



Slí na Mainistreach

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June 2019

# THE ABBEY *Way*



## Zambian Immersion Project



## *A Review of 2018 - 2019*

EXAM SUCCESS • EXTRA-CURRICULAR • FORMAL • MUSIC • SPORTING SUCCESS



# A GARDEN OF TRANQUILITY



Mr Sean Sloan, Principal, Mr Eddie McDonnell, Mr Oliver Hearty, Mrs Annette Elmore, Mrs Orla McGinley, Mrs Lisa McKeever, Mr Willie McCullough, Mr Malachy Small, Mr Gerry Savage, Mr Sean Higgins and student members of the Eco-club, pictured at the official opening.



forward to Friday 10th June 2019, and the Abbey Grammar Eco- Club, led by Mrs Mc Keever, Mrs Elmore and Mrs Mc Ginley, welcomed Mr Eddie McDonnell and Mr Oliver Hearty to the opening of the school's new Eco-garden. Mr. Mc Donnell is the father of David McDonnell, year nine, and he first became aware of the plans to create an eco garden through that year eight newsletter article. He, in turn, contacted Mr Hearty,

father of our distinguished past pupils, Seamus, Oliver, Martin and Paul Hearty. He generously donated materials and provided the man power which has led to the creation of our beautiful garden.

In August, Mr Hearty and his sons worked solidly for four weekends digging out the foundations and structuring the design which we had selected a design which was inspired by the Blessed Edmund Rice logo that appears in every room in the school building.

Mrs Mc Ginley said on the occasion of the launch: "Today, we are very proud to stand here with our committed eco-members, Mr Sean Sloan, our Principal, and the two men who made this all possible. We are very thankful for all the work and support that has gone in to the creation of this beautiful and tranquil space. We hope that the Abbey will take enjoyment from the garden and use it to its full potential."

Our garden is nearly complete and we would love either a water feature or central piece to finish it off. Do you have any ideas or can you assist in any way? Please contact [info@abbeycbs.org](mailto:info@abbeycbs.org)



# A BUSY INDUCTION PROGRAMME ENDS WITH A FIRST YEAR LEAGUE VICTORY FOR THE DONARD DONS

The first year cohort of 2018-2019 announced their arrival in the Abbey CBS with an Induction programme that was busier than ever.

## Meeting the staff and senior pupils:

Under the stewardship of their Year Head, Mrs Elmore and their new form teachers, Mrs Quinn, Mrs Simpson, Ms O Hanlon, Mrs Mc Ginley and Mr Hamill, the latest additions to the Abbey Community enjoyed two induction days in the school, as the only year group in the building. They were mentored by the newly elected Student Representative Council, who ensured that every pupil was taken along and shown around the school as well as providing answers to the hundreds of questions that the first year pupils had about the Abbey.



The Student representative Council who assisted with the Year Eight induction

## Navigating the Building:

After familiarising themselves with their new classrooms and orienteering their way around the school, there was plenty of time to get to know their new classmates. There was a great buzz around the school as the first year pupils ran to find clues that would unlock the prizes for the treasure hunt that was designed to take them to every part of the campus here at Castleowen. For some, the freedom of the school was an opportunity to search the photographs on the walls to



Mr Savage meets some of the Year Eights

find a family member, for others it was a chance to test out their fingerprint payments in the canteen. One thing is for certain, and never ceases to amaze, by the end of the second day, the new classmates were getting along like long lost friends.

## Lunch in the courtyard:

The induction programme concluded with the now traditional lunch in the courtyard in the heart of the school building. Parents joined staff, the Student Representative Council, and the new first year pupils to draw an informal end to the action packed programme.



The 2018-2019 Form Teacher Team

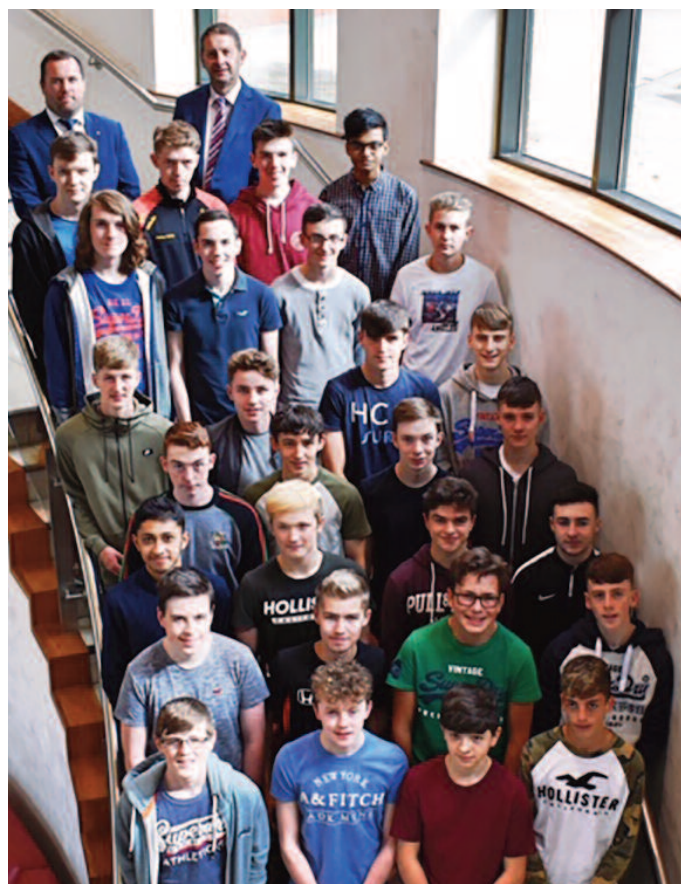
## First Year League:

With its new slot beginning on the first week of term, the traditional First Year Gaelic Football Class League was given a new lease of life. Each first year class was coached by one of their teachers with staff and pupils encouraged to get behind their team. The early games were played after school with Mr Gormley's Breffni Blues setting the early pace. They made their way through the group stages of the league unbeaten and qualified for the Final with a win over the Slemish Sluggers, coached by Mr Gordon. In that final they met Mr Mc Cartan's, Donard Dons. With the rivalry among the coaches almost as intense as the rivalry among the players, the Donard Dons upset the form book to lift the league and lay down the gauntlet to the new first years who will soon join the ranks of the Abbey. Who will triumph in 2019? The Iveagh Leaguers and the Oriel Allstars will certainly hope for better luck next year.



The Oriel Allstars





The Principal, Mr Sean Sloan, along with Year Tutor, Mr Seán Gallagher, celebrate with students from the Abbey who achieved at least eight or more A\*/A grades in their GCSE examinations. Included are: Liam Mathers, PJ Tiernan, Feidhlim Shiels, Shay Flynn, Divij Prajapati, James Ruddy, Jack O'Hare, Gerry Doherty, Odhran Jones, Ethan Power, Maksymilian Wieckowski, Hasan Khan, Sean Brady, Louis O'Neill, Riain Wallace, Daniel Rafferty, Ruairi O'Hare, Conor Cassidy, Liam Scott, Tom Comer, Owen Saunders, Cian Toal, Sean Coghlan, Stas Domanski, Dylan Kelly, Ryan Owens, Ronan Lynch, Kaylem McShane, Callum Wallace and Sean Campbell. (Missing from the photo are: Calum McNulty and Daniel McEvoy.)

## ABBAY PUPILS CELEBRATE MORE OUTSTANDING SUCCESS WITH EXCELLENT GCSE RESULTS

In August our fifth year students at the Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Newry celebrated receiving their GCSE results.

A delighted Headmaster, Mr Sean Sloan, congratulated all the students who received their GCSE results after five years' hard work in the Abbey. Ninety-three percent of the year group succeeded in gaining seven or more passes at GCSE. Over twenty-four percent of the year group attained an outstanding eight or more A\*/A grades and an incredible twenty-one students achieved 11A\*/A grades and two of them the full 11A\*! The Headmaster 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.



The Principal Mr Sean Sloan congratulates Cian Toal and Sean Coghlan with their outstanding eleven A\* at GCSE!



The Principal, Mr Sean Sloan, along with Year Tutor, Mr Seán Gallagher, and Head of Middle School, Mrs Catriona McGrath, celebrate with students from the Abbey who achieved an incredible 10 or more A\*/A grades in their GCSE examinations. Included are: Hasan Khan, Calum McNulty, Sean Brady, Louis O'Neill, Riain Wallace, Daniel Rafferty, Ruairi O'Hare, Conor Cassidy, Liam Scott, Tom Comer, Owen Saunders, Cian Toal, Sean Coghlan, Stas Domanski, Dylan Kelly, Ryan Owens, Ronan Lynch, Kaylem McShane, Callum Wallace and Sean Campbell. (Missing from the photograph: Daniel McEvoy.)





The Principal, Mr Sean Sloan, with the Vice Principals, Mr Paul O'Shea, Mr Ronan Ruddy, and Upper Sixth Year Tutor, Mrs Bernarde Tohill, celebrate with some of the high achievers gaining three or four A\*/A grades at A level. Included are: Liam Campbell, James Cooper, Lewis Cowan, Eoghan Donaghy, Cathal Gorman, Raymond Kelly, Gordon Luo, Cormac Mallon, Ruairi McCormack, Oisín McKinley, Patrick McVerry, Ferdia O'Malley, Finn Ovnsen, Turlough Shields and Peter Smyth. (Missing from the photo are: Dan Foster, Micheal Hoey, Ronan Murphy, Brendan O'Shea & Carl Webb).

## ABBEY GRAMMAR PUPILS CELEBRATE EXCELLENT A-LEVEL EXAMINATION ACHIEVEMENTS

The Abbey Principal, Mr Sean Sloan, congratulated all the leavers 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. He paid tribute first and foremost to the students on the results of their hard work and endeavours. He also thanked parents, families and the whole school staff for the dedication and support to the students to allow them to fulfil their potential.



The Principal, Mr Sean Sloan, and Mrs Bernarde Tohill, Upper Sixth Year Tutor, congratulate Eoghan Donaghy, Ruairi McCormack and Oisín McKinley who achieved at least 4 'A' grades in their A-Level examinations at the Abbey. (Missing from the photo are: Dan Foster and Michael Hoey).



The Principal, Mr Sean Sloan, congratulates one of the Abbey's top students Oisín McKinley who achieved an incredible four 'A\*' grades in his A-Level examinations at the Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Newry. (Dan Foster also achieved this fantastic result but is missing from the photo).



## THE ABBEY FORMAL 2018 HOSTED AT THE CANAL COURT HOTEL

## THE CLASS OF 2018-2019 CELEBRATE THEIR ABBAY CAREERS





## *Seventh Year, Shea Murphy, Reflects on the 2018-2019 Formal in the Canal Court*

Chicken? Or Turkey & Ham? The most important question to be asked for a formal meal. Centre pieces destroyed. A night out in Cavan. The formal was allegedly supposed to be the most memorable moment of our seven year career in the Abbey. (For some lads - their 5th or 8th year career, of course).

In the lead up to the event we thought about themes like "The Greatest Showman", "A Night at the Races" or "The Abbey Colours" but in the end went for a "Las VEGAS" theme as we thought it was the most exciting and most relatable to our year.

For the hard working Student Representative Council there was definitely a lot of stress involved in organising the night and decorating the hotel to fit our newly arrived-at theme. According to all the veterans of the local formal scene, for whom this was far from their first experience of being at a formal, our night topped them all! So, as much as we nearly pulled out our hair, because it felt like we left a lot of important decisions until the last minute, it was definitely worth it. From the small details such as table names, like "Caesars' Palace", to the chocolate coins and golden nuggets on the table, (which probably half of our target audience didn't even notice) right up to the big things like: an expensive photographer, a nice photo booth, light up letters and let's not forget, that £120 worth of feathers for each of the centrepieces! - I can categorically state that- Yes, it was most definitely, a memorable night. I just want to finish off by admitting the truth to all those who attended...it was actually roast beef you all ate that night!





# FUNDRAISING FOR THE ZAMBIAN IMMERSION PROJECT

Our time in Zambia may have lasted two and a half weeks, but the experience that we had lasted over a year and there was a huge sense of camaraderie and team spirit built through the early fundraising that we carried out. Once the team was picked, the fundraising continued and the support from our school and peers also continued greatly and this made it much easier to set off on March 19th 2019. We began our journey in October 2017; starting with our own fundraising events which we were responsible for organising ourselves or in small groups. One of our main responsibilities, once selected to be part of the **Zambian Immersion Team**, was to continue our work over the year with fundraising activities until March 2019. All the students involved in **Zambia Immersion Project**, past and present, have shown extraordinary dedication and commitment in their tireless efforts to raise money and awareness of the difficulties and hardships that communities in Livingstone face every day. They lead by example and are role models for our Christian Brothers' pupils and the Edmund Rice ethos. That fundraising is a symptom of our community that is steeped in faith and that reaches out to the marginalised people in Livingstone, Zambia.

Each **Zambian Immersion team** undertakes a busy schedule of fundraising to try to make the biggest possible impact when they arrive in Livingstone. By October, 2018, we had taken part in many bag packs at supportive supermarkets across South Down and South Armagh. We held our now traditional, Spinathon event, which captured the imagination of our pupils throughout the school, pupils who perhaps harbour their own ambitions to be part of future Immersion Projects. Finally, we held our flagship event, this year being the **Zambia Night Takeaway**. The Canal Court Hotel was packed with staff, pupils, parents and friends of the Abbey Community, all eager to see our teachers and senior students sacrifice any semblance of dignity to strut their stuff in the name of the Abbey. The team will always remember the many Saturday morning sessions in the loft rehearsing for our final dance to a compilation of 'There Will Be Time', 'Waka Waka', 'Body' and 'This Is Me'. As ever the Takeaway night became an important step on the journey to Livingstone and an opportunity to see the lengths that people will go to to show their support.





The Love for Life team visited the Abbey recently to speak to our Year eight and Year ten groups about a range of topics including relationships, influences in our lives and making the right decisions.

Below are a selection of responses from year eight and year ten students who attended.

#### **Louis Smith Iv8**

Love for Life is an independent Christian Charity working to equip young people with knowledge, skills and values necessary to make good choices when it comes to relationships and sex.

When Love for Life came to my school, the Abbey Grammar, they taught us that everyone is unique and to try to feel empathy to other people. They also discussed the fact that we will go through big changes soon, things we need to be aware of and what we need to do. Peer pressure and how to deal with it was also looked at as well as being safe online. We also need to be careful not to get addicted. The presentation also covered the importance of making good life choices involving relationships, finding solutions to conflicts and much, much more. I hope they come again!

#### **Michael Donnelly Do8**

The Love for Life team (one gentleman and two ladies) came into the Abbey to speak to the Year 8s. They told us a story about two children called Oscar and Martha who had also moved into secondary school. The story was told to help us see how peer pressure might influence our behaviour as Martha and the other girl were nasty to each other on social media. It also helped us to understand how our life is changing and things that might happen to us.

They explained everything very well and really got the message across. I learned not to hurt my friends' feelings and to think before speaking or before writing comments on social media. They talked to us about what true love really is: it is loyalty, happiness and kindness. They also gave us different scenarios and we had to decide who we would talk to if this happened in real life.

If I were to rate the presentation, I would give it a ten out of ten because I really enjoyed it!

#### **Michael Hearty 10 D0**

A group of people came to our school and gave us a talk called Icebergs and Babies. In this talk they informed us about STIs (sexually transmitted infections), the age of consent, the legal age to send a sexual image, the dangers of alcohol when it comes to sex and they told us about underage sex.

During the talk we followed the story of two fictional characters called Oscar and Martha. Oscar and Martha first met at a party and quickly became close. They start going out on dates, meeting up a lot and texting each other frequently. One night Martha is baby sitting and invites Oscar over. On the way Oscar runs into his older cousin who buys alcohol and persuades Oscar to take it with him when going to see Martha. They watch a movie, and with alcohol added to the mix they end up having underage sex. The two are only fourteen and fifteen!

I really enjoyed this talk because of a number of reasons. First of all, I liked the way the speakers were young and could connect with a young group. I also liked that the talk was very informative, fun and detailed. It also got its message across very easily. After the talk I was confident that I knew the dangers and problems underage and unprotected sex can cause. They talked about things we could do and procedures we can take to stop these from happening. In conclusion I really enjoyed this talk and I have learned a lot from it.

## YEAR EIGHT PUPILS HELP THE SHOE BOX APPEAL

Year eight pupils from the Abbey Grammar School presented Mrs Denise Nixon, a representative from the Good Samaritan Christmas Shoebox appeal, with many shoebox gifts. The gifts were put together and decorated by our first year pupils and their families in November. Mrs Nixon came to the school to collect the donation in time for the festive season.

Accompanying them are Mr Sloan (Principal), Mrs McKeever (RS HOD) and Mr Mc Mahon (RE teacher). A huge congratulations to all Year 8 pupils who took part.



## ABBHEY POETS' ESCAPE

Many of our KS3 English students recently entered the Young Writers' Poetry Escape competition and quite a few were successful in being published!

The Poetry Escape competition invited students to explore the poetry maze, forging ideas and discovering inspiration along the way. Each of the 8 pathways provided either a theme or a writing constraint, challenging our students to break their imaginations free and embrace their creativity.

The students were encouraged to persuade, divide, wow and inform the readers and discover the power and liberation writing poetry can bring. For many students this was the second occasion they had been published recently, following on from last year's Poetry Games competition.



# DROMINTEE'S PAUL MARTIN BECOMES THE ABBEY'S NEWEST COLLEGE'S ALL STAR, WHILE RANAFAST STARS, JOHN MCGOVERN AND RORY KEARNEY ARE NAMED AS QUEEN'S RISING STARS

Abbey MacRory cup player, Paul Martin, received a football all-star in Belfast on Monday 17th December 2018.

Players are selected over the course of two trial games, after being initially nominated by their own school to attend the trials.

The scheme rewards excellence in skill and in sportsmanship and a player who has been sent off in any game between the start of the academic year and the dates of the trials is ineligible for selection.

***Paul was selected at left corner back by the panel of experts and his success was celebrated in school and at his home club, Dromintee.***

Paul was vice-captain of the school MacRory Cup team that knocked out last year's finalists St Mary's Magherafelt at the start of December. He has represented Armagh at under-age level through minors and was part of the under 20 panel that reached the 2018 Ulster final.

Paul has captained his club teams at different age levels and won an Armagh under 14 championship and minor league.

In overall terms, there is no change in the top places of the leaderboard for awards won over the past 31 years. Abbey CBS have now won forty-eight football awards over that period.



***Joy also for fifth year pupils, John Mc Govern and Rory Kearney***

In addition to this accolade two of our up-and-coming Rannafast Cup stars, John McGovern, from Ballyholland and Rory Kearney, from Killeavy, were selected on the Queen's University Future Stars team. John (pictured on the back row, third from the left) and Rory (pictured on the front row, second from the right) both excelled throughout the school's run to the Rannafast Cup semi-final. Like Paul Martin, they underwent a rigorous trial process before being selected onto the team. The boys were presented with a commemorative jersey at a reception for their parents and coaches hosted by QUB Gaelic Academy. Guest of honour was former Armagh All star, Paul McGrane, with the ceremony overseen by our own past pupil, Aidan O'Rourke.





# ABBEY TAKE ANOTHER BIG SCALP TO PROGRESS TO THE LAST EIGHT, BEFORE FALLING TO EVENTUAL HOGAN CUP WINNERS, ST. MICHAEL'S, ENNISKILLEN

Having managed to knock out the previous year's finalists, St Mary's Magherafelt, by a single point in the Loup before Christmas, January saw the Abbey fight hard to bring their knock-out clash against St Macartan's, Monaghan to extra time and then pulled away from the 'Sem' with four of the five points scored in extra time, coming from players who watched a lot of this enthralling game from the bench. The key score, however, came in injury-time from John McGovern, the Ballyholland youngster who jinxed his way through the centre to pop over the equaliser at 1-7 to 0-10.

He was a constant threat up front along with Tom Hamill, while Riain Mulholland, Eoin Carr and Jamie Lynch all put in good shifts. Niall Toner came off the bench midway through the second half to land two key points (one from play) and then two more frees in extra time. When St Macartan's looked back on the game, they will probably have realised that they scored only four points from open play and found it very hard to break down a compact Abbey defence.

This game, despite the intensity, wasn't a classic however and periods of the first half were very pedestrian with so many players behind the ball. It did open out a little as the game went on and, by extra time, Abbey were the more incisive team.

The Newry boys got the perfect start and had the ball in the net after just 40 seconds with Tom Hamill finishing an excellent team move. A couple of minutes later Eoin Carr pointed a free.

But that was all the trouble they gave the man with the controls to the score-board in the first half and St Macartan's gradually edged their way back with points from Conor McCooley, Niall McKenna and two Maguire frees, so that by half-time it was level at 1-1 to 0-4. The second half was a matter of trading scores with the Sem edging

ahead and Abbey pulling it back to level. Maguire's free on 60 minutes looked like sending St Macartan's over the line but McGovern's magic re-set the stop watches for another 20 plus minutes.

Abbey took the initiative with a free from Niall Toner and a point from play for Eoin Carr and eventually Conor McCrystal replied for the Sem before the break.

However, in the second half of extra time white flags from three subs, Ronan McCarthy, Toner (free) and Micheal O'Shea, pulled Abbey clear. That result put the Abbey into a quarter-final proper against St Michael's Enniskillen at the start of February. The context for this game was that St Michael's Enniskillen had defeated the Abbey in their group game in Clones in last November by a whopping 4-14 to 0-8, but at the same venue in February, Dominic Corrigan was happy enough to see his side through to the semi-finals by a margin of a single point. Despite opening with a fine point from Ronan McHugh after 45 seconds, Enniskillen were rocked by a goal in the 4th minute when Eoin Carr stabbed home a ball that John McGovern fumbled into his path.

It took sixteen minutes before Mícheál Glynn posted a free that put St Michael's on parity at 1-1 to 0-4 and, after John McGovern and Glynn had traded points, Caolan Duffy picked off a neat point to give the Erne lads a 0-6 to 1-2 interval lead.

The teams had two points each during the opening ten minutes of the second half, before St Michael's opened a significant gap with two quick scores from Conor Love and a free from Darragh McBrien.

As Enniskillen held out for a win, the Abbey were left pondering what could have been while, their Fermanagh opponents went on to lift their first ever Hogan Cup in April.





# THE ABBEY AB AIR WINNING STREAK CONTINUES

The Irish Department in the Abbey have had another very successful year in the Gael Linn Abair public speaking competition. We had four entries into the competition at both GCSE and A-Level. The first round of the competition happened in the new Coláiste CúChulainn campus in Dundalk. The four boys had a variety of topics to talk about which were, stress & pressure, Brexit and feminism. The boys all performed brilliantly in the regional rounds, but it was Aidan Lavery and Tom Magill who progressed to the GCSE and A-Level finals.

The finals took place this year in Crumlin Road Jail and the boys thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the Belfast landmark. The competition was fierce and the standard was very high with schools from all over the province participating, including schools from Donegal. The Abbey men were excellent and spoke really well on their chosen subjects. Aidan Lavery put in a wonderful performance as he discussed the era of male grooming and won 1st place and a £300 scholarship for his efforts in the GCSE category. Tom Magill's speech had a more serious message to it. He spoke very eloquently about the importance of driving with care. Tom came in 2nd place and also won a £300 scholarship. Mrs McClean and the Irish department are very proud of their achievements.



Tom and Aidan celebrate their victory.

## Seachtain Na Gaeilge Quiz Visits the Sacred Heart for the First Time

Our Year 10's thoroughly enjoyed an afternoon with their neighbours in Sacred Heart back in January this year, celebrating the Irish language. This is the second year of what we hope becomes a long standing tradition. The invitation was extended to visit each other's school to take part in an afternoon of Irish Language activities to include a Quiz and Céilí. This has happened over the last two years with this year being the turn of the Sacred Heart Grammar School to host. Building

on the memorable experiences so many of our pupils have had at the Gaeltacht, there was plenty of craic, cómhra agus ceisteanna to keep everybody entertained throughout the afternoon. A special mention goes to the boys of 10 Slemish who won 2nd place in the Quiz. We even discovered a few experts when it came to the performing of The Waves of Tory. Plans are already being put in place for the event next year.





## POETRY IN MOTION

Class Donard 8 recently represented the school, reading their selected poems at the prestigious Ulster Hall venue. The event awards the Seamus Heaney poetry prize and is organised by the Community Arts Partnership. This year's event was hosted by Laureate na nÓg, Sarah Crossan, and our students read brilliantly to a packed audience. Check out their performances with this link:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0hSTNYnKNS0&list=PL9bee1jBmdB4rKlojC1cb8awdbmGmxPP\\_&index=3&t=0s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0hSTNYnKNS0&list=PL9bee1jBmdB4rKlojC1cb8awdbmGmxPP_&index=3&t=0s)

## CREATIVE WRITING

### The unthinkable has happened..

A catastrophe so epic it has almost eliminated the entire human race. There are just a few survivors ... will they rebuild civilisation or succumb to Mother Nature, just like-all the others?

Survival Sagas challenges your students to write a mini saga, a story in just 100 words, to tell us how the world ended or introduce us to their post-apocalyptic vision. What catastrophe wreaked this havoc? Why? How?

This was the challenge accepted by our KS3 students recently. Over 167 students submitted entries, our highest ever total, and a large number of them were selected for publication. The accompanying photos show just a small selection of the successful published authors. Well done to all involved!



## MATHS CHALLENGE SUCCESS

March

During the academic year various students participated in the UK Maths Challenges (Senior, Intermediate and Junior), with pleasing success. These Challenges are internationally recognised and run by the university of Leeds.

Results were as follows

- Senior Challenge results: 4 silver and 9 bronze certificates.
- Intermediate challenge results: 2 Gold and 7 bronze certificates.
- Junior Challenge results: 3 Gold, 2 silver and 6 bronze certificates.

In the Intermediate Challenge, Hareth Khan (Yr 12) and Aaron Mc Cluskey (Yr 11) excelled and as a result took part in the Pink Kangaroo competition in March. A commendable achievement as this is an invitation only event.

In the Junior challenge Finn Donnelly achieved an excellent score and took part in the Junior Kangaroo competition in March-a.



**Year 12:** Hareth Khan, Joseph Garvey, Daniel King, Eoin Geoghegan, John Taylor, Daniel Fearon  
**Year 11:** Aaron Mc Cluskey, Mark Lennon, Ruaidhri O'Shea.



**The A Level Winners**



**Year 9:** Finn Donnelly, Eoin Kernan, Caleb Savage, Aidan Lynch, Odhran Watters, Daniel McMahon, Donagh Murdock, Ciaran Coghlan, Joshua Kupczyk, Mikel Farrugia, Oliver McCourt



**Year 14:** Adam Piwowarcjk, Patrick O'Connor, Conor Cleverley, Neil McCreesh, Cian Carragher, Eoin Finnerty, John Cosgrove.  
**Year 13:** Conor Cassidy, Sean Coghlan, Calum MacAnulty, Kaylem McShane



# ZAMBIA IMMERSION PROJECT

## 2019



On March 19th we made the journey from Dublin to Livingstone and arrived a day later with much excitement and eagerness but also one mobile phone down after leaving it on the flight from Heathrow to our second stop. The journey while we were there was a rollercoaster that no one wanted to get off by the end. Our week days consisted of an early start at 6.30am, a shower, a bowl of cornflakes and a thick layer of sun cream to

ensure we were ready promptly at 7.45am by decree of our self-appointed supreme chancellor of time keeping, Willie. Eight of us were split between Libuyu and Linda Community Schools while four of us headed out to the clinics with Margaret in the pickup truck, which was an adventure in its own right. The fact that we made it to our destinations without whiplash or a wheel falling off the bus was a miracle in itself.



During our time in the schools we taught Numeracy and Literacy but also took in Geography, Science, Art and Music lessons. We taught in pairs in Libuyu with groups of eight and in Linda we taught individually with groups of eight children. Being there each day enabled close bonds to form with the children and their keenness to learn as much as possible from us was humbling. They never complained even though many of them had no breakfast or lunch and many of these children were to get up as early as 6am in the morning to walk to school which

could have taken over an hour. During break time the pupils engaged just like all other pupils in any other school yard in any other part of the world, laughing, running and playing football.

Each morning the particular group who were going to clinics began their journey by walking to St. Francis Day Care Centre which is supported by the Abbey Grammar and our main link, Sr. Mary along with her staff. Sr. Mary's team go to the local compounds each day to





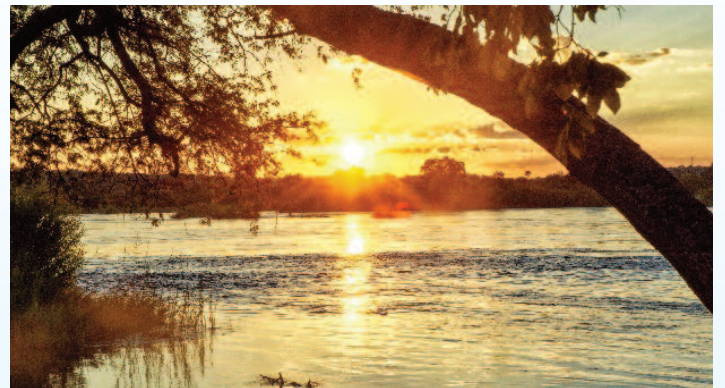


distribute medicine through community clinics and put in place self-development schemes which have helped local communities including a Literacy Centre, the plots, workshops on mental health issues and alcohol/drug abuse. To see the sustainable projects that have been set up for locals including the planting of their own crops and selling of them in local markets to rearing of chickens to sell on eggs and also the chickens then once ready was very positive as they will have a lasting impact promoting the opportunity for self-sustainability amongst the locals. The patients ranged in age from as young as 12 to the most elderly residents of the compounds. All patients were dependant on the medicine provided by St Francis day care, who since their establishment, have worked collaboratively to help reduce HIV by 40% in the community of Livingstone. Whilst at the clinics with Margaret we met patients, took their temperature and blood pressure readings under the guidance of Brother Smart and made connections that will last a lifetime for us even in those three hours we were there. Some of us went on home visits to those who were too ill to go to the group sessions. This was probably the most poignant memory of many in the group and we can all recall many individuals or families that we met who made such an impact on our lives in that short space of time. We finished the morning with a the refreshing Coca-Cola and a few biscuits at Sr. Mary's office which always went down a treat.



The whole team returned from their morning work for 12.30pm, to a habitual crisp sandwich made by the group at the clinics. Here we discussed the morning, sometimes reflecting on the hardships we had seen or a lesson that didn't go right but always reflecting and seeing how to improve. After lunch we would head out to the plots, the quarry or Lubasi orphanage. These were hard sights to see but easy to invest time in hard work.

Whilst in the quarries and plots for only a short time during the trip it really opened our eyes to the reality of the poverty and struggle these people faced. To put this into context one wheelbarrow of stones was worth 5 Kwacha which is the same as about 40p. We went on a Sunday afternoon to the quarries and we were welcomed so warmly by the local people. We helped them to break stones which, after only thirty minutes or so, all of us agreed was back breaking work. The key thing is the stories of everyone that we met as they enjoyed telling us about themselves and their lives always with a smile on their face despite the hardship they endure.



The orphanage was very rewarding, and was the place where we spent most of our afternoons. This allowed us to form bonds with children that we will cherish forever-which also made it difficult to leave. One afternoon we played St Raphael's in football match and lost due to an overly defensive set up. When we pushed up we caused problems but it was too late and the game finished 3-1. Team 2021 may get in training now is all we can say. In the evening we cooked dinner in groups of two with a member of staff and it worked well every night bar one, when a pair's culinary skills just didn't make the cut and left us slightly hungry. This was followed by a reflection of the course of day's events by the fire pit as we planned lessons after reflecting on the day's teaching. The odd time someone would pipe up with a song which would result in another faultless rendition of Rattling Bog. At the weekends we had a deserved break from the weekday routine and we visited the surrounding areas including Victoria Falls and Chobe Safari. It was an eye-opening experience that will stay with us all forever, and one that couldn't have been done without the elixir of a cold sprite to







fuel our days. We made a difference to everything we possibly could in the short time that we were in Livingstone, but Livingstone definitely made a huge difference to us that will last a life time. Each of us have

indeed allowed 'a seed to grow' through our involvement in this life-changing project. We offer our sincere thanks to the local community in supporting our work as a school with this project.





## A LEVEL ART STUDENTS' EXHIBITION 2019

Congratulations to the AS & A2 Art & Design students who exhibited their work at the End of Year Show. Their work reflects the highest level of creativity and skill.

Louis Cunningham interpreted the theme of "Expression" by studying how his family members find it difficult to express themselves. He focused on his grandfather who suffers from dementia and his sister who has dyslexia. Louis aimed to reflect how his grandfather's memory is failing and how his sister experiences confusion and disorientation due to her dyslexia. The sensitivity and personal nature of this display of work has resulted in an extremely moving body of work.

Owen Tuohy looked at the "Expressions" we use on a daily basis, such as "Break a leg" and "Pigs might fly". He chose to reflect these expressions visually in a very literal way and created a large installation piece which emulates the Surrealist style of Dali and Magritte. The viewer is challenged to find the 21 "Visual Expressions" within his composition. This outcome is a highly creative and original work of Art.

Joseph Grimley studied how we express ourselves through the hobbies we are involved in. He, however, looked at the challenge of breaking from the stereotype. His sister, as a young child, attended ballet classes yet felt passionate about boxing. The progression of his project reflects how she tries to throw off the restrictions of stereotype symbolised by the ribbon from her ballet shoes.

Euan McKeown studied how his grandfather expressed himself through his culture and heritage. He looked at the contrast between his grandfather's upbringing and interests compared to his own aspirations. Euan's final outcome is composed of a family tree with the branches on each side reflecting the contrasting aspects of his and his grandfather's life.

Gabriel Nepomuceno interpreted the theme of "Temporary". He looked in detail at man-made structures and how their condition is temporary as a result of nature reclaiming them. Gabriel created a mixed media outcome and reflected the speed at which nature can take hold through a digital time lapse of the Cathedral, gradually overrun by vegetation.



Joseph Grimley pictured with his family



Louis Cunningham



Euan McKeown

## "TRUE COLOURS" EXHIBITION

Congratulations to Owen Tuohy (AS Level) and Arthur's Cespon (A2 Level) who had their work selected by CCEA for the prestigious "True Colours" Exhibition in January 2019. This exhibition showcases the best of GCSE, AS and A2 work throughout the whole of Northern Ireland. This is the second time both students have been selected which is an incredible achievement. In January 2017 Owen's GCSE work was selected, while in January 2016 Arthur's GCSE project was chosen. Congratulations to both boys!





# PATTERNS THE KEY FOR GCSE ART STUDENTS



Congratulations to the GCSE Art & Design Class of 2019 who recently exhibited their work at their End of Year Show. The boys illustrated superb creativity and skill following the challenge of a new specification. During their two year course they enjoyed working with four practising artists. They visited the Studio at Mount Ida Pottery to carry out an experimental workshop with ceramicist, Trevor Woods. They also collaborated with Newry High School during a workshop with ceramicist, Ellen Woods, creating ceramic windows and doorways. Print Maker, Robert Peters, visited the Abbey to carry out a Dry Point Printing Workshop with the students who produced highly creative and personal responses. In addition, students carried out an expressive Still Life Workshop with fine art painter, Seamas O'Labhradha. The students benefitted greatly from the expertise and skill of these practicing artists and gained an insight into careers in Art & Design.



Responding to the CCEA theme of "Pattern," Matthew Donlan looked at patterns in the cycle of life. He studied the skeletal structure and the raven as symbols of death. He looked at the raven's flight and the pattern in the feathers using expressive drawing and painting techniques to develop his project.



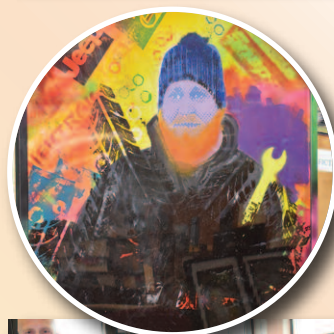
Josh McCamley looked at the "Pattern" found within the human body, specifically looking at the patterns within himself that make him unique. Josh looked at details in the finger print and created a stunning, large scale self-portrait using pointillism and the repetition of his finger print.

Caolan Whitmarsh looked at the work of Tim Burton and emulated this creative gothic style through stained glass, batik and analytical studies. Caolan produced a series of children's book illustrations using detailed pen studies and finely cut paper collage.



Bartosz Goscianski studied sea life and the "Patterns" in shells, fish and the movement of water. He looked at details from his research and produced a decorative, batik wall hanging as his final piece.

Nathan Branagan used print and coloured pencil to look at "Patterns" in superheroes. He produced an imaginative self-portrait which captured the transformation from a child dressing up to superhero. Behind the portrait he created a pattern through lino printing using superhero logos.

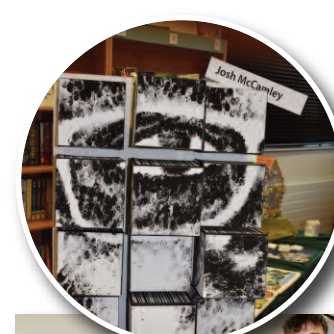


Shane Thornton interpreted the CCEA theme of "Pattern" by looking at how we embellish ourselves, focusing on patterns in clothing, tattoos, jewellery and hair styles. Shane created a superb tonal self-portrait and in Photoshop created a wallpaper pattern in the background.

Ryan Shields focused on camouflage as a "Pattern" and on designs reflective of war. Ryan created 3 lino prints based on his theme and creatively manipulated his prints in Photoshop to produce a series of war posters.

Odhran McGivern looked at "Patterns" in architecture, studying examples in Belfast and Barcelona. He looked at the repetition of pattern and created a montage of architectural details with abstract shapes protruding from the centre piece.

Luke McAleenan began his research studying a car mechanic. He experimented with the patterns found in the mechanic's garage and patterns created by objects found in the work space. Luke created a portrait of the mechanic using materials, processes and techniques from the mechanics' tools.





# ULSTER BASKETBALL SUCCESS IN THE ABBEY

The 2019 season has been a very successful one for the 3rd year basketball team. The season got off to a shaky start with a number of injury issues early in the year with some key players were missing for the first game of the season. The Abbey boys didn't give in, however, and as a team they really stepped up and beat their rivals, St Ronan's Lurgan, by eight points. As Top of our table, the boys were to take on St Pats Ballymena in their Ulster semi-final in a home game. Nerves got the better of the boys in the first few minutes of the game and the boys team found it difficult to get the ball in the net. However, after a quick time out and talk from coach, Mrs McClean, the players rallied

round and came back very strong and won the game by 22 points in the end. Next stop was the Ulster Final in Queen's PEC, with the team to face St Ronan's, Lurgan. Despite having a full complement of a team the boys were nervous to say the least as it had been a very close match against St Ronan's on their previous meeting.

Despite winning the tip the Abbey didn't manage to convert this to a score and St Ronan's got on the scoreboard first but the Abbey fought back. At the end of the first quarter the Abbey were up by 4 points thank to some big scores from Rory McCartan – Jennings and team captain Fiachra Reilly. Tiarnan Burns, James Sweeney and Ethan Saunders added to the scores in the 2nd quarter but the game continued to be neck-and-neck throughout. In the second half the Abbey switched to a zone defence which the St Ronan's contingent found difficult to navigate. The game continued to be score for score with the Abbey just having the edge by a basket or two. In the final minute of the game, however, the Abbey and St. Ronan's were even but a couple of last minute scores from the Abbey men allowed us to bring home the Ulster title.

The Abbey then progressed to the All-Ireland playoffs which were hosted in the school. The Abbey men took a heavy defeat in the first game of the day losing by 10 points. Nerves had gotten the better of them but they were determined to win their next games and after regrouping, and some tweaking of their defensive approach, the Abbey went on to win both of their next matches. This meant that every team had lost one match and the heavy defeat in the morning game left the Abbey men out of the running to qualify for the All-Ireland semi-finals. This was a great learning experience for the boys and they are looking forward to going further next season.





# THE ABBEY WAY MUSIC REPORT

2018-19 was another busy but exciting year for the Music Department. We began with the annual school mass where music was provided by the Traditional Group, led by Year 14 student, Jordan Lively, and Year 10 student, Aodh MacMurhaidh. The Jazz Band also performed with Mrs Cranston for the Zambia Immersion Appeals fundraiser, Abbey's Got Talent!

As always, our Christmas season was busy, with our musicians performing at a range of shows such as the Newry Business Christmas Dinner in the Canal Court, welcoming Santa to Buttercrane as well as various groups performed at internal events such as the Remembrance Mass.

The Spring term began with our Senior Choir competing in the Senior Heats of the School Choir of the Year in Lurgan Junior High on January 28th. Although we did not progress onto the next round the boys performed beautifully and enjoyed the competition against such a high standard of choirs.

The Spring Concert took place on Tuesday 5th March, showcasing a range of performers and ensembles from throughout the school year. The orchestra opened with both the Abbey Choir and Senior Choir performing. The Rolling Tones, and Jazz Band performed a range of music with Jordan Lively performing on vocals. Smaller groups such as the traditional group performed along with a number of stunning soloist performances such as Ben Mooney performing A Blackbird Singing, Fionntan Gregory Whitmarsh performing his GCSE composition, "Rubble" and Jordan Lively singing "The Hills of Sweet Lislea".

Our annual Guitar and Drum Night was held on Wednesday 10th April with a range of performances from first year through to Year 14. This event is unique in our school calendar as the acts are created, rehearsed and set by the pupils themselves. Acts were numerous: We

had Year 9 bands performing everything from Queen to Zombie, Ferghal Hughes on drums, Year 14 student Conor Shields performing: "A Lions Heart" to name a few.



During this term the Ulster Youth Choir visited the school to hold a workshop and auditions. A number of students were successfully offered places in the main choir, training choir and Junior Choir. The Jazz Band was invited back to the annual Ulster Youth Jazz Showcase where a number of school Jazz Bands were invited to perform in the Black Box in Belfast.

As always, we participated in both Warrenpoint and Newry Feis. In Warrenpoint, the boys choir took 2nd place in the Church Music category. In Newry they again took 2nd in Church Music as well as 1st place in the Boys Choir. The Senior Choir took 2nd place in the highly competitive secondary school choir. The Jazz Band took 1st place in the Concert Band whilst the Junior Jazz Band took 2nd place in the Secondary School Ensemble. The Traditional Group came 2nd place in Newry Feis and 1st in Warrenpoint. A number of individuals competed in both feises, with many being awarded 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Highly Commended such as Ben Mooney, Jordan Lively, Aodh MacMurhaidh, Eoghan Murphy, Cormac Whyte and Eoin Finnerty all placing first in various classes. Eoin was also awarded the most Promising Singer at Over 16.

Following the Easter Break our Year 12, 13 and 14 each completed their examination performance to a high standard. The Traditional group and choir provided music for the Induction Mass.

We thank all members who have attended rehearsals and are looking forward to another busy and exciting year ahead.







## SPORTING YEAR FINISHES ON A HIGH AS ABBEY CBS ARE CROWNED BEN DEARG WINNERS

Beginning with the first year class league in September and ending with a nail-biting win over St. Colman's, Newry to ensure that the Ben Dearg Shield returned to the Abbey- 2018-2019 has been action packed for the Abbey first year footballers. Following the in house league that was won by the Donard Dons, attention turned to the Oisín Mc Grath Cup. The competition, which honours the young Fermanagh schoolboy who died tragically in 2015, is run off initially as a regional blitz followed by a series of knock out games. The regional blitz was hosted here in the Abbey, and following defeat to St. Pat's, Armagh and St. Colman's, Newry, the Abbey dug deep to secure the final qualification place with a hard-fought victory over Saint Ronan's, Lurgan. That led to a quarter-final tie with the St. Mary's, Magherafelt. That was to be the end of the road for the Abbey's Oisín McGrath Cup journey for 2018.

With a new development structure in place, led by Mr Gallagher and Mr Hamill, more than forty players then continued to train and prepare for the remainder of the year. Mr Gallagher was in charge of the training squad, while Mr Hamill continued to work with the Development squad.

In the second term a number of players made the step up to the D'Alton Cup squad (second year squad) whilst the rest of their fellow first years trained diligently. As the club football scene got up and running, the Development squad and the main squad merged to play a Down V Armagh series of games that were fiercely competitive. Just like in Páirc Esler this year, Armagh triumphed, winning the three-game series by two games to one.

The year-long programme for First Year Football culminated in the Ben Dearg Shield, the All-County Competition to find the best Year Eight team in Down. On the 17th May the Blitz was hosted once again here in the Abbey. With two teams again taking part, one in the Plate competition, the Abbey were represented by their development Squad and their main squad. First up on the day were St. Louis, Kilkeel, and that proved to be a straight forward affair for the home team. Next to face the Abbey were the excellent, Saint Malachy's, Castlewellan. Having taken the scalp of Saint Colman's, Newry in round one, Castlewellan would provide stiff opposition for the red black and amber





boys. However, goals for Aidan Byrne and Conall McGeough, followed by a double penalty save by Finn Cahill, saw the Abbey home on a score line of 3-5 to 2-1. Our Lady and Saint Patrick's, Knock and the Abbey then played out a tense 1-6 to 2-3 draw, setting up a winner-takes-all decider with Saint Colman's, Newry.

Having lost to their neighbours in the Oisín McGrath Cup in October, this game would provide a yard stick with which to measure the progress of this group during the year. The answer was emphatic. Points from Conall Mc Geough and two from, Ben McGrath, put the Abbey into an early three- one lead, before the Violet Hill boys found the back of the Abbey net to move one point in front. A further St Colman's point left the Abbey trailing by two points, when McGeough crashed home a goal effort, following great work from the inspirational Aron Maginess. Ben Mc Grath added his third point of the day, and it looked like the Abbey were taking control of the game, until St Colman's again came up with a goal to nudge them in front by a single point. A further point from the boys in blue left the score at nine-seven, but that would prove to be the cue for the Abbey fightback. First, Ben McGrath brought his personal tally to four points, before Tommy McGivern levelled the game up at nine points each. As the game entered the dying moments, substitute, Kian Mc Caughey, rifled the ball to the roof of the St. Colman's net for what surely would be the final act of the game. Not so, as the St Colman's moved the ball quickly up the field and were awarded a penalty kick that would level the contest for the third time. With the last kick of the game Abbey's, Finn Cahill, produced his third penalty save of the day to send the Abbey players and supports into jubilation.

