

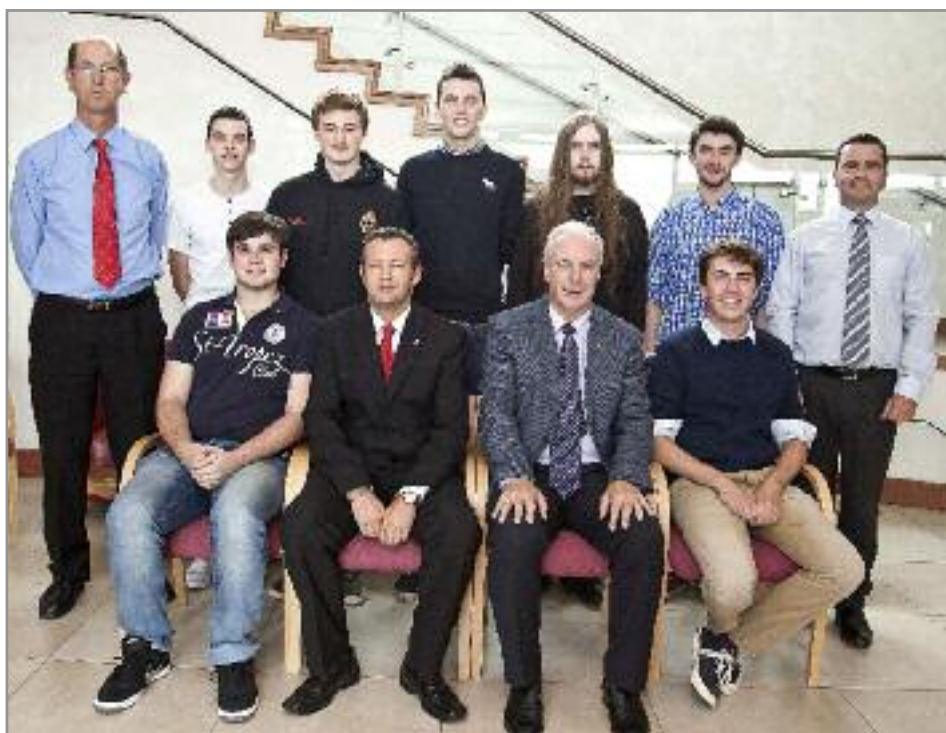


THE ABBEY *Way*

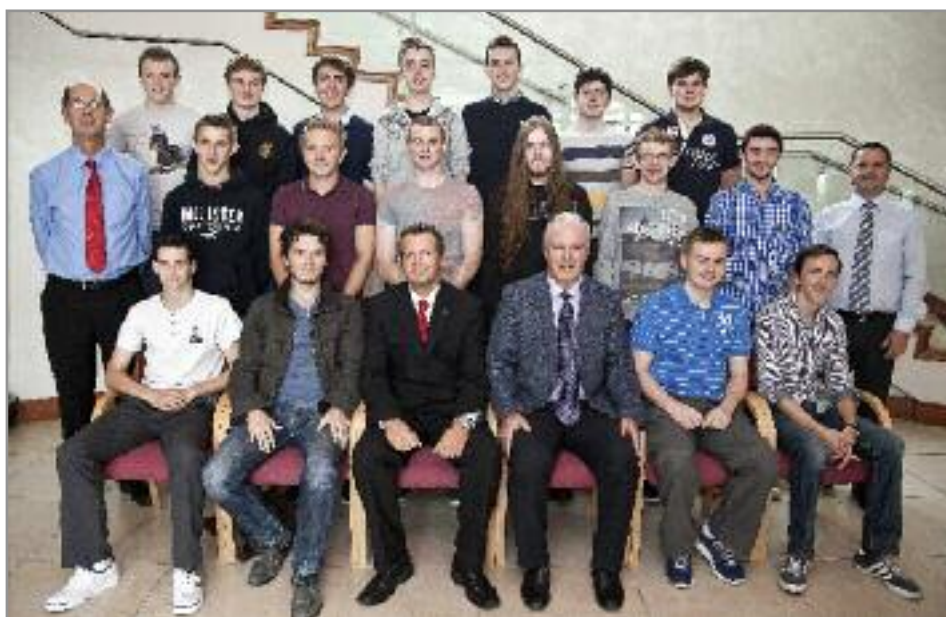
Miss Saigon Puts the Seal on an 'Outstanding' October at the Abbey

2013 / 2014 will be long remembered for its many highlights. Beginning with another outstanding set of exam results, the visit of ETI and its 'Overall Outstanding' verdict on the Abbey, the packed nights of Miss Saigon, as well as the usual list of trips, victories and heartbreak. Slí na Mainistreach reviews them all!

The Year Begins With a Terrific Set of A Level Results.



Pupils who achieved at least 3 'A' grades in their A-Level examinations at the Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Newry are congratulated by Mr Dermot McGovern, Headmaster. Included are Declan Garvey, Matt Kinsella, Cailum Finnegan, Cathal Murphy, Bryan Murphy, Mark Rafferty, John McKeivitt and Kieran McKeivitt, Peter Brady, Darren Brady, Patrick Tiernan, Tiernan Connolly, Colin Rice, Paul McCabe, Steven Connell, Gregory Wallace and Conor Hoey. Also included are Mr Mark Grogan, Upper Sixth Year Tutor, Mr Ronan Ruddy and Mr Paul O'Shea, Vice Principals.



Mr Dermot McGovern, Headmaster congratulates pupils who achieved at least 4 'A' grades in their A-Level examinations at the Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Newry. Included are Declan Garvey, Matt Kinsella, Cailum Finnegan, Cathal Murphy, Bryan Murphy, Mark Rafferty and Kieran McKeivitt. Also included are Mr Mark Grogan, Upper Sixth Year Tutor, Mr Ronan Ruddy and Mr Paul O'Shea, Vice Principals

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

The most significant statistic from these results is that more pupils at the Abbey are obtaining the top grades. Almost 50% of all results were grade A, 76% were grades A*, A or B and 93% grades A*-C.

Another highlight for the 'Class of 2013' is that this years results have matched last years outstanding success, which was highlighted recently in the national media, where The Abbey Grammar was listed in the top 30 schools, as the top boys Grammar School in Northern Ireland with 86% of pupils achieving three or more A Levels at grades A*-C.

A total of 17 pupils achieved 3 or more A's.

Seven pupils achieved at least 4 'A' grades. Declan Garvey obtained an outstanding 4 A* grades. Matt Kinsella obtained 3 A* grades, 1 A grade and also an A grade at AS. Cailum Finnegan and Cathal Murphy obtained 2 A* grades and 2 A grades each.

Bryan Murphy and Mark Rafferty obtained 1 A* grade and 3 A grades each. Kieran McKeivitt obtained 4 A grades.

Another ten pupils achieved at least 3 'A' grades. Peter Brady obtained 2 A* grades, an A grade and a B grade. Darren Brady obtained 2 A* grades and an A grade. Patrick Tiernan obtained an A* grade and 2 A grades. Tiernan Connolly and Colin Rice both obtained an A* grade, 2 A grades and an A grade at AS each. Paul McCabe also obtained an A* grade and 2 A grades. Steven Connell obtained 3 A grades and a B grade. Gregory Wallace obtained 3 A grades and a C grade. Conor Hoey and John McKeivitt obtained 3 A grades.

Mr Dermot McGovern, Headmaster congratulated this exceptional group on their results. He indicated that virtually every boy achieved his first choice university place. He was also delighted with the Lower Sixth performance in their AS examinations as they now have the potential to outperform this years A-Level results next year. He paid tribute to his hard working staff, both teaching and support staff and thanked them for all their efforts and dedication to the welfare of their students. He also acknowledged the strong school-parental links that helped the boys to achieve their best.



In late September, a group of six staff and forty seven students took the relatively short flight to Paris, France, for a spectacular school trip. Organised by Vice Principal, Mr R Ruddy, the group spent four action packed days and three nights in the French capital. Among the many highlights, the group were treated to a bus tour of the city, and a cruise along the famous Seine. Undoubtedly though for all the sports fans the highlight of the trip was the visit to the Stade de France, the scene of Ireland's Six Nations heroics earlier this year and also the place when Thierry Henry scored a carbon copy of Barry Breen's fisted goal in the 1991 All-Ireland Final, to knock Ireland out of the 2010 South African World Cup. The trip was rounded off with a day at Parc Asterix, where the boys, and staff, enjoyed the amusements and 'white-knuckle' rides.



▲ Brendan O'Shea and Garrett Canavan Go4SET project

Y10 pupils Brendan O'Shea and Garrett Canavan at the Big Bang @ Ballymena. The boys designed and built a model of a football stadium which they produced using a 3D printer.

► Kick Boxing

Mr Mc Govern, Headmaster, congratulates Aidan Donnelly on representing Ireland in September's European Kick boxing Finals in Poland.



'Outstanding' October



What more could you ask for in a month?

ETI's team of Inspectors visit the Abbey for a week and conclude that overall the Abbey CBS is an 'Outstanding' school, while the cast of Miss Siagon deliver a school show to rival any of the magnificent shows produced in recent years. These pictures from the show say it all!



What they said about our pupils:

“The pupils develop an excellent range of personal, social skills and dispositions as a result of the high quality teaching, care and guidance provided by the staff. The pupils are self-confident, open-minded, empathetic, responsible and exceptionally well prepared to contribute meaningfully to their community and to move to the next stage of their education. The pupils are very welcoming, confident and courteous; their behaviour both in and out of class is exemplary.”

What they said about our staff:

“The excellent results reflect the high expectations of staff and the pupils' very positive attitude to learning. The teachers plan very effectively for learning and have excellent subject knowledge. Working relationships are excellent at all levels and the staff are highly committed to the care and well-being of the pupils. There is a culture of open communication and professional respect among staff.”



What they said about what we provide:

“ The excellent careers provision is flexible, proactive and responsive to the individual needs, interests and aspirations of the pupils. Regular and effective monitoring of the provision ensures the pupils have access to up-to-date information and can make informed decisions in relation to subject choices and long-term careers goals. There is an excellent range of extra-curricular activities that enriches the educational and social experiences of most pupils. ”

What they said about how we care:

“ The whole-school approach to the holistic development of the pupils is reflected in the learner-centred provision for careers, special educational needs and pastoral care, which complements and enhances the pupils’ learning across the curriculum. The pupils who require additional support with their learning are integrated well and involved fully in all aspects of school life. The high quality pastoral provision in the school is underpinned by mutual respect and pride in the school; a key strength is its close integration with teaching and learning. ”

First Years Visit Croke Park



As part of the Abbey Induction Programmes, spearheaded by the Head of Year Eight, Mrs A Elmore, the entire year eight group, their form teachers, and, for the first time, members of the Student Council, all visited Croke Park, Dublin. The trip gave the new pupils a chance to really get to know their new classmates and get a view of the stadium not seen from the stands on match day.

November's Concert Hits All the Right Notes



Pupils who participated in the November's Concert.



Often used as a yard stick for success in the MacRory Cup, Abbey began their campaign in Páirc Esler with a tie against their cross-city rival St. Colman's college.

And what a start they got! Abbey took the game to St. Colman's from the opening exchanges and took an early lead through their captain, Conor Doyle. It was long before the man of the match, sixth year pupil, Ryan Trainor, built on the Abbey's lead by hitting the first of his two goals. By the time the final whistle had sounded, Abbey were comfortably ahead on the scoreboard, by 2-12 to 0-14. Ryan Trainor had proved too hot for St. Colman's to handle and finished the game with a personal tally of 2-8. Next up were Enniskillen, and on a windy October day, the elements were a major factor. Aided by a strong wind the Abbey opened up a first half lead, and lead by eight points at half time. Under normal circumstance, this may have appeared unassailable, but not so on this day. The Fermanagh school showed tremendous battling qualities to win

the game by a single point, fully benefiting from the wind advantage. The manager, Mr J Gormley, was very unhappy that the Abbey had surrendered such a large lead and felt



that his charges could have delivered more in the second half. The gauntlet was laid down

for the next game against reigning Hogan Cup champions, Maghera. At half time the Abbey boys found themselves five points behind facing the prospect of a play off to qualify for the knock out stages. Thankfully, the second half was a different story. Nine unanswered points by the Abbey forward line saw them over –run the All Ireland champions of 2013, in one of the best halves of football played by an Abbey team in a long time. A victory over St Pat's, Armagh followed and set up a final game with St.Pat's, Cavan. A win would send the Abbey through to their first Mc Cormick Cup final, any other result would see the Breffnimen progress. In a tight, and at times ill-tempered game the Abbey produced an excellent display but could convert a few injury-time chances, that would have allowed them to record their first victory over a strong Cavan team, at this age group. The game finished in a draw and meant that the Abbey would face St.Paul's, Bessbrook, the team that shattered their dreams twelve months earlier in the MacRory knock-out stages.

Philip Mulryne, Soccer Seminarian



Former Manchester United teammate of Beckham and Giggs trains to become Catholic priest... even better... he came to chat to us about it.

It's not every day that you get to meet an ex-Manchester United player, let alone one who is training to a Priest!

I have to be honest, I didn't really care that he used to get paid lots of money, party with the likes of Giggs and Beckham, and play for the world's best team at the time. I was far more interested in why he had given up all these things so that he could pursue a quiet life as a Dominican Friar.

When Br. Philip Mulryne OP arrived, I was amazed by his quiet, honest personality that you would never see in a million years in any of his old teammates. We, of course, all chatted about football, but the whole class was far more interested in what he had to say about religious life and the seminary life. It was interesting to hear how his life as a brother now brought him more peace and genuine happiness than buying sports cars or houses. Who knew Priests could enjoy snowball fights so much?

I think that Br Philip's visit taught us all a lot about God, religion and how we had misunderstood a lot of teachings. His talk on the sacrament of reconciliation was really striking. He gave us all a new perspective on things. We all hope he'll visit school again.

Michael Jordan 12MC



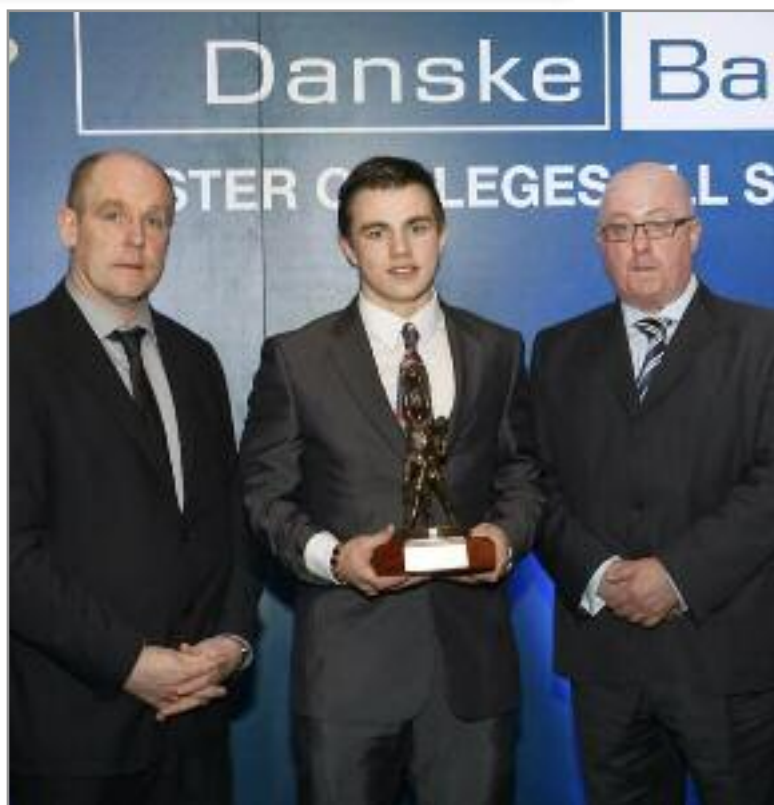
The Y8 and Senior STEM Club members with their Bronze CREST Awards. The Y12 and Y13 Leaders also received a leadership award in recognition of their invaluable contribution to the running of the STEM Club. Miss Houston and Dr Carey couldn't have run it without them!

Abbey Receive Two Colleges' All Star Awards

December



Seventh Year pupils, Donnach Mc Aleenan and Conor Doyle were selected on the BT Ulster Colleges All-star team of 2014. Both players caught the eye of the selection panel over three trail games. Doyle, from Rostvror, was selected in the half forward line, while this year's Mac Rory Cup captain, Donnach Mc Aleenan, was chosen at wing half back. Slí na Mainistreach wishes to congratulate both students on these highly prestigious awards.



Sentinus Team R and D is a program designed to give students the opportunity to face and solve real-life engineering problems. The program is team based, and the Abbey entered as a group of 6 students, all interested in pursuing engineering as a future degree. We were paired with Re-Gen, a local company which recycles a wide variety of materials. They were interested in expanding their business, and consequently needed a system which could clean incoming material so the optical sorting system could correctly separate the waste.

Working with Re-Gen we designed the product, creating a 3d scale model as well as a computer model and completed a detailed folder describing how we went about the process. As a group we found the project highly enjoyable, and Re-Gen are currently considering how they could incorporate our design into their factory.

Abbey Students the Best Young Scientists in Ireland BT Young Scientist Exhibition 2014

BT broke all previous records with 2,000 entries from all over Ireland for the 2014 exhibition on its 50th anniversary in January.

Competing against 550 projects, year ten students, Eoin Lane and Oisin McKinley, were major prize winners taking the first prize and the display awards in the Biological and Ecological Junior section. The boys carried out their extensive research on the exposed and sheltered rocky shores of the Northern foreshore of Carlingford Lough. Their project was a study of the Resource Holding Potential of the Red Beadlet anemones for space in the most protected sites of the exposed rocky shore.

The Abbey boys found evidence that the simple beadlet anemone uses behavioural modifications towards other anemones in winter. They were able to identify the key contributory factors that ensure the sustainability of its species against the challenges of life on the rocky shore.



The students had four intense interviews with the judges about their research and findings. They were commended on their very high standard of engagement and knowledge. Contenders for the overall best group project in the competition the judges described the Abbey boys work as "most impressive" and encouraged them to continue with their research and publish their findings.

This year as part of the 50th anniversary all the past overall winners of the competition were guests of honour. The Biology Department has had a long and successful affiliation with the Young Scientist competition. Past pupils Donal Keane and Rodger Toner were the first overall winners from Northern Ireland in 1993 and their success was followed by Brian Fitzpatrick and Shane Markey in 1995. In 1997 Brendan Fitzpatrick was runner up for the Best Individual award with Kevin O'Reilly taking the same honour in 2005. In 2014, Eoin and Oisin have shown they too have holding potential amongst the best young scientists in Ireland.

First Year Quizzes



The Abbey Credit Union Quiz Team had a number of pupils who represented the school this year. In January the Newry Area quiz took place in St. Colman's College with a team of Cian Toal, Tom Comer, Caleb Quigley and Sean Rock. Over the course of the 12 rounds the Abbey Team were never below third place but in the final 3 rounds they moved up to 2nd, then in the last they round came through as the winners.

The team then moved on to the 2nd round, unfortunately Cian and Sean were not available but were ably replaced by Daniel McEvoy and Ronan Lynch. The team excelled in Armagh and qualified for the All Ireland Finals at the RDS in May.

Approximately 2500 schools enter the competition and at the finals the Abbey Team were against 50 other schools who had qualified. All the boys enjoyed their day and after an indifferent start the Abbey found their feet and moved up the leader board after each round eventually finishing very strongly in eighth position.



Congratulations to Jack McGuire and Caolan Magee who exhibited their work at the True Colours exhibition in the Ulster Museum, Belfast in January & February of this year. Jack's A2 exam project entitled "Nice & Nasty" looked at the negativity around body image exploring this concept through sketching and ceramics.



Caolan's project entitled "Derelict" culminated in the creation of a delicate paper sculpture. This exhibition showcases the best of GCSE, AS & A2 Art work in Northern Ireland and Jack & Caolan's inclusion in this exhibition is a fantastic accolade for them.

In partnership with UK City of Culture 2013 and to coincide with the Turner Prize being in Derry for the first time, Celebrating Young Artists showcases work by candidates who took a more contemporary approach to their art work. Declan McCabe's AS project entitled "Submersion" was

included in this prestigious exhibition in Derry.

Well done to all three Abbey pupils for their commitment and creativity in Art & Design.



Dr Lennon's English Presentation

When exam season comes up, we all get stressed. All the studying and work piles up and we start to panic because of how much we have to do. It's in these times that we value every bit of help and advice that we can get, which was precisely what we got from Dr. Aidan Lennon. Dr. Lennon is an expert in the subject of English, and he works for the CCEA.

Recently, he came into the Abbey specifically to talk to Year 11 and Year 12 students about our upcoming English module. Dr. Lennon began a presentation of what would be on our exam and what we would have to write about. For the duration of the presentation, everyone in the room was scribbling down important notes to try and remember everything that Dr. Lennon was saying, which clearly shows how useful his words were!

Dr. Lennon went into detail about what type of techniques we should use in our writing, how long our writing should be and how much time we should spend on each question.

By the end, everyone came out of the hall feeling full of new knowledge and far more confident about their English module. We had learnt all about the different aspects of our English exam, and a



lot about exams in general. All the hand-outs we had been given beforehand were covered with additional notes. The feeling of dread I had before the presentation had decreased dramatically, and I didn't feel as nervous anymore.

All in all, the presentation was one of the most helpful things that could have been provided to us as students. I found that the presentation allowed me to focus on what I needed to work on and what I needed to improve about my writing. It introduced us to the world of exams and increased our confidence about our upcoming modules.

Rith 2014

The Irish Department rounded off the best 'Seachtain na Gaeilge' for many years by taking part in the National Rith Relay. Starting in Cork City, the relay of Gaeilgeoirí ran to Belfast, raising awareness of the Irish Language along the way. The pupils of Iveagh 1, with their teacher, Mr Gallagher, took the baton at the Armagh- Down border and carried it into County Down of the final day of the relay.



ABAIR 2014

The Irish Department have a history of producing excellent public speakers for Gael-Linn's ABAIR Public Speaking Competition, and 2014 was certainly no different. Three Abbey pupils made it through to this year's final that took place in the new Education Campus in Monaghan town. Each pupil was tasked with speaking for 3-4 minutes on a topic of their choice. All three Abbey students; Oisín Murphy, Ronan Lavery and Andrew McAteer did remarkably well but it was Ronan Lavery, a Year 12 student, that took the award. Ronan was also awarded a £275 scholarship to the Gaeltacht. Ronan's speech focussed on the appointment of Roy Keane as the Republic of Ireland's soccer manager and it will be published in the next edition of 'An tUlltach'.

The competition was tough with competitors from every Ulster County and Co Louth. Gael-Linn's Abair competition has gone from strength to strength and pupils for English Speaking and Irish Speaking Post Primary schools from both the Gaeltacht and the Galltacht taking part.

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



Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Newry had cause for celebration when a number of their pupils won prizes in the Youth Justice Agency's Citizenship Competition 2014.

Open to all 10 to 17 year olds, the competition challenged young people to use their creative skills to demonstrate their involvement in active citizenship within their local community either as an individual or as part of a group. They were invited to showcase their talents through a range of media including photography, poetry, short story or newsletter, song or rap, arts and crafts, or short film.

Justice Minister David Ford presented winners with their prizes at a ceremony in Parliament Buildings. He said: "Many young people make a positive contribution within their communities but seldom get the credit they deserve. This competition gave them the opportunity to use their artistic skills to show the positive impact they have in today's society by presenting creative ideas to demonstrate their involvement in active citizenship.

"I was most impressed with the breadth of entries on display. As fine ambassadors for their peer group, it is clear that the winners of these prizes have demonstrated both exceptional artistic talent and impressive insights into what being a good citizen actually means. We can learn a lot from them.

"I congratulate not just the winners, but all those who have submitted entries. They have given us considerable food for thought. I thank them for that and wish them every success with their future endeavours."

Competition prizes were sponsored by The Co-operative Group, Harrison Photography and Ulster Rugby. Local actor and writer, Dan Gordon, once again provided his support to the competition. As a strong proponent of young people in the arts, Dan entertained guests with his tales of working in the industry and gave encouragement to winners to make full use of their artistic abilities.

Chief Executive of the Youth Justice Agency Paula Jack added: "I am delighted with the record level of support for the competition. As an Agency we are constantly seeking new ways to expand our engagement with the local community and this has



given us the opportunity to reach a wide range of young people.

"I am most encouraged by the standard of entries and particularly by the number of schools and clubs who adopted our competition as part of a special project.

"My sincere thanks go to Dan Gordon and to The Co-operative Group, Harrison Photography and Ulster Rugby for helping make the competition such a resounding success."



Quizzes

In April the Abbey Senior Quiz Team competed in the NI regional qualifiers of the Senior Schools' Challenge Quiz, hosted in St. Colman's College Newry. After 3 tense games, we were declared victors for what was the eighth consecutive year. Upon winning this, Eoin, James, Karl and I travelled to Pearse School Cambridge for the UK National Finals. Unfortunately in the quarterfinals we were knocked out by Stockport Grammar. Even though we didn't win, it was definitely an enjoyable experience. Next year we will have only have lost 1 person from the team, so we look forward to going one step better.

Outstanding season for Abbey running

3rd Year Cross Country Team

Ardan McAvoy
 Billy Campbell
 Luke Forster
 Lewis Cowan
 Oisín McKinley
 Micheal Curtis
 Cathal O'Brien
 James McKeveney



2nd Year Cross Country Team

Sean Watters
 Rhys Walker
 Kohree Hourican
 Jamie Lynch
 Pearse Loughran
 James McKeveney



1st Year Cross Country Team

Sean Campbell
 Sean Rock
 Oran Goodman
 Cathal Brennan
 Danny McEvoy
 Dara O'Callaghan
 James Ruddy
 PJ Tiernan

This season has seen our athletes competing and winning at the very highest level. The 3rd year cross country team took a clean sweep of all titles in Ulster, only to fall short in the All Ireland.

The first year team took the Down cross country championships, with Cathal Brennan and Sean Campbell being particularly impressive. Cathal won the Newry and Mourne Race, the Down cross country championship and was runner up in the Ulster cross country championship race. Sean Campbell was second in the Newry and Mourne race, 3rd in the Down Championship race and an excellent 11th in the Ulster cross country championship race. The second year team finished 5th overall at the Down championships.

At the Down track and field championships Cathal Brennan

won the 800 metre title, with Sean Campbell 3rd. Billy Campbell took an excellent 3rd in a top class junior 1500 metre race. Oisín O'Callaghan won the Down 800 and 1500 metres titles, narrowly missing the Ulster Schools' record in both.

At the Ulster Athletics finals on 18th May. Oisín O'Callaghan was crowned 800 and 1500 metre champion. The 1500 gold was particularly impressive. Oisín came from 5th place in the last 300 metres to power home for the win. He now progresses to the All Ireland.

Cathal Brennan took gold in the 1st year 800 metre race, with

Sean Campbell a very impressive 6th.

In the junior 1500 metre final Billy Campbell was piped on the line for the bronze medal. He recorded another personal best, taking 8 seconds of his previous time.

As this issue of Abbey Way goes to press Oisín O'Callaghan was preparing for the All Ireland 800 and 1500 metres, with Billy Campbell also lining up in the All Ireland Schools' Mile.

Well done to all runners who trained and participated in the events this year

Recently Michael Quinn, a gifted former languages teacher who taught in the Abbey, visited our school. He spoke to the A Level English Language class about the art of memoir writing and read episodes from *An Armagh Childhood*, Michael's recent account of growing up in Armagh in the 1940s and 1950s. Some of the pupils discussed how they had used episodes in the text as a stimulus to write their own memoir pieces. Michael's book has had a generous reception since its publication with some of the text being discussed and serialised in local and national media. Dr. Dan McCarthy from Limerick wrote: "His spare way of writing is masterful- first person, present tense, not a word wasted, with little shocks thrown in to keep the reader alert... I was moved to tears by this book, sometimes by heartbreak and sometimes by the humour." None of the pupils who were there for his visit would disagree.



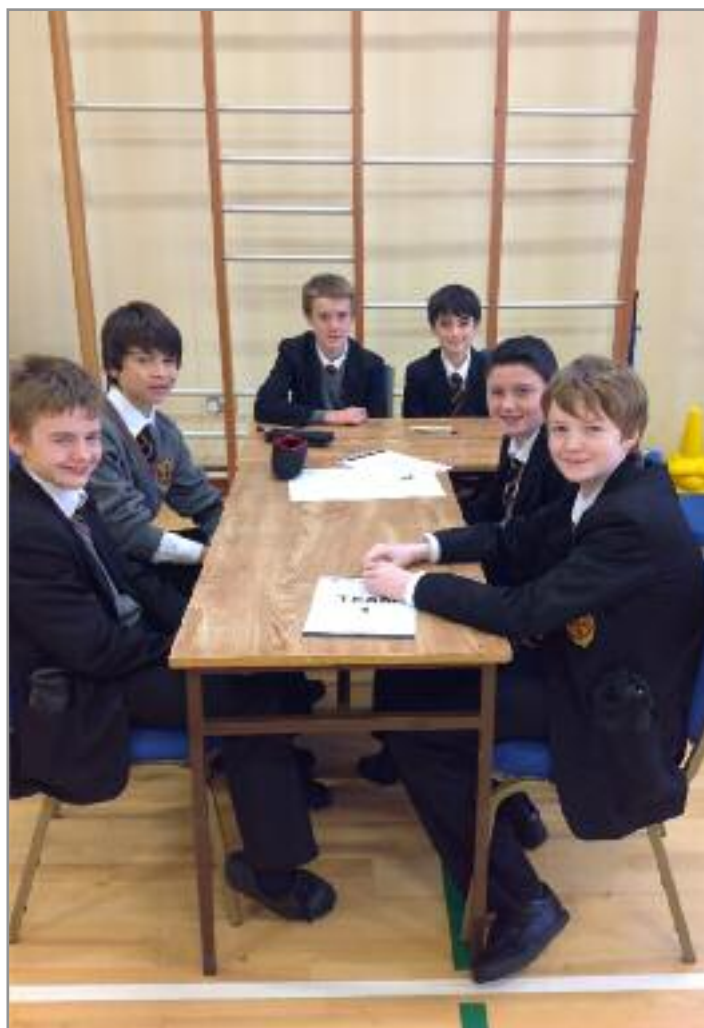
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Y9s at the IET Faraday Challenge Day

Other STEM events this year have included: IET Faraday Challenge Day

The boys competed against other schools to build a rocket and working rocket carrier. The boys worked well as a team and, as well as successfully carrying and launching their rocket, they gave a confident presentation about their work at the end of the day.

Year 10 students attended the Big Bang, Ballymena.

Year ten pupils Ciaran McEntegart, Myles Robertson, Louis Cunningham, Eoghan Donaghy, Ross Smith, Arthur Cespon, Jack McManus, Jack Fearon, Patrick McGeeney, Carl Webb, Sam Barfield, Conor McKevitt, Joshua Keenan, Peter O'Hanlon, Daniel Kieran, Micheál Linden, Garrett Canavan and Brendan O'Shea designed and built a range of 'Buildings for the Future'. They had help from Y13 STEM leaders Niall Owens and Matthew McCartan and Structural Engineer Micheál Finnegan. The boys were awarded Silver CREST Awards for their projects.



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Y9 pupils Mark Hickey, Patrick O'Connor, Padhraic Gibbons, Ultan O'Coighligh, Jordan Lively and James Keane at the IET Faraday STEM Challenge Day hosted by St. Colman's.

Farewell to the Class of 2014



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Junior Masterchef Serves up a Treat for the Abbey Home Economics Department

A number of Year 9 students were selected recently to take part in the first ever Abbey Masterchef competition!

The students were selected based on their contribution to Home Economics throughout Year 9. The boys showcased an array of talent producing fabulous dishes including Red Velvet Cake, Seafood Tagliatelle, Cajun Chicken, Strawberry Tiramisu, Chorizo Pasta and much more!

Congratulations to all the boys involved, their creations had the school enthused with all their culinary delights!

