



# THE ABBEY *Way*

## 'A - BEE' SPELLERS MAKE THE UK FINALS



IN THIS EDITION...



Carmen Jones is  
Coming to the Abbey



Gleo 2011



Zambian Immersion  
Project 2011

## Aidan O'Rourke:

## 'Abbey Teacher, Abbey Man'



From Head boy to long serving member of staff. After over forty years of service the Abbey stalwart, Aidan O'Rourke, is retiring. Mr Mel Mc Mahon, Head of English, pays tribute to a remarkable career. Slí na Mainistreach wishes Aidan and his family the best of luck for a long retirement.

Alex Ferguson: Manchester United; Jock Stein: Celtic; Aidan O'Rourke: The Abbey. Rarely has one individual been so strongly linked with this place of work.

Having taught in the Abbey for twenty years I encounter my fair share of past pupils on walkabout. The first question they always ask (and usually in a strangely sympathetic tone) is: 'Do you still teach in the Abbey?' Before I can make a flippant quip - just to break up the monotony of a predictable 'yes' response- they quickly follow up their first question with another: 'Is Mr. O'Rourke still there?'

Aidan O'Rourke is the longest serving member

of the Abbey teaching staff, having been here for over forty years. He is a past pupil of the Abbey Primary and Abbey Grammar: he is an Abbey man through and through. In all my time working here I have never come across a teacher who has a nickname used by staff and pupils with equal familiarity: that nickname being a variation of *The Rook* or *Rookie*. For generations of pupils Aidan has been a source of banter; someone who fights their corner; someone who will give them his time. On the corridor his many juniors hail him as the 'chief', the 'boss'.

As well as teaching English, PE, Religion, Road Traffic Studies, Latin and Mathematics (yes, Aidan began as a Mathematics teacher!) Aidan is also strongly associated with memorable school trips to London and the stadiums of great northern English football teams (and some of less importance) including his beloved Everton.

Aidan has always been a sports enthusiast and in his earlier years he managed two successful Corn Na

NOg teams in the Abbey and helped to co-manage two beaten teams in MacRory Cup finals with the late Gerry Brown.

For Aidan school has always been more than taking pupils through their books and getting them through the exam. For Aidan school has been about pupils feeling at home in the Abbey, knowing their peers, feeling comfortable within their own skin. With Aidan the boys have always felt that they could be themselves.

Aidan has given up an inordinate amount of his time to make Abbey life a better life. He has organised many past pupils' sporting events, dinners and trips for those of us who belong to the Abbey community. He makes current pupils feel that they have a special role in the school; he makes them feel that it is *their* school but he also takes time to remember and celebrate past pupils and help them relive their sporting achievements. Over the years Aidan has organised many gala evenings and these events, packaged with all the lustre of theatrical productions, have provided wonderful memories that help to renew links between our past pupils and our school.

There is no doubt that Aidan has a gift for organising 'the big occasion' and the more ambitious the project, the more he excels. The Joe Kernan 'This is Your Life' night, for me, was organised with more care and detail than that given to the annual "Late Late Toy Show" on RTE.

Aidan has always gone the extra mile. He has served the Abbey and Newry community in so many different ways. He has given his time and expertise to help those in need, a fact so clearly seen in his work in raising money for local charities.

For Aidan the Abbey is a special place and there is no doubt that Aidan has made a special contribution to it. The long-locked, smiling, beginner teacher captured in those sporting photographs hanging on our walls from the early 1970s is now the silver-haired, wiser veteran. We thank you for all that you have given and wish you and your family well, Aidan, on a much deserved retirement.

Mel Mc Mahon  
Head of English.



Mr A O'Rourke is pictured recently with former senior teacher and head of Irish, Mr Maurice McKevitt, his son, Vincent, and other past pupils during a special open day.

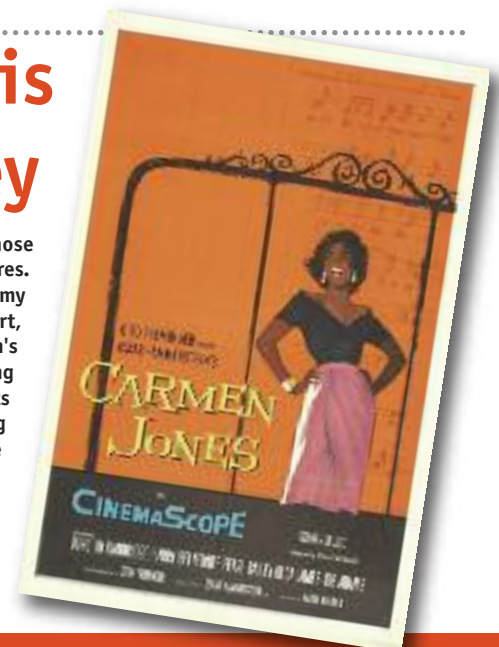
## School Show

## Carmen Jones is Coming to the Abbey

Five years on since the unforgettable production of 'Guys and Dolls' the Drama enthusiasts of the Abbey are gearing up for their next production. Slí na Mainistreach looks forward to bringing you behind the scenes snaps from the auditions to the final production, which will be staged in the magnificent Abbey Assembly Hall this Autumn. Head of Drama, Mr J Smyth, announces details of the show...

At last the name of the next school show has been confirmed as 'Carmen Jones'. The musical contains some of the finest music from Bizet's opera Carmen with modernized lyrics-with love, passion, betrayal and tragedy, Carmen Jones is an adaptation of Bizet's legendary opera, Carmen. It tells the story of a young,

free- spirited woman called Carmen Jones whose great beauty is the object of many men's desires. However, Carmen sets her sights on young army officer, Joe, who is engaged to his sweetheart, Cindy Lou. Joe quickly succumbs to Carmen's charms, forsaking his Cindy Lou, thus beginning the tragic love story. Casting and some elements of production should begin over the coming weeks and everyone involved is excited at the prospect of putting on one of the great musical scores of the last century; indeed it is highly probable that this is the first time the show has been performed in Ireland.



# Music Department has a Spring in its Step

Spring Concert



*Mrs A Hughes, Head of Music, conducting the ensemble to kick start the Spring Concert*



*Young Musician of the Year finalist, Seán Rooney, gets ready to perform*

The highlight of the Music Department's year was undoubtedly the flagship Spring Concert in April when the school's many different musical talents were on display.

Over 100 parents, friends and family members, packed into the Assembly Hall for the action-packed show on Thursday, April 7.

The diverse styles, from classical to rock, jazz to Irish traditional, showcased the wide range of skills within the school.

The Abbey Orchestra kicked off proceedings with lively renditions of the Latin classic 'Guantanamera' and Michael Jackson hit, 'Thriller'.

The recorder ensemble, under the watchful eye of tutor Mr Barry Murphy, then displayed their skills with performances of 'Minuet and Air' by Handel and 'American Patrol' by J Pitts.

The Warrenpoint Feis-winning Irish Traditional Group then took the stage and impressed the crowd with three traditional tunes, featuring, among

other instruments, the uilleann pipes and mandolin.

Year 11 student, John Poland, then captivated the audience with an impressive and highly technical solo display of pipe band drumming.

The choir, another Feis success story, showed their talents with versions of 'Imagine' by John Lennon, 'For the Beauty of the Earth' by John Rutter and 'Don't Stop Believing' by Journey.

Another instantly recognisable tune was 'Somewhere Over The Rainbow', performed by the String Group before their version of 'Reel Fiddlin' by McConnell.

The volume was turned up for the junior school rock group and their energetic and lively performance of AC/DC's 'Highway to Hell'.

The trombone quintet then took the stage to perform Mr Wadsworth's own composition, 'Military Miniatures' before AS student and BBC Young Musician of the Year finalist, Sean Rooney, played a beautiful rendition of Beethoven's 'Piano Sonata no. 28 4th movement'.

Rounding off another successful night for the Music Department was the ever-popular Jazz Band and their rousing performances of 'Blue Train', 'The Pink Panther' and 'Greased Lightnin'.

Another great night for the department and a credit to all the musicians and tutors who worked so hard throughout the year – well done to everyone involved!



*Sixth Year, John Cosgrove, gears up for the Spring Concert during the final rehearsal*



*Eamon Burns, Oriel 2, on the Uilleann Pipes. The traditional Group was one of the highlights on the night*



*First years, Mathew Linnie (left) and James McCarton (right) ahead of their concert debut*

*Third year, Luke Byrne, and second year, Conor McCusker on Trombone*

# Bliain Mhaith do Lucht na Gaeilge

## ABAIR

While the Irish Department has a history of producing excellent public speakers for Gael-Linn's ABAIR Public Speaking Competition, 2011 will undoubtedly go down as one of the most successful years. Four Abbey students took part in the Ulster Final of ABAIR which took place in Leabharlann Uí Fhiaich in Armagh in April.

With two students represented in each section, James Gallogly and James Meehan in the GCSE section and Seamas McGeough and Connor Hogan in the A-Level section, the competition was tough with competitors from every Ulster County.

By the time the competition was over James Meehan came 2nd in the GCSE Section and Connor Hogan and Seamas McGeough were awarded first and second places respectively. All three students were also awarded a £270 scholarship to the Gaeltacht.

James Meehan will now take part in the Irish / Scottish Public Speaking Finals which will be held in Dublin in September.



Abbey's 'Abair' winners; James, Conor and Séamus, pictured with the judges and fellow contestants



Conor Hogan retains his crown as Abair Champion

## GLEO

For the second time in four years the Abbey have been nationally recognised for their promotion of Irish within the school community. The 2011 presentation of Foras na Gaeilge's GLEO Award took place in the Hogan Suite of Croke Park.

This year's presentation was made by Míchéal Ó Muireartaigh, former RTÉ GAA Commentator and Irish Language enthusiast. During his speech Míchéal Ó Muireartaigh spoke about the importance of treating Irish as more than a school subject and he was delighted by the renewed

enthusiasm of young people for the language. He spoke passionately about praising the youth in their efforts to speak more Irish.

Ferdie Mac an Fhaili, Chief Executive of Foras na Gaeilge congratulated all 19 schools that were being awarded for their promotion of the Irish Language.

Of the 19 schools presented only 7 of those were Post Primary schools and the Abbey jointly shared the award with Our Lady of Mercy Girls' School in Belfast from Belfast.

Mr D Tennyson, Head of Irish, and four students, Connor Hogan, Seamas McGeough, James Meehan and Conall Havern represented the school at the awards ceremony.

## Maths Department

# Number Rumba

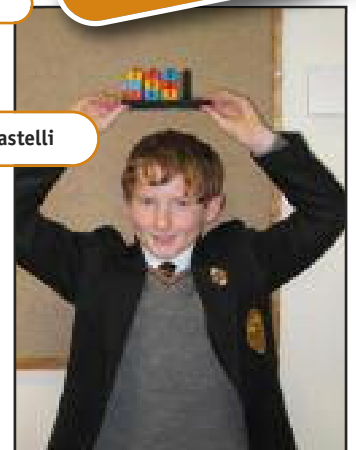
The second term of this year saw Miss McAvoy's Junior maths students go head to head in the Maths Tournament to become the ultimate champion of the "Number Rumba" challenge. The results of the final's in each class are shown:

- 8 Donard — Gareth Castelli, Cathal Nugent — Gareth Castelli
- 8 Slemish — Tiarnan Smyth, Jason Watters — Jason Watters
- 9 Slemish — Tireoghain McCrink, Padraig Maguire, Oisín Murphy — Tireoghain McCrink
- 10 Iveagh — Daniel Feenan, Eoin Monaghan — Eoin Monaghan

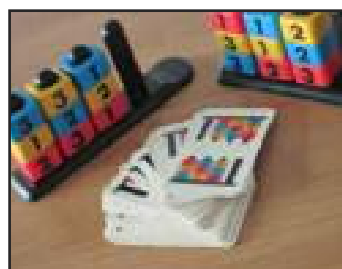
Well done Gareth!

The BIG RUMBA FINAL was then staged at the beginning of the third term when Gareth, Jason, Tireoghain and Eoin battled it out to become the Ultimate Number Rumba Champion. Each fought with diligence and true sportsmanship ... in the end it was a close call.

- Gareth Castelli, Jason Watters — Gareth Castelli
- Eoin Monaghan, Tireoghain McCrink — Eoin Monaghan



Gareth Castelli following his victory in the Number Rumba





Mr D McGovern, Headmaster, congratulates the staff and pupils involved in the Times Spelling Bee 2011

It all started when my name was forwarded to Mr Rodgers (by Mrs McGlue) to represent the school for the Times Spelling Bee 2011 along with another few students. I was picked because I hadn't got many words wrong in the spelling tests Mrs McGlue did in English class. I was told that the Regional Heats would be held in Belfast in the Waterfront Hall.

I arrived there punctually and it started shortly afterwards. In the opening rounds we were asked words individually according to our names in alphabetical order. We all fell like bowling pins except for James McGovern and a contender from a different school. The other guy made a silly mistake and James was crowned 'last man standing'. By the end of this round we finished 2nd with 26 points while those in first place had 28 points. The next round was the 'quick-fire' and our sub, Conor Poucher, was going in. We were the first to go and we came back with 45 points. All the other teams failed to get as many points as us except for one team who were trailing us by

one point. In the end we won by one point!

We were told that the semi-final would be held in Manchester on the 27th May. The same rules applied to the semi-final as the regional heats. We were 4th by the end of the first round with 22 points because there was a joint second on 24 points and a first on 26 points. This time in the 'quick-fire' we went last and got a whopping 57 points which sealed our victory. Now there is a final on the 23rd of June in London in the O2 arena. *An Slí na Mainistreach wishes the boys, and their coach, Mr M Rodgers, all the best in London.*

By Venkatesh Kamath

## Underdog, James Mc Govern, dethrones Hardspell Champion, Eoin Monaghan

One week before the annual 'Hardspell' competition – The Abbey's Spelling Bee- I sat in English Class competing in the annual entry competition, pondering the almost inevitable victory of reigning champion Eoin Monaghan and the chants of his loyal Iveagh 3 followers.

The following five days had a palpable atmosphere enveloped by banter at break time, bets were placed (let's keep that between me and you though!) My class representative, Jonny Reynolds, was waiting nervously in the wings on the day of the clash of the learned class champions.

The mighty Monaghan ambled through the first few rounds with unequivocal ease followed by the dogged James Mc Govern and rank outsider Connor Poucher. As the contestants fell one by one it came

to the final three after a battle of wits between the heavyweights of Junior School.

The following literary skirmish brought down the Achilles style hero Monaghan and crowned young James Mc Govern winner of Abbey Hardspell 2011 with the word 'Machiavellian' proving to be Eoin Monaghan's Achilles heel. Congratulations James Mc Govern, who gets a chance to defend his crown next year.

By Cormac Rea  
Slemish 9



After making it to Winchester for last year's Junior Quiz Finals, I was hoping to emulate our success with the senior team.

The quiz follows a format similar to University Challenge: a starter question is read out, and the team quickest on the buzzer who answers correctly gets 10 points, along with 3 bonus questions, worth 10 points each. You also get an additional 10 points if you get all 3 bonus questions. It lasts half an hour.

The four of us met at lunchtime for a quick meeting under the guidance of Mr Gamble. The two seniors were Daire McAteer and Garbhan McKeivitt, and the other junior was James McKeivitt, another third year. Thus began our preparation of once or twice per week for the trip down to Belfast Inst. for the regional final. In Belfast we were divided into two sections, one of four teams, and another of three. One team was to get a bye, which, luckily, was us. We sat down to watch Sacred Heart lose in a close match to Loreto B.

We went into our semi feeling relatively confident, which helped us, as we got a lot of starter questions quicker than our opponents. We ended up winning quite comfortably in the end, but in the final we were to play Loreto College Coleraine A team, who we heard were "pretty amazing." Hearing that before a final certainly doesn't help nerves!

However, we started well, and at the halfway stage, we had quite a strong lead. We continued this on, answering the starters that little bit quicker. We ended up winning by 200 points and we were heading back over to England.

For practice, we categorised some past questions and each took sections to work on. We met after school and at various lunchtimes right up until the day before the quiz.

On 7th May, we all headed to the airport for a short flight across the water. That night we had a meal and walked long the river and were able to see the Houses of Parliament. We crossed the Millennium Bridge to the London Eye. This was all quite late and unfortunately the London Eye was closed.

The next morning we took the underground to Westminster, and

after some head scratching, eventually found the school. The organiser of the whole thing gave us a quick pep talk before we were again divided into two groups of 4. Again, we were in the second group and yet again, were up second. We therefore watched a close game, which took a bit of a turn, as one of the players questioned an answer causing a long, funny dispute.

"We are not doing that!" Garbhan joked. The match finished with a flattering scoreline for King Edward's, after being extremely close for the first 20 minutes of the match.

It was now our turn. We took our place to play Exeter Cathedral College and unlike our performance in our regional final, made a horrible start, going 110-10 down early. However, after a good set of bonuses on Irish politics, we made up the difference and eventually took the lead. After trading bonuses, we held on for a great win of 70 points. We were into the semi-final, and had already bettered last year's result.

After lunch (mac and cheese), we were to play the winners of the first game we'd watched; King Edward's College. Yet again, we started poorly, going down 140-0. We did get back into it, and came close to taking the lead, but our opponents were a strong team, and we could never close the gap and so we eventually lost.

We were extremely happy with a top four finish, and after watching King Edward's score an astonishing 1100 points to beat Westminster School in the final, we could happily say we were only defeated by the eventual winners.

After a long, cramped underground trip to Heathrow, and a close run journey to catch our plane, we eventually made it back onto Irish soil, after a great trip.

Unfortunately, our captain, Garbhan, is leaving at the end of this school year, but we will still have three of the four team members left, so I hope we can get to England again three years running and perhaps go one step further.

Eoin Monaghan.

## Tionscadal na Saimbia

Tá nasc idir mo scoil, Scoil na Mainistreach, agus scoil in Livingstone i ndeisceart na Saimbia agus achan dara bliain, roghnaítear scaifte ón scoil le dul amach chucu. Bhí cuigear déag againn ann idir bhuachaillí agus mhúinteoirí. Bhí an turas chun na Saimbia fada tuirsiúl. Ghlac sé níos mó ná ocht n-uair is fiche agus bhí muid uilig scriosta nuair a bhain muid ár gceann scríbe amach. D'eitil muid ó Bhaile Átha Cliath go Londain agus ansin ó Londain go Lusaka agus ansin fuair muid mionbhus ó Lusaka go Livingstone. Lig muid ár scith ar feadh lá amháin agus thosaigh muid ag obair an lá dár gcionn.

Ar maidín bhí muid ag obair sa scoil, bhí muid ag teagasc agus ag cuidiú leis na paistí, bhí achan duine ar bís le foghlaim agus chuir sé eiteoga ar mo chroí le bheith ag múineadh paistí mar seo. Sa tráthnóna thug muid cuairt ar áiteanna éagsúla mar shampla lá amháin chuaigh muid chuig an oispis, áit a raibh neart daoine ag saothrú an bháis ón SEIF, lá eile chuaigh roinnt gasúraí chuig an phríosún agus bhí said ag teagasc na gcimí.

Sna laethanta eile bhí muid amuigh le bunadh na háite, ag cuidiú leo nó ag sugradh leis na paistí. Bhain mé an-sult as, bhí sé iontach suimiúil agus eispéaras difriúil a bhí ann. Chonaic mé ganntanas in achan áit, gan dabht ar bith, tá na daoine seo ar an ghanncuid. Bhí muid ag obair le iobairtí SEIF agus bhí muid ag múineadh na bpáistí ach

bhainfeadh sé deoir as na clocha mar tá daoine ag saothrú an bháis an t-ám ar fád agus tá achan duine beo bocht. I mo bharúil níl an saol cothrom, tá barraíocht saibhris anseo sa domhain forbartha agus níl na daoine seo ag fáil cothrom na féinne.

Thug muid cuairt ar chairéal lá amháin, áit ina raibh daoine idir 5-50 bliain d'aois ag obair 12 uair sa lá ag briseadh cloch lena lámha chun aon dollar in aghaidh an lae a fháil. Tá sé chomh míchothrom go bhfuil a leithéid d'éigeart ann sa domhan. Ina dhiaidh sin is uile, chonaic mé torthaí an airgid a bhailítear in Éirinn ar an láthair.

Mar aon leis an bhochtannas agus an fhulaingt, chonaic muid rudaí iontacha. Thug muid cuairt ar Easa Victoria, áit a bhí dochreidte. Ní féidir liom an gliondar a cuireadh ar mo chroí as an radharc



sin a fheiceáil a chur i bhfocail.

Má bhíonn an seans agat cuairt a thabhairt ar an tír sin, glac an seans agus ná bhíodh aiféala ort. Is tír fíor-álainn, fíor-iontach í an tSaimbia agus tá súil agam go bhfillfidh mé ar ais lá éigin.

The Immersion Team 2011 – Patrick Burns, Conor Devlin, Stephen Grant, Martin Hearty, Cormac Linden, Sean McCaffery, Ciaran McCartan, Shane McCartan, Neil McDonald, Séamas Mc Geough, Paul McNulty, Mr Mark Grogan, Mr Kevin Brady, Mrs Teresa Fearon and Mrs Mags McGivern.

For further information please go to [www.abbeycbs.co.uk/zambia](http://www.abbeycbs.co.uk/zambia)  
Séamas Mac Eochaidh

“What lies before us and what lies behind us are only tiny matters compared to what lies within us”

A quote found in Lubasi Home Children's Orphanage

On April 6th 2011, a group of fifteen people from the Abbey Grammar Christian Brothers' Grammar School left for Livingstone, Zambia; after months of preparation we were ready to start our Immersion Project.

Zambia is a land-locked central African country surrounded by six other countries: Botswana, Zimbabwe, Angola, Zaire, Tanzania and Mozambique. It is approximately a ten-hour flight from the UK, and around eleven times the size of Ireland, having a population of eleven million. There are seventy-three different tribes each having their own language; in the area we stayed there were the Bemba, Tonga and Selosi tribes. The Zambezi River, which runs through the country, is 2700 km long, about eight times longer than the longest river here in Ireland, the River Shannon.

The preparation started on the Edmund Rice feast day in May 2010 when forty year 12 and year 13 students applied for a place in what would be the fifth trip of its kind from the school. By October, from this group, eleven students were chosen. In the following months, we

had meetings every week where we arranged fundraising, practised cooking meals (as we would be cooking for ourselves in Zambia) and generally prepared for what would be the experience of a lifetime. It was over these months that we really bonded and became a group.

These months flew by, and it wasn't long before we were waiting in the Abbey car park on our bus to take us to Dublin Airport. We set off; our slight anxiety at what lay ahead being overwhelmed by our sheer excitement at the amazing journey we were about to embark on. Our journey from Dublin began with a sign. The pilot of our Aer Lingus flight, Shamrock 164 was a past pupil of the school. Captain Joeseph May navigated our Airbus 320 with safety to Heathrow where we waited for a few hours, before boarding our ten-hour flight to Lusaka, the capital city of Zambia, the country that would be our home for the next two and a half weeks.

We got off the plane at 6:30 am local time and were hit with a gust of 30-degree heat, our first experience of the hot African heat. Br. Joe Mosley welcomed us at the Christian Brothers' Spiritual Centre and after a quick breakfast we headed into a local compound, our first real insight

into developing world poverty. It was a gracious experience but the smiles on the children have been imprinted on our minds forever. We were given an unbelievable welcome. How many of us would welcome total strangers at 8am on a Thursday morning? We quickly realised we weren't total strangers as any friend of the Brothers' was a friend of theirs, a true tribute to the work of the Brothers.

We said our goodbyes to Br. Joe and left for the Irish Embassy. Marylee Wall welcomed us and gave our group a great insight into the work of the Irish Government in Zambia. We left Lusaka and began our seven hour bus journey south.

During our journey to Livingstone we were shocked at being stared at. We were now the "odd ones out". It wasn't until we were told not to be afraid and to wave at the people that we began to be at ease. The people were so friendly and went out of their way to wave and smile at us. Despite the heat, we managed to get some sleep on the journey but were woken frequently by the thud of the many potholes in the road. We eventually arrived at our destination 'Fawltly Towers', Livingstone. It had everything we needed and was a



luxury compared to the places we were about to see over the following two and a half weeks.

We would also like to thank all those who assisted in any way with our Project, through fundraising, preparing us and supporting us immensely.

The Immersion Team 2011 – Patrick Burns, Conor Devlin, Stephen Grant, Martin Hearty, Cormac Linden, Sean McCaffery, Ciaran McCartan, Shane McCartan, Neil McDonald, Séamas Mc Geough, Paul McNulty, Mr Mark Grogan, Mr Kevin Brady, Mrs Teresa Fearon and Mrs Mags McGivern

### Overall Aim

To foster a greater understanding and awareness of the situations of poverty, injustice and oppression, of unequal distribution of the earth's resources and of selfish vested interest prevailing over global human needs, and to empower the participants to respond at a personal, communal, national or international level. This takes place in the context of the core Gospel values of respect, dignity, love, justice and tolerance.

In Zambia, the health care system works very differently than over here in Ireland. When we were there, we were lucky enough to attend a number of the health clinics that the people attend. Here in Ireland, we go to receive our medicine from a pharmacy or a doctor, then leave again. In Zambia, the people gather in groups at the home of one of the patients where they say a prayer, do some warming up exercises then listen to speeches on a different topic every month, examples of which include human trafficking, how to tell their children about the need to use contraception, HIV/AIDs and many more. The people then get involved in a group discussion about whatever that day's topic is where they give their own views. This can be really interesting to see the local people's views on topics that are so big in their lives. While listening to a speech on a particular topic, the people are called up one by one by the nurses who are sitting at a table sorting out the dosages of medicine needed for each person. Most of the patients there were positive for HIV/AIDs and were receiving medicines for this.

It's amazing that these group clinics, that are so helpful to the people who are lucky enough to be involved in them, could not have taken place 20 or 30 years ago due to the stigma attached to HIV/AIDs. Now, thankfully, people have no fear of gathering in a public place to receive their medicine as they're more educated about their illness thanks to the ongoing work out there.

These group clinics that we attended are organised and run by the group of Irish Franciscan nuns whom we had a lot of contact with out there. It was amazing to see old ladies like Sister Mary, who was born and raised in Ireland, still working for the Zambian people and interacting with them so well.

They are attended by both males and females of varying ages, from maybe 18 up. Many of the people in attendance are uneducated so their tablets come with instructions by pictures rather than words. The most common diseases were HIV, AIDs, TB and malaria but there were also a lot of people who were just visibly malnourished.

What I found most interesting with these group clinics was how everybody was hanging on to every word of the speaker, really taking in what they were saying. They seem to learn a lot from the speeches and gain a new outlook on each of the topics, which is fantastic and means the speeches work. It was great too when they asked us questions about how the different problems that the people in Zambia have are treated by the people in Ireland. I enjoyed their reactions when we told them different things about our home, and their courtesy and respect to us was amazing, as when we spoke, even if they didn't understand, everybody listened.

What also really struck me was that although these people have such horrible illnesses, they just get on with it, continue smiling and go on as if there is nothing wrong. Their bravery is amazing. At the hospice for example, I spoke to a man in his 50's. He was severely under-nourished and his bones were clearly visible through his skin. My first question to this man, just as it was to every other Zambian I met, was "How are you?" His response, with a big smile, "I am very fine, and how are you?" This amazed me, a man at death's door, smiling to me and telling me he was fine. After speaking to him for a while, I found he was



*Patrick Burns delivers an English lesson*

a man of very strong faith, stating to me that he had no fear because God would save him, and when he did, he would try get some money to visit us in Ireland as we had visited him. Imagine somebody over here in his position, and the completely different outlook on life they would have. This man has minimal food, limited medicinal supplies but yet he sees a bright side.

In Zambia, the people live very close together, in large areas called compounds. These consist of hundred of homes made from wood and muck, no larger than your bedroom at home, possibly housing eight or nine people, all built in close proximity to each other. Imagine how easy this makes the spread of disease! Homes being right next to each other, many people living in small homes - if one person in one family gets an illness, there really is a strong possibility of it spreading through a large area rapidly. Imagine the strains

this puts on an already overworked healthcare system. Already, one doctor tends to work for 70 or 80 patients and patients get one delivery of medicines a month at these clinics, then that's it. So they don't even get to visit their doctors if they pick up an illness in the meantime. This means something like a flu can be fatal to these people. How unfair is this that we can get our antibiotics anytime we want whereas something like a flu can kill lots of people somewhere else?

The healthcare system in Zambia is something that is really struggling and unless it begins to improve, I really struggle to see the extreme poverty being faced by the people coming to an end. If parents continue to die young, then children will continue to have to leave school to look after brothers and sisters, bringing no end to the vicious cycle.

## The 2011 Zambian Immersion Team



## Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) Across the Curriculum:

Slí na Mainstreach takes a look at how Departments have embraced the whole school focus on Careers Education.

### IRISH Department:

On Friday 04th February, a Dublin City University Senior Lecturer, delivered a presentation to students in Year 12 and Year 14 about the role of the Irish Language at his third level College. Students were surprised to learn that DCU offered courses such as Business and Entrepreneurship through the medium of Irish.

As part of the Seachtain na Gaeilge celebrations, Ciarán Mac Giolla Bhéin, Youth Education Officer for Foras na Gaeilge, spoke to students across all of the Irish classes about using Irish as a possible career choice and indeed way of life outside of the classroom.

A few days later, Newry & Mourne District Council's Oifigeach na Gaeilge, Ursula Nic an tSaoir spoke to all KS3 & KS4 pupils about Irish Language services provided by the Council in the area. Finally former Abbey pupil, Ian Murphy- now a cameraman for TG4, spoke to a selection of year groups about how Irish has played a major role in his career choice to date.

### Careers and Learning for Life and Work (LLW) Departments:

Employability & Entrepreneurship at Key Stage Three:

Young Enterprise Northern Ireland (YENI) delivered a successful one day workshop to all Year 8 students - 'Your School - Your Business'. This workshop was a joint initiative from the CEIAG and LLW Departments

Year 9 students also engaged in a one day workshop named 'YE9' addressing the issues of entrepreneurship and skills/qualities and attributes needed to contribute to the future workforce.

Year 10 students engaged in early June in a dedicated programme named 'Project Business' - a structure

workshop enabling them to reflect and apply the skills they learn and develop in the classroom and transfer to the world of work.

### CEIAG in Key Stage Four:

Yr 11 Take Your Son To Work Day.

On Friday 06th May all Year 11 students engaged in our annual 'Take Your Son to Work' initiative. The students spent one day 'work-shadowing' a relative in an area of work they have an interest in.

### MATHS Department:

Sixth Year students held a Video conference with Queen's University Belfast Engineering Faculty, while all first year students participated on-line in world Maths Day.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Department:

In the RE classroom the Yr 10 and Year 12 students engaged in learning about Vocations and making links with careers.

### ART & DESIGN Department:

A2 Art & Design pupils took part in two workshops in January and April with practicing ceramicist, Trevor Woods, at Mount Ida Pottery. They found this hugely beneficial to their A2 developmental work, experiencing first hand some of the aspects that affect a practising ceramic artist.

### SPANISH and FRENCH Departments:

The French and Spanish departments engaged in an email forum with a past pupil, Paul Lambert, who is working with KPMG, in Madrid.

The A level French and Spanish students asked Paul questions such as; how had he arrived in his present position- which modules he had studied? etc.

Martin Davidson, a past pupil who is presently studying in Salamanca, also came to the Abbey to speak to the A level students.

## Reading Week

Reporter for the Newry Democrat, Donal Mc Mahon, paid a visit to Abbey C.B.S. to show the pupils how journalism is in the work life. Slemish 2, a class in second year, seemed intrigued as Donal explained the features of journalism. Sources from the class tell us that he started off showing them a few pictures on the computer of newspaper headlines and reports made by Donal. " He

showed us all these really hard-hitting headlines like swans' heads being chopped off and people being attacked with hammers," says Jonathan Reynolds of Slemish 2. The reasoning behind these headlines was to show the pupils what the news is really like these days, even if it is men being severely attacked or swans having their heads decapitated. "Then he was talking about stuff like



Year 12 Chemistry Students with visiting speaker/past pupil, Mr John Mc Kenna, a Chemistry undergraduate Queen's University Belfast



A2 English Literature students picture with Cormac Campbell, of the Newry Reporter, who spoke to pupils about Journalism



A2 Art & Design Students with ceramicist Trevor Woods at Mount Ida Pottery



KS 3 English students with Mr Gareth Chambers, visiting speaker/past pupil, who came to speak to the English and Drama departments

deadlines for the reports and that certain reports have to be done before others", commented another second year pupil, Cormac Rea. This is because news has to be released as soon as possible so the public can keep up with what's happening around them. The students learned from Donal that sometimes journalism can be fun depending on the type of reports that have to be completed. By the end of the

lesson, the boys had been given some information to give them a head start if they ever want to do journalism as a possible career in later life. The boys that were already interested in that occupation had a picture taken with Donal (which they enjoyed) and they left the classroom feeling better natured towards the prospects of becoming a journalist.  
By Jonathan Reynolds



Two men standing on a hill  
One named Harry the other Bill  
Rifles cocked and at the ready  
Never wavers always steady

Two men standing on a hill  
Both preparing to make the kill  
Their family resemblance is not clear  
As they both prepare to die here

Two men standing on a hill  
One name Harry the other Bill  
Facing each other they do stand  
Not realising that he share a native land

Two enemies standing on a hill  
One named Harry the other Bill  
A shot is fired a shot to kill  
That was fired from the gun of Bill

One man standing on a hill  
And he is called Bill  
Sees his dead brother  
With whom he had shared a father and mother

The man standing on the hill  
Whose name was Bill  
Put a gun to his head  
And shot until he was dead

Two brothers lying on a hill  
One named Harry the other Bill  
Surrounded by a foreign land  
Buried six foot underneath the sand

Two brothers lying on a hill  
One named Harry the other Bill  
Tombstones lay at their heads  
And their inscriptions read

Theses two brothers on this hill  
Were forced to kill  
Their own kin  
Purely against their will

By Colum Donnelly

This poem represents the fact that people who went to America ended up fighting their families, who fought with the English, for America's freedom. One of the two brothers in this poem is fighting for America's freedom and the other is fight for the English

The silent snake slithers, struck with passion,  
Throughout forests camouflaged by beauty.  
Nothing can hide his eye-catching fashion.  
After all, impressing is his utmost duty.  
The snake rarely wanders from his habitat.  
For in our world it is seen as a pest.  
Yet where he lives, he gobbles ugly rats  
That even humans utterly detest.  
Behind all the venom he is alone.  
Wandering around, craving to fit in,  
Secluded even by some of his own.  
Truly, he lives in shades of hazy dim.  
Watch out for the snake has a killer bite;  
And won't stop until you're crushed by his might.

Crouched in the window, waiting to be picked;  
The day comes, I have been chosen at last.  
The feelings of being played with and kicked;  
I've never felt this happy in the past.  
I get to my new home, it is like a dream.  
I'm welcomed with care as his brand new gift;  
He runs down the hall with a joyous scream;  
He's happy as he takes me with a lift.  
Taken outside to be part of a game,  
All night we play football, it's lots of fun,  
Like I'm the celebrity with the fame,  
But after awhile he and I are done.  
He walks inside and I'm left on my own,  
Left there, with my dignity, all alone.

By James Casey Breffni 3

Stalking my prey, I stick to the tall grass,  
My eyes watching, spit falling from my mouth,  
The evening sun makes my fur look like brass,  
The full-grown deer trotting toward the south.  
My yellow, beady eyes wait for a chance,  
My orange paws pressing into the soil,  
I follow the deer like I'm in a trance,  
My paw breaks a twig, its ears start to 'coil.  
My cubs watch me hunt, eyes fixed on me,  
My fangs, both white and sharp, glint in the sun,  
I grow closer, the deer begins to see;  
I approach the prey, the deer turns to run.  
I leap toward the beast, my eyes shut tight,  
The helpless deer falls on this dark, dark night.

By Oisín McLoughlin - Breffni 3

Eyeing up my target from the rooftops,  
Following his every move closely.  
Eventually he will have to stop.  
I think he's going into that alley,  
I must wait 'till he's in a quiet place  
So I can finish this once and for all.  
Then I can look at him right in the face,  
And slice his throat before letting him fall.  
He leads me into an empty town square,  
Of my presence, he's of course unaware;  
I thought I was being oh so discreet.  
Just as I prepared for the deadly strike,  
He was gone in a flash, almost ghostlike!

Rory O'Hare Br. 10

Life, such a beautiful thing;  
You come into the world, oh so small,  
As you lie in that hospital wing,  
You are some man's new born son.  
During your time, you fall and cry,  
And hurt yourself again and again;  
It's a part of life, it's no lie,  
But you have to be strong, get through the pain;  
You get older, things get taken from you;  
That's just a part of life.  
You learn different things you never knew,  
And with these times, you'll experience strife.  
Inevitably we all must die,  
Each of us, at one time, must say goodbye.

Gavin Fox, Breffni 10

## Ballad

### 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!"

By Mark Keenan, Breffni 2



- Front row (l-r)** Christopher O'Neill, Patrick McConville, Stephen Mooney, Mark McAlinden, James O'Gorman, Ms A.Reynolds, Mr D.Evans, Mr D.McGovern, Mr P.McKeeever, Mr P.O'Neill, Mr G.Morgan, Sean McCaffery, Ciaran Bradley, Daniel Smith and Owen Jones.
- First row (l-r)** Christopher McGahan, Rory Keenan, Adam Magill, Shane Finegan, Jack Bradley, Garbhan McKeivitt, Colum Mackey, Callum McLoughlin, Kelvin McKenna, Daniel McCullagh, Gavin Donnelly, Aaron Quigg, James Campbell, Christopher Payne, Brian McArdle, Niall Byrne and Mark Millar.
- Second row (l-r)** Aidan McVerry, Gerard Watters, Conor P O'Neill, Daniel Barfield, Scott Gray, Hua Jian Liu, Liam Brown, Stephen Doherty, Jason Gray, Stephen O'Hare, Glenn O'Neill, Declan Black, James Keenan, Conor Carroll, Conor Doran and Joe Campbell.
- Third row (l-r)** Rory Devlin, Peter Martin, Caolan Smyth, Liam Gray, Kevin Gribben, Peter Hollowood, Conor O'Hare, Paul McNulty, Graeme Rice, Danny Mullan, Jonathon Taylor, Jack Flynn, Daniel Neary, Conleth Cull, Dean Carolan and Ryan Walsh.
- Fourth row (l-r)** Piaras Murdock, Gerard McGovern, Martin Hearty, Daniel Madden, James Delahunt, James Martin, Cian Gallagher, Dermot McVeigh, James Flynn, Gavin O'Hare, David Morgan, James Dickson, Conor Savage, Cathal Trainor, Aidan McGauley, Kyle Keenan, Michael McCann, Eoin Colgan, Stephen Beattie and Gregory McChesney.
- Fifth row (l-r)** Bernard Copper, David Richmond, Ryan Kearney, Conor Devlin, Turlough McEvoy, David Lynchehaun, John McAlinden, Oisín Lynch, Shay Millar, Conor Donnelly, James Burns, Conor T O'Neill, Mark Cox, Matthew McCartney, Christopher Fearon, Lorcan Quinn, Donal Fullerton and Dara Macauley.
- Missing from Photo;** Rory Toner, Aodhan Byrne, Fintan McAleenan, Christopher McArdle, Conor McKinley, John Aitken, Patrick Burns, Peter Carragher, Brian Comasky, Laurence McGivern, Niall McCavitt and Conor McVeigh. Mrs S Burns.

History

# Battlefield Britain Star Visits Abbey

The 18th May 2011 will go down as one of my most memorable days in the Abbey. Notable broadcaster, writer and historian, Peter Snow, was to visit the local area doing research for his new book on General Ross' expedition to America during the War of 1812. Dr Mc Cavitt arranged for Peter Snow to visit the school and give all Year 9 pupils a talk on his past and present work.

The canteen had been turned into a mini Smithsonian with a variety of models of The White House, in various conditions, both before and after the fire, Fort Mc Henry and even Ross's Monument which our guest seemed to enjoy. He then held a captive audience as he spoke first of his years in broadcasting, and then about how his lifelong passion for history had been channeled into his documentaries and books.

Mr Snow described in detail the War of 1812 and told us of how he was fascinated by the diaries and journals which the officers and soldiers had kept which vividly recorded not only the major events but also their day to day lives and thoughts.

The time Mr Snow spent entertaining us with his anecdotes seemed to go too quickly and I felt I could have listened to him all day. While a number of the facts he told us we already knew, his perspective gave me a new understanding of the period and the people involved. I found his enthusiasm for history to be inspirational and I would consider his distinguished career to be my ideal.

By Pádraig Maguire  
Slemish 9



Ruari O'Neill, Donard 2, shows his project to Battlefield Britain's Peter Snow



Pádraig Maguire, Slemish 9 explains his project to Peter Snow



Peter Snow mingles with Year 9 pupils

This year has seen some of our best results so far in our short six year history of developing rugby by the Abbey. Our U18s had a limited season but managed a few fixtures, being narrowly beaten by Kilkeel HS and RBAI 4th team. This game was very close with excellent tries from our fast winger, Stephen Docherty, and much intelligent kicking (up & unders and grubbers) from our captain Owen Jones (Newry RFC). The game entered the last quarter with a couple of points between the two sides but then a few super subs were brought on by the opposition and the game swung away from us. Finding time to train was difficult this year and we were grateful for the coaching support of past pupil, Darren Marshal. Many of these boys have gone on to play regularly for Newry U17s & U19s.

The U16s showed great promise, skill and commitment and played impressive rugby in their 'friendlies' and Pollick Cup matches. They approached their first round match in the High Schools' Cup against Strangford with much optimism. We arrived after a long journey to find a very small pitch – our game plan had been to play a wide fast game – a new game plan was needed!! Up the middle, ruck, ruck, and ruck again. There would not be much space to release our speedy wingers. The next

disruptive factor was that there was no referee and despite normal courtesies of the home team, yours sincerely was required to referee, no problem with that but I would prefer to coach, support, and apply tactics from the touchline! The game could not be closer, tries were coming in fast and furious from both sides, the referee managing to keep up with play (one advantage of a small pitch!). Five minutes to go and the Abbey was in the lead by three points, both teams were putting every ounce of energy into crunching tackles and relentless counter-rucking. Somehow the drift defence missed and Strangford slipped in under the posts, converting it, to be 41-37 points up. All we needed in the last two minutes was a try! As the Abbey drove forward towards their line, admirably led by their captain Keiran McKeivitt, a pass out to the backs was intercepted, and their no10 ran the length of the pitch to score again, game over 46-37. One of the best players this season, Thomas Carlisle (Banbridge RFC), despite concussion and more recently torn ligaments, has gone on to representative rugby for Ulster U16s – well done.

Both the U14s, led by their inspirational captain, Cody Magil, Newry RFC, and the U12s, captain Niall McKeivitt and Vice-Captain Liam



McCartan (both Newry RFC), had successful seasons getting through to the High Schools Ulster finals. The U14s won one and lost one in the finals so did not get through to the semi-finals. The U12s whipped everyone in the qualifiers and I had high hopes in the final. Was it the weather, the officials (you win some you lose some – that day we lost some!!!), or just that we did not perform to our best as a team? Individual skill and effort from the captain and vice captain, not to mention the hard work of the forwards, Karlos, Chris & co, the

speed of the backs, Luke, Mel, Turlough, and co., was just not quite enough on the day. Don't worry boys there is always next season!

Many thanks to Mr Gamble and Mr Hanna for their support in coaching this year. Whether as coach, referee, 1st aider, or minibus driver, the time invested has been great fun, even with no silverware – yet!). If there is any staff or support staff who feel inspired to help out in any of the above areas – training will be provided on the job!

DW

## Another successful year for Abbey Basketball.

The Abbey basketballers have had an exceptional season. The senior season kicked off in September with the under 19 team entering in both the cup and league competitions. The under 19 team won both the league and Cup Ulster finals with great flair, to progress to the All-Ireland quarter finals in both competitions. In the Cup competition the team drew a home game and played an experienced Athenry College; unfortunately the boys lost this game to eventual finalists Athenry by 6 points. The Under 19 team were also unlucky in their All Ireland league quarter finals losing out to St Mary's Drogheda. MVP for the season was definitely Niall Burns, who has for the past 2 years been captain to this team. Coach, Mrs McClean, says that she will be sorry to see the current 7th years leaving the squad as they have all worked hard over the last few years.

The Under 16 season also kicked off in September with the Abbey boys winning all of their games under Captain Joe McShane. They reached the Ulster Final to meet old rivals St Pat's, Dungannon, who beat the Abbey in a closely fought final by 5 points. This meant the Abbey boys had to go to playoffs in order to qualify for their All Ireland quarter final spot. The boys played a very strong Carolan College team in the playoffs. The game ended in a draw and went into double overtime with the Abbey winning in the second period of overtime with a big 3 point score from Aaron Miller to secure their place in the Quarter finals. Unfortunately, the boys having travelled all the way to Heywood, lost out on a semi final place in a heartbreaking game which was lost by one

point. Coach, Mrs McClean, is hopeful that next year will see the team win the Ulster title.

The Under 15 season kicked off in January of this year with the third years easily winning their first game against Magherafelt High School and continued this winning streak to take the Ulster title yet again. Team captain, Aaron Miller, was in great form this season as were Peter O' Hagan, Aaron O'Reilly and Rory Watterson. Troublesome twosome, Garret Campbell and Ross Hanlon, caused many a headache for opposing teams with their excellent teamwork and passing. Coach, Mr. Evans,

said that the team had worked very hard and that there had been great improvements made by many of the team members.

The under 14 season also kicked off in February with the new recruits losing their first game by 18 points. However, the boys recovered in time to win their next game by a reasonable margin of 6 points. Their winning streak continued for the rest of the season and the team managed to place 3rd in the league on score difference. The team hopes to win an Ulster title next season.



# Abbey Ju-Jitsu Club

## Make the Grade

February saw a first for the Abbey Grammar School when they held their first martial arts grading in the school. Since September of last year students in the Abbey have had the option of learning the martial art of Ju Jitsu.

Ju Jitsu is offered to all students in the school as an alternative to the more traditional extra-curricular activities of football and basketball. In addition to the physical exercise that is part and parcel of Ju Jitsu there is also the more important element of self defence that is taught. "Many parents send their children to learn how to swim as it is seen as an important skill to have just in case they need it some day", said instructor Ivan McQuaid, "however, it is much more likely that their child will need to defend themselves and have the skills required for self defence before they ever need the skill of swimming, but not many parents send their children to learn how to defend themselves – it's a little strange!"

Ju Jitsu is a practical self-defence based martial art and more information can be found at [www.kaizenjitsu.co.uk](http://www.kaizenjitsu.co.uk).



Gerard O'Hanlon (3rd Dan), Damien McCann (5th Dan) and Ivan McQuaid (3rd Dan – Abbey Instructor.)

### Cross Fit

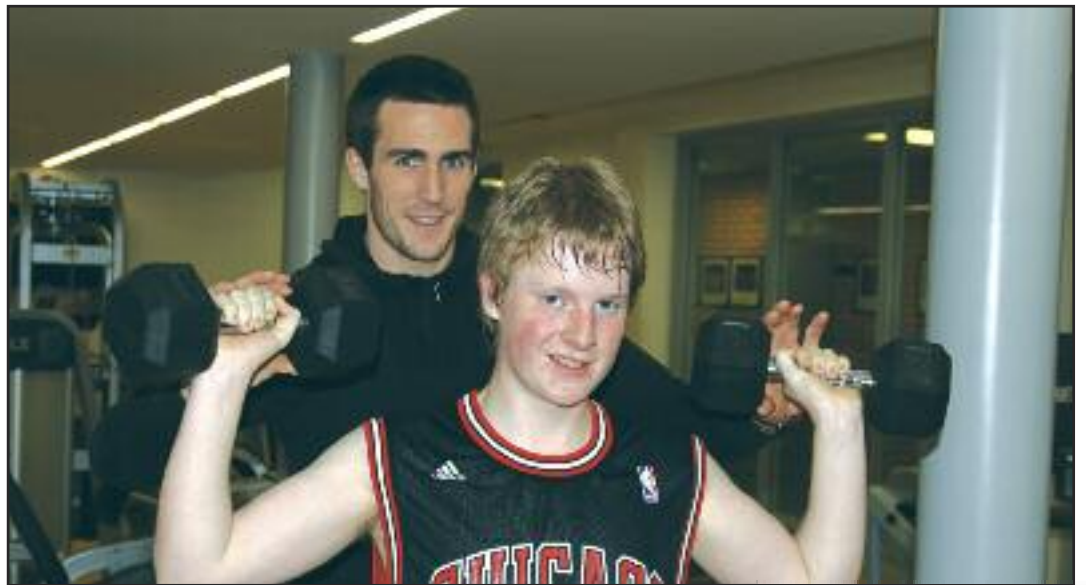
## Abbey boys join the 'Crossfit' Revolution

Slí na Ministreach hears from three pupils who have been regular users of the Strength and Conditioning room.

The Abbey free weights has done a lot for me in the last year of school. It has built my confidence levels while managing to control my ego. The obvious things that I have learnt are the technique and form of the different exercises but I would say I have learnt more about my mental capability in striving towards being the best and pushing my body to its limit, each time getting stronger and tougher. The help and encouragement from Mr. J Gormley, Robbie, and Ivan have been immense and this has really set me up for my training outside school (Dan Madden).

Throughout my final year in the Abbey I have spent countless hours of my spare time in the Abbey Gym. Through the tutelage of the PE department teachers, I have learnt sound technique and knowledge in physical well being. The facilities are top of the range, the training and advice is expert, and best of all, it's free. If you are looking to improve yourself physically or you are looking for a challenge, I can not recommend the Abbey gym highly enough. (Bernard Cooper).

The broad range of facilities in the Abbey gyms are frequently in use and having them available has been



very useful throughout the last year of school.

I have made much stronger bonds with friends from the gym, which of course comes with a little friendly competition!

Under the guidance and encouragement of Mr Gormley and the PE teachers, we have developed sound technique and have been able to help fellow peers with theirs.

It has become a routine coming to the gym, giving us an understanding for weights we can use in training outside of school!

Chris O'Neill

### Placement Student

Placement in the Abbey this year has been an absolutely brilliant experience. If there was one thing I could change it would be that the year didn't go so fast. The boys and staff have all been great to work with; and honestly couldn't do enough for me. I have been lucky enough to be involved with the school's cross country team this year along with Mrs T. Fearon, which took us as far as the Ulster

Championships with a superb 1st Year panel, ably led by Jason Sloane. Hopefully I can continue to use everything I've learned this year, so that one day I can hopefully this as a fully qualified teacher. Finally, I just want to say a big thank you to everyone who's made this experience, the experience it has been.

(Mr P. Heaney;  
P.E. Placement Student)