



THE ABBEY *Way*

From Athens to the Abbey

Abbey's Oisin McKinley takes part in the Olympic Torch Relay



IN THIS EDITION...

- Creative Writing
- Basketball Finals
- Choir Trip to Rome
- Brother McFarland Debating





Loretta and her colleague, Clare Mc Gahon, pictured on their last day on the Courtenay Hill site.

Loretta Pentony (RIP)

1950-2012

The Abbey Community was shocked and saddened this year by the death of our serving member of staff, Loretta Pentony.

Loretta was a member of both the canteen and cleaning staff since 1998, when she began working in the canteen on Courtenay Hill. Loretta was a very popular member of staff who most recently was responsible for cleaning the staffroom and the front entrance of the school at the end of the school day. Teachers, pupils and everyone who happened to pass her will sorely miss the friendly and always cheerful greeting that she had for everyone. Loretta has been remembered in the Abbey Community's prayers following her death, and staff and students continue to pray for her on a daily basis before each GCSE and A level examination. Slí na Mainistreach wishes to extend the deepest sympathy of the entire Abbey Community to Loretta's family on the loss of their family member and our dear friend and colleague.

May she rest in peace.



Loretta pictured with all the canteen staff on the first official day in the new school.

Senior Quiz Team's Journey to London

After our loss in the semi-finals of last year's Schools' Challenge Quiz, we were determined to go one better in this year's competition.

Our team saw only one change from last year. With Sean Rooney replacing last year's captain and joining me, fellow 4th year James McKeivitt and regular stalwart in these competitions, Dáire McAteer.

It was a Wednesday afternoon when we travelled to Belfast for the regionals of this year's challenge – the Abbey has experienced a lot of success at regionals in both the Senior and Junior Challenge and we were hoping we could continue this success. However, we were very nearly eliminated at the first hurdle as we played Loreto College, in what was definitely a game of two halves. Luckily, our strength in the final five minutes saw us through. In the semi-final, we played Coleraine Inst. in what proved to be an even closer affair. Coleraine had a very strong team and after the tense half hour was up, I was sure our game was up for this year. To my relief we were told we had won by a mere 90 points, yet we still had a final to play!

Our final was against our local rivals, St.Colman's, after they had beaten Sacred Heart. Here we started very well and continued this throughout the whole 30 minutes, with the whole team contributing to our win. It's rare in this Challenge to score over 1000 points and we were very proud when we heard we had finished on 1170.

We were very pleased to be going back to Westminster for the second year running! As we were keen to make the most of this year's quiz, we practised as much as we could at lunchtime, we each knew our 'specialist subjects' and therefore tried to cram in as much as we could on those subjects on which we were weaker.

Getting to London on the 29th April, however, was a challenge in itself as a 4am start on the Sunday morning was daunting! A car journey in the early hours of the morning to the airport, followed by a plane journey, a trip round Heathrow, various stops on the London underground and a walk to Westminster College had set us all up for a long, long day! Luckily we were greeted by tea and various refreshments at the school and we could regain our energy during the pep talk and the first games (the organisers weren't cruel and let us go second.) There were 8 schools competing for this prestigious title and we knew we would be up against some of the best schools in the UK; many of them private schools.

Our quarter-final was up against a new school to the finals – Haberdashers' Aske's. However, we knew that one member of their team had seen success twice in the Junior Competition. It turned out that he had lost none of his abilities as, despite our best efforts to thwart him, his buzzer seemed to be pressed a fraction of a second before everyone else's. Unfortunately, we couldn't get the upper hand at all and in the end, we lost by 890 to 600. It was disappointing to lose our first game. However, we knew we were beaten by a strong side and so we felt we had a very good shot at success in the accompanying Plate tournament.

In second year, James and I were at the Junior Competition and had met the team from Llandaff Cathedral College, three of whom were at this year's event. Again, they were very friendly and our Plate semi-final was a very close encounter, running to the very last bonuses. Fortunately, Llandaff weren't strong on classical music – a subject which is Sean's forte and we gladly took the last 30 points, leaving us in our first final – albeit it wasn't the one we hoped for, but we were still determined to bring back silverware!

We were to face another unfamiliar school in Devonport. We started well in this game; however, we were pegged back towards the middle. The next fifteen minutes saw the lead change hand several times and, with the last starter question, the score was 520-510 in our favour. Unfortunately, our next question was on

golf, a topic with which none of us are familiar and Devonport got it right. If we stood any chance of winning we needed luck with the bonuses again. The first bonus was answered correctly by Devonport. The Plate was slowly slipping away from us and as the second bonus was asked we thought we had lost it. The next minute was controversial as Devonport gave a different answer to the one which was on the question sheet, yet it was also deemed to be right. Luckily, Dáire's sister Judith (our lone supporter), called from the audience to refute Devonport's answer and the ten points were taken back. This was it; the Plymouth school had a 10 point lead – we had to get this next question right. "In which city is the Jardin du Luxembourg?" We watched furrowed brows whisper frantically at the opposite end; our hopes were raised as we knew the answer was Paris. The question master pushed for an answer not once, but twice. Timidly, the Devonport captain gave the worst answer we wished to hear; Paris.

So, unfortunately we lost the Plate final by the finest of margins. Next year we are losing Dáire and Sean – our History and Music aficionados. But I'm sure whoever replaces them next year will be up to the challenge and we'll be back come next April to try our hand at winning the whole competition again. Here's hoping it's third time lucky!

CAREERS DEPARTMENT NEWS

Careers

The focus for term two was on Years eight to eleven. This focus involved a series of events detailed below:

- Representatives of Young Enterprise NI visited our school from Monday 2nd of April to Wednesday 4th of April to deliver a range of employability and work-related learning programmes to junior school pupils.
- On Thursday 5th April, all Year 11 students participated in our annual 'Take Your Son to Work' day.
- In the workplace, through exploratory events such as 'Take Your Son to Work', our students gain first hand experience of what the workplace has to offer them, and indeed what they can bring to the workplace. This was an enjoyable event for all involved.
- The programme of events continued on Monday 6th February, when all Year 14 students listened to a presentation from a finance officer from the SELB Student Finance Team. This event ran in conjunction with their application for financial support for Higher Education for 2012.

All information for parents and students can be found at www.studentfinanceni.co.uk

Key facts about employment opportunities in the future:

In the last ten years in Northern Ireland 78% of foreign direct investment has been in Business, Financial Services and Software Engineering.

This would suggest that jobs of the future potentially lie in such areas as: Business, Finance, Legal, Software Development and STEM—Engineering, in particular Manufacturing & Mechanical & Software and Actuarial Studies.

The key sectors for the future growth of the N Ireland economy include:

Technology & Creative industries;
Financial Services;
Business Services;
Renewable Energy e.g. Offshore Wind & Marine & Supply Chain Development.

Art & Design Department help celebrate the 60th Newry Drama Festival



Pupils in Breffni Two and Iveagh Two were selected to participate in a project to celebrate the 60th Newry Drama Festival. The boys had the opportunity to work with practising artist Ciara O'Hara to design and construct mixed media masks based on gargoyles. Well done to the boys on their participation, hard work and exciting designs!

Business Studies



Year 11 Stock Market Challenge

Friday 9th March saw the arrival at the Abbey of "10 Lane Learning" headed by Martin Barnes. This company had set up an impressive mock stock exchange trading floor for the launch of the interschool 'Stock Market Challenge' competition.

Two teams from the Abbey, each made up of five Year 11 students, had qualified to take part in this first ever challenge. They were not only competing against each other but also against another 18 teams from the area and the aim was to see which team could make the most capital gain in a day from their portfolio of shares.

Students experienced the excitement of buying and selling shares on a real trading floor. The two Abbey teams finished a commendable third and fourth.

GCSE and A Level Art & Design Exhibitions

Congratulations to the Art & Design class of 2012 who recently exhibited their work in the library. Parents, staff and board of governors were invited along to view the GCSE, AS & A2 Art & Design exhibition. Well done boys on your success!



A portrait displayed at this year's art exhibition.



Year 12 student, Niall Mc Govern, proudly displays his GCSE work to his father.

Annual Abbey Oral Awards for the Most Fluent Speakers of Irish

Irish Department

Pictured here are the members of the Irish department in the Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Mr. Maurice Mc Kevitt, Mr. Sean Gallagher, Mrs Pauline McClean and Mr. Desmond Tennyson with the winners of the annual Abbey oral awards for the most fluent speakers of Irish in each year group. Also in the photograph is the principal, Mr Dermot McGovern.

The trophies are dedicated to former members of staff who either taught Irish, or contributed to the promotion of the language in some capacity or in one case to a former student who excelled in the subject.

The first year trophy (Bás Chuchulainn) dedicated to the late Brother Beausang was jointly awarded to Daniel Kehoe and Ryan McKeown.

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

The third year trophy (Corn Durkin) dedicated to the late Matt Durkin was jointly awarded to Joseph McKeown and Niall Rafferty. Following the sudden and unexpected death of this former Abbey student, his classmates decided to present an award to the school in his memory. Ever since, it has been presented annually to the best Gaeilgeoirí in third year and indeed it led to the decision to present similar awards to each of the other year groups.



The best Irish speakers in each year group are pictured here with their rewards, their Irish teachers and the headmaster, Dermot McGovern.

The fourth year trophy (Clann Lir) dedicated to Brother Aidan Quinlan, who during his time in the Abbey was a founder member of Féile Scoil dramaíochta an Iúir, was jointly awarded to Peter Reel and Aodhán Gregory.

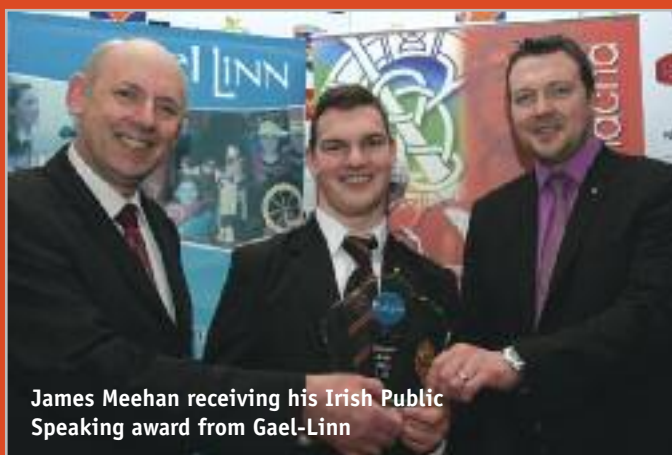
The fifth year trophy (Bás Chuchulainn) dedicated to the late Brother W. O. Murphy, former head of Irish and Vice-Principal of the

Abbey, was jointly awarded to Sheá Hanratty and Lee Ruddy.

The sixth year trophy (An Lóchrann) dedicated to Mr. Hugh Murphy, Lislea poet and former head of Irish, was awarded to Connor Hogan.

The award for the best 'Gaeilscoláire' (An Lóchrann Beag), was jointly awarded to Ger Feehan and Cormac Donnelly.

Public Speaking Success



James Meehan receiving his Irish Public Speaking award from Gael-Linn



Headmaster, Dermot McGovern, congratulates Conor Hogan and Andrew McAteer on their public speaking success. Also pictured are Irish language assistant, Maurice McKeitt and Dessie Tennyson, Head of Irish.

James Meehan in Year 12 was crowned Under 16 Irish Public Speaking Champion on Friday 30th April 2012, in the Ulster Final at the Morgan Athletic Grounds in Armagh. Gael-Linn's prestigious public speaking competition 'Abair' witnessed the highest standard in the competition for a number of years. Students from across the North of Ireland, Monaghan and Donegal impressed the judges with their wide range of topics and varying styles of delivery.

Andrew McAteer, a Year 11 student, opened the competition with his speech on the Olympic Games in London 2012. The

judges felt that James Meehan, who came second in the competition last year, was worthy of the award as he presented a satirical speech on 'Lent and Nomophobia'.

Connor Hogan, last year's U18 winner, spoke about 'Fracking' in the senior section in an extremely competitive section with his own personalised brand of public speaking that Gael-Linn competitions have come to expect.

'Comhghairdeas' to the three Abbey students for reaching the final and many congratulations to James on his success.

Creative Writing Continues to Thrive in the English Department

Imola

Injured from the race, Barrichello fled.
Strange that his car would launch into the air.
When tomorrow came, nobody would care.
Next Ratzenberger, the rookie now dead,
His car's front spoiler, ripped off as he sped,
Would surely be the nail in his coffin.
Senna's confidence was now wearing thin.
What he read told him he too would be dead.
He slammed his new blue car down the long straight,
Much swifter than two-hundred miles an hour.
The steering shaft broke, at the walled corner.
His fractured skull left him at Heaven's gate.
Brazil stood still, gone was their living car.
The world stood still, gone was its best driver.
Michael Jordan (Breffni 10)

The 6 Nations

6 countries always battling away;
Only one will win the ultimate prize.
They do not stop, neither night nor day;
The generals plan the countries' demise.
15 men lined up on either side;
The battle starts with a kick of a ball;
Neither country will be able to hide;
Every passing minute a man will fall.
The one who wins is still a mystery;
The winger flies to get a brilliant score
And they'll go down for ever in history!
The entire crowd rises to give a great roar!
They jump up and down they are the winners,
Now it is time to have a great dinner.
Cian McConvey (Breffni 10)

The Abbey Debate

There was Conor, Peter, Niall and Ryan,
Donal, the dark horse, along with Relmore,
You knew that someone would end up cryin',
There was no chance that this debate would bore.
I hope that your boy Niall doesn't win,
He thinks he's so cool, he debates like a fool,
Would Pete win or just end up in the bin?
Niall thinks he's cool, 'cause he's head boy of school!
The time is here, it's this time of year,
Hall is set up, the nerves are kicking in,
It is near, the boys have a little fear,
Shaking in the chin, goose bumps on the skin.
It's over, Pedro's title in the bin,
Ryan is the champ, I could see him win.
Declan Murdock (Breffni 10)

My Dog

I love my dog, he is a man's best friend;
When I first saw him I was so happy
And he will always send me 'round the bend,
When he runs 'round the garden with such glee.
He's always up to some kind of mischief,
Rolling about, creating a huge mess,
As he eats his favourite food, roast beef.
What is he thinking? I can only guess!
He loves to prance around and catch the ball,
When he is in the park with other pets.
He'll chase them even though he is still small
And he always has to go to the vets.
I love my dog, he is a man's best friend
And I hope our friendship will never end.
Ryan Turley (Breffni 10)

The Lonely Gate

The sun was shining on one summer morn.
Birds gathered together in song and play,
I journeyed to join them along the bay.
Among the flowers I saw a gate forlorn,
A most beautiful gate I could have sworn.
A beam of beauty from the sun's own ray
On this lonely gate in the month of May.
At the sight of this gate, I felt re-born.
But this beauty shall not forever last,
For December will bring months filled with snow.
Hence, I shall refrain from joining this scene.
But do not hesitate, Spring returns fast.
The beauty of the sun shall shine, I know.
A more tranquil place I have never been.
Ronan Lavery (Breffni 10)

Hell in the Trenches

In winter trenches caked with mud and gloom,
I sat still as the shrapnel shells shrieked past
And waited, fearful for the looming doom,
Praying my death would be painless and fast.
Death and disease engulf me like a wave,
As I turned to see who was still with me
It was a sight I would take to my grave;
My friend Tom, dead, yet praying on his knees.
I buried my friend where he had fallen,
Before the rats could gnaw at his young face
And said a prayer, though I felt like bawling
And thought, war's a waste of the human race.
I hope this war is worth the grief and pain
Will I return home to loved ones again?
Joseph Poucher (Breffni 10)

Diary of a Russian

Sonnet on the Russian/Finnish war

All my strength drained by this harsh winter snow;
It's like the cold has extinguished the sun;
No safe place to shelter, nowhere to go;
Commanding officers shoot those who run.
No relief from the morning – we must push ahead;
Send in a recon team to scout the track,
An hour passes; they all must be dead,

All stabbed in the neck, or shot in the back.
No fresh food for days, the men are all starved;
Not many care, few survive anyway,
Fewer still after this suicide charge
To fight an invisible enemy.
1940 brings an end to the fear,
One Finn said "the wolves will eat well this year".
Conor Foster (Breffni 10)

Express Yourself is a new poetry competition for Young Writers for 2011-2012. Teachers were invited to send poems written by pupils aged 11-18 to be considered for publication in regional anthologies. Many students from The Abbey entered the Express Yourself- Across the Globe competition and twenty six of them had their work published in an anthology which will be kept at the British Library and further libraries across the U.K and Ireland, providing a lasting record of their achievement.

Below are some examples of the excellent work that was published:

My New School

On my first day of school,
I felt excited at the prospect of new things,
But of course you still have that little voice,
Tugging at you and tightening a few muscles.

I arrived waiting and jittering nervously,
The clangs and the bangs of the older boys drown out the first year's tense voices,
The rushing pitter patter and chitter chatter of the streets,
The creaking of shop doors, here is us in the middle,
Finally after what seemed like an age, the bus arrived.

Rather sheepishly, I walked up the main pathway,
Astounded by the building standing tall like a soccer stadium.

The doors swish open, a new challenge beckons!
Bubbling smiles of passers-by,
And a warm welcoming wave, The Abbey way!
Without noticing, my fears drifted away into the early September mist.

Ruairi McCormack (Iveagh 1)

My War Poem

Above our heads the buzz of planes was heard
Tanks crushing and cracking the ground, screeching its wheels
Trembling felt beneath our feet, guns firing like cement chisels
Men shouting, arguing crying for help, explosions that shook your ears
These were the sounds of the battlefield.

Wet muck like a riverbank was the terrain
The river was the rain-filled trenches
The trees were vehicles, destroyed, abandoned there in a heap
The battlefield is like a jangle of destruction.

We all began our mission sick to the bone of gunfire
All were here for a very long time, mentally an even longer time.
Through the bog trenches we went, our clothes soaking like wet towels
The mission was simple, outflank the Germans.
Up we rose from safety into the open
Nervously we advanced towards the enemy stepping over shrapnel and friends we once knew.

On the dusty horizon dots appeared, marched on ignorantly
A ding was heard like a pebble hitting tin
One man dropped like a stone screaming then quiet
'Down men, down,' tried to crawl to safety
Through the thick sludge, like swimming in a dense swamp.

A ding was heard, another man on the ground
'Quicker men, quicker,' we hastened our pace.
A ding was heard, a man on the ground, I was that man
As I lay there waiting for death, I thought of my family, friends,
The pain they will now go through.

The three dots on the horizon, sickened with guilt
The pain they'll now go through
And as darkness rolls over my eyes
God please help the ones who survive.

Conor Nugent (Donard 3)

A Split Second

I could hear loud shouting and deathly screams.
I opened my eyes, disorientated with my surroundings.
I grabbed my gun, wondering what was happening.
My commander came rushing in. Were being attacked he shouted!
I put my hard, heavy, helmet on my head.
I ran outside, floundering around, It was daybreak
All I could hear was gunshots going off like fireworks in the night.
We were forced to fall back into the forest. They were too strong for us
Explosions everywhere.
Bombs landing in front of us, our faces burnt by the blasts
We were thrown violently to the ground. It was just like in a movie
My vision was blurred like frosted glass.
We scrambled to our feet; suddenly there was a loud bang! Our camp was blown up.
We started to run, I gave up my cover and hoped for the best.
I could hear the humming sound of a helicopter.
I was terrified because I then knew that we had no chance
I saw it fly overhead this is it I thought,
One of the soldiers shouted, "That's our bird!! Were safe."
I was so relieved
It landed gracefully in an opening up ahead.
We had to get there, making sure we were behind cover.
We trudged through muck, keeping our bodies close to the ground.
My boots smelled like rotting grass.
My legs were sore, but pain did not stop me, the end was in sight.
I could smell the fumes, feel the wind from the blades
A few more steps to safety. We climbed into the chopper
Someone shouted, "Go, Go!!"
The ground left beneath us, I sat back, closed my eyes, heart pounding
I was safe, safe at last.

Ryan Dineen (Donard 3)

My New School

This is my first day. I feel, sad, scared,
sick, shocked. But I mostly feel unknown.
There is so many people I can see,
I don't know what their reaction to me would be.

I feel like I'm in a bottomless pit,
Miles away from the rest of the world,
No-one to look up to.
The atmosphere is as cold as a winter snowfall.
A new uniform, a tie, this my first day
I feel like I'm about to cry,
Remembering the old textbooks I would have used,
In this massive building I feel confused.

In the canteen, here I stand in the line, I'm clenching my hand.
I went to my class. I saw my Form Teacher,
I thought she would scowl, I thought she would howl,
What a surprise,
That opened my eyes,
To get home I would plea,
But I soon realised my Form Teacher is there for me.

One week later I'm one of the guys,
In the corridors everyone knows my name, now that's a surprise!
Colla McParland (Iveagh 1)



Mr Wordsworth, senior teacher, during one of the choir's performances in Rome



The choir take some time out for sight-seeing



Abbey Choir Return to Ro

It seemed like a good idea at the time: 4.00am departure from the Abbey, allowing us to take the early Aer Lingus flight from Dublin arriving in DaVinci Airport, Rome before midday. We transferred by coach to the Palazzola, our home for the next five days. What a view and also what a great lunch! Three courses of the best Roman home cooking. The rest of the day was filled with swimming, football, frisbee and of course a bit of singing and rehearsing. Day 2 took us in glorious sunshine to St Peter's where some of us ascended the 700 plus steps to the roof of St Peter's whilst others explored the Crypt and main Basilica. We were escorted to lunch by our new contact and Abbey Past Pupil, Brian Fitzpatrick, currently a seminarian at the Irish College. After a brief visit to the excavations at San Clemente Basilica we returned to the Palazzola for another swim and time to cool down from the heat of Rome. Day 3 was another tourist day with visits to the outstanding Gardens of Tivoli, fountains and Renaissance statues

What they said:

The best things about Rome, other than the weather were the scenery and the food. The city sights were amazing! Just a few are St. Peter's Basilica, the Colosseum and the Palazzola was just lethal.

Jack Caraher

I thought the trip to Rome was amazing - the scenery was amazing, the hotel was alright. The best part of the trip was going to the gardens of Tivoli.

Kevin

I thought the trip was really good. I enjoyed going to the Vatican and the Colosseum. I also enjoyed meeting new people and getting to know other people better. In two years I would go again and encourage others to go!

Cormac M

The trip was AMAZING!!! It was actually soooooo fun!!! Such good craic, especially on the bus where we sang bus songs. The Vatican and the San Clemente were amazing!!! I loved all the singing, and overall the trip was so fun!!! I'll definitely go again!!! :D

Declan McGuinness

I thoroughly enjoyed all aspects of the recent trip to Rome. The weather was fantastic and the singing was amazing. Getting to tour around Rome was great as there was lots to see. I hope to go on the next Rome trip!

Daniel Feenan

Mere words cannot sum up how spectacular the choir tour was. Italy was beautiful - landscape, language & ladies "belle signore". I will always cherish these memories, particularly of the copious cups of hot chocolate!

Cormac Begley



me for their Second Tour

in abundance, followed by Hadrian's Villa, a very well preserved Ancient Roman summer residence (holiday home!). Day 4 (Sunday) started with Mass in the Irish College, with both the choir and brass group raising the roof with both old and modern liturgical music. Lunch was spent in the pouring rain outside the Colosseum and after a change of shirt and tie we performed John Rutter's Requiem and other choral and brass works, to a packed venue in Basilica San Clemente. The evening was spent in Rome, eating and celebrating and soaking up the atmosphere (and more moisture) with walks to the Pantheon and Trevi Fountain as well as enjoying the post-concert craic. Day 5 was spent in the Palazzola enjoying our last day together followed by a brief shopping visit before flying back to Dublin, arriving home at the Abbey at 0.45 hours Tuesday morning – some of us made it into school later that day! A great trip never to be forgotten.

A truly memorable and most enjoyable experience. As teachers we were enormously proud both of the musical performances given by our students and also by their exemplary behaviour throughout the tour. They were all excellent ambassadors for The Abbey.

Mr McKeever

Having previously been to Rome with the school, I feared it wouldn't live up to expectations. Put simply, it did - and then some! The fear that we would mess up our big moment did not materialise and instead I, like many others, feel that the brass and choir outdid themselves like never before. On top of that the food was brilliant; the sights were spectacular and the memories long-lasting. I hope we have the chance to return!

Andrew Hughes

I didn't think that the trip would have been as exciting as the first time that I had been, as there were very few seniors on the trip. But, having had the opportunity to meet the other people on the trip, this wasn't the case. Some say that the highlight of the trip was the Vatican, the Colosseum or the performance on Sunday. However, I would say that Brendan's ingenious invention of the game, Pattern Ball, really brought the group together and improved morale. At the performance the brass stole the show, mainly down to team spirit!

Conor Henry

The "3 Cs of life" in abundance – "Cuisine, culture & company" – set in a bit of paradise, for what more can you ask!

Mr Wadsworth

The trip was brilliant - it was my 1st time to Rome!

Thomas McClurg



The entire touring party prior to their departure



A final rehearsal



The boys took some time to lounge by the pool





Year 11 visit Coca-Cola Hellenic, Lisburn

On Wednesday 9th May, 2012, thirty Year 11 Abbey students accompanied by their teachers, Mrs C McGrath and Mrs T Fearon, were welcomed by Emma Armer to the Coca-Cola Visitors' Experience. The visit gave the boys an insight into the remarkable 125 year history of Coca-Cola from when it was invented by John Pemberton back in 1886, (its growth to becoming 'the world's favourite soft drink') to how the pioneering vision of Northern Ireland businessman, Tom Robinson, first brought Coca-Cola to the island of Ireland. The boys also enjoyed a tour of the modern and technologically advanced production facility where they had a 'bird's eye view' of how the products were made, bottled, packaged and stored.

Short Story

The Chimney-Sweep's Tale

Darkness surrounding her, she headed for the main gate. Smoke seemed to linger in the air after a long day's work, but as a chimney sweep it didn't bother her. Suddenly the main gate came upon her, as if by magic. Soon she would be free of London - cruel, cruel London. She put one foot outside the gate. Her penetrating scream echoed for an eternity. As for the girl, death enveloped her before she hit the ground.

Julian Lancaster's life could be described as a complete and utter misery. As a chimney-sweep in 1857, it was a harsh life. As he got up, the harsh November draught came sailing under the door. He went into the kitchen, where his master, Aaron, sat reading the morning paper. Suddenly, he jerked up and growled "Here, come look" The paper read:

DEATH OF GIRL BAFFLES SCOTLAND YARD

Annebelle Lancaster was found dead this morning at the main gate. Scotland yard is treating this case as 'unexplained', as there were no visible traces of murder.

The rest just faded away to a shocked Julian. Then it hit him like a landslide. Anne was dead. He was an only child. Aaron gave a cruel laugh. "I'm glad she's gone, one less mouth to feed, you know". He grabbed Julian by the collar and got him ready for a day's work.

Anne is gone. The thought haunted Julian's mind as Aaron led him through one of London's busy market streets. Eventually they came to an old Georgian house. Aaron made his way up the stairs to the door and knocked rapidly. An old man, complete with beard, answered the door. "Ah, the chimney sweep," he said croakily "I am George Yew, at your service. Please follow me." Inside the house it was dark and musty. It must have been the creepiest place Julian had ever been in. On the walls hung portraits of people who stared down at you. There were masks all around, every one scarier than the next. They reached the end of the corridor and entered the living

room. There was nothing scary about the room itself, except for the giant picture of Satan above the fireplace. There was one chair in the room. Julian and Aaron approached the fireplace and began their work. Aaron shoved the brush into Julian's hand. "Get to work, ye scamp!", he snarled. Julian took off the tattered remnants of his shoes and started the long climb up the chimney. When he reached the top, he gazed up in awe. There, standing before him, was the ghostly form of his sister.

"You're a... You're a...", stuttered Julian. It was amazing. His sister was a ghost. "Come," said Annebelle, voice void of emotion. Without a thought to what might happen, Julian followed his sister along the rooftops. When they came to the end of the terrace, Julian climbed down the rusty ladder and followed his sister through the back alleys where the paupers lived, until they came to a plain stone building. Outside a plaque read "SCOTLAND YARD". Suddenly, Annebelle turned and said, "Follow me." Julian followed her, eager to spend time with his deceased sister. The building itself was a hive of activity. Everyone was rushing around; no one noticed them. Annebelle led Julian to a brass elevator. "In," she said. Julian clambered into the metal contraption. As soon as he was in, it started to descend...

As soon as they reached the bottom, Julian's jaw slackened. They were in some kind of laboratory, filled with tubes full of frothing potions, and there, strapped on an operating table was Annebelle's lifeless body. Annebelle (the ghost) floated up to it. Suddenly her body absorbed her, making Julian even more frightened. The body revolved in a cocoon of light, showering Julian in its glow. Then, it dropped and out of it came Annebelle, draped in a white dress and with wings spouting from her back. "Thank you, beloved brother," she said, before departing through the ceiling. Behind him, Julian heard the chug of an elevator. Down came a policeman, who was red in the face. "Get out of here, laddy!" he screamed, temper rising. Julian got into the elevator, tears in his eyes. "Thank you, sister," he said, "Thank you."

GeoScience Careers Day at Sacred Heart, Newry

Over 200 Year 12, 13 and 14 pupils from the local area were introduced to the exciting career prospects presented by the Geoscience subjects at the 'Geoscience Careers Conference' held in Newry recently (Wed 7 March). The Abbey was represented by the Lower Sixth Geography students.

Hosted by Sacred Heart Grammar School and led by the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland (GSNI), the event brought together ten local schools from the Newry & Mourne Area Learning Community - which seeks to promote a culture of collaboration and respect for cultural diversity.

Speakers from the public, private and academic sectors used different case studies and research projects to demonstrate the wide array of opportunities on offer to young science enthusiasts who may not have previously considered them as career options.

The main focus of the event was the 'Tellus Border Project', an EU funded geological survey currently underway in the border counties of Ireland which is helping scientists understand more about the rocks, soils and waters of the region.

The Tellus Border Project Manager, Dr Marie Cowan, a past pupil of Sacred Heart and Chairperson of Earth Science Ireland, said: "This is a fantastic chance to engage with young people who are motivated and excited by the science subjects. There is a wealth of



great career opportunities available and we hope we've encouraged these pupils to explore them in more detail. Who knows, amongst today's audience we may even have the next Brian Cox, Alice Roberts, or Iain Stewart!"

Another key speaker was Dr Dermot Smith, a past pupil of the Abbey, who spoke

about his work as a geologist. The students also enjoyed presentations on subjects as diverse as the water problem in Uganda to how Geography aids law enforcement agencies locate human remains!

Correcting Behaviour in Woodlouse

Two Year 10 students, Sean Lane and Cormac Rea, were placed first in the Biological and Ecological Junior group category at the 2012 BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition in Dublin. Their project was a study of 'correcting behaviour in woodlouse' and a culmination of a four month research period under the guidance of Mrs Margaret Lane.

Correcting behaviour is where a forced turn in a maze by a woodlouse would be followed by a turn in the opposite direction. The students investigated the effects of many factors including the angle of the forced turn and the distances walked before and after the forced turn.

A comparative study of adults and juveniles suggested this was an instinctive

form of behaviour in the woodlouse as opposed to a learned response.

The behaviour of the woodlouse in mazes designed by the students, indicated that memory had little influence on the routes taken. Overall, correcting behaviour was found to be instrumental in preventing the woodlouse going in a circular pattern and allowing forward movement which would be vital for their survival. By changing directions woodlouse could maintain a linear path out of a hostile environment. The judges congratulated the two young Abbey scientists on their excellent project which has brought the understanding of the common woodlouse to a new level.

Budding Biologists take part in Field Studies in Rostrevor

All of the Year 8 pupils took part in field studies at the end of May organised by the Biology Department.

In the sunshine the boys visited the Oak wood of Kilbroney Park. The woodland's canopy, shrub, herb and ground layers were investigated as a means of understanding the biodiversity of this ecosystem.

This was followed by a study of the upper foreshore of Carlingford Lough. The wide range of producers and consumers was the focus with food chains being identified. The boys got an insight into the adaptability and interdependence of living organisms on the rocky shore. A great time was had by all.

Ryan Morgan wins the 2012 Brother McFarland Trophy

Congratulations to the eight superb debating finalists on a sublime final in March and thanks to all the parents, pupils and staff members who attended, giving much appreciated support to the debaters and awardees.

The senior debating final was held in the Abbey on March 29th this year and proved to be an exceptional display of talent.

Audience numbers soared to over two hundred and the finalists did not disappoint. It was, as expected, a hotly contested final with six former finalists and a two-time

champion taking the stage with two debaters, considered respectively as the 'dark horse' and the 'underdog' of the competition.

Prior to the final, over fifty debaters began the first rounds, either for or against 'This House believes that allowing the use of enhancement drugs will not undermine the spirit of sport', providing a cut-throat glimpse of the level of competition that exists in school debating, garnering the tradition of Abbey debating remembered in the Br McFarland perpetual trophy, sponsored by past pupil and local solicitor, Mr Rory McShane. The subsequent verbal combat of the semi-final rounds guaranteed a final that was anticipated with excitement.

It is no mean feat to stand before an audience of your peers and deliver a researched and well-considered argument, never mind doing so before the assembled gathering of parents and staff who contributed so much to the open debate; yet what marked the distinction between the eight finalists and their talented opponents in earlier rounds, was not only their command of the argument, but fundamentally their ability to field tough questions from dogged opposition speakers, often rebuking said opposition with wit and alacritous knowledge. This was certainly exemplified in the ex tempore motions where Ryan's knowledge of physics and music by Adele was put to the test, Peter recounted how memorable California girls are, while Ross rescued and re-homed the Lord Mayor of London, as his new household pet. I would urge all speakers to seek out their university debating society come September and would not be at all surprised to hear of them taking part in university "mace" competitions.

This year's guest adjudicator, novelist Mr Tom McCaughren, also spoke highly of the standard of debate. As a career journalist and former security correspondent for RTÉ, he was well versed in the political and ethical arguments facing the debaters as they contested the motion, 'The British Press requires tougher regulation'. A tougher decision followed and a worthy winner in Ryan Morgan was announced. Niall McArdle was placed second, with Dónal O'Neill, a first-time finalist, in third.

To Peter, Connor, Michael, Keith, Ross, Niall, Dónal and Ryan, congratulations once more on your debating successes in the Br McFarland Senior Debating Competition, the EU Mock Council and Debating Matters. Thank you for the exemplary contribution you have made to Abbey debating.

Annelise Reynolds
Teacher in charge of Debating



Ryan Morgan pictured with the Brother McFarland Trophy



The 2012 Brother McFarland Finalists:

Back Row (l-r): Ryan Morgan, Niall McArdle, Ross Elmore, Michael Haddad
Front Row (l-r): Keith Connolly, Conor Hogan, Donal O'Neill, and former winner Peter Delahunt



This year's Cross Country running was great as we made it right the way to the Ulster finals. We first had excellent training from Mr Evans. We trained every Monday and Wednesday – hill sprints up the lane to school, around the 3G pitch or interval work beside the main pitch. It was great, with all the boys from first to third year running together trying to beat each other. No one really thought we would make it as far as we did.

First up was the Newry and Mourne Schools' Championships. This was a great day with Oisín O'Callaghan winning his race, with Jason Sloane 4th and Tiernan Forde 5th. In

my race (under 13's) I finished 7th, Ardan McEvoy was 4th, Lewis Cowan was 8th and Oisín McKinley was 10th. We finished an excellent second in the team event and the under 15's won their team event. At the Down Championships we had a fantastic result, placed second in the first year team event out of over 25 schools and qualified to run in the Ulster championships.

Jason Sloane did great in the second year race and qualified for the Ulster final, with Niall Carr missing out on qualification by the narrowest of margins. Oisín O'Callaghan had an amazing run, winning his race easily.

The day of the Ulster finals brought

nerves to everyone. We left on the bus at 9:50 am, six of us, getting ready for the biggest race of our lives. When we arrived we got off the bus, had something to eat and then did our warm ups. Our race was first. We lined up, the horn went and we ran as hard as we could. Conditions were extremely wet and muddy that day but we all ran well and again we had a fantastic result – being placed 3rd out of all the teams in Ulster – what an achievement!! Oisín O'Callaghan and Jason Sloane did very well in their races and we were all over the moon when we got home.

Billy Campbell, Donard 8

Oisín Wins the Ulster Schools Championship



Slemish 3 student, Oisín O'Callaghan, has had a superb season running, both on the track and at cross country. At the Ulster Schools Athletics Championships, on the 19th May, Oisín capped an amazing season with a stunning victory in a keenly contested 800 metres final. His season began in January with victory in the Blackrock district cross country race and his winning form continued throughout the rest of the year. His list of victories in 2012 is impressive to say the least. Oisín trained hard throughout the year both in the Abbey and also for his club – Newry City runners. This clearly played huge dividends this season. The sky's the limit for this talented young man.

Oisín's haul of victories this year include:

- 22-01-12 Blackrock District XCcountry 1st U15.
- 02-02-12 Schools District XCcountry 1st Junior Boys.
- 09-02-12 Armagh International Road Race 1st U15.

- 11-02-12 Ulster Indoor Championship U15 800m 1st (time: 2m15:93s)
- 25-02-12 N.I. Civil Service XCcountry 1st U15.
- 03-03-12 Ulster Indoor Championship U16 1500m 1st (4m 32:82s)
- 10-03-12 Confirmed winner of The Belfast +District Communities League. (League of four races run in Belfast run on four different days in four different Parks)
- 31-03-12 All Ireland Indoor Championship U15 800m 1st (2m 08:63s)
- 12-04-12 Edwards 5 U15 800m 1st (2m 08:8s)
- 26-04-12 Edwards 5 U15 1500m 1st (4m 34:54s)
- 11-05-12 Schools District 800m Junior Boys 1st (2m18:03s)
- 19-05-12 Ulster Schools Championship Final 1st Junior Boys (2m 06:57s)

Hurling Titles for the Abbey

Abbey Hurlers win both the Noone and Mallon Cups



On the 23rd of January Abbey CBS, Newry, played Donegal CBS in the Noone Cup Final, at the Mid Ulster Sports Academy in Cookstown. The match was extremely intense from the beginning with the Abbey's captain, Fearghus Quinn, scoring an opening goal in the first few minutes; this left the team confident that there would be more to come! Donegal were unfortunate, as they missed out on a couple of shots on goal, with some good saves from the Newry side's keeper, Adam Matthews. At half time the score was 1-04 to 0-02 to Abbey CBS Newry.

The start of the second half was memorable for Donegal CBS, as they were hungry for the ball and showed confidence in what they were doing. This

confidence wasn't to last as the Abbey started pulling away throughout the second half, with a goal and 2 points scored in quick succession, by Odhran McCaffrey, Ruairi Campbell and the Abbey captain respectively. In the final quarter of the match it was anyone's game. Donegal CBS had their eyes set on goal and scored, with about eight minutes to go. This lifted the Donegal side and they were extremely unfortunate not to go on and score more.

The Abbey were not to be beaten in the final minutes and gave it everything, with McCaffrey scoring another late goal. The final score was 3-08 to 1-05 to the Abbey CBS, the first hurling silverware for the Newry side since 1934.

The Mallon Cup Final

The 15th of April saw Abbey facing the same opposition in the same venue, this time to determine the destiny of the Mallon Cup. Again this match was extremely intense from the beginning but Abbey CBS started to show why they were favourites as they started to get the score board ticking over, team captain Adrian Mee, centre half forward, Odhran McCaffery, and full forward Niall Lennon, all leading from the front. Goals from Niall Lennon, Shane Smyth and Odhran McCaffery left the team confident that there would be more to come! Donegal were unfortunate, as they missed out on a couple of shots on goal, with some good saves from the Newry side's keeper, Lorcan McParland. At half time the score was 5-06 to 0-04 to Abbey CBS Newry.

The start of the second half was memorable for Donegal CBS, as they were hungry for the ball and showed confidence in what they were doing. This confidence started to build as Donegal started to claw their way back into the game. In the final quarter of the match it was anyone's game, Donegal CBS had their eyes set on goal and scored, with about eight minutes to go, this lifted the Donegal side and if it wasn't for some brilliant saves from Lorcan McParland and excellent defending from Conn Lennon and Adam Matthews it could have been a completely different story. The Abbey were not to be beaten in the final minutes and gave it everything, with Niall Lennon and Adrian Mee scoring late points with Niall Conlon unlucky not to score a goal. The final score was 5-08 to 3-06 and it ensured another win for the Abbey hurling team this year.



Ju-Jitsu at the Abbey: the way forward

The Abbey Ju-Jitsu after school club continues to run every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 3.30 – 4.30pm in the Assembly Hall. Gradings for white-green belts will take place June 2012. Under direction of the club instructors, Ivan McQuaid and Tony McMahon, the club has doubled its membership in its 2nd Year.



Abbey Lose Thriller in U19 Final

The Abbey boys opened brightly with their captain, Conor Campbell, opening the scoring. Niall McArdle followed this up by scoring 4 more points leaving the Abbey in the lead over Coláiste Críost Rí 6-4. The scores for both teams were very even with Terry Guo, Niall McArdle and Adrian Burns adding important scores to lead 18-16 at the interval.

Cork's Garcia, who was overall MVP of the game, was outstanding and scored some fine individual shots. This was now a ding dong battle with both teams producing high class basketball.

Aaron Miller produced some excellent scores and other scores by Joe McShane and Conor Campbell left the Abbey boys in touch but Garcia scored some excellent 3 pointers to open up a 12 point gap going into the 4th quarter.

But the Abbey boys showed great determination and clawed their way back into the game with some brilliant 3 pointers by Aaron Miller. Baskets from McArdle and Campbell narrowed the gap to 1 point with only 45 seconds to go but the Abbey fouled and gave the Cork boys a 3 point lead. Abbey were in possession in the last 20 seconds of



Basketball

the game and Conor Campbell was fouled and brought to the foul line. He shot the first and scored and deliberately missed the second to go for the rebound and score 2 points but luck wasn't in the Abbey's favour and Conor broke the line which meant possession to Cork who held on to the ball until the final buzzer allowing Cork to win by the narrowest of margins: 2 points.

Abbey's First Brock Final Ends in Disappointment

The Abbey fourth year football team suffered defeat for the third year in a row to St. Pat's, Cavan, this time in the final of the BT Brock Cup.

Final Score: St Patrick's Cavan 1-11 Abbey CBS Newry 0-9

The final hinged on a goal 5 minutes from the break and then a burst of seven unanswered points in the third quarter. That was enough to see St Patrick's Cavan through to the BT Brock Cup title at Clones.

During that third quarter Thomas Galligan lorded the middle of the park and Abbey struggled to cope with his dominance. Cian McManus and David Brady were others to star in a strong team performance.

Abbey did well in the opening half and after 15 minutes led by 0-4 to 0-1 with scores from Killian McEvoy (2), Ryan Treanor and Conor McCoy.

However, points from Thomas Galligan and Ronan O'Reilly were followed by a 24th minute goal for Ryan Connolly, a little

against the run of play. But Cavan were now ahead and not going to relinquish that lead.

McEvoy pulled a point back before the break and a free from Treanor on the re-start tied the teams, 1-3 to 0-6. That, however, was the signal for Galligan and Cavan to take control with seven points in succession from six different players.

Abbey rallied with 3 Treanor scores near the end, but Cavan were home and dry by that stage, claiming their first ever title at this level.

Round Up

The quarter final proved to be the 'end of the road' for the Mac Rory, Dalton and Corn na nÓg squads. All teams will reflect with pride on their efforts this year but the MacRory team in particular will know that they let a good opportunity slip in their injury time defeat to Maghera. With eleven of the starting team available for next season, who knows what 2013 will hold?

St Patrick's Cavan : Brian Sheanon, Jason Rahill, Declan Lunney, Paul Sexton, Donal Monaghan, Cian McManus, James Veale, Thomas Galligan 0-2, David Brady, Pierce Smith 0-1, Ryan Connolly 1-2, Matthew McKenna, Paul Leddy, Ben Conaty 0-2, Ronan O'Reilly 0-3.
Subs: Darragh Gannon 0-1 for P Leddy (41), Conor O'Rourke for D Monaghan (55).

Abbey CBS: Aaron Campbell, Ciaran Hughes, Fergus Quinn captain, Patrick Murdock, Gavin Fox, Cathir McKinney, Luke Byrne, Ruairi Campbell, Conor McCoy 0-1, Killian McEvoy 0-3, Shea Gregory, Ruairi Campbell, Sheagh Dobbins, Niall Rafferty, Ryan Treanor 0-5, Ronan Reel.
Subs: Connor McKeown for R Reel (32), Niall Quinn for R Campbell (43), Shea Murdock for S Gregory 55).

Football

Abbey Win Thrilling Under-16 Basketball Final



The Abbey boys won this final with a resounding 55 – 37 defeat of Christian Brothers' High School, Clonmel. The two Aarons – Miller and O'Reilly – were outstanding in this performance. The Abbey boys were led by their industrious captain, Garrett Campbell, who led by example throughout the entire game with great defensive skills. It was he who opened the scoring for the Abbey and this was followed in quick succession with scores by Aaron Miller and Aaron O'Reilly. In this first quarter the Abbey boys produced some scintillating basketball and with further scores from Peter O'Hagan, Ross O'Hanlon and the two Aarons, the Abbey led 23 – 7 at the end of the first quarter.

Gary Black opened the scoring in the second quarter before Aaron O'Reilly and Aaron Miller scored more baskets to leave the score 33-17 at half time.

Cathal Donnelly opened the scoring in the third quarter followed by several scores from Peter O'Hagan, Jason McCabe, Miller and O'Reilly to leave the Abbey boys in a comfortable position going into the final quarter.

The Abbey led 48 – 30 but further scores from O'Hanlon and O'Reilly increased the Abbey's lead. One of the highlights of this final was the 3 point shot by Aaron Miller which certainly epitomised his outstanding talent and which certainly gained him the MVP of the game. This was a superb team performance and Aaron O'Reilly's total of 21 points was another superb contribution.

