



# THE ABBEY *Way*

## Eoin Takes Countdown By Storm



### Inside this edition:

- Abbey student competes in the Commonwealth Games.
- First Year pupils visit Croke Park.
- GCSE and A Level graduates celebrate.
- Poets' Corner.



**Distinguished Guests Pictured at the Official Opening of the New Abbey on the Castleowen Site.**

The Minister for Education, Mrs Catriona Ruane, was the Guest of Honour at the official opening of the New Abbey in November. A plaque to commemorate the occasion was unveiled by the Reverend Brother Edmund Garvey, Head of the Christian Brothers in Ireland. Other distinguished guests included: Dr Muredach-Dynen, Chairman of the Directors of the Edmund Rice Schools' Trust, Seán Óg Mc Ateer, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Bishop John Mc Areavey, Bishop of Dromore, all of whom were welcomed by Mr Dermot Mc Govern, Headmaster.



**Abbey Pupils and Staff, Past and Present, Who Took Part in the Official Opening Ceremony.**

(From Left to Right) Mr Killian Higgins, former Head of French and current member of staff, Mrs Lisa Mc Keever, Head of Religious Education, Guest of Honour, Mrs Catriona Ruane MLA, Minister for Education, the Reverend Hugh Connolly, President of St. Patrick's College, Maynooth (and former pupil of the Abbey Grammar School), Mr. Dermot Mc Govern, Headmaster, Mr James O Gorman, Head Boy of the Abbey Grammar School, Mr Seán Óg Mc teer, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School and Father Joe Mc Donald, former Headmaster.

## TO THE COUNTDOWN FINAL

# EOIN DOES US PROUD!

Third year pupil, Eoin Monaghan, was pipped at the post in his bid to be crowned Countdown champion.

Eoin, who is in Iveagh Three, thrilled TV audiences and stumped contestants years older than him as he marched his way to the final of the popular Channel 4 quiz show.

Even following his narrow defeat in the grand final Eoin was magnanimous when interviewed by national and local newspapers alike, saying he "wasn't too disappointed" after he lost to 18-year-old Jack Hurst, a mathematics student at Pembroke College, Cambridge.

"I was up against probably the best player there has ever been on the show," he said. "But if someone had told me at the start, in July, that I would make it to the final I would have laughed. I was happy enough just to win one game."

The popular quiz show tests literacy and numeracy skills, pitting two contestants against each other and the famous Countdown clock.

The modest Abbey man was on a winning streak, winning eight successive shows that took him into the knockout finals, which were recorded in November.

Jack had been top seed to win, with a 116-point average to Eoin's 113. In the final the Maths student whizzed ahead, winning with 113 points to Eoin's very respectable score of 85.

Eoin lost out on the winner's prize, which included a 20-volume set of Oxford English Dictionaries, but he wasn't too disappointed as he took home a £1,000 cheque.



Eoin pictured for the local press



Eoin settles in prior to one of his early rounds

"I'm not sure how I'll spend it yet," he said. There have been a number of child contestants on Countdown, but few have been as successful.

Eoin's father, Peter, travelled with him for the filming at ITV Studios in Manchester for the Channel 4 show.

He said: "We are all very proud. As presenter Jeff Stelling said, it felt like two winners on the show."

"Everyone has been very supportive," Eoin said. "They had all been asking if I had won but I didn't want to spoil it, so I stayed tight-lipped."

Everyone associated with the Abbey Grammar School are very proud of Eoin's achievements on the show, especially as he is only the fourth contestant on sixty three series to score over one hundred points in his first eight games, and to think it all started with back to back victories in our own 'Hardspell' competition!

“

We are all very proud. As presenter Jeff Stelling said, it felt like two winners on the show.

”



Mark McAlinden, Daniel Neary and Gregory McChesney pictured at Stormont prior to the EU Mock Council

## Abbey Boys represent Lithuania at Mock Council

This October saw another team of delegates go to Stormont to participate in the EU Mock Council debate. This year the Abbey represented Lithuania and were supported by Mr Bill Sinnerton, Honorary Consul for Lithuania. With topics ranging from combating poverty and social exclusion, climate change, and the Euro, delegates were able to hear from all Member States showing the collaborative process of EU Mock Council debates. The event, hosted by the British Council, provides a great opportunity for students from diverse subject backgrounds to gain an insight into the workings of the EU.

Students heard firsthand from the head of the European Commission Office in Northern Ireland, Maurice Maxwell, who said: "The EU has a big impact on Northern Ireland so it is important that young people get to debate important European issues and find out about the workings of the EU. At the mock Council event the students will get a taste of what it would be like to represent their Member State in an important European context."

Well done to Gregory McChesney on combating poverty and social exclusion, Mark McAlinden on the Euro, and Daniel Neary on climate change.

You can watch this year's mock Council of the European Union video at the following places:

**Facebook** – BritishCouncilNI – also uploaded are some photos from the day

**Youtube** - <http://www.youtube.com/BritishCouncilNI#p/a/u/0/uXrVUsEZEOM> or <http://www.youtube.com/BritishCouncilNI>

**European Commission website** - [www.ec.europa.eu/northernireland](http://www.ec.europa.eu/northernireland)

For a limited time on the **British Council homepage** - [www.britishcouncil.org](http://www.britishcouncil.org)

**Vimeo** - <http://www.vimeo.com/16204508> with photos <http://www.flickr.com/photos/britishcouncilofficial/sets/72157625237507946>



## Double Celebration for Irish Students

Caolán Magee and Tiarnán Jackson, past pupils of Bunscoil an Iúir, are congratulated by Mr Dermot McGovern, Headmaster, having both achieved an 'A' Grade in A-Level Irish while completing their GCSE Exams. Both Caolán and Tiarnán were awarded an 'A\*' Grade in GCSE three years ago as Year 9 students and worked extremely hard during their final year of GCSE to excel in 'A-Level Irish'. Included in the picture is their Irish Teacher, Mr Desmond Tennyson.

# Zambian Immersion Project benefit from the Newry Derby

News Round-Up

Newry schools, St Colman's and Abbey CBS, put rivalry aside and agreed to donate the gate receipts from November's derby BT MacRory Cup match to the Abbey Zambia Immersion Programme.

This Abbey Zambia Immersion Programme focuses on providing the students and teachers of the Christian Brothers' school with an opportunity to visit a developing world setting.

In so doing they become aware of the issues associated with poverty and justice in both the developed and developing world. Since the first, ground breaking immersion in 2002, the wider Abbey community has linked the generosity and compassion of the Newry and Mourne area with the challenge of daily poverty in Christian Brothers' schools in Zambia.

The Brothers, with four decades of experience in education and charity work in the country, are in an unique position to realise the hopes and dreams of those lives in Ireland and Zambia. While in Zambia, Abbey students teach in the severely under-funded schools, in the Southern town of Livingstone, bringing valuable skills and during their two-and-a-half weeks' work they experience the harsh realities of extreme poverty in a way that can only otherwise be imagined.

Since this 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 of privileged and of 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. The students return 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, bring their enthusiasm and knowledge into the school and local community. The fundraising efforts for the project mean that the work for the group begins months before their journey to Zambia. The team's key financial aim is to donate as much money as possible to local, specific projects in southern Zambia. In this



Abbey MacRory Cup Captain, Gerard McGovern, presents a cheque to members of the Zambia Immersion team 2011

manner, the group are able to provide the most direct possible link between where the money is raised and where the money is needed most.

The total raised from Saturday's game was £758.11 and 35 euro. Abbey teacher, Mark Grogan, who is assistant MacRory Cup coach to Jody Gormley, thanked St Colman's and those who attended for the generosity.

"There is great rivalry between the two schools, but there is also a great unity in reaching beyond both our immediate communities to help others."

"We thank the Ulster Colleges' Council for agreeing to donate the receipts and, of course, would like to show our appreciation to those who paid in to the game and are now directly helping our charity."

## First Year News

## First Years Visit Croke Park

As part of the ongoing Year 8 Induction Programme for 2010 students, all pupils visited Croke Park on 22nd October 2010. A great day was had by all pupils. A special word of thanks to the form teachers who helped in the organisation of the day - Mrs Hughes, Mr Tennyson, Ms Hughes, Miss Toner, Miss Fearon.



## Year 8 Mid-term Awards

Congratulations to those Year 8 students who were presented with a certificate and £5 credit onto their key for being either Most Consistent Worker or Most Improved in each form class.

### Pupils presented were:

Aodhan Mc Evoy	Ronan Fegan
Conor Poucher	Oisín Garvey
Daniel Kehoe	Dillon Smyth
Tiarnan Smyth	Jason Sloane
Turlough Brady	Blaine Duffy



# GCSE RESULTS

## CONTINUE TO IMPROVE

Last year's GCSE cohort at the Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Newry, continued the ever increasing upward spiral of improved GCSE grades, with a set of results that mean that a new record has been set for the highest number of students to obtain five or more passes and seven or more passes for the entire year group. 99% achieved five or more A\*-C grades. This has increased from 96% last year. The number of pupils who achieved seven or more A\*-C grades has increased from 91% last year to an impressive 98% in the summer past.

95% achieved A\*-C grades. 75% achieved A\*-B grades and an astonishing 40% achieved A\*/A grades. Twenty three students achieved at least eight A\*/A grades.

'Top of the Class' is Sean Rooney with an amazing fourteen A\* grades. He achieved his first A\* grade in German in 2008 as a third year pupil. He added another three A\* grades last year in French, LLW and Mathematics. This year he achieved his 'super A grades' in Design and Technology, English Language, English Literature, History, Additional Mathematics, Music, Religious Studies, Double Award Science and Spanish.

Two students achieved at least twelve A\*/A grades. Stephen Grant and Benjamin Sutherland achieved nine A\* grades and

three A grades each. Another two pupils achieved at least eleven A\*/A grades. Niall McArdle achieved eight A\* grades and three A grades and Ciaran McCartan achieved five A\* grades and six A grades.

Following the top performers above, four students achieved at least ten A\*/A grades, including Terry Guo (eight A\* grades and two A grades), Connor Hogan (five A\* grades and five A grades), Neil McConville (four A\* grades and six A grades) and Sean Patterson (ten A grades).

Ten students achieved at least nine A\*/A grades including Conor Austin, Conor Campbell, Aidan Cunningham, Ciaran Davies, Declan Doyle, Michael Haddad, Daire McAteer, Shane McCartan, Michael McKay and Ryan Morgan. Another four students achieved at least eight A\*/A grades. They

included John Cosgrove, Peter Delahunt, Cathal McNulty and Donal O'Neill.

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.

Support from parents was another area highlighted by Mr McGovern that facilitated these results, working in harmony with the Abbey by attending Parent/Teacher meetings and helping to implement recommendations that were agreed at 'Progress Meetings' that were set up to support students.

Pupils in Year 11 have also performed very well after completing numerous GCSE examinations following their first year of study and can look forward to matching this year's GCSE results next year.



Abbey Grammar School 'Top Achievers' in this year's GCSE examinations are congratulated by Mr Dermot McGovern, Headmaster, Mrs Annette Elmore, Year Tutor for Year 12 and Vice Principals, Mr Paul O'Shea and Mr Ronan Ruddy. Nine students achieved at least 10 A\*/A grades. They included: Sean Rooney, Stephen Grant, Benjamin Sutherland, Niall McArdle, Ciaran McCartan, Terry Guo, Connor Hogan, Neil McConville and Sean Patterson.



23 students from the Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School achieved at least 8 or more A\*/A grades in their GCSE examinations. Included are: Sean Rooney, Stephen Grant, Benjamin Sutherland, Niall McArdle, Ciaran McCartan, Terry Guo, Connor Hogan, Neil McConville, Sean Patterson, Conor Austin, Conor Campbell, Aidan Cunningham, Ciaran Davies, Declan Doyle, Michael Haddad, Daire McAteer, Shane McCartan, Michael McKay, Ryan Morgan, John Cosgrove, Peter Delahunt, Cathal McNulty and Donal O'Neill. Mr Dermot McGovern, Headmaster gives this group of high achievers advice on which subjects to choose for A Level. Also included are: Mrs Annette Elmore, Year Tutor for Year 12, Vice Principals, Mr Paul O'Shea and Mr Ronan Ruddy.

# RESULTS AT ABBEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL



Mr Dermot McGovern, Headmaster and Vice Principals, Mr Paul O'Shea and Mr Ronan Ruddy, congratulate pupils who achieved at least 4 'A' grades in their A-Level examinations at the Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Newry. Included are: Niall Burke, Niall Duffy, John McCaul, Oliver Hearty, Ronan Kearney, Niall McCartan, Killian Feehan, Sean Cunningham, Ryan Oozeerally and Jonathan Price. Also pictured is Mrs Mc Grath, Head of Year 14.



Pupils who achieved at least 3 'A' grades in their A-Level examinations at the Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Newry are congratulated by Mr Dermot McGovern, Headmaster and Vice Principals, Mr Paul O'Shea and Mr Ronan Ruddy. Included are: Niall Burke, Niall Duffy, John McCaul, Oliver Hearty, Ronan Kearney, Niall McCartan, Killian Feehan, Sean Cunningham, Ryan Oozeerally, Jonathan Price, Patrick Gallogly, Caolan Kearns, Jarlath McAteer, Daniel McCormick, Darren Marshall, Andrew Fitzsimons, James Hasson, David Heatley, Colum Gildea, Sean McMahon, Ryan Faloon, Patrick McCoy and Turlough Tinnelly. Also pictured is Mrs. C Mc Grath, Head of Year 14. Missing from photograph is Jamie Campbell.

The Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Newry, is celebrating yet another exceptional set of A-Level results. This is the first group of Advanced Level pupils to have completed their examinations in the new school after moving from the Courtenay Hill site to Castlewen last January. Another significant highlight for the 'Class of 2010' is that over one third of Upper sixth achieved at least one A\* grade, which has been introduced by the examining boards this year for the first time to acknowledge 'super A grades'. Candidates must achieve 90% in their exams to be awarded this.

A quarter of the year group achieved at least three 'A' grades. Almost 50% of all results were grades A\*/A, 77% were grades A\*-B and 93% grades A\*-C.

A total of twenty four pupils achieved three or more grade A's.

Ten pupils achieved four 'A' grades. Niall Burke, from Newry, obtained A\* grades in Accounts, Mathematics and Music and an A grade in History. He added to this impressive haul with an A grade in AS Further Mathematics. He is now studying Actuarial Science at London School of Economics. Niall Duffy, from Killeavy, obtained A\* grades in Chemistry and Geography and A grades in Biology and Mathematics. He has moved on to study Medicine at Queen's University, Belfast. John McCaul, from Newry, obtained A\* grades in History and Irish and A grades in Government and Politics and Spanish. He is now taking a gap year. Oliver Hearty, from Mullaghbawn, obtained an A\* grade in

Biology and A grades in Chemistry, Irish and Mathematics. He has begun a course in Medicine at Queen's University, Belfast. Ronan Kearney, from Newry, obtained an A\* grade in Biology and A grades in ICT, Mathematics and Religious Studies. He gone across the water and is doing Psychology with Philosophy at St. Andrews. Niall McCartan, from Warrenpoint, obtained an A\* grade in Mathematics and A grades in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. He too has opted to move to England to study Medicine at Liverpool University. Killian Feehan, from Newry, obtained an A\* grade in History and A grades in Geography, Government and Politics and Sociology. He is now studying Politics, Philosophy and Economics at Queen's University, Belfast. Sean Cunningham, from Lislea, obtained A grades in Biology, Chemistry, Irish and Mathematics. He has gone on to do Dentistry at Queen's University, Belfast. Ryan Oozeerally, from Killeavy, obtained A grades in Biology, Chemistry, Geography and Mathematics. He is studying Chemical

Engineering at Queen's University, Belfast. Jonathan Price, from Warrenpoint, obtained A grades in Art and Design, Mathematics, Music and Physics. He has now begun a course in Civil Engineering at Cardiff University.

Another 14 pupils achieved at least 3 'A' grades. They were: Patrick Gallogly, Caolan Kearns, Jarlath McAteer, Daniel McCormick, Darren Marshall, James Hasson, David Heatley, Colum Gildea, Sean McMahon, Jamie Campbell, Ryan Faloon, Patrick McCoy and Turlough Tinnelly,

Mr Dermot McGovern, Headmaster, congratulated this exceptional group on their results. He indicated that a third of the year group had achieved at least one A\* grade that had been introduced this year for Advanced Level examinations. This is quite a feat when the Government had announced that 1 in 10 candidates had achieved an A\* grade nationally. He is delighted that 25% of Upper Sixth achieved at least three A grades and that virtually every boy achieved his first choice University place. He also congratulated the Lower Sixth pupils who performed excellently in their AS examinations. He paid tribute to his hard working staff and thanked them for all their efforts and dedication to the welfare of their students. He also acknowledged the strong school-parental links that helped the boys to achieve their best.

## Bomber

Got the package on September the twelfth.  
Went on a mission that would need all my strength.

Take the bomb all the way to Berlin  
To end the conflict and the Allies would win.

Issued a plane, but shot down over France.  
Luckily, God gave me a second chance.

Sick as a parrot when I entered the trench.  
Dead bodies round me; a horrible stench.

My plane blew up; the enemy thought they had won.  
Celebrated and mocked; threw down their guns.

Sneaked up behind them, threw a grenade.  
I ran away, ran away – Boom! They were dead.

Crossed the border into Germany  
Horrified by all the sights I could see.

Ran down the streets all by myself;  
Had a heart attack – I saw Hitler, himself.

I planted the bomb, then fast ran away.  
It's how I survived to live another day.

*Daniel Hoey*  
Breffni 3

## War

Shells are falling all around  
Like earthquakes shudder through the ground.  
Body parts fill the air  
Like confetti at a fair.

My friend is screaming out in pain;  
What is this for? What's to gain?  
They tell us we die for our nation's pride;  
For that our battered bodies divide.

Conditions we endure are appalling,  
One by one brave comrades falling.  
The gagging smell of decaying skin  
Reminds me of the hell I'm in.

Family at home always on my mind-  
Bring me back safe, oh God be kind.  
Though hard it is; there's no retreat.  
Some day soon, I know we'll meet.

*David Price*  
Breffni 3

## Fort Smith, Arkansas

The man with no name slowly strolled  
Into Fort Smith, Arkansas.  
A town that's full of gunslingers;  
A place where there is no law.

He walks up to a packed saloon  
And calls the Marshal's name.  
"I challenge you to duel" he says,  
"Get ready to take aim!"

The Marshal needs to gain control  
Of this Godforsaken town.  
He strides onto the dusty street,  
For he knows he can't back down.

The Marshal knows this bandit's face  
From every 'Wanted' sign.  
He looks him straight into his eyes  
And says, "This town is MINE!"

They both step back ten paces  
And listen for the bell.  
They draw their pistols sure and quick;  
ONE SHOT! The bandit fell.

The Marshal issued threats today  
In Fort Smith, Arkansas:  
"This fate awaits each one of you  
Who won't abide by law!"

## No Man's Land

Bodies lying here and there,  
A horrible stench is in the air.  
The shells keep raining down to the ground.  
It deafens me; I can hardly hear a sound.  
Men are marching on and on,  
They keep on marching 'til the break of dawn.

The bullets are flying everywhere,  
Is there shelter anywhere?  
The number of casualties is a shameful disgrace;

I can see the horror on people's faces.  
They all have a look of gloom,  
As if they know this will be their doom.

I stand weighed down by my pack, rifle in hand;  
While the men fall in no man's land.

*Daniel Lundy*  
Breffni 3

## The Great Escape

It is a sunny morning in County Down,  
The grass is green, and the soil is brown.  
I see a man with lots of cash,  
And my decision is very rash.  
I whip out my gun, and hold it to his head.  
I say, "Gimme your money or you'll be dead!"  
I grab the cash and start to flee.  
My facial expression turns to glee.

A dog jumps out and bites my ear,  
Then turns his attention to my rear.  
As it bites, I give a yelp.  
I roll around and scream for help.

The police arrive in numbers and say,  
"Sir, we're going to arrest you today."  
I get very dizzy and very pale,  
When I find out I am going to jail.

In court the judge looks very cross.  
In my seat, I turn and toss.  
I will do anything – even pay bail.  
Please, just don't make me go to jail.

In jail I'm banged up for ten years.  
I sulk; my eyes are filled with tears.  
They serve lumpy porridge morning, noon  
and night,  
And you're lucky if you don't get into a fight.

I have finished off my master plan.  
I'm going to escape, I know I can.  
Half way up the fence, I see their truck.  
I take a leap, and run like ..... Usain Bolt.

*Niall Lennon 9BR*

## The Abbey

Chorus  
Going in I was nervous,  
I was the biggest before,  
But now I am the smallest,  
And it's no fun anymore.

Stanza  
Through the doors and then on my seat,  
Took out some food and had a bit to eat,  
I took out my book and had a chat,  
I like this school, that's a fact.

Chorus

Stanza

In this school you do your work,  
You have good craic,  
It's good fun,  
I'm glad to be back.

Chorus

Stanza

At the end of the day,  
You do your homework,  
Go outside and play,  
And get ready for another great day.

*Declan Murdock*



# First Year Pupils Share their First Experiences of the Abbey

Now I am studying in the Abbey I am having a great time. I started on the first of September and since I have never looked back until now. For the first week or so I found it hard to settle in but after a fortnight or so I started to find my feet. I like all of my teachers because they are really kind and helpful. My favourite subjects are P.E, Maths, Technology and Geography. The food in the canteen is lovely and so are the dinner ladies. Every day for morning break I always get a ham and cheese Panini. At lunch I always get different food. Before I knew it, it was Halloween.

On the Friday we got off for Halloween we first years went on a school trip to Croke Park in Dublin. It was good craic on the bus, but it was nothing compared to the fun we had at Croke Park. The first thing we did when we got there was watching a video about how Croke Park was founded and the build up to match day. After the video we were split into two groups, one group got to go to the museum while the others got to

I came to the Abbey from a very rural primary school - St. Mary's, Granemore. Nobody at the Abbey seems to know where Granemore is! It is a few miles from Keady. No one seems to know where that is either! It is located about six miles from Armagh.

I came to the Abbey because I was really impressed by:

- new facilities – especially the P.E. and Technology departments
- the grounds
- the foyer
- the canteen
- the music rooms
- the oratory
- the friendliness of the other students on Open Night
- and of course the teachers

So far I have had some great experiences in the school.

get a tour of the pitch first. My group got to see the museum first. The museum was brilliant, there was loads of trophies like the Sam Maguire and the Liam Mc Carthey Cup. After the museum we got a tour of the pitch which was great fun. Then we got our lunch and headed home.

After a nice Halloween break we were back into our normal routine and working hard. Since we got back we seemed to have an awful lot of tests which would go towards our Christmas report. After a few weeks a cross country competition was on in Kilbroney. Before this race I had won it the four times I ran in it and was hoping to make it a fifth. When we arrived at Kilbroney I realised that my race was first. Thankfully I won the race and was very chuffed with myself. The next day I came into assembly only to find out I had been awarded with most improved in my class in term one. I got five pound put on to my food account and was very pleased. Overall I am having a ball at the Abbey.  
By Jason Sloane.

I have made lots of new friends, started lots of new subjects and met many new teachers. I was made a class prefect and also got £5 on my card – very useful! I really enjoyed playing with the traditional group at the Official Opening of the school. Football and cross-country are also activities that I really look forward to.

Some experiences have not been so good!

I nearly got on the wrong bus one day in September – that was a bit scary. Getting lost was also a bit frightening but thankfully that only happened in the first week. Getting bad comments in my homework diary is not a pleasant experience but it does not happen too often!

On the whole, I know that I have made the right decision and I am looking forward to the year ahead. Did I say year? – There's only seven months of year 8 left!

By Tiarnán Smyth, Slemish 8

Hi I am **Rory McCormack**. I am in first year in the new Abbey and I'm in class Breffni 1. I'm going to tell you my experience so far.

First of all I had to assure myself a place in the Abbey so I had to do the 11+ in the old Abbey. Then to guarantee my place I got an A#. Here is a poem I wrote about the feeling I had at the start ( sorry I couldn't make it rhyme);

## My first day,

Me and my dad drove to the bus stop,  
My nerves took over me.  
One long bus ride later,  
I'm at school for the first time,  
It's was bigger than I thought.

I walk through the doors,  
Teachers point "This way and that."  
I head for my class and  
By the time I got there,  
I got lost twice!!

By break time I got lost four more times.

My bag, my anchor,  
My pancake, my only ali.  
All that behind now,  
Time for P.E.

At the final bell I'm happy.  
I head for the bus,  
Starting my mountain of homework.  
And then tomorrow  
I start, again.

By Rory McCormack

As part of a history assignment for Mr Gallagher Oriel 1's Karl Gray discovered some fascinating facts about his family's history. Here is an extract of the assignment:

My name is **Karl Gray** and I live in Jonesborough Co Armagh. I am 11 years old and my birthday is the 24th November.

There are 6 people altogether in our family. My dad is called Adrian and he is originally from Newry, County Down. His parents were Jim and Bernadette Gray. My mum is called Hannah and she was born in Sunderland. Her mother Sue is half Scottish and her father Brian is English.

I have three brothers called Myles, Scott and Ryan. Myles is 19, Scott is 17 and Ryan is 8. My dad's parents are both dead. His father Jim died on 3rd of May 2003 and his mother Bernadette died on the 26th of November 2009 which was two days after my birthday. My mum's parents are both still alive. I have four uncles called Des, Phillip, Mark and Dec. My uncle Des is the one that got married over the summer holidays. I was at the wedding. It was brilliant and we stayed at the Lough Erne Golf Resort.

I have five aunts called Anne Marie, Orlaith, Heather, Oonagh and Helen. One of my aunts is not married. I have five first cousins: David,

Lauren, Sean and Ciaran, but Ross sadly passed away when I was 2 years old.

My great-grandfather Charles Donald was in the British army and he fought in World War I. He survived it and he became head of Kodak in Singapore. He got captured in Singapore by the Japanese army during World War II and was put into a notorious concentration camp called Changi prison.

I found his details below on the Changi prison museum website. He was born in 1893 and his prison ID was 1257.

Donald, Charles • British • 1893 • M  
Manager Kodak Ltd • Changi • 1257

When he was eventually freed by the allies he was found to have contracted leprosy and other tropical diseases; he died 15 years later. I found some pictures relating to Changi and one is of inmates who were freed and put on the Australian hospital ship Manunda.

Changi, Singapore, 1943-01-26. A ceremonial parade was held on Selarang Barracks Square, Changi, to celebrate Australia Day, 1943. Members of 27 Infantry Brigade paraded under the command of Lt Col CH. Kappe. The salute was taken by Lt Col F.G. Gallegghan, commander AIF POW's, who organised the parade.

Changi, Singapore. 1945-08-28. Copies of a leaflet were dropped over Changi prisoner of war camp. The reverse side contained instructions to the Japanese about treatment of prisoners. The annotation on the left of the leaflet was made by the diarist of the 8th Australian Division

Singapore. 1945-09-13. Prisoners of war released from Changi prison camp were evacuated from Singapore by the Australian Hospital Ship Manunda, the first Australian ship to arrive at Singapore after the surrender of the Japanese. Shown, a group of ex-prisoners of war, members of 8th Division, having a cup of tea while waiting for orders to embark aboard the Manunda.

# Chemistry Career Outreach

## ALMAC, Craigavon.

Mr Gamble, Head of Chemistry, accompanied by three pupils, Sam Gorman and Oskar Mamrzynski, both sixth year pupils, and one seventh year pupil, Mark Cox, attended Almac – a large pharmaceutical company in Craigavon.

ALMAC is a pharmaceutical company which offers an extensive range of integrated services from research, through development to delivery of finished product. It is mainly involved in the development of drugs for cancer treatment.

ALMAC opened their company to school pupils to give the pupils an idea of what job opportunities there were for science graduates at ALMAC, as well as giving them a flavour for what working for ALMAC was all about.

The open day consisted of a presentation by the company Training Officer which gave an overview of its operation and a video presentation, followed by a final presentation by a research scientist.



Oskar Mamrzynski, Sam Gorman and Mark Cox – At Almac Headquarters Craigavon

After the overview the pupils were then given a tour of the laboratories, followed by a question and answer session.

The three Abbey boys were impressed by the friendly atmosphere of the company and how motivated the staff were.

This is the first of many activities that will roll out during this academic year to promote STEM ( Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Careers

Awareness across the whole school curriculum.

The STEM programme continued in November with Ciaran O'Hagan, 61E, and Shane Mc Cartan, 61A, participating in the Sentinus 'Insight Into Engineering Programme'. They spent some time working alongside engineers in the Roads Service NI and then observed some work in the Engineering faculties at Queen's University Belfast.

## Careers Convention

### BI-ANNUAL CAREERS CONVENTION, THE HIGHLIGHT OF 'WORK RELATED LEARNING WEEK'

The Careers Department hosted another highly successful Careers Convention on Tuesday 21st September with over forty exhibitors representing local and regional employers, and also local and national universities including Queen's, the University of Ulster and Liverpool John Moore's University.

The Convention was attended by pupils from years 10 to 14 as well as pupils from other local schools, among them; The Sacred Heart, Our Lady's Grammar School, Newry High School and St Colman's College.

The exhibitors met students and their parents to discuss post-16 and post-18 progression routes, as well as specific career possibilities.

The Convention was the blue ribbon event of 'Work Related Learning Week'. Other highlights of the week were: Young Enterprise Northern Ireland's 'Learn to Earn'

workshops over two days, which all Year 12 students attended to focus on the importance of attaining good qualifications in school. Sentinus, an employability organisation, worked with both Year 11 and Year 13 students to deliver an 'Experience of Work' programme. The Construction Industry Training Board and the NI Fire & Rescue Service also delivered successful presentations on the opportunities within their professions and in particular the importance of holding STEM based subjects.

Mrs C Mc Grath, Head of Careers.



Students visit the various stalls



Conor O'Farrell finds out about a career



4th Year pupils speak to one of the exhibitors at the Careers convention

# Abbey Swimmer Competes in the Commonwealth Games in Delhi

Seventh Year pupil, Laurence Mc Givern, has returned from his adventures in Asia having competed in October's Commonwealth games. The 17 year old swimmer from Rostrevor, was one of eighty one athletes from Northern Ireland who flew to India to compete in the Commonwealth Games. The Abbey man competed in one of only four Para Sports held at the games and was joined on the ten person swimming team by swimmers who competed in the Beijing Olympics.

The Newry and Mourne swimmer, coached by Gary McCreesh and Dave Malone, competed in the 50m and 100m freestyle in the S9 class.

Slí na Mainistreach and the entire Abbey Community are justifiably very proud of Laurence's achievements, firstly in qualifying for the games but more so for his excellent performances at the games. Laurence came seventh in the 50m S9 swimming event in a time of 28.95 seconds - he set a personal best of 28.84 seconds in the heats. He also finished fifth in the 100m S10 freestyle final in a time of 1:03.31, being the second fastest of the S9 swimmers.



Laurence McGivern prior to his departure

## Tennis

### Newry and Mourne Schools' Tennis Championships 2010

Nine athletes from the Abbey Grammar School were selected to represent the school in the Newry and Mourne Post - Primary Schools' Tennis Tournaments played on Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th November 2010 at Newry Tennis Courts.

The tournament was revived in 2006 and each year has seen the numbers competing grow. The number of participating schools and teams entered has also increased and is very encouraging for tennis in the area.

In the boys under 18 sections the Abbey Grammar came out on top, winning both the boys' singles and doubles events. St Colman's were second while St Louis of Killeel finished in third.

David Richmond represented the Abbey in the singles final and Conor Richmond and Conor Campbell were the doubles players.

In the boys' under 14 events, Ardghal Mac Mahon represented the Abbey in the final. Brendan O'Farrell and Jonathan Reynolds won the u14 plate; Ciaran Hughes won the u14 singles plate.

At the conclusion of the championships the organizers thanked the players and schools for their commitment and commended the high standard of tennis and sportsmanship. The local tennis clubs were thanked for helping to make the event such a success.



The Abbey and St. Colman's Tennis Teams

The idea of a tennis league for next year was very well received with many parents coming forward with offers of help

## Basketball

The Abbey under 19 basketball team got off to a blistering start in their cup campaign this year. In their region the team faced two strong and experienced teams from Donegal - Rosses Community School and Glenties Community School. The Abbey boys stepped up to the mark winning both of these games to win their place in the All Ireland Cup Quarter Final. Here the team were to face last year's Cup semi finalists, Athenry College. In a fiercely fought game the Abbey lost out to the more experienced Athenry team by 12 points. This ended their cup campaign.

The team then turned their sights to the league title. The first league game was played against Magherafelt High School. The Abbey boys took the lead early on and finished with a 26 point lead. Next to play were last year's finalists, St Michael's, Lurgan, who the Abbey boys beat by 18 points. Next was a trip to Belfast to play Lagan College. Again the Abbey got the upper hand and won the game by 32 points. This secured the Abbey's place in the Ulster final.

St Michael's, Lurgan, made it to the league final also and were looking to settle a score with the Abbey boys. St Michael's came out fighting and had the first score of the game. The Abbey fought back with 2 consecutive scores and after that St Michael's were playing catch up with the first quarter ending on 16 - 9 to the Abbey. St Michael's came back strong in the second quarter scoring 9 points to the Abbey's 10.



Ulster Under 19 Basketball Champions

In the third quarter the Abbey started as they meant to go on scoring 16 points in a row. St Michael's couldn't bridge the gap and the Abbey won the game with a final score of 51 - 40. The Abbey men were Ulster champions for the 2nd year running. The team now move on to the All Ireland playoffs at the beginning of February.

# Abbey Miss Out on Rannafast Glory

The brightly floodlit Healey Park in Omagh created an excellent setting on Wednesday 17th November, as the U16 footballers of St Patrick's College Maghera were crowned Ulster Colleges' Rannafast Cup Champions when they triumphed over opponents Abbey CBS Newry. The Maghera players proved themselves worthy champions with a seven point victory over the Abbey boys and showed themselves able to master the windy conditions which threatened the proverbial game of two halves. Despite being first to face the strong wintry breeze, which blew straight down the pitch, St Patrick's were three points ahead at the half-time break and although Abbey had a good opening to the second period of play the Derry boys were able to stretch further ahead as the game moved towards the final quarter.

In winning the Rannafast Cup this group of players became the first team from Maghera to collect Ulster Colleges football titles in every year of their school careers. Their Rannafast title sits alongside previous Ulster victories in Brock, Corn na n-Óg, D'Alton and O'Farrell Cup victories secured by the team group in their younger days at St Patrick's – an outstanding achievement by the group.

Where concerns might have existed about the Maghera players' motivation for Wednesday evening after so many successful days together, team captain James Kearney threw a significant challenge to his team mates when he opted to play against the breeze in the opening half. Kearney's bold decision was soon rewarded by his team mates as they proceeded to make light of the wind in their faces as they pinned Abbey back in to their own half. Scores were needed to embellish the hardworking ethos of the Maghera team and the ever-effective, busy Gerald Bradley pointed two frees into the difficult wind as a statement of intent. Abbey struggled to match the hard work and hard running of their opponents and although scores were hard to come by for Maghera their defensive work ensured that Abbey were also finding scores very scarce – one Conor Martin point their only flag raised.

The 22nd minute then provided one of the defining moments when Maghera won their own kick-out, transferred the ball quickly to half forward, Pádraig Cassidy, who carried the ball 30 metres before setting off an excellent pass to full forward, Peter Cassidy, who slammed the ball to the net. This already gave the impression of 'game over' and had this score been repeated moments later, when McFaul raced through the Newry defence before off loading, then it most certainly would have been decisive. Although Abbey did respond to grab two late points the three point half-time deficit they

faced might well have been much more.

A bright opening to the second half brought some renewed hope for the Down school as they continued with Brendan McKiernan in a sweeper role which gave them plenty of possession but also meant they faced a wall of Maghera defenders when they came close to goal. McAleenan opened the scoring but this would be his team's only score of the third quarter – the St Patrick's defensive effort showing great discipline and tenacity as they continually blocked down, broke up or forced Abbey attacks into poor choices or blind alleys from which a white St Patrick's jersey often emerged. Midfielder, Neil McNicholl, and centre forward, Dominic McFaul, had points for Maghera as they broke out of defensive mode and with the third quarter closing the Derry boys closed out the game. Midfielder, O'Hara, collected a loose ball from an Abbey kick-out, glanced quickly at goal and fired a driven, swerving, wind-assisted shot towards the Abbey crossbar from 35 metres. With Newry keeper, O'Brien, struggling to regain his position the vicious movement of the ball caused it to slip cruelly from his grasp and bobble into the corner of the net.

At 2-6 to 4 points down, and facing the breeze, Abbey were never going to recover. They did bravely battle on but Coyle, Gorman and O'Doherty formed an impenetrable full back line while Carville, Kearney and Gallagher were equally rock-like on the half line – some of the catching in this defensive area was quite excellent. Pádraig Cassidy, Gerald Bradley and Declan Hughes continued with their unselfish but very demanding support of O'Hara and McNicholl in midfield, while also maintaining their chasing, tackling, and driving forward when in possession. Convery, McFaul and Cassidy on the full forward line continually made themselves available for possession and might have had more scores but for some desperate Abbey defending. The Newry boys did manage to add three more points to their total but it was too little too late as the St Patrick's horse had already bolted and secured for the College the Rannafast Cup title.

Ulster Colleges chairman, Seamas Meehan, presented the Rannafast Cup to captain, James Kearney, on behalf of the victorious St Patrick's team.

## St Patrick's Maghera:

Shane McGuigan, Steven Coyle, Niall Gorman, Cormac O'Doherty, Connor Gallagher, Conor Carville, James Kearney (0-1), Neill McNicholl (0-2), Stephen O'Hara (1-0), Gerald Bradley (0-3), Dominic McFaul (0-2), Pádraig Cassidy, Declan Hughes, Peter Cassidy (1-0) and Conor Convery.

## Subs:

Paul Gunning for Peter Cassidy.  
Paul McAtamney for Declan Hughes

## Abbey CBS, Newry:

T O'Brien (Glenn), N McParland (Newry Shamrocks), M Fitzpatrick (Aghaderg), O McAvoiy (Saval), P McEntaggart (Crossmaglen), A Beattie (Bosco), N McCavitt (Ballyholland), C Gallagher (Bosco 0-1), C Hoey (Dromintee), J O'Hare (Bosco), C Foy (Burren), C McAteer (Saval), D McAleenan (Warrenpoint 0-1), B McKernan (Burren 0-2, 2f), C Martin (Dromintee 0-3, 2f).

## Subs:

R Malone (Saval) for Hoey, T Murdock (Burren) for C McAteer



Jonathan O'Hare, battles for possession with Maghera's Neil McNicholl during the Rannafast Cup Final