey was down by six baskets. In the third quarter the Abbey was down by twenty-six points. After a quick time out talk, the Abbey went

out fighting in the fourth quarter and came back to within eight points. Luck, however, was not on our side and Derry managed to score two three pointers in a row. The Abbey held on but lost the game 42-28. Adrian Fullerton, the regional development officer for basketball in Ulster, presented the boys with their silver medals. The players fought hard and have vowed to come back next year and take home gold.



Eugene finally has something to complain about!

**SEVENTH YEARS GO PAINTBALLING**



The heat of the battle.



Lucky escape for Christopher.

# FAVOURITES, DUNGANNON, END ABBEY'S RANNAFAST DREAM

Abbey's ambitions to win their first Rannafast Cup crown since 1990 were ended by St. Pat's, Dungannon, in the County Tyrone village of Eglish on Saturday 15th November. The semi final was played in near perfect conditions and the comprehensive manner of the eventual Rannafast Champions' victory did not do justice to the wonderful campaign that saw the Abbey overcome some of the best school teams in Ulster Colleges' Football.

## OFF TO A GOOD START.

This year's campaign got under way in early September against competition new boys, St. Michael's of Lurgan. St Michael's were managed by former Abbey Technology teacher, Mr. Brian Taggart.

Despite an early scare, when Abbey trailed their Lurgan counterparts by three points, the Courtenay Hill boys took control of the second half and rattled in two goals- the first from Óisín Lynch and the second a superb solo effort from Rory Keenan. The signs were good in this opening game with all six Abbey forwards getting their name on the score sheet. The game finished with a score line of Abbey 2-10, St. Michael's Lurgan 0-11.

## Excellent First Half Display Lays the Foundations for 2nd Victory:

Next up for the Abbey were their traditional foes, St. Patrick's, Maghera. The Abbey got off to a flying start in this game, registering 1-3 without reply in the opening six minutes. Rory Keenan was again the hero for the Abbey, netting in the third minute. Further points from team captain, Fergal Mc Evoy and Óisín Lynch cemented the Abbey's advantage. As expected, Maghera produced a second half fight back but some fine goal keeping from Conor Hanna and a point each from fourth Year students, Damien Mc Keown and Ciaran Mc Cartan, settled the Abbey's collective nerves and made it two wins out of two. The final score was Abbey 1-11, St. Pat's Maghera 1-8.

## Third Win on the Trot Sends Abbey Sailing into the Quarter Final.

This Abbey team went in to this game with their confidence sky high having won back-to-back competitive games for the first time since joining the school five years ago. Armagh, captained by rising star, Jack Mc Geary, looked on paper to be too strong for the Abbey but a scoring spree from the Abbey's forwards made sure that they would be advancing to the quarter finals as group winners, with their unbeaten run intact. By the time Damien Mc Keown found the Armagh net the game was already over as a contest. Fergal Mc Evoy, Ciaran Mc Cartan, Óisín Lynch and Crossmaglen man, Callum Cumisky, each registered two points, while Rory Keenan finished this game with a personal tally of six points. Final Score: Abbey 1-15 and Armagh 2-3.

## QUARTER FINAL ENDS IN A CONTROVERSIAL DRAW.

The team's first appearance in the knock-out stages was unforgettable. Paired with the reigning Brock Cup Champions, St. Mary's, Magherafelt, many observers felt that this would prove a step too far for this developing Abbey team. The first half was



a tight affair. The Abbey dominated possession but were nervous in front of goal. Magherafelt seemed to be having the rub of the green and scored a very fortuitous goal to level the contest at half time 0-5 to 1-2. The second half, however, will be remembered as one of the most nail biting and controversial in the history of football in the Abbey. Magherafelt started in whirlwind fashion and found themselves seven points up going in to the last ten minutes. Then came the comeback to rival the unforgettable Mac Rory Final in 2006. Free taker, Rory Keenan, kept Abbey in touch with a free kick and Piaras Murdock kicked his first point of the campaign. With three minutes remaining, Abbey still looked dead and buried but Rory Keenan's rasping shot put the Abbey in touching distance of their illustrious opponents. With the game now entering injury time, Callum Cumisky was introduced as a sub and sent the ball crashing to the back of the Magherafelt net with practically his first touch. Although Magherafelt replied with a point from a free kick, it appeared as if the Abbey had won the game. In the chaotic scenes that followed the final whistle it became clear that the Abbey had in fact drawn the game. The referee had mistakingly given the managers the wrong score during the second half.

## NO MISTAKE SECOND TIME AROUND.

The replay took place a week later in Kileeshil. Again, the Abbey made a solid start, with Lorcan Quinn and Piaras Murdock dominating the midfield sector again. The Abbey lads were determined not to let their opportunity slip this time, and powered past Magherafelt with a clinical second half display. The game finished on a score line of Abbey 1-12, Magherafelt 0-8. Conor Mc Kinley sealed the victory with a fine goal ten minutes from time. The only sour note was the last minute injury to half back, Patrick Burns, who had been outstanding in defence all year. A hefty tackle resulted in Patrick breaking his arm and missing the semi final.

## BEATEN BY A BETTER TEAM.

With thoughts turning to the possibility of an unlikely piece of silverware for the Abbey, the Rannafast dream came to a crushing halt when competition favourites, Dungannon, produced an exhibition of football to win the semi-final on a scoreline of 3-12 to 2-8. As expected, the Abbey battled gamely, and all over the field every player battled to the final whistle but it was clear that Dungannon were simply a better team and headed to the final (which they went on to win comfortably) with the best wishes of their Abbey counterparts.

# 1959 MAC RORY WINNERS TO RELIVE THEIR DAY IN THE SUN



The Abbey Past Pupils Sports Association is organising a special dance and cabaret in the Carrickdale Hotel on Saturday 7th March 2009. Special guests on the night will be the 1959 MacRory cup winners who will be celebrating the 50th occasion of their success. This promises to be a very enjoyable night and it is hoped that as many as possible will attend. Tickets may be ordered through the school or contact Aidan O'Rourke, Colin Bell or Joe Hughes.