



Slí na Mainistreach

Volume 16 Issue 2. June 2013

# THE ABBEY Way



August



September



October



November



December



January



February



April



May



June

March

## Review of the Year 12/13



# The New Academic Year Begins with Outstanding Exam Success



▲ Twenty two students from the Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School achieved at least eight or more A\*/A grades in their GCSE examinations. Included are: Leo Gorman, Cormac Begley, Peter Reel, James Haughey, James McNulty, Diarmuid Murray, Andrew Hughes, Stephen McKay, Conlaodh Quinn, Rory Watterman, Micheal Moore, James O'Hare, Luke Bradley, Ben Hughes, Niall Jennings, Darragh McClean and Daniel Murdock, Tiernan Byrne, Matthew Freeman, Conor McAteer and Lorcan Moley.

Mr Dermot McGovern, Headmaster, gives this group of high achievers advice on which subjects to choose for A Level. Also included are Mr. Seán Gallagher, Fifth Form Year 12 and Mr Paul O'Shea, Vice Principal. Missing from photograph is Padraig Murphy.

▶ Mr Dermot McGovern, Headmaster, congratulates pupils who achieved at least four 'A' grades in their A-Level examinations at the Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Newry. Included are: Sean Rooney, Terry Guo, Stephen Grant, Oskar Mamrzynski, Shane McCartan, Peter Delahunt, Niall McArdle, Gareth Rooney, Benjamin Sutherland and Michael McKay.

Also included are Mrs Catriona McGrath, Seventh Form Year Tutor, and Mr Paul O'Shea, Vice Principal.



▲ Mr Dermot McGovern, Headmaster of the Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Newry, congratulates the twelve pupils who achieved at least 10 or more A\*/A grades in their GCSE examinations. Included are: Leo Gorman, Cormac Begley, Peter Reel, James Haughey, James McNulty, Diarmuid Murray, Andrew Hughes, Stephen McKay, Conlaodh Quinn, Rory Watterman, Micheal Moore, James O'Hare.

Also included are Mr. Seán Gallagher, Fifth Form Year Tutor, and Mr Paul O'Shea, Vice Principal.



▲ Pupils who achieved at least three 'A' grades in their A-Level examinations at the Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Newry, are congratulated by Mr Dermot McGovern, Headmaster. Included are: Sean Rooney, Terry Guo, Stephen Grant, Oskar Mamrzynski, Shane McCartan, Peter Delahunt, Niall McArdle, Gareth Rooney, Benjamin Sutherland, Michael McKay, Jake Magill, Connor Hogan, Paul McAleenan, Niall McShane, Turlough Madden, Raymond Burns, Ciaran Davies, David Ward, Michael Haddad, Colm Fegan, Aaron Maguire, Neil McDonald, Caolan Magee, Neil McConville, Declan Doyle and Sean Fearon.

Also included are Mrs Catriona McGrath, Seventh Form Year Tutor, and Mr Paul O'Shea, Vice Principal.







▲ Mrs Annette Elmore, First Form Year Head, is pictured with Oisín Magee, Donall Rafferty, Oisín Magee, Jacob Reegan, Aodhan Evans, Ultan Ó Cuaig, Tom Magill, Mathew O'Brien and Cormac Rice.



▲ First Year pupils having fun at their Induction day. Back Row, from left to right: Caolan O'Hare, Tyler Keenan, Muireagan Serridge and Niall Mullholland. Front row, from left to right: Joseph Grimley, Callam Loughlin and Shea Murphy.



## Brother Beausang Shield Presentation

In recognition of their respect and affection for the late Brother Beausang, the local branch of Conradh na Gaeilge (Craobh an Iúir) presented a perpetual trophy to the Irish Department in the Abbey Grammar School which is awarded annually to the best speaker of Irish in sixth form.

This is the tenth and final year for the trophy to be presented and this year's recipient was James Meehan. The trophy was presented together with a cheque for £200 by Margaret Comer on behalf of Conradh na Gaeilge, to go towards a three week course in the Donegal Gaeltacht. James attended Gael-Linn's College in Machaire Rabhartaigh. The first winner of Sciath an Br. Beausang was Antaine Ó Cuaig (RIP), followed by Seán Ó Cearbhaill in 2002, Diarmaid Ó Diolúin in 2003 Macdara Ó Graham in 2004, Seán Mac Labhraí in 2005, Pádraig Ó Tiarnaigh 2006, Pilib MacLabhraí 2007, Deaglán Mag Aoidh 2008 and Seán MacCathmhaoil, 2009, Cian Gallagher 2010. Connor Hogan, who sat his A level examinations in the summer, received this prestigious award last year.

## Debating Matters!

Of course, we knew that already.

In September two teams took part in this aptly named competition from the Institute of Ideas. It is completely different from anything else that we do and at times, is more akin to the Spanish Inquisition than the parliamentary debating style we usually employ! The speakers present their arguments on a given topic only to be grilled by a panel of three adjudicators, before accepting questions from the opposing team and the House. Any weakness in research is uncovered; any flaw in reasoning is exposed.

Why do we do it? Because debating matters ... the preparation for this event as well as the evening's debates provide a sound platform for the development of key debating skills. It begins our debating calendar with focus and determination. In addition, we always learn something new.

Conor McCartney, Terry Dinsmore, Leo McSweeney and Cormac Begley made up the teams, with Leo and Cormac winning their round; a great start to the debating season.

Ms A Reynolds  
Teacher in charge of debating

## Abbey Debaters Enter NI Schools Debate

This academic year has been one of tremendous development for Abbey debaters in middle and senior school. For the first time, we entered the Northern Ireland Schools Debating Competition and started debating in November. Despite adjusting to a different format, both teams went through to the second round with a healthy dose of support from Abbey students and staff.

In the second round in December we hosted Belfast Royal Academy, Leo McSweeney and Cormac Begley successfully seeing off their competition and progressing to round three. Unfortunately, they met a well-versed team from Belfast High in round three that put an end to quarter-final hopes for this year. Conn O'Neill and Cathal Murphy made the trip to Belfast to take on Our Lady's and St. Pat's in their second round, narrowly losing 79-80 in an encounter the adjudicator avouched difficult to call.

The four debaters can be proud of their achievement, their teamwork and support for each other throughout the competition. We look forward to next year's campaign.



James Price evades a tackle during the U13 Rugby Blitz.

## BUSY SEASON FOR THE ABBEY'S RUGBY PLAYERS

Just when the boys were worried that rugby might have to take a back seat this season, Newry Rugby Football Club, in conjunction with Peace III, invited us to join in a cross community project. This involved six professional training sessions, led by Jonny Graham, former Ulster and Ireland representative. Also included were two Respect and Prejudice Awareness Sessions, involving all pupils from four local schools and led by the Peace Initiative Team. The climax of the project was the blitz competition held at Telford Park, home of Newry Rugby Club. Played under a crisp blue winter sky, the Genoa chips and sausage lunch helped warm the boys' hands and stomachs!

The afternoon of rugby involved two Abbey teams, A and A1. Both Abbey teams won their first three games beating St Paul's, Bessbrook, Kilkeel High School and Newry High School. They then played each other. The 'A' team took a two-try-lead but to their surprise, the A1 team fought hard and scored two tries of their own in quick succession. The final minutes saw some solid defending from the A1 team but eventually the strength of the A team came through with a closing try to win 3-2. This day was not so much about winning but the development of rugby skills and cross community involvement.

Many thanks to Newry Rugby Football Club for their initiative, support, genuine welcome and hospitality. If any of the Abbey boys want to play more rugby, that welcome is always extended to you at the club. Training is on Wednesday evenings and matches or training on Saturdays, alternatively speak to Mr Wadsworth or one of the boys who play at club for more information.

## OMAGH END ABBEY'S RANNAFAST AND CORN NA NÓG DREAMS AT THE SEMI-FINAL STAGE

Twice in the space of four weeks, Abbey CBS had one in foot in a colleges' final only to miss out in the cruellest of fashions to the same opponent, Omagh CBS.

The Rannafast Cup semi final was played on the 9th of November in a rain-soaked Abbey Park, Armagh. The competition was being played for the first time under its new name, the Edmund Rice Rannafast Cup, and was guaranteed to have a Christian Brothers' school contest the final when Abbey were paired with Omagh CBS.

The Abbey started their campaign with a one-point victory over Carrickmacross. It was a game that the Abbey dominated throughout but slack defending allowed Carrickmacross to stay in touch by scoring three second half goals. Vice captain, Sheagh Dobbin, ensured that the Newry boys overcame the scare when he landed an excellent point with one minute of the game left to ensure victory.

The next game was a comfortable victory over St.Pius X, Magherafelt, and other results in the group meant that that victory was enough to ensure qualification for the quarter final. The final group game against St Pat's, Cavan, gave the Abbey management pair of Seán Gallagher and John Rath, an opportunity to look at other squad members. The game ended in a twelve point defeat for the Abbey but both teams had already qualified for the knock out stages.

The quarter final paired Abbey with their traditional rivals, St.Pat's, Maghera. The game was played on the 6th November and proved to be a highly competitive affair with the Abbey needing a late goal from top-scorer, Ryan Trainor, to kill off the Maghera challenge. The semi final against Omagh had to be played three days later, due to the scheduling of the final the following week, and thus the Abbey boys had just two days to prepare for the game. What a game it turned out to be!

The game was evenly poised with Ryan Treanor, Killian Mc Evoy and Niall Rafferty all making large contributions to the Abbey cause. Luke Byrne, making his return from injury, was excellent throughout in the Abbey defence as was Killeavey man, Cathir McKinney. The teams were level shortly after the break, and the game seemed to have swung in favour of the Newry boys when Omagh were reduced to 14 men, ten minutes

into the second half.

Conor Mc Coy and Ryan Trainor both kicked scores towards the end of the second half and the Abbey seemed to be home and dry, until disaster struck. An excellent flowing move, the length of the field, found an Omagh forward, one on one with Abbey goalkeeper, Aaron Campbell, and he dispatched the ball to the Abbey net to give Omagh a one point lead.

The Abbey battled gamely to find a reply but it wasn't to be. Omagh took their place in the Rannafast Final, a game they lost to Cavan, in similar circumstances to their semi final win over the Abbey.

Remarkably history repeated itself a few weeks later when the Corn na nÓg squad suffered the same fate as their Rannafast counterparts. Having reached the quarter-final by way of a play-off, the Abbey found themselves paired with Armagh, one of the pre-tournament favourites. That game would prove to be one of the sporting highlights of 2012 in the Abbey. Played as a home fixture at the Abbey, the Corn na nÓg boys turned in a performance that will long be remembered for its commitment, work ethic and determination. Michael Cromie, Jason Sloan and Blain Mc Grath shone for the Abbey boys but in truth this was an excellent team performance. Of particular note was the Abbey's blocking and tackling, and the smiles on the faces of the coaches Dan Gordon and Paul Mc Parland, told the tale of how impressive this victory was. That set up a semi final against Omagh, who had previously beaten the Abbey by twelve points in the group stages. Again the Abbey produced an excellent performance, and their determination, and work rate put them in a winning position going in to the last minute of the game. A mistake in the middle of the Abbey defence gifted Omagh an equalising point and when the resulting kick-out was returned over the bar by an Omagh midfielder, the thirty-second turnaround was complete. It was a crushing defeat for a team that had looked to have booked an unlikely place in the Corn na nÓg final.

Both squads now face the challenge of building on their excellent progress and when they consider how close they came to glory, it shouldn't be too hard to keep up the hard work.



## WORK RELATED LEARNING WEEK AT THE ABBEY

The week commencing Monday 12th November was an extremely busy week for middle and senior students in the Abbey. A series of programmes was delivered in conjunction with both Young Enterprise NI, and Sentinus NI engaging students in a variety of interactive programmes that allowed them opportunities to work on their career planning and management processes.

Year 14 students carried out intensive Mock University Interviews facilitated by a small number of local employers/business associates focusing on their specific career decisions.

Year 11 and Year 13 students engaged in a motivational programme aimed at helping students to identify their emotional intelligences and personal learning styles whilst applying modern techniques and strategies to maximise the impact of their planned study.

Year 12 students successfully completed a popular YENI programme 'Learn to Earn'. Through this hands-on, interactive programme – students throughout are encouraged to identify longer term goals and aspirations and understand how the choices they make at school and their level of achievement affects the attainment of these goals. The students were introduced to the economic realities of working life through budgeting activities, exploring their potential salary levels, as well as exploring self-employment as a career option.

Mrs C McGrath, Head of CEIAG at the Abbey CBS, said: "the focus of Work Related Learning Week is to encourage students to think about their career plans beyond the confines of the classroom. It aims to offer opportunities to engage with local industry and external agencies to help create a culture of 'informed career choices' in our young people and to impress upon them the importance of taking control of their learning and managing their decisions."

## PRINT MAKING WORKSHOP WITH BILL PENNEY

Year 13 and 14 students from the Art & Design Department at the Abbey attended a print making workshop by Bill Penney - an Associate Lecturer in Printmaking and Head of Admissions Tutor for the Foundation Course in Art & Design at the University of Ulster in Belfast. The boys visited Newry High School on Friday 23rd November where they carried out a series of prints based on their own individual themes, under the guidance of Mr Penney. Mr Penney has a valuable insight into the requirements for entry onto Art & Design courses and spoke to the boys about interview skills and what to include in a successful portfolio. The students all thoroughly enjoyed this experience of working with a practising artist.



▲ All the participants at Bill Penney's workshop.

▶ Jack Maguire, Year 14, gets some advice from Bill Penney.



## HARD HITTING ROAD CAMPAIGN COMES TO THE ABBEY

Sixth and Seventh Year pupils from both the Abbey and the Sacred Heart Grammar School, took part in a road accident demonstration as part of Northern Ireland Road Safety week. Members of the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service, the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the Ambulance Service came to the school on Thursday 22nd November 2012, to target young drivers with their hard hitting campaign.

The afternoon long session got underway with a demonstration in the school yard of how the Emergency Services respond to a road accident. Seventh Year pupils, Oisín Mc Evoy and Jonathan O Hare, agreed to sit in the vehicle as the members of the Fire Service cut them out of a car. The demonstration was thought-provoking for the increasing number of young drivers attending both schools as they got to see and hear, at first hand, the sights and sounds of a road accident.

Following the demonstration, pupils were given the opportunity to quiz the experts, as well as watch a power point presentation, that highlighted to them the dangers of motoring at such a young age.

It was clear that the pupils were given food for thought, during the afternoon and it is hoped that they will have taken serious heed of the warnings issued by the experts during this worthwhile event.



## STAFF CHOIR DEBUT AT ABBEY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

### Spirit of Christmas Celebrated at our Christmas Concert



On Wednesday 19th December, the Music Department hosted friends and family in the Assembly Hall for a night of Christmas Carols, readings and music. The large audience was entertained and put into the festive spirit by various groups, involving Abbey pupils, teachers and support staff. There were some new ensembles such as "The Rolling Tones" directed by Mr John Cosgrove (past pupil, parent and Jazz Band saxophonist) and Mrs Lorna Palmer's groups, "The String Band", "Senior Boys Choir" and the "Abbey Staff Choir", in their debut performance. The Carol singing proved to be the highlight of the night and developed into an impromptu sing-a-long.

The evening, attended by pupils, parents and staff, with their own young children, was a great success and Slí na Mainistreach congratulates everyone involved on the night. In his remarks, Mr Dominic Wadsworth thanked the boys for their talent, enthusiasm, loyalty and commitment. He paid tribute to his departmental colleague, Mrs Lorna Palmer, for her dedication, experience and ability to produce such musical excellence in all of her ensembles. In a particular way, he went on to praise Conor McCormick for being such a multi-talented music technician and a constant cool head even when under great demand. Finally, Mr Wadsworth acknowledged the contribution of Mr. John Cosgrove for volunteering to help run a junior jazz band with such energy and skill. The entertainment certainly got everyone in the Christmas spirit and had everyone looking forward to the Spring Concert.

## AARON RECEIVES AN ULSTER COLLEGES' ALL-STAR



Pictured is Aaron Beattie (7th year) being presented with his Danske Bank Ulster Colleges All Star award by Chairman of the Ulster Colleges, Seamus Meehan, and Danske Bank representative, Danny Stinton.

Congratulations to Year 14 student, Aaron Beattie, who plays at corner back for our MacRory Cup team, and who was presented with a Danske Bank Ulster Colleges All Star at a special awards ceremony that was held at the Merchant Hotel in Belfast on Monday 17th December, 2012. Aaron follows in the footsteps of his club mate, at Naomh Eoin Bosco, Ethan Toner, who was awarded an All star in the same position in 2010.



## Careers in English Week

From Tuesday 22nd to Friday 25th January the Abbey English Department ran a week of visits promoting careers in which the subject of English plays a vital role. Eight visitors (seven of whom were Abbey past pupils) spoke to a range of classes from Key Stage Three up to A Level. Each speaker entertained pupils with personal anecdotes and emphasised the importance of good written and communication skills in the work place.

## It has been a very successful year for the Creative Writing Club!

Students were entered for local and national writing competitions throughout the year. Many students had their work selected to be published in anthologies including 'The Poetry Games' and 'Poetry Games: Teenage Dreams'

All of these anthologies are kept at The British Library.

Below is a selection of poems that were chosen for publication in the various anthologies. Included are poems that the boys wrote in January about Zambia. Talks from senior students involved in the Zambia Immersion Project and discussions in poetry club, about those less fortunate than ourselves, inspired the boys to write really emotive and thought-provoking poems. Five poems about Zambia were chosen for publication.

### I am Lonely.

I have no loving father,  
I have no caring mother  
As both of them have perished.  
We loved one another.

What are I pads?  
What are Tablets?  
The only thing I have,  
Is some rice and a blanket.

My home is a shed  
With no other rooms,  
No bedroom or bathroom  
But that's alright if I have school.

At school we have a blackboard  
With little chalk to use,  
There are over 50 hungry pupils  
Who don't have a life to choose.  
Everyone is famished  
Too hungry to go on,  
But as long as our friends are with us  
We're happy all along.

We don't need those gadgets,  
We don't take things for granted.  
Our friends are the fuels to keep treading on,  
Through the hard Zambian life.  
We're happy from now on.

By Arthur Cespon IV9

### Smiles in Zambia

Smiles in Zambia?

Look at them run,  
How can it be done?  
On gravel without shoes  
And barely any food.

Three meals a week,  
That is not right,  
So different to our diet,  
Food, food, food  
Morning, day and night.

They stick together,  
through it all,  
Stick their chests out,  
Stand so tall.

It really makes your heart ache,  
To see their mothers cry.  
But turns a frown, upside down,  
To see the children smile

By Daniel Flynn 9D

### The Youth of Today

The youth of today are quite a jumble,  
With Facebook and games causing all sorts of trouble,  
Cyber bullies run rampant with glee,  
As they have new victims on Facebook, all for free.

Now, here's a whole different story,  
Addicted to winning and getting all the glory,  
Children are just sitting around,  
While outside you can't hear a sound.

These addicts will ruin this generation,  
With teens being brought in for interrogation,  
About how and why they ruined this age,  
How and why they made life so plain and beige.  
So listen up to all boys and girls,  
Because this really is an addicted world.

By Michéal Linden 9D



Oran Mc Nally presents a profile of past pupil, Donal Mc Mahon, as part of the English Department's Careers' week.

Donal McMahon is a past pupil of the Abbey and he is also the brother of our very own Geography teacher, Mr. McMahon. He attended the Abbey from 1990-1997 and he studied A levels in English Literature, History and Politics. He likes music, current affairs and writing. When he was in Queen's University he studied History and Politics as part of a three year degree. He then studied Grey's shorthand production writing style in Cork. He has travelled all around the world to many different places such as America, Europe, Asia, Australia and New Zealand. He came back to Ireland for a Post Graduate Higher Diploma in Journalism. He has worked with newspapers such as the Down Democrat and the Roscommon Herald but now works full-time for the Newry Reporter.

To be a good journalist you need to get along well with the person that you are reporting whether you like them or not because if you needed to do an interview with someone, you could get the press officer to ask the questions but if you seem to be quite a difficult person they might not do it for you. You need to think about the photo you are going to use for your article. Remember that the most unusual photos often get the most attention. If it is a photo that everyone has seen it won't be valuable. If it is a photo that no one has seen like Donal's example of 'the Queen picking her nose' then it will be valuable. You can only take a photo in a public place. If the Queen were in her living room then you can't walk in and take a photo.

If another newspaper likes your story then they can try and buy it from you; this is the same for a photographer's photos. There are different issues that you can report on such as: court, crime, music etc. To get a Higher Level in Journalism you must be able to use shorthand. There are different styles of shorthand such as the one Donal uses, 'Grey's Shorthand'. It is useful in places such as court because you need to take down every word that people say.

# Jiggin' and Reelin' for Zambia



**Jigs and Reels participant and member of the 2013 Zambian Immersion Team, Andrew Mc Givern, reviews one of the most memorable nights in a generation of the Abbey...**

Jigs and Reels was a spectacle, of both comedy and talent, with an even balance of esteemed professional Irish dancers with equally enthusiastic students and teachers being taught from scratch and put into their places by the mother of Ryan Hughes, Helena. Rigorous training and preparation went into the routines in the weeks before the big night. We all got put through our paces rightly.

Helena had kindly given us the time and the patience to help spearhead this event with a real emphasis on drilling us with the basic steps and teaching us routines and dances in line for the event, with Pete O'Hagan's two left feet and Stephen Jennings galloping through routines- a far cry from the skip two threes being executed to perfection by the likes of Peter Reel. Pat O'Neill added a French flavour to the dancing despite not knowing his right foot from his left.

Paul McKeever had tried dancing before and now feels that he was indeed, born to dance. The man can't be stopped. Annette Elmore, Orla Hughes and Catriona McGrath, despite being the chatters of the group, were always ready to perform flawlessly. Ryan Hughes and his troop of lads who have, "done it all before", eased back into the swing of things and have obviously put long hours into the art of dance. Brendan Bell was our resident pro along with Helena; he led the group routine and gratefully gave us his time.

I had heard from past students about how saddening the experience of Zambia can be and the poverty within it. The work we do here, no matter how small or even fun it may seem in this case, always has the driving motive for making a difference and providing hope in Zambia and all the money raised will go directly to funding the project."

The night went off like a house on fire with a sell out show! The audience was 'sardined' into the tight space of Bellini's. Just under £6000 pounds was raised for the project and this will directly make an impact in Zambia. As a team, we thank the audience for arriving, all the parents who gave their sons/daughters lifts to the practice, Helena and Brendan for giving up their time for us and anyone else who did their bit for the project. The three judges gave this event a "strictly come dancing" flavour with their score cards and the surprise jig from Mr McGovern crowned off what musy be, one of the most successful fundraisers the Abbey has ever had for the Zambia Immersion Project.



# A Night to Remember

January



The 'ABBa'y Girls.



Mrs Elmore and past pupil, Brendan Bell are 'Smooth Criminals'.



Mr Mc Govern steals the show.



Mrs McGrath, Mrs Hughes and Mrs C McEvoy go back to school.



Fear an Tí, Oisín Mc Evoy, with his 'leggy' assistant, Johnny O Hare.



Sacrebleu M.O Neill!



Mrs Mc Govern, Mrs Rafferty, Mrs Mc Kernan and Mrs Rooney wow the packed crowd.

## Abbey CBS 0-7 St Paul's Bessbrook 1-9

Abbey crashed out of the 2013 Danske Bank MacRory Cup at the Quarter final stage against competition new boys, St.Paul's, Bessbrook. At the beginning of the year the Abbey was tipped to do very well in this year's competition along with St. Patrick's, Maghera and their eventual conquerors, St. Paul's.

However, a couple of long term injuries and the absence of key players on the big night, left the Abbey facing the excellent South Armagh side against the background of less than perfect preparation. That said, on the night, St Paul's were full value for their five point win and the fact that they went on to reach the Mac Rory Final, showed their quality and left the Abbey thinking about what might have been.

A huge crowd, estimated to be close to four thousand, packed into the stand in Páirc Esler, to watch this unique quarter final pairing, and it was the Bessbrook supporters who will have enjoyed the first half more than the Abbey.

Despite shooting a total of eight wides, St.Paul's went into the break leading by 1-3 to 0-3. Abbey's three scores came in the first twelve minutes and they led by two points, mainly because of the wayward shooting of the Bessbrook forwards. St Paul's only got back on course when they managed to find the back of Tiarnán O'Brien's net for a somewhat fortuitous goal; Armagh senior panelist, Ciaran O'Hanlon, managing to toe-poke to the net following a goalmouth scramble. O'Hanlon scored all 1-3 for St Paul's in the opening half, but both Eoghan Burns and Gregory McCabe were proving to be a handful for the Abbey. Abbey dominated the opening fourteen minutes of the second half and narrowed the gap to a single point, 1-4 to 0-6, with scores from Conal Gallagher, Conor Martin and free-taker Callum Comiskey.



*Abbey Captain, Callum Comiskey, picture with the St.Paul's, Bessbrook, captain, Ciaran O'Hanlon and referee, Cathal O'Hagan before the 'Battle of the Marshes'.*

However, when two teams are so evenly matched, in such a significant game, the game is won or lost on the slimmest of margins. That was to prove the case in the Marshes, after the dismissal of Oisín McEvoy for a second yellow. St Paul's again took control and finished strongly with McCabe and Burns again dominant. The award of the second yellow card bewildered the Abbey players, and management and in truth, most of the occupants of the South Stand, as it seemed to be awarded for an incident that the referee had waved on several seconds earlier and only came about after some protests from the Bessbrook line towards a linesman.

St Paul's scored five excellent points from distance in the final quarter as the Abbey lost an uphill battle. It was a devastating end for a group of players who had marked themselves out as a

particularly hard working group and had shown fantastic commitment to the school over a period of three years. They now leave the Abbey looking back on their Rannafast Final appearance in 2010 as the highlight. Slí na Mainistreach wishes them all the best for the future.

**Abbey CBS:** Tiarnán O'Brien, Oisín McEvoy, Conor Hoey, Aaron Beattie, Ryan Magee, Cathair McKinney, Patrick Reel, Niall McKeivitt, Daniel McCarthy, Terry Morgan, Tadgh Murdock, Donagh McAleenan 0-1, Conor Martin 0-2, Callum Cumiskey 0-2, 0-1 free, Conal Gallagher 0-1.

**Subs:** Conor Doyle for C McKinney, Patrick McEntaggart for P Reel, Eoin McParland 0-1 for T Morgan, Sean Cooper for D McAleenan.

**Referee:** Cathal O'Hagan (Tyrone)

## Cross Country

In early February, in a wind swept and very wet Delamont Park, the second year cross country team of Ardan McAvoy, Oisín McKinley, Billy Campbell, Lewis Cowan, Brendan O'Shea, Luke Forster, Micheal Curtis, Aaron Laverty and Daniel Campbell; stormed to victory in the team event. With more

than 15 local schools taking part this was a great achievement, made all the sweeter by the fact that they improved on last year's performance. That victory earned the Abbey boys a place at the Ulster finals in Mallusk, county Antrim, where the team gave an excellent account of themselves.



## March Sees Zain Shahid Crowned Senior Debating Champion whilst the Senior and the Quiz Team Travel to England as Northern Ireland Champions

March

### Zain Shahid wins 2013 Br. McFarland Senior Debating Trophy

In April, Zain Shahid became the third fifth year student to win the senior debating competition after a stellar performance opposing the motion "This House believes the internet encourages democracy" despite strong proposition arguments from Gareth Deane, Matthew Freeman, Eoin Monaghan and James Meehan.

Gareth Deane opened for the proposition by succinctly defining the motion which was subsequently challenged by the opposition's Zain Shahid, Kilian Thornton, Thomas Carvill and Cormac Begley. These debaters had already argued their way successfully through the preliminary and semi-final rounds to make the final. In fact, all eight speakers were competing in their first final, yet the standard of debating belied their relative inexperience in competition. Even the quirky ex tempore motions were executed with humour and imagination. Eoin pointed out the merits of 'what doesn't kill you makes you stronger' referencing Kanye and Kelly Clarkson. Cormac convinced us 'the only way is Abbey' while Matthew calmly explained 'Bond had no choice but to let the sky fall'. Gareth showed unequivocal 'support for the Dark Knight'. Thomas presented the case for the Harlem Shake over Gangnam Style and Kilian told us why dating techniques should be taught in schools, referring to the Spanish department as potential curriculum leaders.

James left us in no doubt that 'Tom Jones is The Voice' with Zain's flourish being his recognition of the Jaffa cake's special status in the biscuit aisle, indeed in its questionable status as a biscuit.

In both aspects of the competition, the finalists demonstrated their skill and poise, highlighting once again the strength of Abbey debating and its continued development across all year groups. Guest adjudicator and speaker, Ms Margaret Ritchie (MP), and sponsor, Mr Rory McShane (McShane & Co.) commended the finalists. The research undertaken, the robust arguments, the willingness to challenge each other throughout the debate, all the while seeking to engage the audience of parents, friends, pupils and staff, ensure that this event remains one of the most prestigious in the school calendar.



The Year 9 and Year 11 students must also be commended for their participation in the event. Collecting awards for their class debates, they were exemplary floor members and questioned both teams on their arguments. In so doing, they became the potential finalists for the future. Contributions from the House were deftly managed on the night by outgoing Br. McFarland champion, Ryan Morgan, who was a most welcome returnee to Abbey Debating.

### Quiz Team Travel to England

I and my team-mates Eoin, James and Kevin were all very eager to get quizzing again. We had had lots of success, and after a long wait it was time to get back to business. All of us had been to England before for quizzes. Mr Gamble told us about the upcoming Northern Ireland round, and our faces lit up. We were confident – The Abbey is the only school ever to win it!

Our journey to England began just down the road, in Lurgan. The Northern Ireland round was being held there. Strangely, only two other teams took part, one of which had never quizzed before. Still, we were looking forward to all the drama and excitement of who could get to the buzzer first.

We were all veterans, so we had the experience in our favour.

After Sacred Heart Grammar School and St. Louis' Ballymena put up a brave fight, we managed to win both matches and take the trophy home once more. The trophy was great, but for us the real prize was the trip to England. Mr Gamble and Mr Grogan went with us.

We left Belfast City Airport for Birmingham (not before Eoin smashed his phone), and then caught the train to Coventry where we stayed in the Premier Inn. It was very nice, and just as luxurious as any 5-star hotel. After hunting for somewhere to eat, we found a great Italian restaurant and it was good craic all round. I think my team-mates will agree that "The Godfather" was the best dessert any of us ever had! With full stomachs, it was time for a good night's sleep



before the morning train to Leamington-Spa.

We were met at the station by a teacher from the host school, Warwick School, which is just outside Leamington-Spa. After the usual briefing and chit-chat, we began our first match against Monmouth School. They put in a great effort and I had a lot of respect for them, but we managed to clinch the win. There were some very tense moments, but we all put in a great effort. That got us a place in the semi-final.

The semi-final was somewhat less rewarding. We fancied our

chances, and even considered repeating The Abbey's victory from 2002. Sadly, it wasn't to be, as a school named Haberdasher Aske's got the better of us and made it to the final. We were happy when we heard the news of their defeat in the final to Lancaster, a team with whose captain we had become friends.

We were all a bit disheartened on the train back to Birmingham, but we still had a fantastic time and lots of fun. There was time to enjoy all the airport's shops before we had to go, and we made sure we stocked up on all the chocolate and crisps we'd need for the arduous 45 minute flight.

Kevin and I may have seen our last quizzing trip to England, but I have no doubt that James and Eoin will be able to bring home the victory to where it belongs next year.

Michael Jordan 11MC

## Ten Years on From our First Visit, The New Zambia Immersion Team See at First Hand the Progress of the Last Ten Years

Coming home from school to open a letter saying I had been selected to go to Zambia is a memory I will cherish. After collecting money that summer, and attending the various meetings, I was about to take part in the Zambia Immersion Project, something that was an ambition of mine since first year. The weeks that followed involved meetings to plan fundraising events, discuss our progress, complete journal work and practise cooking and teaching. This helped the group to bond and we really got to know each other well before leaving.

On the 12th March, we departed from Dublin Airport and after an 11 hour flight, we finally landed in Lusaka. The first thing that struck me was the heat, apparently mild by Zambian standards, at 30+c. The flight was followed by an 8 hour bus journey, in a full coach, with the radio blasting in the background, making it impossible to sleep. As we drove through towns, we saw young children running on the roads with no supervision whatsoever, and women carrying children on their backs and large vessels of water and food on their heads, something that had us all in awe. By the time we reached Livingstone, we

sharpen their pencils, and when we pointed this out the teachers seemed indifferent to our comments. Although there were improvements to be made, overall, it was great to see that the money raised was going to good use in the schools we fund. This funding is essential to keep these schools running until the government takes them over. The children are always willing to learn and when I left colouring pencils for them to use, it was like Christmas for them, after all, they were lucky if they had a book or two and a pencil.

On one of the first day days, we met with Sister Mary in St Francis Day Care Centre, where she showed us the work she does- giving out medication to the sick, providing counselling and also organising a children's club, for children with HIV/AIDS. She showed us statistics of the number of patients with different diseases and viruses, especially HIV, and through her education programme on HIV/AIDS, the numbers were obviously decreasing, although there is still a huge problem with the disease. Livingstone has the highest rate of HIV in Zambia, at around 30%. From that day to the end of the project, four of us went on a day care visit each day with Margaret, one of the workers at St Francis'. We arrived to see a group outside dancing, which forms part of the care provided, to help the patients with respiratory diseases such as TB. Some of the patients had open wounds, while others were amputees. Although these people were evidently sick and in pain, they seemed in good spirits, and shared a laugh or two, but there was an overwhelming sense that these people knew they did not have a lot of time left. Some were constantly coughing, but I was most worried for those who kept quiet the whole time. While the helpers gave out medication, Margaret asked the group questions about HIV and AIDS, which they answered very competently. This was only a small part of the population of Livingstone, and there are still huge problems with myths on how HIV is contracted and how it can 'cured'.

We then went on a home visit, to those who were too ill to go to the group sessions. This was probably the most poignant memory I have of the project, mostly for the wrong reasons. We visited a girl called Avaris, who was 28 and had contracted HIV. When we arrived, I saw her



sitting in a doorway, cutting vegetables with a sharp knife, and the first thing that struck me was how frail she looked, almost like a girl half her age. Avaris was blind. She went to a doctor when she contracted HIV, he gave her medicine, but it affected her eyesight, eventually making her completely blind. She had a daughter who she had to take care of, and told us about how she cooks and cleans for her family. Her husband left her for another woman on the other side of Livingstone when he learned she was blind, leaving her to fend for herself and her daughter. Her parents had died, but amazingly, she still smiled and said a prayer for us. When I asked her, she told us that her only wish in life was that her daughter got a good education, to get out of the compound in which they lived. As we drove back to the day care centre, we saw men and women walking around, all with no employment or possibility of getting a job.



Without any benefits whatsoever, having no job in Livingstone means having no money at all.

Every day, after teaching and day activities, we would go to Lubasi orphanage to meet the children. This was the most special part of the day for us, as we got to talk and play with the children, and Ms Hughes also provided arts and crafts for them, which they loved. The children were really excited to see us arrive, and after a long day, it was a great way to relax and enjoy ourselves, especially when I had seen something disturbing that day. By Zambian standards, the children had good enough facilities, but funding is needed continuously. The children were always happy, smiling, dancing and playing. The younger ones only wanted to play, while the older children liked to talk about their lives. These children were very inspirational, and the last day at the orphanage was one of the hardest parts of the project. We also met Anxious at the orphanage, a young man who told us about how he had stayed in Lubasi, and was now excelling at school, as well as helping other children to learn maths at the orphanage. After the orphanage, we



were exhausted. We were met by Brother Mick and Sister Mary, who both do a lot of great work in and around Livingstone. We were staying in Faulty Towers, a hostel in the middle of Livingstone.

After a few days settling in, we were assigned a school in which to teach. I was chosen to teach in Linda, and when we got there, we were immediately surrounded by smiling children, all wanting to see the mazungus (white people) who had come to their school. Although they had almost no facilities, little stationary and very little food, they were the happiest school children I ever encountered. The children in the other schools, Libuyu and Ngwenya, were the same, and all wanted to get their photos taken. Teaching was enjoyable, but challenging. The children had excellent maths skills but when it came to English, the children struggled slightly- after all, English is not their native language. Some of the children had no shoes, and used razor blades to







had a meeting where we answered questions prepared by Mr Brady about the day's events, and Mr Evans would give us information on what we would do the next day. These meetings were helpful to get anything we wanted to say off our chests.

We visited a hospice that the Abbey had helped to fund on one of the days. Expecting to see patients on their death beds, we arrived wondering if we would be able to handle such emotions, but what we were met with was much worse. The hospice was open, but completely empty of patients, as they couldn't afford to admit patients. Great facilities lay there going to waste, while sick people lay in mud huts in a close proximity to the hospice, dying. This was an opportunity to ease some of the suffering of the patients, but it was completely wasted. There was a children's ward, with paintings on the wall, and the empty beds made me more emotional than if I had seen patients in the beds.

On another day, we visited the quarry. This was the hardest part of the project for some of the group, and this was understandable. Men, women and children worked from 7am until dark, for very little pay. Every day, they sit, smashing stones with hammers for the equivalent of a dollar a day, and most of them sat in the hot sun, with disfigured hands and dust covering their faces. We talked with two young boys, aged 13 and 17, who would sit from 7am breaking rocks, leave for school without breakfast,



and return after school to break rocks again, day in, day out. However, this is the only way these people can survive, and although these people may work there for the rest of their lives, if they don't, they will die- it's as simple as that. Young children with blank stares on their faces run and play within feet of the edge of the quarry. However, these children are different from those at the schools. There is no hope for these children and even the youngest of them seemed to realise this.

We visited the hospital in Zambia also. The children's ward there was almost empty, except for one child receiving care for malnourishment. There seemed to be good care at the hospice, but the medication is limited and facilities are far from modern. We were directed around the hospital by Father John, a really inspirational man, who was extremely friendly and interesting to listen to. He took us to the female ward, where women lay suffering, some with HIV/AIDS, and others with breathing problems, malaria and high blood pressure. We talked to some of the women and they were grateful that we had visited them; we provided a distraction for them from their conditions. Some of the women had been there a number of months. We then visited the male ward, but this was too much for some of the lads, who stood outside while some of us talked to the men there, including one man with tubing coming out of his chest, and others who were lying on the floor due to a lack of beds.

The Christian Brothers' School in Livingstone is called St Raphael's, and we were taken there with Brother Mick, who teaches at the school and was a principal. This was an important part of the project, as we had an automatic connection with the lads there. The facilities there were not bad, much better than any of the other schools we visited, and some of the students were



studying for A Levels. It was great to see such facilities, and the lads and teachers there formed a football team which beat us 3-0.

Overall, the experience was one of a kind- we saw the best and the worst of life in Zambia, and met some incredible people. I would highly recommend that if you get the chance to be a part of the project, go for it. It will be a life changing experience and you will get a chance to help those less fortunate and experience what life is like when you have to live with next to nothing. We will cherish these memories forever and hope to return to Zambia soon.

#### THE TEAM:

Mr Evans, Ms Hughes, Mr McGovern, Mr Brady, Ryan Hughes, Paul McKeever, Pete O'Hagan, Martin Mathers, Cathal McKeown, Jonathon O'Hare, Steven Jennings, Andrew McGivern, Aaron Beattie and James O'Hare.

Paul McKeever





## The Abbey Host the Edmund Rice Awards as Dr Aidan Lennon Addresses the Fifth Year Pupils



### Edmund Rice Awards Ceremony

hosted by Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Newry

On Friday 22nd April 2013 The Abbey hosted The Edmund Rice Awards Ceremony. This is an annual ceremony which is held to recognise the projects of Social Outreach engaged in by all of The Christian Brothers' schools across The North.

Present at The Abbey Ceremony were students and teachers from St. Mary's CBS, Belfast, Glenn Road CBS, Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Omagh, Edmund Rice College, Belfast, and our own Sixth Form Abbey Students.

The different groups of students each made a presentation, reflecting the content and ethos of their particular Social Outreach Project. Projects included: visits to the elderly, working with St Vincent de Paul Society, working with students from local Special Needs' Schools and Organisation of Summer Camps for young people.

The students were addressed by the visiting speaker for the occasion, Ms Gemma McCourt, an outreach worker with Trocaire. Ms

McCourt spoke of what had motivated her to become involved in projects of Social Outreach and Solidarity with marginalised groups. She also urged the students to become involved in similar projects either when at school or at university.

The event was attended by members of The Edmund Rice Schools' Trust, who are charged with ensuring the continuance of the Edmund Rice Ethos in The Christian Brothers' Schools in Ireland.

The students were entertained by pupils from The Music Department at The Abbey Grammar School and by students from The Music Department of Omagh CBS.

All those who attended thoroughly enjoyed the celebration. Senior Students from The Abbey will again take part in "The Edmund Rice Awards" next year through their programme of Social Outreach with the students of Rathore School, Newry.

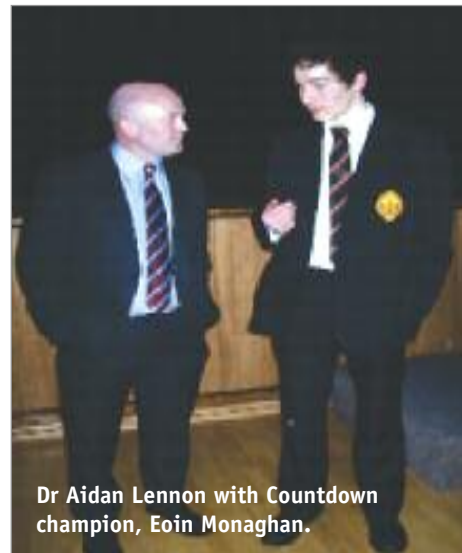
### Doctor on Call



Dr Aidan Lennon addressing a group of GCSE pupils.



Dr Aidan Lennon with a group of Year 12 pupils.



Dr Aidan Lennon with Countdown champion, Eoin Monaghan.

On Thursday 18th April Dr Aidan Lennon, SELB Literacy Advisor and Principal Examiner for GCSE English Language with CEA, visited the Abbey to speak to GCSE pupils about their forthcoming summer exams. As well as providing excellent revision booklets he spoke to pupils about the importance of exam technique and time management.



## The New Student Council is Elected and Cormac Begley Comes Second in a National Essay Writing Competition

May



The newly elected Senior Council for the year 2012-2014 is pictured with the Headmaster, Mr Dermot Mc Govern, and the Year Head, Mr Seán Gallagher. The new Council began their work in May and have already been heavily involved in welcoming next year's first years to the school and bidding farewell to the seventh year graduates.

### Back Row

L- R: Mr Dermot Mc Govern, Headmaster, James Meehan, Killian Thornton, Darragh McClean and Seán Gallagher, Year Tutor.

### Front Row:

Ryan Hughes (Head Boy), Conn O'Neill and Ethan Wroe.

Below is an extract from Cormac Begley's National Essay Writing Competition entry.

## "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."

W. B. Yeats

As a student myself I have a fair insight into the educational process which has played an integral role in shaping these seventeen years of my life. I value education, I realise that it offers the key of potential to unlock the doors of opportunity. However, is this key handed to me from a cold, clammy hand or do I grasp it willingly with zeal? I like to think it is the latter. I cannot pretend academia alone is my vocation, but it is certainly a fire inside me that Yeats so poetically described. I am dismayed at times with the process by which we, the youth burdened with the responsibility of 'the Future', are educated. It feels to me we are force-fed the tasteless gruel of information and expected to digest before regurgitating it all succinctly for intimidating exams. Worse still, only to be forgotten swiftly afterwards, never to be drawn upon again, once we have received the paper and ink that deigns our future.

It would be foolish to assume we live in a world where everyone willingly learns for personal growth, development and enjoyment and without any other incentive (though one can dream). This does not mean to necessarily implement grand and elaborate schemes and policies to reward and punish, encourage and deter behaviour orientated around education. I believe the answer is much simpler than that. To light the fire

instead of filling the pail, one depends on the attitudes and methods of the educator. You might assume immediately I refer to a classroom teacher, and you'd be right, but that is not all I refer to. There are the parents, the friends and the consciousness of the individual, each capable of lighting that fire that inspires us to learn. Learning is an innate human tendency and is necessary for survival, but that is not enough.

Strictly in a school setting, we are expected to abide by school rules and an academic culture. While this perfectly understandable, for it keeps order and maintains consistency, it can also sterilise the environment in which pupils, such as myself, learn. I am fortunate in that from an early age I was socialised with similar values to an educational ethos, but to those who aren't I fear they are disregarded and left behind – the so called 'hopeless cases' who not only lack the fire, but have holes in their rusty pails. We must start at the bottom before we can reach the top.

Those words from the mind of William Butler Yeats expand far and wide; I wouldn't do them justice if I restrained them purely to the confines of schooling. Education is not solely what you learn in a classroom, it comes with living. Merely by existing, by drawing breath and looking around, you are being educated. Every conversation, every dream,

every feeling you consider is educational. When you learn, you live – and vice versa.

Finally, you cannot light a fire using damp wood. Ultimately it comes down to you. Willingness to learn is just as, if not more, important in education than ability to learn. This is central to all I have discussed here. Every one of us has that voice inside our head; our consciousness, our ego, our soul if you like, driving us forward, questioning things and asserting others. This too is capable of lighting the fire. It's only when your start arguing with this voice that you should be worried!

Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire. What W.B Yeats means by this will always be open to interpretation, but I believe his meaning to be crystal clear; education is not the bland absorption of information from an equally bland source, but inspiration that knowledge is something to be appreciated and helps us learn about and understand the world, others and ourselves. It becomes something we do, not because we have to, but because we want to. But be warned, fires are dangerous, and so is knowledge; only when we control this do we reap its endless benefits. Education is not simply something for the young either, we are always learning; the greater the fire the longer that passion lasts, no matter whether you're eight or eighty. I hope I've educated you in some way today, perhaps lighting a fire. But don't simply take my word for it, come to your own conclusion for (and I feel it is apt to end with another quote from the Irish poet himself) "man can embody the truth, but he cannot know it."



## First Year Footballers Show Signs of Hope for the Future

June saw the annual Ulster First Year Football Blitz in Belfast, and as ever the Abbey was there to take part. The competition provides the first real insight into where our boys rank with their contemporaries and is often a good guide to the quality of the school team in that year group. This year's crop of players emphatically showed that there are good days ahead for Abbey football as they won through their group, taking the scalps of some of the traditionally strong schools and made it all the way to the A final. The highlight of the day was their semi final victory over St. Patrick's, Dungannon, when despite playing their fifth game of the day, the Newry boys powered past their Tyrone rivals for a comfortable victory. As has been the case in recent years (all too often), St. Patrick's College, Maghera, proved just too strong in the final but that defeat does nothing to dampen the optimism that now exists for this group of players. A special mention and word of thanks goes to the new first year management team of Mr R Hannon and Mr J Downing, for their commitment and enthusiasm in working with this squad. The panel was made up of: Sean Golligly, Mark McCann, Pearse McPolin, Callum O'Hare, Pearse Woods, Shealan Fegan, Tiernan Saul, Ross Garvey, Paddy O'Connor, Dara Gough, Aidan McGovern, Dylan O'Hare, Sean Magone, Eoin Murdock, Jamie Martin, Fearghal Vallely, Darragh Kelly, Donal Clarke, Michael O'Shea, Sean Rafferty, Paul Martin, Brendan McLoughlin, Sean Watters, Stephen Doyle, Jamie Lynch, Dennis Lynch, Jonah Osborne, Pearse Loughran, Jamie McAleenan, Isaac Farrugia, Kohree Hourican, Michael Kelly, Eoin Carr, Rory Byrne and Jack Grant.

**Maith sibh lads!**

## Coming next year... Miss Saigon to premiere at the Abbey

Producer, Cameron Mackintosh, says that he intends to restage the mega-hit Vietnam war musical 'as soon as I can find a theatre.' It has been 25 years since [www.musicalworld-boublil-schonberg.com/shows/miss-saigon](http://www.musicalworld-boublil-schonberg.com/shows/miss-saigon)

Claude-Michel Schönberg and Alain Boublil saw their Vietnam war musical Miss Saigon staged for the first time. Now you can see the West End hit musical here at The Abbey next October. One of our finest casts has been assembled and rehearsals began in early May for what could prove to be one of our greatest shows ever. Miss Saigon continues to tour Japan and America but local audiences will have this unique opportunity to experience one of the most stunning modern musicals. The original West End production, which was directed by Nicholas Hytner, ran for 10 years, racking up 4,264 performances, the most of any production at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. A subsequent Broadway transfer picked up ten Tony awards.