



THE ABBEY *Way*



THE ASHBOURNE SHIELD RETURNS TO THE ABBEY

A Review of 2014 - 2015

Academic



Pastoral



Extra-Curricular



OUTSTANDING GCSE RESULTS IN ABBEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL



◀ Thirty seven students from the Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School achieved at least 8 or more A*/A grades in their GCSE examinations. Included are Ronan Lavery, Daniel Darragh, Aodhan Donnelly, Conor Fegan, Timan Forde, Conor Foster, Jack Hegarty, John Kearney, Niall Lennon, Kevin McCumiskey, Matthew O'Donovan, Daire Rooney, Brian Smyth, Colum Donnelly, Conor Keenan, Conor McCusker, Jonathan Reynolds, Kevin Waterman, Ben Crozier, Andrew Gibson, Se Irwin, Caoilte Jackson, Mark Keenan, Declan Murdock, Callum O'Neill, Ronan Reel, Anthony Crilly, Michael Jordan, Rossa Maccarrain, Paul Markey, Odhran McCaffery, Myles McGeeney, Josh McKee, Matthew McKevitt, Conor Nugent, Joseph Poucher and Nathan Wray.

Mr Dermot McGovern, Headmaster, congratulates the group.

Also pictured is Mr Mark Rodgers, Year 12 Head of Year, Mr Paul O'Shea and Mr Ronan Ruddy, Vice Principals.

Just when we thought our GCSE percentages had peaked, the Class of 2014, raised the bar further, in terms of GCSE success.

Thirty-eight students achieved at least eight A*/A grades. Top Pupil, Ronan Lavery, achieved an outstanding twelve A* grades. A further twelve pupils achieved at least eleven A*/A grades, including Daniel Darragh, Aodhan Donnelly, Conor Fegan, Timan Forde, Conor Foster, Jack Hegarty, John Kearney, Niall Lennon (eleven A* grades), Kevin McCumiskey, Matthew O'Donovan (eleven A* grades), Daire Rooney and Brian Smyth.

Following the top performers above, five students achieved at least ten A*/A grades, including Colum Donnelly, Conor Keenan, Conor McCusker, Jonathan Reynolds and Kevin Waterman.

Eight students achieved an outstanding 9 or more A*/A grades, including Ben Crozier, Andrew Gibson, Se Irwin, Caoilte Jackson, Mark Keenan, Declan Murdock, Callum O'Neill and Ronan Reel.

The following students achieved eight or more A*/A grades: Anthony Crilly, Michael Jordan, Rossa Maccarrain, Paul Markey,



▲ Mr Dermot McGovern, Headmaster Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Newry congratulates 'Top of the Class' Ronan Lavery who achieved an outstanding 12 A* grades in his GCSE examinations. Also included are Mr Paul O'Shea and Mr Ronan Ruddy, Vice Principals.

Odhran McCaffery, Myles McGeeney, Josh McKee, Matthew McKevitt, Conor Nugent, Joseph Poucher and Nathan Wray.

Pupils in Year Eleven have also performed

very well after completing numerous GCSE examinations following their first year of study and can look forward to matching this year's GCSE results next year.

Top Irish language Accolade for our Irish Department

September



Staff and pupils at Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School were officially presented with the prestigious Sciath Mhic Giolla Bhríde / Ashbourne Shield at a special ceremony held on Friday 18th September in the school library. For the past 78 years, The Ashbourne Shield has been a much coveted award presented to the best boys' and best girls' school in Northern Ireland for spoken Irish. First presented in 1936, the Abbey has to date, received this award six times in 1941, 1942 1992, 2001, 2004 and now in 2014.

Adjudicators from Comhaltas Uladh were very impressed by the high standard of all participating pupils in April. A number of A Level and GCSE students, as well as a number of students who have come through the Irish medium Primary sector, were assessed in April this year.

Neil Comer, President of Comhaltas Uladh, and past pupil of the Abbey himself, presented the Ashbourne Shield to Eoin Carr (Year 10 pupil) and congratulated the Irish Department on achieving such a high standard of spoken Irish.

In his opening address, Mr Mc Govern, Principal of the Abbey, referred to the late Cardinal Tomás O'Fiaich's assertion that winning the Ashbourne Shield and/or the MacRory Cup were two signs of a great school. He thanked the invited guests and congratulated the Irish Department and all the pupils once again for allowing the school the opportunity to celebrate winning this fantastic award.

Accepting the award on behalf of the Abbey, Mr Dessie Tennyson, Head of Irish, said, "We are delighted to have been awarded such a prestigious accolade and it is a tribute to the hard work of both pupils and teachers within the department. We are delighted that so many of our invited guests were able to celebrate in the ceremony as they all had a part to play in the high standards achieved by our pupils". He made special reference to



Guests from the local Irish Language community, members of the Irish Department and the pupils, whose command of the Irish Language impressed the judges, are pictured at the Sciath Mhic Giolla Bhríde Presentation Ceremony.



Niall Comer with members of the Irish Department; Mr Maurice McKeivitt, Mr Sean Gallagher, Mr Dessie Tennyson (Head of Irish) and Mrs Pauline McClean]

Gael-Linn, the local branch of Conradh na Gaeilge and Comhaltas Uladh in particular for their services every year.

Without doubt, the opportunities for using Irish in the Newry area are to be praised. The new Irish Language hub, Gaeláras MhicArdghail, and a new Irish Language youth club, Club Óige an Iúir, (opening next month) are indeed, an inspiration to this group of pupils.

Mr Tennyson reserved special praise for the group of students who participated in this competition. He reminded them that they were an inspirational bunch of students who should build upon this success and that they were the future of the Irish Language in

the Newry and Mourne area.

The Irish Department in the Abbey has been very successful in the last number of years having been awarded two All-Ireland awards in 2008 and 2011 from Foras na Gaeilge and now the Ashbourne Shield in 2014.

Invited guests included: Bishop Sean McAreavey, Mr Sean Fearon (ETINI Irish Inspector), Réamonn Ó Ciaráin (Gael-Linn), Dominic Bradley (MLA), Ursula Mhic an tSaoir and Treasa Mhic Aoidh Bhuí (Newry and Mourne Council), Séamas MacDhaibhéid (Gaeláras Mhic Ardghail), Peadar Ó hEochaidh and Margaret Comer (Craobh an Iúir).

Abbey GCSE Pupil Is Second in Northern Ireland

Tiarnan Forde is congratulated by Mr Dermot McGovern, Headmaster, for achieving second place in Northern Ireland in GCSE Physical Education Studies. Also included in the photograph is Tiarnan's PE teacher, Mr Dan Gordon and Mr Jody Gormley, Head of the PE Department.



The Arkwright Scholarship

The Arkwright Scholarships Trust administers one of the most prestigious scholarship schemes in the UK. 2014 marked the second year it was available in N.Ireland. Its purpose is to inspire future leaders in engineering and related areas of design by awarding Arkwright Engineering Scholarships, through a rigorous selection process. Jason McCabe and Glenn Mooney joined Shea Quinn, Rafael Ali, Zain Shahid, Christopher Downey, John Catterson and James Vint as Abbey Arkwright Scholars. Each scholar receives £600 towards their A Level studies and collectively they have



secured £3,200 for the Technology Department over two years. Our scholars have also been linked to a major industry sponsor and will receive individual tailored support and training

towards their chosen career path and may obtain sponsorship through university.

Their Mentor was Mr. T Mooney.

Young Engineers Club/Young Innovators

The Technology Club is open to all pupils throughout the school from years one to seven. The Young Engineers is an annual competition that enables young people aged 11-25 years to demonstrate their ingenuity and inventiveness. It is the biggest event of its kind in the UK and offers a showcase to education and industry of the wealth of innovation and creativity amongst young people in UK schools and colleges, offering a platform for pupils to put ideas into practice. The club meets several times a year as events demand.

The Young Innovators has now become a regular annual event at the Abbey, enjoyed by teachers and pupils alike. It is organised regionally by SENTINUS. It was held in the Odyssey and is the biggest of its kind in the UK.



The pupils involved in the "Group Project" specially prepared for the Young Innovators Competition were: Killian Higgins, Jack Murphy, Cian Brady and Brendan O'Shea Winners of the KS3

Technology Category & Winners of a Special Award for the Best Use of Software in Education.

The pupils were assisted by Mr T Mooney and Mr S Higgins

Mageen Final Heartbreak for Abbey Hurling Players

November



Mr Dermot McGovern, Headmaster Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Newry, congratulates three pupils from the school, who represented the combined 'An Dun' U18 Hurling team this year. This team beat a fancied St Mary's CBS Grammar School, Belfast, in the Mageean Cup semi Final, but were narrowly beaten

in this year's Ulster Colleges Senior, Grade A Final by Cross and Passion College, Ballycastle. The pupils (l-r) are Ruairi Campbell, Niall Lennon and Matthew Mee. Also congratulating the hurlers are Mr Mark Rodgers, School Hurling co-ordinator, and Mr Jody Gormley, Head of PE.

Ju-Jitsu Boys Make the Grade



Abbey's Ju-Jitsu Club founding member, Mr Ivan Mc Quaid, from the school support staff, is pictured with the latest group of students who received their latest belts. The Ju-Jitsu Club is one of the newest clubs in the Abbey and has been going from strength to strength in recent years. The club meets after school on a Thursday and often includes guest coaches like former Mac Rory Cup winning Captain turned Ju-jitsu black belt, Mr Tony Mc

Mahon, as well as other recognised experts in the sport. The Club is always keen to recruit new members and it is hoped that their numbers will continue to grow. The pupils pictured above all joined the club and have thus far been successful with at least 4 gradings each. Anyone who wishes to join the Ju Jitsu club can speak to Mr Gormley in the PE Department or go along on a Thursday after school. Get involved- you won't regret it!

Work Experience Award for Callum O'Neill



Callum O'Neill, Year 13, is presented with his award for the Bank Of Ireland Sponsored Work Experience 'Student Of the Year' 2014. Senior Teacher, Mrs Catriona Mc Grath, is pictured with the representative from Bank of Ireland.

First Years Contribute to the Samaritan's Christmas Appeal

First year representatives from each of the five form classes are pictured with their Religion teachers, handing over their donations as part of the Samaritans' Christmas appeal.



A Level English Students Perform at Saint Vincent DePaul Event

This year a group of Abbey CBS students was invited to perform at an event hosted by Saint Vincent DePaul. This event was intended to support some of the less fortunate members of our local community. The Abbey Jazz Band played a stellar musical set including a stirring rendition of "Smoke on the Water", to much acclaim from the audience. Following this, a group of AS English Literature pupils performed a poetry recitation from numerous "Abbey Press" tiles, with works ranging from Nobel

Prize Winner, Seamus Heaney, to poems from ex-pupil, Phillip Knox. The pupils would like to thank Mr McMahon and Mr Cosgrove for providing the opportunity to raise a few smiles and to help in the local community. We would also like to extend our thanks to Saint Vincent DePaul for their wonderful work in the community and (of course) for the copious refreshments provided to the students! They were much appreciated.
Cormac Rea



A number of past pupils who work in fields requiring a specific focus on English language skills were guest speakers at the Abbey Grammar English Department's Careers Focus Week.

Among the speakers were the Newry Reporter's Donal McMahon and Cormac Campbell who spoke to students about forging a career in journalism. Mark McGivern, who works in HR in local firm, First Derivatives, also spoke to students about his experiences, including a meeting with the late South African leader, Nelson Mandela.

Conan Fegan spoke to a number of classes about the importance of language and communication in his role as a barrister and gave practical advice to those pupils interested in a career in law.

A recent Abbey past pupil, Donal O'Neill, spoke to pupils about his current degree in English and Politics at Queen's. Donal spoke fervently about the need to get involved in different areas whilst at school and at university and praised the Abbey for the work it did in developing his interest in debates and current affairs.

Poet's Corner: Poems by Cormac Rea, Year 14

Harbour

Shimmering stop-motion,
The rush of indigo,
Salt trickling,
Crass, florid, licks of seawater,
Stain the shore.

Mass Rock

Twisted ash twigs cackle harmoniously,
The barren fertility of the land
Ripples up foothills and
Obsidian faces,
Holding your hand, but ready to let go.

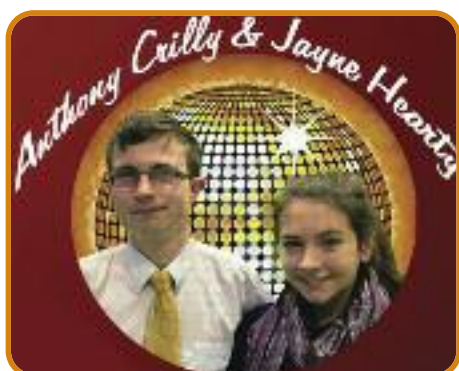
My father's footsteps punish the ground,
Each blade of sour yellow grass a martyr,
Each toe-tap a hymnal beat,
Reverberating across the stone-choked

abyss.
Like steel-capped pilgrims,
We trudge in droves,
Sustained on sin,
Thirsting for cajoling faith,
Hands clasped in prayer.

Strictly Come Danci



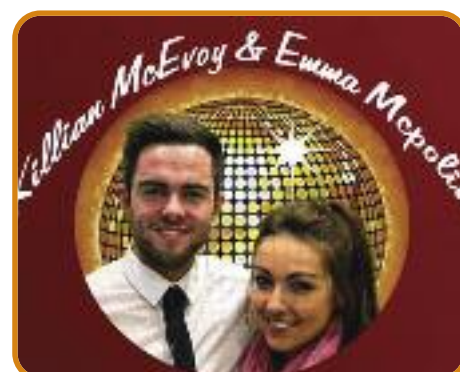
The Canal Court Hotel, Newry, was the place to be on Friday 27th February 2015, when the Abbey Zambian Immersion Project hosted 'Strictly for Zambia'. An audience of over five hundred vocal supporters packed the Millar Suite, to cheer on a cast that included: teachers, pupils, support staff and friends of the Abbey. Twitter and Facebook posts had declared seventh year student, Anthony Crilly, as 'The People's Champion', and so it proved on the night as Anthony stormed to victory with a score of 39/40. As well



ng for Zambia

February

as being a very entertaining night, the purpose was to raise as much money as possible for the Zambia Immersion Project. Both aims were emphatically fulfilled as the generosity of the Abbey Community was demonstrated by the donations in tickets sales and through the collections on the night. Our thanks go to the very dedicated participants, who gave so freely of their time to prepare for the show and to everyone who contributed to this night to remember.



The Zambia Immersion Project 2015

This year the Zambia Immersion Project entered its 13th year. The number one purpose of the project is to raise money for a community desperately in need. Before flying out to Zambia on St Patrick's Day there was a lot of preparation to be done along with a mammoth amount of fundraising.

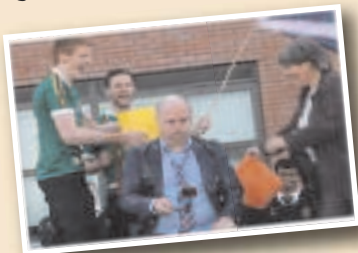


The process began last June, with an application form highlighting why we felt we were best suited to be part of the project. Over the summer all of the individuals who applied had to fundraise a certain amount of money to show who had the initiative to be part of the team. From sponsored sky dives to quizzes, over seven thousand pound was collectively raised in this time between all of the applicants. Everybody who fundraised over the summer attended weekly meetings in Ms Hughes' room during which we were all faced with tasks and numerous discussions, which allowed the teachers to consider who would be best suited to be part of the team. A special mention has to be made to those who weren't selected as the effort they put in didn't go unnoticed by those on the team. The money they raised had, and will continue to have, a massive impact in Zambia.

When the team was selected, we took part in weekly meetings. We agreed on a number of events to organise to promote our project. It was then up to us to make our ideas a reality. In the following months, we had a quiz, Ceili and Christmas Jumper day. Furthermore, we had a traditional music day in the Quays, two bag- packs and the junior school held a bakesale and a number of in-school events throughout the year. Members of the team also spoke at their local churches over the Christmas period and held collections at the end of mass. On behalf of the team I would like to thank all those who attended the many events and helped in any way at all. It is very much appreciated as the project would not be a success without such support.



An early big fundraising event was the Ice-bucket challenge, in which to their credit, many of the teachers went out of their comfort zones, to help the projects cause, getting drenched. The highlight for all of us was seeing 'The Gaffer', Mr McGovern, get a bad soaking' by Sister Julie. A special mention to Mr Rodgers who decided to tactically remove himself from the votes until late on in the hope of not getting selected - however that didn't quite go to plan.



Next was the Project jerseys. After lots of discussions, a ridiculous number of drafts and a Facebook poll, a design and colour scheme was agreed upon. We then had to take orders, sort and distribute the jerseys which thankfully went according to plan.

Strictly for Zambia was the next event for the team to organise. Although the dancers may argue they didn't need them, lessons thankfully began at the end of November. A special word of thanks to all the dancers and those behind the scenes who organised and helped out on the night. Twinkle Toes, Tony Crilly, is still buzzing from his victory.

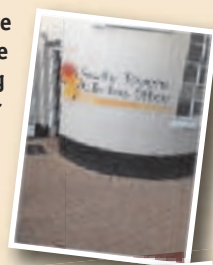


The team then switched focus from fundraising to what we would be doing in Zambia, practising cooking and preparing for what we'd be doing on a daily basis. We were ready to let the immersion begin.



The journey to Livingstone, Zambia, began on the 17th of March 2015. We left the school as a group and headed for Dublin airport where we caught an 8 hour flight to Dubai. We then had another 8 hour flight from Dubai to the capital of Zambia, Lusaka.

Believe it or not, we then had another 8 hour journey to endure and this time it was by bus. This was the final leg of the journey and it brought us to our destination: Fawlt Towers, Livingstone. Although we were extremely tired after all of the travelling, we constantly reminded ourselves of the purpose for our journey so therefore we knew it would be worth it.



The purpose of the journey was to both educate and to become educated. In Zambia the team taught across three different schools on the outskirts of Livingstone. Two of the schools we taught in are funded by the Zambia Immersion Project. These schools are Linda and Libuyu community schools. The team had a tremendous time teaching in the three schools and we were inspired and humbled by the kids' enthusiasm to learn, despite their hunger and fatigue from walking for hours to get to school.

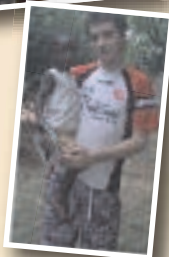




I happened to be teaching in Linda Community School where I was lucky enough to go on 'home visits'. Again, I was humbled by the people's generosity when I entered their home and how honoured they felt to have "Muzungos" (that's white people to me and you) in their home. Whilst at Linda community school the team noticed a wall which was painted with many vibrant colours. Upon enquiry we were told it's called 'The Wall of

Dreams'. The children in the school had painted the wall. They had all painted themselves and inside a dream bubble they had painted their aspirations for their future. It was a poignant reminder that the Zambian children are identical to us. No matter what your background is or where you come from everybody has the aspiration to turn their dream into a reality.

The majority of our evening time was spent in 'Lubasi Home', one of the two orphanages heavily subsidised by the Zambia Immersion Project. It was always a relief at the end of the day heading to a place full of joy and laughter. The children were always smiling and ready to play any game they could conjure up. Every time we went to Lubasi we began with a game of football and no, we never won... That never stopped us trying though, especially Mr G Savage who even ripped his sandals while attempting to keep goals out. We would gradually realise that we were getting hammered



and sift out of the game one-by-one to talk and play with other children around the orphanage. The downside of being in the orphanage was knowing the reason why most of the children were there. Most of the children who live in Lubasi have been abandoned by their parents.



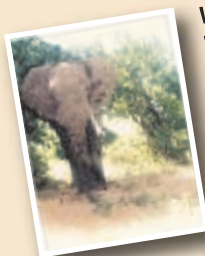
While we were in Zambia we got the opportunity to meet and work with people in the quarry. Workers laboured for twelve hours straight, breaking large rocks into small rocks and earning the equivalent of £1.70 for that day. While we were at the quarry we gave the people breaking stones a rest and helped them for a couple of hours. They were extremely grateful for our help.



While we were out in Zambia we were lucky enough to get the chance to see the largest waterfall in the world,



▲ Back L-R: Mr Dermot McGovern, Anthony Crilly, Luke Byrne, Ms Annalise Reynolds, Killian McEvoy, Zain Shahid, Éamonn Burns, Sean Óg Boyle, Ross O'Hanlon, Christopher Downey, Mr Gerald Savage
Front L-R: Finbar Burns, Odhrán McCaffrey, Patrick Murdock, Orlagh Hughes



Victoria Falls. Whilst visiting Victoria Falls we had the opportunity to cross the Zambia - Zimbabwe border. We were also lucky enough to see some wild African animals in Botswana's National Safari Park, Chobe.



We each got the opportunity to visit the compounds in and around Livingstone with an organisation that our project also funds called 'St Francis' Daycare'. On these daycare visits we got the chance to ask the locals about their lives and about their tribal cultures.



We also gave the locals the opportunity to ask us questions about our project and about Ireland. While we were asking and answering questions on the visits, the St. Francis Daycare team were administering simple but vital medicines and medical advice. When we arrived at the outdoor daycare clinics, we were greeted with dancing and singing and it was always a joy to be a part of it.

The team (pictured below) would like to reiterate our thanks to everybody who was involved in the fundraising efforts for this year's Zambia Immersion Project. The team had an unforgettable experience, that the rest of the team and I would love to be starting all over again. We would like to again emphasise that your efforts in helping the team have definitely not gone unnoticed in Zambia. The memories of The Zambia Immersion Project 2015 will forever be engraved in my mind and I think that I speak for the whole team when I say we all look forward to going back to Zambia some time in the future.

Thanks again,
Finbar Burns, Zambia Immersion Project, 2015



▲ Back L-R: Finbar Burns, Patrick Murdock, Chris Downey, Zain Shahid, Odhrán McCaffrey, Éamonn Burns, Killian McEvoy, Anthony Crilly, Luke Byrne, Ruairi Campbell
Front L-R: Ross O'Hanlon, Mr Gerald Savage, Ms Orla Hughes, Mr Dermot McGovern, Ms Annelise Reynolds, Sean Óg Boyle

More Public Speaking Success for the Irish Department



Our Gael-Linn Abair public speakers, Eoin Lane and Ryan Mc Keown, and seniors, Joseph Mc Keown and Ronan Lavery, were among the stand-out performers at this year's Gael Linn Abair Finals in Maghera.

Ryan McKeown, Year 12, was runner up in the GCSE Section. The judges commented on Ryan's confidence and presence, as well as the quality of his spoken Irish. Eoin Lane, Year 11, was also highly commended for his Ulster Final speech. He spoke confidently and will, no doubt be a strong contender next year for the title.

In a highly competitive A-Level section, Ronan Lavery, Year 13, came second and Joe McKeown, Year 14, came third.

Mr Tennyson, Head of Irish, said after the results: "I wish to thank those teachers who have allowed the boys to practise in front of their own students at various stages this year. It has to be said also that none of this would be possible without the stewardship of Maurice McKevitt who devotes so much time and energy working with our public speakers."

Michael Jordan's Essay Published by Gael Linn



Mr Dermot McGovern congratulates Michael Jordan, Year 13, for his published article in Gael-Linn's latest publication 'Aspects of a Shared Heritage'. Michael's article entitled 'Who am I as an Irish Speaker?' is published alongside recognised poets, lecturers, writers and Irish Language activists such as Mícheál B Ó Mainnín, Art Hughes, Linda Ervine and Janet Muller.

The collection of essays is designed to be informative, inspirational and intends to disperse some of the myths surrounding the Irish language and culture.

Quizzes

The Road to Westminster

If I'm honest I hadn't realised that if we won in Northern Ireland we would be going to the UK Finals in London. It was only afterwards walking home with my fellow teammates, Eoin Monaghan, James McKevitt and Dan Foster that it finally sunk in.

After the discovery we devoted every lunchtime to making sure we knew every little topic from Dickens' novels to World capitals, with Mr Gamble keeping an eye on the proceedings. Every team member would need to be buzzing in, so we practised hard.

After a month of rigorous training, it was finally time to go. We all met at Belfast International Airport and after strolling through the duty free shops and restaurants we boarded our flight to Gatwick.

We finally arrived at our hotel after one flight, three trains and a bus journey. We were all tired and hungry after four hours of travelling and were thankful when the hotel manager recommended an Indian Restaurant. That night we all went to bed with our stomachs full.

The plan for Saturday was to explore. As soon as we got our breakfast we walked to Croydon Train Station, got our day passes and made our way into London practising our quizzing on the way. We headed for The Science Museum, and then The Natural History Museum - both were really interesting, especially the huge working

steam engines and The Earthquake Exhibition. We then wandered through the West End, passing Leicester Square, theatres and cinemas and a huge Waterstone's outlet before Mr Grogan led us on a walking tour seeing Trafalgar Square, Downing Street, The Mall and The Southbank.

Sunday was our day of reckoning. In the time between various expeditions we had quizzed each other senseless. After breakfast we made our way to the train station and headed to the city dressed in our school uniforms and with our suitcases. After passing through several gates and tunnels at the side of Westminster Cathedral we came upon the courtyard of Westminster School and the other Regional Winning Teams. They seemed to have a lot of family and friends in tow all wanting them to win: this was slightly intimidating. After a briefing we headed to the Music Department for our first match against Hereford Cathedral School: the 'Abbey versus the Cathedral'.

After twenty nine minutes and thirty seconds of feverish questions, the scores were 800 to 800 and it came down to the last round.



Hereford were first on the buzzer for the starter question. Dismay set in, but the bonus questions were to come - they were on Dickens and our resident Dickens expert, Dan Foster, was beside me. Hereford got the first two bonus questions wrong and then we got them right. The final bonus Hereford got wrong again and we got right. A feeling of euphoria came over us all. We had done it! We were through the semi-finals!

In the semi-final we met King Edward's School Birmingham. We started well but then some of the questions didn't go our way and in the end we lost to a strong team. After coming so far and losing we were all very disappointed.

Unfortunately, this was the final year that our two senior powerhouses, Eoin Monaghan and James McKevitt, will be representing the Abbey in Quizzes. They are brilliant quizzers and we wish them the best of luck in their future endeavours.
Christopher Dunne

Debating

In another highly competitive senior debating final attended by pupils, parents and friends of the Abbey, the eight finalists drawn from Years 11-14 battled it out to see whose name would be inscribed on the prestigious Br. McFarland trophy for 2015.

Local solicitor and sponsor, Mr Rory McShane, attended in his capacity as adjudicator and spoke of the importance of maintaining the Abbey tradition of debating and of the quality of the debate. Students argued the motion, "This House believes civil disobedience is an important weapon to enact change", impressing the House with their understanding of the topic and their composure in putting forward well-defined arguments.

We were honoured to have Mr Alex Kane as our guest adjudicator this year. He not only showed the keen reasoning we expected from his role as political commentator, but he was an inspiring speaker himself with encouraging words for the finalists and an unparalleled frankness when telling us of his own life, thereby thoroughly engaging the packed assembly hall.

Congratulations go to all seven finalists on their individual performances: Andrew McAteer; Dan Foster; Ronan Lavery, Kevin McCumiskey and in particular to those placed: James Vint, placed third in his first ever final – a great result; Gareth Deane, runner-up in an admirably fought campaign; and to Eoin Monaghan, senior debating champion 2015, for his accomplished performance in a superb final.



Ms Reynolds, Teacher in Charge of Debating, Bids a Fond Farewell to the Year 14 Debaters

To the senior debaters who competed in: Debating Matters, EU Mock Council, QUB Literific, NI Schools and the Br. McFarland competition, and who will leave us this year to pursue their academic studies at university, it has been my privilege and my pleasure to have worked with you for the many external or internal competitions, mentoring of junior debaters and general arguments that ensued on any topic at any given time!

I wish you well in your endeavours to be the best that you can be and am grateful to you for leaving Abbey Debating stronger than you found it.

To the following debaters for their commitment to developing debating in school: Callum, Andrew, Zain, Eoin and Gareth, it was worth every minute. Thank you. AR

Profile

Gareth Deane – Another Debate, Another Final



Gareth Deane's debating career began with winning an award in Year 9, presented at the senior debating final. Mrs McGivern has since claimed the credit for talent-spotting a young challenger who had all the signs of being a stalwart competitor.

A first round debate, with team-mate Andrew McAteer, in Debating Matters and the researcher's role in our EU Mock Council delegation for France in 2013, alongside Zain Shahid and Eoin Monaghan, effectively consolidated Gareth's drive to take part in external events. It was the year that began the cycle of competitions of our most successful Abbey debater to date.

In February 2015, he was awarded runner-up best individual speaker at Queen's University, Belfast. This followed previous success in the NI Schools competition as a sixth year student in 2014, where eighty schools participate, and very few prevail. It

was a remarkable achievement and a very proud moment to see Gareth claim the runner-up spot in the individual speaker's final at Stormont, particularly in a competition of such quality and where the number of participants is in the hundreds.

The same year Gareth won the Br. McFarland trophy in exemplary fashion, having been a finalist as a fifth year student the year before. What is perhaps most notable about his fast progression through the ranks of debating is his drive to improve and therefore his ability to deal with constructive criticism. In a string of competitions, he never skimped on his preparation or shied away from hearing how he could still improve. Such tenacity is underscored by an unwavering determination to succeed; a winning combination in any competition, one we can be proud of when so exemplified in an Abbey debater.

Year 11 Personal Development



The Year Eleven Pastoral focus this year centred on students' general emotional well-being. This focus centred on their attitudes to things that make them happy: happy in themselves, happy in their learning environment and happy in their levels of engagement that helped them nurture their own social and personal development.

Key Stage Four is a significant stepping stone for students in their personal, social and emotional development. Most students set challenging targets for themselves academically. Societal, parental, and peer influences stimulate further expectations on their personal, emotional and spiritual growth.

This year we have used a range of activities including: speakers from the 'Samaritans', 'MensSana' (Action Mental Health), a visit to the 'Newry & Mourne Teenage Health Fair' and a fun day out at Carlingford Adventure Centre, to provide constructive, positive and supporting learning contexts both inside and outside of the classroom.

Mrs C Mc Grath
Year Tutor



First Years Raise Money to Support 'Buddy Bear' Year Eight Charity Work

Year Eight Head, Mrs Elmore, hands over a cheque to representatives of the "Buddy Bear Scheme" from money raised by Year Eights.



Abbey CSB Newry v St. Malachy's College, Belfast

Lisburn Golf Club was the venue for this year's Darren Clarke Schools' Golf League final. Abbey CBS booked their place in the final after overcoming Omagh CBS in a tight semi-final game. Awaiting them there were St. Malachy's College, Belfast, the reigning champions.



Despite the weather fluctuating between hailstones, sunshine and blustery winds, the standard of golf was very impressive at times. The first 3 games all went to at least the 16th green with the Abbey winning 2.5 points out of 3 thanks to some excellent golf from Lewis Cowan, Ruairi McCormack and John Dunne. Vincent Toner, who had a great win in the



semi-final, came up against an opponent who chipped in twice for birdie in the opening 4 holes and was unplayable on the day. Once again it came down to the young players at the tail end of the order. Ethan Patterson, Sean Rock and Eoin Reel have been very consistent performers throughout the competition, contributing 7.5 points out of a possible 9 in the last 3 rounds. It was

perhaps fitting that Eoin was the player to sink the winning putt, not only maintaining his 100% record in the competition but also to securing the title for the Abbey for the first time.

The team will now meet Darren Clarke at The Irish Open for a formal presentation of prizes.

Masterchef

Ben Cunningham wins Masterchef 2015

The highlight of June was the second annual Junior Abbey Masterchef, organised by the Home Economics department. This event is fast becoming one of the most eagerly anticipated events of the year as our second year pupils cook off for the prestigious title. Over fifty staff and pupils turned up to sample the menus, but not before Vice Principal, Mr Ruddy, and Year Tutor, Mr Gallagher, this year's judges, had tasted each course. After much debating, and many trips back to their favourite dishes, the judges selected Ben Cunningham, Slemish Two, as Masterchef 2015. Ben cooked a starter of Buffalo wings followed by a main course of cracking burger with blue cheese, caramelised onion and wedges. Finally he served a desert of mixed chocolate brownie with raspberries and ice-cream. The judges also presented three further awards: Divij Pratapati's starter of Chicken Tikka Kebabs, won Best Starter. Riain Wallace scooped an award for the Best Main Course, for his Lamb Cutlets with Baby Boiled Potatoes and homemade Mint Sauce. Finally, best desert went to Odhran Goodman, for his Waffle Berry Pudding.



The chefs work hard as time runs out



Riain Wallace's perfectly cooked lamb- Winner of best main course



The 2015 Masterchef Finalists



Ben Cunningham's America Themed winning dish

Local Charities Benefit from Edmund Rice Fun Day



Third Year Pupils Sign off Key Stage Three with a trip to Tayto Park

