



THE ABBEY *Way*

Shane Wins First Prize in the Texaco Art Competition



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The Class of 2010 are the First to Graduate from the Castleowen Site



On Friday 07th May we celebrated our first Leavers' Graduation Ceremony from our new Castleowen site.

This was an important event in our school calendar, not least because our students had spent six and a half years on Courtenay Hill so this was their second farewell to a school and its community which had given them so many memories over the last seven years of their lives.

On behalf of the whole staff we hope they will leave our school community with a sense of pride and hope, with healthy memories of everything they have become and dreams of what they are about to become. We hope they remember that it is the people around them, who have, and will make each of them who they are, and we encourage them to cherish every opportunity, experience and challenge that comes in their way from this day on. Believe in yourselves, set yourself targets and become who you want to be!

C Mc Grath

(Seventh Form Year Tutor)



Pictured above are outgoing school council members: Darren Loye and Mike McGovern (Back row) with their colleagues JB Farrell (Head Boy) and Peter Rice

Learning for Life and Work

Firestorm Visit by Newry Fire and Rescue Service

Four weeks before Halloween, we began the Firestorm project in Learning for Life and Work. In the project, we learned about fire safety, arson and hoax calls. In the sub-topic of fire safety, we discovered that our homes are not as safe from fires as many of us had expected. We were taught about how leaving doors open in the house is extremely dangerous if a fire did break out. We then created an escape plan for our homes so that we could use them in case of a fire in our houses. We then learned about how the people who are trying to save humans in an emergency are being attacked on their way to a fire. We then looked at the next topic: arson. An

arson fire is when a fire is started on purpose. This project prepared us for the visit from firefighters from The Newry Fire Service on May 21st.

The firefighters that came to speak to us reinforced the information that we had already obtained. They showed us a video on how quickly a fire could start after ash had not been disposed of properly. After about eighteen minutes, a visible flame ignited and within another eight, the whole room had been engulfed.



I really enjoyed doing the Firestorm project as it gave me a real 'wake-up call' about how easily a fire could begin. I have gained lots of new knowledge and I have learned that a firefighter's job is really hard.

Caolan Magee Br9

Shane Wins the 56th Annual Texaco Art Competition

Art

Despite facing stiff competition from 30,000 other students from across the 32 counties of Ireland, and 433 students from Co. Down, lower sixth year student, Shane Finegan, emerged as winner of the 56th Texaco Children's Art Competition. Shane's still life picture entitled "Mackerel," a study of two fish, won him first prize.

His inspiration came in the form of a plate of shimmering mackerel caught some years ago while fishing with his father, which he recalled and brought back to life using watercolour pencils. "When we pulled them out of the water, the fish gleamed and the colours were so beautiful, I never forgot them."

Commenting on his work, the chairman of the judging panel Professor Declan Mc Gonagle said Shane had exhibited great skill, technique, imagination and maturity in winning the top award against such intense competition, adding that while it was a "quieter" work than some of the other pieces, it was also quite abstract and figurative in its shape, form and colour. Professor McGonagle also said that "Shane's success reflects the emphasis being placed on art teaching at the Abbey Grammar School." "This is seen in the fact that two other Abbey Grammar students, Niall Murchan (seventh year pupil) and Jonathan Taylor (sixth year pupil) each won special merit awards in the same category."



It's the first time in the 56-year history of the competition that the first prize has been won by any school in County Down. Announcing the awards at the reception held in Dublin castle, Enda Riney, chairman of Chevron Ireland Limited, owners of the Texaco brand, described Shane as a talented young artist. He said that his success provides further evidence of the strong artistic talent to be found in our young people, whilst placing him on the honour roll

alongside the many other great Irish artists and designers whose names have featured amongst the award winners in the competition in the course of its 56 year history.

Shane's work will be the star attraction at an exhibition featuring the 161 award-winning paintings from the 56th Texaco Children's Art Competition, in the Ulster Museum, Belfast on Thursday 21st October - Sunday 28th November 2010.

Spelling

Eoin Monaghan Retains his Hardspell Title After a Dramatic Final

A View from the Finalists...

Eoin Monaghan (1v2): Hardspell Winner 2010.

As reigning champion of the prestigious Junior Hardspell, I duly thought there was a lot more pressure on me to repeat my victory! I, like the 14 others, had won my class spelling challenge to represent my fellow classmates in the competition. In the competition, I used two main techniques: most of the time I was picturing the word and trying to remember where I had seen it before and I also sounded each word out phonetically. I continued to look over my spelling list up until a minute before the competition began!

As the competition progressed, the words grew more difficult. I was first up in the sudden death round. When Mr. Mooney gave me the word, at first I was hesitant as to what he had said; however, after he gave me the definition, I spelt it correctly! The other two spellers spelt their words incorrectly which made me the winner! I was so relieved and, of course, delighted that I had won £100! It was a great experience and a fiercely fought competition. Here's hoping I can complete a hat-trick of victories next year!

Rory O'Hare (Br2) : Hardspell 2nd Place 2010. I on the day of the Hardspell competition, I felt nervous at the start, especially with the lights all pointing at us on the stage! But I soon became used to it and any nerves I'd had were gone by the end. I

had done a bit of revision for the Hardspell competition. I had looked over the words on the sheets we had been given and practised them without looking at the sheet. I found most of the words were easy enough but there were a few that were surprisingly difficult!

I enjoyed the Hardspell and, needless to say, my favourite part was when I came 2nd place! I think it would be good to come 1st for once, after coming 2nd two years in a row! Who knows, maybe next year I will steal Eoin Monaghan's crown!

Conor McCann (or3): Hardspell 3rd Place 2010.

This year, I was chosen to participate in the Junior Hardspell Competition. I was amazed at the amount of words that needed to be learned, but, as I went over a few words every night coming up to the competition, it soon became a bit easier! There was a lot of excitement leading up to the competition and, for many, it was a morning off work!

On the day I was looking forward to it and was just hoping that a few words I had difficulty with would not be asked! I became a bit more nervous when I got onto the stage and just took each round one at a time - luckily ending up in the final three! It was disappointing not to win, but I was glad I took part and gained experience from the competition. There was a good atmosphere in the hall and it was definitely a day to remember!



On Tuesday, 4th May 2010, four 1st year students: Ronan Lavery, Nathan Trainor, Brian Smyth and Joseph Poucher, set off to the Waterfront Hall in Belfast to represent The Abbey in The Sunday Times Spelling Bee. Despite fierce competition and X-Factor style pressure, the boys 'kept their cool' and spelt some very difficult words on -stage in a race against the clock! Despite losing to St. Michael's Enniskillen, the boys certainly did The Abbey proud through the sportsmanship they displayed before, during and after the competition. Well done Ronan, Nathan, Brian and Joseph!

Newry school students win award in the National Science & Engineering Competition at The Big Bang Fair

Paul McKeever, Bryan Murphy and Piaras Murphy, students at the Abbey Christian Brothers Grammar School in Newry, have won the overall team prize in the junior age group in the Engineering & Technology Category of this year's annual National Science & Engineering Competition presented at The Big Bang in Manchester. These awards celebrate the hard work and achievements of young people across the whole of the UK.

Paul, Bryan and Piaras' project looked at an innovative automatic braking system for a child's bike. The braking system will control the speed of the bike whilst alerting motorists when the child is slowing down.

Other special awards won at this prestigious event included specially commissioned 'Crest' medals and the Young Engineer for Britain 'Design, Innovation and Presentation Award'. Money won by the pupils for both themselves and their school totalled £1,750-00.

At the awards ceremony, attended by hundreds, Lord Mandelson said: "The winners of the National Science & Engineering Competition are living,

breathing proof that science and engineering in the UK is at the heart of a strong and thriving Britain over the coming decades."

The pupils would like to thank Sentinus for giving them the opportunity to represent Northern Ireland in this National Competition. Sentinus Young Innovators is one of the largest events of its kind in the UK a HYPERLINK "<http://www.sentinus.co.uk/video.php>" and provides a showcase for students to demonstrate the wealth of creativity and innovation which exists in schools and colleges.

Mr Gerald Savage, teacher responsible for the project, travelled with the pupils to Manchester. He said: 'Congratulations to the three pupils on their hard work and success which demonstrated their determination to see the problem of safety on a bicycle through to a successful conclusion'. He also thanked Mr Sean Higgins for his help and support with the project. Sean also travelled to Manchester with the group.

Mr Mc Govern congratulated the boys on their success and thanked Mr Savage in his mentoring role



Technology Department staff and pupils show off their awards

and Mr Sean Higgins for his support. He said: 'The Technology Department has once again shown how it prepares our pupils to be leaders both locally and nationally.'

Quiz Team



In photo from left to right Eoin Monaghan, Daire McAteer, Kevin Gribben & Garbhan McKeivitt (also participated in the quiz John McCaul and Sean Rooney)

In the beginning, it was easy going. We were in the Canal Court, participating in the TCH quiz against long-term rivals St Colman's College as well as Our Lady's. At that point it was plain sailing, as we felt comfortable in our ability to gain a victory, and we did so. It was then time for round two, and we found ourselves again pitted against a local school; this time the Sacred Heart, along with Patrician High, Carrickmacross. In what was a tough, and at times tense quiz, we managed to scrape past Sacred Heart and progress to the third round, this time, in Blackrock. It turned out we were playing Blackrock College in what proved to be the toughest of our matches to date, but with the help of a few fortunate questions; we were able to triumph. We then discovered we had made the quarter final stage of the competition – the final eight. That meant, a trip to Athlone.

Making our way down to Athlone was a task in itself, a very long car journey combined with a very hot day in May didn't make for a comfortable trip. Until then, the process hadn't really fazed me that much, but nerves gradually started to 'kick in' as we arrived at the Little Theatre, Athlone. We waited around for a while, and later took our seats in front of the microphones, fully aware that any embarrassing answers we might give would be broadcast on RTE radio. After the introduction to the host, Ruth Scott, the quiz soon began. It turned out to be the toughest of our quizzes to date as we found ourselves pitted against a very strong side in Presentation College, Athenry. Unfortunately, we weren't able to replicate the success we had early on in the competition, but at the end of the day, it was a truly enjoyable experience, one which I hope to participate in again next year.

Garbhan McKeivitt

This year, second year students, Gavin Fox, Breffni 9, Caolán Magee, Breffni 9, and Shéa Quinn, Oriel 9, entered into the BT Young Scientist of Science and Technology Exhibition in the RDS Dublin on the 12th of January. Their project was called "CPR ASSISTANT", - a blanket with an integrated circuit that helps you through the process of CPR if you are unqualified. It was designed to be used at the time of an accident in the event of the ambulance not having arrived quickly enough. You simply place it on the casualty's chest and perform CPR correctly. The project took three and half months to develop and successfully make. The boys spent a lot of time after school doing work on the project; after it was completed, they had the school nurse and a qualified CPR instructor try it out on a practice dummy. During the competition the Abbey boys went through four rounds of judging, one every day, except for the last when there were two. We successfully won the IMB Award (Irish Medicine Board) and were



l to r: Shéa Quinn, Gavin Fox, and Caolán Magee pictured at the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition

also awarded second in our category which was the junior group in technology. Over the whole event there were general public interested in our project.

Junior Challenge Quiz Winners

We began practising for this quiz before Easter. This was a '1st on the buzzer quiz' and different from the table quiz we did in 1st year. We practised using the buzzers in teams, which varied from day to day and got us used to the buzzers. This happened at lunchtimes and nearer the time we stayed after school. We were each told to revise our 'specialist subjects' for the quiz.

The 3rd of June came around and we only had to walk down past the all weather pitch to the Sacred Heart for the quiz. After the draw we were lucky to get a bye through to the semi-finals. In our quarter-final St. Colman's beat Coleraine Inst. by quite a margin and so we were to play our old adversaries in the semi-final.

A lot of the early questions were shared between the two schools, but eventually we began to get a lot of the bonus questions correct, and we always seemed to be a split second faster than the college. In the end we won with a comfortable score of 790-450.

The Sacred Heart had won the other semi-final, and the questions we knew were going to be harder in the final, so we took our seats apprehensively for our final match. We got off to a good start, getting the starter and all three bonuses correct on a couple of occasions, and after ten minutes we had a fifty points lead. The scores were very close for the remainder of the quiz with both teams proving they



(l to r: Ross Torley, Brendan Hopkins, Ardghal MacMahon, James McKeivitt, Eoin Monaghan)

deserved to be in the final. With two minutes left, the Sacred Heart got two correct starters questions. However, they only got one bonus question right in each one. Then as Mr Gamble called 15 seconds, Sacred Heart got an answer right, and another bonus question. "That's it" I whispered to Ardghal "We've lost again in the final!" However, to my relief, delight and shock Mr Gamble announced the final score: Sacred Heart 330, Abbey 400. We had won! I breathed a huge sigh of relief, after last year's narrow defeat, I was both relieved and happy that we had beaten a strong Sacred Heart team.

We are now heading to Winchester for the UK National Finals and, win or lose, it has been a great experience.

Eoin Monaghan Iv9

I would like to extend my congratulations to Oriel 10 for their hard work and generosity for their fundraising efforts over this last three years. As we are coming to the end of our time as a junior form class unit I feel it is necessary to recognise this achievement. In the class photograph you will notice the large number of certificates awarded to the class over three years. I would also like to single out Rian Mellotte as our best fundraiser; even though we obviously had a large number of pupils who gave plenty, Rian gave extremely generously on every occasion. Well done Oriel 10!



Mr MacParland, Form Teacher, congratulates Rian Mellotte on his individual contribution

Oriel 3, with Mr McParland
Back: Mr McParland, Dylan Magee, Rian Mellotte, James McNulty, Conor McCann, John Poland, Leo Gorman
Middle: Aodhan Gregory, Ben Hughes, Donagh McAleenan, Aaron Grant, Aidan Rushe, Jamie Cairns,
Seats: Conor Henry, Conall Lynch, Stephen Feeley, Declan Hillen, Stephen McKay, Niall Strain, David O'Hale
Floor: Niall Jennings, Jack Cunningham, Marc Magennis, Peter McAteer, James Cole

THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD

President's Award



The Abbey President's Award Group



Mr Savage reaches the summit

The President's Award Programme was introduced in the school in 2009. Ten pupils were selected to undertake the Bronze Award. The programme is co-ordinated in the school by Mr Gerry Savage. The boys found that doing the President's Award was a real adventure from beginning to end. Along the way they picked up experiences, friends and talents that will stay with them for the rest of their lives. At Bronze level you create your own personal programme with the help of your leader and set about completing the four sections of the award: Volunteering, Physical, Skills and Expedition.

In 'Volunteering' the boys had a chance to make a real difference by helping someone in

the community. They chose to work with the Samaritans to gain a better understanding of society and to help promote their work in school by organising an assembly for Year 11.

In the 'Physical' section they chose a sport or fitness activity to help them get fitter and which they enjoyed. Sports included: gaelic football, keep fit, skirmishing, basketball, swimming and tennis. Over a six month period the boys developed their skills in their chosen sport.

The 'Skills' section was very varied and allowed the group to get better at a current skill or develop a new hobby. Most of the boys chose to develop their skills in music or drama. Once

again they were required to practise this area over a six month period. Areas chosen included playing guitar, banjo, piano and drama.

Finally the boys had to plan, train for and complete an adventurous two day journey in the Mourne Mountains. They took part in four practice walks during the year and completed a Practice Expedition with their leader before finally undertaking their own unaccompanied expedition. The experience was tremendous and they experienced many highs and lows, had great laughs and most of all amazing memories.

Such was the success of the programme that there was a huge demand to be included in the programme for 2010.

The Abbey past Pupils' Sports Association held a gala night in February to honour past pupils who have achieved legendary status in the field of sport. Hundreds packed the Canal Court Hotel to greet the stars, past and present, and acknowledge the contribution that Abbey students have made to the world of sport.

Special Awards were also made to past pupils who went on to gain international acclaim in their chosen sports.



Goal keeping legends Pat Jennings and Harry Gregg are pictured with members of the Abbey's Hogan Cup winning team

Peter McParland

In 1957 Peter scored five times in cup matches bringing Villa to the FA Cup final. In the final Peter scored the two goals that won the cup for Villa against 'the Busby babes'. Peter also has a League Cup medal where he scored a goal in the final and a second division winners medal.

Peter also played thirty four times for Northern Ireland; he scored twice on his debut against Wales. The highlight of his International career was playing for Northern Ireland in the 1958 World Cup. Northern Ireland reached the quarter finals of the competition, thanks to Peter's five goals in the previous rounds, the highlight being the two goals he scored against West Germany in a 2-2 draw. Peter ended up being one of the top scorers in the World Cup playing in the outside left position. At the end of the World Cup Peter was picked as one of the best eleven players in the world.

Pat Jennings

At seventeen Pat was signed for Watford from Newry Town and within a year he was signed for Tottenham Hotspur. Pat played 673 times for Spurs from 1964 – 1978. During his time with Spurs he won the FA cup in 1967 and was a League Cup winner in 1971 and 1973. In 1972 he was on the Spurs team that won the U.E.F.A. Cup. While still with Spurs Pat was voted 'Player of the Year' in 1973. He was also 'Football Writers Player of the Year' in 1972, and was the PFA 'Players' Player of the Year' in 1976. In 1973 Sir Alf Ramsey picked Pat for a British select eleven to play against a European selection ahead of Peter Shilton and Ray Clements. At Spurs Pat was also their Player of the Year in 1971/72, 1972/73, 1974/75, 1975/76.

Pat then spent eight years at Arsenal and during his time there he played in three cup finals, winning one against Manchester United for his second F.A. cup medal in 1980.

Pat played one hundred and nineteen times at international level for Northern Ireland. He made it to two World Cup finals, Spain in 1982 and Mexico in 1986. Pat's last international was in the World Cup in Mexico against Brazil, - on his 41st birthday. At the end of the World Cup Pat was not only picked on the world eleven but was made captain of this team.

Danny McAlinden

Danny, like all professional boxers, learned his trade in the amateur ranks. He first came to prominence in 1966 when he won a heavyweight bronze medal for Northern Ireland at the Commonwealth Games in Jamaica.

Danny turned professional in 1969 and in his second fight he halted future British champion Richard Dunn who would later go on and fight Mohammed Ali for the world title. The highlight of Danny's career came in June 1972 when he met Jack Bodell at Villa Park Birmingham for the British heavyweight title and the Commonwealth Heavyweight title. Danny crushed Jack in two rounds to win the titles.

Cathal McGovern

Cathal's great love for horses and horse racing was inherited from his father Michael. Michael himself was an owner, trainer and breeder.

Cathal left school and got himself a day job but his love for horses never left him. He got involved in ownership, dealing and training horses. He bought and trained many horses and always dreaming of getting the 'great one'. He thinks he may now have got the horse he always dreamed of. The horse is called Ballyholland. Cathal called the horse after the gaelic football club where he has been a member since boyhood. This horse has been Cathal's best buy and Ballyholland recently won the prestigious (Galway Plate) leading to a great night of festivities in Ballyholland G.F.C.

Barney Carr

Barney played all his football for Warrenpoint and in 1943 he got on the county team and he played there for the next ten years. In 1944 Barney played at centre half forward on a Down Team which won its first senior trophy in their history. The McKenna Cup of 1944. The McKenna Cup in those days was a very prestigious title. Barney playing at centre half forward scored two goals against Donegal in the semi final and another two goals against Tyrone in the final. It is amazing to think that there were seven Warrenpoint players on the Down panel on that day.

Brendan Mathews

Brendan is known the length and breadth of Ireland for his services to the Greyhound Racing Industry. He is a well known breeder and trainer. He has won five Clonmel Derbies, eight Champion Stakes and six Irish Cups. During his career Brendan has won one hundred trial stakes and two hundred All Age Stakes.



Kerry legend Mick O'Dwyer congratulates Cahal McGovern and Kevin Loughran



Armagh All Ireland Winners, Left to Right, John Mcintee, Aidan O'Rourke, Oisin McConville and Tony McIntee

1970 CORN NA NOG

In 1970 Abbey CBS won the Corn na nÓg for the first time in ten years.

The final was played in Newcastle against St Mary's C.B.S. Belfast with the Abbey winning the cup with a score line of 3-3 to 1-4. On the day every Abbey man was a star.

Team: - P.Lochrie, B O Hare, D Trainor, W Guiney, K Haughey, D McCormack, T Farrell, M Slevin (capt) J Cahill, D McGovern, B Curtis, B McParland, P McCartney.

Subs: G Doherty, D Doran, D McCoy, M Keenan, K O Hare, C Quinn, P Trainor, L Gawley and D. Millar.



In the year 2000 the Abbey 'Team of the Millennium' was chosen by the committee of the Abbey Past Pupils' Sports Association based solely on their performance for school teams. This year the 'Abbey Team of the Century' was chosen based on the Abbey students who excelled after they left the school.

Those honoured on the night were: Patsy McAlinden, Enda McNulty, Tony McEntee, Kevin O'Neill, Aidan O'Rourke, Kieran McGeeney, D.J. Kane, Liam Austin, Malachy McEvoy, John McEntee, Joe Kernan, Val Kane, Tony Hadden, Sean O'Neill and Oisín Mc Conville.



l to r: Former team M mates Mr Val Kane and Mr Kevin O'Neill admire some of the old photographs in the new Abbey



Hogan Cup winners Gerard McGarvey, James Shannon, Mark Digney and Colum Murney visit the Technology Block



John McEntee in possession during the official opening of the 3G pitch

Get Well Soon

Kevin MC Clorey in action for the Down minors last year.
Slí na Mainstreach sends its best wishes to up-and-coming Mayobridge and Down star, Kevin Mc Clorey, who sustained an horrific leg break during the exhibition game. Kevin's injuries forced him to spend over a week in hospital and all those involved in the game wish Kevin a speedy recovery. Kevin was an excellent footballer for the Abbey until he left in 2007. Since then he has starred for Down minors during their run to the All-Ireland semi final last year and won a minor Championship with his native Mayobridge. We hope to see him back in action as soon as possible.

Abbey Legends



Team selectors Mr Aidan O'Rourke and Mr Sean McGuigan are pictured with the Abbey legends team

Drama! What's that all about?

DRAMA IN 1st YEAR

In first year in the Abbey Grammar School in drama we started with tableaux. A tableau is a still image in which something is happening. In tableaux we played a few games and then we started doing other things, such as family portraits, famous film scenes, famous structures and nursery rhymes. Also, later in the year we did a five-part sequence in which we explored the dangers of the jungle. We later turned this into a five-minute performance.

Later in the year we started to devise and perform our own plays. When we were doing this we focused on: dialogue, choreography (planned action) and positioning. dialogue is conversation in drama. Choreography was when we tried to make the fight scenes not messy. Our teacher, Mr McParland, told us to focus on our positioning a lot. It is when we tried to let the audience see everything. Also, something similar was when we tried to avoid clashes of voices. When we were devising we were given a title or sometimes we just were given a type of genre. The one that was most memorable for me was the play, The Bank Job. This was supposed to be an action piece, but turned into a bit of a comedy piece.



Then we started TV drama. We did different television pieces news, quiz and adverts. For the news we had to have television reporters, anchormen, people being interviewed and a weatherman, and perhaps an expert. For this we had to use stories, good facial expressions, gestures and good voice. I enjoyed this piece especially since I was a person being interviewed and in this case, I was Robbie Keane. When we did the quiz show we had to have one questionnaire and four contestants. In this play as well we had to use good facial expressions, gestures and good voice. Then we had to do the adverts. For them we did five one-minute pieces. We had to do the same as the above and I think we did it fine.

Towards the end of the year we went back to what we were doing at the start of the year, the tableaux. We did the jungle piece. In it we had to freeze when we were trying to show a scene. Then we gave a word to name each scene. In ours the words were: crash, ambush, drugs, strangled and freedom. Also, Mr McParland took a photo of each of our scenes. We then turned the scenes into 4-5 minute plays, so we had to connect them with each other. I think our play was reasonable, and the people did okay.

What I enjoyed in drama most is a hard question. I guess it was: 1. It was better and more enjoyable than other subjects 2. It was a good subject to learn 3. We learnt a lot of new things. Overall I am looking forward to second year in drama.
By Andre Stokes Oriel 8



The first thing we did at the start of the year was tableaux. In this subject we played many games and Mr. Mc Parland put us into groups. We had to decide what characters of the family we were and make as many facial expressions as possible. We had to make them suit our character because then Mr. Mc Parland told us to freeze and he was to guess our character. My character was the grandad and Mr. Mc Parland got it immediately. At the end of the lesson he told us this was called family portraits. In the next lesson Mr. Mc Parland told us to do five scenes of a nursery rhyme but that we were frozen. He had to guess what rhyme we were doing. In our group we decided to do Humpty Dumpty.

Our next task was to create a play with dialogue. We had to plan people's lines but first Mr. Mc Parland gave us a script to encourage us. Our plays with

dialogue went quite well but Mr Mc Parland told us our plays were getting messy and told us to include planned action. He also told us we needed to position ourselves well as some of the people were blocking out others. This, he told us, was called masking.

Our next assignment was to do a news report. We were to include a weather report and different people doing the actions we were recording. Raheem and I were the news reporters in the studio, Charlie was the sports reporter, Ross was the weatherman and Blane and Glen were the terrorists we were recording. Next we had to do a quiz show. Dane was the quizmaster and Adrian was his savage pet dog that ate contestants who got the answer correct. Sean Óg, Andre, Kevin and I were really 'stupid' contestants. Our final task in that category was to make up five small adverts. In my group there was: Jack, Ryan,

Keiran, Lorcan, Glen and me. Overall I got a pretty good score in these assignments.

Our final assignment was using tableaux with devising and performing. With this we had to create five freeze frames and the topic was 'In the Jungle'. The people in my group were Sean Óg, Ryan, Niall, Lorcan, Andre and me. When we got our five pictures, Mr. Mc Parland told us to create a piece of drama based on the pictures. When we had got our action sequels we acted it out in front of the class and Mr. Mc Parland took down notes. Overall I think our drama year went very well.

The part in Drama I enjoyed the most was making our news report as it was fun and we got a really good score. I also enjoyed working with my teammates. Overall I really enjoyed drama this year.
By Conor Fegan 8-0



Delight for Peter Delahunt in the Brother McFarland Debating Final

Congratulations to Peter Delahunt (12CG) on making his first senior debating final and securing the prestigious Br. McFarland Trophy. Both guest speaker, Martina Purdy, Political Correspondent with BBC NI, and sponsor, Rory McShane, spoke about the quality of debating amongst finalists at this highlight of the school's competition calendar. Well done also to Killian Feehan and Niall McArdle for their second and third places in a tightly fought contest and to the talented finalists: Gregory McChesney, Ben Sutherland, Michael Haddad, John McCaul and Terry Dinsmore.

All eight finalists spoke with authority on the motion, 'This House would raise the age of criminal responsibility' and the adjudicators agreed deciding who would claim the top places was extremely difficult. With ex tempore motions providing an entertaining respite from the gravity of the main motion competitors showcased their talents assuring this final will be hotly contested in future years too.

2010 was the first year in the senior debating competition that saw over fifty candidates debate for the preliminary rounds on the motion, 'This House believes that all UK citizens should have to complete one year's national service.' The opening rounds were contentious and well argued making the elimination of debaters difficult. 2010 was therefore the first year of the debate to extend the competitive run with semi-finals who argued for or against 'This House believes that Third World donations are ineffective.'

On final night pupils from Years 9 and 11 were also in attendance to receive awards for their successes in the in-house competitions run prior to the senior competition. Thanks as always to our sponsor, our guest speaker, the many staff members who helped with facilitating debates – particularly my English Department colleagues - charring rounds, wishing the boys' success and to the many parents



A delighted Peter Delahunt is pictured with the Brother McFarland Trophy following his final victory



Guest Speaker, Martina Purdy, is pictured with Headmaster, Mr Dermot McGovern, and the Brother McFarland finalists

who supported the event. Lastly congratulations to all debaters from across the year groups. I look forward to seeing you in the new term assured that the tradition of Abbey debating will continue to thrive.
A Reynolds

Spring Concert

Large Turn Out for the Annual Spring Concert

This year's Spring Concert was the first in the new school and the last for the 7th Years. The concert was an opportunity for a display of the talent and work that had gone on throughout the year. All the music groups in the school featured at some point in the concert. The concert was very varied. It started with the orchestra, progressed to the choir – with its excellent use of jazz hands and finished with the Jazz Band – with lights and sunglasses. Music in the Abbey for the past 7 years has been a big influence in my time there. I've enjoyed every minute of it!

Ronan Kearney



Mr Wadsworth conducts the choir



The string group



Jack McGrath gets ready to perform

This issue of *Slí Na Mainistreach* is showcasing the very best poetry being composed by our current students, as well as a short story from Cormac Rea.

Full Retreat

All the men ran in retreat to the boats.
They were surrounded by the red coats
Their bayonets lowered for a final stand.
Would the British control all the land?
They had fought to protect family and friends
Now would it come to the worst of all ends?

The sand exploded as the cannon shots fell-
They tried desperately to retreat to the boats-
Fast, so fast, their numbers dwindled-
The waves crashed harder against the shore
More men fell and saw no more.

This was just one battle-
This was just one fight-
Those who have died so bravely would once again unite.
They were fighting for their families;
They were fighting for their friends;
They knew deep down inside their hope would never end.

By Eimhin Duffy.
Slemish 8

War

The shells were above us
There was no way out,
The splintering bombs came-
We all started to shout:
"Quickly, run faster!
The trench is right there!"
As the missiles tore buildings,
We all stopped to stare.
The tanks were blown up
Our men kept dying,
Until we sent the airstrike
To send our enemies flying.
The battle was ending
Into the enemy we tore,
And so off we went
To the next great war.

Johanthan Reynolds,
Slemish 1

One Bullet In The Chamber

A Short Story

Rose petals fluttered precariously in the gentle breeze as perpetual twilight fell over the hustle of Tokyo. A car and two youths. The joy immensely crowding their hearts and thoughts of the future filling their souls like the cement in a wall. The wall of many years to come. Many indeed, as the two youths had just joined hands in holy matrimony. The girl was about twenty with long, curly brunette hair. Her eyes were olive with an obsidian centre. Her slim figure sashaying into view, a veil masking her radiant beauty. Her name is one to write home about: Momoko Takahashi.

Her groom was a tall slim man called Sunseke Takahashi; his hair was dark as the forest floor on a cloudy winter's night. His eyes, a deep blue like the murky underwater currents of the Pacific.

Holding hands, they discreetly slipped into the back of an open top motorcar. The car trundled painstakingly along the urban jungle navigating through streets as if they were the tree top canopies of Burma. As the car journeyed across the coastline Momoko began to speak: 'Sunseke, listen; I know it's tough to leave behind the past that you've had following you, but it is time to start anew.'

'Momoko, you've got no idea about how I feel. My brother meant everything to me. Do you know how it feels to lose one you hold so dear; DO YOU? DO YOU?'" He replied with venom. The motorcar screeched to a halt. They had reached their destination, the small fishing village of Tashindo. It was an idyllic, picturesque village located near Niigata; the junks littered the harbor almost identical to the autumnal gathering of leaves, swaying to and fro in the blustery wind. They approached the minka where they were due to spend the duration of their honeymoon. Sunseke muttered curses under his breath and swore to avenge the death of his brother as he entered the minika. Momoko lay down and breathed a sigh of relief,

'Sunseke I'm pretty tired, I think I'll go to sleep soon.'
'Well, I'm going for a stroll, whether you like it or not.' Sunseke replied sharply. A thought came into his head; 'I'll do this quickly, minimum fuss.' He reached for his brown leather satchel and rustled through it. With a Webley Revolver in one hand and a box of cartridges in the other he went out the front door.

As he strolled along the breakwater he sat on a bench and closed his eyes. He could see him now, his brother Chung, calling him, telling him to do the right thing. 'Soon Chung it'll be over, you'll be avenged, free to go and that monstrosity Sun Suzuki will finally be gone from God's green Earth.' Sunseke murmured tearfully. One bullet in the chamber. His eyes brimmed with tears as he strode to the docks where Sun's junk was being prepared to sail to China in the morning. He stood at the end of the water with some of the crew. They laughed and Sunseke could see the evil glint in Sun's eye.

'Sun Suzuki?' inquired Sunseke. Sun spun around and let out a yelp of glee; 'Sunseke Takahashi how good to see you, I can finally do to you what I did to that useless clot, Chung, 10 years ago. He was too easy, he was stupid and clumsy he deserved to die!' hissed Sun in anger.

The crew left grumbling and cursing. Webley Revolver in hand Sunseke began to scream insults at Sun, 'You oaf! You monster you vile little scum,! This is for Chung.'

The crack of the bullet echoed across the harbour. 'Job done.' said Sunseke.

The End
4/14/2010
Cormac Rea

Open Night

Pictures below are some images from when the Abbey opened its doors to the public



From Sixty Four Down to Four

Badminton

During our first term here at the New Abbey School, we have had a 'Badminton After-School Club'. This has been met with a huge response from pupils and has flourished since the first week.

Badminton is a fun and exciting sport and deserves to be extended in any way, shape or form. It had given us a chance to meet people in other year groups and this has happened not just after school but also before school since the hall is now open for badminton before school. It has also been great because it has attracted people who are very sporty as well as those who don't participate in a lot of sport. Though, in truth, we have all become quite competitive!

Recently, Mr Ruddy started a doubles tournament which attracted 64 teams and is now reaching its climax with the staff and students' finals due soon. It is clear that many teachers and students (including ourselves) played or have played badminton prior to the sport being introduced, showing just how popular the sport was to start with!

It's a great sport, doesn't require expensive equipment and can be played as an individual or as a team. Everybody should give it a try !!

Matthew Freeman and Dominic Krynicki

Fitness

New Sports Facilities Get the Thumbs Up

The new Abbey CBS gym has given me and many other students the motivation to get fit and maintain that fitness. The school now currently offers two large playing fields, a synthetic grass playing fields, a large sports hall, a gymnasium, a fitness suite and a large free-weights room. All of these facilities have helped maximise training, increased motivation and confidence to allow users to feel that exercising is not just work, but enjoyable. The fields allow for most outdoor sports to be played, the main one being gaelic football due to the large goals and stop nets installed. The synthetic grass playing field is more soccer friendly, allowing students to play more than one sport. The sports hall can be used for a variety of sports but the main is basketball, as the hall is the correct size and has two large nets at either end. There is also a scoreboard for this exact purpose.

The fitness suite has an obvious use. There are plenty of cardiovascular machines such as treadmills, bikes, rowing machines and air walkers. The suite also uses machine weights to allow users to increase strength and endurance for certain muscles. This gives the user a great starting base before using more complex exercises that incorporate free weights. This is where the 'free-weights' room comes into play. It has several Olympic weight racks with assorted weights ranging from 0.25kg to 25kg plates. The school has also provided a multi-functional trainer called the Cybex Bravo. This machine uses exercises which are used in sports or real life situations. The main help, however, comes from the advice and training of the department's teachers. They help users learn how to use the machines correctly and give advice on how to increase fitness and performance. They also created a WOD (work out of the day) system that allows students to workout together at the same time to increase confidence and fitness. The workouts use a variety of strength and endurance exercises to allow maximum increased fitness across all levels.

In comparison to the old school's facilities, the new school has encouraged many more users, including several teachers from the school to take advantage of the new facilities. I hope that many more students from lower years will utilize the facilities provided as they help with more than just fitness and overall health but promote confidence and teamwork to help each other and themselves.

Jude Sands

Darren Clarke Schools' Golf League

The Abbey Junior Golf Team recently participated in the DCSGL, a tournament designed to promote the game of golf at junior level in schools. Ten students (pictured below) made up the squad and all contributed to an overall record of three wins and one defeat. The matches were played in Warrenpoint and Mayobridge Golf Clubs during March and April, with the deciding game against St. Colman's. Unfortunately the Abbey were unable to overcome a strong College team but nevertheless acquitted themselves superbly well.

Most improved player this year was Ryan Treanor.

Squad: Caolan McCann, David McGurk, Conal Gallagher, Bryan Murphy, Matt Kinsella, Ronan McGrath, David Price, Ryan Treanor, Hugh Tiernan, Sean Patterson



Golf

Visit to Palmerstown Golf Club

A number of senior golfers attended a day out at Palmerstown Golf Club in County Kildare on May 2nd. This is one of the finest courses in Ireland and is home to the Irish P.G.A. Apart from the odd heavy downpour, everyone enjoyed the experience of testing themselves on a top, championship course.

Students involved: Jack Gilsean, Danny Mullan, Neil McConville, John McGivern, Gareth Rooney, Caolan McCann, David McGurk, Matt Kinsella.

5-A-Side

First D'Alton Final in Sixteen Years Ends in Disappointment for the Abbey

The second year football team reached the D'Alton Cup final this year for the first time since 1994, but were beaten by St Patrick's Cavan on a score line of 3-9 to 0-4.

As much as the entire squad was disappointed at the manner of their final defeat there are many positives to take from this year's campaign.

The Abbey's March to the final began in late March with a comprehensive 5-20 to 3-3 victory over Omagh CBS, in Armagh. Captain and midfielder, Sheagh Dobbin, was at his hard working best and provided a platform for Killian Mc Evoy and Ryan Treanor to run riot in attack. Killian McEvoy finished the game with an impressive personal tally of 2-7. The next challenge was provided by St. Patrick's, Armagh, but again the Abbey boys were too strong, scoring 6-18 to Armagh's 0-4. By this stage it was clear that the Abbey were going to have a major say in who won the D'Alton Cup this year.

Another high scoring victory over St Pius, Magherafelt, meant that the Abbey would be seeded as group winners in the quarter finals. Ronan Mc Grath, Ruairi Campbell and Niall Rafferty proved to be too powerful in attack for the Derry lads.

St. Michael's, Enniskillen provided the opposition for the Abbey in the quarter final, and by the time Killian Mc Evoy had put the Abbey six points in front with just seven minutes left to play, it looked like their semi final place was secured. However, an

unlikely Enniskillen revival left the Abbey boys having to fight hard in the dying minutes of the tie. Goalkeeper, Aaron Campbell, and defenders; Fergus Quinn, John Catterson, Thomas Looney and Luke Bradley made sure that the Abbey's goal was not breached and the Abbey were back at the semi final stage.

The Abbey's preparation for the semi-final was upset by the news on the morning of the game that talisman, Killian Mc Evoy, would not be fit to play any part in the game. A suspected back injury meant that the Abbey's top scorer would not play any further part in this year's competition. Rather than being a set back, Killian's injury galvanised the rest of the team and they duly produced their best performance of the year to sweep Omagh aside and qualify for their first final in sixteen years. Ryan Treanor led the way with 1-7, but it was the performances of team mates; Joe Rock, Cathir Mc Kinney, Shea Gregory and Conor Mc Coy that proved the difference between the two teams. Shane Fitzpatrick, Killian Mc Evoy's late replacement, put the result beyond doubt with a well taken goal ten minutes from the final whistle.

The final, unfortunately, is a game that is best forgotten as the Abbey came up against a bigger, stronger, more aggressive Cavan team who were worthy champions on the day. Slí na Mainstreach will be keeping a close eye on this team as they progress to Corn na n-óg in the Autumn.

Brock Cup Team Heading in the Right Direction.

The fourth year squad, competing in the Brock Cup, exited at the semi final stage of this year's competition but the manner of their defeat has left a lot of optimism surrounding their efforts. Their campaign came to an end in a rain-soaked Mullaghbrack, when St. Pat's, Dungannon got the better of them in a tense and thrilling finish.

The Abbey qualified for the semi final thanks to group stage victories over: Enniskillen, Keady and local rivals, St. Colman's College, and a quarter final win against the competition's surprise package, St. Patrick's, Downpatrick. Those results set up a third meeting in successive seasons for the Abbey against Dungannon who have always managed to get the better of their Newry rivals. At Dalton Cup level the winning margin was eight points; by Corn na n-óg the Abbey had narrowed the gap to four points and it took two injury time points by Dungannon this time to preserve their winning record over the Abbey. What price an Abbey victory in October in the Rannafast Cup?

Hogan Heroes Return to Open the 3G Pitch



The 2006 Hogan Cup winners who returned to the Abbey to play an Abbey legends selection to open the new 3G playing pitch. There was a large turn out of players and spectators on a beautiful Saturday morning as past pupils got the opportunity to view the spectacular facilities at the new Abbey.