



THE ABBEY *Way*

**Singing, Dancing and High Drama:
All in a Night's Work for 'Carmen Jones'**



IN THIS EDITION...

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- Sport
- Abbey-Rathore Christmas Party
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- EU Mock Council



EXCELLENT GCSE RESULTS SHOW INCREASE IN TOP GRADES IN ABBEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Fifth year students at the Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Newry, learned that they have created their own little piece of history when they received their GCSE results last week. This group have achieved a new record for the greatest number of students obtaining 5 or more passes and 7 or more passes for the whole year group. 100% achieved five or more A*-C grades. The number of pupils who achieved seven or more A*-C grades has increased to 96%.

97% of the total grades are A*-C . 80% achieved A*-B grades and an astonishing 46% achieved A*/A grades. 40 students achieved at least 8 A*/A grades.

Six students are the 'Top Achievers' in this year's GCSE examinations. They achieved 12 A*/A grades. They include: Cailum Finnegan (11 A* and 1 A), Matt Kinsella (10 A* and 2 A's), Darren Brady (7 A* and 5 A's), Paul McKeever (5 A* and 7 A's), Conor Tinnelly (4 A* and 8 A's) and Cathal Grant (2 A* and 10 A's).

Following the top performers above, fourteen students achieved at least 11 A*/A grades, including: Aaron Beattie, Peter Doran, Declan Garvey, Paul McCabe, James McCartan, Kieran McKeivitt, Connor McShane, Declan McShane, Bryan Murphy, Cathal Murphy, Mark Rafferty, Joseph Reynolds, Paul Sweeney and Gregory Wallace. Another three students achieved at least 10 A*/A grades: James Gollogly, Cathal McKeown and Patrick Tiernan.

Paul Hearty, Kaming Liu, Caolan McCann and Abeer Shahid achieved an outstanding 9 or more A*/A grades and another 13 students achieved at least 8 A*/A grades, including: Peter Brady, Micheal Campbell, Tiernan Connolly, Caolan Daly, Conor Hoey, Stephen Hughes, Jack Maguire, Ryan Mathers, Conor McCartney, John McKeivitt, Neil McParland, Jonathan O'Hare and Colin Rice.

Students will choose four A levels from a range of 27 subjects available, including: History, Geography, Art, Drama and Theatre Studies, Business Studies, Accounts, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Irish, French, Spanish, ICT, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Design and Technology (Systems and Control), Design and Technology (Resistant Materials), Religious Studies, Government and Politics, English Language, English Literature, Physical Education, Music, Sociology, Psychology, Engineering and Construction.

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.



40 students from the Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School achieved at least 8 or more A*/A grades in their GCSE examinations. Included are: Cailum Finnegan, Matt Kinsella, Darren Brady, Paul McKeever, Conor Tinnelly, Cathal Grant, Aaron Beattie, Peter Doran, Declan Garvey, Paul McCabe, James McCartan, Kieran McKeivitt, Connor McShane, Declan McShane, Bryan Murphy, Cathal Murphy, Mark Rafferty, Paul Sweeney, Gregory Wallace, Cathal McKeown, Paul Hearty, Kaming Liu, Caolan McCann, Peter Brady, Micheal Campbell, Tiernan Connolly, Caolan Daly, Conor Hoey, Stephen Hughes, Jack Maguire, Ryan Mathers, Conor McCartney, John McKeivitt, Neil McParland, Jonathan O'Hare and Colin Rice. Mr Dermot McGovern, Headmaster, gives this group of high achievers advice on which subjects to choose for A Level . Also included are Mr. Mark Grogan, Year Tutor for Year 12, Vice Principals, Mr Paul O'Shea and Mr Ronan Ruddy. Missing from photograph are: Joseph Reynolds, James Gollogly, Patrick Tiernan and Abeer Shahid.



Abbey Grammar School 'Top Achievers' in this year's GCSE examinations are congratulated by Mr Dermot McGovern, Headmaster, Mr. Mark Grogan, Year Tutor for Year 12 and Vice Principals Mr Paul O'Shea and Mr Ronan Ruddy. Six students achieved 12 A*/A grades. They included: Cailum Finnegan (11 A* and 1 A), Matt Kinsella (10 A* and 2 A's), Darren Brady (7 A* and 5 A's), Paul McKeever (5 A* and 7 A's), Conor Tinnelly (4 A* and 8 A's) and Cathal Grant (2 A* and 10 A's)

OUTSTANDING A-LEVEL RESULTS AT ABBEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

A' Level Results

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

The most significant statistic from these results is that more pupils at the Abbey are obtaining the top grades. Almost 50% of all results were grade A, 74% were grades A*, A or B and 93% grades A*-C.

Another highlight for the 'Class of 2011' is that a quarter of Upper Sixth achieved at least one A* grade. The examining boards introduced this new level only last year to acknowledge 'super A grades'. Candidates must achieve 90% in their A2 exams to be awarded this. As competition for 'high demand' university courses rises, candidates are under pressure to meet third level offers. With 10% of total grades being A*, Abbey pupils have continued to obtain their first choice university course.

A total of 25 pupils achieved 3 or more A's.

Nine pupils achieved at least 4 'A' grades. Two pupils couldn't be separated with an outstanding four A* grades and an A grade (AS). Daniel McCullagh obtained A* grades in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics. He added to this impressive haul with an A grade in AS Further Mathematics. He shall be studying Aerospace Engineering at Bath University. Ryan Walsh obtained A* grades in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics. He also excelled with an A grade in AS Further Mathematics. Ryan wishes to take a Gap Year this year. Dean Carolan obtained A* grades in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Business Studies. He shall be studying Medicine at Queen's University, Belfast. Hua Jian Liu obtained A* grades in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics. He shall be studying Medicine at Queen's University, Belfast. Stephen Doherty obtained A* grades in Biology and Physics, A grades in Chemistry and Mathematics. He shall be studying Medicine at Queen's University, Belfast. Niall McCavitt obtained an A* in History and A grades in Government and Politics, English Literature and English Language. He shall be studying Law at Queen's University, Belfast. Garbhan McKeivitt obtained an A* in Psychology and A grades in Geography, Spanish and English Language. He shall be studying Psychology at Queen's University, Belfast. Callum McLoughlin obtained an A* in Biology and A grades in Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics. He shall be studying Medicine at Glasgow University. Adam Magill obtained A grades in History, Government and Politics, English Literature and Irish. He shall be studying Law at Queen's University, Belfast.

Another 16 pupils achieved at least 3 'A' grades. John Joe Aitken obtained A grades in Biology, History and Government and Politics. He shall be studying Ancient History and Politics at Queen's University, Belfast. Jack Bradley obtained A grades in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and a B grade in Mathematics. He shall be studying Medicine at

Dundee University. James Burns obtained A grades in History, Sociology and Construction. He shall be studying Quantity Surveying at University of Ulster. Patrick Burns obtained A* grades in Biology and Physics, an A grade in Mathematics and A grades (AS) in Chemistry and Further Mathematics. He shall be studying Actuarial Science and Risk Management at Queen's University, Belfast. Conleth Cull obtained A grades in Government and Politics, History and Business Studies. He shall be studying History and International Politics at Queen's University, Belfast. Conor Devlin achieved A grades in Physics, Technology and Design and Mathematics. He also achieved an A grade in AS Further Mathematics. He shall be studying Mathematics at Queen's University, Belfast. Gavin Donnelly obtained A grades in Biology, Physics and Mathematics. He also added an A grade in AS Further Mathematics. He shall be studying Physics at Queen's University, Belfast. Kevin Gribben achieved A grades in Government and Politics, History, Mathematics and a B grade in Physics. He shall be studying Accounting at Queen's University, Belfast. Owen Jones obtained A grades in Technology and Design, Physics and Mathematics. He also added a B grade in AS Government and Politics. He shall be studying Electrical Engineering with Computer Science at University College, London. Rory Keenan achieved A grades in ICT, Physical Education and Construction. He shall be studying Quantity Surveying at University of Ulster. Mark McAlinden achieved an A* grade in Sociology, A grades in Government and Politics and History and a B grade in English Language. He shall be studying Law at Queen's University, Belfast. Turlough McEvoy achieved A grades in History, Religious Studies and Sociology. He shall be studying Environmental Planning at Queen's University, Belfast. Paul McNulty obtained an A* grade in Biology and A grades in Chemistry and ICT. He also added an A grade in AS Mathematics. He wishes to take a Gap Year this year. Dermot McVeigh achieved A grades in Biology, Geography and History. He shall be studying Land Use and Environmental Management at Queen's University, Belfast. Aidan McVerry achieved A grades in Biology, Physical Education and Construction. He shall be studying Business Management at Queen's University, Belfast. Conor O'Hare obtained an A* grade in Mathematics, A grades in Biology and Chemistry and a B grade in Physics. He shall be studying Dentistry at Dundee University.

Mr Dermot McGovern, Headmaster, congratulated this exceptional group on their results. He indicated that virtually every boy achieved his first choice university place. He was also delighted with the Lower Sixth performance in their AS examinations as they

now have the potential to outperform this year's A-Level results next year. He paid tribute to his hard working staff, both teaching and support staff and thanked them for all their efforts and dedication to the welfare of their students. He also acknowledged the strong school-parental links that helped the boys to achieve their best.



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. Included are: Daniel McCullagh, Ryan Walsh, Dean Carolan, Hua Jian Liu, Stephen Doherty, Niall McCavitt, Garbhan McKeivitt, Callum McLoughlin, Adam Magill, John Joe Aitken, Jack Bradley, Patrick Burns, Conleth Cull, Owen Jones, Rory Keenan, Mark McAlinden, Paul McNulty, Dermot McVeigh and Conor O'Hare. Also included are: Mr Padraig McKeever, Upper Sixth Year Tutor, Mr Ronan Ruddy, Vice Principal. Missing from photograph are: James Burns, Conor Devlin, Gavin Donnelly, Kevin Gribben, Turlough McEvoy and Aidan McVerry.



Mr Dermot McGovern, Headmaster, congratulates pupils who achieved at least 4 'A' grades in their A-Level examinations at the Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Newry. Included are: Daniel McCullagh, Ryan Walsh, Dean Carolan, Hua Jian Liu, Stephen Doherty, Niall McCavitt, Garbhan McKeivitt, Callum McLoughlin and Adam Magill. Also included are Mr Padraig McKeever, Upper Sixth Year Tutor and Mr Ronan Ruddy, Vice Principal.

UK Schools' Quiz Finals

Last year I and three other pupils in my year travelled to Winchester to compete in the UK School Quiz Finals. This was an extremely enjoyable trip as this allowed us to enhance our general knowledge and to visit the local tourist attractions.

To qualify for the UK School Quiz Finals we had to win the Northern Ireland School Quiz Final which was held in the Sacred Heart Grammar School. Due to Mr Gamble's assistance in preparing us for this competition and our determination to succeed we qualified for the UK School Quiz Final in England's ancient capital of Winchester without much difficulty. Despite our delight in qualifying for the UK School Quiz Final we realised that the competition in Winchester would be considerably more challenging and that more preparation would be needed for the UK School Quiz Final just a few weeks later. On 18th June we travelled to Southampton Airport from Dublin Airport. To get to our hotel from the airport we got on a train which lasted only 10 minutes. When we arrived at the hotel we went to the restaurant to get our dinner and went to bed early so we would be fully awake for the quiz the next day.

We awoke early and had our breakfast. We then travelled by train from Southampton to Winchester where the quiz would be held. A



The Successful Abbey Quiz Team.

few hours later when the quiz began we immediately realised that the standard of knowledge was extremely high but despite this we tried our best to answer as many questions correctly as possible. Unfortunately, we lost a tie-break question against a school from Plymouth which would have qualified us for the semi-finals. However, this was an extremely enjoyable trip of which I can use the knowledge I have developed through this experience in further quizzes and in everyday life. After the quiz we had a few hours to spare before our trip home so we decided to visit the tourist attractions in Winchester. We visited the Round Table; the only remaining part of Winchester Castle and Winchester Cathedral; which contains tombs of early English Kings. Winchester is a city which has lots of history and heritage and I would recommend to everyone to participate in this competition as it is an enjoyable and beneficial experience.

Rathore

Music, Science and All Round Fun at the Abbey-Rathore Christmas Party

Every week, ten 7th year students go to Rathore Special School to engage in activities with the children there. Half of the group do science experiments, whilst the other half do P.E activities.

"Going to Rathore is a thoroughly enjoyable experience, and seeing the smiles on the kids' faces is incredibly fulfilling", says Ciaran Davies, a 7th year student.

On the 7th of December, the students from Rathore School came here to the Abbey for a Christmas party. After having their lunch in the 7th year canteen, they did art activities, made a Christmas decoration and were entertained by a number of students involved in poetry, music, singing and dancing. This gave us a great opportunity to get to know the children better and everyone had a great day.

"We really enjoy the science experiments especially knowing that the pupils are learning something each day."

– Sam, Jake, Daire, Henry and Rory.



"Doing the P.E activities is really enjoyable as we get to interact with the pupils playing games in which we all have an interest."

– Neil, Ryan, Ciaran, Paul and Ciaran.

Art & Design



Mayor Charlie Casey is pictured with competition winner, Daniel Catterson.

2012 Newry & Mourne Environmental Calendar Competition

Congratulations to Daniel Catterson, Donard 2, who won 1st prize in The Newry & Mourne Environmental Calendar Poster Competition.

Daniel's winning design focuses on the theme of "Keeping Newry & Mourne Green". The popular competition received hundreds of entries from all the local schools both primary and post primary. Daniel's design will feature on the cover of the 2012 Newry & Mourne environmental calendar. Daniel was presented with a voucher for £100 to reward his skill and hard work by the Newry & Mourne Council. Congratulations Daniel on your success.

Students, Staff, Past Pupils and Friends of the Abbey Deliver a Memorable School Show

School Production 2011



A Word From the Lead...

Carmen Jones: what a fantastic experience! From the initial days of sitting in a circle in Mr Smyth's cold room reading the script, to the final panic of the dress rehearsal, the show was an unforgettable journey.

I was privileged enough to be chosen as one of the lead cast members in this play, and I was able to work alongside some great actors and some great friends. We all pulled together, learning the dances, the songs, the lines and trying to get out of as many classes as possible. The dancing was tough, the singing tougher - especially for me as I'd never sang before, Joel and Emily had previous experience which really put the pressure on me. Some of the boys who had

never danced before discovered some hidden talents and all the juniors were really enthusiastic and added a lot to the show. It was tight though. We had a short time to get everything together, but as Mr Smyth said we were going to use the 'adrenaline to motivate ourselves.' From 'Dat's Love,' to 'Stand Up An' Fight,' the cast worked hard to perfect these powerful songs, and we put in an incredible amount of effort in the week leading up to it. And that was it. The night of the first

performance; the fear had gripped everyone and when Mr Ruddy finished the safety procedures and the orchestra warmed up, we just had to hope that all the practice and all the rehearsals were worth it. I stepped out, the lights went up, the cast flooded the stage and the show went on. I hope you enjoyed the show nearly as much as I did. Getting a lead role was an honour and the perfect way to end my last year in the Abbey. As Brian Henderson said 'watch out Broadway, the Abbey's on its way!' - **M. Haddad**

Meet the Cast

Rachel Killen - Dancer Worker
Joel McCaffery - Carmen
Maeve Morgan - Frankie
Paul McAleenan - Soldier
Keith Connolly - Foreman
Hanna Patterson - General
Shannon Killen - Dancer Worker
Rebecca Killen - Dancer
Emelye Rooney - Cindy
Katie Quinn - Dancer Worker
Connor Love - Barman
Cormac Begley - Soldier
Thomas Carvill - Soldier
Ciaran Henry - Policeman
Bryan Henderson - Husky
Leo McSweeney - Photographer
Sean Fegan - Max Drummer
Shane McCormick - Soldier
Michael Haddad - Joe
Ross Elmore - Dink
Cathal O'Donnell - President
Declan Gregory - General
Christopher Connor - Murrel Soldier
Andrew McGivern - Rum
Blinne Murphy - Dancer
Catherine Heaney - Dancer

Choir

Michael Linden
Ferdia O Malley
Cormac Mallon
Declan McGuinness
Josh Keenan
Daniel Burns
Caolan Clarke
James McGovern
Oscar Henshaw
Matthew Linnie
James McCartan
Thomas O Hare
Jonathan Reynolds
Daniel Feenan
James Vint
Eoin Hannaway
Calam Toner
Kilian Thorton
Chris Kenny

Band

Trumpet 1 - Pat Mathers
Trumpet 2 - John Cosgrove

Trombone 1 - Daniel Campbell
Trombone 2 - Andrew Hughes
Trombone 3 - Conor McCusker & Conor Henry

Horn 1 - Aidan Clarke
Horn 2 - Matthew Dodds

Flute 1 - Carmel Morgan
Flute 2 - Raymond O'Donnell
Oboe 1 - Stephen Grant
Clarinet 1 - Fergal Boyle
Clarinet 2 - Cormac Boyle
Bassoon 1 - Lucy Vella
Timpani - Peter Rice
Percussion - Ben Sutherland, Henry McLaughlin and Ross O'Hanlon

Violin 1 - Rosie Ferguson, Jonathon Keogh, Miss Quinn, Edel Griffin, Emma Masterson, Orla Duffy
Violin 2 - Mitchel Davis, Colla McParland, Niall O'Flaherty, Jennifer McMahon, Bronagh Rafferty, Conor Masterson, Martin O'Donnell

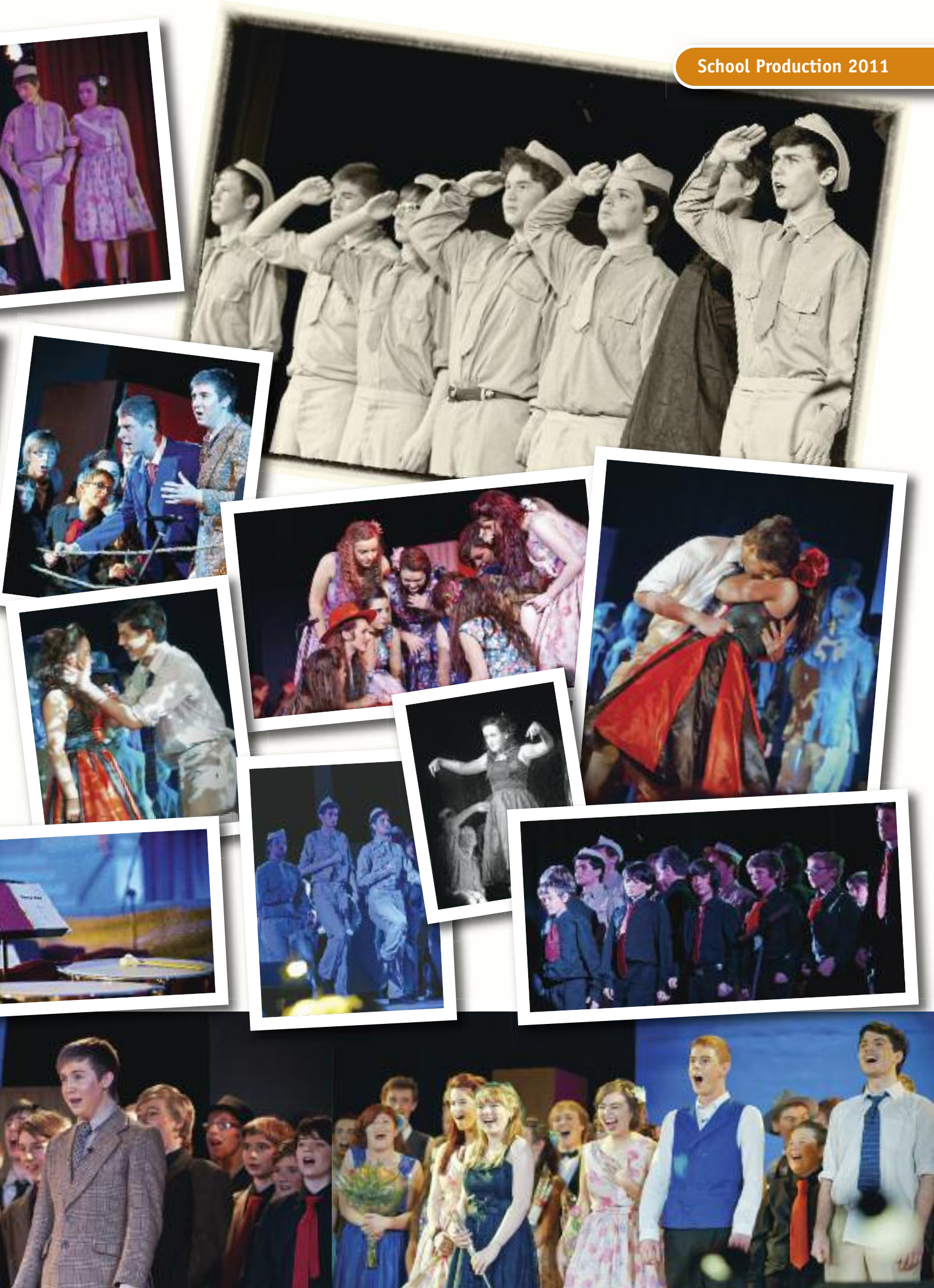
Viola - Camille Gilsennan
Cello - Emma Quinn, Amy Gilsenan
Double Bass - Orla Rice

Production Team List

Director & Producer - Mr Joseph Smyth
Musical Director - Mr Dominic Wadsworth
Assistant Producer and Stage Manager - Mr Paul McParland
Front Of House and Box Office - Mr Ronan Ruddy
Publicity and Programme - Mr John Rath
Photography and Technical Support - Mr Conor McCormick
Logistics - Mr Pat Daly & Mr Willie McCullough

Carmen Jones





YEAR 10 & 12 ..FORTHCOMING OPTIONS

Year 12 and Year 10 will be involved in making Subject Option choices as early as the 26th January, 2012.

It is extremely important that Year 10 students should choose subjects relevant to their career choices and indeed Year 12 students are strongly advised to read the Russell Group Informed choices available on the following link before making choices for A Levels.

The Russell group represents 20 leading UK Universities.

Visit <http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk> for more information.

Post-16 Qualifications:

- Advanced Level Qualifications: A/S and A/2 Levels (27 subjects on offer in Abbey CBS Curriculum)
You will study 4 A/s subjects in lower sixth;
- Vocational Qualifications: BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma (1 A level); Diploma (2 A Levels) and Extended Diploma (3 A Levels)
- Apprenticeship NI: A 2/3 year programme in a specific vocational area that involves work-based learning. (Facilitated by the SRC Newry)

Other Options Post-16:

- Employment with Training
- Employment without further training
- Another school—A level Curriculum—mixed traditional and Applied subjects.



Declan Garvey, Eoin Murphy and Patrick Tiernan during STEM week.

October was also a busy month when the Careers Department and Biology Department hosted the second annual visit of the NEELB STEM Module Bus to the school. This year the focus turned to Post-16 students and all Year 13 Biology students engaged in a day of Biotechnology experiments relevant to their AS specification.

The Chemistry Department during the week of October 24th to 28th, in collaboration with the RSC, (Royal Society of Chemistry) held its annual MTU event. Picking the right Chemistry course and university has become bewildering for school students. However, this event gave the 6th Year Chemistry students in the Abbey the opportunity to find out directly about chemical sciences courses and universities.

The students were able to take part in interactive online chat sessions with University Lecturers and were able to access student blogs getting a first hand knowledge of chemical sciences degree courses and University Chemistry Departments.

A 6th Yr student commented about the online event: "I found the depth of chemistry courses to be very interesting. The versatility offered by studying chemistry makes it a tempting course for me"

On Tuesday 11th October the Technology & Design Department: hosted a full day of activities for all Year 8 students in the assembly hall entitled 'Robotics Day' facilitated by Sentinus NI:

The Maths department has been using the Moneysense programme during the months of September and October in conjunction with the Ulster Bank.

This included hosting a guest speaker, Ms Ciara Morgan with Donard 8 talking about 'Managing your Money' and the different ways to pay for things, what facilities a bank offer, different types of cards etc.

Furthermore, Mr Francis Morgan has delivered a presentation to both lower and upper sixth students about 'Going to Further Education' and planning for their future. The work covered budgeting, managing finance after you leave school and loans.

Operation Christmas Child

Year 8 pupils from the Abbey Grammar School have taken part in this year's 'Operation Christmas Child'.

This is a Christian relief and development organisation which works through local churches and schools to proclaim and demonstrate the love of God to children and families in need across Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Pupils have packed shoeboxes with lots of goodies and gifts in the hope of bringing joy into the lives of underprivileged children. Our focus as a

school is to remind these poor children that God loves them and that they have not been forgotten at Christmas. Also included in the photograph are; Mr William Thompson and Mr Ivor Hook from 'Samaritan's Purse', Mrs Lisa McKeever, Head of Religion, Mr Pat O'Neill, Religion Teacher and Mr Dermot McGovern, Headmaster.



Debating Matters



Abbey Senior Debating Team: Sean Fearon, Michael Haddad, Ryan Morgan and Peter Delahunt.

Well done to the senior team who competed for the first time in the Institute of Ideas competition run in Northern Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales. Peter Delahunt, Ryan Morgan, Sean Fearon and Michael Haddad acquitted themselves well during what could only be described as a 'grilling' from the adjudicating panel.

Peter and Ryan had to propose that, 'After Fukushima, we should abandon nuclear power' and despite good research and a clear sense of their arguments, they were put through their paces by a gruelling set of questions from the panel's learned adjudicators; Professor Bert Rima (Deputy Head of School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Science, Queen's University Belfast), Dr William Crawley (BBC broadcaster and journalist) and Mr Craig Fairnington (Institute of Ideas). As a biological chemist, physicist and theologian, the panel provoked a breadth of questions on all points of the argument; scientific, logical and ethical.

Following suit, Michael Haddad and Sean Fearon had to argue the case for why 'European countries should take a lead from France and ban the burqa.' Covering human rights, freedom of expression and religious belief the debate was wide-ranging and the debaters had to maintain their composure under significant questioning from Professor Rima, Mr Fairnington and Mrs Vanessa Goucher (Belfast Education and Library Board).

Congratulations to all speakers for their commitment to research, but particularly for their consistent willingness to put themselves in the line of fire to hone their debating skills. Peter Delahunt was named best individual speaker.

Br. McFarland Senior Debating Award 2011

Peter Delahunt Retains Title



Abbey senior debaters impressed yet again with their extensive knowledge and repartee at the Brother McFarland 2011 final. Several members of the audience and our sponsor, Mr Rory McShane, concluded it had been the best overall standard of debating to date; testament to the consistent work undertaken by the students concerned.

The 2011 final was hotly contested on the pertinent issue: "This House believes that student debt is a fair price to pay for an education." Guest adjudicator, Mrs Naomi Long MP, remarked that students were able to marshal their thoughts and speak effectively on each side of the motion and she spoke very positively on the standard of debating. As in the last couple of years, numbers entering the competition exceeded expectations and the engaging spirit of the semi-final rounds ensured that the final would be tough. It was clearly evident that the eight speakers were deserving finalists who could persuade audience members with substantive arguments.

The 'ex tempore' motions were at times controversial (This House believes Courtenay Hill takes Ashgrove Road) and often humorous, (This House would make wearing glitter compulsory) allowing the finalists to speak off the cuff and entertain the audience. While Year 9 and Year 11 pupils attended the final to receive their awards for in-house class debating, they also contributed to the debate from the Floor, highlighting the confidence in junior and middle school debating as it goes from strength to strength. The finalists were pushed on their arguments by the opposition and by members of the Floor. Congratulations to: Peter Delahunt, who retains the title for the second year; Niall McArdle, runner-up; Ryan Morgan, whose first year in the competition gained him a third place on final night; James Dickson, Michael Haddad,

Gregory McChesney, Ross Elmore, and Connor Hogan; all merited finalists.

Lastly, thank you to the parents, guardians and relatives in attendance that night, our sponsor, Mr Rory McShane, guest adjudicator, Mrs Naomi Long MP, the English Department whose teachers facilitate the class debating and preliminary rounds, the many members of staff, teaching and non-teaching, who contribute and offer support in the run-up to and during the final: your support is always appreciated.

Br McFarland 2012 starts at the end of January for all students in Years 11-14. Please check the debating notice board on the English corridor. Alternatively make enquiries with Ms Reynolds in UG85.



The 2011 Brother McFarland Debating Finalists pictured with guest speaker Naomi Long and competition sponsor, Rory McShane.

EU Mock Council 2011



Abbey CBS was one of two schools featured in the promotional video for the seventh annual Mock Council in October. The British Council and European Commission in Northern Ireland organised the EU Mock Council held in Stormont. The debate functions much like the real thing in Europe with the 27 member states and the European Commission represented, and a great deal of horse-trading and compromises being sought before the final votes are taken using qualified majority voting (QMV).

Peter Delahunt, Ryan Morgan and Michael Haddad were the Austrian delegates for the council debate and each had a field of responsibility. Michael focused on e-twinning, a programme for schools to find twinning partners throughout Europe to share information and establish partner-projects; Peter dealt with the issues of migration such as tightening EU external border controls and the integration of immigrant workers, while Ryan led the digital agenda, including concerns about user privacy online, cyber attacks and cloud computing.

Jonathan Scheele, Head of the European Commission in the UK said of the event: "The EU has had a massive impact on life in Northern Ireland. The challenge now is to deepen Northern Ireland's engagement with Europe, allowing it to integrate fully with the rest of Europe and to play its role successfully on the European stage. It is important, therefore, that young people get to debate major European issues and find out about the workings of the EU. The Mock Council provides an ideal forum for students to get a taste of what it would be like to represent their Member State at the

European level." It was evident from the students involved that the opportunity to be a minister for the day was a welcome and rewarding challenge.

You can watch the Abbey delegates online in this year's EU Mock Council video at the following links:

The British Council YouTube channel:
<http://www.youtube.com/user/britishcouncil>

Vimeo:
<http://vimeo.com/31023227>

Cross-Country Running

Abbey Runners Shine in Kilbroney Park at Newry and Mourne Schools Cross Country Championship

On Tuesday the 15th of November the Abbey cross country team took part in a race at Kilbroney Park in Rostrevor. There were two races, a first year race and a combined race for second and third years.

Both of the races were 1800 metres long, which was one and a half laps of the course. In the first year race we did very well. Ardan McEvoy was 5th and Billy Campbell 7th. There were other good performances from the rest of the 1st year team and as a result of this, when the points were totalled we finished second in the team event.

In the combined second and third year race we also did very well, including a brilliant performance from Oisín O'Callaghan who got first place, Jason Sloane in 4th and Tiernan Forde 5th. As a result the Abbey team was placed first in the under 15 category.

Overall, we had a very successful day and we went home confident we could build on our performance in future events.

Double Delight for the Abbey

Basketball

On the 21st of December Mrs McClean and the U19 & U16 basketball teams travelled to St Malachy's College, Belfast, to play in the Ulster Basketball Final.

The Under nineteen final was the first to be played with the Abbey facing St Patrick's College, Dungannon. The Abbey boys played hard and took the lead from the first score but St Pat's fought back in the first quarter almost matching the Abbey score for score. The Abbey team fought back with great scores and assists from team captain, Naill McArdle, Conor Campbell and Terry Guo. From start to finish the Abbey boys fought for every score and were relentless in their attack. Brilliant defence by Adrian Burns, Joe McShane and Henry McLaughlin made scoring at the other end of the court very difficult for the St Pat's team. The game finished Abbey 43 – St Pat's 31.

The U16 final tipped off at a quarter to two. The Abbey boys faced the only team who had beaten them in the league so far, St Michael's, Lurgan. The Abbey boys had a point to prove – and with big scores very early on from Aaron Miller, the Abbey were showing St Michael's that they wanted the title. With team captain, Garrett Campbell, running several fast breaks the scoreboard was very one-sided. Brilliant defence by Aaron O'Reilly and Peter O'Hagan prevented St Michael's from getting to the basket. The combination of Ross O'Hanlon and Gary Black at the top of the key caused major problems for the St Michael's offence. It was another big win for the Abbey boys.

Abbey 48 – St Michael's 26.

Abbey now progress to the All-Ireland series in February.



Corn na nóg

Gaelic Football



The 2011/12 Corn na nOg squad started their campaign in Sherry's Field, Armagh, against a strong St Mary's, Magherfelt, side. Playing into a gale-force wind, the Abbey went into the break on the wrong side of a ten point deficit. However, strong words from captain, Daire Rooney, and the introduction of Burren's Declan Murdock turned the tide in favour The Abbey who ran winners on a score line of 5-12 to 1-12.

Next up were group favourites, Omagh CBS, in Eglis. The Abbey had the lion's share of the play in the first half, keeping Omagh to three points. However, Omagh struck two goals in the five minutes following the interval; and despite a spirited Abbey fightback, Omagh took both points in a 2-6 to 1-5 score in favour of the Tyrone men, with Newry Shamrock's man, Conor McKeown, bagging the Abbey's only goal. Had it not been for injuries to Joe O'Loughlin, Daire

Rooney and Shea Murdock as well as wayward shooting and poor decision making, the result could have been different. However, the boys will have learned a lot from this game which will hopefully stand them in good stead for the rest of the year.

The defeat to Omagh was followed up by facile wins over Downpatrick and Colaiste Inis Eoghain on scorelines of 2-26 to 0-04 and 5-22 to 1-0 respectively. Whilst the

scoreline didn't have any bearing on group placement, it did give the management team a chance to look at other players, many of whom impressed particularly Charlie Magill, Sean Og Boyle, Callum O'Neill and Shea Conlon; giving management a few selection headaches over the Christmas break.

The Abbey now meet competition joint favourites St. Patrick's, Dungannon, in the quarter-final at the end of January. Whilst the panel performed extremely well during the group stages, they will know that a lot of work must be done before the last week in January. Assistant manager, Ben O'Reilly, claims: "the work done over the Christmas break will be the deciding factor in how competitive we will be in the latter stages of the competition. The slate has been wiped clean and all positions are up for grabs."

Abbey to Face Old Rivals, Maghera, in the Mac Rory Cup Quarter Final

MacRory Cup

This year's Mac Rory Cup squad got off to a flying start in their opening game in October.

Playing against the tournament favourites, Omagh CBS, the Abbey led by captain and recent All-star recipient, Ciaran Mc Cartan, gave a fantastic display of grit and determination to win the game by 1-7 to 0-5. The Abbey's goal came courtesy of Damien Mc Keown's blistering pace and rounded off an excellent individual display. Next up were, St Colman's, and revenge was high on the agenda for the Castleowen men. In the previous two years St Colman's had had plenty to spare over the Abbey at this level, thanks largely to the arrival at Violet Hill of Caolan Mooney, who is now, of course, plying his trade in the AFL in Australia. On this occasion the Abbey made a dream start with Conall Gallagher scoring a superb individual goal. It was a lead that the Abbey would never relinquish. Further points from Cailum Cumiskey and Damien Mc Keown kept St Colman's at arms length until the College were thrown a lifeline with a fortuitous goal that hit both crossbar and upright before nestling in the back of the Abbey goalkeeper, Conor Hanna's, net. In the second half order was restored to the proceedings when goals for Rowan Turley and Dromintee's, Conor Martin, ensured that the Abbey would win the Frontier battle this time. The winning score line of 3-7 to 1-8, tells an accurate tale of this derby game. That meant the Abbey had already guaranteed themselves a quarter final spot, with two games to spare. Whilst the results of the following two were now irrelevant, Abbey's manager, Jody Gormley, will have been very unhappy with how his charges acquitted themselves against old rivals, Maghera, and competition new boys, St. Mary's CBS. Both of those games ended in narrow defeats and gave the Abbey team plenty to think about ahead of their quarter final clash in February, where the Abbey will face a tough Challenge from the recent double Rannafast Cup winners, St Pat's of Maghera.

Rannafast Cup



Last season the Abbey made it to their first Rannafast final since the early nineties, but finished second best to St. Pat's, Maghera.

Unfortunately, history repeated itself in this year's competition, only this time at the semi final stage. Abbey had got their campaign off to a great start with a deserved victory over Our Lady and St. Patrick's Knock. Next up were, St. Michael's, Enniskillen, and despite the concession of three soft goals the Abbey still had enough to spare over their Fermanagh counterparts to win the game comfortably. The final group game was a Newry derby against St. Colman's. Despite difficult playing conditions and some bizarre decision making by the referee, both teams managed to serve up a nail biting game. St. Colman's had the better of the early exchanges and took full advantage, scoring two excellent first half goals, but the Abbey stayed in touch, thanks largely to the free taking of Killian Mc Evoy.

The second half was a much better one for the Abbey as they clawed their way back into the game. When Ryan Trainor found the St. Colman's net in the final minutes, it looked as though this titanic battle was going to end in stalemate. As the final whistle sounded neither side celebrated a victory as the players seemed to think the game ended in a draw. In fact the only person who thought otherwise was the referee, who scored the

game in a two point victory to St. Colman's. Examination of the scorers showed that the referee hadn't recorded two of the Abbey's first half points. It was a bitterly sore pill to swallow for the Abbey team, who battled their way back in to contention after being five (or seven) points down at half time. The result didn't have a huge bearing on the competition as both teams still progressed to the quarter final. The Abbey found themselves up against Coláisti Inis Eoghain, an amalgamation of five schools based in the Inisowen peninsula. Heavy rain had put this game in jeopardy but match referee, Martin Mc Earlane, rescued the day by getting the pitch at Glen, Maghera, when the pitch in Cookstown was declared waterlogged.

The game itself was a one sided affair with the Abbey team completely dominant and by the time Rory Lavery found the back of the Donegal net, the game was over as a contest. That victory set up a repeat of last year's final with, unfortunately, the same outcome. Abbey got off to the worst possible start when a speculative shot from Paul Gunning seemed to catch out the Abbey goalkeeper, Aaron Campbell, that was followed minutes later by another goal, this time following a defensive mistake, and the Abbey's task was already an impossible one. To their credit the Abbey battled gamely but were unable to eat into Maghera's unassailable lead. Maghera went on to win their second Rannafast Cup in succession with a victory over Monaghan the following week.